

## Appendix Q

### THE AUTUMN 1945 REGISTER OF ELECTORS: INTRODUCTION AND HARROW WEALD STUDY

#### The July 1945 General Election

The autumn 1945 *Register of Electors* bore signs of the disruption to everyday life caused by the Second World War. However, it was more accurate than the temporary *Register* (in force from 7 May to 14 October 1945) used for the General Election, the compilation of which, from a national perspective, is described in R.B. McCallum and Alison Readman, *The British General Election of 1945*, Oxford University Press, 1947, chapter 2. The temporary *Register* divided those entitled to vote into three categories: Civilian Residence voters, Service voters and Business Premises voters.

It is worth recording here figures provided in *The Times Guide to the House of Commons 1945*, for the number of voters in each of the three categories at the time of the General Election:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Harrow East</u>	<u>Harrow West</u>
Civilian	68,510 (89.11%)	65,274 (89.39%)
Service	8,367 (10.88%)	7,725 (10.59%)
Business	5 ( 0.01%)	25 ( 0.03%)
Total	76,883	73,024
Total (Craig)	77,017	73,174

F.W.S. Craig's electorate figures in *British Parliamentary Election Results 1918-1945* (rev. ed.), Macmillan, 1977, and used in Appendix J, were sourced from the *Returns of Election Expenses* compiled by the Home Office. They differ slightly from those in the *Times Guide*, but those differences are too small to significantly change the observed proportions of each category in the electorate of the two constituencies.

#### Scope

The autumn 1945 *Register* contained the names, in street order, of all persons entitled to vote at Parliamentary and Local Government elections. It was issued by Vernon Younger (Electoral Registration Officer for the Parliamentary Borough of Harrow) from his office at Harrow Weald Lodge. A *Supplementary Register* was issued by H. Wells, who succeeded Younger as Harrow's Electoral Registration Officer (ERO).

#### Dates

The *Register* came into force on 15 October 1945 and was valid until 14 October 1946. The closing date for inclusion in the *Supplementary Register* (which came into force on 1 March 1946) was 31 December 1945. The purpose of the *Supplementary Register* was to improve the accuracy of the original document, principally by adding further Service voters and those discharged from the Services.

#### Structure

The layout of the *Register* was much simpler than in 1935: changes to the franchise meant that essentially all electors in the main parts of the *Register* were now entitled to vote in both Parliamentary and Local Government elections. There were five separate parts to the *Register*:

- i. Civilian Residence electors
- ii. Service electors
- iii. Business Premises electors
- iv. Ratepayer electors
- v. Supplementary electors

#### Civilian Residence Register: Marked Names

An elector with an asterisk (\*) against their name indicated that they were not entitled to vote in respect of that entry at a County Council election.

An elector with a section sign (§) against their name indicated that they were not entitled to vote in respect of that entry (in the case of Harrow) at an Urban District election. (Elsewhere an elector so marked would not be entitled to vote in respect of that entry at a Borough, Metropolitan Borough or Parish Council election or to vote at a Parish Meeting.)

An elector marked with the letter **L** was entitled to vote at Local Government elections only.

### Service Register: 'Index' Letters

Entries could still be marked with an asterisk (\*), section sign (§) or the letter **L** if appropriate. Certain names in this part of the *Register* were given what were called an "index" letter, as follows:

<b>S</b>	Seaman
<b>W</b>	War Worker

The absence of an index letter confirmed that the elector was a member of the Forces.

### Supplementary Register: 'Index' Letters

Entries could still be marked with an asterisk (\*), section sign (§) or the letter **L** if appropriate. Most entries in the *Supplementary Register* were given an "index" letter, as follows:

<b>S</b>	Seaman
<b>D</b>	Discharged from Forces or Merchant Navy
<b>W</b>	War Worker
<b>C</b>	Civilian

The absence of an index letter showed that the elector was a member of the Forces.

There was provision for an additional indication, which did not apply in Harrow: an elector with a dagger (†) against their name was not entitled to vote in respect of that entry at a Rural District election.

### Harrow Weald Ward

The structure of the autumn 1945 *Register* can be illustrated by studying Harrow Weald ward, the only ward in Harrow to be split between two Parliamentary Constituencies at the 1945 General Election.

### Polling Districts

Compared to the 1935 *Register*, polling districts had been reorganised, renamed and relocated as follows:

<u>Polling District and Section</u>	<u>Parliamentary Constituency</u>	<u>Location of Polling Place</u>
F	East	Wykeham Hall, Bishop Ken Road
G	East	Harrow Weald County School, Brookshill
H (1)	East	Harrow Weald Council School, High Road
I (2)	East	Hatch End Baptist Church Hall, Uxbridge Road
LH (2)	East	Broadway Clinic, The Broadway
MH (2)	East	Whitefriars Council Schools, Whitefriars Avenue
I (1)	West	Hatch End Baptist Church Hall, Uxbridge Road

## ***Electorate***

<u>Polling District and Section</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Ratepayer</u>	<u>Suppl</u>	<u>Total</u>
F	2,304	319	0	0	69	2,692
G	797	85	1	0	23	906
H (1)	5,036	705	0	0	163	5,904
I (2)	30	2	0	0	0	32
LH (2)	114	8	0	0	3	125
MH (2)	62	9	0	0	2	73
[In Harrow East]	[8,343]	[1,128]	[1]	[0]	[260]	[9,732]
I (1)	1,428	160	0	0	39	1,627
Ward Totals	9,771	1,288	1	0	299	11,359

## ***Civilian Residence Electors***

All voters in the Civilian Residence parts of the *Register* for Harrow Weald ward were entitled to vote in both Parliamentary and Local Government elections. No names were marked with either an asterisk (\*), a section sign (§) or the letter L.

## ***Service Electors***

These were sub-divided into the following categories by the use (or absence) of an "index" letter:

<u>Polling District and Section</u>	<u>Seamen</u>	<u>War Workers</u>	<u>Forces</u>	<u>Total</u>
F	0	2	317	319
G	0	0	85	85
H (1)	1	3	701	705
I (2)	0	0	2	2
LH (2)	0	0	8	8
MH (2)	0	0	9	9
I (1)	0	1	159	160
Ward Totals	1	6	1,281	1,288

## ***Business Premises Electors and Ratepayer Electors***

There was only one Business Premises voter in Harrow Weald ward: Arthur Cyrus Rackham of St. James Lodge was included in the *Register* for polling district G. His name was marked with both an asterisk (\*) and a section sign (§) meaning that he was not entitled to vote in respect of that entry at either County Council or Urban District Council elections. There were no Ratepayer electors in the whole of Harrow Weald ward.

## ***Supplementary Electors***

These were sub-divided into the following categories by the use (or absence) of an "index" letter:

<u>Polling District and Section</u>	<u>Seamen</u>	<u>Discharged from Forces</u>	<u>War Workers</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Forces</u>	<u>Total</u>
F	0	59	0	0	10	69
G	0	23	0	0	0	23
H (1)	0	145	0	0	18	163
I (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
LH (2)	0	2	0	0	1	3
MH (2)	0	1	0	0	1	2
I (1)	0	36	0	0	3	39
Ward Totals	0	266	0	0	33	299

### ***Discrepancies in the Register***

The local government electorate of Harrow Weald ward — 11,358 (not 11,359 due to A.C. Rackham, see above) — is 22 lower than the figure given (11,380) in the result for the 1946 election to Harrow UDC (see p. 18), the latter figure being sourced from the *Harrow Observer and Gazette*. The difference of 22 is possibly explained by corrections or amendments subsequent to the printing of the *Register* but not revealed in the specific copy of the *Register* consulted (Harrow Local History Collection). It must be remembered that the 1945 *Register* and its *Supplement* were compiled after a long period of disruption, and they would inevitably contain some errors and omissions. For example, the following issues with Harrow Weald ward's voting lists were noted during the compilation of this Appendix:

1. Seven electors from Mountside and Belmont Cottages were accidentally included in the Wealdstone North ward *Register* when they should have been included in the Civilian Residence part of polling district F. Pencilled marks in the copy of the *Register* consulted show that the ERO was aware and had made necessary adjustments.
2. Two electors from Common Road were accidentally included in the Civilian Residence section of the *Register* for polling district G when they should have been included in Stanmore North ward. Pencilled marks in the copy of the *Register* consulted show that the ERO was aware and had made necessary adjustments.
3. A Forces voter from Havelock Road was accidentally included in the *Supplement* of the *Register* for polling district F when he should have been included in Wealdstone North ward. A pencilled mark in the *Register* shows that the ERO was aware and had made necessary adjustment.
4. A Forces voter from Wellington Road was accidentally included in the *Supplement* of the *Register* for polling district MH (2) when he should have been included in Wealdstone North ward. There were no marks in the particular copy of the *Register* consulted to indicate that the ERO was aware of this error.

Corrections 1-4 above gives a nett change in the ward's electorate of +3, giving a total of 11,361.