

Manx Notes 487 (2020)

“DEFINING MANXMEN”

(1942)

It would be interesting if we could devise some means of defining the qualification by which a man may be called a Manxman. We are prompted to make this observation by the tendency in some quarters to describe every person who by some remote connection with the Island as a Manxman or Manxwoman—when this is exploited in the publication of war stories we get someone who has in early life spent a few months or years on the Island, or has a Manx relative, described with banner headlines as a native of this delectable isle!

We hope, too, in any official record of the war service of our countrymen and women, the compilation will be carefully done so that honour will be given where honour is due only to persons of definite Manx parentage.

An instance of how claims to Manxland’s hospitality can be abused came to our notice recently when we received an application for free cigarettes under the newspapers’ fund from a man whose only real association with Ellan Vannin was that he had business dealings on the Island before joining up, and who many people here would like to meet again now for other reasons!

“[Melting Pot] Defining Manxmen.” *Isle of Man Examiner* 25 September 1942: 4e.

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The perennial question as to what defines being Manx—and one still awaiting an answer....

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