ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 23rd September 1944

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MAYOR HEARS WELCOME NEWS FROM SISTER.

On Monday the Mayor (Mr. H. W. O. WEEKS, J.P) received the welcome news that his sister, Madame Florence M. WILLEMS, of 38 The Avenue des Bouleaux, Watermael, her husband, and two daughters and son, were safe following the capture of Brussels by the Allies. The letter, containing only a few lines, stated: "We are freed at last, thank God. Bernard (their son) has been in hiding some months, but he comes home to-morrow. We are all well and still together. The town here is covered with flags, and the people are going mad with joy."

It appears that Madame WILLEMS, once Brussels was freed, handed the letter to an English solider, thinking that it would thus get through more quickly. By a happy coincidence the soldier was Sergt. STAY, R.E., who enclosed it in a letter to his wife at 27 Louis-road, Sandown, and the latter forwarded it to the Mayor. The last message received from Madame WILLEMS through the International Red Cross was in February. Madame WILLEMS was in Paris during the last war when the Germans were almost at the gates. She subsequently went to live in Brussels after she left England again in 1918.

Researched & typed by Ann Barrett Margaret Truckel