ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW'S

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

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Leave War Pensions Alone

IAN FRASER, Chairman.

WHEN I last wrote in the St. Dunstan's Review in June, I mentioned that certain newspapers had referred to War Pensions in connection with Government economies. They pointed out what was quite obvious, namely that no complete examination of Government expenditure could exclude an examination of the large sum of money—in the neighbourhood of fifty millions a year—spent upon War Pensions.

So far as I am aware no newspaper has suggested that pensions should be cut, nor has any responsible politician. Nevertheless, the statement that the subject was being thought of at all caused me to make some inquiries. As I reported in June, I spoke personally to Major Tryon, the Minister of Pensions, about it, and he assured me that economies in War Pensions had not been, and were not, under discussion.

This is good so far as it goes, and I am sure that Major Tryon, who in various Governments has been Minister of Pensions longer than any other person, and who himself gave assurances about the stabilisation of War Pensions some few years ago, would be the last Minister to take adverse action against his fellow ex-servicemen unless some overwhelming necessity compelled it.

All the same I think it is wise not to leave the matter just where it is, and the Annual Conference of the whole Conservative Party which takes place at Blackpool this year early in October, provides an opportunity of raising the matter and testing the feeling of delegates from constituencies all over the country. I have accordingly put down a Resolution in the following terms, which I hope to have the opportunity of moving :

This Conference requests His Majesty's Government to maintain War Pensions and Allowances at their present levels, to continue the Medical Services of the Ministry of Pensions unabated, and to adhere to the practice of giving preference in the matter of employment to ex-servicemen and preference to contractors who are on the King's Roll.

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The Conference feels that as the average age of the ex-service community increases, the economic and social handicap imposed by war disability, and in many cases by war services, causes increasing hardship, and that accordingly it should be the policy of the State to give special consideration to every direction in which this hardship can be alleviated.

A few years ago I made representations to the 1924-29 Conservative Government, and after that to the Labour Government, to the effect that British War Pensions should be raised to a level which made them comparable in value with pensions and allowances paid in the Dominions, so that we might have an Empire standard for pensions. Neither Government could see their way to do this, and now the National Finances make it impossible for the claim to be put forward again for the present. But the least we can do is to use such influence as we possess to resist any attempt to curtail or diminish the pensions and allowances which have for so many years been stabilised.

On the one hand it may be argued that the cost of living has dropped; this is true. But on the other hand, advancing years do not render disabilities any less burdensome than they were ; indeed, in many cases middle-age and old-age bring with them troubles which aggravate a handicap like blindness, and make a reasonable pension provision all the more necessary.

If Great Britain ever gets into the last financial ditch and big sacrifices are really called for all round, then I am sure that ex-servicemen as a whole, and even my blinded comrades, would be the last to demur at some adjustment of the provision made for them, in the National interest, but unless and until that time comes it seems to me that War Pensions should be the very last items of public expenditure to be touched, or even to be considered for cutting.

It must be remembered that a War Pension is not a subsistence allowance, given as a form of public assistance. It is in its very essence a compensation for disability arising from services for the Crown, and the obligation to pay it in full is one which cannot be lightly disregarded.

Moreover, the Nation's bill for War Pensions is automatically decreasing every year, through death, the re-marriage of widows, and the growing-up of ex-servicemen's children. No other item of social expenditure shows such a regular and marked decrease. and if economy from the Ministry of Pensions is called for, this natural economy might well be considered sufficient.

Holiday Camps

STRATFORD-ON-AVON

THINK both St. Dunstaners and helpers will agree we have had some jolly good fun at camp before, but that this year at Clifford was the best camp there has ever been. We had some splendid " recruits " and they added not a little to the success of the week, while the "old hands "were out to show them what a St. Dunstan's camp could really be.

What are the chief points of a camp from a St. Dunstaner's point of view? It is a

chance to meet old friends. It is a care-free holiday with all amusements provided for the camp fee of 27s. 6d. Camping arrangements are three in each bell tent. Tents are equipped with camp bed, palliasse, pillow, and four blankets. There are guide ropes from the tents to the Village Hall where meals are served, and to the wash tent. Hot water is provided in an army boiler. What about the amusements? I seem to hear the prospective camper say: "Rowing and sculling ? I don't row." "Well, do you swim, or care for a few field sports during the morning? No? Well, how about playing cards to say nothing of a

quiet glass of beer in the "Mucky Duck" with five or six friends to yarn with ? "

Now, how is the afternoon going to be filled in? After dinner, sleep is a good idea, if Trott does not play the gramophone-my advice is don't occupy a tent near Trott; he and New and Dennick talk all night when they are not playing the gramophone.

All those who feel they want a little exercise after tea can pick up sides for a football match till supper is ready. After supper, if there is a dance, cars roll up to drive the campers two miles into Stratford to the British Legion Club, where everything is done to make them welcome. With a good band and plenty of partners and Toyell as M.C., I don't think you could find a more cheery dance anywhere. Eleven-fifteen p.m. back to camp for light refreshment—with the canteen open—and time to talk over the day's doings. Then Padre Don Foster has prayers before everyone turns in.

To vary the programme there is usually one day's expedition by private cars. This year we spent the day at Worcester, having tea on the way home in the village hall at Arrow.

On Saturday, for the very energetic, there is a seven-mile walk, but there are cars as well for the lazy which are usually fairly full.

On Sunday there is an early Service in the Camp for those who care to come, taken by Don. At 10.30 a.m. the band turns up for Church Parade, and the whole camp marches up the village for a short service in the charming old Village Church.

Monday is always the day for the Regatta from the Stratford Boat Club. The Club puts dressing-rooms, shower baths, and boats at our disposal for the week. This year after the races we had a wonderful tea at the Arden Hotel on the other side of the river, followed by a concert. On Monday evening there was a final dance at the Legion.

Tuesday comes round in a flash-a horrid day, packing up and saying goodbye, and next year seems a long way off. But it will come round, so I leave it to you prospective campers to think if, after reading about the camp, you will try it next time.

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LITTLE GADDESDEN

At Little Gaddesden we were blessed with ideal weather from Monday to Monday. Three large marquees had been pitched in the lovely grounds of our hostess. There were twenty-four of us, each with a real bed and not too much room, in one, the staff had one, and we had our meals in the other. Food and cooking were excellent. The cost, including fare, very reasonable.

The voluntary staff were admirable, always ready to help and to carry out suggestions to keep us occupied. There were no restrictions. Perhaps it would have been better had there been a few. The folk for miles around had been looking forward to our arrival for weeks. There was no lack of partners for the five dances we had at the village hall. Open-air baths, glorious rambles, sports on one of the finest lawns in the world, surrounded as it was with rhododendrons of all colours in full bloom, a trip to Ascot and a concert in a fine old country farm-house, were among the treats we enjoyed.

The ten mile walk to Halton Camp was noted for the great hospitality we received from the young new soldiers (and sergeants) there. The band from Apsley Mill played on our Church Parade and a service was held in front of Miss Talbot's house.

After the day's activities there was always much to talk about and yarns to hear. None of us was asleep before the early hours of the morning. The singing of the birds used to wake us soon after 5 a.m. Never a morning passed without hot water for shaving. We were a happy family. The fellows who have been to camp are ready to go again. At this reunion there was a genuine revival of the spirit of those good old days, the finest tonic for all the ragged tension and lazy habits we are prone to these days. We were away from crowds and noise and were happy to revel in God's fresh air together.

W. T. S.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

"3n IDemory"

(Labour Corps)

We deeply regret to announce the death of this St. Dunstaner.

Bonny came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1919, but was unable to take up a very strenuous occupation owing to his indifferent state of health. He carried on with light basket work for a short time, but was compelled to give this up, doing only a little wool-rug work to help pass away the time. Towards the beginning of this year, Bonny became considerably worse in health and he went down to our Brighton Annexe for convalescence in June in the hope that the change would benefit him. He was, however, no better on his return home, and at the end of June was admitted to hospital, where he passed away on the 17th July.

The funeral took place on the 22nd July at Ealing Cemetery and was attended by many relations and friends, including one fellow St. Dunstaner and his wife—T. W. Walton. Numerous beautiful wreaths were received, including one from T. W. Walton and his wife, and another in the form of our badge from Captain Fraser and his many comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Bonny leaves a wife and three children to mourn him—we extend our sincerest sympathy to them.

PRIVATE WILLIAM LINGARD

(2nd Essex Regiment)

We very much regret to have to announce that W. Lingard passed away on the 2nd July after a very short illness.

Lingard joined the 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment in 1891, and as a reservist served throughout the Boer War, receiving the King and Queen's medals with five clasps. On 4th August, 1914, he joined the 2nd Battalion and served in France until April, 1915, when as the result of wounds, he lost the sight of both eyes. He subsequently received training at St. Dunstan's as a poultry farmer and was settled at Writtle. He was an active member of the local branch of the British Legion, and was liked and respected by all who here him

of the local branch of the British Legion, and was liked and respected by all who knew him. The funeral took place at the Parish Church on the 6th July, the Rev. J. H. Upton officiating. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and the British Legion banner, and was preceded by twenty members of the Legion under Captain Alexander Hay. The pall bearers were all old soldiers who served with Lingard abroad. At the conclusion of the service, the "Last Post" and "Réveillé" were sounded. Numerous relatives and friends were present, including two fellow St. Dunstaners, T. Kent and S. J. Letch (and Mrs. Letch) and St. Dunstan's was represented by Sister Goodey.

Many beautiful wreaths were received, among them being one in the form of our badge from Captain Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his sister, Mrs. Poole.

ARTHUR EDWARD WILLIAMS

(Royal Army Service Corps)

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death of A. E. Williams, of Wrexham, on the 21st July, 1932. Williams had been an invalid for some years, and was unable to take training at St. Dunstan's. He was very well-known and highly respected in his district. The funeral took place on Saturday, 23rd July, at the local cemetery and was largely attended, the Rev. D. Wyre Lewis and Rev. J. Whittington Jones conducting the service. We extend our sincerest sympathy to his wife.

Births

BRIDE.—To the wife of Luke Bride, of Drumcondra, on the 1st August, a son.

CATLOW.—On the 29th July to the wife of S. Catlow, of Nelson, a son.

GRATTIDGE.—To the wife of C. H. Grattidge, of Birmingham, on 19th August, a son.

HARRISON.—On 26th August, to the wife of F. C. Harrison, of Leytonstone, twin daughters.

MUGGERIDGE.—To the wife of W. A. Muggeridge, of Great Bookham, on the 13th August, a daughter.

POWER.—On the 21st August, to the wife of Denis Power, of Waterford, a son—Denis Noel.

Deaths

mother passed away on 12th September. DAVIES.—To J. E. Davies, of Llandyssul, who has recently lost his mother.

Evans,—To E. D. Evans, of Carmarthen, whose mother died very suddenly on 14th August. MUSSELL.—To A. Mussell, of Charfield, Glos.,

whose mother passed away on 8th August, after a short illness at the age of 74. NANCARROW.—TO G. Nancarrow, of Fraddon, whose father died very suddenly on 10th September at the age of 81.

After-Care Reunions

CARDIFF AND WOLVERHAMPTON A FTER-CARE REUNIONS were held at The Soldiers' and Sailors' Rest, Bute Street, Cardiff, on the 26th August, and Reynolds' Café, Wolverhampton, on the 1st September.

At the Cardiff meeting a vote of thanks was proposed by A. C. Evans and seconded by R. Warren, after which an antique Sheffield Plate vinegar and oil cruet was presented to Mr. Swain as a small token of the esteem and regard with which he was held.

The attendance at the Wolverhampton meeting was the largest for many years, and a vote of thanks and confidence in St. Dunstan's was proposed by H. Kidger and seconded by J. H. New.

War Medals and Reunions

A SUGGESTION was raised in a previous issue by J. Sheehy, of Dover, that war medals should be worn at After-Care Reunions, and readers were asked for their opinion. Here are some comments :—

I suggest the men wearing their war medals at a Reunion as I think it is the right thing to do at a meeting of ex-service men.— W. ROBINSON, Hull.

I think the suggestion that St. Dunstaners, when attending Reunions, should wear their war medals is very interesting, and should be carried out.—J. SMITH, Norwich.

DEAR EDITOR,-With regard to the suggestion put forward by my old Dover comrade, to the effect that war medals and insignia should be worn at Reunions, I am writing to say that this is a capital idea but does not go nearly far enough ! All medals should be neatly threaded on to large rings worn through the ears-Crimean veterans with twenty or more medals might wear an extra nose ring to carry the weight. To make the affair more impressive still a large red patch should be worn on the seat of the trousers with St. Dunstan's badge worked on it in gold and silver thread; this would add a touch of dignity and colour to the usual drab appearance. The white walking-stick with red rear light should be carried in the left hand (with a handy spike on the bottom for stray cigarette ends) and in the right hand a brace of Pekingese rampant on leash (two Pekingese are suggested in case one leads the owner astray-the other might bring him back.) This, with the illuminated disk in the buttonhole should finish off the tout ensemble.

The general public could then make no mistake as to our being *bona fide* St. Dunstaners. Yea, verily !—Yours with best wishes, —JERRY JEROME, Wokingham, Berks.

"A Tonic"

N the "Londoner's Log" of the Sunday Express of 14th August, Viscount Castlerosse wrote :—

"Those who suffer from melancholy should try to meet a man who has been through St. Dunstan's.

" I go to Mr. Toft, who is a splendid masseur. " He was blinded during the war, and then learned his present profession.

"The attitude of this type of man towards life is a tonic."

Successes

W. Dimond, of Radnage, near High Wycombe, has won a prize of one guinea for a fibre mat in a British Isles Blind Contest held in Wales.

R. J. Williams, of Southwick, has been awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's silver-gilt medal for his exhibit of mats at the local Show. This is the fourth year in succession in which Williams has won an award.

News of Young St. Dunstaners

GoDWIN, the son of A. Taylor, of Lye, has gained a scholarship which enables him to attend the King Edward VII Grammar School, Stourbridge, for five years.

The eldest son of A. G. Briggs, of Norwich, has passed his fifth music examination, gaining distinction with 90% marks.

Dorothy Joan Chambers, the eleven year old daughter of W. Chambers, of Manchester, has won a scholarship to Chorlton Central School. Dorothy has also been awarded a certificate for style and speed in swimming one hundred yards.

A Secondary School scholarship has been granted to the youngest daughter of F. W. Bull, of Cheddar.

Marriage

HANCOCK—JOHNSON.—C. A. Hancock, of Uxbridge, to Miss Gladys Johnson, of Yiewsley, on 10th September, at St. John's Church, Hillingdon.

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to F. A. Whitehouse, of Thornaby-on-Tees, and his wife who celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on 19th August.

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Brighton News

From the Sussex Daily News, 6th July: The "boys" of St. Dunstan's, Brighton, held their 12th annual outing yesterday. Each year the employees of Tilling's and the Southdown Bus Companies endeavour to give them a happy time. They provide coaches, music, refreshment, and everything necessary for comfort.

When the fleet of Southdown motor-coaches left the Aquarium, the occupants had an enthusiastic send-off. The Mayor of Brighton, Alderman T. J. Braybon, J.P., was present, and wished all a happy time. Mr. F. Mantle (Southdown Motor Services), Mr. Maurice Woolley, a welcome visitor from the Cheerful Sparrows, and Councillor Bishop were also present.

The party journeyed to Worthing, where they picked up more of the "boys"; then to Croaker Hill, near Goodwood, for refreshment, and so to Midhurst. Here they had lunch, and listened to the music of the band, under Deputy Bandmaster L. Page.

From the weather point of view the outing was disappointing, rain commencing to fall just after leaving Worthing and continuing at intervals throughout the day. On the journey "Mark" sent out an S.O.S. which Captain E. F. Masters, T.D. (Hon. Secretary of the Midhurst branch of the British Legion) picked up, and, as the usual afternoon of dancing in Cowdray Park was out of the question, Captain Masters was able, through the generosity of Mr. A. A. Scrace, of the Midhurst Electric Theatre, to arrange a concert programme there.

Dinner was served at the old Drill Hall, among prominent visitors being Colonel Eric Ball (a member of St. Dunstan's Council), Mr. E. Kessell, C.B.E., Mr. A. E. Cannon (Chairman of the Southdown Motor Services, and of the Outing Committee), and Captain Masters. Mr. P. Button (Chief Engineer of Tilling's) and Mr. J. Hutchinson (Traffic Manager of Tilling's) were unable to be present. In a humorous speech, Colonel Ball referred to "Lord" Mark Richards' good work. Mr. Kessell thanked the Organising Committee.

Headed by the band, the visitors marched through the town to the Theatre. The band played selections, and there was also community singing, and songs were rendered by Mrs. Scrace, Mrs. Beckitt, Mrs. Packham, Mr. and Mrs R. B. Robertson, Mr. H. Stone, and several of the visitors. The party returned to the Drill Hall for tea, and, before leaving, Mr. Mark Richards expressed thanks to Captain Masters and other Midhurst friends who had helped them.

Captain Masters, replying, said Midhurst was very pleased to see "the boys" again, and hoped they would come next year.

The expenses of the day were helped by contributions from Midhurst people, who also provided cigarettes, which were taken back for distribution among those who were unable to join the party.

Considerable credit is due to Mr. M. Richards, the Hon. Secretary, who works so assiduously for the welfare of St. Dunstan's, and his Committee. Messrs. Baker and Co., Carreras, Ltd., Players, Ltd., and Gallaher, Ltd., kindly presented gifts of cigarettes, and Messrs. Hale, Dancy and Co., made a generous gift of bananas. A splendid half-page photograph of the

cheery party, taken just before their departure for Midhurst, also appeared.

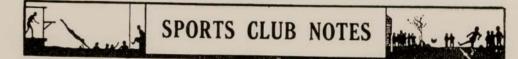
An Enjoyable Day

DEAL weather conditions favoured the annual outing provided by the Grocers' Federation for our men at Brighton, and at about 2.30 p.m. on 9th August, six luxury coaches carrying over two hundred guests, including the men and their wives and escorts, started out in beautiful sunshine for a drive which took us along the coast as far as Worthing. Then inland past the ancient castle of Bramber and through the picturesque village of Stevning, through country which would have delighted the heart of any lover of scenery. the gold of the ripening corn blending with the green of the rich verdure, through shady lanes where tall trees formed a natural archway and on to Abbotsford Gardens, where everybody was ready to do justice to the delicious tea which was served on the lawn. After tea, Messrs. Yeoman and Parsons spoke on behalf of the Grocers' Federation, the Rev. Mr. H. A. Evton-Jones responding for our Matron (who was unavoidably absent) and W. Biggs for the men. A move was then made for the sports ground where a programme of field events created keen and healthy rivalry. At about eight o'clock everybody assembled on the lawn again, this time to partake of a liberal supply of good and wholesome liquid refreshment. Mrs. Parsons, wife of the Chairman of the Committee, then presented the prizes to the successful competitors.

The playing of "God Save the King" by the Warren Farm Boys' Band, who had delighted everyone by their playing during the afternoon, and a bugle call, warned everybody that it was time to make a move for the coaches. A delightful evening drive, arriving home about ten o'clock, feeling very grateful to those who had given us so much pleasure, was a fitting end to a happy and successful day.

" OBSERVER."

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW



Sports Meeting

TUESDAY, 4th OCTOBER THE Winter Sports Meeting will be held in the Lounge at Headquarters, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 4th October. Will our sportsmen kindly make a note of this date and be there? A dance will follow at 8 p.m.

Brighton

A FTER a very successful term, in which we have won the Inter-Club Sports Cup for the first time, the sports finished as follows :--

1st, J. Roughley (130 points); 2nd, J. Walker (109 points); 3rd, J. Ryan (108 points).

The football ended up as follows. Cup winners :---

The Arsenal.—F. Holman (Capt.), J. Watson, J. Walker, J. Culshaw, G. J. Wheeler, S. Dyson.

Runners-up :--

Forest Rangers.—J. Yuill (Capt.), P. Watts, W. Bentley, A. W. Hurrell, W. White, F. Kayne.

The highest T.B. goal scorer was J. H. Warren with seven goals.

In the S.S. section there was a tie between J. Walker and J. Watson, both with fifteen goals; it was decided by extra kicks in which J. Walker won by one goal.

Manchester General Sports Day, Saturday, 3rd September

THE Club was lent the Manchester Ship Canal Company's Recreation Ground and was very lucky to have

such wonderful facilities for the sports a cricket ground with beautiful turf, and surrounded by a half-mile track. Tea was served in an army hut. The catering was most ably done by Miss Chappell of the Manchester Ship Canal's canteen, and the waitresses were members of the Sale Detachment of the British Red Cross Society. Escorts for the three-mile walk were members of the North Manchester Harriers and Toc H.

The Club's oldest and best friend, Mr. Slack, acted as judge in the field events, assisted by Mr. Morgan of the North Manchester Harriers, Mr. J. Smith of the Manchester Ship Canal Co., Mr. Churchill Eaton, and Major Lermit. Corporal Major Tovell took charge of all the sports—need one say more? Success was assured.

Several showers of rain rather damped the proceedings, but on the whole the weather was kind. Manchester St. Dunstaners were delighted to have Mrs. Irvine again with them.

In spite of several other important engagements in his constituency, Mr. H. Sutcliffe, M.P., for Royton Division of Lancaster, most kindly came to start the three-mile walk and waited to congratulate the winners.

Forty-six St. Dunstaners had accepted and thirty-eight actually attended the meeting.

After tea, Mrs. Irvine presented the prizes and G. W. Killingbeck made a charming speech thanking the Manchester Ship Canal Co. and all who had helped.

À dance was arranged in a Church Hall quite near the ground, a splendid mouthorgan band playing. The dance gave a delightful finish to a good afternoon's sport.

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CHILDREN'S EVENTS.	
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Under 7 years of age. 1st Frank Illingworth. 2nd Leslie Pearson.	
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Time

32 32

33 55

1st J. Worthington 2nd J. Rutter ...

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 $2\ 45 =$

 $4 \ 0 = 29 \ 55$

Time

29 47

5.5.	. Section.				
F	astest time S.S.	5.			
1st	Coupland				29 35
2nd	Walker				30 09
			Actual	Allow-	H'cap
Handicap			Time	ance	Time
1st	Killingbeck		34 04	5 30	= 29.34
	J. Salt		31 28	1 45	= 29 43
	W. Bedford		31 0	1 0	= 30 0
	H. Birley		30 59	45 -	= 30.14
	T. Milner		31 43	1 15	= 30.28
	B. Inman		31 40	1 0 =	= 3040

Raffle of Doll

THE doll raffled by Miss Halsey in aid of the Manchester Sports Club made £2. It was drawn by Mrs. N. C. Clintoch (Miss Halsey's aunt) on 6th September. The winning name was "Anne," chosen by W. Shakespeare, of 26 Wharfdale Road, Tyseley, Birmingham.

To S.S. Men of the London Area

T is surprising to note the Tuesday sports are apparently appreciated more by T.B. men than S.S. On the other hand, it is surprising to note how many can manage to turn up to the winter dances that take place every other week, and other special functions where there is "something doing." Now my S.S. friends, just try and join us-try and outnumber the T.B.'s and let's see what you can do in the way of chucking the weight as well as dancing. In any case, please do not turn up to your dance in the middle of the sports and be a pest to those who do appreciate the sports and take a keen interest in them.

GEO. FALLOWFIELD,

Leytonstone.

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A number of St. Dunstaners were present at the annual Service of Remembrance arranged by the Brighton, Hove and District Branch of the Old Contemptibles' Association, when W. England, of Brighton, had the honour of placing the Association wreath on Hove War Memorial.

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