

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

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MEMORIAL NUMBER



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KING GEORGE V

Born 1865. Ascended the Throne, 1910. Died January 20th, 1936.

KING GEORGE V

KING GEORGE V was friend as well as ruler of all his people. The British, and perhaps especially the English people, are apt to keep their most personal feelings under control, but even this characteristic reserve broke down on the occasion of the King's illness some years ago, and more so on the occasions of his Jubilee and his death. The people were not ashamed, indeed they were glad, to show what they felt. There was something intimate, friendly, personal, about the way in which the King was regarded. This was all the more remarkable considering the few opportunities the ordinary subject has of close contact with the King. The wireless undoubtedly had a lot to do with this, for the King not only felt for his people, but was able to express his feeling. He was one of the best broadcasters in the land, and his addresses went straight to our hearts.

The welfare of ex-service men was constantly in King George's mind, as many have testified. The records of St. Dunstan's show how in almost every year since our foundation, the King made some inquiry about his blinded soldiers, or made some statement by way of recognition or encouragement.

During the war years there were his two visits to St. Dunstan's, and many inquiries of Sir Arthur Pearson. There was the Message sent to the blinded soldiers of the Allies in 1918, from which the following extract may be recalled :

"Many hundreds of my own soldiers, blinded in the War, have already, by fortitude and patience, combined with skilful training, learned to fill the places which they occupied before their misfortune. They have learned to get the full value from the great storehouse of their other senses, which those who have sight scarcely use. It is a question of training ; but first of all it is a question of the courage with which you refused to yield to the enemy on the battlefield. A great calamity has come to you ; but if you refuse to yield to it ; if you determine with all the strength of your natures to rise above it, the treatment of the blind has of late years attained such a degree of progress that your future life may be as full and useful as your old."

What a sense of the value of words had King George!

Then there was the Christmas Broadcast of 1932, in which the King expressed his good wishes to his blind subjects, and the famous speech in Westminster Hall to the Parliament of Great Britain and to the representatives of the Parliaments of the Empire when, though he was covering the whole vast field of his reign in a speech which lasted about twenty minutes, he found place for this sentence:

"Let us not in this hour of thanksgiving fail to remember those who gave their lives, or who live now maimed or blinded, that we might continue to enjoy the blessings of life."

I can add to all this evidence, for I personally know of and gratefully remember four other occasions when the King made direct inquiry "How are the men of St. Dunstan's getting on?" Or, "I am glad to know of the blinded men's progress. Give them my best wishes." Or, "I have the greatest admiration for the men of St. Dunstan's."

We are happy in our memories of King George V., and of Her Majesty The Queen, who stood by his side so long.

As ex-service men we are happy, too, in the knowledge of the interest which the new King takes in our welfare. This is not the occasion to write of His Majesty, though he is much in our thoughts. But every St. Dunstaner will feel pride in the recognition of our service in war and of our efforts to serve in peace which King Edward VIII has evidenced on the many occasions in which St. Dunstaners as a whole, or blinded soldiers as individuals have been privileged to meet him. We will not forget his visits to St. Dunstan's, and notably his friendly words and handshake with representative St. Dunstaners in the Albert Hall last year.

The King is dead—Long Live the King.

Ian Fraser

The Royal Messages

On the day following the death of King George, the following telegram was sent to Her Majesty the Queen :

21st January, 1936.

We beg Your Majesty graciously to accept this expression of our grief at this time and of our sympathy with Your Majesty and the Members of the Royal Family. On many occasions His Majesty King George by kindly actions shewed his great sympathy for his blind subjects. They cherish an affectionate and an indelible recollection of His Majesty's gracious interest in their welfare. On behalf of British blinded soldiers, sailors, and airmen we tender our humble and our heartfelt sympathy.

ETHEL PEARSON, *President.*

IAN FRASER, *Chairman.*

NEVILLE PEARSON, *Honorary Treasurer, St. Dunstan's.*

On January 21st also the following telegram was sent to H.M. King Edward VIII :

On behalf of British blinded soldiers, sailors, and airmen, we offer our humble duty to Your Majesty and express our deep sympathy on the occasion of the death of His Majesty King George. We remember with affection the inestimable services rendered to St. Dunstan's men and to all ex-service men by the public recognition afforded to them by His Majesty and by Your Majesty, our comrade-in-arms. We humbly wish our new King long life and good luck.

ETHEL PEARSON, *President.*

IAN FRASER, *Chairman.*

NEVILLE PEARSON, *Honorary Treasurer, St. Dunstan's.*

The following reply was sent to Lady (Arthur) Pearson, our President, from Buckingham Palace :

The King is touched by your kind message of sympathy and will be glad if you will express his sincere thanks to all who joined in it.

PRIVATE SECRETARY.



King George and Queen Mary at St. Dunstan's in 1915.

St. Dunstan's and the Death of King George

THE connection of St. Dunstan's with the death of King George V was a close one in every way. First, because it was inevitable that our men who had fought and suffered for him should feel perhaps more acutely than the average citizen, his sudden loss, and again because of the way in which by the miracle of broadcasting, they were enabled, so to speak, almost to be present at his passing.

The extraordinary boon conferred by wireless on those who cannot see has already been referred to many times in these pages, and on no occasion was it more manifest than during those tragic days of King George's last illness. Nobody who listened to the dignified and poignant announcements of the British Broadcasting Corporation on that fatal Monday will ever forget the experience, and those last half-dozen hours from six p.m. until the announcement of King George's death soon after midnight were for blinded and sighted alike a time that will linger in the memory throughout life.

It was only from the six o'clock bulletin that the general public definitely realized how serious the King's illness was, but even so, it came as a shock when the delayed bulletin from the National station at 9.38 used the unforgettable words—"The King's life is moving peacefully towards its close." It was obvious then that the end was very near, and few of the millions who were listening can have turned off their sets until Sir John Reith himself announced the last sad news. Thus, for the first time, all his subjects throughout the world were enabled to be very close to the last moments of their Monarch.

During the succeeding days broadcasting continued to play a great part in the lives of all of us. Mr. Baldwin's moving panegyric on the Tuesday night will long be remembered, and so will the admirable broadcast of the Proclamations of King Edward VIII.

It was not only, however, by means of the wireless that our men maintained close touch with the mourning of King George. Many individual St. Dunstaners went to the Lying-in-State at Westminster Hall, and were given special facilities by the officials.

Officially, too, on behalf of all St. Dunstaners, a wreath of poppies in the form of our badge, made at the British Legion

Poppy Factory, was sent with the following inscription:

"In affectionate memory from blinded soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Empire."

Messages of condolence and loyalty, which are given in full on another page, were despatched to Queen Mary and King Edward.

Then came the day of the funeral. In London nearly one hundred of our men, with twenty escorts, helped to line the route of the funeral procession. The party was headed by Captain Sir Ian Fraser. Mr. Askew and Corporal Major Tovell, who were responsible for the organization, accompanied him. Assembling at Baker Street and Victoria, small groups went to the position allocated at Queen's Drive, Hyde Park Corner. In spite of the tremendous crowds, great courtesy and helpfulness were shown in getting St. Dunstan's men to their position by the military, the police, and the general public. A special word of thanks and praise is due to the police of all ranks in the vicinity of our men's position. In spite of very great difficulty, they were the essence of courtesy and kindness, and after the procession had passed, our men were escorted along the line of route and enabled to walk through Hyde Park and along the Edgware Road in the rear of the funeral procession. Only those who had to make their way back through the enormous and unprecedented crowds can appreciate what that meant to the St. Dunstan's party.

St. Dunstan's Standard was flown in front of the party while they were in their position in the Park, and it was noticeable that, as the procession moved slowly past, many of the foreign ambassadors and military attachés showed great interest in it. A military attaché in the German party, when he saw the Standard, brought his hand to the salute.

Our men afterwards returned to Headquarters for lunch and were briefly addressed by the Chairman. Later, in common with all other St. Dunstaners, they listened-in to the arrival of the cortège at Windsor, which was closely followed by the two minutes' silence. The description of the procession through the streets to St. George's Chapel was followed with great interest and the Service itself proved to be most moving.

Royal Interest in St. Dunstan's

KING EDWARD VIII, as Prince of Wales, as our Chairman has already said in his article, has always shown a very keen interest in St. Dunstan's and its work. He paid several visits to St. Dunstan's during the War and the years soon after it, and he always followed its work with the keenest sympathy. He visited St. Dunstan's as Prince of Wales in the very early days with the Princess Royal, then Princess Mary, and was thoroughly acquainted with all its work by the late Sir Arthur Pearson himself. In 1927 he came to St. John's Lodge to make a presentation to Sir (then Captain) Ian Fraser of a gold cigarette case to commemorate his completion of five years as Chairman of St. Dunstan's. His visit to the Jubilee Reunion at the Royal Albert Hall last year will still be fresh in the minds of all St. Dunstaners.

The late Queen Alexandra was always very much interested in St. Dunstan's work and visited it frequently. The Duke of York unveiled the Memorial

Portrait to Sir Arthur Pearson at Headquarters in 1923, and in 1925 the Duke of Connaught presided at the Anniversary Dinner to commemorate our tenth anniversary.

At Brighton

The sad and sorrowful occasion of the Royal funeral was observed with befitting solemnity at the Brighton Annexe. Twenty of our men from Brighton were included in the hundred St. Dunstaners who were privileged to line the route of the Royal Cortège.

At one o'clock all the "boys" and members of the staff assembled in the Lounge and listened-in to the wireless broadcast, keeping the two minutes silence, and following the procession to and the service at, St. George's Chapel, Windsor, in a spirit of reverence and love, and paying silent homage to a King whose reign historians will surely record as one of the most momentous in the history of our Empire.



ST. DUNSTANERS AND THE LATE KING.
Listening to the Prime Minister's broadcast tribute at Brighton.

In Memory

Corporal WARREN HENRY BRODIE
(85th Canadians)

It is with very deep regret that we have to announce the death of W. H. Brodie, of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Brodie enlisted a few months after the outbreak of hostilities, and was wounded at Arras in 1918. After a stay in Canada with his family, he came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1919, but was only here a short period, during which time he learned typewriting, picture-framing and netting.

He actually died on the 28th December last, but the news of his death, which we received recently in a note from Captain Edwin Baker, came as a real shock to us. He has, however, been in very indifferent health for some years now.

We send our deepest sympathy to his widow and family, who must be feeling their loss very keenly.

Sapper BERNARD HARVEY
(Royal Engineers)

We deeply regret to announce the death of B. Harvey, of Cork.

On account of his age, Harvey never actually came to St. Dunstan's, but he was under our care for many years, having served in the early days of the War until his discharge in 1917. He also saw service in the South African War from 1899 until 1902.

For some time Harvey had been in indifferent health but in December his illness took a serious turn and he passed away in the North Infirmary, Cork, on the 6th January.

The funeral took place on 8th January at St. Peter and Paul's R.C. Church, Cork. Seven St. Dunstaners living in the city were present at the service and at the interment at St. Joseph's Cemetery, where J. Kenny laid on the grave the wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Harvey and his family, and especially to his son, Cornelius, who has been blind from birth and was his father's special care.

Harvey was late Vice-Chairman of the Executive of the Cork and County branch, British Ex-Service Men's "Non-Tenants" (Protective Association), and at a specially arranged meeting on the 7th January, a resolution was adopted suspending the discussion of business until 14th January, as a token of respect. It was further resolved "that we tender to Mrs. Harvey, sons, and relatives, our deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement."

Sapper ARTHUR AUGUSTUS HILLIER
(R.E. Signals)

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of A. A. Hillier, of Brighton. This St. Dunstaner came to us in April, 1925, and was trained as a joiner, and he carried on with this trade until some months ago when he was forced to give up owing to ill-health. He passed away on 17th January, 1936.

The funeral took place at St. George's Church, Brighton, and the Rev. Eyton-Jones conducted the service. Many of his friends from St. Dunstan's, Brighton, were present in the church and among the many wreaths was one from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Hillier's widow and the other members of his family in their loss.

Acting Bombardier WILLIAM JOHN SIM
(Royal Garrison Artillery)

It is with very deep regret that we have to announce the death of this St. Dunstaner, which occurred rather suddenly at his home in Aberdeen, on the 10th January, 1936.

Sim was wounded in 1917 near Messines, having enlisted in 1915, and as a result he not only lost his sight but was also injured in right arm, left foot, and right leg. Leaving us in 1918, he carried on with his boot repairing, and later as a mat maker, for some years, but gave up these occupations towards the end of his life.

He was only ill for a few days, and was buried on Tuesday, the 14th January. Two of his comrades, E. Brockie and D. Munro, who live in the neighbourhood, attended the funeral. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was amongst the floral tributes sent. Sim leaves a widow and four children, to whom we extend our sincerest sorrow in their great and sudden loss.

Corporal ALBERT WILLIAM VAUGHAN
(Royal Army Service Corps)

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of A. W. Vaughan, of Thornton Heath.

Vaughan was wounded in the end of 1915 at Gallipoli, and early in the following year was admitted to St. Dunstan's, where he took up training in basket making. He worked well at this occupation until 1932 when he was taken seriously ill and in due course was admitted to hospital, where he remained until his death on the 20th January.

The funeral took place a few days later at Mitcham Road Cemetery, and was attended by his daughter and three sons, son-in-law, and several relatives. Among the various wreaths was one from Captain Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Vaughan's daughter and three sons.

Letter to the Editor

THE EDITOR,
ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW,
SIR,

Our late King George the Fifth of glorious memory has gone, yet memories of the troublesome years he guided us through will long linger with us. Through twenty-five years of trial and tribulation this very gallant monarch gently directed us along the course we should take.

The question has arisen in my mind, "How shall posterity know him?" Our history is rich with the names of kings who have served their country well, each honoured with an affix characteristic of their virtue. We have our Conqueror, our Lion-heart, our Confessor, our Great, our Peace-maker and so on. How shall we think of King George the Fifth?

How about King George the Gentle?

Yours faithfully,
A. KNIGHT,

February 1st, 1936.

HEADQUARTERS.

Twelve Years Ago

The following is taken from the REVIEW of May, 1924, and in the light of recent events is of more than usual interest. It refers to the first broadcast ever made by King George and the occasion was the opening of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley:

Listening-in to the King.

The big lounge was very full on St. George's Day, April 23rd, for everyone knocked off work to listen to the King's Speech wirelessly from Wembley all over the United Kingdom—and some way beyond it seems, for certain wireless enthusiasts from the States have cabled over that they heard every word.

Captain Fraser was controlling the wireless set in the lounge, so everyone expected excellent results, nor were they disappointed.

As six loud-speakers were pressed into service the din made by the various bands as they marched into position at Wembley can be imagined. Every now and then would come a stentorian shout:

"Present arms . . . whirr . . . whirr . . . Halt!"

"Must be the sergeant-major," said someone. "Sounds like murder," retorted his neighbour. There followed a burst of music, then cheers. "The Prince!" everyone exclaimed with certainty, and resisted an impulse to join in the Wembley cheers.

"Ah! Now the King!"

Clear to everyone in the big hall sounded His Majesty's words. They drifted out of the open windows and must have reached the surprised children playing in the park . . . We listened—the King was telling us how this great exhibition would enable us to take stock of the resources of the Empire and learn how best we could co-operate to supply our needs. A burst of cheering came as he reached the end and uttered the few brief words that were cabled

round the world in 80 seconds—"I declare this exhibition open."

"It's magic," said more than one as they went back to work.

A Scottish Tribute

In a letter to Headquarters, R. Young, of Glasgow, writes:

I have a feeling that it would almost amount to disloyalty if I did not express my great sorrow at the death of our King of blessed memory. He was affectionately enthroned in the hearts of his Scottish people, and I like to recall that on the occasion of his last visit to Glasgow, as he drove that afternoon to the station, the huge crowd broke spontaneously into the old Scottish song, "Will ye no' come back again? Better lo'ed ye canna be. Will ye no' come back again?" And Their Majesties smiled their pleasure.

Derby Competition, 1936

For the sixth year in succession we announce our Derby Sweepstake. By this early notice it is hoped that more overseas men will be encouraged to enter the competition which is, of course, confined strictly to St. Dunstan's men.

RULES.

1. The price of tickets is 2s. 6d. each.
2. The total amount subscribed will, with the exception of the actual cost of printing and postage involved, be distributed as follows:—

Fifty per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.

Twenty per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.

Ten per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.

Twenty per cent to be equally divided among all those who hold tickets drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

3. Application for tickets can be made at once and will be received up to the first post on **Monday, May 18th.** Envelopes must be plainly marked "Derby Competition."

Tickets will be despatched in rotation, and must be produced before payment of prize money is made.

Sports Club Notes

TUESDAY NIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

FEBRUARY 18TH.—Lecture by Air Commodore J. A. Chamier on "Aviation."

FEBRUARY 25TH.—Concert by Miss Lester's concert party.

MARCH 3RD.—Dance.

MARCH 10TH.—Whist Drive.

MARCH 17TH.—Lecture by Mr. C. G. Graves, Controller of Programmes at the B.B.C.



Owing to lack of space, it is regretted that further sports notes and other items of interest have had to be held over until next month.



"I Admire Your Courage"

"I have met St. Dunstan's men in all the corners of the earth. . . .

"I know that St. Dunstan's has done a great deal for you, and I know that your families and your friends help you whenever they can; but I know that you like to help yourselves, and that is what you have done, and that is why with your wonderful co-operation, this great organization has been able to be so successful. . . .

"I congratulate St. Dunstan's, but most of all I congratulate you, and all those men blinded in the War throughout this country and the Empire. I admire your courage, your resource, and the way that you have overcome blindness."

[King Edward VIII (then Prince of Wales) addressing St. Dunstan's men at the Royal Albert Hall on June 3rd, 1935.]

