

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

Twenty-five Years

ST. DUNSTAN'S was twenty-five years old on March 26th. Formal celebrations in war-time were not possible, but in a variety of ways the occasion was called to mind. Most of the newspapers carried a story of St. Dunstan's at home and abroad, the Chairman broadcast in "The World Goes By," in the Home programme, and in "In England Now," in the Overseas Service, and the weekly dance at the Brighton Home on Tuesday, March 26th, was made the occasion for an informal celebration.

To everybody's regret, Matron Boyd Rochfort was unable to be present. She had been taken ill about a week previously, and an operation had been considered necessary. This was performed at a Brighton nursing home and was, happily, successful. Many tributes of affection and anxiety were expressed by St. Dunstaners and their wives, and we feel sure that these would have been shared by St. Dunstan's men everywhere. As we go to press we are glad to learn from a message from Mr. Davenport that Matron is going on well.

Referring to Matron in a speech which he made at the dance, in the interval, Sir Ian expressed the regret which all the men of St. Dunstan's felt at the illness of Miss Boyd Rochfort, who had been V.A.D., Sister, and Matron for more than twenty years. He was glad to say there was good hope that she would make a satisfactory recovery.

Continuing, Sir Ian said it was a tragic thought that they should be celebrating their 25th birthday under the shadow of war. It was distressing to contemplate the possibility that the ranks of St. Dunstan's might now be added to perhaps in large numbers.

Already seven new war cases had passed through the Hospital, but none was the result of injury in action. Three were medical cases and four were accidents. Three had left, having recovered useful sight, and the remaining four were still in hospital.

St. Dunstan's was singularly well equipped to deal with the problem of war blindness for it had a magnificent building, 25 years of experience, a wonderfully trained and devoted staff, and above all the spirit of the men of the Great War, who would show any newcomers the way to victory over blindness.

"I think," said Sir Ian, "we can all be proud of St. Dunstan's. The generous British public have made our work possible, but you men in your homes all over the Empire, by your success, your courage, and your cheerfulness, have made our organization world-famous. Not only has St. Dunstan's meant hope and salvation to 3,000 blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen, but the poignancy and drama associated with blindness, and the spiritual revival of so many men of one generation has struck the public imagination and has led to a renaissance in the world of the blind."

Sir Ian in Parliament Again

Sir Ian Fraser is at present in the North of England—in Lonsdale, Lancashire—which explains why there are no Chairman's Notes this month.

Sir Ian was adopted by the Lonsdale Unionist Association as candidate in the by-election caused by the succession of Lord Balniel to his father's title of Lord Crawford and Balcarres, and as we go to press, we hear that he had been returned unopposed. We offer him our hearty congratulations.

Fighting an election would have been a familiar experience for our Chairman, for he has had a long and varied connection with Parliamentary and civic politics. Just before Sir Arthur Pearson died in 1921, and with Sir Arthur's warmest approval and support, he had been adopted by North St. Pancras as their candidate for the London County Council. At the subsequent election, he was returned at the head of the poll, and thus became the first blind London County Councillor. He had by then succeeded Sir Arthur as Chairman of St. Dunstan's, and realising that it was necessary for the head of an organisation like ours to enter public life, and thus make frequent contacts with the various organs of Government, he went on with the job. He remained on the London County Council until 1925, but meanwhile, in 1924, he fought his first Parliamentary election, which resulted in his return to Parliament as Member for North St. Pancras. Between 1924 and 1936 (the year of his retirement, owing to his appointment as a B.B.C. Governor), he fought five elections, winning four and losing one.

St. Dunstan's itself has no politics. It is concerned only with the well-being of blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen, and it is not from the political aspect that we think of the Chairman's membership of the House of Commons. We view it from two other angles.

As a St. Dunstaner himself, Sir Ian spreads the story of St. Dunstan's to Ministers, to Members, to the Press, and, through the Press, to the public. He presents the story of Victory over Blindness in its most significant form—that of personal example. He is St. Dunstan's ambassador in the House of Commons. Secondly, there is the value of the many contacts which he thereby makes, and which he places fully at St. Dunstan's disposal, and at the disposal of blind people generally, and old soldiers.

We feel sure all St. Dunstaners will wish the Chairman good luck in his return to Parliament.

The New Pensions Scheme

A NEW clause has been added to the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, which reduces the age at which a contributory old age pension can be awarded to a woman from 65 to 60 years. This provision comes into force on the 1st July, 1940.

Women who have reached the age of 60, but not age 65, on the 30th July, 1940, will be eligible for an old age pension as from July 4th, 1940, on condition that they are wives of insured men who have attained the age of 65 and are entitled to the old age pension. Also if they are insured themselves and have been continuously insured for at least five years before July 1st, 1940.

A form of application may be obtained from any post office, and the wives of St. Dunstaners who are eligible would be well advised to make their application as soon as possible, when the pension will date as from July 1st, 1940. If there are any difficulties or queries, Mr. Banks will be glad to help in any way he can.

Make a Note—

to apply for Derby Sweepstake tickets as soon as possible. Closing date: June 3rd.

St. Dunstan's Offer to Finns

SHORTLY after the collapse of the Finnish war, Sir Ian Fraser wrote to the Minister for Finland in London, saying, "The deep sympathy of my comrades and Council goes out to any of your young men who may have lost their sight in your war for freedom and independence. If our experience and technical help can be of assistance to your people, we will be pleased to place them at your disposal." In expressing thanks for the sympathy of the British people and St. Dunstan's, the Minister says he will report the offer to his Government.

Sir Ian Fraser told the Editor of the REVIEW that what he had in mind was to provide the Finns, if they wished it, with information and technical help in the training in Finland of any young men who were blinded. It was possible that they might like to send representatives to see St. Dunstan's and gather information, or that St. Dunstan's might send an official to Finland to help them. At present he had no information as to whether there was any serious number of blinded soldiers.

Brighton News

Ovingdean Tunnel Opened

THE tunnel leading from the grounds of the Ovingdean Home underneath the coast road has now been opened, and all St. Dunstaners should make a point of being shown the tunnel soon after they arrive.

One entrance is in our grounds and it leads under the road to a point just behind the bus shelter by the stopping place opposite the Home. There are guiding rails down the steps.

Alighting from a Brighton-bound bus at the usual stop, it is only necessary to turn back a few steps into the tunnel.

The tunnel can also be reached by an entrance leading from the promenade below the bus shelter.

Chapel Services

The Rev. Harold Gibb, a St. Dunstan's officer, was at Brighton during the Easter period, and conducted the Service at the Chapel at Ovingdean on Good Friday, and the Communion Service and five o'clock Service on Easter Sunday.

Volk's Railway Changes Hands

BRIGHTON'S famous sea-front railway—the first electric one in Britain—has become the property of the Brighton Corporation. After fifty-six years it has passed out of the hands of the private company, whose founder, Mr. Magnus Volk, built it in 1883.

More than twenty-five million passengers have travelled on the railway.

Mr. Magnus Volk, who was one of the pioneers in the development of electricity in this country, died in 1937, at the age of 85.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to: Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Iddiolls, of Queen's Park, March 10th; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Matthews, of Rhyd, April 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. A. Keep, of London, N.7, and Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Fleming, of Dagenham, April 5th; Mr. and Mrs. R. Edwards, of Denbigh, April 11th; and Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Porter, of Southampton, May 1st.

A Record?

The wife of H. G. Chafer, of Hull (our St. Dunstaner who died in 1932) is serving with the W.R.N.S. The daughter is also in the Service, and the son is in the Navy. This must surely be a family record—all members in Naval units.

St. Dunstan's Dart Championship

ST. DUNSTANERS will be interested in the "All-Britain" Darts Championship for the "Gracie Fields" trophy, which is being organised in aid of St. Dunstan's, and which we hope will be a great success.

If any St. Dunstaner knows of an A.R.P. post, or a local group where darts are popular, we should be glad if he would mention the matter, or send us a line so that we can send them all particulars.

Competition Corner

The solution to last month's problem was £6 13s. The first correct solution opened on the closing date came from W. W. M. Williamson, of Denton, Manchester, to whom the prize of 10s. 6d. is being sent.

T. Cheal, of Saltford, is responsible for the following, and we warn you it is rather a knotty one:

A wealthy Persian left his three sons seventeen camels, to be divided as follows: one-half to the eldest, one-third to the second, and a ninth to the youngest son. Not knowing how to do this, the sons asked the village wise man. How did he solve the problem? 10s. 6d. to the sender of the first correct solution opened on the closing date, May 6th. Mark your envelopes "Competition Corner."

Omar (ex B.E.F.) on "Housey"

*Myself, when young, did frequently recline
Upon the grass and scan the numbered Line,
Until some lucky blighter bellowed "House!"
But never was that happy yodel mine.*

*I heard a voice behind the Canteen cry
Of Legs Eleven and of Kelly's I,
Clicketty-Click, and other mysteries,
And bought a card and had another try.*

*Ah, chum! How oft with quenchless hope afire,
Did we upon the bottom Line perspire,
And waste the francs we might have spent on beer,
And in the end disconsolate retire!*

*Indeed, indeed, we feckless soldier folk
Cared little whether we were flush or broke;
But Nobby Clark, who ran the game, they say,
Became as rich as any Quarter-Block.*

("REVELLE.")

Marriage

SUTTON—GOLDING.—On April 7th, at Madeley Parish Church, A. W. Sutton, of Madeley, Crewe, to Miss A. I. Golding, of Blackheath, Birmingham.

Sons and Daughters in the Services

ALLEN, P/O Michael (Wallasey), H.M.S. *Edinburgh*.
 ALLEN, Private W. (Morecambe), K.O.R.R.
 ALLEN, Signaller F. (Wallasey), C.C.S., S.N.O.
 BOSWELL, Trooper J.
 BREWER, Sapper R. (Bristol), Royal Engineers.
 BREWER, Gunner A. (Cornwall), Royal Artillery.
 BREWER, Gunner T. H., Royal Artillery.
 BRIGGS, Gunner A. G. (Norwich), Royal Artillery.
 BRIGGS, Gunner W. C. (Norwich), Royal Artillery.
 BROADBENT, Bandsman A., H.L.I.
 BROADBENT, Guardsman G., 3rd Scots Guards.
 BROCKERTON, L/Bdr. G., Royal Artillery.
 BROOKE, Trooper K. (Sheffield), 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoons.
 BROOKES, A/CI D. (Southampton), Royal Air Force.
 BROWN, Driver A. C. (Nuneaton).
 BURNETT, Chief Radio Officer George (Rescue and Salvage Ship).
 BURNETT, Gunner H. A., T.A.
 BURRAN, A/CI, Wireless Operator Colin, Royal Air Force.
 BUTLER, L/Cpl. W.-H. (Distington).
 BYRD, A/CI Billy, Royal Air Force.
 CARTER, Private G. A. (Southend), Essex Regiment.
 CHAMBERS, Private W. A. (Birmingham), R.A.M.C.
 COLE, Bertie (Appledore), Royal Marines.
 COLE, Billy (Appledore), Merchant Service.
 COX, A/B. K., H.M.S. *Plover*.
 COX, Private J., Durham Light Infantry.
 DANCE, Private E., Royal Air Force.
 DAVIDSON, O/B. C. (Bradford), H.M.S. *Drake*.
 DAVIDSON, Private J. (Bradford), The Loyal Regt.
 DONEGAN, Driver E., Royal Horse Artillery.
 DONNELLY, Gunner J., 156/52 L.A.A.
 GILHOOLY, Nursing Orderly G. S., Royal Air Force.
 GRIFFITHS, Sapper R. W. (Northampton), Royal Engineers.
 HARRIS, A. H. (Catford), East Surrey Regt.
 HARVEY, Stoker L/C. V. J. (Worthing), H.M.S. *Malaya*.
 HENDERSON, Sapper A., Royal Engineers.
 HENDERSON, Sapper S., Royal Engineers.
 HENDERSON, Rifleman R., K.R.R.C.
 HICKS, Gunner A., A.A. Training Regt.
 JARMAN, Seaman T., H.M.S. *Revenge*.
 JARMAN, Bugler A., D.B. Royal Engineers.
 MITCHELL, Private J. (Leith), R.A.O.C.
 MOORE, Drummer Boy (Southport), Scots Guards.
 MOORE, James (Folkestone), H.M.S. *Orion*.
 MOORE, T. I., A.T.S.
 MOORE, Private T. E. (Folkestone), 8th Irish King's Regt.
 OWEN, Sapper E. (Liverpool), Royal Engineers.
 OWEN, Fusilier G. (Bethesda), R.W.F.
 OWEN, A/C2 J. (Liverpool), Royal Air Force.
 OWEN, A. (Liverpool), Royal Air Force.
 PALMER, R., H.M.S. *Malaya*.
 PINNER, Marine A. P. H., Royal Marines.
 POTTS, Private C. (Norton-on-Tees).
 POTTS, Private A. (Norton-on-Tees), No. 2 I.T.C.
 POTTS, Private J. (Norton-on-Tees), 1st/5th D.L.I.
 RADLEY, Private W., R.A.O.C.
 ROBINSON, L/Cpl. E. (Grimsby), Lincolnshire Regt.
 ROBINSON, O/D. W. (Grimsby), H.M.S. *Jervis*.

SAMWORTH, Stoker G., H.M.S. *Royal Arthur*.
 SAYERS, A/C. H., Royal Air Force.
 SAYERS, Leading Aircraftman T., Royal Air Force.
 SHAYLER, Private W., South Lancs Regt.
 SHARPE, L/Bdr. Grenville, 16th Field Regt. R.A.
 SHEPHERD, Sapper G. (Leighton Buzzard), Royal Engineers.
 SHEPHERD, Sapper W. (Leighton Buzzard), Royal Engineers.
 SHERIDAN, Francis, H.M.S. *Kent*.
 SHERIDAN, Private Patrick (Glasgow), Royal Fusiliers.
 SHERIDAN, Martin (Glasgow), Merchant Service.
 STEEL, J. (Glasgow), 306th Field Regt. R.A.
 STORER, P/AM. Leslie, H.M.S. *Medina*.
 SUMMERS, Leading Aircraftman A., Royal Air Force.
 TAYLOR, Sapper R. H. (Bournemouth), R.E. Construction Company.
 WALTERS, A/B. S. (Plymouth), H.M.S. *Aphis*.
 WATT, A/CI C. (Montrose), Royal Air Force.
 WILLIAMS, Private D. (Cardiff), R.A.O.C.
 WILLIAMSON, Leading Telephonist H. (Chorlton, Manchester).

Young St. Dunstaners

Congratulations to the son of J. McAvoy, of Mauchline, Ayrshire, who has been appointed Milk Recorder for Bute and Rothesay, under the Scottish Milk Records Association.

★ ★ ★

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Jackson, of Heswall, Cheshire, was married on Easter Monday.

★ ★ ★

The son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Last, of Crynant, was also married on Easter Monday, to Miss Rita Willet. A few days later he left for France.

★ ★ ★

May Yuile, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Yuile, of Maryhill, Glasgow, was married on March 21st to Mr. Jack Mitchell.

★ ★ ★

Frances, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Corns, of Kenton, was married on March 14th to Corporal A. Moremont, of the Royal Air Force.

★ ★ ★

Denise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Richardson, was married to Mr. Leslie Tucknott at St. Augustine's, Hammersmith, on March 17th.

★ ★ ★

Tom Burnett, D.C.L.I., son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Burnett of Edmonton, who is a prisoner of war in Germany, took part in a broadcast from Bremen on April 7th.

He sent his love to various members of his family, and "to the Matron of St. Dunstan's."

Christopher Stone Writes:

THE other day I found the train from Brighton crowded, and I wandered along the corridor till at last I found a carriage with only six men in it, and, forcing my way between their feet, I wedged myself in and tried to look comfortable. Four men were talking with animation, and when I had a look at them I observed that they were blind.

"They all had fine, interesting faces, were well and neatly dressed, handled their pipes or cigarettes with complete assurance, and had obviously been blinded in the last war.

"All the way to London they talked incessantly, and never in my life have I listened to a more interesting conversation.

"From the subject of caged birds and the cruelty to them in the bad old days, they passed to books and the story of the du Mauriers—and Trilby—and Daphne du Maurier's novels.

"I never read novels," said one firmly. "There's so little time. No, lately I've been reading a lot about religions."

"Well, that started them off. Theosophy, Annie Besant, Christianity, the nature of sin—the whole gamut of that never-ending and fascinating argument was touched between the four of them, and I noticed with some surprise that there was very little mention of faith and a great deal of insistence on evidence.

"And yet the whole glory of their mastery of life since the tragedy of twenty odd years ago is their steadfast faith. To be in the company of such happy, alert and serious-minded men as these makes one proud of our much-maligned humanity.

"When we arrived at Victoria I said to one of them: 'Are you going to St. Dunstan's?'"

"No," he said. "We are going home. We are off to make our living again in our home towns." And he told me that two were trained masseurs and two osteopaths. Wherever those men go they will carry with them the gift of more than mere physical healing and assuagement. Just as we were parting my new friend frowned slightly. "You know, your voice is very like Christopher Stone's."

"And a few minutes later, when the greetings had died down, we were going on our way arm in arm along the platform to the barrier, where friends met them."

—From the "Women's Illustrated," March 16th, 1940.

Congratulations to Sir Neville

Sir Neville Pearson, who is serving in the Anti-Aircraft Artillery, has been promoted to the rank of Major.

Sir Neville, although he was very young, having only just left Eton College, was an officer in the Royal Artillery in the Great War, and was wounded in action.

He rejoined his old arm of the Service before the present war broke out.

Canadian St. Dunstan Honoured

CAPTAIN EDWIN BAKER, Managing Director of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, has become an important figure in the North American blind world.

He has been appointed President of the American Association of Workers for the Blind. This is an organisation which co-ordinates the work of all the recognised blind associations throughout the North American continent. This is the first time a Canadian has received this honour.

In recent years, Captain Baker has taken an active part in preparing Canada for her present war effort, which he foresaw would be necessary. He has been a distinguished member of the Canadian National Defence Council, and for his services has been promoted to the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel.

Brief Notes

During Queen Elizabeth's visit to the Star and Garter Home recently, Her Majesty stopped and spoke to our St. Dunstan, C. F. Gibson. Gibson thought her very charming.

★ ★ ★

On Easter Monday, Mr. and Mrs. W. Kirkby, of Slough, became the proud grandparents of a fine little grandson.

★ ★ ★

E. E. Callow, of Brentwood, one of St. Dunstan's shop-keepers, has taken up woodwork at evening classes, and is making excellent progress. His local paper said, "His polished work is easily comparable with that of any other member."

Roll of Honour

With deep regret we learn that the death is feared of the son of Captain Ernest Bowler, a St. Dunstan's officer, while on R.A.F. patrol and convoy duty in the North Sea.

Norman Goes for a Walk

NORMAN is six years and nine months old. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Hunt, of King Henry's Road, N.W., and he has inherited all the St. Dunstan's initiative and perseverance.

He has been staying with his mother's people at Brighton, and has been attending school there. One day last month he got separated from his school friends and took a wrong turning. He walked all along the Front by himself (four miles) and in due course saw St. Dunstan's on the Downs at Ovingdean. This was familiar. Perhaps father was there. Anyway, he decided to call on Matron.

He remembered that there was a tunnel somewhere. He found it, walked through it, struggled gamely, and arrived at the Home.

Father wasn't there after all, but Matron was, and it was nice to see Matron. Funny, though, how surprised she was to see him! Funnier still that she had to send a wire to grandmother and auntie, and *tell the police!* If a chap can't have a little walk when he feels like it. . . .

Not bad for only six and three-quarters.

Coneyhurst

*Come ye with me, dear friend, and we will seek
The wooded hills, the hills that ever speak
To those that have the will to understand,
Of quiet things, of evolution planned
Long years ago, to run its endless course,
And mould the world aright with loving force.*

*Come ye with me, dear friend, and we will roam
By rugged footpath through the gorse and broom,
By bracken sweet and bramble berry vine,
To reach the summit where the trees entwine
Their branches overhead, and thus have made
A screen of leafy green for welcome shade.*

*Here stay with me, dear friend, and while we look
From this most charming and entrancing nook
Across the lovely Weald set out below,
With woods and fields and villages we know,
All pleasing rarely with their greens and browns,
To melt into the distant southern Downs.*

*So stay with me, dear friend, and while we rest
Upon the close-cropped turf, employ our best
To harmonise our minds to Nature's show
Of earthly beauty; and in doing so
Compact our hearts the closer, till we find
True loveliness in unison of mind.*

R.J.V.

Sports Club Notes

Annual Sports and Regatta

Subject to the approval of the authorities, it is proposed to hold the above annual events on the following dates:—

June 22nd ... General Sports.

July 10th ... Regatta.

Will members who wish to take part in either event this year, please forward their entries to the Sports Office, at Headquarters, Regent's Park, as early as possible, to enable the necessary arrangements to be made.

Summer Sports

The weekly outdoor London Summer Sports will start at Regent's Park on Tuesday, May 7th, at 7 p.m.

Brighton

It is proposed to commence the Brighton Summer Sports on Thursday, May 9th, at the Hospital, Ovingdean.

Tea will be served in the Winter Garden at 5 p.m., and the Sports will begin at 6 p.m. It is hoped that as many Brighton sportsmen as possible will endeavour to attend.

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

ON March 9th, St. Dunstan's bridge players played a team representing the Civil Service Association, at India House. Mr. S. Lall, I.C.S., Deputy High Commissioner for India, welcomed the teams on behalf of the High Commissioner, Sir Firozkhan Noon.

The teams were twelve a side. Although we lost we felt that we were by no means disgraced. In fact, the margin showed that we had improved our standard of play considerably since the introduction of the new method of scoring.

On Saturday, March 30th, sixteen of our Club played sixteen of the Post Office Bridge Club, four matches of four a side. On this occasion we won with our No. 3 team.

Over forty people were present, Mr. Callow, of the Post Office, officiating.

H.G.

Births

BARLOW.—To the wife of S. Barlow, of King's Lynn, a daughter—Mary.

CONDON.—To the wife of P. Condon, of Cork, on February 29th, a daughter.

HORGAN.—To the wife of D. Horgan, of Cork, on March 13th, a son—Richard.

"In Memory"

GEORGE DENNISS
(H.M. Mine Sweeper)

WE deeply regret to record the death of G. Denniss, of Grimsby, which occurred in December last. Inadvertently, this notice has been held up.

Denniss served with the Dover Patrol during the Great War. Previously he had been a member of the R.N.R.T., and had been for many years at sea as skipper of a trawler.

He did not come to St. Dunstan's notice until 1928, when, unfortunately, he was already an invalid, and training was not possible. For many years he had been bed-ridden, his wife and daughter nursing him devotedly, but he died quite suddenly on December 6th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was among the flowers.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Denniss and her daughter in their loss.

SERGEANT JOHN MAXWELL STEEL
(Canadian Field Artillery)

WE record with deep regret the death of J. M. Steel, of the Star and Garter Home, Richmond.

Steel was a St. Dunstaner whose sight did not fail until early in 1937, but it was proved that this was due to his war service. Unfortunately, his health was such that he was unable to come to us, and he remained at the Star and Garter Home, where he was an in-patient at the time he became a St. Dunstaner until his death. He passed peacefully away in his sleep on March 22nd.

The funeral took place a few days later, at Alperton. Among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

In a letter to Sir Ian, his brother (Mr. Gordon Steel) writes: "Will you please pass on our thanks to all those of St. Dunstan's staff, and the visitors, for all they have done to make his last years here with us a bit brighter than they might have been without St. Dunstan's."

LANCE-CORPORAL JOHN DAVID HIGGINS
(Military Foot Police)

WITH deep regret we record the death of J. D. Higgins, of Brighton.

Higgins was wounded at the Dardanelles, in 1915, and as a result lost his sight. He came to St. Dunstan's for training in mat-making, at which occupation he worked up to the time of his death, which occurred on March 8th, as the result of an accident. While crossing a road in the centre of Brighton, during the black-out, he was knocked down by a motor lorry, and died in hospital an hour later.

The funeral took place at Brighton Cemetery; he was buried near some of his St. Dunstan's comrades. The Vicar of Telscombe, the Rev. Harries, conducted the service, and Higgins' very good friends, Mr. and Miss Laker, attended the funeral, as well as various members of St. Dunstan's staff.

Among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER HENRY WILKINS
(Royal Navy)

WITH deep regret we record the death of H. Wilkins, of Gravesend.

After the battle of Jutland, in which Wilkins' ship took part, his sight failed, and later he came to St. Dunstan's for training in joinery. He worked continually at this occupation until last year, when his health began to fail. Early this year he was taken seriously ill; he was removed to hospital, but he died on March 17th.

His body was cremated, and the funeral took place at Charing, Kent. Among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our very sincere sympathy to Mrs. Wilkins and her daughter in their bereavement, and also to all Wilkins' friends, who will greatly miss him.

PRIVATE G. J. WHEELER
(4th Royal Fusiliers)

WITH deep regret we record the death of G. J. Wheeler, of Maidenhead.

Wheeler, whose sight was affected as a result of his war service, did not go blind until some time after the end of the war, and was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1926. He also suffered from deafness.

He was trained in basket-making, and later gave this up in favour of joinery, at which he proved an excellent pupil. Of late years his health had not been very good, and when he was admitted to the Ovingdean Home, in February, it was feared that he might possibly not recover. Two weeks later he was taken to hospital, where he died on March 6th.

The funeral took place at Brighton Cemetery, and the service was conducted by the Rev. Browning, Chaplain to the Sussex Deaf-Blind Association. Various St. Dunstaner friends, including R. J. Williams and G. Fallowfield, attended the service, and among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian and another from his deaf-blind St. Dunstaner comrades.

We send our sympathy to Wheeler's relatives.

PRIVATE FRANK H. DOWNES
(9th Bn. Australian Imperial Forces)

It is with deep regret that we have heard of the death of a comparatively new St. Dunstaner, F. H. Downes, of Sydney, New South Wales.

Downes returned to Australia after being discharged in December, 1915, and was trained at the Sydney Industrial Blind Institution, but his name was entered on our list of overseas St. Dunstaners in July, 1936.

News has reached us that he died in hospital at Randwick, N.S.W., on August 29th, 1939. For some time he lived on Norfolk Island.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

RIFLEMAN TOM WRIGHT
(Royal Irish Rifles)

WITH deep regret we announce the death of Tom Wright, of Belfast.

Wright enlisted in September, 1914, and was discharged from the Army in April, 1919, but although he was under our care since May, 1933, he was never able to come to St. Dunstan's.

He died on February 22nd, at Caledon, Co. Tyrone, where he had been taken at the outbreak of war. He was brought home to Belfast, and the funeral took place at Dundonald Cemetery four days later. The coffin, draped in the Union Jack, was borne on an Army lorry, and an escort of soldiers and buglers acted as pall bearers. There were present members of Toc H, the British Legion, and representatives of other organisations in which Wright has taken interest. Mr. and Mrs. Gribben represented St. Dunstan's, and among the many beautiful wreaths was one from Captain Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades.

Mr. N. Macauley writes:—

"He lay paralyzed for twenty years. His sight went away. His speech became worse and worse, until of late he has only been able to make sounds for 'yes' and 'no.' All that was left alive of him was a keen brain, his hearing, and a wonderful smile. He was never long without smiling! It flashed over his face like sunlight, at the least provocation. One might say he had little to live for, yet he had contrived to keep everything that makes life worth while—a gay outlook, a high courage, great thoughtfulness for others, wisdom, and complete peace of mind. First call on his pension each week was the part set aside to be given to those who were worse off than himself. No sad case or good cause came to his notice which he did not help. He feared one thing only—to pity himself, and because he could laugh at his troubles, those who visited him with lesser troubles went away comforted. Hundreds have called to see him in the little parlour where he lay—rich and poor, high and low, good and bad. Men from the shipyards brought stories of the day's work. Toc H and the British Legion told of their efforts. Sir Harry Lauder came to sing to him. Others came with hands generously filled with this world's good things, to be told, 'I have enough, but others have need.' People in sore trouble came and went away strangely helped.

"His little room became a very happy place of kindness and goodness. Gaiety, joyousness, and peace lived with him always.

"Now this great-hearted soldier has slipped very quietly into that Land on whose borders he has lingered so long but the fragrance of his life will remain here and there all over the world for long years to come.

"There is nothing here for tears."

Fire Tragedy at St. Dunstan's Home

HIS friends will learn with deep regret of the death of the wife of J. Debnam, of Great Barrow, Chester, in tragic circumstances.

When fire broke out at their home on the night of March 30th, Mrs. Debnam's nightdress caught alight. Debnam made a desperate and gallant attempt to put out the flames, but Mrs. Debnam broke away from him and leaped from the window of their bedroom on to the footpath many feet below. She died in hospital a few hours later from burns and head injuries.

Their seventeen-year-old son, Gwylm, was also burned while trying to put out the flames, but Debnam himself, and his other boy, Neville, were uninjured.

Deaths

We extend our sincere sympathy this month to the following:—

ADAMS.—To A. Adams, of Balby, whose wife passed away on March 8th.

BRADFORD.—To Mr. and Mrs. E. Bradford, of Heeley, Sheffield, who lost their daughter, Brenda, on March 13th.

COX.—To W. G. Cox, of Woodstock, Oxford, whose wife died on March 27th.

STREET.—To W. Street, of Evesham, whose mother passed away on March 13th, after many years of suffering, at the age of 71.

Mr. C. E. Rose

Early St. Dunstaners will hear with regret of the death of Mr. C. E. Rose, who was Hon. Superintendent of St. Dunstan's from its start in Bayswater in 1915 until the end of 1917.