

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

No. 266—VOLUME XXV [NEW SERIES]

SEPTEMBER, 1940

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY.
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Headquarter's Own Bomb

ON the night of September 10th a bomb fell just outside the gate of St. Dunstan's Headquarters. It made a crater thirty-six feet wide, and fifteen feet deep. Dozens of windows in the Headquarters Office and in my house, which is next door, were blown in, and many hundreds of slates were cracked or displaced. Doors, window-frames, and plaster were damaged, and many tons of rubble, stones, bricks, and metal plastered the buildings and the yards around. Nobody was hit, and nobody is any the worse, except that gas, electricity, and water supplies were affected. The former have been remedied, but we have now all been without water for some days, and it looks as if this will continue for another week or two, but it is wonderful what you can do with a few buckets of water.

My wife and I and our staff live in the house next door to Headquarters, and we were there on this occasion. St. Dunstaners may be interested in our experiences. Let me say at once that we are not the only ones, for many St. Dunstaners have had a much worse crash than we experienced, and we were very lucky. Some of the staff were in the air-raid shelter, the door of which was thirty-three feet from the crater. Its door was splintered to pieces and sucked out by the intense vacuum which follows an explosion. The people inside experienced a few minutes of extreme anxiety, because they did not know whether they were hurt or not, or whether the roof might come down. But luckily all was well, and they suffered only from a bit of nervous shock. The air-raid shelter in which my wife and I were sleeping was about ninety feet from the bomb crater, and our experience was as follows:—

I happened to be awake and was standing outside the shelter, having a cigarette. Two or three bombs dropped, but I could hear by the noise they made coming down that they were some distance away. Old soldiers will remember that when we heard a long-distance shell, after a split second or two we could tell whether it was coming on our line or not. It is much the same with bombs—if the whistling noise remains more or less constant you can be sure the bomb is at any rate two or three hundred yards away, possibly more. If, on the other hand, the bomb is really dropping on to you, or very near to you, you are immediately aware that the whistling noise is getting rapidly louder. These were not screaming bombs—I have not heard one nearby—but ordinary high explosive bombs, which make a whistling rather like a shell approaching you, and a little like the swish of a rocket. I threw away my cigarette and went into the shelter, sitting on the step with the door open. Then I heard this bomb coming down, and immediately recognised that it was coming near. The whistling, sizzling noise increased terrifically, as the bomb drew nearer. I had time to wake my wife up, tell her to put her fingers in her mouth, which

is a good way of ensuring that the mouth is open to protect the ears, and to shut the door of the shelter. If you really hear the bomb as I did from the time it leaves the aeroplane it is surprising how long it takes to come down. I think a bomb falls at 150 m.p.h., whereas sound travels at about 700 m.p.h., so that the noise comes well in advance of the missile. One of St. Dunstan's buildings was between us and the bomb, so that we did not receive the direct blast, but it was sufficient to shake the whole shelter and fill it with dust. Apart from this we had no other experience except that of anxiety, followed by relief. A second or two after the explosion a large quantity of rubble and other debris came down on the shelter.

The interesting thing about this is that we, and all the others concerned, are less apprehensive now than we were before. I think the unknown is always worse than the known. Another thing which lessens anxiety is the power to discriminate the noise of bombs and the noise of anti-aircraft guns. After a little experience you get to know the difference. I am sure it is well worth while everybody studying this, because a lot of needless worry is caused by ignorance as to which noise is which.

Of course, if you are really smashed up, or if those near and dear to you are smashed up, the psychological effect may be different. But if you have what they call a "near miss," the effect seems to be to put up morale and make you feel better afterwards. I believe that this personal experience will be found to be the same as that of scores of thousands of Londoners who, as the days of bombardment continue, become more and more used to it, and less and less worried about it.

A number of St. Dunstaners have had nasty experiences, part of their houses being blown down, and there is no doubt that at the moment of the crash it must be very unpleasant indeed. All the world is admiring London for the way it is sticking this aerial bombardment, and I cannot write too highly of the hundreds of blinded soldiers who are remaining in London carrying on with their daily work as craftsmen, telephone operators, and masseurs, etc. St. Dunstaners all over the Empire, and in the quieter parts of the United Kingdom, will offer them congratulations and wish them good luck.

St. Dunstan's and the Blind World

Good relations between St. Dunstan's and the blind world are very important. Many St. Dunstaners all over the Empire have taken an active part in helping work for the blind, and I have always urged St. Dunstaners to promote goodwill between ourselves and other men and women who are blind, whenever possible. The National Institute for the Blind and the National Library for the Blind are particular organisations to which we owe a debt of gratitude for inventions and research, massage training, magazines, books, and library services. When war broke out, our task of raising enough money to look after all the old blinded soldiers for the rest of their lives was unfinished. Now we have the additional financial problem of finding resources for our new work. There is an added poignancy to our appeal, and our activities in this field are a little more insistent than they were. Apart from this, many honorary organisers offer to help us. Our standard of individual welfare is higher than that of the blind world generally, and there is therefore a tendency at a time like this for such competition as is inevitable to cause, I will not say friction, but uneasiness. In these circumstances, the greatest possible degree of understanding is required.

The National Institute for the Blind is the most universal collecting agency in the country and we are represented on its Council. To promote understanding, we have now decided to ask Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., who is Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, to sit on our Council, and he has accepted. Sir Beachcroft Towse is a well-known blinded soldier of the Boer War, and has spent his whole life aiding the blind. During the Great War, he visited many hospitals, talking to wounded soldiers and writing their letters and encouraging them. Many St. Dunstaners will have met him. It is an honour to St. Dunstan's to have so distinguished a veteran join our Board.

I represent St. Dunstan's on the Council of the National Institute for the Blind, which I first joined as long ago as 1917. The other representative was Mr. W. G. T. Pemberton, a City business man, who is also a St. Dunstaner. He has recently resigned from this

position for war-time business reasons, and the vacancy has been filled by Mr. Edmund Toft. I am particularly glad to have Mr. Toft's assistance on the Council of the National Institute at the present time because, besides being an extremely competent blinded soldier, with considerable personal gifts, he has been Chairman of the St. Dunstan's Massage Advisory Committee for a great many years, and is a distinguished practitioner of the profession of Massage and Osteopathy. I think his help will be of particular value during the next few months, as we shall have to consider our plans for the training of masseurs should any considerable number of new blinded soldiers join us as the result of this war.

St. Dunstan's Homes

When France collapsed, the whole character of the war was changed. The threat of invasion and the possibility of big bombing attacks made it necessary for St. Dunstan's to decentralize its work. We had to have shadow establishments ready so that we could carry on whatever happened. That is why we secured the Longmynd Hotel, in Shropshire, the Concord Hotel in Blackpool, and Melplash Court in Dorset. As soon as these places were ready they began to be occupied, and it became uneconomical to maintain our big building at Ovingdean. The Hospital and Convalescent Home there is, however, being kept on a full care and maintenance basis, so that it could be re-opened at short notice if necessary. We have also closed down for the time being all our other establishments, including secretarial and welfare offices, which have returned to London. Only one place remains open, namely, the small house called Port Hall, where an old St. Dunstaner who was too ill to be moved, and Miss Boyd Rochfort, who is now convalescent from her long illness, are remaining and are being nursed back to health. Miss Boyd Rochfort expressed a strong wish to stay there, and all St. Dunstaners will be glad to know that she has at last been able to leave the nursing home and is so much better.

Northern and Midland St. Dunstaners are still dealing with the Blackpool Welfare Office, and this will continue. I think it wise to split our welfare work between London and Blackpool, so that either place could carry on the payment of allowances and other necessary welfare work should the other be bombed.

Lady Fraser and I have recently visited the three homes and it may interest St. Dunstaners to hear about them. St. Dunstan's, Longmynd, Shropshire, is a hospital and training centre. Mr. Davenport is the Medical Commandant and Ophthalmic Surgeon. Miss Pain is the General Matron and is in charge of training arrangements, and Miss Postlethwaite is the Medical Matron. The staff there includes Miss Davison, head of the Lounge, Sisters Evans, Watkins, and Brown, Miss Arning and Miss Poole, and Nurses Gaynor, R. Corrie, and B. Corrie, and Ball. Mr. Hawketts is Head Orderly, and Instructors include Mrs. Broughton, Miss Lloyd, Miss Lomax, and Miss Goodship, and Messrs. Rogers (typewriting), Burman (baskets), and Ralph (joinery). The last three are blind. I attach great importance to the inclusion of blind people amongst the instructors. All old St. Dunstaners will remember what confidence it gave us in our early days to find that some of the people teaching us were themselves blind. Generally speaking, St. Dunstan's, Longmynd, will be for hospital cases and training only. At the moment there are seven old St. Dunstaners and twenty-two new war cases in the Home. The majority of the latter are already St. Dunstaners. Others are recovering a bit of sight or are doubtful.

A regular programme of lessons and entertainments and sports is being followed at Longmynd, and all are settling down in their new quarters. Mr. Huskinson comes in daily with his cheery word for everybody, and on two or three occasions I met him giving new blinded soldiers their first lessons in finding their way about alone. The new St. Dunstaners include a number from Dunkirk, some gun explosion and accident cases, and a young pilot officer. They are all facing their difficulties with the same determination and spirit which made the old St. Dunstan's famous.

At Blackpool we spent a very happy afternoon and evening with about thirty old St. Dunstaners. They were all men who required a period of convalescence for medical reasons, except for three or four who were there because their houses had been blown out. Any St. Dunstaner who loses his home through an air-raid may come to us for a period of rest and recuperation, while we do what we can for his family and re-settle him so that he can carry on. So far, I have not heard of any St. Dunstaner who has been

wounded in an air-raid, although a good many have had their windows smashed or have had severe damage to their houses and businesses. We are doing all we can to help them. Two members of the staff, however, were victims of an enemy attack. Miss Morris and Miss Hensley were motoring down a certain road when a German aeroplane flew over them. They stopped the car and were making for shelter in a cottage when a bomb burst. Miss Hensley only received a scratch, but Miss Morris was, unfortunately, seriously wounded, and lies in hospital, where I fear she will be for some time. She suffered a wound in the arm and severe cuts and other damage in the back. Happily, however, there is every prospect of her full recovery to normal health. The sympathy of all those who have enjoyed Miss Morris's company for so many years, as V.A.D. and Sports Organiser, will go out to her at the present time.

At Blackpool, Miss Davies, who was in charge of the Dining Room at Brighton, is Matron, and Sister McCarthy, Miss Peacock, Miss Keily, and Miss Tippet are there, with Mr. Morris as Head Orderly.

Melplash, Dorset, is a beautiful country house standing in its own grounds. There are twenty beds, about half of which are occupied by the bedridden and more serious cases that used to be at Brighton. The other half are for old St. Dunstaners who require periods of convalescence. Melplash is a cheerful, happy place, not quite as quiet as Blackpool and Longmynd, for the German aeroplanes pass there when they are coming from France to some of our Western ports. The men have had one or two "dog-fights" overhead, but their attitude was rather that of spectators at a boxing show than anything else. Certainly Hitler hasn't got St. Dunstan's down yet. Sister Bradley, Miss Bertrand, and Head Orderly Mitchell are amongst the staff there, and the Matron is Miss Mary Crossley, as Assistant Commandant of the V.A.D., who lived in the neighbourhood. Her local knowledge of the people and the county of Dorset were of the greatest value, and although new to St. Dunstan's, Miss Crossley has very quickly fallen into her work as Matron as if she was an old hand. This house was very kindly lent to St. Dunstan's for the war by Mr. and Mrs. W. V. C. Ruxton, American friends of mine.

The establishment of three homes instead of one has inevitably led to our having to part from some members of the staff. It is clear that exactly the same personnel would not be required in the new circumstances, while some preferred to seek more suitable work than we could offer them. Amongst those who are no longer with us are Mrs. de Vaux, Sisters Thomas and Griffiths, Miss Saunt, and Miss Byolin, a number of orderlies, and the three St. Dunstaners, Messrs. Scott, Waite, and Mahony, for whom we are doing our best to make other arrangements. It will be a matter of regret, shared by all, that war conditions entirely beyond our control should cause the breaking of old associations, which we have all cherished, and I should like to express the very sincere thanks of St. Dunstan's, and of the men, to those who have left us, for their devoted and valuable services.

Well Done, Craftsmen!

I should like to give a word of praise to our craftsmen. Boot repairers are carrying on, many doing Army work, and in spite of difficulties, all other home workers are getting on with the job. The opportunity for increased local sales is being taken up by many. Shortage of commodities and rising prices favour local sales. The quality of our men's work remains excellent and they have been able to contribute to the war effort through baskets and mats sold to Government departments in evacuation areas, and by making camouflage nets. Over one hundred men have learned this since war broke out. I have been personally in touch with many Government departments to see if we cannot get some joinery war work. So far we have not been successful, as we have to compete with mass machine production, but we are persevering.

Exhibitions, which have been a useful part of our sales activity, have ceased, but other sales efforts have taken their place. When war seemed imminent, I gave instructions that very large stocks of raw materials were to be bought. This proved a very wise investment, and we are doing everything we can from month to month to keep up our stocks. None of us knows what lies in store for us, but St. Dunstaners can rest assured that the Sales and Trading Department will do its best under all conditions.

IAN FRASER.

If You Change Your Address

IN these days of sudden and frequent change of address, it sometimes happens that letters, work payments, etc., are posted before the notice of removal has reached us, and therefore some time must elapse before these letters can be returned to us and forwarded to the new address.

A change of address form can be obtained by members of the general public at the nearest Post Office. St. Dunstan's men are therefore urgently requested, before leaving their home town, to go to the Post Office and fill up this form, giving their new address, so that letters may reach them with the least possible amount of delay.

National Egg-Laying Tests

THE National Laying Test is supported by the best poultry breeders in the country, and the number of eggs the birds lay are the highest that can be found anywhere. A laying trial such as this is the shop-window of the breeder. The St. Dunstan's Section, which has been a feature of these Trials for so many years, has always maintained a high level, but it could hardly be expected to compete on equal terms with the champion breeders in the country. It is because of this strong opposition that the following incident is worthy of mention. Reporting on the ninth period of four weeks, the management of the Trials reports:—

"The distinction of the highest six-bird score over the whole Test goes to a pen of White Leghorns, belonging to Mr. P. Holmes, in the St. Dunstan's Section."

Braille Magazines

JUST a word to readers of the "World Digest." This magazine is very popular, and owing to the paper shortage only a limited number of copies can be published each month. Some months ago we asked anyone who received it, and who would be willing, after reading it, to pass it on to another St. Dunstaner, to let us know.

There was a good response to this appeal, but there are still some St. Dunstan's men who are waiting for the magazine, and I would be glad to hear from anyone who is not already making good use of his old copies.

Letter to the Editor

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR SIR,

Contract Bridge

I shall be glad if you will allow me to bring to the notice of St. Dunstaners who are interested in Contract Bridge, a book which I have persuaded the National Institute for the Blind to print in Braille, and which is now available in two volumes at a total cost of five shillings.

It is called "Squeeze's Coups, and End Play," by Downes. For those players who sometimes play in duplicate matches, and who wish to rise above the standard of the average player, I can strongly recommend this book. It is worth purchasing, and in any case the initial outlay will soon be recovered in the fulfilment of many a contract which might otherwise be lost. Players have the choice of adopting many different sorts of "bidding," but this book provides a guide and a formula which will assist in obtaining the one extra trick which is apparently not there.

I have played in several duplicate matches, and have spent a lot of time in solving the Bridge problems which appear in the newspapers, and I find that a study of this book helps me to recognise the various types of problems, and it is the greatest fun to be able occasionally to apply the knowledge and to achieve results which were formerly beyond one's range.

Yours truly,

V. M. DEANE (*Captain*).

Braille Machines Wanted

One of the first needs of new St. Dunstaners is for braille machines. New machines may be difficult to get soon. If, therefore, there is anyone who has an old braille machine for which he has no further use, we would welcome its return, in order that it may be put into good working order for re-issue.

Machines should be well-packed and addressed to Headquarters.

R.A.O.B. News

Congratulations to F. G. Holman, of Taunton, who has been raised to the Second Degree of the R.A.O.B., the Sir William Arnold Lodge.

Sons and Daughters in the Services

ASPINALL, Cook Peter, Royal Navy.
 ASPINALL, Cabin Boy James, Merchant Service.
 ASPINALL, Robert, S.S. *Cisneros*.
 BAILEY, A/c.2 C. B. (Blackpool), Royal Air Force.
 BARNES, Recruit H. (Bradford), Grenadier Guards.
 BELCHER, Gunner E. A. (Hampton), Royal Artillery.
 BELCHER, Sergt. A. L. (Hampton), Royal Air Force.
 BILLINGHAM, Pte. A. H., Beds. and Herts. Regt.
 BOWERING, L/A. Tony, Royal Air Force.
 BURLEY, A/c.2 Arnold, Royal Air Force.
 CLARK, Pte. L. G. (Bermondsey), R.A.O.C.
 CONDON, Arthur, Volunteer Reserve Ground Gunner, R.A.F.
 COUSSINS, Pte. L., Anti-Tank Corps.
 DOOLEY, Aircraftman Patrick, Royal Air Force.
 DUFFY, Pte. T., South Staffs Regt.
 DURKIN, A. C., Royal Air Force.
 DYER, Pte. Fred, No. 5 Training Battalion.
 EDGE, Marine Jack, Royal Marines.
 EVANS, Pte. J. (Walsall), South Staffs Regt.
 GRAHAM, Gunner R. L. (Tottenham), Royal Artillery.
 GUNSON, A/c.2 R., Royal Air Force.
 HACKETT, Gunner A., Royal Artillery.
 HACKETT, Pte. F. W., North Staffs Regt.
 HUTCHINSON, Pte. H. (Bradford), 11th West Yorkshire Regt.
 HUME, A/c.1 Fred, Royal Air Force.
 JACKSON, Pte. S., Royal Sussex Regt.
 JOHNSON, Pte. J. T. (Congleton), Yeomanry H.W.
 JOLLY, Pte. A. (East Ham), Royal West Kents.
 JONES, Gunner W. J. (Tooting), 58th (Kent) A.A. Regt.
 JONES, Gunner F. B. (Greenwich), Royal Artillery.
 JONES, Gunner G. T. (Greenwich), Royal Artillery.
 KEMPE, Pte. W. T. C. (Redruth), Devonshire Regt.
 LOMAS, Sapper J. A., Royal Engineers.
 MARSDEN, Probationer F. (Blackburn), 2nd Training Establishment.
 McALONAN, Driver Richard, Royal Engineers.
 McALONAN, Pte. Harold, 11th Home Defence Battalion.
 MILLISS, Gunner E., Royal Artillery.
 MOELLER, Driver L. G.
 NELSON, Fusilier T. (Newcastle-on-Tyne), Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.
 NELSON, Pte. C., No. 1 Ordnance Workshop Co.
 ROBINSON, A/c.2 John (Tottenham), Royal Air Force.
 ROBINSON, Arthur (Tottenham), 2/8th Middlesex, "C" Coy.
 SAINTY, Fusilier H., Royal Fusiliers.
 SELBY, A/c.1 George (Cardiff), Royal Air Force.
 SCOTT, A/c. L. C. (Bucks), Royal Air Force.
 SEYMOUR, Volunteer Alice, 18th W. Lanes, A.T.S.
 TAYLOR, C. A. (Colchester), H.M.S. *Shropshire*.
 YARWOOD, Ordinary Seaman William, Royal Navy Reserve.
 YULIE, Private, Seaforth Highlanders.

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As we go to press, we have learned with deep regret of the death of Harold Denny, from pneumonia, while on active service. Our sincere sympathy is extended to our South African St. Dunstaner.

Killed on Active Service

We extend our deep sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. R. Aspinall, of Barry Dock, whose son, Christmas Evan Aspinall, aged 18, went down with his ship, S.S. *British Monarch*, when she was torpedoed on June 19th.

Reported Missing

We have heard with regret of the following sons of St. Dunstaners who have been reported missing:—

Leo O'Kelly, only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. O'Kelly, of London, S.W.15.
 Thomas Murphy, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Murphy, of Bedlington.
 Harold Cooney, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Cooney, of Worthing, reported missing, believed killed.

Prisoners of War

The following sons of St. Dunstaners, formerly reported "missing," are now known to be prisoners of war:—

Colin Burran, son of Mr. and Mrs. Micky Burran.
 James Fleming, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Fleming, of Sudbury.
 Gunner Willie Hill, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Hill, of Gloucester.
 Ernest Alexander, son of E. A. Alexander, of Bournemouth.

A St. Dunstan's Air-Raid Shelter

J. Wood, of Grange-over-Sands, has made what he thinks is the only private Air-Raid Shelter in the district. He, with the help of two neighbours, under his supervision, excavated it out of the rock in his paddock. It is 7ft. deep and the roof is composed of railway sleepers, covered by earth. It is very dry, and capable of holding 30 persons. He was arranging to put a beam on supports down the centre, to act as further support for the roof. His chief concern in making this was to provide shelter for the children of his neighbours. It has been a great piece of work and does him great credit.

Supplements

Owing to unavoidable circumstances, there are no Poultry and Gardening Supplements this month.

Young St. Dunstaners

J. Michael Law, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Law, of Tewkesbury, has obtained his University Degree, B.Sc., in Civil Engineering. He goes straight into military service, and we wish him the best of luck in his Service and his future career.

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The son of F. Kneller, of Southampton, was saved when his ship went down; he has just enjoyed a well-earned fifteen days' leave.

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Many St. Dunstaners will remember the reports in the Press at the time of the Dunkirk epic of the rescue of eighty-one men by one soldier, who, when the job was over, went off without a word as to who he was. The eighty-one men had been entombed in the cellar of a house. The unknown rescuer blasted an opening, through which they managed to crawl, and brought them food and drink. When he left them he left behind his partly-burned tunic, in which was his wallet. Photographs were sent to the Press, and when the papers reached Belfast the photographs were recognised. The rescuer was Bombardier George Brockerton, son of our St. Dunstaner, J. Brockerton, of Coleraine. We are very glad indeed to add that George himself is now safe in England.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. Attrell's son came safely through the Dunkirk business. So did Ian Kirby, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Kirby, of Wimbledon, although his ship was bombed and wreckage crashed down on him.

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Reg Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Taylor, of Bournemouth, was not quite so lucky. Reg, who is a despatch rider in the Royal Engineers, was badly wounded in the big push on May 25th, and was rescued from Dunkirk two days later. He has had three operations and is now making good progress. Taylor has had a letter from one of his chums, who says that the Company are very proud of Reg. He went right in the thick of it with an important message, successfully got it through, and was smashed up coming back.

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It is very much regretted that a number of other items concerning young St. Dunstaners have unavoidably been held over until next month.

Miss Hensley's White Elephant Sales

Miss Hensley writes: May I convey my thanks to everyone, and especially to Miss Morrah and Mr. Stanford, who have helped me with my White Elephant Sales. Exclusive of a gift of £5, we have made so far £14, which is being devoted to our own Sons' Comforts Fund and to comforts for the men of Commander Smyth's ship.

If anyone has anything small and saleable, I should welcome it at Headquarters in Regent's Park.

In a letter to Miss Hensley, thanking her for comforts for his men, Commander Smyth writes:—

"We got mixed up with that convoy business on August 8th, and were honoured with much more individual attention than was pleasant. Somehow they failed to get a direct hit, but we are as full of splinter holes as a colander.

"My ship's company was marvellous. They are mostly fishermen and yachting hands. The leading seaman was the only warrior among them."

News from South Africa

Congratulating Sir Ian on his return to Parliament, E. Denny, of Pretoria, writes:

"You will be interested to learn that I was instrumental through a select committee, in obtaining an amendment to the South African Electoral Law as regards voting by blind persons, and they can now vote in the same manner as in Great Britain. The Act, which was piloted by you through the Parliament of the United Kingdom some years ago, was of great assistance to the select committee who dealt with the South African Act, which became law last session."

Our St. Dunstaner now occupies the position of Vice-President of the Pretoria Branch of the British Empire Service League.

Honour

W. J. Hallam's brother, Quartermaster John Francis Hallam, of the Sherwood Foresters, has been awarded the M.C. "for great gallantry."

Advertisement

WANTED.—To purchase for cash, reasonable price, Tandem Cycle, double ladies or lady front, 22in. frame.—W. Henshaw, Painter's Green, Datchworth, near Knebworth, Herts.

“ In Memory ”

PRIVATE JAMES PERCY DONKIN
(*Royal Army Service Corps*)

WITH deep regret we announce the death of one of our oldest St. Dunstaners, J. P. Donkin. Donkin, like many old soldiers, at the outbreak of war in 1914 was anxious to do his bit, but as he was then fifty-four years of age he was told he was too old. In spite of this, he subsequently enlisted in the R.A.S.C., giving his age as forty-five, but owing to eye trouble was eventually discharged from the Service.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917, but did not take up any training. A few years ago his health became very indifferent, and he was admitted to permanent residence at St. Dunstan's. His death took place at Melplash Court on July 21st, at the age of seventy-eight, and he was buried in the local churchyard. The Service was conducted by the Reverend Pope, Vicar of Melplash, and was attended by the Matron, Sisters Bradley and Bertrand, Head Orderly Mitchell, and his St. Dunstan's friends, J. Hartley, J. W. Cason, and W. Spencer. Among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

PRIVATE VALENTINE PICKERTON MORDUE
(*Royal Marines and Labour Corps*)

WITH deep regret we announce the death of another of our older St. Dunstaners, V. P. Mordue. Born in 1868, Mordue enlisted in 1918, at the age of fifty, and his eyesight was damaged at Harfleur in January, 1919.

He did not come to St. Dunstan's until September, 1924, when he was trained as a mat-maker. He did very well at this work until he was obliged to give it up on account of failing health; later he was taught to make rugs. Eventually, for health and age reasons, he was made a permanent annexe case, but only remained with us for a very short time—he died at Melplash Court on August 16th, after only a short illness.

The funeral took place at Melplash Parish Church, and among the flowers was a wreath of poppies from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades. Matron Crossley, Sisters Bradley and Bertrand, with other members of St. Dunstan's staff, attended.

PRIVATE SYDNEY GOODMAN
(*Royal Army Medical Corps*)

WITH deep regret we record the death of S. Goodman, of Luton.

Goodman lost his sight as a result of his service in France. He came to St. Dunstan's and was taught basket-making and he worked at this until fairly recently, when his health began to deteriorate. Eventually he was admitted to the Ovingdean Hospital, where an operation was performed, but in spite of every possible care and attention he died there on July 29th. The funeral services took place at the Golders Green Crematorium and Luton Church, and both were attended by several of his St. Dunstaners friends.

There were many wreaths, including one from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's. We extend our very sincere sympathy to Mrs. Goodman in her loss.

Birth

BRAY.—To the wife of H. Bray, of Wythenshaw, Manchester, on August 10th—a son.

Death

We extend our deep sympathy to the following:—

HOLMES.—To A. Holmes, of Burley-in-Wharfedale, whose wife died on July 21st, after a long illness.

STRATTON.—To F. Stratton, of Shirebrook, Derbyshire, who lost his wife on September 3rd.

Marriage

FOSTER—McKEOWN.—On July 12th, at Clogher Cathedral, A. Foster, of Clogher, Co. Tyrone, to Mrs. McKeown.

Silver Weddings

CONGRATULATIONS to the following St. Dunstaners and their wives, who have celebrated their silver wedding recently:—

Mr. and Mrs. J. Lomas, of Walthamstow, June 27th; Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Coussins, Glasgow, July 28th; Mr. and Mrs. J. Kennedy, Barnhill, by Dundee, August 13th; Mr. and Mrs. H. D. S. Wood, Rugby, August 25th; Mr. and Mrs. C. Smith, Walsall, September 5th.

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We have also just received a note that Mr. and Mrs. A. Robinson, of Tottenham, celebrated their anniversary on December 25th, 1938.