

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

No. 272—VOLUME XXV [NEW SERIES]

MARCH, 1941

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

St. Dunstan's and the Legion

ST. DUNSTAN'S and the Legion have many interests in common. Both are ex-servicemen's organisations with a patriotic service tradition. Both strive to keep alive the comradeship of the Great War, and both are interested in the welfare of ex-service men of this war. Both work for the disabled and represent to our Governments the claims of pensioners. The Legion's advocacy has often helped St. Dunstan's, and Sir Ian Fraser's recent plea in Parliament for better pension conditions for blinded men and their families is bound to help forward similar claims for other severely disabled men.

For many years now there has been an agreement under which St. Dunstan's receives a small percentage of the Poppy Day collection. The object was to avoid St. Dunstan's having a separate flag day, which would compete with Poppy Day. St. Dunstan's and the Legion are administratively and financially separate and each is free to collect funds in any way that best suits its work, save that St. Dunstan's does not collect round about Poppy Day and the Legion does not compete with St. Dunstan's house-to-house collections.

The last Agreement ended after the Poppy Day of 1940, and the principles of a new Agreement for the next ten years were passed by the British Legion Conference at Whitsuntide, 1940, and by St. Dunstan's Council at about the same time.

We are glad to publish this special British Legion number of the REVIEW to record these many points of common interest between our two organisations, and we are happy to think that the agreement and the good relationship that has gone with it is to be perpetuated for a further period.

The thanks of St. Dunstan's go out to all Branches and Members of the Legion and of the Women's Organisation, which have shown a deep sympathy for, and have given constant help to, blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen. Our Chairman has frequently urged St. Dunstaners to join the Legion, and many are members, some occupying important offices in national and local Councils and as officers of Branches. On another page of this issue appear messages from prominent members of the Legion, including Major Jack Cohen and Captain William Appleby, who have done so much to help us at St. Dunstan's. The St. Dunstaner, old or new, can do a good turn to other ex-service men by joining his local Legion Branch, and he himself will gain much by making a circle of congenial and helpful friends.

Sir Arthur's Old School

St. Dunstan's has received a donation—the result of a collection in the School Chapel—from the Headmaster of Eagle House Preparatory School, Sandhurst, Camberley. The Headmaster wrote: "It is accompanied with the warmest good wishes of the Boys and Staff of Eagle House, to all at St. Dunstan's. It is also sent in proud remembrance of the late Sir Arthur Pearson, who was a boy at this Preparatory School from 1877 to 1879."

Deaths of Good Friends

St. Dunstaners will learn with regret of the death of Mr. G. A. J. Oliphant, father of Miss D. J. Oliphant, St. Dunstan's Visitor for the West of England. With his wife, Mr. Oliphant had taken a keen interest for many years in St. Dunstan's men, and was a frequent visitor at Reunions, and, in 1938 and 1939, at the Warminster Camp.

St. Dunstan's was represented at the funeral by Mr. Sheehan, Mr. and Mrs. Overill, Mr. Wilkins, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Nelson.

* * *

St. Dunstaners have also lost a good friend by the death of Mrs. Watkin James, of Burgess Hill. During the last twenty years she has regularly entertained our men. She lost her own sight about ten years ago.

Among the wreaths was one from Mr. and Mrs. L. Howell, and men of St. Dunstan's, and St. Dunstaners were also represented at the funeral by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Cornwall and Mr. and Mrs. Howell.

Only six days after the death of his wife, Mr. Watkin James also passed away.

Mr. George Smith

As we go to press we learn with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. George Smith, who has worked at St. Dunstan's Headquarters for many years, and will be remembered with affection by hundreds of St. Dunstaners who have met him at Regent's Park. An appreciation will appear next month.

Marriage

ADAMS—URRY.—On September 21st, at the Methodist Church, Doncaster, A. Adams, of Doncaster, to Mrs. Urry.

St. Dunstaner Killed in Air Raid

We have heard with deep regret that W. Pugh, of Islington, and his wife, were killed in a recent air-raid. This is the first fatal casualty at St. Dunstan's.

Other News

F. Frank, of Yeovil, writes that one of his brothers, Captain T. V. Frank, of the Merchant Service, has been decorated by the King with the M.B.E.

* * *

Ten St. Dunstaners, J. Brown, M. Burran, N. Downs, H. Gover, H. Kerr, T. Meredith, P. Nuyens, T. Roden, W. Taylor, and A. Waite, met for lunch last month at a private room at Victoria, when it was unanimously decided to carry on with Bridge wherever and whenever possible.

A vote of appreciation to the Bridge Club Committee, who arranged the meeting, was proposed by T. Roden and seconded by P. Nuyens.

* * *

Silver Weddings.—Congratulations to the following, who have recently celebrated their anniversary: Mr. and Mrs. H. Carpenter, King's Langley, December 7th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Buckle, Eastcote, December 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. J. McDonald, of Oldham, February 26th; Mr. and Mrs. F. Fleetwood, Herne Bay, February 28th.

Sons and Daughters in the Services

ATKIN, Pte. R., R.N.F.
BOULTWOOD, Sapper A. G., R.E.P.S.
BROWN, Lce.-Corpl. A. C. (Nuneaton), R.A.S.C.
CROOK, A.C.2 J. H. (Shrewsbury), Royal Air Force.
DAVIES, D. W. (Cardiganshire), Royal Air Force.
DUNLOP, Gunner J., Royal Artillery.
GOUNDRILL, Owen, Royal Air Force.
GLENDENNAN, Fusilier A., R.F.I.
GLENDENNAN, Pte. H., Essex Regt.
HOLMAN, A.C.2, Royal Air Force.
LANGHAM, A.C.2 C. E., Royal Air Force.
LAW, Pte. J. M., R.A.O.C.
LAWLOR, P. J., Royal Navy.
LENDERYOU, Gunner A. F., Royal Artillery.
LENDERYOU, Corporal P. E., East Surrey Regt.
MECKIN, O/C. Robert, R.N.
MITCHELL, Janie (Portslade), A.T.S.
McAVOY, John, Merchant Service.
SAMWORTH, Kathleen, Women's Land Army.
SHINNERS, Gunner J. C., Royal Artillery.
SHINNERS, Lily, Women's Land Army.
SHERIDAN, Tony, Royal Artillery.
TATTON, A.B. E., Royal Navy.
WAINMAN, James, Royal Navy.
WAINMAN, Harry, Royal Navy.

Church Stretton Notes

LADIES' Night on Shrove Tuesday was the occasion of a lively debate on the rival merits of the Theatre and the Cinema as an educative influence. The guests, in supporting the claims of the Theatre, were ably led by Nurse Gayner, seconded by Nurse Corrie, Jnr. Mr. Davenport was in the chair, which E. Toft had vacated in order to lead his force in favour of the Cinema, having J. D. Calder as his lieutenant. In vain they marshalled their arguments. Every thrust was parried by Nurse Gayner with remarkable deftness. Her Amazons backed her with such well-directed blows that several waverers deserted from the other side and joined her ranks. Among these was T. Rogers, who taunted the Cinema as a retrograde influence, through which the fountain of pure English was defiled. He drew a woeful picture of the modern child, who greets his revered parent in such phrases as "Gee, Pa, you're a Wow"! In vain the rival derided him as "Tough Guy Rogers"!—the battle was lost, after nearly everyone present had struck a blow, and the ladies, as champions of the Theatre gained the day, or rather the night, by 30 to 22—(this last figure including the two hands of the losing leader, which were raised in a last despairing effort)!

The Royal Army Pay Corps has entertained us twice—on the first occasion at a Concert, followed by tea, and on the following Sunday a Concert at the Home.

On the 9th we had another splendid Concert from the Central Ordnance Band, and on the 19th the Sergeants' Mess entertained us. Mr. Chandler and his daughter also gave us another of their ever-popular Musical Evenings.

We congratulate the following, who have passed their tests:—

Braille Reading Test: E. Russell and J. D. Calder. **Typing Test:** F. Dickerson and W. Stephenson.

The following changes have taken place at Church Stretton during the last month:

New St. Dunstaners.—F. Dickerson (now discharged from the Hospital); B. Cole, Eltham.

New Service Case (Hospital).—G. C. McWilliam (21), Glasgow, Royal Navy.

New Civilian Cases.—J. Abraham (rehabilitation), Mrs. Mayoh (Hospital).

P. May (Civilian) and J. Leeks (Service Case) have now left St. Dunstan's and have recovered useful vision.

Listen-in—

To the Anniversaries feature in the Forces Programme on Wednesday, March 26th, at 11 a.m.

Testimonial to Mr. Swain

A NUMBER of St. Dunstaners have suggested that his friends amongst the men might wish to subscribe for a presentation of some small gift to Mr. Swain, as a token of their regard and affection. It will be remembered that Mr. Swain recently retired from St. Dunstan's service after twenty-two years of work. During the greater part of this time he was connected with the After-Care side of our work, and was friend and adviser to hundreds of St. Dunstaners and their wives and families. Amongst those who have specifically communicated with the Editor are T. Meredith, a telephone operator, who asked that the matter should be mentioned in the REVIEW, T. North, of Cannock, who writes: "I thought that it would be very nice if all the St. Dunstan's boys would give a small donation towards a farewell gift for Mr. Swain, to show that we appreciate in a small way all that he has done for us," and H. Birley, of Salford, who writes on behalf of St. Dunstaners of the Manchester and District Sports Club: "We should like to place on record our appreciation of the past services of Mr. Swain, and our regret at the loss of his services; we therefore wish all can subscribe towards purchasing a suitable present as a token of respect."

The Editor is glad to announce that Mr. Askew has kindly offered to receive subscriptions from St. Dunstaners and to act as Honorary Treasurer of the Presentation Fund on their behalf.

Personal

Colonel Boyd-Rochfort, D.S.O., M.C., Capt. C. Boyd-Rochfort, and Mrs. Malone wish to thank all those representing St. Dunstan's, and the many men of St. Dunstan's, for attending the funeral of a beloved sister, and their adored Matron, and for all the beautiful flowers.

At Miss Boyd-Rochfort's express wish, Mrs. Malone, her sister, has handed to Lady Fraser as a keep-sake and memento the Gold Whistle that St. Dunstan's men gave to Matron the Christmas after she took office at Ovingdean.

House of Commons Pensions Debate

IN the House of Commons on February 18th, Sir Ian Fraser asked that Great War Pensions should be increased and that new war pensions should be raised to the same level, and that wives' and children's allowances should be paid in all cases. Sir Walter Womersley, Minister of Pensions, replying, said the Government could not do this at present, but he would consider wives' and children's allowances if Sir Ian Fraser would submit a scheme.

The following are points from these speeches :—

Sir Ian Fraser said : " In 1919 some kind of settlement of the war pensions problem was made. The cost of living then stood at 215 points, as compared with the 100 which was taken as the 1914 normal. Since then the cost of living has dropped, until at the lowest point in the great slump it went as low as 136. Just before this war broke out it had risen to 155 ; it now stands at something over 196. In answer to representations which I and others have made, the Minister of Pensions himself has said that when the cost of living figure gets back to 215, the Government will consider raising the pensions of the veterans of the Great War. I am grateful, at any rate, for that, but I should like something more.

Since 1919 the whole standard of living of working-class people has changed. What was a luxury then has become in many a working-class home, if not a necessity at least something that is habitual. In spite of that, I am of the opinion that the disabled soldier, sailor, or airman would have been willing—I would almost say he would have been glad—to have continued to receive his low fixed income throughout this war, had he known that other people were to continue to receive their pre-war incomes also. But that is not what the Government have done. May I give one or two figures. The lower-paid Government servants have had their incomes raised by about 5 per cent. Miners have received an increase of 3s. 2d. a shift. The railwaymen have had an increase of 13s. a week. Soldiers, sailors and airmen had considerable increases before the war, and an extra 6d. a day in the last few months ; the amenities which they receive have also increased *pro rata*. I am not grudging any of these people their

increases. I am only pointing out that consumption goods are limited, and that an increase given to one must be at the expense of all. In the field of social service, too, old age pensions have been increased ; unemployment benefit has been increased by 4s. a week, unemployment assistance by 3s., workmen's compensation by 5s., and children's allowances have been added. Thus we see that in the fields of employment, and of help given by the State, or through other channels, to those who are unemployed, material improvements in the money received has taken place. But my friends have been left with their pre-war standard.

Now about this war. A private soldier totally disabled in the Great War receives £2 a week flat-rate pension, but a man similarly disabled in this war receives 34s. 2d. I ask the Minister to make both pension rates the same.

There is one other point. If pensions are to be reduced for this war, officers' pensions, everyone would agree, should be reduced similarly with those of the men. But owing to some old tradition, an officer used to be pensioned differently if he was wounded leading his men in the face of the enemy and if he was injured while attending to a dump of ammunition ten miles behind the line. In assessing officers' pensions for this war, the Government have deliberately chosen the lesser of the two rates, and have then made a greater percentage deduction from that than in the case of the man. This is a double injustice.

Now I come to what I think is the most important criticism of all. The practice in pensions administration has been to pension the soldier, sailor or airman, having regard to his responsibilities at the time when the pension was recommended. No additional pension is given if he marries subsequently, or has children subsequently. That is contrary to the interests of the man concerned, and contrary to the interests of the country. No one could care for such a man better than a good wife. She can guide, tend, and help him, and do more than anyone else to make his life happy and compensate him for what he has lost.

Will the Minister consider recognising wives and children for severely disabled pensioners whenever the men marry, with safeguards to prevent abuse—such as the deathbed marriage ? It has been done in the Dominions.

I do not wish to make a sentimental appeal for the men who have been disabled in former wars or in this war, but, knowing the old soldiers very well, I would say that they are a group of men who rendered their service willingly in their time, and are still amongst His Majesty's most loyal, patient, and deserving subjects."

The Rt. Hon. Sir Walter Womersley, Minister of Pensions, in reply, said :—

" With all the sympathy in the world there are certain points beyond which you cannot go, if you are to do your duty by the public at large and by those who have to find the money. My responsibilities in this war are far beyond those of any previous Minister of Pensions. I have to deal with pensioners of the last war and also with the victims of the present war. On top of that, there are the Mercantile Marine men and fishermen, which were not dealt with by the Ministry of Pensions during the last war. Then I have the whole of the Civil Defence volunteers, who embrace a tremendous number of people. Now we have added to that responsibility for the Home Guard and the civilian population.

The one thing that I am afraid of is that if we overload the camel, it will fall down, and those who are now benefiting will suffer. I give my pledge again to the British Legion and other representatives of ex-service men that as long as I am Minister of Pensions I shall not agree to any reduction of the old rate for the veterans of the last war.

Here I should like to correct a statement which has been made on several occasions, though not to-day, that pensions given to those who suffered in this war are lower than pensions given to those who suffered in the last war. That is not true. The rate of pensions during the last war was less than we are paying in this war. The higher rates came into being in 1919. The settlement made then was that there should be a sliding scale. If the cost of living dropped below 215 points, there should be a reduction below £2 a week. But when the cost of living fell very materially in the slump the Government, recognising the debt due to those who had served, did not enforce the reduction. The other side of the settlement was that if the cost of living rose above 215 points by five per cent., or 11 points, there would be an increase."

Sir Ian Fraser intervened to ask, " Does

this mean the increase will be automatic, without delay ?" Sir Walter Womersley said " Yes."

Sir Walter then emphasised the importance of training disabled men and finding them employment. " I pay my tribute to the work which my Hon. and gallant Friend has done," he said ; " in training those who suffer from blindness. Men have been trained at St. Dunstan's and have been able, although blind, to go into the competitive world and earn a good living. I am glad to say that he and his Committee have agreed to take the blind men of this war, and do the same on behalf of my Ministry as St. Dunstan's did in the last war. Apart from doing the right thing in giving a pension, employment is most important to disabled men."

The Minister also said that if and when pensions were increased he would consider increasing attendant allowances also.

Regarding the new war pensioners, the Minister said the rates had already been increased once, and he had given a pledge that he would review them again when the cost of living rose substantially.

The Minister continued :—

" The question was raised about pensions to wives and children of men who marry after the disability takes place. That is a difficult question. It has been a fundamental principle that the State recognises only those domestic obligations which were in force at the time of disablement. To change it would be a matter of major policy. In my opinion, it is the right and proper thing not to pay a pension to the wife of a man when she marries him after he has suffered his disability, and it is not only my opinion. If we require any real experience of this we have only to turn to the United States of America, where it became such a ramp that it was the object of public indignation. My Hon. and gallant Friend has said he had a suggestion to make as to how it could be done. If he will send along his suggestion I shall be very glad to consider it.

I think, however, that the proper time to consider all these questions is when we have won through to victory—which we are going to do. I am satisfied that this House of Commons will see to it that those who are victims of this war, and have been victims of previous wars, will have justice meted out to them.

THE BRITISH LEGION AND THE EX-SERVICE MAN

Messages from Legionnaires

From Major J. BRUNEL COHEN, Honorary Treasurer of the British Legion, and Member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council:

I would like to express my gratitude to the Editor for having made this issue a special British Legion number, and also for having asked me for a message.

I know that a large number of St. Dunstaners are keen and active members of the Legion, and they may be wondering what that large and important organisation is doing at the moment. At times like these it is not expedient to hold rallies and such like, as we did in the days of peace, and owing to the shortage of newsprint we naturally do not obtain the same publicity as we used to do, though on this score considering the difficulties of supply, we really have little cause for complaint.

In one sentence I would say that the Legion is preparing for the "after the war" period, when we feel confident that our ranks will be swollen by the addition of thousands of those men who are now wearing the King's uniform, and who later will be ex-Service men, as under the British Legion Charter ex-Service men of all wars, including naturally those blinded by enemy action, are entitled to become members of our organisation.

A Planning Committee has been formed by the National Executive Council, and this Committee is already considering all the various problems, such as employment, housing, and living conditions in general, which must of necessity arise in the post-war period.

Our Annual Poppy Day Appeal is made on behalf of all ex-Service men, including naturally those of St. Dunstan's, and our relations with St. Dunstan's, and with your very able Chairman, have always been most friendly. As a keen admirer of the pluck and sacrifice of all blinded men, I would like to take this opportunity of saying "Bless you all," and to wish you the best of luck.

JACK COHEN.

From Captain WILLIAM APPLEBY, Member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion, and Member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council:

On the completion of your training and return to civil environments, you will make

the first great discovery that, as a blinded ex-Service man, you are at last a personality. The opportunity, which the coming of this personality brings, may increase your dignity or make you foolish. Whichever happens, there is an organisation, named the British Legion, whose fame you know of, and whose members will help you with your stature, or would understand you in your foolishness. They will be your comrades in the truest sense of the word.

I have, in my twenty-six years of blindness, seen how the British Legion gives to blinded ex-Service men the opportunity for service to others on terms of absolute equality with their sighted comrades.

The highest positions, both directive and administrative, are open to you, and if, by the grace of God, you are endowed with wisdom and cleverness, then certainly your blindness will be no handicap to attaining the highest position in the movement. If, on the other hand, you prefer the less spectacular, the local Branch can find you much useful work to do.

In any case, whether national or local, the Legion will provide you with an opportunity to serve your fellow men in every aspect of citizenship that makes life worth while.

W. APPLEBY.

From St. Dunstaner C. DURKIN, Vice-President, Metropolitan Area of the British Legion:

The motto of the Legion is "Service not Self," and what a grand opportunity for living up to that motto membership of the Legion provides for all ex-Service men. Each Branch has an Executive Committee, and Committees dealing with Benevolence, Pensions, and Employment, but even for those who do not desire to serve on Committees, the Legion provides a great opportunity for comradeship and social recreation. Many Branches have their own Clubs, but others are less fortunate. In whichever category the Branch stands, the work still goes on. Many problems still face ex-Service men, who yearly grow older, and should there not be willing hands to help the boys at present serving when their period of service is at an end? They will need help, and who better to give it to them than their comrades of previous

wars? So, my colleagues, I trust that this appeal may help to increase the number of St. Dunstaners who are members of the British Legion. The two organisations have a working arrangement, and help is needed from both sides. I ask you all to join right away.

C. DURKIN.

From St. Dunstaner W. A. MUGGERIDGE, Honorary Secretary of the Benevolent Committee, Effingham and Bookhams Branch of the British Legion:

The first object of our Benevolent Committee was not to dispense "charity," but to promote the same spirit of comradeship which existed during the Great War—the sharing of a cigarette when it was difficult to know where the next one would come from, and in the year before the present conflict to help those who, due to unemployment or some other cause, needed that little act of comradeship that dispelled any idea of charity. It was found far better to find employment than temporary financial assistance, and with this idea always in mind, there was little or no unemployment, not only amongst the members of the Legion, but most of the ex-Service men in the district.

I hope it will be my privilege to continue to serve, not only our Great War comrades, but those who are at present serving their country, when we return to peace, trusting that the "new order" may be bonded together in a spirit of fraternity in the Brotherhood of the British Legion.

W. A. MUGGERIDGE.

From St. Dunstaner A. C. EVANS, of Newport, Mon., who has been a Legionnaire since its foundation:

Prior to the Legion coming into being, I was a member of the Discharged Sailors and Soldiers' Federation. We were a strong body. I became so interested in the work that I soon took an active part in it. When the Legion was formed, in 1921, I became a member of the first Local Committee. We were the first branch in the Welsh area and, incidentally, we called the first Conference in South Wales. The work of the Legion has been interesting to me since the first day I joined. I think all members of the present Forces, when discharged, should join our ranks and keep up the good work. New difficulties will arise with new conditions, and the new Legionnaires are

better suited to work out solutions. In conclusion, I would say that if this country is to be a better place after the war than it was before, the young ex-Service man will have to come into the Legion and work with us with one common object—the betterment of mankind.

A. C. EVANS.

Competition Corner

The winner of last month's competition was J. McAndrew, of Bournemouth, who submitted 19 words written by two letters of the alphabet. In fairness to every competitor, proper names were not allowed. Some competitors submitted longer lists, but included one-syllable words, like "Isle"—I-L, which, of course, were not strictly accurate. In every case, including the winner's, only two syllable words were allowed.

This Month's Competition

In the Editor's office is a National Savings Certificate, which bears a serial number. This number is made up of six figures, which, added together, total 16. What is its number?

The actual certificate will be awarded to the St. Dunstaner who sends in a correct arrangement of its figures. If no correct solution is received, it will go to the sender of the next best, the first figures ranking nearest.

Entries, on post cards, should be sent to the Editor at Regent's Park, to arrive not later than Monday, April 7th.

Derby Sweepstake, 1941

WARS may come, and wars may go, but the Derby goes on.

A substitute race is being run on June 6th or 7th, and accordingly we have pleasure in announcing once again St. Dunstan's own Derby Sweepstake.

As in previous years, tickets will be 2s. 6d. each. Full rules will appear next month, but application for tickets may be made at once.

One word of warning. It is absolutely essential that every application for tickets must bear the sender's *full* name and address, otherwise the Editor cannot be held responsible for tickets going astray.

The sweepstake is confined strictly to St. Dunstaners, and tickets will on no account be issued to anyone else.

“ In Memory ”

RIFLEMAN GEORGE EDWARD BATEMAN
(*King's Royal Rifle Corps*)

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. E. Bateman, of Birmingham.

Bateman enlisted in August, 1914, and was wounded at Hooge in 1915. He came under St. Dunstan's care just two years after his enlistment, namely, August, 1916. He was wounded both in the head and left arm and his health was seriously affected. He did very well, however, during his training as a basket-maker, and carried on with his work in spite of ill-health until about three years ago, when he was forced to take things very easily.

For several months before his death he was in hospital, and he died there on January 30th. Owing to war-time difficulties, the usual wreath from Sir Ian could not be sent, but one of flowers was arranged for locally.

Bateman leaves a widow and two children, to whom we extend our deep sympathy—one son, in his teens, died less than a month before his father.

PRIVATE CHARLES BYRNE
(*Manchester Regiment*)

WITH deep regret we record the death of C. Byrne, of Moreton, Cheshire.

Byrne was wounded in the Battle of the Aisne, but although his sight was damaged, he did not come under St. Dunstan's care until 1939.

He took short training first at Brighton then at Church Stretton in wool rug-making, and returned home only recently. He was not a strong man, but his death was unexpected. He died in hospital after a comparatively short illness, on January 24th.

He leaves a widow and three children, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was placed on the grave.

PRIVATE THOMAS HORSFALL
(*3rd West Yorkshire Regiment*)

WE deeply regret to announce the death of T. Horsfall, of York.

Enlisting on November 1st, 1915, Horsfall was discharged from the Army in 1918, coming to us in April of that year, his sight having failed as a result of his service in France.

He was trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker. A very good workman, he carried on with these occupations for some time, but of late years, on account of very indifferent health, had contented himself with wool rug-making. For some time he has been a very sick man and he died in hospital on February 9th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was sent from St. Dunstan's.

For many years, Horsfall was a widower and was devotedly cared for by his daughter, Betty, to whom we extend our deep sympathy in her great loss.

PRIVATE EDWARD EWART KENWARD
(*Monster Fusiliers*)

WE record with deep regret the death of E. E. Kenward, of Uckfield.

Kenward lost his sight as a result of being gassed in the Great War, and for the same reason ever afterwards suffered from ill-health. Later he came to St. Dunstan's for training in basket-making, and continued with this until the middle of 1939, when it became obvious that he was far from well. Recently he was admitted to hospital for treatment and seemed to recover, but this was not for long and he died on February 1st.

The funeral took place a few days later and among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's. There were others from many local friends, including the Maresfield bellringers, of whom Kenward had once been a member.

We send our deep sympathy to Mrs. Kenward and her family in their bereavement.

PRIVATE JOHN EDWARD PLUNKETT
(*R.A.V.C.*)

WITH deep regret we record the death of J. E. Plunkett, of St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Plunkett lost his sight as a result of his service in the Great War and came to St. Dunstan's in 1917 for training in boot repairing and mat-making. He continued working at mats until 1940, when it became apparent that he was not in good health. In spite of careful attention there was no improvement and he was a very sick man when he went to our Convalescent Home at Blackpool in November last. In due course he was admitted to the local hospital and he died there on January 27th.

The funeral took place at Talbot Road Cemetery, Blackpool. P. W. Powell represented St. Dunstan's men, and Mrs. Butler, of Hayes, represented St. Dunstan's wives in Blackpool, and Matron Davies and Sister Wilson, from the Concord Home, were also present. Among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

We send our very sincere sympathy to Mrs. Plunkett and her family.

Deaths

We extend our deepest sympathy to :—
FEARN.—To Mr. and Mrs. Fearn, of East Kirkby, whose little son, Arthur, died on March 4th, aged three years.

WALKER.—To Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Walker, of Hanwell, whose son, Charles, died in hospital on February 26th, after a long illness, most cheerfully and bravely borne.

ST. DUNSTAN'S FOR BLINDED SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN (IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BRITISH LEGION),
Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

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