

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### Princess Royal Visits St. Dunstan's

THE Princess Royal visited our Hospital and Training Centre at Church Stretton on Thursday, May 22nd. All the men and most of the staff were presented to her, and she took the keenest possible interest in their well-being. Truly the devotion of members of the Royal Family to their arduous duty, and the grace and charm with which they discharge it, is an example to us all.

Last time the Princess Royal, or Princess Mary as she then was, visited St. Dunstan's she came with her brother, then Prince of Wales, in 1916. Her Royal Highness recalled this visit, and so did I, for in those days I was myself a pupil learning braille. That seems a long time ago, but St. Dunstaners all over the world will remember those times and will visualise how history repeats itself at Church Stretton.

### St. Dunstaners Can Take It

The number of St. Dunstaners and their families who have been blown out of their homes increases. Every week accommodation is found for St. Dunstaners at our Blackpool and Melpash homes, and for their families nearby, or in suitable places. The rest and change thus afforded is invaluable, and recovery from shock and nerve strain is swift. The family is then re-settled as far as conditions allow.

Although we do our best, however, and are spending, and rightly spending, considerable sums of additional money on this special service, the upset to normal life remains. I cannot express too highly my admiration of St. Dunstaners and their wives and families under these trying ordeals. Truly, St. Dunstaners can take it, and by doing so in a courageous spirit they are helping to win the war.

St. Dunstan's, too, has had further knocks. My old office looks as if a seventy-ton tank had been driven right through it, but we patch up and carry on. At our establishments in London and St. Albans, the staff, including girls in their teens, help our courageous night watchmen and take their turn at fire-watching. Recently, when a bomb shattered our present Headquarters office, the staff moved their desks and typewriters out on to the lawn and despatched four hundred letters while the debris was being cleared up.

### Notable St. Dunstaners

Each month the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW records the passing of a small number of our members. Each brief paragraph reminds us of military duty well done in the Great War, and of a life of courage and patience and usefulness. How often the virtues in a man shine

forth when his life is subjected to the day-to-day handicap of severe disability, such as blindness. We are reminded too by these little life stories of the wife's part, so important during the blinded soldier's life, so poignant now he is gone. Not all men can make an easily recognised contribution to the world's work, whether they see or whether they are blind, but they also serve who are able to set a quiet example of fortitude.

Last month two St. Dunstaners died whose lives illustrate aspects of St. Dunstan's worth pondering. St. Dunstan's has taught two great lessons, one, that if you have a profession before you are blinded it is surprising how often you can go back to it and carry on. And, two, that if you have not, but are very young, you can learn something entirely unfamiliar and make your mark.

The Reverend Harold Gibb is an example of the first class, and Edmund Toft of the second.

Harold Gibb served as a Trooper in the South African war. He then took Holy Orders in the Church of England. The Great War found him a padre with the 4th Dragoon Guards. On the field of battle, when other officers had been killed, his view of his duty made him take off his parson's collar and become a combatant officer. Thus he served as a fighting man until he was blinded in May, 1915, when, after a time at St. Dunstan's, he returned to the Church and served as Parish Priest, and Chaplain and friend of soldiers and ex-Servicemen, until his death, at the age of 62, on May 28th, 1941. He was a familiar figure at the Cavalry Memorial Service each year. He frequently visited our camps and reunions in the Midlands, and at Whitsuntide last year did Chapel duty for us at Brighton. He conducted the whole service and preached his sermon from memory. A friend of the late Lord Baden Powell, he edited an International Braille Magazine for Blind Boy Scouts.

Whether you judge it by his influence over his friends and acquaintances or patients, or whether you consider material success, Edmund Toft's life was one of the most outstanding amongst St. Dunstaners. He had not found his place in the world, for he was too young, when military service claimed him and terminated with blindness. As a massage student in the early years of St. Dunstan's his personality soon made his presence felt amongst men and staff. Romance swiftly followed, and he married Miss Violette le Duché, a young and most attractive French girl, who was a voluntary Braille Teacher at St. Dunstan's. As a result of many years of very hard work, he built up a successful massage practice in the West End of London. He allowed himself no rest, and working intensely hard carried on this practice, did much valuable committee work for his profession, and attended a two-year course in Osteopathy. After another ten years he was one of the leading figures in this profession and had a wide and lucrative practice. He was a very good, all-round blind man, a voracious reader of braille, at which he was expert, a high-class bridge player, and excellent at finding his way about unaided. He was a good speaker and endowed with a charming voice and personality.

When this war came he offered me his services, and at a considerable financial sacrifice went to Church Stretton to start the first course of instruction in massage for young blinded soldiers of this war. Others pay tribute to him on another page; I need only add that he loved St. Dunstan's, and that St. Dunstan's was very proud of him.

A brief illness took him away at the early age of 46, but his example will survive and will encourage many of us, particularly the younger St. Dunstaners, upon whom his character and ability made such a deep impression.

### Director of Training

Mr. I. M. Bankes-Williams has been appointed Director of Training, and will take up his duties at Church Stretton on June 23rd. He will be in full charge of all St. Dunstan's responsibilities at the Training Centre at Church Stretton, including training, welfare, discipline, and staff.

I am happy to say that Miss Dorothy Pain, O.B.E., will carry on as Matron and assistant to the Director, and that Mr. Davenport will remain Medical Commandant at the Hospital and medical adviser to all St. Dunstan's establishments at Church Stretton.

Mr. Bankes-Williams served as an officer in the Royal Field Artillery in the Great War, attaining the rank of Captain and Adjutant at a very early age, and comes to us from

Harrow School, where he has been head of the Army Class. Mr. Bankes-Williams has administrative and educational experience of a high order, as will be seen from the notes of his record on another page, and Miss Pain has unrivalled experience of St. Dunstan's. I hope and believe this combination will be the best that we could possibly have arranged.

We owe Miss Pain a deep debt of gratitude for having done the work of at least two persons during the past year, and for having displayed such gifts of discretion and decision in starting the new training centre, with all its human and material problems.

IAN FRASER.

### News of St. Dunstaners

Our shop-keeper, J. H. Mason, reports that, in spite of enemy action, business is very good and he is kept extremely busy, especially as he has been appointed by the Public Health Department to supply both staff and patients at the Isolation Hospital with all their food needs, with the exception of butchery.

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H. Smy, of Yoxford, who is making a splendid contribution to the war effort by "ditching" on a farm, was recently machine-gunned while he was at work, but fortunately without any injury.

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E. W. Wakelin, of Huntingdon, and his wife, are doing their bit, too. They have seven little girls billeted on them—from seven to fourteen years of age—and managing marvellously.

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We have heard with deep regret that A. Rodgers, of Barrow-in-Furness, lost an aunt and two cousins as a result of an air-raid.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following, who are celebrating their silver weddings: Mr. and Mrs. G. Hadfield, Ottery St. Mary, June 1st; Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Taylor, Grantham, June 12th; Mr. and Mrs. H. Shayler, Liverpool, June 21st.

### Silver Wedding and Diamond Wedding in One Family

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Brown, of Nuneaton, celebrated their silver wedding on June 10th—and Mr. and Mrs. C. Brown, of Mildura, Australia, celebrated their diamond wedding on March 19th. Mr. and Mrs. C. Brown, of Australia, are our St. Dunstan's father and mother. To both couples we extend our sincere congratulations and good wishes.

### W. T. Curtis-Willson, Flight Lieutenant, R.A.F.

We offer our sincere congratulations to W. T. Curtis-Willson, of Brighton, who has been gazetted a Flight Lieutenant in the R.A.F. (V.R.) for service with the Air Training Corps as Commanding Officer of the Brighton Squadrons.

In the course of his career, he has already made a distinguished name for himself. He is Managing Director of the *Brighton and Hove Herald*, and a Justice of the Peace. In 1933 he was awarded the M.B.E., and for some years was one of the two employer-representatives for Sussex on the Sussex County Territorial Army Association. All St. Dunstaners will wish him the best of luck in his new office.

### St. Dunstaners as Home Guards

According to our records, we have four St. Dunstaners who are members of the Home Guard. W. Lowings, of course, was the first. He joined in July of last year. Now we hear that E. Garthwaite, of Rotherham, J. E. Burley, of Truro, and Jock Duncan have enrolled. Burley, who is a poultry-farmer with an excellently-run farm and stock, does guard-room duty, taking messages, and so on. Garthwaite has also received his uniform and he does duty in the armoury, keeping the rifles clean, and receiving them from the lads after parade. Jock Duncan, for many years on one of our largest and busiest switchboards, has his uniform and equipment. In the event of an emergency, he will relinquish his work with the Corporation and will be placed in charge of communications.

Congratulations to all four—and to any other St. Dunstaners who may be Home Guards. They are doing a splendid job of work and must be a fine example to their sighted comrades.

### The Princess Royal at St. Dunstan's

HER Royal Highness The Princess Royal paid a visit to St. Dunstan's, Church Stretton, on May 22nd. The Princess, who was wearing Girl Guide uniform, was received at Longmynd by Sir Ian Fraser, Lady Fraser, Matron Pain, Mr. R. C. Davenport, the Medical Commandant, and Colonel Eric Ball, Chairman of the Hospital Committee. With the Princess were Miss Sybil Kenyon-Slaney (lady-in-waiting), Viscountess Boyne, the Earl of Powis (Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire), and Col. J. H. Westley, County Director of the British Red Cross.

The party proceeded to the lounge, where Mrs. Irvine, who is in charge of "Battlefield," the blinded officers' house, and Mr. Hawketts, were presented. Her Royal Highness spoke to each one of the St. Dunstaners present, old and new, and to those who were there for treatment and early training.

The Braille Room was visited, and then the party walked along the verandah, where the staff were assembled, and Miss Headon, the housekeeper, and Mr. J. Carroll, the chef, were presented.

The Princess then inspected the operating theatre with Mr. Davenport, and the massage instruction room, and from there the party proceeded to the workshops and to the telephone school. Before leaving the training centre, the Princess signed the distinguished visitors' book.

At the Hospital, Tiger Hall, Matron Postlethwaite was presented to Her Royal Highness, who then visited the wards and had a word with the patients. She was then conducted to the massage clinic, where J. Mahony gives treatment. The activities of the poultry farm were also explained to the Princess, and a basket of eggs presented to her by Pte. R. Patterson, of the Black Watch. A basket was also presented to her by Gunner Philip Todd, of the Royal Horse Artillery.

Talking to Sir Ian, the Princess recalled that she visited St. Dunstan's in Regent's Park in 1916, when he himself was learning braille.

St. Dunstaners and staff gathered together outside the Hospital and gave the Princess a rousing cheer as she drove away.

Since Her Royal Highness's visit, Sir Ian has received the following letter from Miss Sybil Kenyon-Slaney:—

May 24th, 1941.

DEAR SIR IAN,

The Princess Royal desires me to write to you to thank you very much both for your letters and also for all the arrangements you had made for Her Royal Highness's visit to St. Dunstan's on Thursday last.

Nothing could have been better planned, and the very most seemed to have been made of the time available. Will you please say this to all who were responsible.

The Princess is so glad to have had the opportunity of coming to St. Dunstan's, and seeing one of its Branches in such a delightful new home—and it was indeed inspiring to see not only the splendid work which is being done, but the fine courage of all those who are facing altered lives.

If possible Her Royal Highness would like to purchase some of the articles made by St. Dunstan's men, and perhaps a selection could be sent to Harewood for her to choose from.

Lady Boyne and I were both so glad to be there, and I do indeed hope to come again some day.—Yours very sincerely,

(Sgd) SYBIL KENYON-SLANEY,  
*Lady-in-Waiting.*

### Other Church Stretton Notes

#### War Weapons Week Fete

WAR Weapons Week at Church Stretton opened on Saturday, May 25th, with a march past, in which some of our men took part, and many were present at the Drumhead Service the following afternoon.

At the men's own suggestion, a Fete was held at Longmynd as our contribution to the effort, and a Committee was selected, consisting of Mrs. Greenland, Mr. Hawketts, T. Rogers, A. Robinson, and J. Calder. Directly the plan was announced, some enthusiastic St. Dunstaners set off daily on a house-to-house canvass of the village, advertising the Fete and selling raffle tickets in advance to the value of £40.

Although, owing to the weather, some of the outdoor events had to be cancelled, the greater part were brought under cover. The band of the R.A.O.C. played continuously from 5.30 till long after the prescribed hour of 10, which was to have brought dancing (including spot competitions) to a close. It is impossible to enumerate all the competitions and side-shows—in every case a St. Dunstaner and

a member of the staff shared the duty of stall-holder. The Egyptian Sorceress delighted her clients by a very cheap shillings-worth of fortune-telling—evacuees saw how housekeeping can be carried on happily in a caravan. There were demonstrations of arts and crafts in the workshops; the lift was busy taking people to the Art Exhibition, or to the roof to admire the view. The Hospital at Tiger Hall was thrown open for inspection, and about twenty competitions kept things lively and gathered in funds for the good cause. Mrs. Greenland and her committee are to be congratulated on their excellent organisation, and on the result of their efforts, a net sum of £182 5s. 1d.

After the account of our gay doings, we must sound a sadder note, for it was only on the evening before the Royal Visit that Edmund Toft passed away. Some of us had known him for many years, and had warmly welcomed the news that he was coming to us as massage instructor. It was not his students only who gained by his coming, but everyone—men and staff—were heartened and helped by his presence amongst us. With the strength and beauty of his character, his ability and experience, he had so much to give, and he gave in full measure with the charm and friendliness that endeared him to us all.

His influence will continue to help us, and the memory of his gay, brave spirit will live in our hearts. Death found him ready, and we mourn a great St. Dunstaner.

### New Hospital Service Cases

The following new cases have been admitted to the Hospital during May:—

Driver Norman Cook, Royal Corps of Signals, aged 23 (Blythe, Northumberland); Fire Watcher J. L. Davies, aged 46 (Swansea); Flight Sergt. A. C. W. Booth, R.A.F., aged 32 (Ebbw Vale); Pilot Officer D. C. Tufnell, R.A.F., aged 22 (Fordingbridge, Hants).

The following have passed tests this month:—

Braille Writing.—J. L. Douglass.

Braille Reading.—W. Carlton.

Typing.—A. Evanno.

### Blackpool Notes

We have had a number of Ministry of Information films up here lately, and one day a local M.o.I. cinema operator saw some of our "boys" walking along the front.

He thought, very sensibly, that though they could not see the film, they would enjoy the commentary, and so he came along, with his films, and we had a most interesting evening. The films were about ship-building, coal-mining, the training of air pilots, engineering, and a spot of fire-fighting. The operator gave a description of the films, and the "troops" thoroughly enjoyed his programme.

### Talking Books

#### Important Notice

ONE or two cases have been brought to our notice where, when a St. Dunstaner has died, his widow has sold his Talking Book machine, either to another local St. Dunstaner or to a civilian blind person. This is a kindly act of advantage to both parties, but the question arises as to whether it is quite fair, having regard to the fact that there is normally a long waiting list for Talking Book machines.

The Chairman asks us to make it clear to all St. Dunstaners that he considers it the duty of a St. Dunstaner's widow to consult St. Dunstan's before selling a Talking Book machine, so that we may suggest the name of a St. Dunstaner, or a civilian living nearby, who is on the waiting list. St. Dunstan's will, of course, use its good offices to suggest a price for the sale, which will be fair to both buyer and seller.

It should be understood that the Library Service is free, and that the privilege of enjoying this benefit can only be granted by St. Dunstan's, and the National Institute in a case where it is approved, and that consideration must normally therefore be given first to those whose names are already on the waiting list.

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In spite of bombing we are still producing many good new books of all kinds. There may be some St. Dunstaners who are interested in obtaining a Talking Book machine, but whose name is not on our list. We have been fortunate in getting a limited number of new machines through, and if any St. Dunstaner wishes to be supplied with one, he would be advised to apply at once. St. Dunstaners who join the Talking Book Library now, of course, have the inestimable advantage that the whole of the excellent Library—the result of several years' work—is at their disposal.

## Edmund Toft

### Some Appreciations

T. Rogers writes:—

"All St. Dunstaners who had the good fortune to come in contact with our friend, Edmund Toft, will feel the poorer for his passing, but nowhere will his loss be felt more keenly than by us at Church Stretton; although his work among us was all too short, the friendly spirit and comradeship which he brought into all his contacts endeared him to all, especially our new young men, who saw in him a man who had triumphed over the difficulties which they themselves are preparing to surmount. He inspired them with courage and confidence, success could not spoil him, and they soon learned to love, admire, and respect him. Many of them are filled with the desire to mould their new lives on his pattern—to them he typified the true spirit of St. Dunstan's. His memory will be an encouragement to them to carry on."

W. T. Scott writes:—

"Edmund Toft was quick to apply himself to the task of overcoming his war disability. By his association with his fellow St. Dunstaners he soon helped others to tackle the same task. By his example many of us have been inspired, and by his boundless energy encouraged to attempt what had at first seemed to be impossible.

"Throughout his many activities he always brought to bear a clear understanding of the problems to be dealt with, and applied his steady and skilful judgment to the benefit of his fellows. We have lost a guide, philosopher, and friend."

T. Roden writes:—

"It is with most sincere pride and the deepest regret that St. Dunstaners everywhere respectfully request St. Dunstan's to place on record our great appreciation of the truly valuable and admirable services which our late colleague and friend, Edmund Toft, has rendered to his fellow St. Dunstaners during his many years of association with us.

"Edmund Toft possessed high ideals, loved mankind and progress, and was ever helpful to human society wherever he went. He propagated his ideals always by the most effective weapon of propaganda—practical example. His philosophy and religion were based upon the strong and solid foundation

of universal brotherhood. He strived constantly to improve the world in which he lived. . . . He was ever constant, with a firm mind, renouncing no just right from fear, and gave up no important truth from flattery. Sincerity formed his address at all times."

## Derby Sweepstake

### Result of Draw

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake was made on June 12th at Headquarters, by Micky Burran and Mr. Stanford, Appeals Organiser, in the presence of the Editor of THE REVIEW and members of the staff. The result of the draw was as follows:—

Horse	Ticket No.	Name
ANNATOM	41	D. B. Chapple, Merstham
CAMPERDOWN	109	Capt. W. Appleby, Newcastle
CUERDLEY	919	J. McVee, Braintree
CHATEAU	993	T. Roden, Wembley Park
LAROSE		
DEVONIAN	273	H. Porter, Southampton
FAIRY PRINCE	35	D. B. Chapple, Merstham
FETTES	381	R. Garratt, Nottingham
FIROZE DIN	646	W. B. Brockerton, Ireland
LAMBERT	434	C. McCairn, Bradford
SIMNEL		
MAZARIN	665	A. C. Rogers, Wrexham
MR. SAWYER	158	G. Eades, Wivelrod
MOROGORO	652	W. Lowings, Chandlers Ford
ORTHODOX	118	W. Shakspeare, Birmingham
OWEN TUDOR	541	A. H. Kay, Letchworth
PTOLEMY	9	V. R. Green, Whaplode
ROYAL	802	J. Boyd, Brighton
ACADEMY		
SELIM HASSAN	444	C. Marshall, Southchurch
SUN CASTLE	895	J. Ridley, Finchley
SINGLE COURT	165	G. J. Smith, Leicester
SUNNY ISLAND	201	T. W. Saunders, Bethnal Green
STARWORT	714	T. Randall, Lancing
THOROUGHFARE	245	J. F. Leeman, Louth
VALDAVIAN	817	J. S. Steeley, Hull
THE FIELD	795	G. Ottow, Chingford

## The Melplash Legend

It has been pointed out that there was a mistake in the legend of Melplash Court, which was printed in last month's REVIEW. The first paragraph should have read "The Court dates from the sixteenth century and was once owned by Sir Thomas More (*not the famous Chancellor*)."

Our article had been reprinted from another source which, unfortunately, had omitted the last four words.

The famous Chancellor, Sir Thomas More, is remembered by all Englishmen as one of its wisest men, and is honoured as a saint by English Catholics.

## The British Legion

THE British Legion held their usual Annual Conference in London at Whitsuntide. The broad decisions of the Conference are illustrated by the four resolutions which are set out below, with a note as to whether they were carried or lost.

Brigadier General Fitzpatrick, the Chairman of the Legion's Pensions Committee, referred to the valuable help given by Sir Ian Fraser in the House of Commons, and said that the Legion's Pensions Policy would be virile and militant.

The question of the inclusion in the British Legion of Members of the Civil Defence Forces was referred to a special committee, which will report at the next Conference.

### Resolutions Proposed

That this Conference requests the Council to adopt a virile, militant policy towards the Ministry of Pensions until such time as the regulations of the Pensions Royal Warrant are, at least, placed upon an equal status to that of the war of 1914-1921 (*Carried*).

That this Conference is of the opinion that the British Legion should seek to increase pensions of the Great War totally disabled men (*Lost*).

That this Conference resolves that immediate pressure be brought on the Ministry of Pensions to establish an Independent Appeals Tribunal throughout the country, to enable men discharged from the Service, who have been denied compensation, to appeal independently, in precisely the same way as is granted any kind of dissatisfied citizen (*Carried*).

That this Conference is of the opinion that the need conditions of the Parents' Pension are being too vigorously enforced, and requests that a review be made of the whole position (*Carried*).

### Wounded in Action

We have heard with regret that Neville Moore, of the Scots Guards, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Moore, of Southport, has been wounded in action. He had been in the Army since he was fifteen. Many St. Dunstaners will probably remember him at Brighton, for he often went down there when he had leave and was stationed in London.

## Appointments

### Welfare Department

IN order to meet the situation created by war conditions, and the consequent separation of the Northern and Southern Area offices, and Mr. T. E. Swain's retirement, we have obtained the services of Miss L. A. M. McMurtrie, as Welfare Superintendent.

Mrs. Paul and Miss Wilson will be Area Superintendents, and all correspondence should be sent to them as at present. Miss Hensley is unable to continue visiting men in Hampshire, but will still call on men in Bedfordshire. Miss McMurtrie hopes to meet all Social Visitors within a short time, and also take the opportunity of calling upon individual St. Dunstaners, especially in Hampshire, at the same time maintaining contact with each Area office.

St. Dunstaners will, we are sure, be glad to welcome Miss McMurtrie personally as soon as they have the opportunity.

### Mr. Bankes-Williams

#### Director of Training

MR. I. M. Bankes-Williams, who has been appointed Director of Training at Church Stretton, has a distinguished record.

He is forty-four years of age, married, and was educated at Radley College and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he gained classical honours. He left Cambridge, however, in 1914, to join the Army, and served throughout the last war in France, Egypt, and Gallipoli, retiring as captain adjutant in 1919. He returned to Cambridge, in spite of the fact that his University career was somewhat delayed owing to health reasons, caused by the war.

He was appointed an assistant master at Harrow School in 1923, and in that capacity has been responsible for the Army class, with a high record of success. For four years he was honorary secretary, and later Chairman of the Science Masters' Association, and during the last three years has been entirely responsible for the organisation, training, and administration of Harrow School air-raid precautions, having first qualified himself at the Government School as a first-class instructor. His out-of-school interests include coaching in games and play production, and he has practical knowledge of carpentry and wood-carving.

## “ In Memory ”

PRIVATE EDMUND TOFT  
*7th Royal Sussex Regiment*

WITH deepest regret we record the death of Edmund Toft, which took place at Church Stretton on May 21st.

Enlisting just a week after the outbreak of war in 1914, he came to us in April, 1916. Subsequently he built up for himself a remunerative practice as a masseur and osteopath, and his treatment rooms in Chandos Street were widely known. He served as a member of the Council of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics, as a member of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind, and of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs, and as Chairman of St. Dunstan's Massage Advisory Committee.

The funeral took place at Church Stretton on May 24th. St. Dunstan's was very fully represented by men and staff from the Hospital and Training Centre, and the Massage Advisory Committee and Department were represented by Messrs. W. T. Scott, T. G. Roden, and A. Mace.

He leaves a widow, herself a braille teacher at St. Dunstan's during the Great War, and two sons, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

THE REV. J. H. O. GIBB  
*Irish Dragoon Guards*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of the Rev. Harold Gibb.

At the outbreak of war in 1914, Mr. Gibb, who was educated at Harrow, and had served as a captain in the Imperial Yeomanry in the Boer War, went to France as an Army Chaplain with the 2nd Cavalry Brigade. The following October he was granted a commission as Lieutenant in the Irish Dragoon Guards and in May, 1915, he was severely wounded and blinded at the battle of Potithe. He came to St. Dunstan's and in 1921 took over the benefice of Sherbourne, Warwick. He was Vicar of Sherbourne for fifteen years. He will be remembered by many St. Dunstaners, for in recent years he has often taken the services at St. Dunstan's Chapel, Ovingdean, and had given to St. Dunstan's the medallion of sixteenth century glass recovered from the Cloth Hall, Ypres, which is inset in a window there.

The funeral took place at Sherbourne, on May 31st. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Coventry. St. Dunstan's was represented by Miss Hamar Greenwood, Member of the Council, St. Dunstaner J. Best and his wife, and Miss Gough, After-Care Visitor. The Last Post was sounded by trumpeters.

Mr. Gibb leaves a widow, two sons, and a daughter, to whom we offer deepest sympathy.

### Birth

COOPER.—To the wife of V. Cooper, of Brighton, on May 10th, a daughter—Mary Edna.

### Deaths

We offer our deepest sympathy to the following:—

BIRKETT.—To C. B. Birkett, of Great Crosby, Lancs., whose mother passed away on May 21st.

EVANS.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Evans, of Walsall, who have lost their married daughter in tragic circumstances. She was electrocuted through touching an electric fire in the bathroom with wet hands.

LYNCH.—To D. Lynch, of Cork, whose brother, Jeremiah, died at the beginning of May.

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Our deep sympathy is extended to the wife of our St. Dunstaner, A. H. Kay, of Letchworth. Mrs. Kay lost her sister, and the nine members of the latter's family, as a result of a recent air-raid.

### Mr. G. C. Drinkwater

St. Dunstan's rowing men will hear with the deepest regret of the death, as a result of enemy action, of Mr. G. C. Drinkwater.

Mr. Drinkwater, who was sixty, was an architect and artist by profession, but was widely known as a rowing coach and a writer on rowing. For many years he had taken the greatest interest in the men of St. Dunstan's, and many times had acted as an umpire at their regatta at Putney. His death is a loss to the world of sport.

He rowed in the Oxford crews of 1902 and 1903.

He served as a trooper in the South African War, and in the last war rose to the rank of Brigadier Major, winning the M.C. and being twice mentioned in dispatches.

### Killed in Action

With deepest regret we have heard that the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wishart, has been lost on the *Hood*.

### Braille Books

If any St. Dunstaner holds odd volumes of braille books obtained from the library at Regent's Park Headquarters, we should be very glad if they could be sent in.