

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

No. 279—VOLUME XXVI [NEW SERIES] NOVEMBER, 1941

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

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

A SMALL number of old St. Dunstaners are now working in factories ; aircraft factories, munition factories, and other establishments where direct or indirect munitions of war are made, are amongst the places where jobs have been found.

In general, the St. Dunstaners are craftsmen in the early 40's, who are fit and strong, and the jobs are near to their homes in order to avoid the difficulty of moving in these times, when the housing problem is so acute. Amongst the jobs which these blinded soldiers are undertaking are routine process work, machine operating, and testing of different kinds. Some are very proficient indeed, attaining an output equal to that of sighted labour. All so far are holding down their jobs satisfactorily.

This is an important new experiment—we do not know whether it will provide jobs after the war, or whether it will prove to be only an expedient at a time like the present, when labour is so scarce, but we are, of course, conducting the experiment with an eye on the future, and we are hopeful that many young blinded men of this war may find congenial and lifelong employment in factories, and that for those who have special initiative and ability, the future may hold promise of progress into really skilled jobs and better posts.

We started this idea a year or more ago by inviting to meet us important industrialists, such as Lord Nuffield and Lord McGowan. Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. J. J. Astor, M.P.—a Member of our Council, who is always willing to give us his most valuable help—kindly undertook to be Chairman of this Committee, and we set up under it a smaller Executive Committee, of which I was myself Chairman, to carry out investigations in a variety of factories all over the country. These Committees have done most valuable work and their enquiries have led directly to the placing of the first few men I have mentioned.

I am hopeful that something may come out of this which will prove to be a new and important step in the blind world, providing congenial and useful employment which will be of widespread benefit. If a man can be placed in a factory where he can do economic work, he not only has the very great satisfaction of feeling that he is usefully and competitively employed, but he also enjoys the social life and companionship of the workshop.

The present position is that we can use our knowledge and experience to try to find suitable jobs for suitable men. St. Dunstaners of this war, now in training, who are interested, should speak to Mr. Bankes-Williams, and any Great War St. Dunstaner who is young, by which I mean in the 40's or thereabout, and feels young, and who is strong and hard-working, might be fit for such a job. If he is interested, he should write to Mr. Ottaway,

at Tyttenhanger Park, saying that he would like to be considered, and he should give the names of two or three factories near to his home which are engaged upon active war-work.

We are only selecting for this experimental scheme men who, from our long knowledge of them, are likely to prove congenial workmates and good workmen, because it is very important that in the early stages we should have a large measure of success in all our placements. In general, we are only able to effect placements where the goodwill of local firms can be secured, because it is quite impossible to find houses in strange towns.

Any Great War St. Dunstaner who thinks about this matter should be warned that the jobs may prove to be temporary, and it would not be wise to give up an active job for a temporary job, even if there seemed to be a temporary financial advantage.

I am mentioning this matter at this early stage in case there is any man who proves to be exactly suitable for such a job, and for whom a job can be found in his own locality, but in order not to cause disappointment, I want to make it clear that the chances of our being able to make a suitable settlement near any particular place are very uncertain, and that this is only an experiment.

IAN FRASER.

Notes and News about St. Dunstaners

Our congratulations to F. W. Matthews, of Soberton, for a fine job of work, which he has been doing for several years now. He takes an axe, a saw, and some rope along to a large wood two miles from his home, and there cuts up wood. He has a shoulder strap with a sack and a cord at each end, and he balances two large bundles, or perhaps two large pieces, on either side. In this way he brought home about three ton last winter. Sometimes he is lucky and gets a car lift, or perhaps a lorry puts the wood up for him. "It's fine exercise," Matthews says, "and it leaves the wife free for her jobs." (Mrs. Matthews is a member of the Red Cross and was a nurse in the last war.)

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R. Paterson, of Thirsk, in spite of uncertain health and recurring attacks of deafness, is doing splendid work with a fire-fighting party. His job is on the stirrup pump. Four alerts in a week a short while back found him up and ready at his post.

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G. W. Francis, of Morley, is Captain of his local band of fire-fighters. Every Tuesday he does good work at the local Centre for the Blind, playing dominoes with them and helping generally.

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Another fire-watcher, E. Clover, of Melford, has given a blood transfusion at the local Hospital. Mrs. Clover was a blood donor at the same time.

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Our sympathy to A. Collins and S. Jennings, who have lately been victims of

air-raids. Fortunately, neither of our St. Dunstaners nor any members of their families were hurt, although they all had an unpleasant shaking. Collins writes: "My only worry was that I was covered with mud and was caught among the telephone wires and some trees that were blown across the road. But we are still alive and smiling. We can take it."

News of Old Friends

There have been many enquiries about Miss Morris. She is going along well and the doctor is pleased with her progress, although it is inevitably slow. Her address is now Maple Villa, Thetford, Norfolk.

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Mr. Charlie Harrison, well-known to all members of St. Dunstan's Sports Club and those who attended the Tuesday Night Socials, sends good wishes to his old friends. After joining the K.S.L.I., he was transferred first to the Pioneer Corps, and then to the Suffolk Regiment. The Army rapidly discovered his interest in sport and he is now serving as a member of the Regimental Sports Committee.

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Our sympathy to Mrs. Wiggins, of 87 Albany Street, who slipped in the street a week or two ago and fractured her right arm.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Bowers, of Hounslow, who celebrated their silver wedding on October 4th, and to Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Back, of Shaldon, whose anniversary was on November 11th.

Church Stretton Notes

Mindful of the seasonable weather we experienced here last winter, we are endeavouring to keep fit by outdoor exercise. Physical jerks on the balcony start our circulation at 8.15 a.m.; heavy-weights seem to spend the stand easy intervals leaping lightly on the fantastic toe. Among the most intriguing exercises is one which suggests to the looker-on the movements of the laundress at the wash-tub; we hope that in the shortage of domestic help this will benefit their family during the holidays.

Miss Hubbard and her friends are coming again this winter every Tuesday to hold a dancing class; consequently we hope to hear of no more falls of ceiling in the furnace room beneath the ball room.

The Football League is going strong, with five teams—"The Bashers," "The Rattling Blues," "The Woodpeckers," "The Mugs," and "The Soaks." At the moment they are fighting out an American Tournament and are so well matched that in these days of coupons we dare not risk our shirt on any particular team.

The Salopian Alpine Club has 20 members and many more aspirants. T. Rogers is President; Mrs. Greenland, Hon. Sec., and Misses Gough, Dufton and Stanley on the Committee. They intend (weather permitting, and that strongly emphasised) to set forth every Thursday and alternate Saturdays. The aspirants for membership must have climbed Caradoc and one other of the surrounding hills with the Club to qualify for membership.

The Entertainments Committee hopes to arrange a debate or a talk on Tuesday evenings. The season opened with a talk by R. Dufton on "The Development of Aviation." On October 14th there was a debate: "Are Speed Tests beneficial?" Pros, led by Dufton, seconded by Allen, lost to the Cons, led by Webber, seconded by Corbo, the voting being 11-15.

On October 28th, Mr. Salmon, Director of Talks at the B.B.C., came, not merely to tell us how the programmes are drawn up and the speakers selected and taught to put it over, but to learn from St. Dunstaners themselves how the blind listen-in. At 10.30 the Chairman, Mr. Bankes-Williams, closed the discussion, which had brought out that the average

blinded person, when listening-in, forms mental pictures with the aid of memory and imagination, and so can enjoy cinema and broadcasts as much as any sighted person; in fact, he is able to concentrate more strongly through lack of visual diversion.

Also on the 28th we were all invited to a private view of the latest St. Dunstan's film, and trooped down to the local cinema in full force. The Manager had kindly arranged for the film to be shown three times, with topical news and a propaganda film in the intervals.

As this picture was only filmed here a few months ago, many of the "stars" were in the audience and came in for leg-pulling on the homeward way. Ernest Russell, now a telephonist at Leeds Civic Hall, who is the raconteur in the film, carries out his part extremely well, and we hear that he has appeared in person at the cinema in Leeds which is showing the film, with the gratifying result that the Mayor has handed over a cheque of £2,751 for St. Dunstan's.

The picture is graphic without too much sentiment and, like its predecessors, showed St. Dunstaners at work and play. The general opinion was that it should be somewhat longer and show a few more of our activities.

On the 3rd, an invitation from the Raven Club drew most of us to Shrewsbury for one of their now well-known dances, and on the 17th we were the guests once again at the R.A. Sergeants' Mess.

On the 29th, the Mayor of Shrewsbury invited us to tea with him at Ward's Cafe in Shrewsbury, after the matinee at the cinema. The tea was in the best traditions of civic banquets (minus the turtle soup), and the Mayor closed a short speech of welcome with the words: "Mayors may come and Mayors may go, may St. Dunstaners go on for ever."

The following changes have occurred at Church Stretton during October:—

Admitted to Hospital—

Seaman W. Dougal, H.M.T. *Arden* (24), Eyemouth, Berwick; Able Seaman S. Barton, R.N., Barrow-in-Furness (27), Liverpool; Pte. A. C. Mitchell, Welsh Regt. (25), Swansea; Spr. R. J. Alty, R.E. (21), Widnes; A.C.1 Arthur Henry Bales, S.H.Q. *Limavady* (32), Worcester.

Transferred to Training—C.Q.M.S. H. A. Pugh, A.C.1 Donald Baker.

The Film—A Sequel

The Ministry of Aircraft Production received a gold braille watch from a Newfoundland widow, as a gift to a Spitfire, or other fund. Instead of having it melted down for the value of its gold, Sir Ian was asked if he would accept it for a blinded soldier, sailor, or airman of this war. Sir Ian agreed.

The watch had the initial "R" engraved on the case, and it was decided to wait until a suitable occasion presented itself for its award as a mark of recognition for services rendered.

The watch has now been presented to Ernest Russell for his excellent work in the film, undertaken at very short notice.

Director-General of the B.B.C. at Church Stretton

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Ogilvie were the guests of Sir Ian Fraser at St. Dunstan's, on the night of Friday, November 7th, and on Saturday morning they visited the Hospital and Training Centre and inspected the workshops and school rooms.

Introducing Mr. Ogilvie to the students, Sir Ian said: "As Director-General of the B.B.C., Mr. Ogilvie's job is to run the service, not to talk on it so much. That is why we don't hear his voice very often, but we experience the result of his work all round the clock. I would like Mr. Ogilvie to know what a very special place broadcasting has in our lives. I do not know any group of men who listen more, and to whom broadcasting means more, than St. Dunstan's men. The B.B.C., apart from being a source of pleasure and interest to us, has been a good friend to us, too. They fostered and started many years ago the Wireless for the Blind Fund, for which a broadcast is made every Christmas, and that has contributed a great deal towards the happiness of many in our little world."

Mr. Ogilvie expressed his great pleasure at being at St. Dunstan's again. He had known it in Regent's Park and at Brighton. It was grand now to be with them at Church Stretton. He himself belonged not to St. Dunstan's, but to a kind of "sister" brotherhood—the Limbless ex-Servicemen's Association. (Mr. Ogilvie lost his left hand as a result of his service in the last war.)

"Amongst its other functions in war, the business of wireless is to depress the

enemy and to cheer us at home. In these last few weeks we have had, right out of the horse's mouth (if that is not too complimentary a term!) definite evidence of the power of the British radio as a war-winning instrument. Goebbels himself has said, 'This B.B.C. poison must be got out of the German blood,' and imposed the death and other penalties for listening."

Speaking of home broadcasting, Mr. Ogilvie said: "We have tried to keep our services as varied and as rich as possible, and we take every step that we can to inform ourselves of the needs and wishes of the people. If anybody at St. Dunstan's has tips to give us, I do hope they will let us have them. St. Dunstaners and others have difficulties of one kind, but they have one compensation which is right up the broadcasting street—the faculty of hearing. We have in St. Dunstaners a body of listeners whom we always have in the back of our minds, knowing what broadcasting means to them, and knowing also what jolly good, sensible, first-class critics they are of our services."

Sons and Daughters in the Services

AITKEN, Fusilier R. (Newcastle), R.N.F.
 ALCOTT, A.C.2 J. (Shorcham), Royal Air Force.
 BATES, Albert (Old Park, Salop), Royal Air Force.
 CARTER, Sapper K. (Darlington), Royal Engineers.
 COLEMAN, A.C.2 P. (Northampton), Royal Air Force.
 COLLINS, Cyril (Potto), Royal Engineers.
 COLLINS, Private Herbert (Jarrow-on-Tyne), Pioneer Corps.
 DENNIS, Private Ronald (Cosham), Royal Army Ordnance Corps.
 EARL (*nee* Glendennan), A.C.W. 2, W.A.A.F.
 EVANS, Private T. L. (Rhuddlan), K.W.W.R.
 GOUNDRILL, O., Royal Air Force.
 GRIFFITHS, Lce.-Cpl. (Northampton).
 HEALEY, O.S. W., Royal Navy.
 HILLS, A.C.W.2 Kathleen (Ramsgate), W.A.A.F.
 MCGUIRE, Pte. J. (Drogheda), Cambridgeshire Regiment.
 MCGUIRE, A.B. P. (Drogheda), Royal Navy.
 MILLER, O.S. John (Islington), Royal Navy.
 NASH, A.C.W.2 Joyce (Hastings), W.A.A.F.
 SMITH, Driver Samuel (Blackpool), Royal Engineers.
 SWINGLER, Leslie, Royal Air Force.
 TARLTON, Jnr. Eng. G. H., Royal Navy.
 WALKER, Pte. A. C. A. (Hanwell), A.T.S.
 WARREN, Pte. Phyllis (Macclesfield), A.T.S.
 WHEELER, Mervyn C. (St. Albans), Pioneer Corps.
 WHEELER, Steward's Boy Ian (St. Albans), Royal Navy.
 WILKIE, Driver J. (Horninglow), Royal Army Service Corps.
 WILLIAMSON, Gunner F. T. (Warrington), Royal Artillery.

Young St. Dunstaners

Olive Dodds, daughter of our late St. Dunstaner, R. Dodds, married Mr. John Foster, of Swalwell, on November 1st.

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Mr. and Mrs. Straughton's son, Leslie, has passed his School Certificate, securing five distinctions and four credits. He has been accepted by the United Steel Co. as a student apprentice—an excellent start to his career.

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The fourteen-year-old grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley, of Stony Stratford, who has lived with our St. Dunstaner and his wife since he was a baby, has taken on an allotment—a man's size job—and now proudly takes home his own produce to his grandparents. Good luck to him.

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Allen Caldwell (Anglesey), has been granted a State Bursary for radio-location.

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Charlie Gill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gill, of Teddington, a lance-corporal in the Royal Artillery, got his stripe after a fortnight's training. He is captain of the football team and leader of gym., and has fought in twenty-five middle-weight boxing matches, winning twenty-four.

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Bessie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Glendennan, of Dagenham, was married on February 8th last to A. H. Earl, of the K.R.R.C., of Mortlake.

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Pat, eleven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Barbour, of Brighton, has won a scholarship to Varndean School.

Wounded—But Flying Again

The son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Summers, of Eastleigh, a sergeant pilot in the Royal Air Force, was shot in the foot while flying over Germany. Fortunately, he just managed to get back safely, but his big toe has had to be amputated. Nevertheless, he is flying again. He has just enjoyed a much-deserved fourteen days' sick leave.

No News—Good News

For over six months, Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Hill, of Bristol, have had no news of their sailor son, Albert. Now they have heard he is one of the survivors from his ship and is in Egypt. He is expected home shortly.

November 11th

Captain Sir Ian Fraser, accompanied by Lieut. Esmond Knight, R.N.V.R., and Flight-Lieut. C. W. W. Cooper, St. Dunstaners of this war, and M. Burran, representing Great War men, laid a wreath on the Cenotaph on November 11th, "In memory of their comrades, from the Chairman of St. Dunstan's, and the officers, N.C.O.s and men and women blinded in the Empire's service." The party also included Lady Fraser and a Polish officer who has become blind as a result of war service. Company Corporal Major J. Dawkins, Royal Horse Guards, and Head Orderly T. Watson, acted as escorts.

A New Story of Saint Dunstan

Matron Vaughan Davies draws our attention to the following story of the Saint, which recently appeared in the "Field":—

"St. Dunstan, who was a farrier, was one day working in his smithy when the devil walked in. The Saint recognised his visitor, but said nothing. Satan held up a hoof and asked to be shod. The Farrier agreed, and did his work with such a hot iron that the hoof was singed. The nails St. Dunstan used were long and sharp, and gave so much pain that the evil one howled and asked him to stop. The good man said he would, only if the devil promised him that neither he nor any of his witches would enter a door or gate to harm man or beast if a horse-shoe were nailed upon it. This promise he kept and that is the reason why a horse-shoe nailed on a gate safeguards it."

This is certainly an interesting variation of the well-known story of the Saint pinching the devil's nose.

Ypres

While serving in the Ypres section in the early part of 1915, we were billeted in an old brewery, and were soon using some of the big barrels as baths.

One of our lads, after looking suspiciously at the cloudy water in one of the barrels, turned to a corporal and asked how many had already used it.

"Three," answered the N.C.O.

"Only three?"

"Yus, three," repeated the corporal. "The West Kents, the East Surreys, and the H.L.I."

B.B.C. Programmes

We print below a further batch of extracts from letters from St. Dunstaners, expressing their views of B.B.C. programmes and wireless reception.

"I have always been more interested in the technical side of wireless and spend very little time listening to the programmes. Generally, however, I prefer the Forces programme to the Home Service. I am always interested in the Postscripts. The best of these, I think, was the running commentary on the first air attack upon a convoy, about a year ago.

"The European News, I think, is the best news of the day.

"I do not spend much time listening to 'Jerry' propaganda, as it has been proved that no reliance can be placed in what he says. One point about German propaganda which I think needs more publicity over here is that when quoting speeches or newspaper articles, a word is left out which completely alters the sense of a sentence. Here is an example. When Mr. Churchill made his statement about the fall of France he said, as near as I can remember, 'With the fall of France we have lost one of our greatest assets.' The Germans, quoting this speech, said, 'With the fall of France we lost our greatest asset.'"

HAROLD E. RAYMOND,
St. Annes-on-Sea.

"I think the B.B.C. do remarkably well to keep two programmes going as they do. I feel, however, that despite the trying conditions under which broadcasting is carried on, the programmes do not compare so well with pre-war broadcasts.

"Music has many phases, enough, in fact, to suit practically all tastes, and I venture to say that the majority of listeners prefer good music to some of the drivel that is poured out, mostly by the jazz bands. I grant that this type of music has its devotees, but I believe them to be in the minority.

"I like plays—but why so many murder or crime plays?

"The News Bulletins are quite good. Personally, I think there is over much repetition in some of them, and an inclination to cut down 'Home News' in favour of 'War News.' I like War News when

there is something doing, but I also like to know what is happening at home.

"With regard to the Forces Programmes, it seems to me that the B.B.C. greatly underestimates the intellectual ability of the Forces. I also think that band concerts, after the style of those given in the parks in peace-time, would be welcome."

J. M. COLLEY, Luton.

"I have been a listener from the very start of broadcasting, and so have watched the development of the system. To my mind there was a steady improvement in the programmes, as well as in the transmissions, and this high standard was maintained until about 1932, after which a steady deterioration set in, and this has continued up to the present time. I think the first step in the downward direction was the splitting up of the intellectual part of the programme, and scattering the various talks at all sorts of odd hours. Another retrograde step in the amusement side of the programmes has been the increasing amount of time devoted to the jazz, or rhythm, or swing, and that crowning atrocity known as the crooner."

J. A. GODWIN, Weymouth

"Looking back over the twenty years of B.B.C. performances, they have done very well indeed. The masses have learned a great deal in many fields, and, on the whole, the general standard of intelligence has gone up. Recognising this fact, I rather feel the B.B.C. are inclined to drag behind instead of keeping pace with the trend of the mass mentality which they themselves have done much to bring about.

Plays are all too few. It always surprises me that the B.B.C. cannot put on, say, two really good plays every week. Again, they have a habit of putting on plays just as one is ready for bed. Why can't they take play acting seriously, and put on the very best companies immediately after the nine o'clock news?

"The religious talks are very instructive for the most part, but here again there is still room for a real genius in the matter of simplifying the peculiar confusion religion has come to mean to most of us."

FRED C. S. HILLING, Taunton.

One Old Soldier to Another

Sir Ian Fraser and Mayor La Guardia in Atlantic Exchange

In an Armistice Day Programme, broadcast in the United States, Mayor La Guardia of New York and Captain Sir Ian Fraser, M.P., in London, exchanged greetings and messages in their capacity as veterans of the Great War. In his message Sir Ian Fraser said:

"Thank you for that wonderful message, my dear Mayor. But I am not going to talk to you as Mayor, or as a distinguished leader of your people, or as one who has done so much to send aid to Britain. I am just going to speak to you as one old soldier to another.

"You and I fought side by side in that old war, and this is our time of remembrance—remembrance of our comrades who did not come back. I have just attended the Armistice-tide ceremony in my own little village, in the depths of the country. We were seeking the Eternal Light, just as you. We sang, 'Oh God, our Help in Ages Past, Our Hope for Years to Come'; we said the same prayer in the same tongue as your people, 'Give us this day our daily bread'—never have these familiar words had such a significance for us as now. We quoted those splendid lines of Laurence Binyon, 'They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn; At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

"You and I were blood brothers once, and the Victory we won gave us twenty-five years of peace and freedom for our children to grow up. You and I are old enough to realise now, though perhaps we did not realise it then, how different the world would have been if we had lost that war. How truly did you say that it was not fought in vain.

"Thinking of those days, I am always stirred to think of your valiant youth—two million of them—who hazarded all and came across the seas to win the last Great War with us. And whatever the lawyers may say, you're in this shooting war again with us. You must determine, no one else can or should, how your forces are disposed in the days that are to come, but I hazard a guess that your folk and mine will fight this war to Victory side by side again.

"My comrades of the Great War here, through the British Legion and individually,

were the nucleus of our Home Guard—a Citizens' Force to help resist invasion; they were the nucleus of the Fire Guard—to protect our factories and our homes; they went back in thousands to make officers and N.C.O.s to teach the youngsters how to fight and march, and swear and love and laugh, and act like men and soldiers. They were a great strength to our country, with their discipline and their tradition and their loyalty, and I do not doubt that your comrades of the Great War in the American Legion occupy the same honourable place in your country.

"The hearts of men will be stirred by your message, Mayor La Guardia. Let me tell you that we thank your people from our hearts for the abundant and generous help you give us. If you send more, and if you send it quickly, this war will be finished all the sooner.

"Somehow I feel that your people and mine are trustees for mankind, to see that the things our comrades died for do not perish from this earth. Somehow I feel that once again your soul will march with ours, and side by side our two peoples will take another step forward on the journey of mankind. We will look upward together, and our eyes will see the glory of the Coming of the Lord, and the Eternal Light will shine upon a fair earth, which we have preserved and in which we have done our duty."

Armistice Day, 1941

*Twenty-three years ago they said:
Give us a truce; we mourn our dead.
Famine stalks our Fatherland.
Oh, give us time to understand!
We gave them time—they signed the Peace.
We worked to amity's increase,
Though error mocked our human prayers—
Inhuman lust commanded theirs.
They did not, would not understand
That strength could lend a helping hand.
They dreamed to conquer all the earth,
And slaughtered Jews to wet their mirth.
A dozen European lands
They clawed with crime-fouled, murdering hands—
But to their lustful eye there crept
The threat of tears no soldier wept.
Fear in the heart will sag their knees;
Recoiling hate their passions seize;
And retribution's stark demand
This time must make them understand.
Make them to understand that power
Is vested not in men who glower:
But springs eternal in the smile
Of friends who make this life worth while.*

W.A.U.

“ In Memory ”

SERGEANT MAJOR CHARLES APLIN
3rd Essex Regiment

WITH deep regret we record the death of C. Aplin, of Warley, Essex.

Aplin served twenty-four years in the Essex Regiment. He was in the South African Campaign and lost his sight while on active service in France. He held five medals in respect of his service in the South African War and the Great War. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1921 and was trained in wool rugs, which he was forced to give up in 1935 owing to ill-health. He died on October 23rd, after a long illness.

The funeral service was held in the Essex Regiment Chapel, and was attended by several of his old comrades. Major Aylmer and Major Andrew represented the Essex Regiment. Among the many wreaths was one from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's, and from "all ranks of the Essex Regiment."

We extend our very sincere sympathy to Mrs. Aplin and her family in their great loss.

Deaths

We extend our deepest sympathy to the following:—

MUIR.—To Mr. and Mrs. W. Muir, of Whitley Bay, whose baby daughter, born on October 20th, survived only one day.

SHERIDAN.—To Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, of Glasgow, whose son, Arthur, passed away on October 22nd after a long illness.

Pensioners' Friend Dies

The Rt. Hon. F. O. Roberts, Labour M.P. for West Bromwich from 1918 to 1931, and from 1935 until April this year, died on October 23rd. He was at one time a member of the Advisory Committee for the Welfare of the Blind, and was Minister of Pensions in the Labour Governments of 1924 and 1929.

Christmas Cards

The Chairman's suggestion last year that during the war St. Dunstaners should economise in paper and postage, and not send any Christmas cards, was taken up well. It was generally felt that for many reasons the non-sending of cards should be made the personal concern of us all. This year the paper shortage is even more acute, and we therefore suggest that there shall be no more Christmas cards until Victory.

Sir Arthur Pearson Anniversary

It has been customary for a number of old St. Dunstaners to subscribe each year for a wreath, to be placed on Sir Arthur's grave in Hampstead Cemetery, on December 9th. As usual, the subscription is limited to one shilling, and should be sent to Mr. Askew, who acts as Honorary Treasurer. It should be sent to him at Tyttenhanger Park.

A Destroyer for Sixpence!

St. Dunstan's has been presented by an enthusiastic model engineer—Lieutenant Shand—with a working model destroyer. Over 2,500 working hours were put into this model by the donor. St. Dunstan's is anxious to raise as much money as possible by organising a popular weight-guessing competition for this generous gift. The conditions are very simple. Competitors are invited to estimate the weight of the destroyer. They should send their estimates in the following form:

“ I estimate the weight of the working model destroyer to be — cwts. — lbs. — ozs. — drachms. I enclose postal order for 6d. (or more).” Any number of entries may be sent in by any one person, provided each estimate is accompanied by at least 6d. All entries are to be received not later than December 19th, and the winner will be notified by telegram on December 23rd—in time for Christmas.

In order to assist competitors in estimating, the following specification is given:

Length, 6ft. 2in. Beam, 8in. Height to funnels, 13in. Marine-type boiler. Firing by blow lamp. Reserve tank. Twin screws, operated through gear-box for separate forward-neutral-reverse on each propeller. Speed, about 10 miles per hour. Fittings, metal, as nearly as possible to scale, including detailed torpedo tubes, gun turrets, boats, etc.

Groups of entries may be sent in. No special forms of entry are needed, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Sir Ian Fraser will act as the judge, and his decision must be accepted by all competitors as final.

Entries should be addressed to “ Model Destroyer Guessing Competition,” St. Dunstan's, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.