

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

“NO name sounds so sweet in the blind world as the name of St. Dunstan's.” So spoke an American blinded veteran of the Great War at a meeting in New York. He was urging the formation of a blinded soldier training centre in the United States.

Lady Fraser and I have just returned to this country after a two months' visit to Canada and the United States. We made the journey each way by air. I have often been asked whether I think the big flying boat will replace the passenger steamer. I think it will to some extent in time, for the business men who are in a hurry, but there are many difficulties such as delays due to weather.

The primary purpose of my visit was to consult with the Canadian and American authorities as to the welfare and employment of their blinded Service men and women.

To assist American soldiers in the American Expeditionary Force in Great Britain who may become temporarily or permanently blinded, or who may be threatened with blindness, I have offered to the American Secretary of War the facilities of St. Dunstan's for such patients awaiting evacuation to the United States. Mr. Stimson has accepted this invitation, and has assured me of the War Department's reciprocal desire to assist British Service men blinded in American theatres of war. Similar arrangements for the care of Canadian blinded soldiers were made early in the war and are working satisfactorily with the Canadian military medical authorities in England.

In response to a request for advice in both countries as to the best methods of caring for war-blinded persons, I stressed the importance of establishing a Training Centre and After-Care organisation especially designed for and devoted to the ex-Service group. Young blinded serving men recover their spirits and learn how to face their new life best in an “old soldier” atmosphere. I do not think there is any doubt that institutions similar to St. Dunstan's and making use of our experience will be established in Canada and the United States.

In Toronto, where the Headquarters of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is situated, I discussed with Colonel Eddie Baker and his officials the methods of training and nature of employment we might find suitable for blinded men in his country and in ours.

The C.N.I.B. was inspired by the return of St. Dunstaners to Toronto. Colonel Baker was the leader of this group, and with the aid of L. M. Wood, the President, and Lady Kemp, President of the Women's Committee, and other business and social men and women, the C.N.I.B. was founded. It now covers the whole Dominion, has a very large collected income, and gives general service to all blind people. Before the C.N.I.B. came into existence there were local institutions, which did quite good work, but they were not national in scope. Colonel Baker and his colleagues therefore had virgin soil to till, and they have, without doubt, created one of the best voluntary agencies for the blind that

I have seen anywhere. The C.N.I.B. stands high with the Canadian Government, and Colonel Baker has considerable prestige in the blind world and in the ex-Service world.

The development of the St. Dunstan's idea in Canada leads to a change for St. Dunstan's itself. Whereas in the last war all Canadians were trained at St. Dunstan's, in this war all Canadians will be trained in Canada, unless in exceptional cases we are asked to give training in some course not available in that Dominion. It may be that the developments in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa will lead to similar results.

Associated with the C.N.I.B. is the Sir Arthur Pearson Club. All Canadian blinded soldiers belong to this Club, but for practical purposes, only those living in or near Toronto can fully enjoy its amenities.

They have a Club Room where social gatherings and concerts are held, and from time to time they have a dinner or reunion, to which men come from all over Canada. They gave a dinner in my honour, at which between twenty-five and thirty men were present. Some had come a night's journey to meet us. J. Harvey Lyons, the President, took the chair, and amongst those present were Bill Dies, Past President; Colonel T. E. Perrett, perhaps the oldest St. Dunstaner in Canada; Harris Turner, who proposed a vote of thanks to us; and A. G. Viets, who, with Eddie Baker, was one of the founders of the C.N.I.B.

Colonel Baker and I went to Ottawa, where Lady Fraser and I were the guests of the Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, the High Commissioner. We also had an invitation to dine privately with Mr. Mackenzie King, at his country house. He has been Prime Minister of Canada for sixteen or seventeen years without intermission, a record for any British country. I also saw many other Ministers, in particular Colonel Ralston, the Minister of Defence, and Mr. Mackenzie, Minister of Pensions. With them I discussed the care of blinded men in general, and our care of their men in Britain in particular. These conversations will, I think, confirm the arrangements whereby their men come to us before they are returned to Canada. Last war we had over a hundred Canadian blinded soldiers. It may be the same again.

I feel we are right to take every step to try and get these men and other Dominion men, and Americans, to St. Dunstan's, if only for a few weeks. Their presence will enrich the life of the place, and there is no question that it will be of very great value to the individuals, and will give them something they cannot yet get anywhere else in the world.

The Canadian war spirit is strong, and her mobilisation of man-power and productive resources is great. The public are already accepting cheerfully many war-time restrictions, and I judge that these will shortly be very greatly increased.

In the United States

On arrival in New York I was asked to broadcast by the Columbia Broadcasting System, and spoke at a good listening hour in the evening on what is called a national hook-up; the audience was estimated at ten to twenty millions. This talk was mainly about the British war effort, but reference was made to St. Dunstan's.

I had a day's discussion with the Blinded Soldiers' Committee of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, under the chairmanship of Robert B. Irwin, who is an outstanding blind leader in the United States. This is an all-American Association, covering the whole country, and perhaps the only national voice in the American blind world. Accordingly they are consulted by Washington authorities and have some influence. I found a tendency on the part of the various States and local institutions to wish to have the individual blinded soldiers under their local care. I persuaded them that this was a wrong line, and that there should be one national soldier training centre and after-care organisation, like St. Dunstan's. This view eventually prevailed and they passed resolutions clearly recommending this course to the administration.

Amongst those present at this gathering was Frank Smith, Canadian ex-St. Dunstaner, for many years settled in Philadelphia, a leading osteopath, Dean of the School of Osteopathy, and lecturer in psychiatry.

At Detroit we visited munition plants and saw some interesting new weapons. At Washington we lunched with Lord Halifax at the Embassy, and were received by Mr. Stimson and the Surgeon General. We were also received by the Assistant Secretary of State on behalf of the American Government.

At Kansas City we were the guests of the American Legion, and I addressed their Annual Convention on the British war effort, and delivered a message from the British Legion. It was a very enthusiastic and emotional audience. Thousands shook us by the hands as comrades of two wars. In the course of my speech I said:—

“The American Legion and the British Legion have a common task—to maintain national unity and Allied unity in the war and in the peace; to awaken a fuller sense of responsibility and urgency in the civilian mind; to see that the returned soldier gets a square deal. A square deal involves an ordinary job if he comes home fit, and generous compensation and, where possible, a special job, for which he must be trained, if he comes home disabled.”

The American Legion is more successful in obtaining concessions for ex-Servicemen from the American Government than our British Legion is from our Government. We should not perhaps go all the way with them or emulate all their methods, but I think ex-Service bodies in this country should have a more vigorous policy, particularly perhaps as we approach the end of the war. It is St. Dunstan's policy to work in the closest possible co-operation with the Legion in our representations to the Government about pension matters.

We went on to St. Louis and Chicago, where I addressed a meeting of leading business men, under the auspices of the Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind. This society is unique; it conducts education in braille and the art of being blind, and in a variety of professions and hobbies, by correspondence. I have asked them to send us some samples of their courses; some of them, or modifications of them, may be of use in connection with our education by correspondence of British prisoners of war in Germany.

Dayton and Cleveland completed our tour.

The United States war effort is remarkable already and takes giant strides. The conversion of Britain and America from peace to war is a spiritual and physical problem of great magnitude and complexity. In Britain it is no doubt almost complete. In the United States a comparable maximum is some way off, but the approach is rapid and accelerating.

Everywhere there is a great hunger for news and information as to the way the war affects the life of the ordinary British citizen. There are, of course, misunderstandings, but it seemed to me everywhere I went that the American people were glad to have mis-statements corrected and to hear good of their ally. We in Britain do not fully appreciate America's point of view or her war effort, and there should be a reciprocal invitation to Americans to come and tell the ordinary man in the street about it. Without exception, some thousands of individuals I met showed friendly understanding, and a determination to see the war through whatever the cost.

I have come back firmly convinced of the strong comradeship and friendship of the people of Canada and the United States, and their determination to secure victory and a lasting peace.

IAN FRASER.

Notes and News

A. W. Blaker, of Mere, Somerset, who was to present the prizes at a local whist drive in aid of St. Dunstan's, won the first gentleman's prize himself.

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St. Dunstaners who met them at Brighton will be interested to hear that T. Kent's sister was married on September 30th to his old friend, Gunner Albert Wellavise, now serving in H.M. Forces.

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Who was the St. Dunstaner mentioned in the Harry Champion B.B.C. programme on

November 14th? It recalled that this “old timer,” while playing at Hammersmith Palace, and singing “Ginger, You're Barmy,” exchanged humorous bows with a red-head in the stalls, to the delight of the audience. Years later, when presenting a big cheque at a variety concert at Regent's Park, a V.A.D. asked him to speak to one of the “boys.” It was his “ginger” friend of the stalls!

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Eden, of Sidmouth, July 21st; and Mr. and Mrs. W. Strachan, Motherwell, August 8th.

Church Stretton Notes

The last Sports Meeting of the season, held on October 10th, was the first big event on our new ground at "Brockhurst." The latter will be a great asset, being much larger than the ground at "Longmynd."

Our good friends, Sergt.-Major Worrell and Bombardier Gough, lent a hand in starting and judging the events. These were keenly contested because, as we forecast in the last REVIEW, a handicapping system has been instituted and points are awarded not only at the Sports Meeting, but also at the practices.

The following are the results:—

Throwing the Cricket Ball—

1, A. Mitchell; 2, D. Baker.

Egg and Spoon Race—

1, B. Priest; 2, G. Cock.

Standing Long Jump—

1, R. Alty; 2, N. Cook.

Ladies' Race—

1, Miss N. Gough; 2, Miss J. Walch.

Throwing the Medicine Ball—

1, N. Cook; 2, R. der Waas.

Heaving the Medicine Ball—

1, B. Priest; 2, H. White.

Three-legged Race—

1, D. Baker and Miss J. Walch; 2, F. Morgan and Mrs. Davies.

Treble Jump—

1, C. Womack; 2, R. der Waas.

Men's Race (Staff and Visitors)—

1, Cpl. Gough; 2, A. E. Startin.

Tug-of-War—

R. Alty, J. Kirby, D. Baker, G. Cock, R. Dow, F. Morgan, S. Blackmore, B. Priest.

For Points gained during Term—

1, N. Cook, 2, B. Priest, 3, F. Morgan.

Miss Pain presented the prizes, which were mostly war-time luxuries: pewter tankards, cigarettes or lighters for the men, and for the ladies, dainty face towels, which went on "points" the next day.

Football and walks still continue. On October 31st, Dr. Snape entertained the Walking Club to tea at Crown House. Suggestions for fresh winter activities are welcome.

Warned by two winters here and the gloomy prognostications of Old Moore and Co., we are preparing for the worst. Tiger Hall, under Matron Postlethwaite and

Miss Williams, led the way with log-sawing, and with the assistance of the boys in blue, a neat little pile is prepared every afternoon for the evening's comfort.

As you will see in Miss Pain's letter, "Grandfather Burley" has left the mantelpiece in the lounge and is off to the lucky winner. We miss his cheery little figure and most correct behaviour—he adhered strictly to the truth and agreed with Big Ben to the minutest point. We congratulate Burley, the maker, his new owner, and Grandfather himself, for their success in the Thousand Shilling Stakes.

We much appreciate the South African notes in the October REVIEW, bringing us tidings of friends old and new. We are glad that Jimmy Ellis has promised to write to us every month—his style is refreshing and he knows how to tell the tale.

The Prisoners of War Correspondence Club is keeping in touch with our blinded St. Dunstaners. Last month we received a letter from Bertram Bright, who has learnt and passed our tests in braille and typing, and hopes to become a telephonist. His mother wrote to him after paying us a visit, and he looks forward to coming himself some day. They, like our men here, are learning to walk about alone, and to be less dependent on sighted assistance.

The Ludlow Ladies' Club invited us again to a Social Evening on October 29th. It became so foggy that we feared we should not manage the journey, but Driver Fearn, with his good-humoured smile and his cap at the Beatty angle, piloted our long-suffering old bus through thick and thin to a very enjoyable entertainment, and brought us safely back as usual.

We are very sorry to hear that our friends of the Raven Club are on the wing. No doubt they will be glad to be back in their old haunts, but we shall miss those very popular evenings which they had given us every month since we came here.

Congratulations to the following, who have passed their tests:—

Typing.—G. Collins, H. Wigglesworth, Mrs. E. McClarnan.

Braille Reading (Interline).—M. O'Neil.

On November 2nd, Mr. Leonard Beaufoy, of the Ministry of Works and Planning, paid a flying visit to our St. Dunstaner (his father), and kindly gave us a short lecture

on "Town Planning through the ages," with a special reference to post-war reconstruction. He said that while we must not expect to build a new Jerusalem in England immediately after the war, the Government has already started preparations for carrying out a tremendous scheme for town and country factories and holiday centres, dormitories, and business places, roads and houses, at which he could but hint in the short space of half-an-hour. His audience was so interested that there was a constant stream of very pertinent questions in the half-hour's discussion which followed. We hope that Mr. Beaufoy will find time to come and address us again.

Admitted to Hospital.—P/O. R. D. Wall, R.A.F.V.R. (31), Neath, Glam.; H/Engine Fitter R. J. Vowles, R.M. (30), Portsmouth; Mrs. V. Formstone, Munition Worker (23), Wavertree; Pte. H. Akers, Pioneer Corps (20), Wigan; Dvr.-Mech. R. W. Branton, R.A. (24), Sherbourne; Pte. D. P. Frith, Hampshire Regt. (19), Marlow; Pte. E. Quinn, Pioneer Corps (28), Offaly, Eire; Dvr. T. E. Sellars, R.A.S.C. (25), Pickering, Yorks.

Discharged from Hospital, being transferred to Training.—L-Sergt. Grainger; Dvr. J. Daly.

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New Chaplain for St. Dunstan's

The Bishop of Hereford visited Church Stretton on Saturday, November 7th, and, at a special service, handed to the Rev. Andrew Nugee a licence enabling him to undertake his work as Chaplain of St. Dunstan's.

Andrew Nugee is himself a St. Dunstaner. Blinded in the last war, at Hooge, he came to St. Dunstan's, and then studied for Holy Orders in the Church of England. After twenty years' parish work, ending up near Sheffield, in an important parish, he has now come to St. Dunstan's, where he will act as Chaplain and as an assistant tutor.

In his first sermon, or talk to the men, as he would prefer to call it, he said: "I go forth to this new work feeling it to be the most important of my life. I wish to be of service to St. Dunstaners here, and to St. Dunstaners generally."

There is no chapel at St. Dunstan's at Church Stretton as yet, but one of the huts is being used for services. There was a

full congregation of men and staff when the Bishop came to give the licence. In a simple but moving ceremony, Sir Ian Fraser presented the new Chaplain to the Bishop, who handed him the licence and read through the Oath to King and Bishop. In his address, the Bishop said, "The people in the Diocese are proud to have St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners among them, and I am glad to license your new Chaplain, more particularly because he is a St. Dunstaner himself."

The new Chaplain's fluent reading of the Lessons in braille, and of unaccustomed prayers, impressed everybody and set a standard of attainment for the Braille Room. At Evensong a collection was made for the Poppy Day Fund.

The Rev. Andrew Nugee starts his new work with the help and good wishes of all.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser visited Church Stretton for two week-ends during the month, and had a talk with all the men in the hospital and the Training Centre, and with many members of the staff.

In the course of an address to the men, in which Sir Ian spoke of his trip to America, he also stated that the Council of St. Dunstan's had now decided that allowances should be issued from St. Dunstan's funds for the children of men blinded in this war, provided such children are born subsequent to nine months from their father's blinding, and are ineligible for Government allowances. The basis would be a new one, for there would be a sliding scale. Instead of the flat rate of 6s. a week, the following scale would be paid: Under five years of age, 4s. per week; five years and under seven, 5s. per week; seven and under ten, 6s. per week; ten and under twelve, 7s. per week; twelve and under sixteen, 8s. 6d. per week.

In certain conditions allowances may be continued after the age of sixteen, and educational allowances will be provided to aid boys and girls who are specially qualified and will specially benefit to go to an advanced educational establishment or a university.

Sir Ian reminded the men of the importance of remaining voluntary contributors under the National Health Insurance, and of saving all they possibly can while they

were in training. "The world outside," he said, "is a hard one compared with the relative comfort here, and it will be better for you not to set yourselves too high a standard of pocket-money expenditure."

Welcoming the new Chaplain, the Rev. Andrew Nugee, Sir Ian said: "We are glad to have a St. Dunstaner occupying this post. We all wish him good luck." (Applause.)

Mr. T. Rogers, Braille Instructor, proposing a vote of thanks, said he was sure old St. Dunstaners would be glad to know that the development of St. Dunstan's made it possible for the children of their young friends to be given a good chance in life.

The Comforts Fund Clock

The raffle for the Grandfather Clock has surpassed all our hopes or expectations. Over fifty guineas' worth of tickets were sold for the benefit of our Comforts Fund. The clock is ticking with pride, both at its own achievement and in the readiness with which you sent your shillings towards the Fund on a thousand and one chance.

The lucky winner was Mr. McGarrick, of London—not a St. Dunstaner—who bought his ticket from Mr. L. Warwick, an old friend of St. Dunstan's whom sportsmen will remember as an official in walks, etc.

Thank you all for your ready response, and congratulations and thanks again to J. Burley, who produced and presented both Grandfather and his elder brother, who came to us last year.

D.A.P.

No Christmas Cards, Please

The opinion prevails in St. Dunstan's community even more strongly than ever that we should all abstain from sending Christmas cards this year. By denying ourselves this pleasure, we save paper, which is shorter than ever, and reduce the work of our postmen and postwomen.

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.

South African Notes

Since last month's notes were written, Cpl. James Ellis has been admitted to Baragwanath Military Hospital in Johannesburg, for the fitting of an artificial hand. He is therefore unable to contribute the notes promised for this month's REVIEW, but the following is an extract from a letter received from him, dated September 23rd, which will, I am sure, be of interest to all St. Dunstaners:—

"I arrived at this place at rather an awkward time, because the whole Hospital was in a flat spin, busy preparing for an inspection by General Smuts. The morning being over we were prepared to sit nice and tidy until the General arrived, but we were mistaken—in came the cameramen, much to the amazement and thrill of would-be film stars! When these celluloid eaters had finished their preparations we again sat nice and tidy, being careful where we dropped our ash. The great moment came—the General arrived! My impression of the General is that he is a quiet, kind, unassuming man. I was overjoyed when he chatted with me and shook my hand, wishing me the best of luck. The whole of this time we were being filmed, so look out for the St. Dunstan's film star! When the procession of A.D.C.s had passed, an officer of high rank came back to me and said, 'I think Mrs. Chadwick Bates will be glad to hear that you have spoken with and been filmed with General Smuts.'

"This is a very nice hospital, good food and attention; the fellows in this ward are a jolly good crowd, with a good sprinkling of 'Cockneys,' so that you can bet that I have many good laughs, but in spite of all this I am already homesick for 'Tembani.' I sincerely hope that this finds you and all my friends at St. Dunstan's in the best of health and spirits."

We are glad to hear of Dvr. J. Daly's safe arrival at Church Stretton, and expect that he has given all St. Dunstaners there news of their comrades at "Tembani." We are all eagerly looking forward to the promised account of his voyage over—he has been greatly missed here.

We have a newcomer in Gnr. Ronald Vincent, R.A., aged 21. He, unfortunately, has lost both his hands, but is looking forward with interest to learning to typewrite

—a Remington machine is now being adapted specially for his use.

Our Norwegian, Nils Nilsen, whose knowledge of English is not so limited as he would sometimes have us believe, did not take kindly to netting. When he was having a lesson one day he did not seem to understand the instruction given him in English, so another lady instructor, who is, fortunately, a Norwegian, was called upon to translate the lesson into Norwegian. She did so in great detail, but only to find her efforts wasted, for Nils, at the end of the long explanation, merely said "I still do not like 'hommocks,' even in Norwegian!" He raised another laugh one evening when, as he had a bad cold and Matron promised him some hot milk and brandy as a night-cap, he said, "Thank you, Matron. I will have the brandy now and the milk in the morning. I do not want to spoil the milk!"

On September 16th we celebrated the opening of the new Wing with a Social Evening and Dance. The floor was perfect for dancing—the whole of the floor of the new building being of Rhodesian teak. Several members of the South African Committee were present, including Major-General W. E. C. Tanner and Mrs. Tanner and Mr. and Mrs. H. Alers-Hankey, also Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kennedy, the kind donors of "Tembani" and the new Wing. We had a splendid dance band, which was augmented during part of the evening by Jimmy Ellis, who played the trumpet in fine style. St. Dunstaners, their friends, members of the Committees, V.A.D.s and staff, and other guests, who have taken an interest in "Tembani" since its inception, numbering in all about 70, spent a very enjoyable evening. Excellent refreshments were prepared by Quartermaster Riker and the kitchen staff.—E. M. CHADWICK BATES.

Armistice Day, 1942

On the morning of November 11th, Sir Ian Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser, and St. Dunstaners M. Burren, N. Downs (last war), C. W. W. Cooper and H. Preedy (new war), attended at the Cenotaph and laid a wreath. Head Orderly T. Watson, D.C.M., Croix de Guerre, acted as escort.

Major Sir Neville Pearson

It is learned that Major Sir Neville Pearson, Bart., has left this country for service overseas.

Appointment

R. W. Slatter, of Bristol, one of the first officers to come to St. Dunstan's in this war, has been appointed Assistant Army Welfare Officer in his area.

Blinded Prisoners in Germany

In a letter to Sir Ian Fraser, from Lieut. the Marquis of Normanby, the sighted prisoner of war who has taken charge of the group of blinded men in a German prison camp, he says:—

"I often wish that you could be with us to see our branch of St. Dunstan's. I feel sure it would cause you some amusement, and also some pleasure, for nowhere will you find a better group of men, either in spirits or in loyalty to St. Dunstan's, and never will these men forget that they owe everything to St. Dunstan's, as indeed they do. St. Dunstan's will also, I hope, be enthused by their especial spirit, which, in the black times of depression, has not received the advantages of freedom and tuition which have helped their fellow St. Dunstaners at home."

Wounded

The son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Jolly, of East Ham, has been wounded in Egypt, and is now at a rest camp.

Promotion

Our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. J. McAndrew, of Bournemouth, whose son, Harry, is now a Captain in the R.A.S.C.

Sons and Daughters in the Services

ASHALL, L/Cpl. F., Royal Signals.
BALL, A.C. W. J. (Pontrhyfden), Royal Air Force.
BELCHER, A.C.W.2 K. J. (Hampton), W.A.A.F.
BROWN, Kathleen (Exeter), W.R.N.S.
CASHMORE, Marine N. A., Royal Marines.
COLLYER, A.C.1 W. G. (Kingsbury), Royal Air Force.
FLOYD, A.C.2 J. D. A., Royal Air Force.
FRANCIS, S. (Battle), Royal Air Force.
HINDLEY, A.C.2, Royal Air Force.
HURST, Pte. R. H. (Great Longstone), Welch Regiment.
HURST, Pte. G. (Great Longstone), P.T.C.
MARTINDALE, Pte. A. T. H.
MORGAN, Cyril (Tredgar), Royal Air Force.
MURPHY, Fusilier G. (Bedlington), R.S.F.
PALFREY, Gwen, W.A.A.F.
PORTER, O/S. R. S. (Seven Kings), Royal Navy.
RALPH, Pte. F., K.S.L.I.
SAYERS, Pte. G. (Minster).
SPACKMAN, Pte. M., A.T.S.
SQUIRES, Trooper E. R. D., Royal Armoured Corps.
WELTON, 2nd Engineer A., Merchant Navy.
WORTHINGTON, Pte. (Stockport), A.T.S.

“ In Memory ”

WIRELESS OPERATOR JOHN ARCHIBALD GODWIN
(*Eastern Command Labour Battalion*)

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. A. Godwin, late of Weymouth.

Blinded in the last war in an explosion on board ship, he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1920. For some years he was employed as a Home Teacher by the Western Society for the Blind, but since the beginning of 1926 he had occupied himself with netting and trays.

Air-raids at Weymouth upset his nerves considerably, and since leaving his home his health had not been good. He was admitted to Melplash Court, but he passed away there on October 15th.

The funeral took place at the Melplash Cemetery, and the service was conducted by the Rev. Earle, Vicar of Mapperton. St. Dunstan's was represented by T. Hartley, W. Spencer, T. Miles, W. Dee, and F. Vernon, and many beautiful wreaths were received from his many friends, including one from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow.

PRIVATE ALBERT GRIFFIN
(*Berkshire Regiment*)

With deep regret we record the death of A. Griffin, of Tupsley.

During the last war he served in France and was severely wounded at St. Quentin in March, 1918, losing his sight. He was taken prisoner by the Germans, and was sent to the notorious Ruhleben Camp, where he suffered great hardship. After six months he was repatriated and he then came to St. Dunstan's.

He was trained as a poultry farmer, at which occupation he carried on for a number of years. Of late, however, he has only been able to attend to his greenhouse, from which he derived a great deal of pleasure and interest.

He was taken ill in August of this year and was admitted to hospital. He returned home, but he died there on October 19th.

A wreath was sent from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades. We extend our sincere sympathy to his relatives, particularly to his sister, Mrs. Andrews, who has cared for him since the death of his wife in May 1939.

PRIVATE WILLIAM HIGGINS
(*Labour Corps*)

With deep regret we record the death of W. Higgins, of Hulme, Manchester.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1922, but was never able to undertake any serious training as he was not a fit man; he was, however, interested in a little business which he kept going right up to the time of his death, which took place suddenly at his home on October 9th.

Among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his relatives and to his housekeeper, Miss Abraham, who had been with him for a number of years. He was a widower.

PRIVATE ARTHUR THOMPSON
(*11th West Yorkshire Regiment*)

We deeply regret to have to record the death of A. Thompson, of Sprotborough, near Doncaster.

Enlisting in April, 1915, he was severely wounded at Ypres in September, 1917, and was totally blinded. He came to St. Dunstan's in November of that year and was trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker. He carried on at his work for a considerable time, although not in good health; of late years he has only been able to undertake light occupational work.

He was taken ill some months ago, but recovered sufficiently to be able to go to our Blackpool Home. On his return he was happily engaged in making arrangements for his son to enter Durham University this month when he had a relapse, and he died at his home on October 6th.

A wreath was sent from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades, and we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family. Two sons are serving with the Forces.

LANCE CORPORAL MATTHEW WESTWICK
(*12th Northumberland Fusiliers*)

We record with deep regret the death of M. Westwick, of Harrogate.

When the last war broke out, he was already serving, having enlisted in May, 1914. He went to France and in September of the following year was wounded. He came to St. Dunstan's and was trained as a masseur, and he practised in West Kensington until the London air raids, when he evacuated to Harrogate. He died very suddenly on October 2nd whilst out walking.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his relatives. He was a single man.