

# 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

### Our Staff on Service

I HAVE frequently made reference in these notes to the sons and daughters of St. Dunstaners who are on active service, and the Editor publishes regular notes of their names and activities and promotions and any other information that is sent in by parents.

It occurs to me just for once to write a note about members of our staff, and to ask the Editor to print a list of the members who are on service, stating the job they had with us and what they are now doing in the services. Some of the names will be more familiar, some less so, but to all I'm sure St. Dunstaners will wish "good luck." We have been very fortunate in our staff, and they have always given us of their best.

It will be remembered that St. Dunstan's started in 1915 and reached its busiest time from, say, 1917 to 1921 or 1922. Many of the staff came to us during the later war years and they were consequently a little older than we were, and in many cases either unfit for service or had themselves been wounded. Thus a considerable number of our senior staff are too old for active service in this war, but they are carrying on with very important national work in our own organisation.

While there have been one or two cases of deferment for a few months, while replacement was considered, there have been no exemptions from military service amongst those of our staff who are of the ages for being called up. This is just as it should be, for all must play their part who can possibly be spared. But it has made the carrying on of our work, much of which is specialised and skilled, very difficult, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to the older ones for working longer hours and under greater difficulties in order to help us out.

### Overseas Men

The first American to be blinded in the European theatre of war arrived at St. Dunstan's just before Christmas. I learn that another is expected, presumably from North Africa. A Dutchman and a Pole are still in training with us, and there have been two members of the Free French Forces. A recent arrival was a Canadian, and there is another Canadian in our St. Dunstan's group in the prison camp in Germany. Yet a third Canadian came to us for a brief time some months ago. I learn that there are three or four more Canadians already in Canada who were blinded by accidents of various kinds, and there are four or five Australians in the Commonwealth who were presumably sent straight home there from the Middle East. A British officer from India is now in our home in South Africa on the way home to England, and I learned only a day or two ago of another British officer blinded in Burma. Thus St. Dunstan's has its contacts and its problems all over the world. It adds to the difficulties of early blindness when a young fellow is far away from home, and it is one of our most earnest desires that our Hospital and Training Centre in Church Stretton or our homes and units in various parts of the world should be of assistance.

IAN FRASER.



### A Fine Family Record

Lieut. Commander John Kirwin, the grandson of C. E. Watson, of Widnes, has been invested by the King with the Distinguished Service Medal for gallantry in sinking two submarines.

He carries on a magnificent family record of service.

His great grandfather, Lieut. Isaac Watson, of the Black Watch, won the Victoria Cross, which he received personally from Queen Victoria, and his grandfather, our St. Dunstan, is a veteran of the South African War as well as of the Great War.

### War-Blinded Actor's Success

Many congratulations to Esmond Knight, the well-known stage and film actor, who was blinded in the *Bismarck* action, while serving on the *Prince of Wales*, and who has made a most successful return to the screen.

His first film, "The Silver Fleet," is a fine story of sabotage in a Dutch submarine-building yard, and we recommend St. Dunstaners to see it.

This is what some of the newspapers said of his performance:—

"Esmond Knight, triumphing over his blindness, gives a truly magnificent performance."—*Daily Sketch*.

"Not till the end of to-night's première of 'The Silver Fleet' did I realise, from a glance at my programme, that one of the principal parts had been played by Mr. Esmond Knight. Mr. Knight is the first sightless actor, on either stage or screen, to have played the part of a sighted person. It is a truly wonderful performance."—*Yorkshire Post*.

"Esmond Knight, the blind actor, has a big part as the Gestapo officer. He is remarkably good."—*Evening Standard*.

"Particularly effective is Esmond Knight, whose playing is a wonderful triumph over blindness."—*Daily Herald*.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following, who are celebrating their silver wedding anniversaries: Mr. and Mrs. S. Shields, Rayleigh, January 29th; Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Vigar, Exmouth, February 11th; Mr. and Mrs. S. Russell, Gorton, Manchester, February 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Blundell, Eton, March 21st.

### Serving Members of St. Dunstan's Staff

Name	Dept.	Service
W. G. ADAMSON	... Trading	Royal Marines
R. J. ARGENT	... Trading	R.A.O.C.
L. J. AUSTIN	... Ovingdean	R.A.F.
F. J. BAKER	... Appeals	R.C.S.
A. BARTLETT	... Trading	R.C.S.
W. T. BERRY	... Accounts	R.A.F.
C. E. BROOKS	... Stationery	Pioneer Corps
S. BROSTER	... Appeals	R.A.F.
Miss V. BURLEY	... Appeals	Women's Land Army
H. CATTERMOLE	... Massage	R.A.F.
H. S. CHRISTOPHER	... Appeals	R.A.F.
V. H. CLACKSON	... Trading	Pioneer Corps
F. COPPARD	... Ovingdean	
H. COPSEY	... Technical	Aircraft Visitor
J. DAWKINS	... Men's Sports	Household Cavalry
V. DRAKE	... Trading	R.A.O.C.
R. J. ELLIS	... Appeals	R.A.
F. H. GALE	... Appeals	Royal Navy
A. J. GASKIN	... Trading	R.A.
Miss D. GRANT	... Appeals	A.T.S.
F. J. GROVER	... Trading	R.A.S.C.
A. L. GUMBRELL	... Ovingdean	
S. C. HALL	... Trading	R.A.P.C.
W. HARROP-GRIFFITHS	... Appeals	Church
P. HAYCOCK	... Stretton	
Mrs. P. HEARN	... Appeals	Civil Defence Nursing
Miss J. HOBBS	... Trading	A.T.S.
Miss M. JOHNSON	... Appeals	A.T.S.
Miss J. KILLICK	... Appeals	W.A.A.F.
J. KNIGHT	... Trading	R.A.O.C.
A. KNOWLTON	... Trading	Royal Fusiliers
G. E. LEE	... Trading	R.A.O.C.
A. D. LLOYDS	... Secretarial	R.A.
G. McLAREN	... Trading	Recce. Corps
M. MUSTCHIN	... Trading	R.A.
G. J. OAKLEY	... Ovingdean	R.A.F.
Miss OWEN	... Secretarial	W.R.N.S.
R. W. PAUL	... Ovingdean	Royal Navy
W. G. T. POOK	... Trading	R.A.O.C.
C. E. ROBERTS	... Trading	A.R.P.
Miss E. ROBERTSON	... Appeals	A.T.S.
G. SAMWORTH	... Trading	Royal Navy
G. SANDS	... Ovingdean	R.A.M.C.
Miss M. SAUNDERS	... Appeals	Women's Land Army
A. O. O. SMYTH	... Welfare	Royal Navy
G. STEVENSON	... Estate	R.A.F.
E. STOCKER	... Trading	Pioneer Corps
G. SYRETT	... Ovingdean	
D. TACON	... Trading	R.A.F.
Miss M. J. TREVILLION	... Secretarial	W.A.A.F.
W. WEBSTER	... Ovingdean	Royal Artillery
R. J. WHITE	... Appeals	R.A.F.
F. A. WILKINSON	... Ovingdean	Royal Artillery
J. C. WILLINGTON	... Trading	I.T.C.
R. W. WILLOUGHBY	... Appeals	Middlesex Regiment
G. E. C. ZIPPEL	... Trading	R.A.M.C.

Of the above, we regret to record that F. Coppard is feared killed, and A. D. Lloyds reported missing. R. W. Willoughby is a prisoner of war.

### Church Stretton Notes

As we are having April in February, perhaps we shall have June in March, then we might start outdoor sports. Meanwhile we have continued that course of "brain polishing" we reported last month.

Our programme has included two talks, one from Mr. Way, Head of the Massage Dept. at the N.I.B., under whose care our massage students are trained. He was staying with us for a few days and in a half-hour talk he gave us some very useful hints from his own personal experience, having lost his sight fifty years ago, at the age of eleven.

He advocated reading braille in preference to listening to Talking Books, and advised learners to read something light and enjoyable—detective stories, for example—to memorise poetry and music, not only in order to train the memory but to while away time and save boredom when travelling alone, when the fellow passengers are often too shy to attempt to break the monotony. He is all for independence but not foolhardiness, and even favours the bugbear of the average St. Dunstan—the white stick. (What a week-end of leg-pulling there was for the first man who brought one down to the Brighton annexe!) He asked us to receive offers of help in the spirit in which they were given.

Another visitor was the Bishop of Nassau, whose diocese comprises hundreds of islands scattered over a large tract of ocean. In a short and breezy talk, he touched on some of the problems of Colonial life in the British West Indies, where the standard of education of the large population is appallingly low, and the British Government is at the moment making great efforts to cope with the problem.

On the 4th we had our own "Brains Trust" meeting, when seven people selected by the Entertainments Committee appeared on the scaffold and were quite kindly treated by the audience, for they were not subjected to that heckling and gruelling Intelligence Test which some of them were dreading. The Director, as question master, was a perfect Donald McCulloch.

The novelty of the month, however, was the Hidden Talent Competition. Each of the fourteen items had been kept a profound secret. Most of us had written to our home-folk, asking them to point out any talent

we had ever shown. Alas, no favourable symptoms were reported. However, the result was a splendid show and we hope that some of the talent revealed will be utilised at our coming Fete in "Wings for Victory" week.

To mention but a few of the items—Miss Nancy Carroll opened with a charming little piano solo, Mr. Kitson was a clever ventriloquist with Joe Walch as his human-doll, S. Blackmore was revealed as a real singer and gave a couple of songs in Devon dialect. Then we were almost reduced to maudlin tears by Bob Fullard's rendering of Mark Antony's funeral oration over Julius Cæsar; and Orderly Freeland restored our spirits by a monologue in which he depicted his daily sufferings as a shy and nervous man. This emboldened Peter Piper to recite some poems of his own composition.

The Judges, Mrs. Bankes-Williams, Mr. Banks, and Mr. Ralph, awarded first prize for the serious items to S. Blackmore and Piper, and for the less serious items to the Walch-Kitson combination.

The second Cribbage Tournament followed close on the first and is exciting much interest; in fact, it has developed into a sort of Derby with a sweepstake patronised by most of the community. We hope to announce the result in next month's notes.

On the 19th we were visited by another E.N.S.A. Party, and on the 25th spent another social evening at the invitation of the Ludlow ladies. On the 5th we entertained the members of the local branch of the British Legion to dominoes and an impromptu concert.

The following have passed their tests during the month:—

**Typing**—P. Saywell.

**Braille Writing**—R. Waas.

**Braille Reading (Interpoint)**—V. Dale.

**Braille Reading (Interline)**—W. Glover.

**Admitted to Hospital**—L.A.C. M. R. Hackett, R.A.F. (35), Aldershot; Pte. G. P. Buchanan, Canadian Army (30), Prince Albert; L.A.C. R. Britton, R.A.F. (38), Blackpool; F/O. H. Rogers, R.A.F. (23), St. Ives; C.S.I. J. W. P. Delaney, H.G. (29), Manchester; Pte. T. Brougham, King's Liverpools (33), Liverpool; Sergt. W. G. Morris, R.A.F. (22), London.

**Transferred to Training**—Pte. G. P. Buchanan, C.S.I. J. W. P. Delaney, and Pte. T. Brougham.



## Ten Little Longmynd Boys

(An entry in the Hidden Talent Competition)

Ten little Longmynd boys brailled a lower sign,  
One put dot 4 in and then there were nine.  
Nine little Longmynd boys typing rather late,  
One got wrapped in ribbons and then there were eight.  
Eight little Longmynd boys thought the chip-shop  
heaven,  
One chipped himself in two and then there were seven.  
Seven little Longmynd boys at their rug-shop tricks,  
One netted round himself and then there were six.  
Six little Longmynd boys going down the drive,  
One got lost at Belmont and then there were five.  
Five little Longmynd boys at the boot-shop door,  
One lost his sole to it and then there were four.  
Four little Longmynd boys hard at basketry,  
One played a false stroke and then there were three.  
Three little Longmynd boys at dot 5 W,  
One overslept himself and then there were two.  
Two little Longmynd boys learning how to 'phone,  
One called himself away and then there was one.  
One little Longmynd boy brooding all alone,  
Took to chicken hatching and then there were none.

## Marriages

Edith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Newell, of Bamfurlong, to Mr. Eric J. Treby, June 30th, 1942.

Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Keegan, Cork, to Miss Peggy Hook, February 20th.

Joan Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Sida, Lovedean, to Trooper John Ellis (New Brunswick, Canada), December 22nd.

Kathleen, daughter of Mrs. S. Wright, Bradford, to Lance Corporal R. Shepherd, R.A.C., February 1st.

Gwyneth Marian Batty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Batty, Killamarsh, to Mr. Raymond Thorpe, November 28th.

Henry James Eaton Hill (Royal Artillery), son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Hill, Devizes, to Miss Ivy Peggy Williams, January 9th.

Ada Lath, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lath, Sheffield, to Mr. Arthur Lawson, January 23rd.

Evelyn Doris Radford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Radford, Castle Cary, to Cpl. Henry R. Oliver, Jersey Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, January 6th.

Doris Rose, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Rose, of North Berwick, to Mr. Charles James Denniss, January 2nd.

Phyllis Warren, A.T.S., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren, Macclesfield, to Lce./Cpl. Cecil James Gould, January 30th.

## Colonel G. L. Thornton

Many St. Dunstaners will remember Colonel G. L. Thornton, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., R.A.M.C., and his help with regard to pension matters in the early days, and the pleasure we had of welcoming him as our guest at a number of West Country reunions. They will be distressed to know that he has suffered the loss of his wife, his house, and his household by enemy action. The Chairman wrote and conveyed to Colonel Thornton the sympathy of all St. Dunstaners in this grievous loss. In his reply, he says: "Amongst the kindness that seems to pour in upon me by every post, it would be difficult to name any letter that brings more strengthening consolation than yours from St. Dunstan's. Having so many who have graduated from St. Dunstan's amongst my friends, I can derive from your letter, in addition to sympathy, the spirit to carry on whole-heartedly with the work which has been entrusted to me for the period of the war."

Colonel Thornton was Deputy Commissioner of Medical Services, Ministry of Pensions, Exeter; he retired in 1937, but was called back from retirement during the war and is now serving again.

## Repeat Performance

W. A. Muggeridge, of Great Bookham, had to deal with an awkward client last month.

As Organising Secretary of the Citizens' Advice Bureau, he was interviewing an enquirer when a man came in, hit him on the chin and knocked him to the floor. It appeared he had a grievance against Muggeridge and the Bureau about a question of compensation for his wife.

The noise attracted attention, the police were called, and the man was arrested.

At Epsom Police Court he was fined £5, with two guineas costs. He refused to pay and, after an interval, he was brought before the court again. Alternative to paying—fourteen days. Again he was removed and came back a third time and agreed to be bound over. He was told his case would be dealt with later, but on being removed to the cell he made such a disturbance that he was detained.

One more appearance in the court—this time charged with damaging the police cell!

Footnote: Muggeridge is quite unruffled and carrying on as energetically as ever.

## Commons to Discuss War Pensions

From the "Daily Sketch," March 12th, 1943:

The position of ex-Service and last-war pensioners, both in regard to appeal tribunals for those dissatisfied with the decisions of the Ministry of Pensions and pension rates, will be raised in the House of Commons soon.

Sir Ian Fraser (Con., Lonsdale), who has taken a leading part in the welfare of ex-Servicemen, has the support of members of all parties for a motion which covers both these subjects.

He told me that the position about appeal tribunals is that the Ministry of Pensions are both advocate and judge in their own case. He believed that the number of cases of grievance ran into many thousands, but the figure was secret.

In regard to pension rates, he pointed out that the Beveridge Report said that the minimum subsistence level was represented by £2 a week for a married couple.

In 1919 the pension for the totally disabled soldier was fixed at £2 a week. When the cost of living dropped the pension became worth more and it has always been our pride to claim that we gave our disabled soldiers something more than a minimum subsistence level.

The alteration in the standards of living caused by the war had led to the position in which severely disabled soldiers were now living on a subsistence level, without any element in their income to give them small comforts and amenities.

The case was worse for the disabled men in this war, for they received only 37s. 6d. per week, and if they married or had children after they were wounded they got no allowances.

Sir Ian added: "The ex-Service community have been very patient, perhaps too patient, and the time has come when their spokesmen in the House should voice the view that they must receive a larger purchasing power, which means a larger share of the nation's wealth."

"It is not only right to press the claim of the disabled soldier now, but it is expedient to show the young men in the Forces that there are those in Parliament and outside who are determined to see that ex-soldiers and old soldiers are looked after."

Mr. Eden, Leader of the House, promised yesterday to consider Sir Ian's request for a day to discuss his motion on disability pensions.

It proposes that pensions and allowances should supply more than the mere subsistence needs of ex-Service men and women, or dependants who survive them. Something should be allowed for comfort.

Independent appeal tribunals are urged to ensure that all claimants get fair treatment. It is also suggested that present payment rates should be increased to meet the increased cost of living since they were fixed.

## Letters to the Editor

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

### Talking Book Records

DEAR SIR,

I liked Sir Ian's article about Talking Book records. I hope the warning will help to save many records.

I find the best way to put the needle on the record is to hold the pick-up with the fore-finger and thumb, letting the thumb come down about half-an-inch below the bottom edge of the pick-up; then one can feel the edge of the record with one's thumb. With a steady hand the record should start all right. If the lid of the carton is used to put the used records in after they have been played, they would not get mixed up. I put the record into the paper cover as soon as it has been used and turn the whole lot into the bottom half of the carton.

Yours sincerely, A. F. GROVES.

Ashford, Kent.

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

### Gardening and Reading Braille

DEAR SIR,

Last year was my first as a gardener, and by the close application of knowledge gleaned from such sources as braille gardening book, Mr. Ferguson's pamphlets, and Mr. Middleton's talks, I achieved some remarkable results. They were so good, in fact, that I was almost compensated for my broken finger nails, lumbago, rheumatism, and son of toil hands. The last-named condition seriously alarmed me at first, because it reduced my reading speed considerably. But by wearing a finger stall, however, and by keeping my finger as much as possible out of the way, I managed to preserve my sense of touch. I advise all those who would garden and read braille to do likewise.

Yours sincerely,

Anglesey.

ALLEN CALDWELL.

## Death

WILKES.—We extend our deep sympathy to A. Wilkes, of Oswestry, whose mother, with whom he lived, has passed away.

## Prisoner of War

Paddy, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Power, late of Ireland, and now of Weedon, Northants, is a prisoner of war in Italy, after having been reported missing.



### Australian News

G. Riseley, of Woodbridge, Tasmania, writes:—

"A Repatriation Committee has been set up by the Government, under the chairmanship of Capt. Marriott, St. Dunstan's representative, for the purpose of rehabilitation of blinded soldiers who return to this State, and I have been selected by the soldiers' executive to serve as their representative on this Committee. Besides being very gratifying, this will be of great interest to me, in an endeavour to treat these men on the lines of St. Dunstan's, as far as the Government will go."

We wish these representatives of St. Dunstan's work in Australia every success.

### Press Cuttings

From the "Star," February 23rd:—

Byron H. Webb, who is 23, and blind, has just started to teach men of the U.S. Signal Corps to repair radio sets in the dark.

A degree in physical science has been awarded to Webb, who does his instructing in a blacked-out laboratory. He has studied radio for several years.

Army authorities saw the usefulness of his skill in the training of signallers to make emergency repairs in darkness.

★ ★ ★

From the "Darlington and Stockton Times," February 6th:—

There was a big bet made the other day that a blind jockey had never ridden in a race and that a blind trainer had never prepared winners. I have been appealed to as adjudicator (writes J. Fairfax-Blakeborough).

There is one recorded instance of a totally blind professional jockey continuing to ride in public after he had lost his sight. He was William McCilvray. His father had the Blackshields Inn at Fala, near Edinburgh, and, after he had lost his sight, Willie rode only on the Scottish courses with which he was familiar.

The only blind trainer of whom I have any record is Edgar Cox, with whom the Yorkshire jockey, E. Crossley, was first associated when he went to the West Indies from Ayr. Cox once told me that he could distinguish each horse he had in training by the sound of its hooves.

### Sons and Daughters in the Services

BEST, Trooper L. W. (Goole), R.A.C.  
COLCLOUGH, O/S. A., Royal Navy.  
DOYLE, Pte. R. M., Devonshire Regiment.  
KIRK, A.C.2 Joe (Lancing), Royal Air Force.

From the "Soviet War News," February 12th:—

After they took Cherkessk in the summer of 1942, the Germans proceeded to exterminate all the Jews wholesale. Seven hundred and eleven Jewish families were utterly wiped out.

Only four Jewish families succeeded in escaping. Two of them hid in ravines near the city. The other two were saved by a blind old man, who hid them in the loft of his house. Being blind, he aroused no suspicion among the Germans.

Every night he climbed up to the loft to share his scanty food with the two families. He helped them in this way for eight months.

### Young St. Dunstaners

The son of the late W. Moore, of Southport, a corporal in the Scots Guards, is home on leave after five years in the Middle East. He was injured by bomb splinters near Fort Capuzzo.

★ ★ ★

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Batty, of Sheffield, who is in India, is to broadcast a message home.

★ ★ ★

Masseurs in particular will hear with pleasure that Peggy Greaves, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Greaves, of Sheffield, has passed the second part of her Conjoint examination and is now entitled to put the letters C.S.M.M.G. after her name.

### Promotions

Benny, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Skelly, of Batley, has been awarded his commission.

★ ★ ★

The son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Brogan, of Cambridge, has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Royal Air Force.

★ ★ ★

Leslie Blackett, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Blackett, of Saltash, has been promoted to Air Fitter in the Royal Naval Air Service, and has also passed the test for Electrical Artificer.

### Killed in Action

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Clarke, of London, S.E.12, whose son, Stanley, serving with the Royal Navy, has been killed in action, and to Mr. and Mrs. Humble, of East Howden-on-Tyne, whose son, Robert, serving with the Merchant Navy, must be "presumed killed."

### St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

The 5th Annual General Meeting of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club was held at Headquarters on Saturday, February 20th.

Most of the members were present, and unanimously elected the old Committee, H. Gover, C. F. Thompson, and N. Downs, to remain in office. John Waller, Secretary of the Civil Service Bridge Club, and Jack Callow, also of that body, were present to read minutes, reports, and letters. Many members of the Civil Service Bridge Club are staunch supporters of the S.D.B.C., and it is largely due to their efforts that a fairly high standard of play now prevails.

H. Gover, Founder and Captain of the Club, took the chair. He told us that Sir Ian, who, unfortunately, was unable to be with us, had agreed to become the Club's President. The members expressed their sincere appreciation, and asked the Committee to thank Sir Ian for his unflinching support. The chairman gave a brief but all-embracing résumé of last year's achievements. He thanked all those who had rendered such valuable assistance to the Club. Space does not allow mention of all their names, but will all concerned please accept our grateful thanks. The chairman went on to ask for even better and keener play. There is no complacency about our Committee. There was an impressive moment when, in quiet tones, he spoke of Rupert Graves, better known as "Pro," in whose passing we have lost not only a member, but also a very dear friend.

Resultant of the Chairman's Report and Agenda, the following were agreed: (1) That certain of the Portland Club Rules be adopted; (2) Inter-club League Matches to be played in Rubber Bridge; (3) A number of Bridge Drives to be arranged; (4) Duplicate Bridge Matches with selected Captains for peak Saturdays; (5) Members' subscriptions to remain the same, *i.e.*, 4s. a year; (6) A sum of 30s. to be sent to the Comforts Fund; (7) A sum of £2 to be sent to the Red Cross to buy cigarettes for the blinded prisoners of war. These matters have been left in the capable hands of the Committee. In due course the Rules and programme of events will be circulated to the members.

The Treasurer, C. F. Thompson, gave us all a pleasant surprise when he announced a credit balance of £6 4s. 1d. Collecting

subscriptions and odds and ends of monies is rather a thankless task, but C.F.T. carries this off with such charm that it is really a pleasure to fork out.

Any St. Dunstaners, old or new, interested in the king of card games, who would care to come along some time would be cordially welcomed, and Members would do their utmost to arrange for them to play.

J.H.

### Tribute

At Nottingham recently, Ernie Roderick, the British welter-weight champion, had the hardest of struggles to hold Jackie Potts, of Crewe. It was only by a close margin, after a gruelling contest, that Roderick won on points. "There is no doubt that Potts' fine condition was due to the work of Mr. R. Giffin, Crewe's blind masseur, in whose hands he was before the fight," said the local paper.

### Blackpool Raffles

Mrs. Thomas, of Rawden, sent us a duchesse set, which we raffled, and the handsome sum of £4 was raised. It was won by a stranger.

Later we had a Concert in the Lounge and raised £2, to which was added the "handsome sum of 4s.," which Printie raised by raffling one cigarette.

W. McQuirk gave a cigarette-making machine, for which we raised £1 5s. 3d. It was won by Mrs. A. Thompson, of Sprotborough.

Mrs. McQuirk knitted three dolls, "The Services." The sum of £2 6s. was raised and Miss M. McAvoy was the lucky winner.

J. McColleston sent a lovely fibre door mat, for which we raised £2 15s. 6d. It was won by Mrs. Scott, of Winsford.

Miss Boraston was the very fortunate winner of the half-moon shaped woolly rug, made by H. Cooke, the wool being supplied by J. Robinson, of Blackpool; £3 15s. was the sum sent to the Comforts Fund.

We have many other things awaiting attention. The donors of these gifts must not think that their efforts have been neglected. We are proud to have them, and when we have got down to the last article I think we shall advertise in the REVIEW for more; and for such a wonderful cause as the Comforts Fund for sons of St. Dunstaners, I do not mind being called

"THE SCROUNGER."



## “ In Memory ”

PRIVATE JAMES WILLIAM THOMAS CASON  
(4th Royal West Surreys)

We record with deep regret the death of J. W. T. Cason, of Ilchester, Somerset.

He was not wounded, but his sight failed whilst he was in hospital, his right eye being removed, and he came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1917.

Mrs. Cason, to whom he was very devoted, died in 1931, and for some years after he made his home with his daughter.

His health began to break up rapidly, and in 1939 he was admitted to Ovingdean as a permanent resident. At the outbreak of war he, with other men, was transferred to Melplash, but in August, 1942, he again went to live with his daughter at Ilchester, where he died on February 15th.

The funeral took place locally, and a wreath was sent from Sir Ian Fraser and his friends at St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his daughter in her loss.

GUNNER P. W. DRAPER  
(Royal Garrison Artillery)

We record with deep regret the death of P. W. Draper, of Canterbury.

He was wounded in 1915, after serving for thirteen years, and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1930. He took up poultry farming, but gave this up in 1934 and contented himself with wool rug making. His death on February 23rd came as a great shock to us all.

The funeral took place locally, a wreath being sent from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow.

SAPPER HERBERT DOUGLAS GAMBLE  
(R.N.D. Engineers)

We record with deep regret the death of H. D. Gamble, of Hitchin.

Blinded by a munitions explosion in 1918, he came to us some months later, since when he had interested himself in the tobacconist and confectionery business; this he gave up in 1932. Shortly afterwards he lost the use of his legs, and could only get about by means of an invalid chair. He then took up centre cane work.

Prior to becoming an invalid, Gamble was very keen on interior decorating, and wherever he had lived he had made many improvements in his home.

His death on February 5th ended many years of patient suffering; only his great strength of will supported him. In accordance with his wishes he was cremated at the Golders Green Crematorium, a wreath being sent from Sir Ian Fraser and his many friends at St. Dunstan's.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow in her loss.

PRIVATE H. J. GLENDENNAN  
(1/4 King's Royal Rifles)

With deep regret we record the death of H. J. Glendennan, of Dagenham.

He came to us in February, 1919, and spent his first years as a St. Dunstanian in Ireland, where he followed an occupation as boot-repairer, doing netting in his spare time. Unfortunate principles on the part of his customers, however, made him give up the former occupation, and he took up mat-making. He moved to England in 1934, and started at Raglan Street in the Nursery Furniture Department. When this department closed down, in December, 1939, he reverted to mat-making again. He began factory work in October, 1941.

In October, 1942, he was admitted to hospital with a septic foot. After his discharge two months later, he went to Melplash for convalescence, but became very ill there, and, upon doctor's advice, he was sent back to London, where he was admitted to St. Thomas's Hospital.

Nothing could be done for him and he returned home, where his wife nursed him constantly. He passed away on February 26th. At the funeral, St. Dunstanian J. J. Moeller, of Dagenham, represented St. Dunstan's, and among the many wreaths was one from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and children in their bereavement.

FIRST CLASS STOKER WILLIAM GILBERT JOHNSON  
(Royal Naval Division)

We have to record with deep regret the death of W. G. Johnson, of Harrogate.

At the outbreak of the Great War he was already serving, having enlisted in July, 1910. In March, 1915, he was discharged on account of loss of sight and physical unfitness. Crippled with rheumatism, it was not possible for him to train in anything but the lightest craft, but he did tackle typewriting, string bags, and wool rugs, and did very well.

He actually carried on with the rug-making right up to a short time before his death, which occurred in hospital in Harrogate on February 8th, where he had been admitted some fourteen days before. He was very popular, and the nurses and medical staff of the hospital paid high tribute to his wonderful spirits and patience. He was cremated, and respecting his own special wish that no flowers should be sent, we did not arrange for the usual wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

We send our sincere sympathy to his wife and family.