

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### The British Legion Conference

AT the Whitsuntide Conference of the British Legion, forty resolutions were discussed covering all aspects of pensions reform. Delegates from all parts of the country, demanded a change in the Government's attitude. Rates should be increased and the benefit of the doubt should really be given to the man who was disabled or invalided. The principal points of interest to our readers were that pensions for the two wars should be the same, that wives and children's allowances should be paid whenever a man gets married, and that regulations should be sufficiently elastic to enable attendance and other allowances to be increased for the most severely wounded. These are familiar points, for Sir Ian Fraser has been advocating them consistently for a long time past.

Brigadier General E. R. Fitzpatrick was elected National Chairman and Sir Ian Fraser was elected National Vice-Chairman by an overwhelming vote.

In an interview, Sir Ian Fraser said: "For a long time I have been a personal friend of the new Legion Chairman, Brigadier General Fitzpatrick. The Legion cannot have a better man and I am glad to work with him. He has been Chairman of the Legion's Pensions Committee and he and I have had many discussions. That is why the policy which I have pursued in the House has been very similar to that of the Legion as a whole. But there have been differences of emphasis and during recent months there have, in effect, been three campaigns, namely: (1) The activities of the British Legion in England, pursued through their representation on the Minister's Advisory Committee, and by helping to stir up interest in the House of Commons; (2) The proposals of the British Legion in Scotland; and (3) The campaign which my friends and I have waged in the House of Commons and, with the very great help of the Press, throughout the country. These three streams of thought have produced their effect upon the Government and I do not doubt that before long some concessions will follow. Whether they will be generous enough I cannot say. This will depend to some extent upon the continuation of pressure upon M.P.s and the Minister during the next few weeks. In this connection I should like to thank many ex-Servicemen, including St. Dunstaners, who have made representations to their M.P.s, and to urge others to do the same.

"The time has now come," continued Sir Ian, "when the unanimous voice of all ex-Servicemen must express itself, for in unity is strength."

St. Dunstan's and the Legion have long worked together. Major Sir Brunel Cohen and Captain William Appleby represent the Legion on St. Dunstan's Executive Council, and we are glad that our Chairman now has a place in the National Executive Council of the Legion.

### The Derby Sweepstake, 1943

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake took place at Regent's Park on Wednesday, June 16th, and was made by F. G. Richardson, of Kenley, and Stan Barton, new war St. Dunstan and now telephonist at Headquarters, in the presence of Miss Morrah, the Appeals Organiser, the Overseas Appeals Secretary, and the Editor of the REVIEW.

The result of the draw was as follows:—

Horse	Ticket No.	Name
ANUBIS II	196	W. F. EADES, Virginia Water
BAMAN	753	L. JOHNS, Exeter
BOOBY TRAP	418	A. HARVEY, Guildford
BRUSH OFF	583	W. T. SCOTT, Streatham
DEIMOS	996	J. WALCH, Church Stretton
FIRST EDITION	396	F. W. BOORMAN, Alresford
FLIGHT	604	J. SHEPHERD (prisoner of war in Germany)
COMMANDER		
HARROWAY	290	R. WYLIE, Bromley
HERALD	429	W. HOWARTH, Alton
HIGH	731	D. BEE, Bolton
CHANCELLOR		
KINGSWAY	1247	H. LEA, Hlland Ward, near Derby
MERCHANT	71	W. J. WOODCOCK, Saffron Walden
NAVY		
NARULLAH	519	J. L. BROOKE, Sheffield
PERSIAN GULF	1031	V. COOPER, Brighton
PINK FLOWER	518	J. L. BROOKE, Sheffield
RUNWAY	788	C. A. HANCOCK, West Drayton
STRAIGHT DEAL	1271	E. J. LLOYD, Cardiff
TIPPET	867	H. C. NIGHTINGALE, Brighton
UMIDDAD	154	W. HODGMAN, Croydon
VICTORY TORCH	380	E. FEARN, East Kirby
WANSFORD	355	W. BURTENSHAW, Wimborne
WAY IN	333	W. HIGGINSON, Ruislip
WHIRLAWAY	721	C. H. BROWN, Burton-on-Trent
THE FIELD	492	J. W. ABBS, Dereham

1,432 tickets were sold—a total of £179. As announced in the April REVIEW, 10 per cent. was devoted to the Comforts Fund, which therefore benefits to the extent of £17 18s. After deducting £5 7s. 0d. to cover the cost of printing and postage, a balance of £155 15s. 0d., was left to be distributed in accordance with the printed rules.

First (50%), £77 17s. 6d., E. J. LLOYD, Cardiff.

Second (20%), £31 3s. 0d., W. HODGMAN, Croydon.

Third (10%), £15 11s. 6d., J. L. BROOKS, Sheffield.

All the above horses started in the race, and the holders of these tickets receive £1 11s. 2d. each. The three big prizes are being paid in cash and in National Savings certificates.

### In Brief

A second broadcast from St. Dunstan's men at Tembani, Cape Town, to relatives and friends in this country took place on Thursday night, June 24th. Reception was not quite so good as on the previous occasion, but the recorders sounded in great form. ★ ★ ★

J. Haylock, of Ickleton, made a mat with "V for Victory" in the centre which produced £10 18s. for the local Wings for Victory week. ★ ★ ★

Harry Costigan is back in this country after touring with ENSA in the Middle East, a journey which has entailed travelling some 20,000 miles. He has been away for eighteen months. ★ ★ ★

Our Canadian St. Dunstan, Dan Barker, now of Hamilton, Ontario, was one of the first buyers of Fourth Victory Loan bonds when the campaign opened in Canada. A long article appeared about him in the local paper, together with a picture of him actually making his application. ★ ★ ★

Sgt. Alan Nichols has challenged Ron Vincent to a ten-mile walk on September 4th next (the 27th anniversary of his "knock-out") for £10 a side. The walk is to take place at Church Stretton under St. Dunstan's walking rules. Vincent has accepted the challenge.

Nick writes: "If I lose this 'tenner' I shall win a packet worth more than a wad of notes." ★ ★ ★

C. E. Temperton, of Ingleton, Carnforth, has just finished a good job of work. His son, Dennis, had been asked to put a number of windows in a nearby farmhouse. Unfortunately, he had a bad accident to his hand and so his father took the job on—with complete success. Another job he did some time ago was the repair of a cycle—a puncture of the inner tube.

### St. Dunstan Wins D.C.M.

Sgt. Leslie Thompson, blinded at El Alamein and now at Church Stretton, has been awarded the D.C.M. "for gallant and distinguished conduct while in action in the Middle East." He was blinded while clearing a minefield.

In due course he will go to the Palace to be decorated by the King.

### Church Stretton Notes

Our local "Wings for Victory" week was held in the last week of May, and our Chairman, Sir Ian Fraser, performed the opening ceremony at the village fountain. In spite of torrential showers—the first rain we had had for some weeks—several of us went down to support him; this is no reflection on the very narrow platform, where the only support and shelter was afforded by a lamp-post.

Our own Fete on the following Wednesday was opened by Flight Lieut. Cooper, who is training here as a massage student; saying how honoured he felt that he should be chosen to appeal for help for the Service in which he had taken his part, he referred to our efforts of the two previous years, and expressed the hope that we would surpass the goodly total of £2,380, but by May 28th we had reached £2,669 5s., and there were still further sums to come in. For example, there were constant demands for copies of a very ingenious Missing Word Competition, at 6d. per copy, devised as a relaxation by Miss McAndrew and Matron Pain during their Easter holiday, and it looks as if they will spend a still more relaxing Whitsuntide in correcting the solutions!

This year the Director decided that the Fete should be organised by a Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Nugee, with Lady Buckmaster as Secretary. He formed a Committee, of which St. Dunstaners formed the majority, and right well they did their job. Every man had an active part, whether as a stall-holder, a ticket-seller, an artiste, or a long-suffering pupil. Receipts from gate money and refreshments showed an increase on last year, raffles were well patronised, and some old favourites among side-shows had not lost their appeal. Among novelties, "Bombing Berlin" was a timely and popular attraction.

It was gratifying to note the interest shown in the workshops, where mat-making, carpentry and meccano were on view. Braille, shorthand and typing lessons went on amid the din of the "chippy shop," and visitors were invited to dictate a message or slogan to a shorthand pupil, and carry away half-a-yard or so at 6d. per strip.

Happily, it was fine enough to hold the Mock Auction out-of-doors; thus unlimited numbers could attend, and all other shows were deserted for this popular event, where the highest bidder secures not only the

coveted object but also Savings certificates to the value of the money bid. Tony Naumann and R. Ettridge were the Auctioneers, with Orderly Freeland as their "stooge," and as fast as one exhausted himself by his eloquence, the other took up the wondrous tale. By dint of masterly argument and insinuations, pleadings and blandishments they secured the record sum of £2,432 2s. 9d.

Last year the crowd in the dance-hut nearly brought the radiators to grief, so this year it was decided that we must limit our numbers, both at the two entertainments and at the dance, but a concert was given the following Friday, at the Horne Institute, for those who had been crowded out on the Wednesday.

The Committee has written thanking all who helped to make our effort such a success, including the Band, who played afternoon and evening.

Whilst preparations for the Fete have occupied much of our leisure since the Easter holidays, we have found time to enjoy the company of our friends in Stretton, Shrewsbury, and Ludlow, some of whom have acted as escorts and hosts unremittingly since St. Dunstan's came up here.

The night after the holidays we sped to a Dance, given by the Aluminium Co. at Shrewsbury, and the next week the Ludlow ladies, not to be outdone, invited us for another of their Social evenings. On the 28th we were not too wearied by our labours of the previous day to enjoy a Dance at Dorrington.

We have had three lectures this month; the first by Mr. Gaskell, from the Ministry of Information, on "The Progress of the War." His cheery, easy style dispelled the idea that these talks are propaganda, pure and simple. The lecturer leads his audience on to hope for some special private information, only to break off with "my lips are sealed." He left us full of hope and conviction that there was a good time coming!

On the 10th, Miss Armingen, the Russian authoress who has settled in Church Stretton, spoke on "Russia." Her Autobiography *To-morrow will come*, won the "Atlantic" prize some years ago, and her latest, *Frossia*, bids fair to becoming a best-seller. Coming from the old aristocracy, it was interesting to hear her tolerant, broad-minded views, and her hope for her beloved native land.

The prospect of a talk on "Eggs," by Mr. Davenport, brought a full house, appreciating as we do those rare occasions when we are treated to hear his clever speeches, tempered with kindly wit. We were kept guessing until the last moment as to the particular species of egg which would be his subject, and what might have been a dry, biological dissertation from an old-time scientist became a delightful, informative talk, which left us, like Oliver Twist, asking for more.

On his last visit here, Sir Ian was accompanied by General Montague, a distinguished Canadian lawyer, who is Advocate General for the Canadian Forces in England. In spite of many pressing engagements, he spared time to address us in the lounge, and gave us a very clear and encouraging idea of what Canada is doing towards the war effort, and the loyalty of this great Dominion to the Mother Country. The figures he quoted showed some startling annual increases in all Services, as well as in output, and material.

This generation of St. Dunstaners is very keen on learning, and old-timers would marvel to hear many asking for a minimum of two braille lessons a day. "Tigers" devour every scrap of braille lying about in their lair, and ask to come over for lessons directly they are convalescent.

An Encyclopaedia Britannica takes pride of place in the lounge at Longmynd, and a terrestrial globe, with raised markings, is the latest scientific acquisition. But our tastes are catholic, and many a classical concert is drowned by crooning. Still, here are some good records:—

**Passed Braille Writing Test.**—E. Ward, F. Morgan, B. Priest, M. Delaney, H. Piper.

**Passed Braille Interline Reading.**—J. Delaney.

**Passed Braille Typing Test.**—A. Laird, L. Thompson, R. Ettridge, J. Hancock.

St. Dunstaners will grieve to hear of the loss of one of their good friends, Mrs. Cooke Smith, who died in Switzerland last April. She was a braille teacher during the last war and many of us have happy memories of her warm-hearted generosity.

She had lost her husband only a few months previously. Her sister, Miss Collins, who also taught braille at Regent's Park and Brighton, is still in Switzerland.

**Admitted to Hospital.**—Miss E. Aldred (21), Munitions Worker, Warrington;

Lce.-Cpl. R. Birchall (21), The Buffs, Ashford, Kent; Arm.-Sgt. E. Armes (33), Royal Canadian Army, Ontario; Pte. T. Simmons (21), The Buffs, Morden, Surrey; Pte. F. Madgwick (21), Parachute Battn., Worcester Park, Surrey; Gdsmn. A. Reynolds, Grenadier Guards, Moreton, Cheshire; L.A.C. D. Barnes (21), R.A.F., Evesham, Worcs.; Pte. H. Lee (24), East Surrey Regt., London.

**Discharged from Hospital to return to Duty.**—L.A.C. R. Britton, R.A.F.; F.O. R. Wall, R.A.F.V.R.; Pte. B. Kilsby.

**Discharged from Hospital and Seeking Civilian Employment.**—Gdsmn. T. Dinning; Pte. H. Lee.

**Discharged from Hospital and later to be Transferred to Training.**—A-Sgt. J. Riley; Pte. I. Darling; Fus. G. Bilcliff; Cpl. J. Jolly; Gnr. J. Lee.

#### Blackpool Notes

More raffle news. A cake dish, given by Mrs. Martindale, raised £2 12s. and was won by one of our auxiliary staff, Mrs. Hutchison. A shopping basket, made by Jock McAvoy, of Maughline, raised £3 5s. 6d., and was won by one of our most faithful escorts, Mrs. Buck. It was a very popular win.

During the Blackpool Appeals week two bananas—real ones—were given to be auctioned. The bidding went up to £5—then the winner gave them back for re-auction. Mrs. Buck again joined in the bidding and got them herself for £2 10s.—she then raffled them—making £3 10s. By this time it was a case of "these were bananas—those were—but now we say that the price of bananas in Blackpool was £11 per pair. Now you will see why Mrs. Buck was a popular winner of the basket.

This is the story of the "famous khaki shirt"—signed by 200 prisoners of war in Manilla and brought here by a repatriated prisoner. At a dance—also "given in aid of"—the shirt was auctioned and raised £17 10s. I borrowed this interesting "record" and have copied as many of the names as possible, hoping that the local paper will print the list. Already we have had one name recognised by the father and mother-in-law of one of the prisoners.

A. VAUGHAN DAVIES.

Owing to unavoidable circumstances, we regret that it has not been possible to publish a Gardening Supplement this month.

#### Points from Pensions Campaign

Here are extracts from some of the many letters received by Sir Ian Fraser:—

"I raised the pensions matter at the last meeting of our Legion Branch Committee and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to our M.P., Sir William Wayland. At our Empire Day parade I was introduced to Sir William. I therefore took the opportunity of mentioning the matter. He assured me that he was very interested and that you have his support."

C. F. FLEETWOOD, Herne Bay.

"You must be busy with all the added strain of trying to make the M.P.s see that justice, which is supposed to be one of the war aims, should begin at home."

E. MILLS, Walsall.

"You have proved your interest in the welfare of your fellow ex-Servicemen, and I know you will always live up to the high ideals of our great movement, the British Legion."

JOHN GARD, Crediton.

(Not a St. Dunstaner but a disabled soldier with badly damaged sight.)

"Some time ago I set about putting our case to our M.P. I did not entertain much hope, for there is always difficulty when the subject of increase in pensions is asked for. Not only did our Member, Sir Arnold Gridley, reply, but his secretary made contact with me. I left it to the wife to emphasise how far £1 went in the way of purchases. We concluded the enquiry the best of friends."

A. ABRAM, Reddish.

"Please send me six copies of the Debate in order that I may hand them to the British Legion Council in Leeds."

E. RUSSELL, Leeds.

(new war St. Dunstaner).

"It would be greatly appreciated if you could let me have at least six copies of the supplement for distribution among the Executive Committee and some of the members of the Wallington and Bedlington branch of the Legion."

J. H. RAWLINSON, Wallington.

"Could I have two or three copies of the Pensions Debate, as I want to give them to my councillor and the Limbless ex-Servicemen's Secretary. I have given the copy you sent me to the Secretary of our British Legion branch."

J. PEEL, Wibsey, Bradford.

"Could you let me have three copies of the war pensions report. I can make good use of them." N. A. RAMSDEN, Oxford.

Sir Ian continues to press for the establishment of a Select Committee to enquire into the whole question of war pensions. Already more than 160 Members of Parliament of all parties have put down their names in support of his motion. Here are some points from his recent speeches:—

On June 3rd, in a question to Mr. Attlee, Deputy Prime Minister, asking if he could state whether Government will give a day, and if so when, for a Debate on the Motion which stands in his name:

"Does the right hon. gentleman realise that the Select Committee which was set up in 1919 reported to this House within three and a half months of its setting up, and that two and a half months have already passed since we had a big Debate in this House?"

At Manchester, on June 4th:

"Widespread reforms in war pensions is necessary. If that could not be carried out by administrative action now, a Select Committee should be appointed. Reconstruction in the nation's physical and social life must take time to solve, but reconstruction of the lives of our severely wounded cannot wait. They must have adequate compensation, the best training that money and skill can provide, encouragement to marry, and substantial additional help for their wives and children if their disability is so severe that they cannot take an active part in commercial and industrial life."

At Edinburgh, May 29th:

"The allowances paid to the seriously disabled are in many cases comparable with, and in some cases below the standard of subsistence which has generally been recognised in public debate on the Beveridge Report as the absolute minimum, whereas compensation for men disabled in the highest degree in the service of the country has hitherto been thought to include some element of pure compensation to provide comfort and amenity over mere subsistence."

At Cardiff, May 24th:—

"It is the duty, in my judgment, of the British Legion, which is the strongest Service organisation covering the whole country, and which has some splendid stalwarts in its ranks, so to organise itself that every Member of Parliament is conscious of the need and hardship in his own constituency, and that the House of Commons is persistently informed of the feeling in the country."

### Missing

We have heard with regret that Hughie, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Mitchell, of Leith, has been reported missing, and that Mr. and Mrs. Rowe, of Burslem, have been notified that their son, Geoffrey, is missing. The notice adds: "Might be prisoner."

### Young St. Dunstaners

#### Marriages.

The eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Allen, Morecambe, to Miss Bailey, Keighley, on November 25th.

Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Back, Shaldon, near Teignmouth, to Mr. Howard Phillips, R.N., April 19th.

Rosina, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Hill, Bristol, to Marine Jack Westaway, March 20th.

Audrey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Lane, Bow, Devon, to Mr. Roderick Williams, February 15th.

Leading Seaman R. H. Palmer, son of the late Mr. H. R. Palmer, and Mrs. Palmer, to Miss Mary Squires, in December last.

Peggy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Ashworth, of Burnley, to Mr. G. A. Roberts, Merchant Navy, on March 27th.

Betty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Thomas, Cranbrook, to Gunner Roome, February 20th.

Captain H. J. McAndrew, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. McAndrew, of Bournemouth, now serving overseas, to Mlle. Andree Brayet (Algiers University), on March 30th.

Geoffrey, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Stanners, High Wycombe, to Miss Margaret Ayle, on August 6th.

Edith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Prendell, Penn, near High Wycombe, on April 20th, to Charles Crick, Royal Artillery.

Lizzie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Massey, Reading, on January 12th, to Petty Officer Richard Power, R.N.

Lilian, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Colclough, Hanley, to James Hall, on May 16th.

Kathleen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ahrens, Stafford (now of the A.T.S.), to Douglas Spooner, Royal Artillery, on April 25th.

L-Bdr. Stephen Sephton, R.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Sephton, St. Helens, to Miss Gladys Harmer, on October 31st, 1942.

### Sons and Daughters in the Services

AHRENS, Pte. F., I.T.C.

BALLARD (Mrs. B. M. Appleton), W.A.A.F.

BARNES, Signm. R. W. (High Wycombe), A.A. Signal Unit.

CARTER, Sergt. Instructor C. A. (Southend), Royal Artillery.

BOOTHMAN, A.C.2 J., Royal Air Force.

COUSSINS, Pte. L. (Glasgow), R.B.Y.F.H.

DIXON, Joyce (Watford), Women's Land Army.

EVANS, Tessa (Carmarthen), W.A.A.F.

EDWARDS, Sig. R. D. (Denbigh), Royal Artillery.

MCANDREW, P/O. F. W., Royal Air Force.

MACKEY, Sig. W. J. (Thurso), Royal Corps of Signals.

MCDONALD, Isa (Glasgow), A.T.S.

PALMER, Fusilier J. W. (Wargrave), I.T.C.

PARKER, Raymond (Star and Garter), Royal Navy.

ROBERTS, Vera (Southend), A.T.S.

THORPE, Driver R. (Chelmsford), R.A.S.C.

TURNCOCK, Pte. J., P.T.C.

### St. Dunstaner Ordained

On Sunday, June 20th, Dennis Pettitt, of Northampton, was ordained a Deacon by the Bishop of Peterborough and has now taken up his duties as a curate at St. James's Church, Duston, Northampton.

We offer sincere congratulations to the Rev. Pettitt, and our very good wishes for his success in his new calling.

### A Fine Effort

When Corporal Neville Moore, son of the late W. Moore, of Southport, returned wounded from the Middle East, he brought with him a tasselled black hat and a spun silk sash, once the property of an Italian general. He also brought with him a long peaked white cap of one of Rommel's Panzer troops. These interesting souvenirs were offered for auction at the Mayor's Ball and £11 10s. has been sent to St. Dunstan's as a result of it, the Lord Mayor giving the general's hat back to Neville to keep as a souvenir.

### Marriage

STANLEY—JONES.—On June 12th, at Market Harborough, Gilbert Stanley, new war St. Dunstaner, to Miss Phyllis Jones. The bride was given away by a St. Dunstaner of the last war, Leslie White, now an instructor at Church Stretton. Miss Jones nursed her husband when he was in hospital, after being blinded at Narvik, and before he came to St. Dunstan's. He is now a telephonist with his old firm.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following who are celebrating their anniversary: Mr. and Mrs. G. Carter, Southend, August, 1942; Mr. and Mrs. W. Reed, Barry, September 12th, 1942; Mr. and Mrs. A. Palfrey, Barry Dock, February 9th; Mr. and Mrs. F. Kayne, Natal, South Africa, March 31st; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Watson, Manor Park, May 18th; Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Smith, Melbourne, June 1st; Mr. and Mrs. J. Hodkin, Teignmouth, June 15th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Dimond, East Grinstead, June 22nd; Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Jackson, Ashford, July 17th.

### For Sale

ERMINE REX RABBITS, born February 14th, 1943. Dame and sire, prize-winners. Does, £1; bucks, 15s. Pairs, 30s.—P. HOLMES, Pinfold Lodge, Woburn, Bletchley, Bucks.

### "Forward"

We have received the first copy of "Forward," a bulletin of news and information for guide dog owners. Guide dog owners will recognise the aptness of its title—the first of all guide dog commands. It contains interesting facts, delightful anecdotes and, in general, is a most readable magazine. Its Editor is Capt. N. Liakhoff, the well-known director of the Guide Dog organisation.

The Bulletin is also published in braille, and a braille copy will be sent on request to any guide dog owner who has not already received one.

Enquiries are welcomed from readers on any matters connected with the care of guide dogs, with the Association, or with any aspect of the Guide Dog movement.

We wish "Forward" the best of luck.

### The Blind in Air Raids

From the "Star," May 27th—

Sir Ian Fraser (Con., Lonsdale) asked the Home Secretary to-day whether, where the husband or wife was a registered blind person, or was disabled in the highest degree, he would grant exemption from fire watching duties to the other partner.

Mr. Morrison: I agree that these persons ought not to be left unattended during air raids, but I think it should be left to the hardship committee to decide who should be exempted.

Sir Ian Fraser: Do you intend that local officers may use their discretion?

Mr. Morrison: Yes.

### St. Dunstaner Meets General Smuts

From the "Daily Express" May 22nd—

CAPETOWN Friday.—A meeting between Sapper David Bell, 22, Edinburgh, who lost both his hands as well as his sight in the Middle East campaign, and General Smuts, South African Premier, has just been made public.

David, who is being trained as a typist at St. Dunstan's, in South Africa, was escorted to the general by Sir James Ross, a representative of the British Air Ministry in the Union.

General Smuts had a long talk with David, and asked him how he was progressing with his typing lessons.

Bell was tremendously thrilled at meeting the Premier, especially when the general removed his silver "V" brooch from his lapel and pinned it on the blind man's coat.

### The Bridge Club Continues its Activities

Much pleasure and good bridge have been enjoyed by many members and friends of the Bridge Club during the past three months.

March 20th saw our first peak day of the season, when two teams of four, captained by J. Hughes and R. Coles, played a duplicate match, the former team winning a most enjoyable game.

Saturday, April 17th, was a grand day; the fact that King Sol behaved so splendidly enabled us to play a match against the Civil Service, captained by our mutual friend, John Waller, but I am sorry to state the Civil Service won.

Our third peak day was on May 15th, when once again we were able to play on the lawn, and this time we all enjoyed a thoroughly good bridge drive. Our Captain carried out the onerous duties of M.C., and the winners were Messrs. F. Winter and A. Ozanne, Mrs. Gover and R. Coles.

On other Saturdays several league matches have been played, and in these matches much has been done to enable all members to play against each other more often.

We are greatly indebted to those ladies who come along on peak Saturdays to arrange the tea for us.

We are again visiting Harrogate this year, and on July 3rd we are taking the waters for a week. We hope to do better than last year, but in any case we shall have a really happy and enjoyable time.

The arrangements for the Harrogate trip are in the capable hands of Messrs. A. Field and J. Morrison, both of Harrogate.

R.P.C.

### Killed by Enemy Action

It is with deep regret that St. Dunstaners will hear of the death of another "Good Companion"—Miss Simmonds—as the result of enemy action. Miss Simmonds was a charming person, and was a very good friend to many of our men.

### Birth

BITHELL.—To the wife of W. Bithell, of Waltney, Chewter, on May 16th, a daughter, their first child.

### Death

MORTON.—We offer our deepest sympathy to J. A. Morton, of Saunderton, whose wife died on June 8th after a long and painful illness.

## "In Memory"

PRIVATE ROBERT BAKER  
(13th Northumberland Fusiliers)

WE record with very deep regret the death of R. Baker, of Chaddesden.

Enlisting as early as September 8th, 1914, he was discharged in April, 1917, after having been blinded in France the previous year.

He was trained at St. Dunstan's as a boot repairer and mat-maker, and carried on with these occupations, in addition to running a little business, for many years. He had, however, been very far from fit for some time and had latterly been only able to do a little rug-making.

His health completely failed some months ago and he passed away at his home on May 9th.

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

He leaves a wife and five children, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy. One of his sons in the Forces was able to attend the funeral.

LANCE CORPORAL JOHN WILLIAM BROADBENT  
(Highland Light Infantry)

WITH deep regret we record the death of J. W. Broadbent, of Rosyth.

As an old soldier he saw much service before the Great War. He was wounded at Vimy Ridge in July, 1916, which caused his blindness. He came to St. Dunstan's in January of the following year and was trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker. He was a very keen and hard worker, and carried on at one or other of these occupations for many years—he also, at one time, had a little confectionery business as a side-line.

His health was never very good, and in late years he had to be content to do just a little mat-making and wool rug-making. He was ill for a considerable time, and had a short stay in hospital, but his death came unexpectedly. It took place at his home in Rosyth on April 30th.

He was buried in Douglas Bank Cemetery, and St. Dunstan's Printie and Mrs. Printie attended the funeral. A wreath was sent from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades.

He leaves a widow and four children, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

SAPPER PATRICK HENNESSEY  
(Royal Engineers)

WE have to record with deep regret the death of P. Hennessey, of Charleville, Ireland.

Although not a young man, he enlisted in 1917, and was discharged in 1919 with damaged sight as a result of service. He did not come to St. Dunstan's, however, until July, 1933, when he was quite an elderly man, and did not undertake any serious training, but he did a little rug-making for some years.

He was taken ill in April of this year with heart trouble and he was admitted to the Mallow Hospital. He rallied for a time, to the amazement of the doctors, but he died quite suddenly in the hospital on April 28th.

Mr. Michael Tynan, one of our voluntary visitors in Ireland, attended to the funeral arrangements, as Hennessey was a bachelor, and he, together with St. Dunstan's J. Dunlea and M. Manning, were present at the funeral, which took place at the New Cemetery at Charleville, all classes of the community being represented. The burial was preceded by a Requiem Mass, celebrated by the Rev. D. Brown, C.C. It was not possible to send our usual wreath, and a Mass Card was therefore substituted, as is the usual custom.

PRIVATE FREDERICK JAMES SHEPHERD  
(14th Yorks and Lancaster Regiment)

WE have to report with deep regret the death of F. J. Shepherd, of Sheffield.

He was wounded on the Somme in 1916, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until March, 1924, when he was trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker, at which he proved very apt. In later years he was helped tremendously by his daughter, Lilian, and when his health began to fail, she carried on with the boot repairing almost unaided.

Shepherd was a very sick man for some time before his death, and we had hoped to get him to Melplash. He had, however, to be admitted to hospital, and he died there on May 23rd.

The funeral service was held in the local church, when Canon Pascoe, whom Shepherd greatly admired, preached the Panegyric. The coffin was borne by ex-Service men, St. Dunstan's wreath and that from his wife and family being placed on the coffin. His son, who is serving with the Forces, was able to be present.

He leaves a widow and family of three daughters and one son, and we extend to them our deepest sympathy.

PRIVATE A. A. TENNISON  
(Cheshire Regiment)

WITH deep regret we record the death of A. A. Tennison, of Dagenham.

His sight failing as a result of gas in June, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's, where he was trained in mat-making and boot-repairing. He was constantly under the doctor as a result of gassing. He died in Oldchurch Hospital after an internal operation.

He was buried at the Rippleside Cemetery, Barking, St. Dunstan's being represented by Mr. A. S. Henderson, of Dagenham, who placed a wreath from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's on the coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack.

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