

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

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EDITORIAL

Parliament Debates War Pensions

ON July 20th a debate took place in the House of Commons upon the White Paper which has recently been published concerning War Pensions. On another page there appears an article by Mr. Askew, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, which shows how, from information at present available, the new concessions will apply to St. Dunstaners. Space does not permit us to reprint in full Sir Ian Fraser's speech in the House on that day, but we print below brief extracts from it, together with one or two comments which appeared in the newspapers of last week.

Sir Ian Fraser said:—

"These concessions have arisen after some months of pressure being brought to bear upon the Government by this House, by the British Legion, which has been to see the Minister of Pensions in deputation, by St. Dunstan's, and by the newspaper Press. My Right Hon. Friend, the Lord President of the Council, said he thought this was a field in which controversy was in some way to be deprecated. I agree if he meant that we did not want to make pensions a matter of party politics. But if pressure of public opinion on this House was required, it was because the Government themselves were insensitive for so long. I cannot feel that this is a final settlement in any way. I therefore again ask the Government to be sensitive to what their friends in the House may be able to tell them and not to exclude the suggestion of a Select Committee.

"I welcome the proposals in the White Paper because I think they are the biggest single step forward the Government have taken for a very long time.

"All widows of the seriously disabled group should qualify right out for the Service widow's pension. A most curious anomaly has arisen as a result of the Government's proposals. The test whether you are a Service man's wife or a Service man's widow is not whether you married a Service man, which would appear to be relevant, but whether he happened to be unemployed or not. That is wholly illogical.

"There is one matter in the White Paper where the officer gets an advantage over the man. Where an officer's widow is under 40, she gets the same widow's pension as if she were over 40, and the other ranks get a lower widow's pension if they are under 40 and have no children. I do not know why the officer is so favoured. I am glad he is, and I hope the men will be favoured also. That is the only direction in which the officer gets anything in this White Paper by way of a new concession. The officer does not get the concession that is being made to the post-injury marriage case. I cannot imagine why.

"With regard to post-injury marriages, the Government have not met this case by the simple expedient of granting pensions in all cases. I calculate that a third will not get anything, a third will get 10s. a week plus, in some cases, children's allowances, and a third will get £1 a week plus, in some cases, children's allowances.

"I should like to thank the Government for having met the case of the most seriously disabled men as well as they have done. The Committee knows that a man may be allowed to do a £1 a week's worth of work. That is satisfactory. I hope the Government will not be too severe in their method of assessing what is unemployability under this provision.

"This brings me to my real objection to the principle the Government have introduced for the first time in our pensions law. A young man of 22 might have been wounded in the highest degree two or three years ago. If he is disabled in the highest degree he has lost a great deal. His health or his sight has been impaired, and it requires a great effort of will on his part to overcome that handicap and to go out into the world and get a full-sized job in insurable employment. Many succeed and the House will be the first to praise them for their courage and their ability, but it is so difficult to do it and to maintain it that you ought not to make the allowances depend on the employability; this is a temptation not to try. The way to remedy it is not to take it away from the young man but to give it as a right. I hope the Minister will tell us that he will show us the Regulations defining what is 'seriously wounded' and what is 'unemployable,' because much depends on the way they are written and on the way they are carried out. We want to see what the Regulations are.

"As to rates, I do not accept £2 a week as enough for the purpose for which it is intended. The time will come when we shall have to ask for an alteration.

"The question of alternative pensions will have to be gone into. Some pensioners have been benefited by this White Paper, but not officers, and not those who suffered disability between the wars. The Government ought to say that these rights, for what they are worth, should be for all men of all wars.

"I welcome the White Paper proposals as a genuine attempt to meet the grievances. I ask the Government to be more sensitive in future, and I ask those Members of the House who support the Government on non-party lines to do the best possible for our ex-Service men."

What Others Say

The *News Chronicle*, July 21st:

"Sir Ian Fraser played a leading part in putting pressure on the Government."

The *Daily Mail*, July 21st:

"Sir Ian Fraser, blinded in the last war, was one of the foremost fighters on behalf of ex-Service people."

The *Spectator*, July 16th:

"The issue of the new White Paper on War Pensions shows the Government to have been properly responsive to the strong representations made to it in Parliament, notably by that vigilant guardian of Service men's rights, Sir Ian Fraser. . . . Sir Ian Fraser has given a guarded welcome to the new proposals, and his attitude to them will be generally shared."

The *British Legion Journal* for August:

"To all Members of Parliament who have given effective voice to our views we owe a deep debt of gratitude. The results have justified the Legion method of educating and interesting the public in all the problems of ex-Service men.

"The value of the British Legion branch in the House of Commons, under the Chairmanship of Sir Ian Fraser, cannot be over-estimated."

From St. Dunstan's Home in South Africa came this cable:

"Good show, Sir Ian. Go all out for the rest. Keep the sword unsheathed. A handshake from us all at Tembani. Many congratulations.—BATEY and PEASE."

War Pensions The New Concessions

St. Dunstaners will have read in the Press, or have heard on the wireless, the Government's intentions in regard to War Pensions, and have seen on page 1 extracts from Sir Ian Fraser's speech on the Debate which took place in the House of Commons on July 20th. The object of this article is to explain how I think the new warrant for pensions, when issued, will affect St. Dunstan's men.

The rates of pension for men blinded in this war will be brought up to the level of those blinded in the Great War—for instance, a totally blinded private soldier will receive a pension of £2 per week, with 10s. per week for his wife, 7s. 6d. for the first child, and 6s. for each succeeding child. Attendant Allowance will be at the rate of 10s. per week provided that blindness is the only disability. If there are further disabilities, an increased Attendant Allowance up to a maximum of £1 per week may be given. Rank allowances will also be issued (*i.e.*, a Corporal will receive an additional 3s. 4d. per week, a Sergeant 6s. 8d. per week, and so on).

Normally, a wife's allowance is only payable if marriage took place prior to the date the disability of blindness was incurred, and correspondingly children's allowances are only payable where a wife's allowance is in issue, and provided the children were born prior to, or within nine months from, the date of discharge from the Forces. A children's allowance would, of course, be issued to a widower where marriage took place prior to the disability, in spite of the fact that no wife's allowance is now in issue.

The Government, however, have now decided that seriously disabled men are to be placed in two groups: (a) employable men, and (b) men who, by reason of their pensionable disability, are unemployable.

St. Dunstaners who earn more than £1 per week will be regarded as employable, and if in receipt of a pension for blindness resulting from Great War service will continue to draw their present pensions and derive no additional pension or allowances.

St. Dunstaners of both wars who are only capable of earning less than £1 per week will be classified as unemployable, because the Government regard £1 per week as nominal earnings only, and these men will

be given a supplementary pension of 10s. per week, together with allowances for a wife and children under sixteen years of age, even though marriage took place after disability, and irrespective of the date of the birth of the children.

St. Dunstan's children's allowances are only paid in cases where the Government has hitherto refused children's allowances. Where, therefore, a Government children's allowance is issued as a result of the new pension arrangements, the St. Dunstan's children's allowance will cease.

To make the position abundantly clear, a St. Dunstaner with the rank of private who is in receipt of 100 per cent. pension, and who is earning less than £1 per week will, if he is single or a widower, receive a pension of £2 10s. per week, and a married St. Dunstaner £3 per week. In addition, all children of these men will be eligible for allowances at the rate of 7s. 6d. for the first child and 6s. per week for each other child, irrespective of the date of birth, and up to attaining the age of 16 years. The rate of children's allowances for a widower in similar circumstances would be 10s. for the first child, 7s. 6d. for the second child, and 6s. for each succeeding child.

There are one or two possible exceptions to the rule. Firstly, for Great War men drawing alternative pensions (*i.e.*, a "pension based on pre-Great War earnings"). Alternative pensions, if more advantageous, could be drawn in lieu of the flat rate pension and wife's and children's allowances, and it will not be known definitely until the Royal Warrant is issued whether supplementary allowances will be payable to unemployable men in addition to alternative pensions or not. I think, however, that if an unemployable man is in receipt of an alternative pension of, say, £2 5s. per week, he will be allowed to refuse the alternative pension and apply for the flat rate pension of £2, plus 10s. supplementary allowance, and wife's and children's allowances, in view of the fact that the latter will be more beneficial. Alternative pensions are not payable to men blinded in this war.

The second doubt is whether Old Age Pensions, Blind Persons Pensions, and National Health Insurance benefits will be paid as well as the new supplementary pensions, or whether they will be merged into each other. We cannot answer this until the Royal Warrant is published.

I should make it clear that Attendant Allowances will not be interfered with and will continue at the rate detailed in paragraph 2, even though a supplementary or wife's and children's allowances are payable.

We have amongst St. Dunstaners some old soldiers and sailors who, by virtue of long service, have earned a service pension in addition to a disability pension. There is a somewhat complicated regulation in existence by which either the service or disability pension is halved. This has had the effect of giving a reduced pension to an old soldier or sailor which, in spite of his long service, made him very little better off than a temporary soldier, and in some cases on all fours with the temporary soldier. This is to be altered, as old soldiers and sailors will now qualify for their full service pension in addition to the same disability pension as temporary members of the Forces.

St. Dunstaners may have read that a widow's pension will be given in all cases where a wife's allowance was in issue at the date of death of the disabled man, provided that the man died of his pensionable disability. Before the recent announcement of the Government, widows could only qualify if marriage took place prior to the date on which the disability of the husband was incurred, but now the widows of unemployable men will qualify for this pension even though marriage took place after the disability. I desire to stress the point that a pension will only be issued to any widow if death results from the pensionable disability.

The Government have said that the above concession and new rates will take effect as from the pay day in the week commencing August 16th, and the information I have given is what I believe to be in accordance with the broad principles laid down by the Government, but we have now to await the issue of the Royal Warrant, which will deal with all details and make clear all doubtful points.

I hope that this Royal Warrant will be available within the next week or so, and directly it is, a letter will be sent to all St. Dunstaners telling them what their personal position is, and asking them to supply me with certain information so that, if eligible, they can obtain the advantages accruing to them. St. Dunstaners will appreciate that this will throw a very heavy

burden of work on the staff at a time when we are already very short-handed, and I ask that men will refrain from writing to us in regard to this matter until they receive our letter. If delay occurs, they should realise that it is unavoidable, but they should also realise that, if they are eligible, they will not be penalised, but will get arrears.

W. ASKEW.

Minister of Pensions' Praise for St. Dunstan's

In the course of his reply in the Debate on War Pensions, Sir Walter Womersley, Minister of Pensions, said:

"I am pinning my faith to a slogan, 'Pension plus employment.' I am pinning my faith to what is known as the Tomlinson scheme, operated by the Minister of Labour in conjunction with myself. I would like the Hon. Member to come down and see the beginnings of that scheme, the rehabilitation side of it, at our hospital at Roehampton. Our object is the same as that which was declared to be the object of St. Dunstan's when it was formed to deal with blinded men. I am dealing with men disabled in other ways. As St. Dunstan's then stated, we want to impress on the man that

"He must not think of himself as disabled. He must not be put in segregation. To segregate is not to rehabilitate. He must be retrained to work and to play. When he is trained we equip him with whatever special facilities he needs and, where it is possible, send him back to his old home—first making sure that his home is fit to receive him. We have established almost all our men in the towns that they know—in the place and amongst the people whose looks they remember. And there they have settled into normal life in their normal scenes and relations. If you were to follow them to their villages, you would find them not only earning their living, but going in for sports—rowing, swimming, road and track racing, skating and attending soccer and cricket matches with enthusiasm."

"That is something St. Dunstan's has done for blinded men, and I want to pay my tribute to them."

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As in past years, there will be no REVIEW published in August.

Church Stretton Notes

On June 8th the trainees moved over to Brockhurst from Longmynd to be the first Badgers! At present they come over for lessons, but classes will begin there as soon as the huts are ready. We have been using the Sports ground and swimming pool for some months.

The school building stands on a hill to the south of the Longmynd, across the old High Road from Shrewsbury to Ludlow and Hereford. There is accommodation in the house for about fifty men, the rooms are large and airy, and huts have been erected for workshops, in addition to those that were there when we took possession.

The house has been redecorated and the stage of the Concert Hall-cum-Braille Room is backed most attractively by the St. Dunstan's flag.

The service on Whit Sunday was held in Brockhurst Chapel, and services will be held there every Sunday morning after those at Longmynd.

The whole village was invited to an opening Garden Party on Saturday, June 12th. In spite of continuous torrential rain all Friday, we were able to hold both land and water sports. The tug-of-war started with a stiff eight-minutes contest between Brockhurst and Longmynd, which reduced the ground to such a quagmire that the other two rounds went to the side which could keep to its feet the longer, and Brockhurst did it.

After tea we adjourned to the swimming pool to watch pillow fights on the greasy pole; grease was strictly rationed, but the combatants still found it difficult to keep their seats under their opponents' blows, and after clinging desperately underneath the pole disappeared, pillow and all, into the water. Friends of the Sergeants' Mess helped at all the events of the afternoon and put up an excellent show at pillow fighting and diving for plates. It was suggested that the plates should be left floating for the St. Dunstaners to retrieve, but they vetoed any such concession, and Michael O'Neill proved that it was unnecessary by emerging triumphant with two plates to his credit.

After a short interval, a running buffet supper was given in the hut, where a few hours before, tea had been served to all comers, and this was followed at eight o'clock by a delightful concert by Miss

Mavis Bennett's well-known party, including Ronald Gourlay, the blind pianist, who astonished us by playing some items with his back to the piano. Mrs. Dudley Phillips is certainly to be congratulated on a successful house-warming.

There has been some controversy as to why Mischka, a white goat penned near the Typing Room, has been brought here for a mascot. "Surely," it is said, "Brock the badger would be more appropriate." The answer is—Mischka is really a "taboo," commemorating the victory of St. Dunstan's over the evil one. It will be remembered that when his horned adversary came to the Smithy at Mayfield to have his shoe repaired, the Saint recognised the cloven hoof and, seizing his red hot pincers, tweaked the Devil's nose so effectively that with a roar of pain he leapt to the Dyke near our Brighton Home and, by a series of jumps, landed near Melplash. It is hoped that Mischka's presence will guard Church Stretton from his prototype.

Whitsuntide and the holiday season brought us many welcome visits from St. Dunstaners of both wars, all in excellent spirits. We wish there was more accommodation in the village, so that we might see more of them and their families.

We have had two more popular talks. On the 8th, Ronald Ettridge, late K.R.R.C., told of his experiences with the Eighth Army; with marvellous clarity he carried us along with him from Cairo through Tobruk to Alamein, where his period of active service was brought to a close.

On the 15th we had Mr. Dennis Mors, speaking on the B.B.C in war-time. Having invited questions, he found he had exposed himself to a goodly barrage, but he gave a most satisfactory reply to each in turn, and offered to send specialists in the future on any particular branch of his work which we might desire.

We have also had a first-rate Ensa Concert Party, which included Thomas Marshall, the blind pianist, who was trained at the Royal Normal College.

On the 29th, the Croft Hermit Players gave us three short comedies. We were sorry to hear that Mrs. Holt, who has been leading them for twelve years, will be unable to take any part for some months owing to illness.

The Ludlow Ladies and the Aluminium Co. have entertained us again this month, and

on the 23rd six St. Dunstaners were invited to lunch with the Shrewsbury Rotarians.

G. Cock and D. Baker have gone to London to continue their Massage Course at the N.I.B., and Rein Waas finished his telephony course and has taken a post with the Dutch Legation. M. McCrea is working as a telephonist under the North Irish Government in his native town, and we have received articles in his praise which appeared in the Ulster press.

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

Typing.—E. Quinn, A. Nauman, G. Pollard, M. Barstowe, D. Frith, R. Ettridge, E. Aldred.

Braille Writing.—E. Ward, F. Morgan, B. Priest, M. Delaney, H. Piper, S. McNamara, G. Etherington, J. Delaney, L. Thompson, S. Heys, A. Wigglesworth.

Braille Reading (Interline).—J. Delaney, B. Bell, C. Hancock.

Braille Reading (Interpoint).—G. Cock, E. Ward.

Admitted to Hospital.—Gdsman. Alan Reynolds, Grenadier Guards (20), Moreton, Cheshire; L.A.C. Donald Barnes, R.A.F. (21), Evesham; Lieut. William Robinson, Royal Canadian Engineers (27), Dundas, Ontario; Pte. Walter Cottam, Home Guard (22), Goole; Fus. Leonard Hollamby, Lancs. Fusiliers (22), Oldham; Spr. David Bell, R.E. (22), Edinburgh; Dvr. Herbert Briggs, R.A.S.C. (31), Leeds; Tpr. Percy Clark, Queen's Bays (32), Ware; Dvr. Alfred Hurley, R.A.S.C. (26), London; A/B.S.M. Norman Perry, R.A. (23), Grimsby; Cpl. Herbert Pownall, C.M.P. (27), Caterham; Tpr. Joseph Purcell, R.T.R. (27), Manchester; Sig. Frederick Ripley, R.C.S. (30), London; Gnr. Leslie Robinson, R.A. (30), Doncaster; L/Cpl. Thomas Beavon, S. Staffs (25), Stanbridge; Pte. A. Desjardins, R.Can. A.S.C. (28), Montreal; Pte. George Chisholm, Gordon Highlanders (22), Newcastle; Pte. Thomas Cooper, Sherwood Foresters (19), Chesterfield; Pte. Henry Cope, Gordon Highlanders (20), Stoke.

Returned to Duty.—F/O. Rogers.

Hospital Transfer.—A/Sergt. Armes, Pte. Huttenen.

Hoping to take up Civilian Employment.—L.A.C. Barnes, L.A.C. Hackett, Sergt. Morris, L/Cpl. Beavon.

Later to return to Training.—L/Cpl. Birchall, Pte. Madgwick, Pte. Simmons,

Spr. Phillips, Cpl. MacDonald, Mrs. Formstone, Miss Aldred, Pte. Cottam, Gdsman. Reynolds, Spr. Bell, Dvr. Briggs, Tpr. Clark, Dvr. Hurley, A/B.S.M. Perry, Cpl. Pownall, Tpr. Purcell, Sig. Ripley, Gnr. Robinson.

Admitted to Training during June—Repatriated Prisoners from Italy.—James Jolly, John Lee, Ivan A. Darling.

Transferred from Hospital.—Elsie Aldred, Walter Cottam, Brenda Henderson.

St. Dunstan's Telephony Department

Miss Goodship's Resignation

Miss J. Goodship has resigned her post as Telephony Instructor at Church Stretton. Miss Goodship came to St. Dunstan's in 1917 as a telephone operator, and continued in that capacity for many years, giving also most valuable help to Mrs. Moore, as relief instructor. Early in 1940 Miss Goodship became Telephony Instructor at Brighton, and then transferred to Church Stretton when St. Dunstan's moved. St. Dunstan's telephone operators all over the country will join with us in thanking Miss Goodship for her long, devoted and successful services, and in wishing her good luck in the future.

Mrs. Moore continues to be our principal adviser on all telephone operating matters, but her time is mainly taken up with the extremely important work of finding jobs for trained men, settling them in, and after-care visits. A temporary appointment has been made at Church Stretton, and another will follow shortly, for a second training equipment has been set up to cope with increased numbers of trainees. The present or prospective students include a war-blinded girl and a one-armed man, whose training is regarded as an extremely interesting experiment.

No branch of business training has proved more successful over the past quarter of a century, and the new men of St. Dunstan's owe a debt to the members of the staff concerned, as well as to over a hundred blinded soldier telephone operators of the last war, who by their skill and loyal and constant service with government departments, local authorities, hospitals, and public and private companies, have set a standard of fine work and achievement, and have made for all time the good name of St. Dunstan's telephone operators.

Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. S. Wain, of Derby, who will celebrate their Golden Wedding on August 12th.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to:

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, July 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. S. van Blerk, South Africa, August 5th.

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At Regent's Park, on July 23rd, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were the recipients of a number of silver gifts to mark the occasion of their silver wedding. They included a set of silver table spoons from the trainees and hospital patients at the Training Centre and Hospital at Church Stretton, and a silver tea tray and ash tray from the staff of St. Dunstan's offices.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser sent personal messages of thanks to the London and outlying staffs, and the following telegram to Church Stretton:

"On the occasion of our silver wedding we have received your telegram of greeting and a set of silver table spoons from the trainees, hospital patients and staff at Church Stretton. They are of a fine design and workmanship and look and feel beautiful. I hope we shall enjoy using the spoons for another twenty-five years and most certainly they will remind us of many happy times and friends and loyalties during the past twenty-five years. We are deeply touched that you have remembered this anniversary and we send all our friends our heartfelt thanks.

IAN AND IRENE FRASER."

Massage Successes

Many congratulations to Captain Ludwig Rosenberg, who has been successful in passing the finals of the massage examination; while Clifford Carlton and F. Reid have been successful in the intermediate examinations.

Those who knew him will hear with pleasure that L. F. Berry, who was at St. Dunstan's, Church Stretton, for a short time, has also qualified as a masseur.

Marriage

PATTERSON—DUNCAN.—On July 7th, at St. Colme's Church, Aberdour, Scotland, R. (Jock) Patterson, of Reading (new war St. Dunstan), to Miss Ruth Duncan.

The "Tembani Times"

We have had the "Dotty Mag," written and produced by blinded prisoners of war in Germany, and now comes the "Tembani Times," the magazine of new St. Dunstaners at our Home in Wynberg, South Africa. Editors and contributors of these two magazines deserve the highest praise for their initiative in starting their own newspapers, and our heartiest congratulations upon the results of their labours.

The April number of the "Tembani Times" has just reached us. It is printed in duplicated typewriting and its attractive cover-page is illustrated by a four-inch reproduction of St. Dunstan's badge.

The Editor writes: "It was with great pleasure that we witnessed the success of our first issue of 'Tembani Times.' The brightest feather in our caps was the complimentary comments on the 'Tembani Times' which appeared in an important column of an important Cape Town newspaper."

The contributions range from articles and poems to irreverent advertisements. ("For sale—twelve telephone numbers, including five blondes, four brunettes, two red heads and one hot number—what offers?")

"Social Activities in the month of April" reveals that among the distinguished visitors at Tembani during that month was Mrs. Smuts, wife of Field Marshal Smuts, and H.R.H. The Crown Princess Fredicka of Greece. Another visitor was Mrs. Dan Pienaar, widow of the South African commander, under whom many of the Tembani men had served.

Believe it or not, the "Believe it or not" column is run by—Fred Ripley.

We hope to print extracts from this or another issue of the "Tembani Times" in the September REVIEW.

The Comforts Fund

The Chairman has received the following letter from Matron Pain, at Church Stretton:—

"DEAR SIR IAN,

I had meant to thank you at the week-end for your thought of the Comforts Fund when allotting a percentage of the Derby Sweep Prize.

I received from the Editor the very pleasant sum of £17 18s., and this will take away all financial anxiety for some little time.

The first prize winner, E. Lloyd, of Cardiff, also sent a donation to the Comforts Fund as a small appreciation, and it is a very great pleasure to realise how generously many of the old war men support the Fund.

Yours sincerely, DOROTHY A. PAIN."

"In Memory"

PRIVATE JOSEPH JOHN HESKETH
(*King's Liverpool Regiment*)

WITH deep regret we have to record the death of J. J. Hesketh, of Crosby, Liverpool.

Wounded on the Somme in September, 1916, he came under St. Dunstan's care early in the following year. Trained as a telephonist, he gave up his post, returned to us for a short time to learn basket-making, and then joined his sister in America in November, 1920, where he carried on with basket-making and wool rug-making as a hobby. He returned to this country in 1935, when his health was far from good, and he has gradually gone down hill. He died in hospital on May 30th.

A wreath was sent from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack.

We extend our deep sympathy to his mother and sisters, who have cared for him so well during his very long illness.

LANCE CORPORAL PATRICK MAHER
(*Connaught Rangers*)

WITH deep regret we record the death of P. Maher, of Nenagh.

He had served with the Connaught Rangers from October, 1904, and after being wounded in 1915, in Macedonia, he came under St. Dunstan's care two years later and became an excellent mat-maker. In spite of the fact that a very bad wound in his side gave him almost continuous trouble he continued with his work right up to within a few weeks of his death, which took place in St. Joseph's Hospital, Nenagh, on June 9th.

A wreath from St. Dunstan's was among the many flowers, and the funeral at Tyrone Abbey was very largely attended by his fellow townsmen. He was held in great esteem in the locality.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and family.

PRIVATE JAMES FOWLER
(*The City of London Regiment*)

WITH deep regret we announce the death of J. Fowler, of Rottingdean.

Wounded at Ypres in 1917, as a result of which he lost most of his sight, he came to us and commenced boot repairing, but his health did not permit his continuing at this trade.

As he had to lead an open-air life, he took up poultry-keeping, and he carried on with this for nine years, when his health again failed and he had to give up all energetic type of work.

His health had deteriorated gradually and he passed away on June 13th.

In accordance with his own request, he was buried in the Old Churchyard at Rottingdean, and a wreath was sent from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow, who has been his constant companion all through his many years of patient suffering.

SERGEANT RICHARD WASS
(*11th East Yorks Regiment*)

WE have to record with deep regret the death of another Brighton man, R. Wass.

In 1918 he was wounded at Dieppe, when he lost both eyes and also received a fractured jaw. He was trained in baskets and netting, but his general health was not good, and he gave up his occupation in 1937.

He had suffered from diabetes for many years, and in December of last year he was admitted to hospital. He returned home in January of this year, but despite all care and attention he passed away on June 26th.

The funeral service took place on Thursday, July 1st, at St. George's Church, Brighton, and was attended by many of his St. Dunstan's comrades, including Messrs. Cooke, Forster, Read, Brignall, Markwick, Horsley, Pike, Millward, Smith, Taylor, Richardson, Williams, and Jock Boyd.

A wreath was sent from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's, and the coffin was covered with the Union Jack.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow and two young children in their sad bereavement.

Reported Missing, Now Prisoners

Eric Boswell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Boswell, of Gainsborough, is now known to be a prisoner of war in Italian hands.

Reg. Chaffin, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Chaffin, of Leighton Buzzard, and Mr. and Mrs. G. Brewer's son, of Bodmin, who were

reported missing after the fall of Singapore, are now known to be prisoners of war.

On Active Service

We have heard with deep regret that the death of the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Abbott, of Willesden, who was reported missing, is now confirmed. His submarine was lost with all hands.