

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

NO. 319—VOLUME XXX [NEW SERIES]

JULY, 1945*

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

BRITAIN has always been a notable exporter of ideas as well as of goods. This is true in the field of social service and particularly in the blind world. Blind welfare started in Britain one hundred years ago, and the idea spread to other parts of the world. There is no more complete system for the welfare of the blind than that in Britain. In the same way, after the last war, St. Dunstaners, returning to their own countries, spread the gospel of St. Dunstan's to the Dominions. These countries, being relatively new, had no very highly developed services and the care of the blind was to some extent in its early stages. Our blinded men went back to their homes with a new vision and a new message. A great development followed—a renaissance in the blind world of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. National organisations now cover the whole of these Dominions, and the St. Dunstaners who carried that message are their leaders.

Now, as the outcome of the new war, similar schemes and developments are taking place in the Colonies. The advice of St. Dunstan's has been asked by the Colonial Governments. Mr. Askew sits with me on a Colonial Office Conference for the Welfare of the Blind. Recently there was an invitation to St. Dunstan's from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to send out an officer to West Africa to consider how blinded West African ex-servicemen can best be helped. The Commandant, Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, undertook the mission. He flew there and back, covering a distance of more than ten thousand miles, and visiting all four Colonies concerned—Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, and Nigeria. He interviewed a number of blinded men from the Royal West African Field Forces, some of whom, he said, showed some alarm that the English "bird man" had come to suggest changes in their way of life. The Commandant has now prepared a most valuable and interesting report on the subject.

This is the beginning of a new development of St. Dunstan's message. There will be in all probability only a few West African and other Colonial soldiers, sailors and airmen blinded in the war, but their welfare and training will be the beginning of a great movement to better the lot of the Empire blind generally.

Even before the West African visit, the policy had started in India, where Sir Clutha Mackenzie, a blinded officer of the last war, who had been mainly responsible for the excellent organisation for the war-blinded and general blind in New Zealand, had set up a St. Dunstan's Home at Dehra Dun, India. Already excellent work has been done there on behalf of some seventy war-blinded Indians. There have been difficulties, for in India many problems arise which do not occur in other parts of the Empire, but they have been overcome, and the Home makes splendid progress with the training of its men. Soon Sir Clutha will be joined by a young blinded soldier of this war, Captain K. Revis, M.B.E.,

who is going out to India as his assistant. Dehra Dun is also training several service men from East and West Africa, who may return to their Colony to help in the training there of their comrades. Other St. Dunstaners from England may go to West Africa, if necessary, to act as advisers and instructors.

So not only St. Dunstan's gospel is spread throughout the Empire, but St. Dunstaners themselves carry the message. I quote the Commandant in a broadcast in the African Service shortly after his return from there:

He said: "We should be failing in our duty if we did not give the war-blinded men of the Empire—from the Dominions, from the Colonies, as well as from this country—all the help they need, and the experience and resources of St. Dunstan's in England are there to give that help."

IAN FRASER.

News of St. Dunstaners

When Their Majesties visited the Isle of Man recently, among those presented to the King at King William's College, Castletown, was Squadron Leader H. T. N. Christal, who was a master at the School, and is now training at Church Stretton.

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Congratulations to our Dutch St. Dunstaner, Reinder Waas, telephonist at the offices of the Dutch Ministry of War in London, who has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

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Gwen Obern, of Aberdare, who came to St. Dunstan's after being blinded whilst at work in a munitions factory, made her first broadcast on July 5th in the Welsh edition of "Strike a New Note." Gwen has a lovely soprano voice.

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A. Hedger, blinded in the blitz while serving with the London Civil Defence, has been given a free site for his kiosk on Herne Bay front for a year. His is the only kiosk allowed on the front.

Mrs. Roosevelt's Thanks

The following letter has been received by the Chairman from Mr. John G. Winant, United States Ambassador in London.

1 Grosvenor Square, W.1.
May 28th, 1945.

DEAR SIR IAN,

Mrs. Roosevelt has asked me to thank you for the message which you sent her on the death of President Roosevelt. She deeply appreciated this expression of sympathy, and wanted you to know how grateful she was for your kindness.

Sincerely,

JOHN G. WINANT.

St. Dunstan's Holiday Camp

Friday, August 24th, to Saturday, September 1st. At Seaford Park, Lee-on-Solent, near Fareham. Accommodation and all entertainments provided by the Fleet Air Arm.

St. Dunstaners, old and new, after-care or in training, most welcome.

Mrs. Spurway's Camp Fund will pay fares over ten shillings.

Red Cross escorts help from Birmingham and probably from other centres if required.

Please apply as soon as possible to Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Titchfield, Hants.

No entries accepted after August 6th, when a ballot will be held if there are more entries than vacancies.

News from Canada

Trueman T. Gamblin, of New Brunswick, who was at St. Dunstan's in 1917 and 1918, and married Miss M. A. Fisher in London before returning to Canada, has sent us news of his two boys. His elder son is with the P.L.N.B. Hussars (Canadian Armoured Regt.) and has served in Italy and the Western Front since October, 1941, and his younger boy, with the Navy, has been overseas since October, 1943, on convoy duty. His son-in-law, Major O. L. Corbett, went into action on D-Day and is now in Germany.

Home Again

Welcome home to Mr. and Mrs. Burnett's son, Thomas, who is home after being a prisoner in Germany; to Geoffrey Stanners (High Wycombe); and to the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Darnell, of Porthcawl. Darnell spent a happy week in London with his boy, who had been a prisoner for three years.

Further Improvements in Government Allowances

Family Allowances

I am glad to be able to report that the Government have now decided, after considerable pressure, that the Family Allowances under the new National Insurance Scheme are to be paid in respect of the second and subsequent children of disabled ex-service men and women in addition to any pension they might be receiving for those particular children from the Ministry of Pensions.

St. Dunstaners will know that the allowances under the new Scheme will be payable for each child of the family other than the first child of school age, and will be at the rate of 5s. per week. The allowances will not, however, become payable until the whole of the National Insurance Scheme has been passed by Parliament, and this may take many months. A notice will, however, appear in the REVIEW immediately the new allowances become payable, and advice given as to how they can be claimed.

Unemployable Allowances

The Minister of Pensions has also announced further improvements in the Unemployable Supplementary Allowances, but has not yet given complete details of these improvements.

The improvements will come into effect on the first pensions pay day in September, and, broadly speaking, are based on the principle that all pensioners who come within the Unemployable category, i.e., men who, by virtue of their invaliding disability cannot earn more than £1 a week, shall have their normal pension supplemented by 20s. per week either by way of the Supplement, Health Insurance benefits, or Old Age Pension, instead of the 10s. supplementary allowance which they are at present receiving. In addition, the allowance for the wives of these pensioners is to be increased from the present 10s. up to an amount of 16s. according to their dependence on the pensioner.

I have asked the Ministry for full information in regard to these new proposals, and when it is to hand a letter will be sent to all men eligible for the increased allowances, and a further statement will be made in the REVIEW. In the meantime, St. Dunstaners are requested not to write with regard to this matter; so soon as the further information is obtained, they will be immediately informed.

W. ASKEW.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,

I feel very conscious of the honour recently awarded by His Majesty the King to St. Dunstan's and myself, and I would like to say that any small success we may have achieved at Stoke Mandeville has been entirely due to the keenness, quiet good temper and hard work of the new St. Dunstaners, with whom it has been my great privilege and joy to work.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have sent such kind messages of congratulation.

Yours sincerely,

G. W. KILLINGBECK.

Cranleigh, Surrey.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Frank Aitken, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on April 21st, to Miss Pauline Carr.

Iris Rosemary Stanners, High Wycombe, on June 16th, to Wing Commander Sydney B. Bailey, R.A.F.V.R.

Eva Gaffney, Weaste, Salford, on March 17th, to Gunner Albert Rowland, R.N.

Norman Skelly, Batley, on June 23rd, to Joan Taylor.

Marjorie Deegan, Brixton, on April 21st, to Flight Sergt. Macdonald.

On June 11th, the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Chambers, Birmingham.

Promotions

Ian, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Shepherd, of Leighton Buzzard, is now a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Cole's son, Leonard, is now a Warrant Officer in the Royal Air Force.

Sub. Lieut. Ernest Nicholls, Fleet Air Arm, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Nicholls, of Haringay, has just received his commission.

Sons and Daughters in the Services

CLARKE, C. (Manchester), Royal Air Force.

COOK, P. (Waltham Cross), Royal Signals.

ECCLESTON, J. (Leigh), R.A. (served since 1939).

GAMBLIN, Trooper C. T. (New Brunswick),

Canadian Armoured Regiment.

GAMBLIN, A/B. F. J. (New Brunswick), H.M.C.S.

HEAD, A. C. K. (Brixton Coombe), Signals Section.

LORAM, W. (Brixham), Devon Regt.

LOVERIDGE, J. A., Royal Navy.

SKELLY, Lieut. B. (Batley), Royal Artillery.

SKELLY, L.A.C. R. (Batley), South East Asia Air Forces.

Church Stretton Notes

In early June, shop-windows in Church Stretton were placarded "St. Dunstan's Fol-de-Rols present "PROMENADE" (a sea-side show), in The Pier Pavilion, Stretton-on-Sea, Salop, in aid of the Shropshire Hospitals Appeal"; and a notice board halfway down Sandford Avenue proclaimed "This way to the Pier!" And what a Show it was! Gay Pierrots, Cossacks, Rumba Band, "Very Light Orchestra," Charladies (turbans concealing masculine hair) and the Company making a spirited entry, dashing up the Hall hand-in-hand, singing "We're very sorry that we're late!" Gwen, our "Welsh Nightingale," Beryl, the Celebrated Contralto, and "Confucius," in confusing collaboration with his honourable forefathers—Jeff Bond making his debut as an imperturbable Conjuror. No wonder it all sounded so fresh and original, since so much was written specially for the occasion by Mr. Bampton and Mrs. Druce. Mr. Burn, Chairman of the Church Stretton U.D.C., in voicing the Committee's thanks, said: "One does not often have the opportunity of letting St. Dunstaners know how much we here in Church Stretton admire what Robert Louis Stevenson calls the 'gallant and high-hearted happiness and the infection of a good courage' shown by St. Dunstaners during the many months they have been in our midst. And now we add the further qualities of sympathy and generosity. Sympathy with the cause of our Shropshire hospitals, and the generosity to go to no end of trouble to give us these two fine entertainments to help that cause. Thank you very much, St. Dunstan's Fol-de-Rols." Nearly £150 was raised for the Fund, a well deserved reward for all the hard work of preparation.

The braille shorthand teachers at Church Stretton (Tommy Milligan, Les White, Roy Brown and Bob Bridger) have devised a new and simplified system of braille shorthand for the use of telephone operators, which is now being taught with great success. It is based on two principles: (a) It contains only signs and contractions which are consistent with Standard English braille, and (b) each contraction stands for only one word, whereas in the old system the same contraction might represent any of as many as six different words. Of course, the new system is not quite so highly contracted as the old, and cannot

be written at such great speed; but it can be learnt much more quickly and easily, and it may be used with much more confidence from the start.

Polling Day passed without casualties! Each of the four candidates for the Ludlow Division gave St. Dunstan's a special meeting, besides their public ones. Fifteen minutes' talk and fifteen minutes to answer questions. All were pretty well catechised by good audiences. About half the trainees are registered here and were given full facilities to vote; others had signed proxy forms, and anyone registered at his home had leave to go there on July 5th.

Among hobbies, an extension of the Weaving Department is the making of table mats on frames—very attractive; and the leather work goes on, developing with purses, handbags, wallets, cigarette cases strengthened, and writing cases.

Play readings are still popular: "George and Margaret" at Denehurst and "The Ware Case" at Longmynd. Also quizzes arranged sometimes as inter-house competitions. "Picture a group of coins consisting of one penny, one threepenny piece, one sixpence, one shilling, one florin and one halfcrown; how many such groups do you need to add up to an exact number of pounds (without odd shillings or pence?)"

The Musical Concert was a special success, with our old friend, Dr. Friedmann, at the piano, Sergeant Marchant with his 'cello, and David Griffiths, a Welsh tenor.

Entertainments have included Ralph Reader and part of his R.A.F. Gang Show; Stainless Stephen with his Yorkshire Comedian; Fred Hobson's Band with Dick Lawler and the Penn Concert Party. Kind Wolverhampton friends invited a party to "A Soldier for Christmas" at the Grand Theatre, followed by dinner at the Services Club. The full list of visiting bands and nice dance invitations must be omitted this month.

New trainees still arrive—fifteen in a fortnight, including three Canadians, Kenneth McIntyre, from South Africa via Naples, brings news of Miss Beckwith's busy life with the eye cases there.

We shall miss Wally Such, who has gone to 76 Emlyn Road, Redhill, as telephonist to Messrs. Love & Malcolmson, Ltd., Printers; Robbie Robinson, returning to the U.S.A.; and Joe Nicholas and P. Bagwell, transferred to The Grange, South

Mimms, for further training in country life. All the best to them.

A letter recently written here was headed "St. Funstan's"; was it only a typing error, or . . . ?

Congratulations to the following, who have passed tests:

Interpoint Reading.—A. C. Nugee, H. V. Kerr, T. Meredith, H. Davenport.

Interline Reading.—R. Phillips, J. A. Peckett, F. L. Bentley, C. E. Beaufoy, N. Crane, A. King.

Writing.—E. Brown, J. Doughty.

Typing.—P. Sutton, G. Eustace, R. Coupland, N. Russell, J. A. Peckett, G. Roake, H. Hocking, G. H. Jenrick, C. Hoyle, F. Pawson, J. Lord, T. D. Donnelly, M. Luba, D. Jennings, F. Newton.

Comforts Fund

Now that Victory has brought the European war to an end the St. Dunstan's Comforts Fund is closing, except for the men who are serving in the Far Eastern theatre of war.

Thanks to many generous gifts, the funds are sufficient to carry on the service for this Front, and we will be glad if the parents of all men serving in the Far East will please send in the present addresses of their boys.

May we take this opportunity to express the sincerest thanks of the Comforts Fund Committee for the generous support the Fund has received since its inauguration, and also to give thanks to the men and women of the Forces who have taken their part in the struggle, and have helped to bring Victory and Peace to Europe.

Advanced Braille Reading Test

A number of Advanced Braille Reading Tests have now been worked off in London, and it is hoped that arrangements will soon be made for those entrants from the rest of the country to take the test.

The following have recently passed the test in London:—

Rees Warren, Leytonstone; J. G. Holmes, South Harrow; W. Henry, Putney; D. Warden, Shepherds Bush; A. Waite, Chelsea; J. Macfarlane, Queen's Park; W. T. Scott, Streatham.

Each has now received the prize of £3, according to the rules of the Competition announced in the February REVIEW.

Congratulations to them all.

News from St. Dunstans, India

Our outpost in Dehra Dun grows steadily, and has really got into its stride. The number in training has reached the seventy mark, and we have come to the stage where men are going out on completion of their courses. Four Maharattas have left us this month to go back to their county in Southern Bombay, a thousand miles away. They have each gone off equipped with a harmonium (the Indian version of a piano-accordion), a braille watch, a small loom for the weaving of newar (a webbing, which takes the place of wire springs in Indian beds), and a supply of cotton yarn. We are solving for them, too, problems of housing, marriage and land.

Among the new arrivals is Lance-Naik Karam Singh, a sprightly old Sikh, blinded in Gallipoli in 1915. I was in the battle in which he was wounded, and must have been close to him at the time. He was with an Indian Mountain Battery, which, dug in immediately behind our front trench, gave us magnificent support, undeterred by a hail of short-range machine-gun and musketry fire which lashed about them. He arrived in cheerful mood, with spotless turban above his snowy, flowing beard, and quite unwearied by three days in grilling heat in overcrowded trains. He won an Indian Order of Merit for his gallantry at Anzac, and the Government gave him twenty-five acres of land, then newly-irrigated desert, now converted to rich crops and pleasant shade trees. He heard of St. Dunstan's and wrote to know if he might come. Aged sixty, he is quite undefeated, and has set himself a programme of weaving, music and braille.

A Home for Blind Hillmen, which looks across a deep valley to the piled masses of Kanchenjunga's snows, has asked for one of our plucky Gurkhas, Dal Bahadur Rai, to be an instructor in weaving newar and in braille. He came here eighteen months ago, rebellious, scorning the idea he could do anything again, and sadly wounded. He had lost several fingers, and his face, despite months of plastic surgery, still shows too clearly the effects of a shell burst. But he came round and soon gained a prize for the best achievement against difficult circumstances. He decided, as a devout Hindu, to give his life to service, and he has brailled out lengthy passages of sacred

works to take back to his country. And now he has welcomed the chance of service which has come to him.

We do not feel too happy, however, as to the ability of most of our men to hold their own against the common attitude towards blindness, when they return to their villages. We have to think back several centuries in Britain to picture the conditions most of them will have to face. So we planned a substantial permanent Colony, where they could live together—model village and workshop, and generous terms. We asked a Major-General and a Captain of long experience of India, and keenly interested in soldier welfare, to put the plan to them. Discussion ranged over four days. We wanted the men to come freely to an independent decision, and not to persuade them into something against their own real judgment. They decided against it, saying that they knew that all we said about their future difficulties, the way they would be imposed upon, and so forth, was true, but their desire to keep up association with their villages, their bits of land, and their racial, climatic and dietary backgrounds was too strong.

Marriage is the problem which worries the Gurkhas most. A wife, they say, is difficult enough for an active sighted man to get in Nepal, and for a blind man it is impossible. They suggest that the problem can only be solved if St. Dunstan's can prevail upon His Highness the Maharajah to give an order that so many wives must be supplied.

Saw Jacky has begun to smile in the last two months as never before as he listens on the wireless to the cleaning of the Japs out of Burma. They are still in occupation of his particular area, for he, a Karen, comes from the coast far down towards Siam. Still, it won't be long before he will be back. Whereas in exile our minds run on apple pie and cream, roast beef and baked potatoes, Jacky's is dwelling on prospects of sea fish, made tasty by several days of rapid bacterial action in a tropical climate.

We are looking forward to the arrival, in September, of Captain and Mrs. K. C. Revis to bring us the newest ideas from Church Stretton, and to help us in the Indian field. An old St. Dunstaner of the last war, Canon W. G. Speight, who for a quarter of a century has been Principal of

the Palamcottah School for the Blind, far away at the southern tip of India, is also coming in September to spend a month of his leave with us.

Havildar Chandra Nair, blinded at Manipur, Assam, in March, 1944, has passed his braille and typewriting tests, and has become stores clerk in our growing workshop. His job in the Army was that of stores clerk in the R.I.A.S.C.

May 21st, 1945. CLUTHA MACKENZIE.

In Hospital in Italy

The following tribute to war-blinded men now in a Military Hospital in Naples was paid recently in the "Church of England Newspaper." A Military Hospital Chaplain wrote:—

"Why is it that the atmosphere of 'B' Ward, where our eye cases are lying, is undoubtedly the happiest of the entire Hospital? There you will find more spontaneous laughter, more infectious merriment, more animated conversation, aye, and more practical joking than anywhere in the building. A Church Service in 'B' Ward is a positive inspiration. The singing is always hearty and the worship real and reverent. Why is it that in this Ward of all others one should feel nearer to man at his best? . . . Is it the splendid staff of specially selected nurses? Not altogether, though undoubtedly they do a grand job in a grand way. Is it "Becky," the admirable St. Dunstan's worker, who supervised their picnics, helped the Padre to write their letters home, taught them to play draughts and other games, guided their unskilful fingers as they made a hat or handbag for mother? To a great extent it was, God bless her. But not altogether . . . One cannot altogether solve the happy phenomenon. It's beyond us. Mystery it must remain. But perhaps what one might call 'the fellowship of suffering' has a big lot to do with it."

"Becky," to whom the Chaplain refers, is Miss B. H. Beckwith, known to all new St. Dunstaners and many old ones as a V.A.D. at Church Stretton. In January of this year Miss Beckwith went to Italy to look after newly blinded men in hospital there, and to give them early lessons in braille and handicrafts until they are well enough to return to this country.

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As in previous years, there will be no REVIEW for August.

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

The activities of the Bridge Club during the past month have been many and varied. One of the most interesting things which has struck me these past days is the reminiscent mood in which the members indulge. They talk about the days of twenty or thirty years ago with such ease that I am inclined to think they would like to travel those roads again. The Bridge League is going along splendidly, and at the moment Downs and Wiltshire are favourites.

The Bridge Drive at the end of May was extremely successful, Mrs. Block and P. Nuyens and Mr. and Mrs. Wiltshire being the winners. Our "Pairs" Competition was also most illuminating. The Club winners were Brown and Downs and Wiltshire and Waite, and the two pairs will take part in the Finals Competition, which is taking place at the end of July.

The Club has also entered a team for the Equity Cup, and won their first round match on June 29th. We lost the Duplicate match against the Hampstead Town Hall, but it was a most pleasant afternoon.

In all these many functions our thanks are due to those grand friends who come along and give us refreshments; we can never thank them enough, but we are always appreciative. I know all St. Dunstan's men are clever, but in tea-making it is the fair ladies who are the masters.

The high spot of our activities during the past few months, however, was an invitation to the Minster Bridge Club at West End Lane. We were taken by car to and from the Minster Headquarters. Excellent bridge was played and several of our members won prizes. The tea was provided by our hosts, and one felt that the party had been transferred to pre-war days. It was a most delightful afternoon, and all members warmly appreciated the excellent time given us by our hosts.

I am glad to see that so many members are coming along, but there is still room for others. Our afternoons are indeed pleasant, and I am sure that if any member of St. Dunstan's tries once he will come again. All will be welcomed most cordially.

Will all those who are interested in the Harrogate visit please communicate with Secretary Downs, at Park Crescent, as soon as possible. R.P.C.

Reported Missing, now a Prisoner

Sir Clutha Mackenzie has received information from General Headquarters that his son, Ian, who was reported missing on operations, is now known to be a prisoner of war in Bangkok.

New War Placings

F. Howse, of Dartford, Kent, as a capstan operator, with Messrs. J. & E. Hall, of Dartford; W. Such, of Walthamstow, as a telephonist with Messrs. Love and Malcomson, Redhill.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following, who are celebrating their anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. L. Johns, Exeter, May 24th; Mr. and Mrs. E. Scott, Langley, Bucks, June 5th; Mr. and Mrs. G. Craddock, Wellingborough, June 10th; Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Stevenson, Brighton, July 10th; Mr. and Mrs. W. MacKay, of Caithness, July 25th, 1944; Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Teagle, Aldbourne, July 31st.

Mr. Frank S. Herbert

It is with very deep regret that we have heard of the death, on May 31st, of Mr. Frank S. Herbert, of Manchester Street, W.1.

Mr. Herbert was St. Dunstan's Dental Surgeon for many years and a great number of St. Dunstaners will know of him not only in that capacity, but also as a very good friend.

Births

COLLINGWOOD.—To the wife of F. W. Collingwood, of Leek, Staffs., on June 17th, a daughter—Valerie.

BUCKLEY.—On June 10th, to the wife of Lieut. Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M., R.N., a son—Michael.

Marriages

WAAS—DERBY.—On June 26th, Reinder Waas to Maimie Derby.

MAYNARD—JAKES.—On July 21st, P. Maynard, of Gamlingay, to Lily Jakes.

DICKERSON—MCCONNELL.—On July 28th, F. J. Dickerson, of Birmingham, to Miss Margaret McConnell, of Co. Tyrone, Ireland.

‘ In Memory ’

Private Fred Walter Butler, *Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of F. W. Butler, of Fulham, who served with his regiment from 1916 to 1918. He was wounded at Arras, and after being invalided out of the Army his sight gradually failed him until he became totally blind. He had never enjoyed very good health and, after a long illness, he passed away at his home on March 22nd.

The funeral took place at North Sheen Cemetery. A Union Jack draped the coffin, and among the many wreaths was one from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his sister, who has looked after him for a number of years.

Private Garnet Smith, *12th Lincolnshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Garnet Smith, who died at Melplash on May 6th, after many weeks of suffering.

Although he was discharged from the Army in 1917 he did not become a St. Dunstaner until 1923. His health was never good and he was unable to undertake training. He entered Melplash in October, 1943, and he stayed there until his death.

The funeral took place at Melplash, a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades being among the flowers.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his relatives. Mrs. Smith died some time ago.

Fireman Arthur Hynes, *Merchant Navy*

We record with deep regret the death of a new war St. Dunstaner, A. Hynes, of Whitley Bay. He served on S.S. *Thistlebrae*, and was captured by the Germans in April, 1940, at Narvik. His sight failed during his imprisonment, and when he came to us he was too old, being over sixty, to take up much training. He did a little wool-rug making, however, as a hobby. He left Church Stretton only in March. He was taken ill shortly afterwards and he died in Preston Hospital, North Shields, on May 18th.

Among the wreaths at the funeral was one from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades, and another from the British Legion. St. Dunstaners from the neighbourhood were present, with Mrs. Martin Jordan and Mrs. Coxon, senior, and Miss Wood, Welfare Visitor.

Our St. Dunstaner was a widower and our sincere sympathy is extended to his brother.

Private William Wright, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Wright, of Stalybridge.

He enlisted in 1915 and was discharged in 1918, but he did not come to us until October, 1921, when he was trained as a boot-repairer and clogger. For a number of years, however, he was not fit enough to do any work. His death, which was totally unexpected, occurred on May 21st, and, to our sorrow, was followed by the death of his wife a week later. She had been ill for some months.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to their family in this double bereavement. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral.

Private Ernest Samuel Cass, *East Yorkshire Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of E. S. Cass, of West Hartlepool.

He enlisted in 1915 and came to St. Dunstan's immediately he was discharged in November, 1917, after being wounded in France. He was trained as a joiner and carried on with this occupation until within two months of his death, when he was taken ill and removed to hospital, where he passed away on June 2nd. Among the flowers at the funeral was one from Sir Ian Fraser and his friends at St. Dunstan's.

He leaves a widow and eight children, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

Private Charles E. Watson, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. E. Watson, of Widnes.

Enlisting in April, 1914, he was discharged at the end of the same year with defective sight, but he did not come to us until 1927. He was then in failing health and too old for serious training. For some years his health had been rapidly failing, and he had spent periods at Melplash, but even this journey was too much for him on his last visit. He passed away in hospital on June 11th, after collapsing at his home the previous day.

He had been a member of the R.A.O.B. for fifty-three years, being raised to the Fourth Degree in 1944 at the Welcome Lodge, Widnes, and many fellow Buffaloes attended the funeral. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was also sent.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and grown-up family.

Sergeant Harry Rolley Pratt, *4th South Staffordshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of H. R. Pratt, of Wandsworth.

Wounded at Amiens in March, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's in the same year and was trained in telephony. He continued with this occupation until the beginning of this year, when he was taken ill. He became gradually worse and in April was admitted to the Kingston Hospital where he had worked for some years, and he passed away there on May 9th.

He was cremated at Putney Vale and the ashes were interred in the Garden of Remembrance. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Warwick, who was such a good friend to our St. Dunstaner.