

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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EDITORIAL

The Chairman in South Africa

As we go to press, we hear that Sir Ian and Lady Fraser attended a luncheon given by the Chairman and Committee of St. Dunstan's (South Africa) in their honour on their arrival in Cape Town. Eight St. Dunstaners and their wives were present, messages of goodwill between St. Dunstan's in the Mother Country and St. Dunstan's in South Africa were exchanged. Sir Ian found St. Dunstan's Organisation in South Africa in splendid shape and standing very high in public opinion. Mrs. Chadwick Bates was well and sent her good wishes to all her St. Dunstan's friends of both wars. Although "Temhani" is now closed, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser paid a visit to see this delightful house and grounds. Similar meetings will be arranged for the visitors in Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban.

Paper is still Scarce

For some time past the number of printed REVIEWS needed each month has soared steadily. Thanks to a small concession made by the Paper Controller some months ago we have so far been able to meet this demand, but soon this limit too will be reached.

Every St. Dunstaner, whether he has the braille edition or not, automatically receives the printed REVIEW, and will continue to do so, but we believe that there may be a number of homes which are receiving two copies. This is a result of our policy of sending the REVIEW to relatives of overseas casualties and prisoners of war while their men were abroad, and of subsequent staff changes which have prevented the duplication being adjusted when the soldier has come home.

If there is any household receiving more than one printed REVIEW we should like to be advised.

When the Paper Controller increased our allocation of paper it was with the proviso that it was to be used for more copies, and not for increasing the size of the magazine. Space remains tight, therefore, and it is with regret that on many occasions we have had to omit or hold over interesting items. We ask our readers' indulgence and look forward to the day when we can spread ourselves over the luxury of at least twelve pages, even if we do not reach the goal of the twenty-four pages which made up St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW at the end of the last war.

National Insurance

The Government's Bill to provide for the comprehensive Scheme of National Insurance, as originally suggested by Sir William Beveridge, is now before Parliament, and although it may, and possibly will, be considerably amended in its progress through both Houses, St. Dunstaners will wish to know how it is likely to affect them when its provisions become law.

The Bill provides that the Minister of National Insurance may make regulations for adjusting the benefits of any person who is in receipt of a Pension or Allowance payable out of public funds. It is not, of course, possible at this date to anticipate what these regulations will be, but it would appear that if the War Pensioner pays the full contribution he will be entitled to full benefits. The rates of contribution and the benefits to be derived, which are given below, are therefore based upon the assumption that St. Dunstaners will be required to pay the full contribution and will receive the full benefits and this is what we shall endeavour to obtain.

There will be three classes of insured persons:—

A. EMPLOYED PERSONS—*those who work under a Contract for service* (Telephonists, Industrial Workers, etc.) Men who come within this category will pay 4s. 7d. a week (increasable after five years to 4s. 9d. a week) and they or their families will, on qualifying, receive the following weekly benefits:

1. Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.—Self, 26s.; Wife, 16s.; First Child, 7s. 6d.

2. Maternity Benefits.—A wife on confinement will receive a Maternity Grant of £4 and in addition an Attendance Allowance of £1 per week for four weeks.

3. Widows' Benefits.—(i) A widow will receive a Widow's Allowance of 36s. a week for thirteen weeks. If she has been left with a child or children of school age she will receive an extra 7s. 6d. a week during these thirteen weeks, and will thereafter receive a Widowed Mother's Allowance of 33s. 6d. for herself and the child or children so long as she has a child of school age. If she is over forty when the Allowance ceases and ten years have elapsed since the date of her marriage, she will qualify for a Widows' Pension at the rate of 26s. a week.

(ii) A widow who is left without any children of school age will receive a Widow's Pension of 26s. a week after the period of her Widow's Allowance if she had reached the age of fifty when her husband died, provided ten years had elapsed since the date of her marriage.

(iii) If by reason of some mental or physical infirmity a widow is incapable of self-support at a time when her Widow's or Widowed Mother's Allowance comes to an end, she will receive a Pension of 26s. a week so long as she remains incapable of self-support.

(iv) Both Widowed Mother's Allowance and Widow's Pension will be reduced if the widow earns more than 20s' in any week by 1s. for every 1s. she earns above 20s.

4. Retirement Pensions.—A Retirement Pension for life at age 65 at the rate of 26s. a week, and where the retirement is postponed after 65 an extra 1s. a week for each twenty-five contributions the man pays in the five years after pensionable age. In addition, an Allowance of 16s. a week will be paid in all cases where the wife is living with the man at the date of his retirement. Men who have qualified for the 10s. a week Contributory Old Age Pension will have this converted, if they have retired, into a Retirement Pension at the new rate, and if they have earnings these will not operate to reduce the Old Age Pension below the 10s. a week they are now receiving.

5. Death Grant.—A Death Grant will be paid for the expenses connected with the death of an insured person or with the death of his wife or child or widow. The grant will be £20 for an adult, £15 for a child aged 6—17, £10 for a child aged 3—5, £6 for a child under 3. No Grant will be paid for the death of anyone who is over pension age when the Scheme starts, and only £10 will be paid for the death of anyone who is within ten years of pension age when the Scheme starts. For children born before the Scheme starts and dying before the age of ten there will be no Grant.

B. SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS—*those who are gainfully occupied.* (Masseurs in private practice, Shopkeepers, Poultry Farmers and Craftsmen making goods for local sale or sending them to St. Dunstan's).

These men will pay 5s. 9d. a week (increasable to 6s. 1d. after five years) and they or their families will receive all the benefits given to an employed person as detailed above, except that they will not receive any Unemployment benefit, and their Sickness benefit will not be paid for the first twenty-four days of sickness.

Note.—The Minister will undoubtedly make regulations prescribing the minimum amount of earnings to qualify a man to be regarded as Self-Employed. When these regulations are announced it may be that some of the men mentioned above will qualify as non-employed persons.

C. NON-EMPLOYED PERSONS—*those who are not gainfully occupied.*

These men will pay 4s. 8d. a week (increasable to 5s. a week after five years) and will receive the benefits detailed above for an employed person, except that they will not be entitled to unemployment or sickness benefits.

The above applies to men who are under 55 years of age when the provisions of the Scheme come into force (it is not expected that the Scheme will be fully effective until 1948) and to all men who are at present insured under the compulsory Health and Unemployment Acts or the contributory Health Insurance Acts and, of course, depend on the relevant contribution conditions being fulfilled.

For those men who are over 55 years of age and not insured at the coming into force of the Scheme the position is as follows:—

(a) They will have to contribute for ten years before they can qualify for a Retirement Pension, and therefore when they reach pensionable age they will be asked to choose between (1) paying contributions as non-employed persons (except when employed) until they finish the ten years qualifying period, and (2) claiming a refund with interest of the portion of their contributions paid towards Retirement Pension rights.

(b) Men aged 70 and over who are drawing non-contributory Pensions when the new Scheme starts will have these pensions increased.

(c) Men will be expected to contribute at the full weekly rates until they attain the age of 65 years, and will be entitled to the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits set out above for men under 55 years of age.

They will also be expected to contribute at the full rates and will be entitled to the full benefits during the period when they are over 65 years and have elected to continue their Insurance until they qualify for a Retirement Pension.

It is not possible in this article to deal with all points which will arise in connection with the Scheme, and indeed it is not necessary to do this in view of the fact that the Bill may be substantially altered. The details set out above will, however, give men a general picture of the Scheme as it affects them and when the Bill has been passed and the regulations referred to above, which are most important, have been announced, further information will be given.

Personal

In a leader page article in the *Sunday Express* for January 20th, Bernard Harris wrote on "Seven Men who Made Good." All lived in Guildford, with their own businesses. The seventh was our St. Dunstaner, Frank Braithwaite. The author wrote: "They have one characteristic in common. They are cheerful, optimistic men. They have found abiding satisfaction in minding their own business."

★ ★ ★

Campbell McCrea, one of our Irish St. Dunstaners of this war, and our first new-war telephonist in that country, was presented to His Excellency the Earl of Granville, Governor of Northern Ireland, when he visited the Labour Exchange, Belfast, on February 1st. The Governor asked many questions about his work and his service in the Navy. Earlier, Mr. Brian Maginness, Minister of Labour in Northern Ireland, also chatted with our St. Dunstaner.

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St. Dunstan's was represented at the funeral of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Keyes by the 74-year-old ex-Mayor of Dover, Mr. C. E. Beaufoy, who was blinded in 1941 by a shell fired from the French coast.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

On October 20th, in Naples, P.O. Tel. H. Williamson (Chorlton-cum-Hardy) to Miss Phyllis Edna Boore, and on February 9th, Amy Doris Williamson (Chorlton-cum-Hardy) to John Jamieson.

On January 12th, Edwin Owen (Chilwall, Liverpool), to Miss Joan Keal.

The Deaf-Blind Watch Fund

This Fund was started a year ago, when Mr. Ottaway made the very generous suggestion that the major portion of the moneys subscribed by St. Dunstaners to make him a presentation on his retirement was to be utilised in purchasing braille watches for the deaf-blind. It was then suggested, and the suggestion received universal support, that this should become a permanent Fund, and that I should act as Honorary Treasurer, working in co-operation with the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League.

I reported in the REVIEW in April, 1945, that I had been able to send seven watches to the League, but I am now happy to be able to say that, since that date, another eight watches have been sent as further donations were received during the year, and the balance standing to the credit of the Fund at December 31st last was £1 18s. 6d.

Since that date, Mr. Ottaway has personally sent me seventeen guineas, being some fees that he has earned but which he has, with his well-known generosity, sent to me. The cost of a braille watch is £4 12s. 6d., and I am accordingly able to send a further four watches, but there are still some fifty persons on the waiting list. Will all St. Dunstaners send me a small donation, as I want, during the coming year, to try and give as many of these fifty people as I possibly can a watch.

It was a grand idea of Mr. Ottaway's that St. Dunstaners, who appreciate so much their own braille watches, should present braille watches to the deaf-blind, whose need is even greater than their own, and I know that my St. Dunstaner friends will help me in this grand job.

W. ASKEW.

Advanced Braille Reading Test

Our congratulations to the following St. Dunstaners, who have passed their Advanced Braille Reading Test during the last two months, thereby qualifying for the special prize of £3:—

L. Arnold, Wanstead; W. J. Pearce, Hendon; J. W. Bullock, Waltham Abbey; J. W. Cookson, Kendal; F. H. Kirkbright, Derby; A. Rees, Stansted; C. Durkin, York; S. Green, Shoreham-by-Sea; W. Leonard, Woodingdean, near Brighton; R. Sheehan, Ross-on-Wye.

Hours of Business at Headquarters

We have had a number of enquiries as to the hours of business at 9-11 Park Crescent, and for the general information of all St. Dunstaners we give them here. They are 9.15 until 5.30 during the week, and from 9.15 until 12 o'clock on Saturday mornings.

The French War-Blinded

Following St. Dunstan's policy of exchanging information and advice with organisations caring for Allied blinded soldiers, a blinded officer of the last war, W. J. Voss, recently visited France at Sir Ian Fraser's request to see what is being done for the French war-blinded.

The Union des Aveugles de Guerre, whose guest he was, warmly welcomed him. Their headquarters are in Paris, and the building, which was constructed in 1936, has accommodation for forty people, as well as offices for the secretariat, reading-rooms and a dance-hall. All doors are of the sliding type and the staircase is built to allow for one-way traffic only. Before the war it had been used as a hostel for blinded men of 1914-1918 passing through Paris, and for those taking refresher courses, but the Germans closed it down during the "occupation." It was reopened in October of last year and is now used solely for the accommodation of the new war blinded, of whom France has about two hundred and fifty. Forty men are in residence and receiving instruction in braille, typewriting, brush-making, massage, music and piano-tuning. There is excellent food and heating, and all bedrooms have a wireless. The orchestra, which plays for the weekly dance, consists entirely of blind musicians. The trainees comprise all ranks.

A special committee was formed to consider what is now being done at St. Dunstan's, and the liveliest interest was displayed in our industrial training and, in particular, the use of the capstan lathe.

Among the principal concessions which France extends to her blinded ex-servicemen are free railway, omnibus and underground travel for the man and his guide, and a 75 per cent. reduction on the man's fare by all French shipping lines.

The organisation has the care of nineteen men who have lost both their sight and their hands.

My Job

On leaving St. Dunstan's, nearly four years ago, arrangements were made for me to join a well-known aircraft company. It was decided that, having had a background in engineering (Royal Navy), I should work in the Experimental Department with the Progress and Planning section.

Briefly "to progress" means to ensure that there are no hold-ups when components are being assembled in the various stages of aircraft construction. It was in this connection that I got an insight into some of the difficulties encountered when prototype aircraft or allied mechanisms are being manufactured. Although a modern experimental department can construct a prototype aircraft in a remarkably short time, new problems frequently arise with each project. Close liaison is necessary with firms specialising in the forging, casting and machining, etc., of complicated components.

On receipt of drawings from the drawing office, planning engineers decide the manufacturing technique on components and assemblies, and in this connection many discussions are held to decide how problems are best overcome. The work was always urgent and visits to specialist suppliers entailed journeys by road to the Midlands, West Country and Greater London.

My work alternated between progress and planning on aircraft and aero-engine developments.

After a year I was appointed to do liaison work with other firms in the industry connected in various ways with our products. Simultaneously, the progress side of other mechanisms being developed in the factory was assigned to me.

Braille played an important part, an index system being used, enabling me to phone suppliers and to keep close records of meetings and discussions. Books on aeronautical engineering, metallurgy and plastics were transcribed by St. Dunstan's and the N.I.B., and prove to be invaluable, as do weekly periodicals. It may be of interest to mention here that, with the aid of the N.I.B., my firm issues a small bulletin in braille every month. This has been much appreciated by all the St. Dunstaners in the factory.

Late in 1944 I became responsible for the production of a new writing instrument. This kept me fully occupied for a year,

during which time some many thousand units have been produced for the export and home markets.

I then joined the research and development section of the same project. This work covers many activities, ranging from laboratory tests and the drafting of specifications to attending meetings and dealing with correspondence.

To keep in touch with current developments on "materials and processes" means a fair amount of study after working hours, with the assistance of a reader.

In finding a job that has, to say the least, always been full of interest, I know that St. Dunstan's made a very happy choice of employer for me.

R. DUFTON.

Honoured

The names of two eminent surgeons connected with St. Dunstan's appeared in the New Year Honours List. Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, a member of our Ophthalmic Board, received the K.C.V.O., and Professor T. P. Kilner, the eminent plastic surgeon, who serves on our Medical Board, was awarded the C.B.E.

The Cup Final

We hope to have a limited number of tickets to sell to St. Dunstaners for the Cup Final, to be played at Wembley on Saturday, April 27th.

Applications for the tickets, which will be 10s. 6d. each, should be sent to Corporal Major Dawkins, at Park Crescent, not later than March 29th, when a ballot will be taken and successful applicants notified. Only two tickets can be allotted to each successful St. Dunstaner.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following, upon their silver wedding anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. H. Blakeley, Okehampton, September 15th, 1945; Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Emerson, Little Clacton, December 11th; Mr. and Mrs. J. Horner, Holmfirth, January 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. C. Blackett, Saltash, January 22nd; Mr. and Mrs. P. Ashton, Perivale, February 5th.

Tandem for Sale

CARLTON SUPER-PYTHON DOUBLE GENT'S TANDEM for sale. Light blue and chrome; Deraillleur 3-speed gears; calliper brakes; mileometer, bell, pump, saddle-bag, carrier. Specially built for lightness, July, 1939. Ridden just over 1,000 miles. Condition perfect. Price £27 including carriage.—W. Heushaw, "Datchworth," Alresford, near Colchester.

Church Stretton Notes

Well, this has been called "the flu term," and certainly this year's virulent germ has been busy among trainees, V.A.D.s teaching and office staffs alike; but the wheels have been kept turning, and convalescents are reappearing apace. Great contrasts of climate, occurring rapidly, have been trying, but so far only a few days of icy roads—and no casualties! What is the old saw about a rainy Candlemas bearing the winter away? Let's hope!

Many of Miss Law's braille pupils will be sorry to hear that she has decided to retire from the teaching she has carried on so devotedly ever since Regent's Park days. She made of it so individual a labour of love (in different languages, too) that her absence leaves a big gap. All will join in wishing her health and happiness wherever she goes.

Brockhurst, though sad at losing Miss Moggach, decided rather to show their appreciation of her unfailing services in the linen room, by organising a farewell party in her honour. Longmynd, too, will never be quite the same without Miss Feilden, who gave so very much more than mere patching and mending. "Most people," said a wise man, "win at least one heart during life; just a very few win friendliness on all sides." Croxley Green is to be congratulated on welcoming Miss Feilden as Matron.

Denchurst organised an A.1 reading of "Blithe Spirit" one Sunday evening. Mrs. Steel, as the wild spiritualist-dabbler, Mr. Stanners as the harassed husband—indeed the whole cast (including realistic "noises off") delighted the audience.

At an informal concert one evening, three trainees separately distinguished themselves: John Mudge, whose topical couplets spare no one!; Ronny Smith, with humorous monologues; and "Tiny," demonstrating male and female methods of sewing on a button! The music pupils' items also betoken steady perseverance.

Two more afternoon outings at Wolverhampton, thanks to our tirelessly kind friends there, for the pantomimes, "Cinderella" and "Babes in the Wood," each followed by such a spread, cigarettes, etc.

Messrs. Southam Brewery, Shrewsbury, presented trainees with one week's free supply of beer; when people want to be friendly they do find nice ways of showing it.

Another visit from the faithful Croft Hermits Repertory Company, this time with "Hay Fever," was fully up to even their standard. They do much to compensate for Shropshire's lack of a theatre, and we are indeed grateful.

Dance invitations from Atcham R.A.F. Station, Battlefield Camp, Attingham Hall and Bayston Hill have been gladly accepted; and visiting dance bands have included the K.S.L.I., the Sabrina Band from Welshpool, and Pioneer Band.

We have welcomed the Police Concert Party from Shrewsbury, the Arden Singers from Birmingham, and an orchestra and artists from the 10th Battalion R.A.O.C. in "Fantasy Revels." These generous-hearted people not only give their services but think of numberless other ways of helping; they deserve—and receive—our warm thanks.

Twelve new arrivals have been welcomed, including Les Webber, returning to take up massage.

Among the seven leaving: C. Jennings takes a job with his old firm, Messrs. Ucal Ltd., Chemists, Prior Court, Cheltenham; P. Dent goes to South Mimms. J. Mooney starts capstan lathe work with Messrs. Sawyer & Purves, Nelson Street, Miles Platting, Manchester; R. Belcher (Canadian) and Norman Russell take assembly jobs, the latter with Sunbury Cross Engineers, Ltd., and E. Brown goes as telephone operator with Messrs. Blyth Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company, Blyth. Good luck to each and all!

Harry Devenport and Nick Carter will be leaving the United Kingdom about mid-February for Lagos, Nigeria, to start the St. Dunstan's Unit for the Training and Settlement of West African ex-service men.

We miss Jimmy Green's cheery presence and kindly tuition, as he is now instructor at Portland Place, Brighton. Au revoir!

Congratulations to the following, who have passed tests:—

In Braille Interline.—H. Earnshaw, A. Serdet, N. Russell.

In Braille Interpoint.—A. Somervell, B. Temple, A. Bradley.

In Typing.—J. Swann, L. Page.

Braille Correspondent Wanted

A blind Italian would like to correspond in English braille with a St. Dunstaner. He is Mr. A. Boschiero, Breganze, Vicenza, Italy.

Ex-Servicemen's Hansard

by our Parliamentary Correspondent

When Parliament resumed in January, after the Christmas recess, numerous Members promptly raised a variety of matters affecting the welfare of ex-servicemen.

Flying Officer Bowden (Leicester, Lab.), asked the Minister of Pensions if he was aware of the delay in dealing with applications for war pensions, and that ex-servicemen's organisations, such as the British Legion, were having to use their own funds to assist applicants who were awaiting decisions regarding war pensions.

Mr. Paling: In the large majority of claims made at the time of invaliding or in respect of death in service, a decision is notified before service pay ceases. There are cases where further enquiries have to be made, but these are dealt with as quickly as possible.

Colonel Stoddart-Scott (Pudsey and Otley, C.), asked the Minister of Labour what additional publicity was to be given, and what additional facilities provided, for registration under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, in view of the fact that only 100,000 had registered, when it was estimated that 1,000,000 were eligible.

The Minister of Labour, Mr. George Isaacs (Southwark N., Lab.): Apart from the considerable publicity that has been given recently for the scheme of registration, further measures are being taken. Arrangements have been made for employment exchanges to keep open as necessary beyond working hours for the purpose of taking applications from persons in employment. Registrations may also, by agreement, be taken on an employer's premises.

Other matters raised related to registers of disabled persons in work, the probable total cost of war pensions for the war just ended (no reliable estimate has yet been made), and the delay by Pension Appeal Tribunals in hearing appeals.

Considerable interest was aroused in Parliamentary circles by the letter from Sir Ian Fraser, in *The Times* on January 5th, calling for a Select Committee to examine the whole question of war pensions and allowances. Sir Ian's long and detailed statement, and his powerful plea that all the facts shall be marshalled and opinions gathered, won widespread sympathy, and more is likely to be heard of the matter inside the House of Commons before long.

Mr. J. W. Barnes

It is with deep regret that we have heard of the sudden death of Mr. John William Barnes, Managing Clerk of Messrs. Ranger, Burton & Frost, Solicitors to St. Dunstan's. For twenty-five years, Mr. Barnes has given loyal and devoted service to blind people, and many St. Dunstaners will remember with gratitude his wise and kindly counsel on their behalf as head of our Solicitors' Litigation Department.

Our Thanks to the Railwaymen

Sir Ian Fraser has sent the following message to the "Railway Gazette," the "Railway Review" and the "Railway Service Journal":

Blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen who have been and are in training at St. Dunstan's in London, or at Church Stretton, or who go to our various establishments in Brighton, Blackpool or Aylesbury, and a thousand or more individual soldiers of both wars who have used the railways during the war, and still use them, owe a debt of gratitude to railway employees. I should like to tell railwaymen of all grades of the appreciation which St. Dunstaners frequently express to me for the guidance and help which is always afforded to them. May I also add my personal thanks.

Births

BARTON.—On January 11th, to the wife of Edmund Barton (new war), a daughter—Janet Marjorie.

HANCOCK.—To the wife of C. A. Hancock, of West Drayton, on January 12th, a daughter—Sylvia Margaret.

HOLDEN.—On January 8th, to the wife of H. Holden, of Hindley Green (new war), a son—Keith.

KING.—On November 18th, to the wife of Harold King, of Dunstable (trainee), a daughter—Janet Margaret.

PREEDY.—On December 24th, to the wife of H. E. Preedy, of Bush Hill Park, (new war), a daughter—Sandra Frances.

WITHINGTON.—On January 10th, to the wife of L. Withington, of Wigan, (new war), a daughter—Edna.

Marriages

DALE—RIDSDALE.—On January 26th, at Blackpool, J. Dale (new war), to Miss Rebecca Ridsdale.

PRIEST—EWELL.—On January 26th, Bert Priest, of Tipton (new war), to Miss Phoebe M. Ewell.

"In Memory"

Lance-Corporal Richard Biggadike, M.M. (*2nd Dragoon Guards*)

With deep regret we record the death of R. Biggadike, of Boston.

An old soldier when the war broke out—he enlisted in 1902—he was wounded in 1915 and he came to us a few months afterwards. He was decorated with the Military Medal in 1917. He trained as a boot repairer, but he took a keen interest also in rabbit-keeping and country life activities. For a number of years, on account of ill-health, he had led a very quiet life, but his death on December 3rd occurred in hospital after a very short illness.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral. Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and her family in their sorrow.

Private Hubert Hargreaves, *King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of H. Hargreaves, of Accrington.

He was wounded at Pozieres in 1916 and came to St. Dunstan's the same year, where he was trained as a poultry farmer and mat-maker. He carried on with one or other of these activities for a considerable time, but of late years was forced to lead a less active life. He died very suddenly at his home on December 7th.

A wreath from St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral, which took place at Clayton-le-Moors. We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Hargreaves and her family.

Private Edward Pannifer, *7th Lancashire Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of E. Pannifer, of Blackpool.

He was trained at St. Dunstan's as a boot-repairer and mat-maker, but his indifferent health made it impossible for him to do anything but light work for many years before his death. He was taken very ill before Christmas and was admitted to hospital, but he did not rally and he passed away there on December 20th.

The cremation took place in the afternoon of Christmas Eve, St. Dunstan's being represented by St. Dunstaners E. J. Thompson, of Kenton, Charles Williams and J. Worthington; Matron Vaughan-Davies and Sister Berry. Holly wreaths from his comrades at St. Dunstan's were placed on the coffin.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and two children.

Mrs. Ivy Harrison, *Royal Ordnance Factory*

With deep regret we record the death of Mrs. Ivy Harrison, of St. Helen's, who was blinded in the course of her work in a munitions factory in 1940.

Although she was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in August, 1943, she was never able to come to us for training, for unhappily she contracted tuberculosis. She entered a sanatorium, where she passed away on November 18th, her brave spirit sustaining her throughout her long illness.

Our deep sympathy is extended to her husband and two children.

Private William Anderson, *15th Lancashire Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Anderson, of Morecambe.

He served with his regiment from June, 1917, until December, 1919, but his health and sight had been so seriously affected that he came to us a few years later. Training was, however, impossible, and for many years he bravely bore great suffering. He was most anxious to go down to Brighton, and this became possible towards the end of last year. He died at West House on November 10th, and was buried in Brighton Cemetery among many of his old comrades.

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Anderson and her two daughters.

Private Walter Giles, *13th Canadians*

We record with deep regret the death of H. W. Giles, of Wolverhampton.

Wounded at Vimy Ridge in April, 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's, where he trained as a basket-maker, and then returned to Canada. In a short time, however, he came back again to settle in this country—in 1919. For many years he had been fully occupied with different interests, and during the war years did yeoman service at the Canadian Canteen. He had also taught braille to a number of St. Dunstaners.

His death occurred very suddenly at his home on January 28th. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral.

He was a single man and our deep sympathy goes out to his relatives, and in particular to his great friend, W. Shakspeare, in their sorrow.

Private Ernest Fairfield, *2nd Canadian Pioneers*

It is with deep regret that we have only recently heard of the death of another of our Canadians, E. Fairfield, of Toronto, which occurred on April 30th of last year as the result of a heart attack.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917, where he was trained first as a poultry farmer and later as a basket-maker. Many St. Dunstaners will remember him, for although he went back to Canada after the last war he returned to St. Dunstan's a few years later and stayed for a considerable time.

In the letter bringing us the news of his death came the news also that his son, Flight Lieutenant C. Fairfield, was killed in France on August 1st, 1945, and our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Fairfield and her family in this double bereavement.

Deaths

VICKERS.—Our sincere sympathy is extended to H. Vickers, of Bolton, whose wife passed away on January 11th.

We have also heard with regret of the death of Mrs. R. Davies, of Sweffling; of the mother of Mrs. S. Jennings, of Bradford, and of the mother of Mrs. T. Till, of Lancaster.