

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 354—VOLUME XXXII

OCTOBER, 1948

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
(FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN)

NEWS FROM ALL QUARTERS

A St. Dunstan's Settler

From the *Cape Times* comes news of W. B. Riley, who left England for South Africa at the beginning of the year.

With good experience of the catering trade, he has become "mine host" of the Round House, Cape Town, and he told a reporter of the newspaper that he had found "complete happiness." He makes all the arrangements for the restaurant and guest-house, supervises the staff, and has been taking his share in the renovation work. His St. Dunstan's training came in useful when the wicker chairs were to be repaired.

Mrs. Chadwick Bates says she is delighted with the progress he is making.

St. Dunstaner Flies to America

From the "*Daily Express*" October 6th:—

"When Thomas Till's sister emigrated from Lancaster to Arizona in 1914, Thomas was 29. He vowed he would visit her one day. And he saved. Three years later, he lost his sight. But he went on saving, with his goal—Arizona.

"Last night, 63-year-old Thomas Till kissed his wife at London Airport. On the arm of an air hostess he walked to a plane.

"He said: 'It will be grand to hear my sister's voice again.' Then he set off 5,000 miles to Arizona."

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Our St. Dunstaner will be away for six months. Just before he left his younger daughter, Marjorie, was married.

Blowing his own Horn

Cecil Purkis, of Preston, Canada, recently retired from poultry farming after thirty years. He played the cornet before he lost his sight but poultry farming did not leave him much time for practising. Now he has taken it up again and his fame is growing. He began by being in demand at gatherings of the Canadian Legion. Then he accompanied the local team to hockey games and played in the intervals. Now he goes everywhere with the team to their moral and musical support. He gets complete enjoyment out of his playing. "It's the thrill of my life," he says.

Walter Bowen

E. Denny, of South Africa, has sent us a copy of *The Patriot*, which is the official journal of the Sons of England Society, of which the late Walter Bowen was a Grand President. In a moving tribute to his great qualities, the journal says: "The Order has suffered a sad and a heavy loss. . . . We have lost a Brother of a lovable character at a time when our need of him was greatest." At Cape Town, judges, barristers and attorneys crowded one of the Civil Courts of the Supreme Courts to pay their tribute to his memory.

48th Anniversary

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. I. Corns, recently of Kenton, and now living in Australia, who celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary on June 3rd. They have ten children, all living, and fifteen grandchildren—and they ask if this is a record.

St. Dunstan's Thanks the R.A.F.

On September 20th, at the Training Centre, Ovingdean, a sum of £260 in notes was handed to Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre, Chairman of the Brighton and Hove Committee of the Battle of Britain Week, by Ted Penny and Miss Carlton. This magnificent total was the result of the Training Centre's own effort for the Battle of Britain Week which included a grand raffle and a Dance held in July.

Air Commodore Dacre, expressing his pleasure and thanks, said that this was the biggest single contribution that had been raised by any organisation within the Brighton and Hove area. (After the presentation a further gift of £8 was received, making the contribution in all £268).

Among those present at the ceremony was Mrs. Bentley Dacre and other members of the Battle of Britain Week Committee, and Commandant Fawcett.

Included in the Brighton and Hove total was a sum of £260, which had been raised by the sale of programmes printed and produced by a St. Dunstaner, Squadron-Leader W. T. Curtis-Willson, and another £72 by the raffle of a "Don Bradman" bat also generously presented by him.

This bat, autographed by the England Test players and the Australian cricketers who toured here this summer, has been won by Miss Barbara Robins, South Lodge, Beach Road, Bournemouth (Ticket No. 489). Miss Robins was formerly a member of the temporary staff at St. Dunstan's, West House. She is giving the bat to one of her nephews.

Raffle Results

No of Ticket	Article	Name
6543	Clock	Edna Marley, Portslade.
548	Wool Rug	Mrs. A. Bramson, Bromley.
8931	Handbag	Mrs. E. Richardson, London, S.W.2.
933	Plastic table lamp	Mrs. Hall, Rottingdean.
4657	Wood table lamp	Miss Duberly, Portslade.
3700	Whisky	Mrs. Murray, Worthing.
9973	Gin	Mr. A. L. Stroud, London, S.W.8.
1604	Cigarette lighter	Mr. E. M. Davies, Dunstable.
8353	White silk scarf	Mr. L. Banks, Ovingdean.
6693	R.A.F. scarf	Miss Jean Jennings, London, N.16.
2114	Fraser scarf	Mr. J. Pettitt, Hove.
8711	Tea tray	Mrs. Dodds, Worcester.
9270	Yardley perfume	Mrs. Bridgeland, Hove.
5136	Tea tray	John Mutton, Newcastle.
974	Cocktail shaker	Toler, c/o Lucy Ann, Rottingdean.

8284	Calendar stand and dog-lead	Mrs. Browning, Portslade.
7139	Cigarette box and 50 cigarettes	Mr. J. Pettitt, Hove.
3527	Button holes	Dusty Miller, Brighton.
8549	Shopping basket	Mr. A. G. Cole, Bexhill.
7548	Child's reins	President, E. T. H., Edmonton.
8147	Shopping basket	Mrs. Turner, Chorley.
4345	Tea tray	Mrs. Squire, Fotheringhay.
3131	String bag	Smith, Catford, S.E.6.
8411	String bag	Pethernish, Hove.
79	Ten shillings	Miss Whittaker, Windermere.

A Far East P.O.W. Club

Mrs. Nolan, wife of our St. Dunstaner, John Nolan, of Acton, tells us of an interesting social club which has been formed for Far East ex-prisoners of war. It holds its meetings once a month at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road, Chelsea, and it extends a warm welcome to any Far East ex-prisoner. Mrs. Nolan says she and John had a most enjoyable evening on their first visit and they have since attended another social which they enjoyed even more.

The Committee is anxious to increase its membership and John wonders if any St. Dunstaners who were Far East prisoners would care to come along. The Club is called the Far East P.O.W. Social Club, and the Hon. Secretary's address is 18 George Lane, South Woodford, E.18. The next meeting is on October 21st.

Ideas Rewarded

J. Banks and E. R. Jensen, both of whom are employed by Messrs. Hoovers, of Perivale, have received monetary awards for suggestions made by them to increase output.

J. Banks suggested a new type of glove for protecting the hands from the sharp edges of metal, and also a special bin device which has resulted in the saving of a considerable amount of oil.

E. R. Jensen suggested a special adaptor to be fitted to his ratchet screwdriver. This was adopted and resulted in a 30 per cent. saving of time. On another job he suggested a foot lever instead of a hand operation; this leaves him with both hands free, thus increasing output.

Freemasonry

A. A. Biggs, of Barnet, has been installed as the Worshipful Master for the second year of the Star of Friendship Lodge 6496.

Talking Book Library

The Talking Book Library Committee has reluctantly come to the decision that no more new readers can be admitted to the Library for the time being owing to the shortage of recorded books.

As a result of the musicians' strike in the United States, which has lasted many months, the gramophone companies have stopped pressing records and have been unable to press the odd records which we need to replace broken records. In addition to this, the Decca Company, one of our suppliers in England, have been changing over to a new process and they have been two years behindhand in making up broken records. The result is that for the time being the Library is very short of books.

Additions to the Library in September

Three books slipped off the assembly lines last month to take their place in the Library, and, it is hoped, make occasional journeys up and down the country.

First on the list comes W. Macqueen Pope's "Carriages at Eleven," read very pleasantly by Robert Gladwell. Edwardian theatre, from a keen lover of the stage and all playgoers, is both entertaining and instructive; let the not-so-young theatre fans enjoy nostalgic memories amidst the London theatres, 1897-1918. The children's trip to the pantomime is worth reading several times. Although I particularly recommend it to those who may recall some parts of the dazzling shows described, yet all theatre fans can't miss with this book. This is the only one of the month at 33 speed and the recording is good.

Secondly, a book by Julian Symons, a thriller called, "A Man called Jones," read by F. P. Bayley. It is probably read quite well but the reader's precise manner of enunciation can become quite a trifle irritating. However, the book itself, despite three incidents of homicide, is a hum-drum affair hinging on an advertising agent, Edward Hargreaves, his gloomy past, and his two sons, Lionel and Richard. Inspector Bland lives up to his name and a chorus girl provides "love interest." Maybe I've said too much, but that hasn't given any of the story away so there is no harm done. To me the keynote of the book seems to be a subtle all-round unpleasantness, but with the author's ingenuity and complete lack of padding, the reading should be enjoyable.

Last and sweetest is "Eve's Apples," a between-the-wars novel by H. A. Vachell, read by F. P. Bayley. A pleasant story, not too long and written by a master of character production. It is refreshing to hear an author so good and kindly as Vachell, who takes care to show only the better self of his characters and allows no real wickedness to creep in, only minor foibles which can be good-humouredly shrugged away. The story is of a grass widow and her daughter, Eve, and further elucidation would bring the whole book tumbling about my head. The writer does far better than I ever could. Best leave it to him and, if you are curious, to you.

NELSON.

From the Chairman's Post-Bag

"I hear from an article by you in the Sunday press of the mental strain in matters like shaving, in that every movement has to be carefully thought out. All this is perfectly true and I know very well from experience. Have you tried an electric razor? My son gave me one a few years ago and I have used it with great comfort since. I use no soap, water or brush. The razor is plugged into the light over my bed-head. I have only to reach for the razor, switch on and sit up in bed and shave. You cannot get it quite as close as with an ordinary razor but quite close enough not to show. But they are in short supply and are expensive."

J. R. RICHARDSON, Cranford.

Sir Ian replies:

"I have tried one or two types of electric razors during the past few years and do not personally like them. No doubt it is only a fad but the noise irritates me and I do not feel that the shave is as clean as the good old cut-throat which I have used all my life, and still use."

Presentation

New war physiotherapists who had received their preliminary training from him, first at Church Stretton and later at Ovingdean, presented N. McLeod Steel, at the recent Physiotherapy Conference with a cheque as a token of their affection and regard and in gratitude for his skilful professional training and his personal help and friendship. The presentation was made on behalf of his colleagues by E. R. Ettridge.

The Muffled Drums' Reunion

We all arrived within an hour or so of each other at West House for the much awaited Reunion for the deaf men. There was much to say to each other and much grasping for somebody else's hands, and so many things had to be said several times. There was our colonel with his pipe, of course (Jordan), and the evening soon slipped away.

On Saturday morning we took a walk along the promenade in midsummer-like weather, on to the Palace Pier; talking to us the V.A.D. walked into the bar by accident so we decided to buy something!

After lunch Sir Ian and Lady Fraser met us all in the quiet lounge. Sir Ian said how pleased he was to be with his deaf comrades and after a short discussion upon our difficulties, we all sat down to a very enjoyable tea which Matron had prepared for us, and after which Jordan passed a vote of thanks to Sir Ian for coming along, which was seconded by W. Bedford.

We were now joined by a party of sighted deaf people who had come along to meet us and a darts match was arranged. Two games were played, we winning one each, and then we sat down to supper. After that we played dominoes and following that, our sighted friends took us over to the "Barley Mow" to finish the night off.

After strolls the next morning, we all drove to Bramber in the afternoon where we took tea, and after supper we all went off to the pier and finished up in the bar!

On Monday we went to Ovingdean where Matron Pain was awaiting us. We met Commandant Fawcett and Mr. Mackay here; we toured the workshops and met the new boys, then we all gathered again for lunch and you should have heard those muffled drums when it was known Mr. Banks was joining us too!

During the lunch there was much to talk about, and after it speeches were made by everybody there. Jordan again passed a vote of thanks to Matron Pain, Williams seconded it, and following this, we drove to Alfriston for tea, this time accompanied by Ovingdean V.A.D.s. Later we drove out to Hurstpierpoint where we sat down to dinner with Commandant Fawcett, Mr. Banks and our escort-interpreter V.A.D.s. This being the last event, I can tell you it went off with a real bang! Those muffled drums did *roll!*

All too soon Tuesday morning came and we had to drag ourselves away from each other and our friends, but by this time the staff was suffering from dislocated fingers and had become almost speechless!

Many thanks indeed to those—officials, staff and St. Dunstaners—who helped to make this first reunion of the muffled drums such a great success.

GEO. FALLOWFIELD.

Love on a Roller

It is generally known that during the days of captivity in Germany, a Braille School was organised by Lord Normanby, with the help of other teachers. In addition to braille lessons, other subjects were taught, such as economics, book-keeping, geography, etc.

Now the Braille Room as I remember it had two long and fairly wide tables, which could accommodate two "Kepler" typewriters back-to-back (the latter having been acquired from the Germans by means of Normanby "strings.")

So it was that two boys one day sat down opposite each other to type, one to do his geography homework, the other to write to his fiancée. These two were the sole occupants of the Braille Room, and for some time hit the rollers accordingly. Fred, however, who was doing his geography, decided to call it a day; he whipped the paper from the machine and strolled out, leaving Bert with his inspirations.

Bert went on typing for some time. Then into the room came an orderly. "What are you doing?" he asked Bert. Bert replied "Writing home to the girl friend." "But," said the orderly, "you haven't any paper in the machine." But there in the other machine was Fred's geographical paper. Bert had been typing on his roller since Fred left the room.

It was suggested that Bert should send the roller home to his fiancée.

L. W. C.

The Braille Evangel

A new religious braille magazine is available to braille readers free of charge. It is published monthly and those interested should write to *The Braille Evangel*, Box 6001, Seminary Hill Station, Fort Worth, 10, Texas, U.S.A. if they wish their name to be placed on the mailing list.

West House Notes

Perhaps it was the contrast after the hustle and bustle of August and the holiday season in full swing that made September seem rather quiet at West House.

On Sunday, the 5th, we were entertained in the Lounge at coffee time by Rees Warren, who gave us a grand conjuring performance. He seemed to have a never-ending supply of silk hankies which appeared from a magic "empty" silver box and he baffled us all with his card and rope tricks.

The following Sunday started the Battle of Britain Week and all that week there were concerts, dances and shows, ending with a Festival and Service at the Dome on Sunday, the 19th, when West House was represented by a party of sixty.

The last Brighton Race Meetings were on the 15th and 16th and were well supported by West House enthusiasts.

The British Legion entertained us on the 12th, 23rd, and 25th; these were "social" evenings with darts, cards, dominoes, sing-songs, and lots to eat and drink.

There have been the usual round of dominoes and darts and, when the weather permitted, cruises were the order of the day, either for a couple of hours into the Channel, or for the "old salts," day trips to Eastbourne and Hastings.

September 24th was a red-letter day at West House for it was the first day of the Deaf-Blind Reunion and we were all delighted to be able to welcome the boys. They put new life into us and made us all feel twenty years younger with their cheerfulness and fun. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser joined the party on the 25th for a chat with the men and tea.

Test Results for September

Senior

J. W. Cookson, A. J. Woollen, J. Walch

Advanced

A. J. Woollen, S. Edgar, A. Rees.

Typing

R. Glover, C. Lightfoot, J. E. Brown.

Preliminary, E. Hailes (Australian).

Writing, A. Pollitt.

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At the Eccles (Manchester) Agricultural Show on August 28th, fourteen St. Dunstaners, escorted by their wives, were specially invited to form a guard of honour to greet the President, Lord Derby, on his arrival to open the Show.

Jock Thanks the Busmen

From the London "Star," Saturday, October 2nd:

"The busmen of Route 23 (Marylebone to Becontree Heath) have received a letter of thanks from war-blinded Mr. Jock Macfarlane, who travels daily from his home at Faircross, Barking, to his City office in Lombard Street. He has written to London Transport saying that the conductors and drivers "have made my task of trying to be an independent citizen a lot easier."

Jock is with a Government Department and this year completes his twenty-fifth year there, and his twenty-seventh in the City. But he doesn't claim this as a record. He thinks this is held by Sammy Webster, who has been thirty years with his firm.

Who?

Who makes all those baskets,
Those rugs and those trays?
Who trains the blind men to work the
capstan lathe?
And where do they learn that good work-
manship pays?

St. Dunstan's, the talk of the world!

Some are taught poultry and gardening as
well,
And all of them typing and braille,
And where do they teach them to do it so
well?

St. Dunstan's, the talk of the world!

Some operate a switchboard—
Even massage, too.
And to teach them assembly must be a
sticky to-do.
But where do they teach them?
Can you give me a clue?

St. Dunstan's, the talk of the world!

This fine institution
Is equalled by none.
For trades and professions they teach a
thousand and one.
At last I am satisfied,
For I know where it's done.

St. Dunstan's, the talk of the world.

W. THOMAS.

Saltdean.

Ovingdean Notes

We returned to Ovingdean on August 31st, after four weeks' holiday, to welcome nineteen new Australian trainees (amongst whom is David Beattie) who had been fortunate to arrive during the all too brief heat wave at the very end of last term. They spent the "summer" holiday at Belmont, where they were royally entertained by Miss Wilshin and Commander Roney.

The first of the autumn lectures was given by Mr. Metcalf, a blind solicitor, on September 8th, whose subject was "The work of the National Federation for the Blind." It was most interesting to learn from him what is being done in the civilian blind world. On September 16th, Mr. Barrett of the Central Office of Information, gave an enjoyable talk on "Gambia," and on the 30th, Captain Laycock handled the very difficult subject, "The Marshall Plan"—(European Recovery), in an excellent way and made it very easy to follow the intricacies of foreign exchange.

The Stag Party given by the N.F.S. College at Saltdean started the ball rolling for the term's entertainment; this was, as usual, a huge success and very much enjoyed.

On September 20th, the usual Monday night dance was transferred to the Lounge and turned into a "special" evening. On behalf of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund and Association, Air Commodore Dacre accepted £260, which was the proceeds of the Concert held last term, and the sale of Raffle tickets, from Miss Carlton and Ted Penny. "Dickie" Richardson drew the prize numbers for the Raffle, amongst which was his own, and he has been protesting since that there was no deception at all!

A very delightful Social Evening was given by the Red Courts County Club, Seaford, on September 24th. Several trainees assisted in the entertainment of the Club Members. Ron Vincent sang, Ron Smith amused the audience with a fund of tales and monologues, and Alby Ryan did a tap dance. A vote of thanks was given by "Tony" Smith, an old war St. Dunstaner, who lives in Saltdean.

Children's Encyclopaedia Wanted

The Editor has recently received two requests for copies of the *Children's Encyclopaedia*. If any St. Dunstaner has one to sell, will he please get in touch with us.

News of St. Dunstaners

W. Thornton, of Birmingham, was the author of an article on blindness in the *Lancet*, which was one of a series on "Disabilities." The intention of the series has been to set out the difficulties with which handicapped persons are faced, and to explain how these have been tackled and overcome.

Walter Thornton is a Welfare Officer at Cadbury Bros., and is also secretary of the Youths' Committee. He was in camp this summer with 150 boys from Bournville. While he was there he received a cheque for £1,000 from Mr. C. W. Gillett, a director, which is part of a fund to be spent on an interchange of visits between Bournville boys and girls and young people from other countries. This fund is to be the memorial to young employees of the company who lost their lives in World War II.

T. Barton, of Scalby, is doing well with his kennels. One of his young bitches, "Linda of Long Mynd," who at eight months already holds eight other prizes, won both the Cocker Novices' Cup and the Cup for the Best Puppy bred by an Exhibitor at the Scarborough Canine Show on September 25th.

Howard Simcocks, who is now an advocate in the Isle of Man, has conducted his first case, and won it.

W. Robbins, of Bournemouth, entered one of his baskets in the National Eisteddfod of Wales, at Bridgend, which gained him a "Commended" in his class.

T. Bowen of Llanelly, still keeps canaries which have won several prizes in shows; he also sells them and gets a great deal of pleasure from his hobby.

G. H. Gilpin, of Thorverton, has been enjoying his son's company on holiday, and some pleasant trips to the sea. He has just had another grandchild—a daughter has been born to his daughter.

F. Mowtell, of Cramlington, had a handsome photograph in the *Blyth News*. He has just been let a house on a new hostel estate. He is a keen Salvationist. He joined the Salvation Army twenty years ago and has travelled all over the north to conduct services.

The Irish Reunions

Three most enjoyable meetings took place at Cork, Dublin and Belfast on October 5th, 7th and 8th.

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Alderman G. F. Brewitt) was waiting to welcome the guests at Cork, and at Dublin, the Lord Mayor, Councillor J. Breen, Mr. Oliver Humphreys, the Area Chairman of the British Legion and the Area Secretary, Mr. M. J. O'Brien, were present to greet and address the men.

Those who attended the Dublin Reunion were delighted to meet Mrs. Strain, who is known and loved by them all.

Mr. William Grant, M.P., M.O.H. in the Northern Ireland Government, made a very happy speech at Belfast, and here the British Legion representative was the Chairman of the Northern Area, Captain Bennett.

Those who were present were very glad indeed to see that Mr. Macauley had made such a good recovery from his illness. He and Mr. Mackay, Welfare Superintendent, were present at all three of these friendly, happy meetings.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Francis Ashall (Billinge) on March 27th to Miss Elizabeth Lamb.

Robert McFarlane (Barnhill) on August 7th to Miss Mildred Grant.

Cyril Arthur Matthews (Maidenhead) on August 2nd to Miss Eileen Lambourne.

Margaret Lowings (Chandlers Ford) on September 11th to Mr. J. Frampton.

Kathleen Triggs, Ashford, to Mr. Cyril Martin, on August 14th.

Walter Stamp, Keely, on July 10th, to Miss Joyce Oliver.

Eric Guiseley, on July 3rd, to Miss Edith Vaughan-Bentley.

A Visitor from Australia

A welcome visitor to Headquarters recently was Mrs. Leonard Fry, of Ormond, Victoria, Australia, who is in this country for six months for health reasons. She hopes shortly to go down to Brighton to meet our Australian friends, one of whom at least she knows personally. She also intends to go to West House so that she may take back first-hand news to her husband about the old place.

Great-Grandfather

A. Morris, Pontypridd, for the eighth time.

Gardening

T. Batt, of Oakhill, near Bath, won first prize for a vase of cut flowers, and second prize for a flowering pot plant at the Bristol Guild of Blind Gardeners' competition, and in the Somerset County Association for the Blind contest, tied with another man for first prize in the Vegetable Garden class.

E. D. Evans, of Carmarthen, exhibited at this year's Carmarthen Horticultural Society's Show and gained four seconds and two thirds.

H. R. Potter, of Hastings, had a nice tribute paid to his garden in the local paper. It said: "He has a row of garden peas 7ft. 6in. high—in fact, his whole garden is outstanding."

Placements

G. Allen, as a trader on the Fish Dock at Hull; J. Bailey, on inspection work with Dennis Motors, Ltd., Guildford; R. G. Cameron, Forest Gate, as a shop-keeper; Alan Moore, as telephone operator with Messrs. Schweppes, of Hendon; C. Pilgrim, Hounslow, as a shop-keeper.

Remembrance Day, 1948

*And some there be that have no memorial . . .
No gilt inscription on a scroll of fame
Or sounding voluntary; unassuming men
Who, laying aside their torch's dying flame,
Were borne away to a world of greater light
Where broken limbs and blindness are unknown.
Each quiet grave reveals a living friend
For ever faithful in the eternal home.*

*In this most sacred hour, would I could pray
More fervent than this feeble heart allow.
So deeply is emotion welling forth
With every heartbeat, that the tears must flow
Despite my will . . . My very soul is stirred
And I must weep, because I loved them so;
Because my heart o'erflows with memories
Of all the pain that they did undergo.*

*Pray on, frail heart, beyond the finite fields
Of human thought, where heaven lies far out-
spread;
Ere this brief silence break I would be deep
In spiritual communion with the dead.
My heart shall beat, and beat like a thund'rous
drum
Calling the dead to life . . . those men I love . . .
Until their sacrificial presence come
To sweeten life and sanctify resolve.*

R.J.V.

“ In Memory ”

Pioneer Stanley Burdis, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of S. Burdis, of Adwick, near Doncaster. He served with his regiment from November, 1915, and was wounded at La Bassee in 1916; his sight gradually failed and he came to us six years later. Unfortunately, his health was very poor as a result of his injuries, but he took up mat making after he had tried a little poultry-farming. Of recent years heavy work had been out of the question but he took a job at the Ministry of Supply during the war years, anxious to do his bit.

Since the beginning of the year his health grew worse. He went to West House, but had a great desire to return home. This he did just a few days before his death on September 19th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was sent for the funeral.

He leaves a widow and five children, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Thomas Thorpe, *King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of T. Thorpe, of Torrisholme, at the age of seventy-one. This fine old soldier enlisted in November, 1895; he joined up again in 1914 and almost immediately went to France where he was blinded at Ypres. At St. Dunstan's the same year, he trained as a poultry farmer and mat maker, and he went on with mat making until 1941, when his age and health forced him to retire. He and Mrs. Thorpe celebrated their golden wedding ten months ago.

He was a keen member of the British Legion and of the Jubilee Club, Torrisholme.

Among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends, and another from the Morecambe Branch of the Legion.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and grown-up family, one of whom herself married a St. Dunstaner, W. Allen, of Torrisholme.

Edward Wilkinson

We have heard with deep regret that Edward Wilkinson, of Granville, New South Wales, Australia, died on August 13th after a long illness.

He was a St. Dunstaner of the recent war, but did not come to us for training. He kept in touch with us, however, and much appreciated the friendly messages of goodwill.

Leading Stoker Eric Jones, *Royal Navy*

With deepest regret we record the death at Ovingdean of Eric Jones, a lad who came to us in January of this year, but whose health did not allow him to undertake any training. He died very suddenly on September 13th. He was buried at his home at Paignton, Devon.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his parents.

Births

COWING.—On September 20th, to the wife of W. H. Cowing, of Plumstead, a son—Paul James.

HARLEY.—On September 16th, to the wife of F. P. Harley, of Wimblington, a son—Michael Philip.

PARMENTER.—On August 30th, to the wife of D. Parmenter, of Fleet, a second daughter—Suzanne Anita.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to the following:—

O'BRIEN.—To J. O'Brien, of Aintree, Liverpool, whose wife passed away on September 20th.

PEASE.—To J. R. Pease, of Pudsey, whose mother, who was known to many St. Dunstaners, died on September 20th.

Marriage

WIGGLESWORTH—HUNT.—On August 3rd, A. Wigglesworth, of Rotherham, to Miss Ivy Eileen Hunt.

Thoughts

Two of many thoughts that arose in the mind of a blinded Australian prisoner of war whilst serving a solitary confinement sentence in the notorious Outram Road Gaol, Singapore, during the Japanese occupation of Malaya.

*It matters not who welds the chain
There must always be a weakest link
To denote both strength and breaking strain
So in this life, when you're on the brink
Of madness, through tragedy, love or pain
Ensure that by far the strongest link
Is the one connecting heart and brain.*

*Sapphires, rubies and things of worth
Are all to be had if wealth suffice
But friendship is the richest thing on earth
Yet strangely enough it has no price
And within reach of all, irrespective of birth
The mother of friendship is self-sacrifice.*

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith, Golcar, October 16th.