

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I AM writing this on the morning of December 9th, having just returned from the grave of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., where Messrs. H. Crabtree and W. Miller, St. Dunstaners, Mr. Dawkins, Lady Fraser and I laid a wreath in remembrance. At the graveside I said, "We lay this wreath in remembrance of our friend, Arthur Pearson, the Founder of St. Dunstan's, whose inspiration and example we try to follow." I was reminded of a pleasant fact by the wording on the cross, namely, that our late Chief's full title was "Sir Arthur Pearson, First Baronet of St. Dunstan's, G.B.E.," a very happy association of the two names so indissolubly linked by history. I noted also the dates, 1866-1921, which means that he died at the early age of fifty-five. It is strange to those of us now in the 50s to remember that we were young men, some of us little more than boys, when we first knew him, and that he, then in the late 40s, seemed to us to be a very senior person, as indeed he was in his authority and prestige. It is a reminder to all of us that although we may not feel old in our middle age, we are probably so regarded by the younger generation. I remember when I was a subaltern of eighteen years of age my company commander, aged thirty-four, seemed to me to be pretty ancient and indeed, we all called him "the Old Man." But perhaps that was a term of art or affection.

The Memorial Service at which Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., read the Lesson and Sergeant Alan Nichols gave the address illustrates an interesting point about our Chapel at the Ovingdean Home, for the Rev. G. L. Treglown, M.B.E., conducted the service and he is a Minister of the Methodist Church. Although our Chapel was dedicated by the Bishop of Chichester under the Church of England, the Rev. J. E. Scott Lidgett, as leader of the Methodist Church, was also associated with the ceremony and gave it his blessing, and we have always tried to make the services broad and undenominational so that they may be acceptable to the widest possible number of worshippers.

Mr. Treglown was a Methodist Chaplain to the Forces who was seriously injured at a battle school in 1944. A stick of gelignite fell near him and realising that those around him would be liable to serious injury, he picked it up, but before he could throw it clear, it exploded. This gallant act won him the M.B.E. and cost him his eyesight and one of his hands. He is, nevertheless, a successful Minister at Newbridge, in Monmouthshire.

### Public Relations

Major Basil Curtis, who served in the Second War and has had wide experience in journalistic and publicity work, has joined our staff in place of Mr. J. E. Rose, to whose valuable term of service with St. Dunstan's I made reference in the September REVIEW.

As Public Relations Officer, Major Curtis will be primarily employed in helping to present the work and life of St. Dunstan's in all its aspects to the public, a very important function. I am always gratified and sometimes even astonished at the extraordinary power of the name of St. Dunstan's to get things done for members of our organisation, and outside recognition and regard for this name and what it stands for is a great asset to all the members of our widespread family. Major Curtis's technical skill and knowledge are also available to individual St. Dunstaners, who may write direct to him at 1 South Audley Street and seek his advice about publicity matters affecting their own profession, business or vocation.

#### Christmas

My wife and I send to all St. Dunstaners and their wives and families, and all friends of St. Dunstan's throughout the world, our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men" is an invocation and a prayer which we may all hope will guide and direct our hearts not only at Christmastide but in the troubled year ahead.

IAN FRASER.

#### Electric Clocks for the Blind

The N.I.B. announces that it is now able to supply electric clocks with dials adapted for the use of the blind. The clocks are manufactured by Messrs. Aircraft Patents, Ltd., and are as follows:

*Wall Model*: Octagonal shape, approximately 8in. across, 2in. deep, size of dial, 5in. Price (including purchase tax), 30s. 1d.

*Shelf Model (Alarm Clock)*: Approximately 6in. square, 2in. deep, size of dial, 5in. Price (including purchase tax), 30s. 1d.

The hours are indicated by "cut out" arabic numerals; each five-minute interval by means of a raised rivet. The exterior is cellulose sprayed in pastel shades of brown, blue or green. The clocks are made for use on A.C. voltage of 200-240 v., 50 cycles, but other A.C. voltages are obtainable to special order; the clocks are not, however, suitable for D.C. mains. Orders, with remittances, should specify the model, colour, and voltage of clock required, and should be sent to the National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1. Delivery, 10 to 14 days.

#### R.A.O.B. News

Readers who are members of the R.A.O.B. will be interested to know that St. Dunstaner James Jackson was exalted to the 4th Degree (R.O.H.) at the Queen Alexandra Lodge (G.L.E.), Brighton, on Sunday, October 30th, 1949. Bro. Jackson was initiated into the Order in Keighley thirty years ago, and is the President of the Brighton and District Province Knights Chapter for 1949.

#### Sir Arthur Pearson

##### In Memoriam

On the afternoon of Sunday, December 4th, a Service was held in the Chapel of the Ovingdean Home to the memory of our Founder, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart, G.B.E., who died in 1921. St. Dunstaners in the Brighton area and members of the staff, many of whom had known Sir Arthur, were among the congregation.

The Service was conducted by a St. Dunstaner, the Rev. G. L. Treglown, M.B.E., and Sir Neville Pearson, our President, read the Lesson.

Sgt. Alan Nichols, in a sincere and moving address, paid tribute to the memory of our late Chief, whose life had been devoted to the service of others.

★ ★ ★

On the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, Sir Ian Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser and Messrs. H. Crabtree and W. Miller, representing St. Dunstaners of two World Wars, visited Sir Arthur's grave in Hampstead Cemetery where they laid a wreath on behalf of war-blinded men and women throughout the Empire.

#### Placements

A. C. Wheeler, on bearing assembly work, with Newman Industries, Ltd., Bristol; J. Martin, with Bintliff Turner, Ltd., Sevenoaks, on a screw-slotting machine; K. W. Hedges in a tobacco and confectionery business at Bexley; A. Young, Northampton, as a capstan operator with Hanwell Engineering Co.

#### London Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, January 6th, 1950, at 7.30 p.m., at the Club Rooms. The Agenda will include a report of the year's progress, election of new committee members, and presentation of Balance Sheet. The following four Committee members are due for retirement this year: Messrs. P. Ashton, A. Bradley, J. Fleming, and T. Gaygan. It is hoped that all St. Dunstaners will make a special effort to attend.

On December 5th a dance was held at the Chelsea Town Hall, preceded by a tea party for all those ladies and gentlemen who do so much to help us, and to whom we owe so much. During the dance there was a raffle which realised £15, and this sum has been handed to Mr. Askew for the Deaf-Blind Watch Fund, a cause which Mr. Ottaway has very much at heart. A jolly good time was had by all and our thanks are due to Tiny Fleming for this mighty effort.

On December 3rd, we held the three-mile Walk at Regent's Park, which included a race for novices. The outstanding point of this walk was that Tommy Gaygan beat Archie Brown, who has been unbeaten "champ" since 1925. Tommy, therefore, becomes the new champion and we look forward to the next race, in January, to see if he can hold this proud position. Congratulations, Tommy.

The Club will be closed after the dominoes on December 23rd and will reopen on the 29th inst.

P. ASHTON.

#### Bridge.

The Bridge Sub-Committee send Christmas greetings to all bridge players and helpers everywhere.

FRANK A. RHODES.

**Indoor Section.** To St. Dunstaners everywhere.

The following *Dancing Competitions* will be held at the Chelsea Town Hall on January 13th, 1950:

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Old Time Waltz | } For St. Dunstaners |
| 2. Quickstep      |                      |
| 3. Foxtrot        | } Open event.        |

Nos. 1 and 2 competitions are for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial prizes. These will carry a trophy which will be retained for one year.

Open Event—anybody may enter.

Judges: Bob Henderson and Eileen Henshall, World Professional Ballroom Dancing Champions, 1948-9.

Teddy Lawford's Orchestra. Fully licensed bar. Light refreshments. Spot prizes. Admission by ticket, 2s. 6d. Twelve excellent prizes to be won. Come and "have a go."

Our *Darts Team* is going from strength to strength, winning five of our last six matches. On behalf of the London team, I am instructed to challenge all comers. Teams: four, six or eight. Finishing on exact number.

Congratulations to Blodwyn Simon (Liverpool Club) on winning the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize for Whist. Her aggregate score over six weeks was 500 points. On January 5th I shall automatically retire from the existing Committee and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking members of the staff, of all of whom have been most helpful to me and to the Committee as a whole.

TINY FLEMING.

#### Outdoor Section

On December 3rd we had the biggest field for our walks, and the judges said the standard was excellent. For this three mile event, Mr. W. J. Harris, who seems to be a wizard at handicapping, framed his best ever, getting all men in within a minute. Results are given overleaf. On January 28th comes the five mile, so send along your entries to the Club. It is also proposed to hold a 5 mile Veterans' Walk on this day, so let's have entries for this event soon as well. On March 11th we have the All-England Championships, 7 mile, when the Sir Arthur Pearson Prize will be competed for. This will be a scratch race and Clubs will be notified. And on April 29th, the 10 mile, so we must start thinking about training for the longer distance.

I automatically retire from the Committee on January 6th, so I should like to thank all those kind people who have helped the walking section so much.

T. GAYGAN.

#### Institute of Magicians

Members of St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians take this opportunity of wishing all readers a merry Christmas, together with prosperity and happiness for 1950.

ALF. WILTSHIRE.

### 3 Mile Walk and Novices' Handicap December 3rd, 1949

	<i>H'cap.</i>	<i>Actual H'cap.</i>	<i>Strich.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>final</i>
P. J. Cryan ...	1.30	26.58	28.28	1st	3
T. Denmead ...	2.40	27.22	30.02		6
A. Brown ...	Scr.	28.2 4/5	28.2 4/5	Fst.	2
				loser	
W. Miller ...	1.30	27.26	28.56		5
W. T. Scott ...	4.30	27.43	32.13		7
A. G. Bradley ...	4.30	27.43 3/5	32.13 2/5		8
T. Gaygan ...	.20	27.03	27.23	2nd	1
C. Williamson ...	1.00	27.38	28.38		4
E. Hailes ...	4.40	29.38	34.18	Fst.	9
				loser	
E. Cookson ...	—	—	—		
M. Burns ...	6.00	28.43	34.43		11
F. Dickerson ...	—	—	—		
V. Kennard ...	—	—	—		
J. Lynch ...	6.30	27.55	34.25	1st	10
C. Stafford ...	4.50	30.5 1/5	34.55 1/5		13
S. V. Tutton ...	6.30	28.25	34.55	2nd	12

#### Prizewinners

3 mile Handicap	1st P. J. Cryan
	2nd T. Gaygan
Fastest loser	A. Brown
Novices' Race	1st J. Lynch
	2nd S. V. Tutton.
Fastest loser	E. Hailes

### Deaf-Blind Watch Fund

This Fund, as my St. Dunstaner friends will know, was started early in 1945 by our old friend Mr. Ottaway, and since that date the magnificent sum of £534 has been subscribed almost entirely by St. Dunstaners.

The object of the Fund is to supply braille watches to the civilian deaf-blind, and it was suggested that I, as Honorary Treasurer, should make periodical appeals for subscriptions through the medium of the REVIEW.

The Fund has to date been able to supply 104 deaf-blind persons with watches through the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League, and I need hardly say what enormous pleasure they have given, as in nearly every case the recipient has been awaiting a watch for many years.

The League tell me that they still have on their lists 129 deaf-blind persons who have no watch, and if any St. Dunstaner would care to send me a small contribution, it will enable the Fund to provide yet more watches to the people on the waiting list.

W. ASKEW.

### Wanted

TANDEM wanted. 22in. front wheel, 24in. back wheel. Back wheels, 2ft. apart. Details please to J. Clapson, 59 West Street, Havant, Hants.

### London Reunion Dance

There was a surprise awaiting us at the Seymour Hall on Wednesday, December 7th, when we gathered for the London Reunion. Instead of the large familiar Hall with most of its floor space set aside for dancing, we found three-quarters of it filled with small tables, the dancers being catered for at the far end, where the Royal Horse Guards Band (The Blues) were playing. This was a tremendous improvement. It meant that those who preferred talking to dancing could sit chatting at their tables, or move easily about finding their friends; the buffet, which was open all the evening, was in its usual place (so was the bar) and altogether it was a most satisfactory arrangement.

Sir Neville Pearson, our President, who arrived early in the evening with Lady Pearson, welcomed many old friends, including Colonel Eric Ball. Sir Neville spoke of the pleasure it gave St. Dunstaners to meet each other at these Reunions and wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

Sir Ian Fraser, who came with Lady Fraser, paid tribute to the spirit of St. Dunstaners, old and new, and amid applause, thanked Mr. Askew, Matron Pain and those St. Dunstaners who worked on the staff, and, through them, all who helped St. Dunstan's.

There were prizes during the dancing and the winners of these were Horace Manning and Mrs. Brampton, Mr. and Mrs. Worlidge, Dickie Richardson and partner, and Mr. and Mrs. Nichols (Hendon).

By general consent, it was a great night.

### National Laying Test, 1949-50

Report for the first period of four weeks,  
October 10th to November 6th, 1949

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Jarvis, A. ...	106
2	Dent, P. ...	103
3	Bagwell, P. ...	93
4	Gregory, T. ...	83
5	Chaffin, A. ...	76
6	Holmes, P. ...	63
7	Smith, W. Alan ...	62
8	Woodcock, W. J. ...	54
9	Clarke, T. ...	52
10	Taylor, Tom ...	20

Average per bird, 12.38

### The Christmas Spirit

In ordinary circumstances we should scarcely encourage the sojourn of youthful vocalists on our doorsteps. But somehow at Christmas it is different—we are different, everything is different. We even look forward to the arrival of the carol singers, for they after all are the heralds of Christmas. We can enjoy their carolling even though it does at times sound like "multiple stomach aches," but the motive of their song brings joy to our hearts.

It is perhaps many years since some of us hung up our stocking in the hopeful anticipation of what Father Christmas would bring us. That was the golden era of childhood. But many of us still believe in Father Christmas, only we have come to regard him not as a human benefactor but as a kind of spirit—a spirit that fills our hearts with joy and goodwill. Who, in their right senses would want to give up so glorious a tradition?

"This day," said Shakespeare, "shall change all griefs and worries into love." Away then with morbidity, melancholy and petty irritations! Let us be children for a day and find time only to think how happy we are, or, better still, how to make others happy. Let the shouts and laughter of children echo from the roof-tops. This is Christmas and let all be happy.

The blue bird is here, everywhere filling the atmosphere with its beautiful harmony. Peace, goodwill and gladness are king for a day, and we become united in one brotherhood.

What jolly good friends Christmas makes us and what excellent companions. "Then heigh-ho the holly"—yes! and the mistletoe too! Raise your glasses and drink a toast to friends both near at hand and far across the seas. And now, St. Dunstaners everywhere, fill up your glasses again please, and drink deeply with me to the following special toast:—

To all kind friends, workers and helpers who have contributed or helped in any way towards making St. Dunstan's the truly happy home, school and club it has always been. May their cup of happiness be ever overflowing. Coupled with the memory of our late Chief, Sir Arthur Pearson, and his successor, Sir Ian Fraser.

God bless 'em all.

T. G. R.

### Christmas Parcels from Australia

As a result of the further generosity of the people of Australia, every St. Dunstaner will receive a special food parcel this Christmas. Some 2,500 parcels have been sent to Headquarters through the kindness of Hoyt's Theatres, Ltd., of Australia, and the patrons of 40 theatres included in that group. At Headquarters, every effort is being made for the parcels to be despatched to St. Dunstaners in good time for Christmas.

The donors, whose name and address is on the parcels, would, we feel sure, much appreciate any letters which St. Dunstaners might send them, acknowledging their generous gift.

The Acting High Commissioner for Australia, Mr. N. R. Mighell, C.M.G., who was a visitor to our Training Centre some months ago, came to Headquarters on the morning of December 14th, where, with Sir Ian Fraser, he took part in a handing-over ceremony. At the Ovingdean Training Centre later the same day, that old friend of St. Dunstan's, Max Miller, took part in a similar ceremony at the breaking-up festivities.

Thank you, Australia.

### Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," December, 1919:—

"On Thursday, November 13th, His Highness, the Gaekwar of Baroda, accompanied by Mr. C. Rigg, paid a visit to St. Dunstan's. The Gaekwar was shown over every department, where he displayed the keenest interest in everything he saw."

"On Wednesday, November 19th, the Outer Lounge was full to overflowing after lunch to hear Dame Melba, who paid us a visit and sang for half an hour. Owing to the fact that her accompanist had not turned up she began by singing a couple of Italian songs to her own accompaniment. The accompanist having arrived by this time, she gave the men the choice of 'Bonny Mary of Argyle' or Tosti's 'Goodbye.' The former was chosen and cheered to the echo. Then she asked, 'What would you like now?' The votes in favour of 'Coming through the Rye' and 'Goodbye' being equal, she gave them both."

### Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIR,

Concerning badges for guide dogs. I should think that the harness the dog has to wear when working with a blind person is quite enough to tell any sighted person that the dog has some special work to do. If a guide dog owner thinks he would be safer on the road if onlookers knew he was blind, then I should say that he or she should wear some distinguishing mark on their person. I am told that I have every appearance of being sighted. Before becoming a guide dog owner, I often used to take walks in Cardiff, where the main streets are rather crowded with pedestrians. A human guide always accompanied me. Pedestrians coming towards me, thinking I was sighted, expected me to go half-way when we passed each other. The result was that at time my right side was continually coming into a collision with someone; at times a parcel has been knocked clean out of my hands. I was advised to wear dark glasses. It was quite a time before I could take to this idea, but I felt that I had a duty to my guide, because I was continually being pulled to the left. Eventually I wore the glasses and found that I could get along much better when meeting people rushing for buses, etc. My dog takes me into the busy streets of Cardiff now, but I still wear the dark glasses.

Yours sincerely,

Cardiff.

G. M. JORDAN.

DEAR SIR,

Re guide dogs. I suggest a small plate to hang just below the collar with swivel to detach when not in service. The words—Blind Person—could be added to the plate.

Yours sincerely,

Nottingham.

A. W. BALLARD.

DEAR SIR,

Concerning the advisability of guide dogs carrying or wearing something to identify themselves, they could be taught to carry and use white sticks. I know this can be done as I am the Patron Saint of all dogs.

Yours sincerely,

In Ceolis.

"SAN ROCCO."

### Musical

B. W. R. Glover, of Portsmouth, has an engagement to play his accordion for eight minutes twice nightly at the Coliseum,

### Other News

That good sportsman, Arthur Morgan, of York, has organised a Blind Tandem Cycling Club and is raising funds to buy machines for the young blind of York.

Ernie Russell, of Leeds, is another who has been helping disabled friends. At his suggestion, a commentator goes along with the blind sportsmen at Leeds football matches and other events and gives a running commentary in their own enclosure.

Bill Harding has been elected a vice-president of Stoke Newington Poultry Club.

Smokey Britton's dog has been made an honorary member of the Canine Defence League's "Lucky Dog Club."

Gwen Obern and Beryl Sleigh were IN TOWN TONIGHT on Saturday, December 3rd. They gave a delightful duet, "We'll gather lilacs."

J. Wood, of Grange-over-Sands, won two first prizes, two seconds and a medal for his flowers this year.

T. W. Salter, our telephonist at the Head Office of Trust Houses for twenty-six years, had a column to himself in the October magazine of the company.

J. Mitchell, of Edinburgh, is kept very busy with his Seaforth activities. He organises bus trips for them and is now engaged on organising one for the spring, when they go to the north of Scotland.

Our deaf St. Dunstaner, R. J. Williams, of Alresford, has become the owner of Antefaa Kannu, a pure-bred Basenji puppy, already obedience-trained. Basenjies have no bark but are excellent companions.

Jack Chappell, one of our new war poultry-farmers, and his wife, of Epping, recently gained a certificate "Very Highly Commended" for their 14-month old Bull-Mastiff bitch, "Bryony of Thellian," in the Southern Bull-Mastiff Society and Training Club's Championship Show in London. They plan to breed from her.

W. Shayler and J. C. Owen have both been elected to the executive committee of the British Legion, Derby House Branch, Liverpool.

### Blackpool Notes

By the time these notes reach the homes of St. Dunstaners in many parts of the world, Christmas will be upon us. From the Blackpool Home dining table, where men and staff will be gathered together for this annual feast, we shall send greetings to all who are in any way connected with St. Dunstan's—from our ever busy Chairman and Lady Fraser to the newest recruit to our ranks of St. Dunstaners or staff.

November with its chilly winds has not been too unkind, and although we have not been able to go far afield we have managed to get out a little.

On the 6th—Remembrance Day—a small part, consisting of Messrs. D. Cockerill, with Sister Chaddock, C. Thompson and F. Bush, with Sister Marshall, and E. Horan with Matron, joined representatives of many other organisations in the parade to the Cenotaph, where E. Horan placed the wreath. We were particularly proud of our wreath this year as it was, for the first time since before the war, made in the shape of our badge, and was very beautiful.

On Friday, the 11th—which we observed as our own Armistice Day—C. Thompson accompanied Matron to the four local cemeteries to place Crosses of Remembrance on the graves of St. Dunstaners. The day started by paying tribute to those who have left us—we held a short service in the lounge, which was taken by Rev. D. Allen (who has now left Holy Trinity Church to become Rector of Mucklefield).

That day we were happy to have the members of the Manchester Club with us, who, having lunched well—and wisely—at the Bourne Hotel, joined us in making merry. Most of the local St. Dunstaners were able to come along too for a domino tournament, tea and jollifications. "Musical knees" was great fun, the look of joyous anticipation on the faces of the troops changing to almost a look of pain when a two-ton Tessie landed instead of a fairy queen. The party broke up—to the strains of Nellie Dean. We shall look forward to many more of these Club visits, and hope some day to have Liverpool, Manchester and Blackpool all together.

In the evening small parties went to various ex-Servicemen's dinners. The day was voted by all to be a huge success.

M. T. C.

Grandfathers—To the Blackpool Lounge: Grandfather Clock.

### Talking Book Library

#### November's Noggin

Yes, I believe the three books released this month are quite stimulating. Adventure is typified by "Kidnapped," romance and adventure by "No Way Home," and matter of fact biography by "The Life Story."

"Kidnapped," by R. L. Stevenson, read James Gray, is a superbly told yarn of the adventure of David Balfour on the sea and in the highlands with his classical friend, Alan Breck. But who amongst us does not know the story and the inimitable style of this prince of story-tellers? The young in heart will always enjoy this for it is a boy's book, yet still an adult classic.

"No Way Home," by George Preedy, read Arthur Bush, is a period piece of romance, somewhat tarnished, and adventure. The book opens rather mysteriously in the West German sector after the Napoleonic wars, drifts to Sicily, and concludes stickily but satisfactorily in London. One husband, one lover and one Italian prince all interested in one wife make exciting reading.

"Life Story," by Phyllis Bentley, read Jean Metcalfe, is the history of the Tyas family, Yorkshire mill owners, reputedly written by a grandson and concerning mainly a grandmother—hence the lady reader. Quite a number of odd characters skip through the pages, and the ninety or so years covered by the narrative show the gradual change of outlook from the 19th to mid-20th century ways of life. Industrial unrest does not figure largely in this tale but there are some reminders that the mill hands do exist in the background.

I can safely say all three are "U" certificate material, i.e., nothing shocking or requiring censorship is contained in the consignment.

Colossal Christmas and stupendous '50 to all who fail to break any records. Farewell to the old Implacable! "NELSON."

#### H.M.S. Pinafore

Newquay (Cornwall) Council, wishing to repair some of the boats on their children's boating lake, applied to the Board of Trade for a licence to use 16 cubic feet of timber for the purpose.

The Board of Trade has returned their application and told them it should have been sent to the Admiralty.

—Daily Telegraph.

### A Year in One Man's Life

*(The author of this article—Harold Eric Dixon—died on June 24th at our Blackpool Home after great suffering. It is his own story of the experiences which led to his blindness and general breakdown, and we publish it since it was his wish, and the wish of his wife.)*

I enlisted on October 16th, 1939, and was passed fit. On May 14th, 1940, I proceeded overseas with the B.E.F. in France. I was taken prisoner on June 8th, 1940, and made my escape one week later. In the company of three other members of my unit, I wandered for about a fortnight, depending on the good nature of French farmers to give us food.

On the last day of June, I was given shelter by an American and until May 30th, 1941, still in company of my three friends, I was virtually a prisoner in one house, not being able to go out at all except occasionally in the night time for fresh air and exercise. During this time food was limited, my staple diet being potatoes. German patrols paid many visits to the house, and I was forced to go into hiding in either the roof or well-camouflaged cellars, being forced to remain in complete darkness and great discomfort.

On May 30th the four of us were taken to Le Havre, 16 miles distant, and given refuge in a waterside cafe whose patrons were almost exclusively German troops. After 14 days spent in one room we were given money, civilian clothes and false identity cards and, in company of two Frenchmen, proceeded by rail to Paris. The six of us made our way to a cafe, when the two Frenchmen told us they would go to the railway station to purchase railway tickets for the following day's proposed journey to Poitiers, this town being close to the demarcation line separating the Occupied and the then Unoccupied Zones. That was all we saw of them and approximately one thousand francs which had been collected in Le Havre. When it was realised we were alone we decided to try and contact a certain M. Charlon, who was the father-in-law of the American with whom we had stayed during the winter. The hour was then 10 o'clock in the evening — curfew being midnight. We found the aforesaid M. Charlon at ten minutes to midnight. At this point I must mention that I was the only one who had any knowledge of the French language, and had to do all the talking necessary.

The following day we decided to make our own way to Poitiers; fortunately friends of M. Charlon had given us more money. On arrival we made our way to a frontier village and, awaiting darkness, hid ourselves in the woods. After many efforts to cross into Unoccupied France, all of which were frustrated by enemy patrols and police dogs, daylight came and we were forced to get out of a very unhealthy spot. We then made our way back to Poitiers and took a train back again to Paris, and from Paris we went back to Le Havre. After staying at the cafe from which we had originally started, once more we made our way to Paris, this time being escorted by another Frenchman, who turned out to be more helpful than his predecessors. From Paris we made our way to Southern France, still in the occupied zone.

At this point the Frenchman left us, and once more we were alone. We entered a small cafe, and after bluffing the proprietor, found that we were only a matter of half a mile from the border. Apparently he was in the habit of helping young Frenchmen to escape, and told us we were to stay in the cafe until 10 o'clock that night, when a woman whose description he gave me would enter the cafe. On her departure we were to follow at intervals of fifty yards. This we did, and after much crawling and waiting we found we had crossed the frontier. By morning we reached a village from where we took a bus to the town of Pau. Seeing Lloyds' Foreign Bank in the main street I entered and found a cashier who was English. He gave me the address of a French woman who would help us. We stayed at this woman's house four days, and were told that the only way of escape was to cross the Pyrenees into Spain. It was arranged that we should go to a friend of hers at a town called Beziers. This we did and, after a few days' rest, were given instructions where to cross the Spanish frontier. We made a hazardous journey by foot and crossed the mountains and sought food and shelter from the Spaniards, eventually arriving in Barcelona, some hundred kilometres distant. There we were looked after by the consulate, being sent to the Embassy in Madrid a few days later. From Madrid we were escorted by Spanish civilian police as far as Gibraltar.

Twelve momentous months. I alone had knowledge of the languages; I alone was responsible for the safety of our party.

### Memories

A few short months ago I tackled the longest journey I had ever taken via New York, Detroit, Windsor, Toronto, Winnipeg to Northern Alberta and back to New York, including an unexpected detour to Eirie and Warren, Pennsylvania, and what stands out most vividly in my mind?

The bustling crowds on the American trains, but also the courteous, unobtrusive help one gets. Memories of the coloured attendant who, looking after me on my first railway trip alone—800 miles from New York to Detroit—whispered to a Boston lady, "Ma'am, would you please help the English lady. She don't see too well, no-how Ma'am, that she don't." The chef who thoughtfully cut up my meat and brewed a pot of English tea, without any prior request on my part.

Listening to the sponsored radio and, at first, being silently indignant when the announcer said something against the British, and then realising that these radio folk are just as outspoken about the Americans, or the Canadians, or the Russians, or any other race of people whose views do not coincide with their own.

Visiting the stores and hearing, with a sense of surprise, an American shop clerk saying, "Can I help you?" and realising just why maybe the American sales policy gets results.

A long train journey to northern Alberta and meeting and knowing the friendly, hospitable people who are our kinsfolk. Discussing with them the problems of the dollar and sterling currency, both of us wondered just why and wherefore. Walking on the old trail and hearing that nearby many a bloody battle was fought between the Indians and the white men, and being told, "If it had not been for the greed of the white man, there need never have been a drop of blood spilled." Sitting at a meal one day and learning later that the guest had been an Indian neighbour who was "better than any vet. and always comes along if he can help you." Getting accustomed to the Canadian radio programmes and realising that Medicine Hat is really a place and not a theatre joke.

Loving the way the Canadian girls on the prairies all help when they go visiting, with memories so vivid of a Sunday afternoon and a family gathering. One girl peeling potatoes, another preparing

the beans, another laying the big round family table, and someone else talking about the big can of ice cream one of the "kids" had made. With the aid of an ice-box or refrigerator? No! Just an old-fashioned cumbersome ice-cream maker. No ice available but—just frozen snow from the other side of the "yard." But the nicest ice-cream I ever tasted.

Back now many thousands of miles and travelling along the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania. Listening to my cousin describing the tall wooded slopes on either side of the valley road along which we were travelling and learning that this river eventually flows into the Mississippi and flows out into the Gulf of Mexico. Hearing that this pleasant wooded town, so reminiscent in my imagination to some of the places in our own New Forest—was once known to house more millionaires than any other town in the United States, but, as Jimmie said: "No matter if your neighbour is a millionaire or a mail-man, we are all Bill or Jack to each other." Yes, happy memories of people I met.

One of the most vivid things though, is connected with the "white stick." I was very surprised both in U.S.A. and Canada to find how many blind people, be they "veterans" or civilians—carry a white stick. The public, by means of friendly, sincere radio talks—one such was given by one of our own boys—look out for a person, holding such a cane, standing by the "side-walk."

It was good to be in New York again, on a humid night, with the kindly train hostess with me until my hostesses arrived.

And back in England, what now? Wondering why so many people have harsh voices, and why the service is so bad in the trains. Wondering why the shop girls are always so curt in tone and then recalling that maybe they just react that way to customers who are sharp-toned too. Finding it not so difficult after all to get along with my shoppings, and even if goods are in short supply, you usually get what you want. I have proved to myself just what? Oh, just that any person, even if he can't "see too well no-how," or even if he cannot see at all, can enjoy a trip such as I have taken, arrange it for himself, and get a whole lot of enjoyment with very little money in his pocket. MAUREEN LEES.

### Ovingdean Notes

The days and weeks go swiftly by and suddenly we find that winter is well and truly with us and the Autumn Term is rapidly coming to an end. Occasionally, we have had a sunny day to remind us that it can be really lovely by the sea—even at this time of the year—but for the most part those of us who have ventured out have had to struggle along against the heavy and gusty rains.

During November we have welcomed just a few of the holiday and convalescent men and we are now beginning our preparations for the End of Term entertainments and for Christmastide. This year for the first time since the end of war, we shall be open at Christmas and we are looking forward to receiving a record crowd.

Commandant, Matron, Staff and Trainees would like to wish a very happy Christmas to all Staff and Trainees and our other friends who have left Ovingdean, and we send our sincere greeting for the New Year.

In the last issue of the REVIEW, you will recall we mentioned that the Friday night dances were being held again and we hoped many local St. Dunstaners would come along. A number have joined us, in spite of the rather unfavourable weather, but the response has not been as large as we had hoped. We are looking forward to a bigger attendance as it becomes generally known that the dances are being held. Do come along—we assure you it really is worth the effort of trudging up the garden path!

During the month we have had two very enjoyable entertainments provided for us in Brighton. The first was a delightful evening, arranged by the Executors of the Will of the late Mrs. M. Pittman, who was well known to many of our older St. Dunstaners. This entertainment is to be an annual affair; the first was held on November 24th. After an excellent dinner at the Regent Restaurant the party, which included local St. Dunstaners, went to the Brighton Hippodrome where, amongst other artistes, they were entertained by Frankie Howerd. The second occasion was the Annual Dinner and Dance given by the Brighton & Hove Grocers' Association, held on November 29th. This is an event always eagerly anticipated and this year it

was held at the Grand Hotel and even excelled the usual high standard set by the Grocers when they entertain St. Dunstaners. The dinner was followed by speeches from the President of the Grocers' Association and our Commandant, who thanked the Association on behalf of St. Dunstan's.

At Ovingdean itself we have had some very interesting lectures and debates. On November 10th, Mr. Dyson of the Brighton Corporation, gave a talk on Brighton's Parks and Gardens, and on the 30th we were again able to welcome Colonel G. I. Davys, who is now regarded by the men as an old friend. His talks are always most popular and on this occasion he spoke on "Recent advances in certain branches of Science."

The Debating Society have been very busy. The first one held was most amusing—"That men are selfish and conceited." It was all carried on in the best of humour and finally the motion was carried. For the second, the boys of the Christ's Hospital School, Horsham, were our opponents and the motion, "That the individual rather than the State is the answer to man's problems," was carried. Some very interesting points were put forward in the discussion. The third and last debate of the month, "That there should be an international language and currency," was again carried.

### Shooting and Darts K/O Competitions

*Shooting*: 30 entries.

Winner: T. Baker (Australian).  
Runner-up: E. Bullen (Australian).

*Darts*: T.B. 10 entries.

Winner: G. Killingbeck.  
Runner-up: W. Evans.

S.S. 18 entries.

Winner: E. Green.  
Runner-up: D. Wesley.

### Test Results

The following are Test Results for the month of November:

*Typing*—P. Crynan, J. Kay, H. Jastrkowski.  
*Preliminary*—D. Alexopoulos (Greek).  
*Writing*—M. Potts.  
*Advanced*—W. Phillips.

### In Parliament

In the House of Commons on December 6th, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the high prices of Christmas cards and the disparity in the prices charged, he would reduce the purchase tax on them, bearing in mind the burden the tax imposes upon old people who wish to keep contact with their friends.

In a written reply, the Chancellor said: At present three rates of purchase tax apply to Christmas cards. I propose to reduce this to two with effect from January 2nd. The plainest ones will qualify for the 33½ per cent. rate. For the more elaborate ones I consider that 100 per cent. is the appropriate charge.

On the same day the Secretary of State for War was asked by Mr. Albu whether he would issue instructions that identical twins, as far as possible, are to be allowed to serve together during their period of National Service. Mr. Shinwell said that this was being done already. Unavoidable exceptions arose when twins were of different medical categories and could not be initially allotted to the same corps, or when the call-up of one was deferred. In such cases every endeavour was made, when twins wished to serve together, to post them to the same unit as early as possible during their whole-time service.

Sir Ian Fraser: Can the Minister give an assurance that twins will be promoted to corporal and sergeant at the same time? (laughter).

### Handicrafts Success

On Friday and Saturday, November 18th and 19th, the East Sussex Association for the Care of Cripples held a Handicraft Exhibition in the Corn Exchange, Brighton, at which St. Dunstan's hired a stall.

In the competitions we entered in six classes, rugs, weaving, baskets, woodwork, leatherwork and plastics, securing first class awards in both woodwork and plastics. The woodwork award also carries a trophy, which we now hold at Ovingdean.

These awards are really outstanding in view of the fact that the competition was open to both fit and disabled.

Of the items concerned, the clock (plastic section) was made by Ted Bullen, of Australia, and the dumb waiter (woodwork section) by Bert Duxbury, but in all cases items were entered as from St. Dunstan's.

### Marriage

HOWES—SLADE.—On November 12th, F. Howes, of Dartford, to Miss Hazel Slade.

### Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. E. Swayne, S.E.25, November 24th; Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Piper, Watford, December 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. J. Collinson, Blandford, December 15th; Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Crafter, Battersea, December 25th. Congratulations.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Richardson, of Skegness, celebrated their anniversary in September, 1948—we have only just heard this.

Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Dance, of Bishops Stortford, will have been married thirty-eight years on Christmas Eve.

### Young St. Dunstaners

Alfred Jennings (Heaton, Bradford), has passed his examinations to become a policeman.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Owen, of Rhos-on-Sea, is now a sister in a London hospital.

Joyce Watson, Manor Park, won much praise by her pianoforte performance at a recital at the Town Hall recently.

### Marriages

Stanley Hicks, Palmers Green, to Edna Busbridge.

Doris Iddiols, Willesden, to Raymond Score, on October 8th.

### Dr. Henry Webb

St. Dunstaners who have been at Ovingdean as trainees, or who have been for a time in Ward 1 there, will learn with deep regret of the sudden death of Dr. Webb, Medical Officer at Ovingdean.

Dr. Webb was admitted suddenly to hospital on December 8th and died there the following day. The funeral service was held at Rottingdean Village Church and at the Downs Crematorium on December 14th. A number of St. Dunstaners and Staff from Ovingdean attended.

Although Dr. Webb had only been with St. Dunstan's for a comparatively short time he will be greatly missed by men and staff at Ovingdean, where he had quickly established himself as a friend to so many. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

## “ In Memory ”

### Company Sergeant Major Alfred Kimber, *Royal Marine Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. Kimber, of Medstead. He had served with the Royal Marines prior to the 1914-1918 war and was injured in 1915.

He came to us in 1928 and trained as a poultry-keeper, but for a number of years now he has been in failing health and he had undergone several serious operations from which he had never fully recovered. He died in hospital in November 25th and was cremated at St. John's, Woking, on November 19th. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Pioneer Ernest Henry Holland, *Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of E. H. Holland, of Cheltenham.

He, too, served in the 1914-1918 war, but he did not come to us until 1948, and his ill-health then prevented him undertaking any training. He passed away quite suddenly on November 11th.

He was a fine character and deeply respected by his fellow-citizens in Cheltenham, and there were many floral tributes at the funeral, among them a wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends.

He leaves a large family, to whom we extend our deep sympathy, and in particular to Miss Phyllis Holland, who had cared for her father since the death of Mrs. Holland some years ago. Another daughter, Mrs. R. E. Gale, lives near our war-time Home at Melplash and worked at St. Dunstan's when West House was evacuated.

### Private Cornelius Roddy, *2nd Border Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of C. Roddy, of New Washington, Co. Durham.

He served from August 8th, 1914, until June, 1916, and was wounded at Albert. He came to us the following November, but was never able to take up serious training owing to his poor health. He had been ill for a considerable time before his death which occurred at his home. Shortly before, he had expressed a wish to go to Brighton and we were trying to arrange this journey for him.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his sister, who had cared for him so devotedly for so long.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers.

### W. H. Smith, *2nd Bn. Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the deaths of four of our Australians. W. H. Smith, of Benteigh, Victoria, came to us after being wounded in 1916 and trained as a poultry-farmer. He returned to Australia and carried on with this, but for some time now we have had no news of him.

### Private L. Fry, *51st Australian Imperial Forces*

L. Fry, of Ormond, Victoria, was wounded on the Somme in July, 1918, and came to us in October of that year. He trained as a boot repairer and netter until June, 1919, when he returned home. Of late years he had done only light work but news of his death came as a shock for as recently as March of this year his English wife was over here on holiday.

Our deep sympathy goes out to her and to her sons.

### H. Ludeman

We have heard also from Mr. McConnell of the death of a St. Dunstaner of the recent war, H. Ludeman, of Thornbury, Victoria, of whom, however, we have no details.

### Private H. J. Kellogg, *27th Australian Imperial Forces*

This Australian came to us in February, 1917, having been wounded on the Somme the previous year, and he trained as a boot repairer until February, 1918. Since he returned to Australia, however, we had received little news of him.

## Births

BOULTER.—On October 30th, to the wife of E. T. Boulter, of Le Vesinet, France, a son—Roger Stephen.

COOK.—On October 10th, to the wife of L. W. Cook, of Sutton, a daughter—Jean Mary.

COOKE.—On November 23rd, to the wife of C. Cooke, of Kingston, a daughter—Gillian.

LYDON.—On November 8th, to the wife of T. Lydon, of Hertford, a daughter—Diana Clare.

## Death

SOUTHEN.—Our deep sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. G. Southen, of Folkestone, who lost their son on November 4th.