

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 394—VOLUME XXXV

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(FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN)

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

St. Dunstaner Chairman of the N.I.B.

GODFREY Robinson, who has just been elected Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, entered hospital shortly after I had recovered from the early shock of my wound and I was, I think, the first to visit him from St. Dunstan's and tell him about our organisation. He and I have been friends and colleagues in work for the welfare of the blind ever since. His father founded and developed one of the most important food distributing organisations in this country and when Robinson had learnt his way in the world of the blind at St. Dunstan's, he returned to the family business where he played an important part as a director. By the time the second war came and his younger brothers had gone off to serve in the Armed Forces, he occupied a key position and apart from playing his full part in managing the family firm, he sat on many national committees concerned with the distribution of food. He had a flair for public life and early took an interest in local matters, and in 1941, he became Sheriff of Hull. He also took a keen interest in the welfare of the blind and soon after his return from the first war became interested in the Hull and East Riding Institute for the Blind of which he subsequently became Chairman, and in 1922 he joined the Council of the National Institute for the Blind. He worked very hard in this field, coming frequently to London and taking an active part in committee work, and in 1945 he was appointed Vice-Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind under the Chairmanship of General Lord Ismay. Now that Lord Ismay has gone to Europe to become Secretary General of N.A.T.O., he has had to resign from the chairmanship and Godfrey Robinson has been appointed in his place. This is a high honour for any man and I rejoice that the office should be held by a blind man. It is a testimony to his ability and his powers of chairmanship that he should be chosen for so high a post, and all St. Dunstaners will offer him congratulations.

The N.I.B. co-ordinates the work of the blind community and is the representative body responsible generally in England and Wales for the Welfare of the civilian blind and they are also the largest publishers of braille literature in the British Empire and probably the world. They are responsible also for representing affairs relating to the blind to Government. It follows, therefore, that there are many fields in which St. Dunstan's and the N.I.B. serve a similar purpose and I am happy to say that largely through the friendship between Godfrey Robinson and me, and through a recognition of our common interest by all concerned, a very happy relationship has developed between our two bodies.

STOP PRESS

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake took place at the London Club, 191 Marylebone Road, on Friday evening, May 23rd.

The result of the draw was as follows :—

	<i>Ticket No.</i>		<i>Ticket No.</i>
Ararat II... .. A. BENNING, Tiptree ...	1078	Merry Minstrel... J. H. BURT, Southampton...	1676
Argur E. SWAYNE, London, S.E.25	1961	Monarch More... H. G. GRANSBY, Perivale ...	2219
Blue Chariot ... E. BRADFORD, Sheffield ...	1460	Neath W. J. WOODCOCK, Saffron Walden	132
Bob Major W. G. MORRIS, Southbourne	44	Nick La Rocca... G. A. (" Archie ") BROWN, London, N.W.2 ...	152
Bold Buccaneer E. W. READ, Portchester ...	608	Otari H. F. GOODLEY, Diss ...	1733
Castleton D. TICKNER, Whyteleafe ...	2339	Postman's Path W. HARDING, London, N.4	487
Caerlaverock ... C. A. LUKER, London, S.W.18	836	Rego J. CLYDE, London, N.W.10	458
Chavey Down ... R. CHANDLER, Richmond, Yorks	1549	Serpenyoe ... Capt. W. APPLEBY, Reigate	203
Faubourg II ... W. B. MOON, Bilton, Harro- gate	1607	Shahrenda ... A. J. RADFORD, Castle Cary	302
Fiery Torch ... E. L. WOODS, Malmesbury	2369	Silnet J. LYNCH, Hornchurch ...	224
Gay Time F. STEW, at Blackpool ...	1491	Silver Wraith ... W. SHAYLER, Liverpool ...	2488
Green Signal ... W. ROBINSON, London, N.4	2580	Speechmaker ... P. ASHTON, Perivale ...	2398
Hasty Prince ... W. H. HILL, Blackpool ...	1918	Summer Rain ... E. BREWER, West House ...	506
H.V.C. S. BULL, Hemel Hempstead	1825	Thunderhead II J. DELANEY, Taunton ...	2608
Indian Hemp ... PADDY COOKE, Kingston ...	1366	Trim Curry ... W. HEUSHAW, Potters Bar	1871
Kara Tepe W. TROTT, Birmingham ...	1989	Tulyar R. V. HAM, Glamorgan ...	2087
Khor-Mousa ... E. BOWCOTT, Mitcham ...	994	Torcross W. FLOWERS, Birmingham	2598
La Varende ... H. DAY, Brighton	1045	Worden II A. PAULSON, Brighton ...	1668
Marsyad... .. F. L. HUNT, London, N.W.3	896	The Field E. CARPENTER, King's Langley	137

We are privileged to share in the advantages of the education provided by the Physiotherapy School of the National Institute, we co-operate with them in inventions, and together we finance and operate the Talking Book. These are fruitful fields for good work which can be better done by the two of us than by either of us separately.

Many St. Dunstaners in the countries of the Commonwealth have played an important part in the work for the blind as a whole, and none has done more over a period of years than Godfrey Robinson.

As a subaltern in the Royal Field Artillery he was awarded the M.C. He is a keen member of the British Legion, Vice President of the East Riding County, and has held other high office.

Canucks and Aussies

Both Australian Diggers and Canadian veterans have their societies in the United Kingdom and I happened to go to both their annual dinners during the last month. The Rt. Hon. Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, Patron of the Australian Ex-Service Association, referred to the strength of the Returned Soldiers' League in Australia. At the Canadian dinner, Field Marshal the Rt. Hon. Earl Alexander of Tunis was the guest of honour, his first public engagement since leaving the office of Governor-General to be Minister of Defence. After paying tribute to the Canadian Legion, he said that he thought that "Legions" throughout the Commonwealth made a contribution to good citizenship and steadfastness each in its own homeland and all for the Commonwealth. At both dinners an appeal was made for members.

Theft, Pilfering, Robbery, Larceny?

The other day I was standing amongst a number of friends drinking a cocktail. Just as I finished my drink the party moved off into the lunch room. I did not have time to dispose of my glass nor did I know where to put it so I slipped it into my pocket. A journalist standing by commented on this and asked me jokingly if it were a habit of mine. I said that it was and that during my thirty years in Parliament there had been a number of occasions upon which this had occurred and that as a result I had quite a nice collection of crested House of Commons glasses on my mantelpiece at home. I added that this was one of the minor tragedies associated with blindness, another of which was what to do with a spent match. The journalist must have mentioned this recently in some gossip paragraph of a newspaper—though I did not see the cutting—for a few days later I received a letter from a friend which read as follows:

"I have read with much interest that you are making a fight for an increase in the rate of disability pensions and I wish you every success in your endeavours, for there are still many men who were badly wounded in the 1914-1918 war who owing to their disability find it only just possible to rub along.

"However, that is not my reason for writing to you, nor is it the 'glass problem,' not that I should have ever thought that this was a problem to you for I have sat opposite to you at a dinner and never seen you make a false move. No, it is the 'match problem' about which I write, and I think can solve it for you. I never put spent matches back in the box, for as you know, this ruffles the temper, nor do I throw them into the hearth, for this calls forth a rebuke from my wife. I put them into the turn up of my trousers and empty them when I go to bed."

IAN FRASER.

Men's Supplies

Mr. J. E. Cooper, who has been in charge of the Men's Supplies Department at Headquarters, has resigned and Mr. S. Jones—a St. Dunstaner of World War II—has been appointed in his place.

Derby Sweepstake

This month's REVIEW has been held up in order to include an inset giving the draw for the Derby Sweepstake which took place at the London Club on Friday, May 23rd.

London Club Notes

Outdoor Section.

There was sunshine all the way at Wembley on Saturday, April 19th, for the first 15 mile Walk since the War.

The start was from Messrs. Hoovers' Sports Ground, where Mr. Dyson, the General Manager of Hoovers, announced, "Are you ready—GO" at 3 p.m., and St. Dunstaners and their police escorts went immediately into the stride with Gaygan taking the lead, followed by Billy Miller, Archie Brown, C. Stafford, Stan Tutton, and last but by no means least, Tommy Denmead. This order was maintained throughout, and at eight and a half miles Jack Dawkins was waiting with the cold sponge and hot tea which revived the walkers who were going well despite the heat and pace. At this point the field was well spread out with Gaygan, who made a great pace at the start, a very considerable distance in the lead. After some ten miles through Wembley, Harrow and Stanmore, came Woodcock Hill, a great test, and here it was that the fast start found out the stayers. The order was the same, but the distance of the field was reduced and at just over eleven miles, Tommy Gaygan had to retire. So it was that Billy Miller was first home after a walk of two hours twenty-six minutes, followed at intervals by the others until Tommy Denmead arrived after a splendid walk well within three hours. Charles Stafford won the cup for the first T.B. man to finish, and the old warrior, Archie Brown, still showed the way to walk.

A splendid afternoon. All praise to these chaps, and to the escorts, and also to the members of the Metropolitan Police Junior Walkers who made a match of it and walked with great style and experience. Thanks must be recorded to Messrs. Hoovers for the use of their Sports Pavilion, etc., to the ground staff who provided the tea and comforts, to Mr. and Mrs. Shooter who gave the first handicap prize (Mrs. Shooter presented the prizes later), and last but not least to the uniformed police whose help at crossings, etc., made the whole affair such a success.

Forthcoming Walks.

June 17th (Tuesday), Essex Beagles, 5 miles, Regent's Park.

June 28th (Saturday), R.A.F., 5 miles, Regent's Park.

15 Mile Walk

		H'cap	H'cap		
	All.	time	Time	Scr.	
A. Brown ...	4th	5.45	2.26.17	2.32.02	3rd
W. Miller ...	2nd	4.30	2.22.17	2.26.47	2nd
T. Denmead ...	5th	17.15	2.39.10	2.56.25	11th
T. Gaygan ...	Retired at 11½ miles.				
C. Stafford ...	1st	23.15	2.20.36	2.43.51	8th
S. V. Tutton ...	3rd	27.15	2.22.40	2.49.55	10th
Met. Police Junior Team					
R. John ...				2.39.43	4th
R. Burns ...				2.40.47	6th
H. Webb ...				2.44.44	9th
A. Hawkbridge ...				2.39.48	5th
R. Cross ...				2.55.22	1st
B. Peacock ...				2.42.31	7th

MATCH: Met. Police, 23 points.

St. Dunstan's, 34 points.

Final Placings for Aggregate Points Cup, S.S. and T.B. Sections

C. Stafford ...	107 points
A. Brown ...	105 "
S. Tutton ...	103 "
W. Miller ...	88 "
C. Williamson ...	83½ "
T. Gaygan ...	67 "
T. Denmead ...	56 "
P. J. Cryan ...	50 "
A. C. Bradley ...	45½ "

1st S.S. Section; A. Brown.

2nd T.B. Section; C. Stafford.

Swimming Gala.

This has been fixed for October 4th. Will men in the London area wishing to enter send in their names as soon as possible to Mr. Dawkins.

Bridge

On Saturday, April 26th, we were Miss Hensley's guests at a special Bridge Drive at which we had the pleasure of meeting Miss Pain once again. The M.C. was our old friend, Jack Armstrong. The winners of the prizes—which were presented by Miss Pain in her own quiet and charming way—were (1st) Harry Cook and Miss Scott, (2nd) W. Bishop and Mr. Bevan, (3rd) B. Ingre and Mr. Phillips, (4th) Paul Nuyens and Mr. Byrne.

And there was a special prize for Drummer.

Indoor Section.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Cup competitions have started and members who have entered should now come along and keep the competition moving. Attendances at the whist drives are very regular, but the domino section could do with better attendances.

We had an enjoyable time with the O.C.C. and A.C. from Norbury. Again our darts team was victorious. This makes four wins off the reel. Very good going.

CHAS. J. WALKER.

The Second College Reunion

Saturday, April 26th, was a red letter day for the men who were residents at the College Annexe from January, 1917, onwards, and for the members of the staff who did so much for us. The Criterion Restaurant was witness to a very enthusiastic gathering on this our second Reunion, an occasion which afforded all those present the opportunity to recapture the spirit which prevailed in those seemingly dim and far-off days. Now I am sure all who enjoyed themselves so enormously would say with one accord that those days no longer seem so dim and distant.

After an excellent lunch, the Toast to the Queen was proposed by our Chairman, W. T. Scott, then toasts to Miss V. Miller, Nurse Lloyd and "Scotty" for their much appreciated organisation of the Reunion. We stood in silence to the memory of two of our comrades—W. Pratt and T. Fisher—who recently passed on.

During the afternoon we were very pleased to receive a visit from Lady Fraser, who apologised for Sir Ian's inability to attend. We appreciated very much Lady Fraser's endearing quality which prompted her to greet each man and his wife individually, remembering and naming each one.

Other old friends who were present were Miss Shand, Sister Bennett (Mrs. Howells), Sister Hill (Hill 60), Miss Kenrick, Miss Startin (Mrs. Ford), Mrs. Stayt ("Toddles" Dyson), Mrs. Giorgi, Miss Oliphant and Mr. Ottaway. We hope the Reunion will be an annual one.

ALFRED W. BUNDY.

Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, of Reading, and Bennie Hamilton, of Thetford, have also written expressing their great pleasure at the Reunion. Ben writes:

"After partaking of an excellent lunch, several of my old pals and I fell into a huddle and started "swapping knives." Somebody said "Do you remember?" then someone else asked the same question. After a few minutes, backs straightened, the old plastics brightened up, and the years rolled backwards. I was once asked by a visitor what the V.A.D. stood for and I replied, "Very Adorable Damsel," and at the Reunion I was still of the opinion that my definition still applied. I never enjoyed myself so much in any one day since I fell into the sea at Brighton."

Talking Book Library

Agreeable April

A pleasant mixture of romance and adventure is contained in the four books completed this month, and there is a Western to add spice to the collection. Here's the trailer:

"Happy Odyssey," by Lt.-Gen. A. Carton de Wiart, reader Norman Shelley, is one of the most vital, joyful autobiographies I have ever read. The General is a born soldier with a flair for living life to the full. He has interesting adventures and there is no dearth of captivating anecdote. The pure verve and gusto rivet the attention.

"He Threw a Long Shadow," by W. McRaine, reader Lionel Marson, is a tale of the Wild West before law and order was properly established there. It concerns a land feud, one side trying to grab and the other trying grimly to hang on, despite the professional gunmen used against them. Two lovely girls make a human interest and odd outlaws give the story a desperate character. Of course, the hero is a tenderfoot!

"Sir John Constantine," by A. Quiller-Couch, reader Alvar Lidell, is a humorous fantasy of 17th century romance and adventure. A Cornish squire acquires for his son the succession to the crown of Corsica and proceeds to invade Corsica with an army of six. Much danger and more amusement fill the pages, but the would-be king has no satisfaction from the endeavour. Most enjoyable indeed.

"The Immortal Lovers," by Frances Winwar, reader Franklin Engelmann, traces the lives of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning. There is a deal of detail about the two poets and it cannot fail to be enjoyed by those interested in poets.

My choice is a dead-heat, "Happy Odyssey" and "Sir John Constantine."

NELSON.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Cox, of Coventry, writes: "I would like to thank one and all at St. Dunstan's for the kindness and help they have given my late husband during the short time he was under their care. They gave us 3½ years of wonderful happiness and although we were unable to get among you owing to his health, we were most interested in everything going on with the boys, and were with them in mind. Goodbye and God bless one and all."

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with interest the letter in the April issue of the REVIEW from John Mudge. How fortunate the men in the London area are, having such a fine club and so many functions to attend, but I wouldn't change with any of them as the air on the South Coast is worth a guinea a sniff. I seem to remember John telling the world through the medium of the B.B.C. how much he admired a certain gentleman because he was such an individualist. May the younger men beg to differ or must they do as John bids them? Surely he can't have it both ways. I am sure the "boys" are enjoying themselves while they can, and when they get older they will certainly attend the more serious functions. I wonder if perhaps Honest John is suffering from tummy-ache; if so, he knows the qualities of the ten minus one.

Yours very sincerely,

JOCK REAGAN.

Hastings.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in the letter by my friend, John Mudge. Like John, I have been to many functions since I came to St. Dunstan's, and also large and small debates.

The fact that at all these socials and other meetings only a small number of 39-45 men turn up, compared with 14-18 men, may be due to the fact that there are more 14-18 men than the 39-45.

My friend John lives in the largest city in the world, and in and around there must be considerably more first war men than second war.

John can only attend at one place so he does not know who attends another, unless he is told by someone, but even then, his escort does not know all St. Dunstaners, and not all St. Dunstaners wear dark glasses, or their badge in a place where it can be seen.

What are these "free do's" that John says the last war men attend? I have been to a few in Brighton and I have been never more surprised, as John, but to every one last war man there has been at least five more first war men.

These so called "free do's" are given by well meaning people who wish to give pleasure to the disabled. At nearly all of these there is a dance, and it is only natural that the younger men prefer bright enter-

tainment perhaps after a hard day at work. One's escort has also to be taken into consideration in these matters.

Whatever kind of entertainment, it is to one's own choice, and I am quite sure that the men and women of the 1939-45 war are doing their best, in all walks of life, so whatever war you belong to—Zulu, Boer, World War I or II—not forgetting Korea—I say "Good luck, health and happiness to you all."

Yours sincerely,

Brighton. BILL EDWARDS (The Copper)

DEAR EDITOR,

I endorse Bill Edwards' statement that Post-War Credits ought to be repaid, but I am afraid that the economic situation is such that it is not practicable at the present moment. However, I would like to see the Government repay to certain persons the credit due to them, these same persons being those who have had to give up work since the end of the last war, before reaching the retiring age of 65 (men) or 60 (women). Most of these people are ex-servicemen and owing to wounds, or illness contracted during service, are no longer able to earn money but must rely on pensions, grants, etc., and these have not kept pace with the steep rise in prices which has occurred recently. Increases are on the way, it is true, but to bridge the gap between now and when they are paid, I suggest that the Post-War Credits due to these people should be re-paid immediately.

Yours faithfully,

Luton.

P. APPLEBY.

DEAR EDITOR,

Anthony Law has no need to envy me my faith, for anybody who is sufficiently interested in the Divine Will has not lost faith. He is merely confused in the direction of his thoughts, as we are all liable to be when circumstances turn our minds in a new direction. His query, "What of the others?" is very simply answered, for predestination has its emphatic place in the Bible. "That which was is, and that which is, is that which shall be again." There is a purpose and a meaning to everything. The founding of St. Dunstan's was a Christian act that attempted to make compensation to those who in former wars had remained for ever in the darkness of despair.

Yours sincerely,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

The only Saint I have known the St. Dunstan's men to be interested in is the St. Leger. All this talk about a guy called Dunstan who happened to be a Saint gets me down. After all, the house might have been called "St. Fanny's," and then what? If they want a name to worship, what about Pearson—Sir Arthur Pearson—the man who created the only heaven on earth that we will ever know.

I would like to suggest that the address of Ovingdean should be St. Dunstan's, Pearson House, Ovingdean, Brighton.

I don't agree with Bill Edwards when he says that those Post War Credits are only a small debt, as I believe it runs into thousands of millions, and if the Government paid it all out at once it would cause inflation, as there would be too much money chasing too little goods: the price of goods would go up, and the value of your money would go down; but they could reduce the paying-out age to, say 55 instead of 65.

I would like to know who appointed John Mudge as spokesman for Headquarters as I have always found Headquarters quite capable of speaking for themselves. He seems to be a very lucky man to hear of all these imaginary functions, as we don't seem to hear of them. I am sure the tone of his letter would not encourage young men to come up to Headquarters but keep them away. After all, they did lose their sight for freedom and surely they should be allowed to please themselves.

Yours sincerely,
JOCK MACFARLANE.
Ilford.

Reunions

The men of Essex had their reunion at Colchester on April 29th, and although Sir Ian was unable to be present as he had hoped, Lady Fraser was there to bring his apologies, and to meet the guests. Everybody was delighted to meet Miss Pain and those good friends on the staff, now also retired, Messrs. Ottaway, White, Panton and Lale.

At Norwich, on May 1st, and at Doncaster, two days later, Mr. D. G. Hopewell, a member of our Council, was our special guest. Mr. Edwards, late of Country Life Department, was another welcome visitor at Norwich. Miss Pain was there, too, and also went on to the Doncaster meeting.

Manchester Club Notes

On March 29th the Manchester Club entertained twenty-eight members of the Liverpool Club at "The Swan with Two Necks" Hotel, Manchester. After a chicken and ham tea, ice cream, etc., we had a spot of dancing with prizes for the lucky people who were "on the spot" when the music stopped. Mrs. Jackson and her party provided the music and singing. Ladies present were Mrs. Irvine, Miss Doel, Mrs. Dunphy, Mrs. Lang, and our dear friend, Matron Davies, otherwise known by the boys as "Nellie Dean."

It was a very enjoyable evening and we are hoping that we can repeat the invitation on March 29th, 1953.

We heartily invite all young and old St. Dunstaners—with their wives—to come along and join in our efforts. We meet once a fortnight—the second and fourth Friday evenings, at the Red Cross, Milton Place, near Frederick Road, Pendleton.

W. McCARTHY,
Chairman, Manchester Club.

Liverpool Club Notes

On Saturday, 19th April, we of the Liverpool Club assembled for our Annual General Meeting and there was a deep mutual feeling that the past year had been a highly successful one as far as the Club was concerned. We cannot boast of an exceptionally high number of members, but if success is to be measured by enthusiasm and a general atmosphere of good humour and friendliness, we can certainly make claims to being successful. This feeling was prevalent on the 19th and after an encouraging statement from the retiring chairman and then the treasurer, we got down to the business of electing our committee. The result was as follows: *President*: Capt. E. Halloway; *Chairman*: J. C. Owen; *Vice-Chairman*: A. Lincoln; *Treasurer*: A. Wright; *Secretary*: T. Milner. *Other members*: E. Cooper, W. Moorcroft, L. Jackson, C. Ellis (*Assistant Secretary*).

Following the formation of the Committee, the new Vice-Chairman echoed the sentiments of the whole Club by proposing a vote of thanks to the Ladies for their ungrudging and magnificent help throughout the year.

FRISBY.

An Adventure at Sea

Previous to the First World War I was a fisherman, one of the crew of the sailing drifter, "Our Boys," of Great Yarmouth. On 26th October, 1909, we left Yarmouth for the herring fishing grounds about 27 miles away. We shot our nets and, after drifting until 12 o'clock midnight, we started to haul. We had a good catch of herrings and finished hauling about nine the following morning.

The wind had risen during the night and by then it was blowing a full gale. After reefing the sails, we got under way for Yarmouth, having the wind on our port quarter. Some of the crew went down to breakfast while the rest of us coiled up the halyards, and the skipper was at the tiller. Suddenly he shouted, "Look out, water," and we shipped a heavy sea. Another man and myself were washed overboard but, although I was a good swimmer, I was handicapped by oilskins and thirty-six inch leather boots. I struck out for the surface and on reaching it saw the stern of "Our Boys" going away from me. Then I saw the other man who was washed overboard with me put up his hands and sink—I never saw him again. I determined not to give up as I thought that the boat might come about and try to rescue me. I could see it aluff about two miles away and I began to wonder if they could see me as it did not seem that they were making any attempt to come after me.

By now I was beginning to feel tired, so I floated to reserve my strength. But, as soon as I turned on to my back my heavy boots pulled me under, so I turned over, struggled, and managed to get to the top of a wave. I could still see "Our Boys" with her sails still aluff, but now I began to give up hope. I tried to get my knife to cut my oilskins and tried to kick my boots off, but as soon as I put my hands down to get at my jack knife in my pocket, my boots pulled me under again. I was by now very tired and had almost given up hope, but as I struggled to the top of a sea, I saw our little boat with the skipper and third hand rowing towards me. This put new life into me and the thought struck me that I must not try and get hold of the boat or it might capsize. That was what my rescuers were afraid of. They came alongside of me; the

third hand grabbed me by the collar of my oilskin, worked me round to the stern and pulled me into the boat. They now had a couple of miles to row to the drifter and, after a long pull, came alongside. I was able to scramble aboard myself. They pulled the little boat aboard, and after having another look around to see if there was any sign of the other man, we made our way to port. I was, through being a good swimmer and through the bravery of the skipper and third hand, alive.

At the Board of Trade inquiry my rescuers were commended by the Registrar, and they both received the Edward Medal. The skipper was also presented with a gold watch by the Carnegie Hero Fund and the third hand was presented with a cheque for twenty guineas.

I had a good many other narrow squeaks, but I think that was the closest.

TED OXBOROUGH.

Pensions Increase

The Ministry of Pensions have already started on their task of increasing their Disability Pensions and hope to be finished by early August at the latest. In general they do not propose to withdraw Pension Order Books which have more than three months to run in order to effect the change in the rate of pension. Instead, the pensioners concerned will receive an advance payment covering the difference between the old and the new rates for the period up to the end of their current Pension Order Book or to February or March 1953.

If there is any St. Dunstaner who has not received his increase and arrears by the end of August he should write to Mr. Banks at Ovingdean, or Mr. Rice at 1 South Audley Street.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Normanby

From the "Times," May 13th:

Birth

NORMANBY.—On May 12th, 1952, at King's College Hospital, to The Marquis and Marchioness of Normanby—a daughter (Lepel Sophia.)

Marriage

COOKSON—GAFNEY.—On March 31st, Ernie Cookson, of Barnsbury, to Miss Violet Gafney.

Canadian Letter

In a letter to Sir Ian Fraser, Harris Turner writes from British Columbia:

"Colonel Baker and Mr. Weir came to Victoria last week on the occasion of the opening of a new building, a service centre for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

"On Friday there was a luncheon to which the blinded soldiers of these parts were invited. Those present were Eddie Baker, Robbie Robinson, Charlie Hornsby, Old Hogan, Ted Turner, Horace Woodfield, Charlie Smail, Jakes and myself. Dr. Mayell put in an appearance before lunch.

"Mayell, Robbie, Eddie, Hornsby and the two Turners are all old St. Dunstaners. Smail, the only blinded soldier living in Victoria who lost his sight in the recent war, took his training at Baker Hall. Jakes lost his sight too late to undergo the rigours of training. Also present was Percy Ogilvie, who lost his sight about twenty years after the first war but whose disability was traceable to bad treatment he had received in a German prison. He now works for Capt. Robinson as a placement officer in Vancouver.

"It was a pleasant gathering and it was good to meet together, but some of the youthful buoyancy of earlier years seems to have departed. Most of the men mentioned lead quiet, retired, contented lives. If the orderly sergeant had broken in on our gathering, called the meeting to attention and shouted 'Any complaints,' the ensuing silence would have been deafening."

National Laying Test

Report for the seventh period of four weeks, March 24th to April 20th, 1952.

Pos'n	Name	Score value to date
1	Jackson, G. C. ...	718
2	Taylor, Tom ...	652
3	Jarvis, Albert ...	619
4	Webb, W. ...	617
5	Gregory, T. D. ...	595
6	Holmes, Percy ...	524
7	Bagwell, Philip ...	521
8	Clarke, T. ...	281

Average per bird to date, 109.56

Raised to the Peerage

My mind goes back to the years immediately following the first world war, when I was one of the disabled soldiers in hospital.

We had a grievance. We hated the puddings served daily at dinner, always either rice, sago or tapioca, ever sloppy.

One day in December the Sister said to me:

"We're having a grand concert in the ward on Christmas evening. The Mayor and Mayoress and other important people are coming. Can you help?"

"Yes," I replied, the grievance rushing in to my mind, "I'll recite."

"What title?" she asked.

"Oh, put down 'Selected'."

The evening arrived and I found myself on the platform, the rows of chairs before me filled, students and nurses all round the ward, everyone expectant.

After bowing, I recited as follows:

The Rice Song

It's nice to live on what's nice
 And rice is very nice just once or twice,
 But to have it every day
 Is enough to make one say
 It's only fit for Chinamen and mice.
 It's nicely soft for those whose teeth are bad
 And good for filling cracks 'mongst what
 you've had,
 But to be like a balloon
 Every blessed afternoon
 Is bound to make you feel both sore and sad.

In flavour it's lamentably lacking,
 Though its good points I'm not attacking;
 And Oh! good Lord! arrange
 To let us have a change
 From this everlasting, sloppy Chinese
 packing.

The faces of the front row showed surprise and disgust, while my comrades shouted with laughter and I felt a certain gratification.

Next morning the Superintendent was angry, but my comrades congratulated me, and to the joy of us all our next dinner included plum duff. In their glee the fellows christened me "Lord Duff." But I am still waiting for a coronet.

J. G. HEALY.

Blackpool.

Birmingham Club Notes

There were very good attendances at our last four monthly meetings. We have some very good young St. Dunstaners coming along to take part in the serious training arrangements that have been provided by Mr. Dick Cooling, our very great friend (and very reliable one). Mr. Cooling and Miss Fairhead, our hostess and hon. secretary, have gone to a great deal of trouble to make these arrangements and nothing pleases them better than to see St. Dunstaners taking advantage of them. In the near future we should be able to put some good teams in all kinds of sporting events. There is still room for more young St. Dunstaners to enter the fray for all sports, and I appeal to them all to come along. They will be made very welcome indeed. Although most of us older St. Dunstaners are now well past our best, we are very eager to encourage others who will "have a go."

Our thanks to all sisters, V.A.D.s and cadets for the help they have given us through the year in providing and serving our tea—and what a smashing cup of tea it is.

Our annual summer outing is to Trent-ham Gardens on Sunday, June 15th. Two coaches have kindly been offered to us and we are hoping to meet a number of our St. Dunstan's comrades from the Potteries area at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Cooling and Miss Fairhead, and our thanks to Mr. J. H. Thomas, of the Alexandra Musical Society, who is providing our charas., and to Birmingham Red Cross for all their help.

J. H. NEW.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll, of Cork, who on April 30th celebrated their golden wedding.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Agate, Croydon, May 14th. Congratulations.

Elected

Congratulations to Bob Black, of Seahouses, Co. Durham, who has been elected to the Parish Council and to the Rural District Council of Belford at the recent elections, and also to L. Leeman, of Louth, who has been re-elected Councillor.

The Rest of the News

L. Jackson, of Heswall, has had a write-up in the local paper for growing white daffodils (he says he does not know how!) which are apparently extremely rare.

★ ★ ★

R. Paterson, of Thirsk, has received a badge for giving eleven pints of his blood for the Blood Transfusion Service. His dog is of no use as a guide when he visits the Clinic for he will not allow his master to be touched!

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G. T. Shaw, of Palfrey, Walsall, wonders if any St. Dunstaner has a mother living as old as his mother—she is 97.

★ ★ ★

H. McCrae, of Belfast, one of our telephone operators, recently had a visit from the census people of the telephone exchange. At the time he was putting through calls at the rate of over five per minute. They told him his was probably the busiest board in town. They suggested another board and operator, but Hugh wanted extra lines—which he is to have. In their words—if he went any faster than he was going now, he would be jet-propelled.

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The ceremony of opening the new Memorial Hall, Bolton Road Methodist Church, Bury, was carried out by Tom Taylor, of Farrington, who is a former scholar of the Church and a member.

★ ★ ★

Maureen Lees had another mention after the wireless news, this time concerning her exhibit at Chester. Incidentally Maureen sends regards and greetings to all St. Dunstaner friends of Church Stretton days from Mary Scors, the Canadian St. John Ambulance driver who was at Stretton.

Grandfathers

R. Wylie, of Bromley; C. W. Matthews, of Maidenhead; A. Porter, of Seven Kings (the second grandchild but first grandson); A. E. Strand, of Ringwood; J. Printie, of Edinburgh.

R.A.O.B.

An R.O.H. Assembly has been formed in the Brighton and District Province, and Bro. J. Jackson, R.O.H., has been elected as President. Congratulations, Bro. Jack.

Brighton Notes

Ovingdean

On May 12th we had the pleasure of a visit from Sir Ian Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser, to inspect the work and to meet the men in training and those on holiday or convalescence.

It does not seem too early to remind all readers of the REVIEW that Sports Day will be held at Ovingdean on Saturday, 19th July, commencing at 2.30 p.m. and once again this year we are looking forward to a large number of entries both from individual St. Dunstaners as well as the London and other Clubs. The main items on the programme will be:—

Throwing the Cricket Ball.
70 yards for the Totally Blind.
70 yards for Semi-Sighted.
Standing Long Jump.
Throwing the Discus.
Putting the Weight.
Throwing the Medicine Ball.
Tug-o-War.
Team Relay.

In addition there will, of course, be other items and if you would like to have a full list together with information about tea, etc., you should get in touch with Miss Guilbert at Ovingdean. The next step is to decide upon the races you will enter and have your name sent to Mr. Jarrold not later than **30th June**. This may sound early, but it does help us with the final arrangements here at Ovingdean.

As previously we shall send invitations to Sussex St. Dunstaners, but we do hope that any St. Dunstaner who knows that he will be in the district at that time, will apply to us for a Tea Ticket and come along on Sports Day. In the past year or so the day has become an "unofficial" Reunion and we hope this will again be the case this year.

Summer term is now well under way and amongst our visitors to the Training Sections this month have been a group of doctors from Paddington Hospital, Mr. George Yu-Chieh Tsou who is the Director of the Rehabilitation Centre, Formosa, and who came to us by arrangement with the British Council, and a young actor, Mr. Neil Landor, who was shortly to play the part of a blind man in a play to be produced in Ireland.

Towards the end of the month we

welcomed the Reverend W. Huang, a Chinese Malayan who is shortly to take up a post of principal of a school for blind children in Malaya. He takes our good wishes to Major Bridges, also working in Malaya. A flying visit from Group Captain D. S. G. Honor (United Kingdom and Commonwealth Representative of the World Veterans' Federation) and Mr. Henry Urrows (United States World Veterans' Fund) completed a busy month.

Entertainments for both trainees and St. Dunstaners on holiday have not been lacking and the Home has been well populated in spite of the difficulties encountered because of alterations of several dormitories into smaller rooms. The weekly drives have proved very popular and there have been several Race Meetings to attend. The entertainments arranged for Sunday evenings have continued with Concerts, play-readings by the Staff, and, on 27th April, a visit from the "St. Wilfrid's Players" who presented "With Vacant Possession." Any local St. Dunstaner who would like to come along on a Sunday evening will find something in the way of entertainment. Future programmes will be listed in these columns from time to time.

Young St. Dunstaners

The eldest son of S. Loram, of Brixham, is now a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy.

Olive Coates, Preston, now serving with the W.R.N.S., has won her General Education Certificate (Matriculation).

Barbara Sayers, Northampton, has won the County Championship Cup for Gymnastics.

Marriages

Edward Maskell, Hunmanby, on March 29th, to Dorothy May Wheeldon.

Leslie Dembenski, on April 4th, to Joan Gladys Bowen.

George Kennedy, Barnhill, by Dundee, on January 25th, to Ina Galbraith.

Delcie Muir (Whitley Bay), to Frederick D. Steele, of East Boldon.

For Sale

SILVER CROSS GREY COUPE PRAM for sale in good condition. Drop handle and adjustable seat for sitting child. Price, carriage paid, 11 guineas. Sun canopy to match.—R. Bridger, 124 Manor Rd., Stoke Newington, N.16. (T/l. Stamford Hill 9079).

The Disabled Man in Industry

Speaking in a midnight adjournment debate in the House of Commons on May 6th, on conditions in a Remploi factory, Sir Ian Fraser said:

"All of us will wish that every means should be used to find work for disabled men and women. Happiness does not come along from pensions or money, but only from work, though the work must as far as possible, be useful and fruitful, and as nearly as possible competitive commercial work.

"It is not true that disabled men must do only simple hand work. They are very skilled at machine minding. Men disabled in the highest degree—blind and limbless, without hands or eyes—can do machine work. If they do machine work then the capital employed in the machines makes them feel much more worth while. Further, whilst there is a place for sheltered factories for some who are most disabled, it is my experience that where a man can go to work in an open competitive factory alongside normal workmen he is happiest."

Under the present system every substantial employer was compelled to employ 3 per cent. of disabled persons, varying from the most severe to the lightest cases.

Sir Ian suggested that that percentage should be altered so that where an employer took in men disabled in the most severe degree, that man should be allowed to count as two in the percentage.

Sir Ian said he was not opposed to the sheltered factory. There was a place for it, but he thought its importance had been exaggerated. Men were happier when they felt that they were normally employed in normal industry.

Placements

E. J. Paris, of Leyton, as a tobacconist and confectioner; A. E. Ryan (Australian) on inspection work with Messrs. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Basingstoke.

R. Towner, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Tilling Stevens, Ltd., Maidstone; C. A. Radford, as a capstan operator with Messrs. A.B.C. Motors, Walton-on-Thames; F. Lipscombe, as a telephonist with the Agricultural Executive Committee, Exeter, J. L. E. Price, Manor Park, as a capstan lathe operator with Castle Products, Ltd., Leyton.

Births

BEDFORD.—On May 11th, to the wife of E. Bedford, of Market Drayton, a son.

HAWES.—On April 26th, to the wife of F. A. E. Hawes, a daughter—Bryony Ilona.

WHYTE.—On March 20th, to the wife of F. Whyte, of Motherwell, a son—Francis.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BROWN.—To F. J. Brown, of Birmingham, in the recent loss of his brother.

CALVERT.—To Mr. and Mrs. L. Calvert, of Ormskirk, whose little grandson has died suddenly.

KAY.—T. A. H. Kay, of Letchworth, whose only sister has died in Canada.

KEEGAN.—To A. Keegan, of Cork, in the loss of his only brother who died on April 7th.

ROBINSON.—To B. Robinson, of Scarborough, who has suffered further bereavement by the death of his father. He recently lost his mother.

WILLIAMS.—To A. Williams, of Newport, Mon., whose wife died on April 20th after a short illness.

MITCHELL.—To A. C. Mitchell, of Guildford, whose father died on April 23rd.

GREEN.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Green, of Middlesbrough, whose married daughter has recently died of pneumonia.

Thirty Years Ago

From the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, May, 1922:

"The fitting out of a special expedition to secure, dead or alive, that wonderful monster, the plesiosaurus, has reminded writers in one or two of the leading papers of a somewhat similar expedition which was financed by Sir Arthur Pearson. Sir Arthur's quest, however, was for another supposedly extinct mammoth, a mylodon, which was reported to have been seen in the same lake region of Patagonia. The search, which extended over a year and which was headed by Mr. Hesketh Pritchard, was not successful in its main object, but a great deal of valuable information as to the flora and fauna of these little-known wilds, and much of great interest to scientists and geologists, was added to the world's knowledge."

“In Memory”

Rifleman James McFarlane, 8th London Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of James McFarlane, of Barnhill, by Dundee.

After losing his sight in France in April, 1918, he came to us the following year and trained in boot-repairing. He was not able to carry on with this trade a great deal and of late years he had done only very light work. He died at his home on April 17th.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. McFarlane and her children, and to Colin, who had lived with his grandparents for many years.

Private George Henry Orrow, 1st Herts. Regiment

With deep regret we record the death at Ovingdean of G. H. Orrow, of Chingford. Although he had been in poor health for some time his death was unexpected. He had, sadly enough, just arrived at Ovingdean for a convalescent holiday. He was 64.

He was badly wounded at Hill 60 and in addition to his loss of sight, he lost also a leg. When he came to us he trained as a shopkeeper but later took up netting and he was working at this up to the time of his death. In spite of his double handicap he was always most cheerful.

The funeral took place at Chingford and Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was among the masses of flowers.

He leaves a widow and three sons to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

Gunner Harry Blakeley, Royal Field Artillery

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Harry Blakeley, of Exmouth. He was fifty-eight.

He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1917, and trained in mats and boot-repairing and these crafts he worked at until 1942 when he changed to netting. He had been in failing health for some time.

A poppy wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral at Bride-stowe Church, near Okehampton, where he had lived for 17 years. There was a wreath from the British Legion, and four Legion members—all old friends of Harry's—carried him to his last resting place.

He leaves a widow and grown-up daughter to whom our deep sympathy goes.

Corporal Walter Stedman, Royal Air Force

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Walter Stedman, of Hayes, at the age of fifty-eight.

After his discharge from the R.A.F. in 1925, he came to St. Dunstan's three years later. He was a mat maker and netter and carried on these occupations until 1949. He had been in failing health, however, for some time and his condition had worsened over the past few months, but he bore his long illness with great bravery.

Sir Ian's wreath of poppies from his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Stedman and her four daughters.

Lance Corporal William John Hopper, 1st East Yorkshire Regiment

With deep regret we have to announce the death of W. H. (Jack) Hopper, of Bridlington, whose death occurred very suddenly at his home on Easter Monday.

When war broke out in August, 1914, he was called up immediately. Two years later he was wounded at Armequin, losing his sight and right hand. He came to us in June, 1917 and although he trained as a poultry farmer, his heart was always in engineering—he had been a marine engineer before the war. Several years ago he joined a company which ran a pleasure steamer, “Boys' Own,” from Bridlington to Flamborough Head. He was secretary and director, and a well-known figure at the harbour. He was a former member of Bridlington Town Council and a member of the Committee of Bridlington branch of the British Legion.

Among the many wreaths at the funeral was one of poppies from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends. His ashes will be scattered on the sea from the “Boys' Own.”

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Hopper.

Private James Wallace McConnell, Army Catering Corps

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death at Ovingdean of J. W. McConnell, of Brighton. He was 37.

He came to us in November, 1943, and trained as a shop-keeper, but he gave this up six years later.

The funeral took place at the Borough Crematorium on April 17th, and there were many flowers, including our wreath of poppies.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his relatives.

Mrs. Barbara Turner

We have heard with deep regret of the sudden death at Brighton of Mrs. Barbara Turner. Mrs. Turner was always extremely willing to offer her help to St. Dunstan's men, and to our deaf comrades in particular she was most kind and helpful. She will be greatly missed by them.

Personal

Mrs. Orrow expresses her deep appreciation of the kindness shown to her by the Matron and staff of Ovingdean and West House and for the many letters received.

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Mrs. Stedman sends her very sincere thanks to St. Dunstan's staff for their great help during her husband's last long illness.