

*Miss Walter*

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## Sir Ian Says Farewell to the British Legion

SIR Ian Fraser retired at Whitsuntide from the Presidency of the British Legion after holding this office for eleven years.

In view of the friendly connection between St. Dunstan's and the British Legion, and of Sir Ian's long tenure of office, we think that extracts from his last address to Conference will interest St. Dunstaners.

After thanking his fellow Officers and Members for their co-operation and friendliness over many years, Sir Ian had a particularly warm word for the women of the Legion. "We must nourish, comfort and embrace them," he said, amid laughter.

Sir Ian then went on, "Before I give you some statistics, I will report that recently a Civil Servant in a remote territory informed his bosses in London that drunkenness had decreased by 50 per cent. in his area. This interested Whitehall so much that they asked for further particulars and they were told that there were two Europeans in the district and that one of them had died" (laughter). "This shows you how accurate and yet misleading statistics can be. Now, however I will give you some figures that are accurate and certainly not misleading."

Sir Ian then gave what he termed some "notable figures" about membership. The paid-up membership was 600,000, to which should be added 205,000 members of the Women's Section. The Legion figure was twice as high as that for the similar period after the First War, and it should be borne in mind they were losing by death 20,000 of their membership each year.

Sir Ian said, "I have taken a sample of the Legion membership from 100 branches embracing 33,000 members, and this shows that 54 per cent. served in the Second World War, 34 per cent. in the '14-18 war, 4 per cent. in both wars, and 8 per cent. are National Servicemen who have served since 1945.

"More of the younger men are coming into the Legion. Some of our councils and committees are composed of First War men, perhaps that is inevitable in view of the experience they can bring to bear. But now the younger men are predominating I would urge you to consider electing more men who have served in the Second World War... The future of the Legion depends on the extent to which the younger man takes over these places."

The Poppy Day figure had passed the million mark for the fourth time and stood at £1,023,106—and there was more to come. Poppy Day, he said, was the largest voluntary collection in the land and it was with the help of these generous donations from the public that they had been able to spend more than £1 million relieving permanent and temporary distress among ex-Service people.



No doubt, said Sir Ian, they had heard a man say he did not want charity—he wanted justice. While he might not refuse help, undoubtedly he felt it, and sometimes very strongly. Perhaps he disliked having to ask for it, or to accept it much as he needed it. Or perhaps the person on the other side of the table had asked searching questions or had given an impression of condescension.

"I am glad," he said, "that it has been the tradition in the Legion to help people privately, unostentatiously and sympathetically. Let us be sure that every one of our Service committees bear this good tradition in mind and nourish it. We are all dependent one upon the other, and it is a good thing to be able to give help and to receive it with grace."

Should voluntary agencies be abolished and the work they do be taken over by the State?

"This would be a profound mistake," said Sir Ian, "The Welfare State has in fact taken over many functions previously exercised by voluntary bodies, but there is still room and need for the enterprise, initiative and experiment which voluntary enterprise has given us in the past, and can continue to give in the future."

"I think it is true to say that in the case of every service now conducted by the State or local authorities, the trail was first blazed by voluntary agencies, such as the churches, the old friendly societies and, in more recent decades, by such organisations as the British Legion, St. Dunstan's and S.S.A.F.A. Moreover, it is often possible for the voluntary agency to get very near to the individual's needs, to know him personally, and to fill in gaps which must inevitably arise in any Whitehall or Town Hall scheme."

Unlike some countries, notably the U.S.A. and France, in England there was only one British Legion instead of one ex-Service organisation on the right and another on the left of politics. The Legion had never supported or opposed any Government or candidate in the political field, but like the Irishman, was "agin all Governments" from time to time when they did not go as far as we would like in supporting the cause we had at heart.

"I feel sure the Legion will continue vigorously to persuade Government and Parliament to maintain those priorities and preferences for ex-Servicemen and women which are the custom of the country and which are, I think, a debt of honour. It is a good thing for Britain to have a movement which can be, and is, the forceful but nevertheless moderate voice of the ex-Servicemen and woman."

Sir Ian then spoke of the needs of the older ex-Servicemen, quoting from Shakespeare's *Henry V*... "old men forget"... He said one thing they did not forget was their service days. Often they boasted about their experiences, which no one could confirm (laughter). It was true that one remembered the happier aspect and, speaking for himself, he could recall "the many times we have marched together, prayed together, and worked together for the cause we all have at heart."

One of his last requests was that members increase the help they give to the older men in need (applause).

"Service in the Armed Forces of the Crown is a distinction, something which distinguished us from others who did not serve. We recognised that there were other jobs that had to be done in wartime but we were proud of the part we played in the Forces. We old soldiers, sailors and airmen might well emphasise our pride in our past service at a time when it is essential for the nation's well-being that voluntary recruiting for the Armed Forces should prosper."

Concluding on a personal note, Sir Ian said, "I have been an undistinguished soldier and politician. Soldiers do not generally like politicians and that is all the more reason why I am grateful to you for your forbearance and loyalty during my term of office. If, in the future, there is any service I can render to the British Legion, I hope you will ask me. I shall continue to give my services to St. Dunstan's as its Chairman so long as I am wanted and shall remain in Parliament, I hope, for many years."

"From my place there I shall continue to espouse many good causes which are near to my heart, not least the well-being of my friends who have served in the Forces."

## The Birthday Honours List

### Australian St. Dunstaner Honoured

J. S. Buckley, of Queensland, Australia, received the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours "for services to blinded ex-Servicemen and their dependents."

Jim Buckley was wounded at Messines in July, 1917, and came to St. Dunstan's the same year. He was trained first as a shorthand typist then as a masseur, and has for many years now been in private practice as a physiotherapist. He does much good work for the Queensland Blinded Soldiers' Association and we send our congratulations to him on his well-earned honour.

### Member of St. Dunstan's Council becomes Companion of the Bath

The Ven. Archdeacon F. Darrell Bunt, O.B.E., M.A., R.N., Chaplain of the Fleet and a member of St. Dunstan's Council, whom many St. Dunstaners have met at Reunions, has been made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (C.B.).

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Awards which will also be of interest to St. Dunstaners are that of the M.B.E. to Mr. G. A. Fleet, Personal Assistant to the President of the British Legion, and of the M.B.E. to Miss R. N. K. Thompson, until recently Head of the "Homes" Department of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

## The Derby Sweepstake

### All Records Broken

This year's Sweepstake has proved to be the biggest ever. With 3,113 tickets sold, the record of 3,008 in 1946 has been easily passed.

After deducting £25 15s. 0d. for printing and postage expenses, a sum of £363 7s. 6d. was left for division in accordance with the printed rules. The result of the Draw was published last month and the first three winners were:

1st. Hard Ridden.

C. J. Pennells, Brighton. £181 13s. 9d.

2nd. Paddy's Point.

F. Ralph, Ovingdean. £72 13s. 6d.

3rd. Nagami.

G. Fisk, Colchester. £36 6s. 9d.

There were six non-runners of the horses listed last month. The holders of the tickets for the remaining "Also-rans" each received £4 5s. 6d.

## London Club Notes

*Bridge.*—The St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress will take place at Ovingdean during the weekend of Saturday, November 15th. Will all bridge players who are interested and wish to enter for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup competitions—namely, for Pairs and Teams of Four—send in their names to Mr. Bob Willis, at the London Club, before October 18th, at the same time giving the name of the partner they have arranged to play with. This will enable the Committee to make the Draw and ensure the smooth running of the competitions at Brighton. If I should have any single names sent in, I am afraid I cannot guarantee a partner, but I will do my best.

G. P. B.

## The Derby

The glorious 4th of June—Derby Day. A coach with 40 Club members and their escorts set off from the Club to a flying start. We soon arrived at Epsom Downs and took up our position right on the rails, and were shortly joined by our friends from Brighton. The first item on the card was to delve into the well stocked lunch boxes, with liquid refreshments to suit all tastes. Then to the important business of the day, winner spotting, and the constant procession to the bookies, some returning with pound notes, others with beautifully coloured bookies' cards, but all jubilantly optimistic. The weather was good, the course perfect, and the sport excellent.

After the last race we were quickly away, far quicker than some of our horses, to a good run home, with Bill Harding and his Skiffle boys leading the choruses. Within minutes of arriving at the Club Mrs. Willis had produced tea and biscuits.

Truly a great social occasion and a fitting way to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the London Club.

Our sincere thanks must go to Mr. Bob Willis, whose efficient arrangements made everything run so smoothly, surely he was the most "Hard Ridden" man on the day, and of course a grateful word for Mrs. Willis.

P. ASHTON.

## Four St. Dunstaners Take Part in Stock Exchange London-Brighton Walk

On May 17th, at the invitation of the Stock Exchange Athletic Club, Billy Miller,



Archie Brown, Les Dennis and George Hewitt were in the line up of competitors who came under the starter's orders (Big Ben) at 7 a.m. for the annual London to Brighton walk.

All, with the exception of George Hewitt, had taken part in this race before, Archie Brown having done the journey five times, Billy Miller four and Les Dennis three. These four were in close attendance on each other for the first three miles, but on approaching Streatham Common Billy and Les pulled away, and at the "Swan and Sugar Loaf" Croydon, were together and some minutes in front of Archie and George. On reaching Coulsdon, Billy Miller had taken the lead from Les Dennis and at "The Chequers," Horley, the order was Miller, Dennis, Brown and Hewitt.

In spite of his age, Archie was doing well and George was making a good show at his first attempt at this distance.

Along the stretch of Handcross all four had their bad times, which were not helped by the unfavourable weather of a cold wind and plenty of rain, but their keenness carried them on and they were determined to finish the 53 miles 129 yards.

Leaving Dale Hill these four St. Dunstaners put their best foot forward (if they had a best foot) with the knowledge that there were no more hills to climb and only seven miles to go, so they continued along the road, passing Pyecombe, Patcham and Preston Park to reach the Aquarium with great credit.

Billy Miller was the first St. Dunstaner to finish and fifth in the actual race in the time of 9 hours 20 minutes 40 seconds, Les Dennis second in 10 hours 1 minute 20 seconds, third was Archie Brown in 10 hours 35 minutes 52 seconds, and fourth George Hewitt, his time being 10 hours 47 minutes 34 seconds, a good performance for the first time of making the journey.

All four had the consolation that they finished this trek from London in front of a number of Stock Exchange competitors.

At the reception held at the Hotel Metropole in the evening, Billy Miller received from R. C. Quick, Esq., C.B.E., the St. Dunstan's Cup, kindly presented by Bisgood, Bishop and Company. Les, Archie and George were awarded a tankard each.

Many thanks to our sporting escorts and good helpers.

### St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Championship Walk And Match With Metropolitan Police Regents Park, Saturday, 3rd May, 1958

Order Finish	Club	Time	All.	H'p Time	in H'p	Pos.
1.	M. Neill	Met. P.	62-28	—	—	—
2.	W. Miller	St. D's	62-41	Scr.	62-41	1
3.	J. Clifton	Met. P.	64-01	—	—	—
4.	L. Thomas	Met. P.	64-05	—	—	—
5.	J. Brown	Met. P.	66-45	—	—	—
6.	G. Hewitt	St. D's	66-55	2-30	64-25	2
7.	P. Ansell	Met. P.	66-55	—	—	—
8.	L. Dennis	St. D's	69-08	4-30	64-38	3
9.	A. Brown	St. D's	71-17	3-30	67-47	4
10.	L. Sloane	Met. P.	73-03	—	—	—
11.	S. Tutton	St. D's	76-30	8-00	68-30	5
12.	J. Holding	Met. P.	78-22	—	—	—
13.	T. Gaygan	St. D's	80-20	8-30	71-50	6

Match Result:  
Metropolitan Police 30 points.  
St. Dunstan's 49 points.

### Five Mile Match

#### St. Dunstan's v. Pearl A.C. v. Erycinie Regents Park, Saturday, 29th April, 1958

Order of Finish	Club	Time	All.	H'p Time	in H'p	Pos.
1.	W. Miller	St. D's	45-03	Scr.	45-03	1
2.	G. Adams	Pearl	47-30	—	—	—
3.	G. Taylor	Ery.	47-55	—	—	—
4.	G. Hewitt	St. D's	47-59	1-00	46-59	2
5.	A. Brown	St. D's	49-20	1-30	47-50	3
6.	R. Deane	Ery.	49-45	—	—	—
7.	E. Holt	Pearl	50-04	—	—	—
8.	A. Dawe	Pearl	52-18	—	—	—
9.	E. Archer	Ery.	53-32	—	—	—
10.	S. Tutton	St. D's	53-35	4-00	49-35	4
11.	R. Barton	Ery.	56-00	—	—	—
12.	R. Larkin	Ery.	57-03	—	—	—
13.	T. Gaygan	St. D's	57-31	4-00	53-31	5
14.	D. Nye	Ery.	57-50	—	—	—
15.	W. Hooker	Ery.	58-14	—	—	—

Match Result:  
St. Dunstan's 10 points.  
Pearl A.C. 17 points.  
Erycinie 18 points.

### The Doubly Handicapped

From time to time some of our more severely disabled St. Dunstaners, such as the deaf, the handless, the chair-borne, and others, may have advice and comments on matters of mutual interest which may not be known to their companions and friends who are similarly handicapped.

The Editor is always very glad to consider suggestions and comments from doubly disabled St. Dunstaners which, through the medium of the REVIEW, might help their comrades.

### Braille, the Emancipator

Believing that what has been experienced is real, and anxious to reinforce Sir Ian's call to all St. Dunstaners who possibly can to learn braille, I am prompted to recount some of my own experiences and reactions as to what remains the most vital element in my physical blindness.

It was whilst still bedfast in hospital, with a chip on my shoulder and very little interest in life, that I was first introduced to braille by Miss Baimbrigg and what I thought of that lady during those early lessons is nobody's business. But to-day, forty years later, my gratitude to her is as profound and unbounded as on the day I passed my test.

Well do I remember reading my first fully contracted novel, "The Sowers," and its effect on my attitude towards the strange, dark world into which I had been suddenly plunged. This experience proved that the companionship of a good book could help to alleviate pain, render solitude desirable, and eliminate the fear of loneliness. The braille key had opened the door and illumined the darkness—so God had not entirely deserted me.

Slowly came the realisation that with a knowledge of braille, one could court the great minds, past and present, of men whose works and benefactions had contributed to the spread of knowledge and to the progress of mankind; and further, through the medium of recorded experiences one could share in the tragedy and comedy of life, journey to any part of the known world, and be present at far away events and scenes. Let me elucidate. I have just paid a visit to the Lebanon, home of so much Bible history where, among other things, I made the acquaintance of those fabulous cedars whose history dates back 2,600 B.C.; learned that it was really in Lebanon that Noah's Ark came to rest; and that the natives even offer to show tourists Noah's tomb. I also felt a little of the heat from the fire of nationalism which is sweeping the East, whilst the protagonists of East and West struggle for supremacy. All this I experienced without leaving the precincts of my own room.

Whilst I realise the inestimable value of the Talking Book, especially in particular cases, there must be times when it is inconvenient to have the machine working. Again

there are branches of literature—magazines, periodicals, etc., which do not get a recording. Therefore, I join forces with Sir Ian and strongly urge all St. Dunstaners who can to invest heavily in braille; sooner or later their accumulated interest will far out value any principal invested.

One has only to learn a little of the early history of the blind to appreciate the justice of the above title.

T. ROGERS.

### The British Legion Conference Presentations to Sir Ian and Lady Fraser

A highlight of the British Legion Conference at Whitsun was the presentation to Sir Ian Fraser of four Georgian silver candlesticks, and a cheque for the balance of the fund subscribed by branches, and a gift to Lady Fraser of a silver brooch.

There was great applause as the presentations were made by Major J. T. Spinks, Legion Chairman, and the Conference was delighted to hear Sir Ian say that he proposed, with the cheque for £2,000, to establish the Fraser (British Legion) Trust, which would be used to enable an orphan child or children of an ex-Serviceman, or the child or children of a totally disabled war-pensioner to derive more benefit from their education than they otherwise would.

Sir Ian, concluding, said, "I may have told the women at their Conference that I was a tough old guy who did not wear his heart on his sleeve. But it does not follow that I have not got a heart. I am deeply moved . . . I have enjoyed eleven happy years with you."

### Aldermen

At the annual meeting of the Stalybridge Town Council, on May 26th, H. White was elected Alderman for the ensuing six years. Mr. White was first elected to the Council in November, 1946, was defeated in 1950; re-elected in 1951, and has been there ever since.

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Alderman F. W. E. L'Estrange Fawcett, of Stowmarket, has been re-elected for the County of East Suffolk.



## Talking Book Library

### The Last of the First Half

This column has a rough guide to seven books and an appendix of "also released."

"The Hidden River," by Storm Jameson, reader Norman Shelley, portrays an ex-Service Englishman visiting a French family who helped him during the war. The drama of a family split by suspicions of each other regarding collaboration involves him and disturbs the peace of the farm on the Loire. Two brothers, a dead cousin, an old uncle, and a separate aunt, indulge in a tremendous emotional tangle and, of course, there is a sweet little frippet to please the Englishman. *Cat. No. 43.*

"Desirée" by Annemarie Selinko, reader Andrea Troubridge, is the fascinating story of the girl who married Napoleon's Marshal Bernadotte and became Queen of Sweden. Convincingly told in the first person, the story makes Napoleon at home a figure of fantastic comic opera and the whole is quite absorbing. *Cat. No. 164.*

"The Way of an Eagle," by Ethel M. Dell, reader Robin Holmes, is enacted mainly in India except when the strong, dumb army types are on leave. The general's daughter is saved from a besieged frontier fort by the "eagle" and then follows much heart-ache and anguish of the good old strong, silent type. Why don't "furriners" like us? Read this and see. *Cat. No. 171.*

"Madame Curie," by E. Curie, reader Alvar Lidell, starts with Marie's childhood in Poland, goes with her through her struggles and heartbreaks to the climax of her lonely triumph. Her husband's tragic death marred the wonder of their discovery of radium. *Cat. No. 280.*

"Jalna," by Mazo de la Roche, reader Eric Gillett, is the first of a long series of "White-oaks" stories. This large country mansion is somewhere near Toronto in Canada, and the idiosyncrasies, triumphs, and vicissitudes of the large, interesting family are very entertaining. *Cat. No. 325.*

"Love in a Cold Climate," by Nancy Mitford, reader Andrea Troubridge, is a book essentially for the fair sex. Parties and society chatter, match-making and marchionesses. Flashes of humour give it some appeal for the male and Polly Hampton is quite a girl. *Cat. No. 367.*

"Thelma," by Marie Corelli, reader Laidman Browne, is the romance of a sweet Norwegian beauty and an English baronet. The baronet's yacht visits Thelma's fjord and the wooing begins. Thelma's father approves though he thinks Christians cissies and sticks to Odin himself. During the visit of the yacht there is much melodramatic incident in an atmosphere of pagan superstition to accompany the baronet's wooing. Back in London the slime and malice of Society leads to domestic misunderstanding, and Thelma flees back to her fjord where eventually her frantic husband locates her and the story ends on even keel. *Cat. No. 999.*

Also released were:

"The Lark shall sing," by Elizabeth Cadell, reader Andrea Troubridge. *Cat. No. 29.*

"The Colditz Story," by P. R. Reid, reader Norman Shelley. *Cat. No. 44.*

"The Sittaford Mystery," by Agatha Christie, reader Frederick Allen. *Cat. No. 179.*

"Merry Hall," by Beverley Nichols, reader Andrew Timothy. *Cat. No. 42.*

"NELSON."

## The Cardiff Club

The Annual Outing took place on Saturday, May 31st, to Hereford—Symonds Yat.

Dinner was served at the Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford. We were accompanied by our Visiting Sister, Miss Blebta, and Miss Ann Hodges, by special invitation. After a friendly chat and handshakes, we journeyed on to Symonds Yat.

Tea was served at Valdasso's Café. Photographs were taken and boat trips on the river were enjoyed.

Our homeward journey was merry and bright; everyone was satisfied and a real good day was brought to a close.

Our Club is held at the British Legion, Womanby Street, first Saturday in the month (omitting August).

A hearty welcome is extended to all St. Dunstaners in Cardiff and district.

ARTHUR LANE,  
Hon. Secretary.

## Tales of Ind

### The Babu

Broadly speaking, the word "Babu" in India means a clerical worker. In Bengal, it is the equivalent of our "Mister"—as, Mukerjee Babu, or Chatterjee Babu. In Government and military offices, he was quite a power, as he had a prodigious knowledge of regulations, etc., sometimes giving them a meaning never intended by the authorities (as my final story illustrates). Babu English is quite a language of its own and at times the phrasing is comical. The following are a few examples of letters written by Babus.

On a Saturday afternoon in the office of a large boot factory in Cawnpore, a solitary clerk remained to finish up some work. The postman arrived with the afternoon letters, which included an order for 500 pairs of ammunition boots from the Officer Commanding the Middlesex Regiment. Babu thought that it would bring him favour with his employers and show promptness if he replied at once. So he wrote:

"Honoured Sir, We acknowledge with thanks your Honour's esteemed order for 500 pairs Ammunition boots, B.T. We know, Sir, the male sex, we also know the female sex, but what, Sir, is the "Middlesex?"

Another time, a Babu wrote to his employers explaining his absence from the office:

"Honoured Sir, I regret to inform your Honour that I am unable to attend Office to-day, as the hand that rocks the cradle has kicked the bucket."

A clerk applying for a post, gave the following particulars of his family:

"Honoured Sir, I have six children. Three adults and three adulteresses."

I once received the following letter from a clerk (who only intended to begin with the usual polite Eastern phrase):

"Honoured Sir, Through your Honour's kindness, my wife has to-day given birth to a fine son."

A sergeant came to his O.C. and complained that his baby, born the previous afternoon, had received no milk ration for that day. The O.C. sent for his Head Clerk. "Tell me, Babu, why did Sergeant Smith's baby not receive its ration of milk yesterday?" "Sir," said the clerk, "according to Army Regulations (India) Vol. 10 (Transport), par. 49, Appendix B, it is not permissible." "But what has transport to do

with milk?" asked the officer. "Sir," said the Babu, "here is the regulation," handing the officer A.R.I. Vol. 10, where the instructions are, "Troops disembarking after 12 noon must bring their unexpired portion of the day's ration with them."

DUNCAN McALPIN.

## Liverpool Club Notes

On the 31st May, the Club had their annual outing, leaving our headquarters—the British Legion, Leeces Street, Liverpool, at 9.30 a.m. We journeyed by coach to Grange-over-Sands, where an excellent lunch was served at the Rainbow Café—kept, incidentally, by the daughter of one of our St. Dunstaners. After lunch we proceeded on our way to Blackpool, where we had the pleasure of the company of Matron Davies to tea. We all know that Matron Davies loves to be among the boys. Incidentally, these notes are being written during my visit to Ovingdean, and it will be very gratifying to Miss Davies to know that many men from various parts of the country were making enquiries about her health. I told them, one and all, that she was as young and active as ever! We arrived back in Liverpool around 10 p.m., a tired—but happy—party. Everyone expressing their view that we had spent a very enjoyable day.

Now for the personal touch:

While at Ovingdean a St. Dunstaner, speaking to me, expressed the view that we should get some news in the REVIEW about our Home at Ovingdean. Please note, Mr. Editor. This has set me thinking. The staff, I know, as all other St. Dunstaners know, work so hard, and spare no effort to make your visit a joyous and memorable one. I think we all look on the staff and ourselves as being one big family. They may be a little out of fashion by *not* going on strike!

We in Liverpool have a very happy membership in our Club, and I know that there are quite a few St. Dunstaners in the vicinity of Liverpool who do not take advantage of joining the Club. We play domino matches, darts matches, and fortunately we can get details of the Home, and the good people who look after us when we go there, owing to the fact that our members are visiting at various times of the year. Now—why not join us? We meet every other Saturday from 3 p.m.



## “ In Memory ”

### John Boyles, *Immiskilling Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Boyles, of Belfast. He died at his home on May 17th—the eve of his 62nd birthday.

He served from his enlistment in August, 1914, until his discharge in 1916, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until February, 1953, when his health prevented any serious training. He did, however, enjoy making a few string bags for our Stores, and he worked at these until about a year ago. He had been in failing health for some considerable time.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Royles and her family.

### Private Leonard Jackson, *11th Cheshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of L. Jackson, of Heswall, at the age of 70.

He was blinded at Messines in June, 1917, and came to St. Dunstan's the following year. He trained as a basket and mat-maker, but when he left us he returned to his hairdresser's business and he carried this on at Rock Ferry until 1931 when he moved to Heswall.

He had many interests. He was a vice-president of the local branch of the British Legion, and a member of a number of committees. He was a keen cyclist—he was President of the Victoria Cycling Club—and he was a prominent Freemason, being Past Master of the James Thompson Lodge, Birkenhead.

We offer our deep sympathy to his widow and her son and daughter. Mrs. Jackson shared her husband's British Legion activities, being Chairman of the Women's Section, Heswall Branch, for many years.

### Lance Corporal John Watson Kerr, *1st Irish Guards*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. W. Kerr, of Widnes. He was 75.

He enlisted in August, 1914, and was wounded at Ypres two months later. He came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1915, and was one of the first six to come to us. He trained in mat-making and he followed his craft for twenty-eight years, sending mats to Stores and also doing local orders. Later he did local work only, but in 1948 he was forced by ill-health to give this up too.

His death follows closely on the death of his wife in November of last year, and our deep sympathy goes out to his children, some of whom are in America.

### Private Thomas Parker, M.M., *1st Royal Irish Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of T. Parker, of Kilkenny, Eire, which occurred at his home on May 27th. He was 73.

He was a regular soldier—he served from September, 1901, until his discharge in March, 1916. He had been wounded in France and he came to us in March of that year. He followed his craft of rug-making until ill-health compelled him to give up.

He leaves a widow and family to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### Air Raid Warden S. J. Sharam, *Royal Navy and Civil Defence Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of S. J. Sharam, of Torquay, at the age of 86.

At the age of fourteen he joined the Royal Navy and after twelve years' service was invalided out. When the Second World War came, he joined the Civil Defence Corps and in May, 1943, as he was leaving for duty a bomb dropped and he was blinded.

His age prevented him undertaking any training at St. Dunstan's but he was tremendously proud of his badge, which he wore always. He also took the greatest pride in his lovely garden, which he tended himself.

Our deep sympathy is sent to his brother and to Mrs. Davey, his landlady, who had looked after him for many years.

### Sergeant Charles Valentine Smith, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of C. V. Smith, of Desford. He was 77.

He served from October, 1915, until November, 1919, coming to St. Dunstan's the following year. He trained in basket making, netting, and wool rugs, and for many years kept some poultry and pigs.

He lost his wife only two months ago and our deep sympathy goes out to his son in his double bereavement.

### Stanley Thomas Timmis Cox, *Australian Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of S. T. T. Cox, who was an Australian blinded ex-Serviceman, but who did not come to St. Dunstan's.

The news has reached us from Mrs. Cox, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.