

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 471—VOLUME XLII

JUNE, 1959

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY.  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### Public Life

I HAVE from time to time noted on this page the success of many St. Dunstaners in public life. There have been members of Parliaments or Legislatures in various parts of the Commonwealth and a large number have been elected to County Councils and other local authorities and public bodies. Although seldom remunerative, these activities are ideally suited to a blind man who likes political or public affairs, and many have distinguished themselves.

Blindness is always a handicap, but in this field it can be overcome, for the blind man can use Braille for agenda, speaking notes, etc., and many are adept at finding their way about in the Parliament building or Town Hall.

Yesterday I met Micky Burns, well-known physiotherapist, who told me about his plans to contest the Putney Division of Wandsworth as a Liberal candidate at the next General Election. We have no party politics in St. Dunstan's, but we will all watch his fight with interest and hope that he is at the beginning of a political career.

The other day I had a letter from Bunny Greatrex who tells me that he has just been re-elected Vice-Chairman of Chailey Rural District Council for the second year, and also elected Chairman of the Finance Committee.

These are but two examples that have come under my notice and I refer to them because I hope the initiative of the St. Dunstaners concerned will be an encouragement to other St. Dunstaners all over the world to take part in national or local affairs if the spirit moves them to do so.

### A well-known St. Dunstaner passes

Sergeant Alan Nichols died on May 14th after a short but severe illness.

There were, I think, only two St. Dunstaners who lost both their hands in the First World War. By contrast there were about twenty who suffered this double disability in the Second War. This strange difference is, I think, due to the fact that modern drugs and treatment saved many lives which were formerly lost and perhaps also to the fact that there were more casualties from bullets and pieces of shrapnel in the First War, whereas very high explosives and blast dealt most damaging and shattering blows in the Second. For example, many of these casualties were due to land mines.

Sergeant Nichols lectured most successfully for St. Dunstan's all over the country and overseas and was perhaps one of the best known of St. Dunstaners. Always a controversial figure, he was a most courageous man who made light of his terrible disabilities and set an example of fortitude and resilience.

He took a special interest in the Old Contemptibles, of whom he was one, and they and many others will mourn his loss and sympathise with Mrs. Nichols, who survives him, and who helped him so much during his lifetime.

### A New Job For Jimmy

Many will remember J. E. (Jimmy) Ellis and will join in congratulating him and wishing him luck in his new job, as reported on the opposite page.

FRASER OF LONSDALE.

### The Derby Sweepstake, 1959

A bigger success than ever before—that was the Derby Sweepstake of 1959. In all, 3,140 tickets were sold and after deducting £22 10s. 0d. for printing and postage expenses, a sum of £370 was left for division in accordance with the printed rules. The final result was:

1st, PARTHIA, S. C. LAMBERT, London, N.5 (2910), £185.

2nd, FIDALGO, H. ABBEY, Enfield (1729), £74.

3rd, SHANTUNG, B. INGREY, Rottingdean (1101), £37.

The following received £4 7s. 0d. each for the other seventeen horses which took part in the race:

Above Suspicion, A. Hobson, Hastings (1515); Amourrou, A. Law, Pensax-Stockton (2205); Arvak, A. J. Chappell, Great Missenden (84); Barbary Pirate, R. Horner, Holmfirth (1197); Beau Tudor, C. Cooper, Worthing (1155); Carnoustie, P. J. Cottrell, Brighton (1866); Casque, T. Clarke, Carterton, Oxford (1255); Dan Cupid, F. J. Sherwood, S.E.9 (389); Josephus, S. J. Orchard, Midhurst (1171); Lindrick, T. W. North, Ovingdean (3037); New Brig, F. Fergie Woods, W.1 (677); Princillon, H. T. Cheal, Saltford, Bristol (2110); Reactor, W. J. Keen, Purton (922). Regent II, A. A. Gemmel, Southampton (1563); Rousseau's Dream, I. Jones, Lutton, Leominster (1023); St. Crispin II, A. A. Gemmel, Southampton (62); Thymus, C. J. Green, London, N.14 (1667).

Those drawing non-runners were:

A. Rees, Brighton, *Prins Eugen* (3049); W. R. Bunting, Ashen, *Salut II* (2988); W. F. Cork, Elham, nr. Canterbury, *Carrigeen Duff* (2120); C. Stockwell, Brighton, drew *The Field* (1033).

The Draw was made at the London Club on May 28th by St. Dunstaners Jim Murray and Sammy Webster. Mr. Bob Willis supervised the proceedings.

### St. Dunstaner Honoured

Many congratulations to a new St. Dunstaner, B. Harsent, recently of London, S.W.1, but now of Colchester, who has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal after thirty-nine years' service with H.M. Treasury. This is a notable award received by very few Civil Servants.

Mr. Harsent enlisted in 1915 and served throughout the First World War. He came to St. Dunstan's only last year, his sight having failed as a result of gassing during the war.

### Dawn

*I stood alone upon a hill before the day had dawned,  
The night was still and quiet, not a whisper from  
the wind,*

*I raised my eyes up to the sky, no cloud was to be  
seen,*

*The stars looked very far away, their light was  
very dim,*

*A sense of loneliness and fear stole over me by  
stealth,*

*Was I the only being on this vast expanse of earth?  
And then I felt a Presence, unseen, unseeable,*

*And all the loneliness and fear had gone as they had  
come,*

*I knew not whence the Presence came, but I believed  
'twas God;*

*A lark now soared up in the sky, its happy song to  
sing,*

*And my whole being thrilled with joy joined with  
it in its praise,*

*The light now spread across the sky, the first sun  
rays appeared,*

*And much of nature was astir, another day had  
dawned,*

*And so for me there'd been two dawns as I stood  
there alone,*

*The one occurring every day, the other much more  
rare,*

*'Tis good sometimes to be alone away from world's  
turmoil,*

*For pleasures oft-times bar the road that leads to  
happiness.*

W. C. HILLS.

### London Club Notes

*Bridge.*—Another reminder that the Harrogate Week will be held this year from September 12th—19th. If you have not already given your name to Mr. Willis, please do so at once.

A reminder, too, that St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress will take place during the week-end of Saturday, November 14th. Entries for the Teams of Four and Pairs events for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup, should be sent to Mr. Willis at the Club.

G.P.B.

### As Others See Us

When I am unshaven, my beard is very thick and close and grows right over my cheek bones. I cannot wear plastic eyes. When I went into hospital last I had not been shaved for a fortnight and my face resembled that of an Old English sheep dog. You know the sort I mean—one of those dogs whose eyes you can't see for hair, with long hair sticking out from each side of his muzzle. The morning after my admission the nurse had washed my face and I could "feel" her gazing down at me. She asked, "have you ever had any eyes?" I replied, "oh, yes, I lost them in the war." She asked again, "in this last war against Hitler?" I replied, "no, I lost them in the First World War." She said, "the First World War? Where?" I replied, "in France." She then asked, "What, against Napoleon?"

*Thetford.* BEN HAMILTON.

(Have you a good story to tell against yourself? If so, send it to the Editor. There will be 10s. 6d. for each one printed.)

### Sutton Club

A last minute reminder of our Club outing to Littlehampton on Saturday, June 27th.

We have got details of our other meetings at the Red Cross Hall, Cheam, and these will bring us to a fortnightly meeting. We are, however, awaiting confirmation of dates which I hope will be available soon.

Our August meeting at the Adult School Hall is on Saturday the 22nd. I promised to let members know of this as soon as possible.

Your Chairman,  
TED DUDLEY.

### Jimmy Ellis's New Appointment

From the *Cape Times*, April 28th, 1959:

"Mr. Jim Ellis, who for the past fifteen years has been engaged on appeals work for St. Dunstan's, has been appointed Public Relations Officer for the South African National Council for the Blind.

Serving with the 10th Royal Hussars, Mr. Ellis fought in France and in the North African desert campaign, where he was totally blinded and severely injured when he was blown up on a minefield in the Western Desert.

He lost his left hand and damaged his right, but when I spoke to him yesterday it was obvious that this handicap has not stopped him doing a man-sized job of work.

After spending six months in a military hospital in Cairo, he came to Cape Town where he entered St. Dunstan's war-time training school, where he learnt to read and write Braille and to type with the remaining fingers on his right hand. It was there that he met Miss Laura Mullins, of Rondebosch, who was a V.A.D. in the training school. In 1945 they were married.

At St. Dunstan's he began his interest in journalism, which led him to edit a small magazine, the South African *St. Dunstan's Review*. There, too, he began going out to schools and meetings to tell about St. Dunstan's work.

After two years at Cape Town he went overseas and was appointed as a lecturer on the propaganda staff of St. Dunstan's. For the next five years he travelled the length and breadth of Britain addressing gatherings of every description. In 1950 he was appointed appeals' organiser of St. Dunstan's for the Union.

In his new job Mr. Ellis will be preaching the gospel of the blind on behalf of the 30,000 blind people in the Union of all races.

Part of the work of the National Council for the Blind, is preventive, and two mobile units are operated to inform people of the danger of not caring for eye disease.

'Life for me is people, and I am very happy to know that many of the people I have met in my work have become my personal friends. The needs of the 30,000 blinded people in the Union are so great that I am looking forward to taking up this new work as a challenge,' said Mr. Ellis."

### Our Trip to Athens and Malta

My wife and I left England via Dover and crossed the Channel during a very thick fog. We arrived at Ostend at 9 p.m. and after the usual formalities we boarded our train and half an hour later we left on our trip to Athens.

During the hours of darkness we passed through Belgium, part of Holland and Germany and, at 8 a.m. on October 30th, we arrived at Mannheim and Stuttgart. During the day we passed through some very beautiful scenery and towards the evening we approached the German-Austrian frontier. The Austrian Alps, with their snow-covered peaks, towered above us as our train twisted and turned in and out through many fertile valleys. Travelling through Austria we met many contrasts. Women there were doing most of the work in the fields. We crossed the Austrian-Yugoslavian border during the night and were there held up for an hour by uniformed officials. Everyone on that train was well and truly screened, our passports, etc., being taken and not given back until we were nearly at the Greek border. The atmosphere was entirely different going through Yugoslavia. Again we found women working very hard in the fields, some busy picking cotton and hanging up tobacco leaves to dry around their quaint houses. All agricultural implements were drawn by oxen, donkeys and horses, but once in a while we came across a modern tractor being demonstrated. Towards Friday evening we approached the border to Greece. Two Greek Customs officials boarded the train and asked a number of questions regarding our baggage and other matters. They gave us a warm welcome and expressed the hope that we would have a happy holiday in Greece. At 10 p.m. we arrived in Salonika, then after some delay we set off on the last stage of our journey to Athens, which we reached at 11.40 a.m., after spending about sixty hours in the train.

At the station was my son whom I had not met for ten years, his wife and our grandchildren, and also my wife's sister. This was a very happy reunion indeed.

During our stay in Athens, although the Cyprus problem was at its height, we found no anti-British feeling at all. On the contrary, we had a very warm welcome everywhere we went and the people's hospi-

ality knew no bounds. We met a cross-section of the public and also visited many historic places of interest. The Acropolis was very interesting indeed. As Lord Byron truly put it, under each stone in Greece lies history. They have erected a lovely statue to him there.

My son is the only foreigner in the Greek Civil Service and he is teaching English in the Greek Naval Academy. In fact, the English language is the most sought after in Greece to-day.

During my stay there we paid a visit to the British War Cemetery on many occasions and found everything so beautifully kept. Even the roses were in bloom on most of the graves in December.

We spent Christmas very happily, staying with my son's in-laws. Then, on New Year's Day, we bade farewell to all our family and started the next stage of our journey.

At 5 p.m. we passed through the Corinth Canal on our way to Naples. The canal is seven miles long and it took us one and a half hours to pass through. The next morning we sighted the toe of Italy and sailed past it, then past Messina, Stromboli, Reggio, Vesuvius and other places of interest until we arrived at Naples on the morning of January 3rd. We had a day to spare in Naples before flying to Malta so we hired a car and went up to Pompeii to see the ruins, and also visited the old Pompeii Cathedral. We took off that evening in a rather bad storm so that it was rather a bumpy take-off, but after we got up to 24,000 ft. everything was all right. We then had a good English dinner. This was our first experience of flying and we enjoyed it very much.

We arrived at Malta at 8 p.m. My son and his wife were there to meet us. During our stay of three months on the island we visited many places of interest. On one occasion I had an interesting cruise round the island on a minesweeper. I can assure you that these small boats can do everything but turn over.

We were always very thrilled going out with the grand-children in the car because they used to visit former friends of my son and would pick loads of oranges and lemons. On one occasion, early in February, we saw the Carnival, which was very pretty and interesting. My son filmed the same with his cine-camera.

### Liverpool Club Notes

The Club held its Annual Summer Outing on Saturday, May 30th. This year we visited Colwyn Bay and Llandudno. We left Liverpool at about 9.30 a.m. and travelling via the Mersey Tunnel, our coach was soon speeding along merrily through the beautiful North Wales countryside. As we reached the half-way mark to our destination, it was decided to call a halt for "elevenses," and this we did at a quaint old wayside cafe. Fully refreshed we continued our journey to Colwyn Bay, which we made in good time for lunch. An excellent meal was enjoyed at the Royal Hotel, followed by a cigarette and a drink or two, after which we proceeded to Llandudno. On arrival we dispersed, going our various ways, some to stroll along the promenade and others to view the shops, whilst one energetic group, including Teddy Cooper and Frank Brooks, climbed the Great Orme. They felt their efforts had been worth it as they had the pleasure of meeting the proprietor of the hotel on the top—none other than Randy Turpin, the ex-middle weight world boxing champion.

Rejoining our coach about five o'clock, we returned to the Royal Hotel to do justice to a good tea. At approximately seven o'clock, we started our homeward journey and our coach was soon passing through Abergele and Prestatyn, along the coast road and on to the Grace Arms Hotel, where we halted for liquid refreshments and enjoyed the music provided by its three-piece band. We were reluctant to leave but time was pressing and it was essential that we should get on our way, and so, making good progress, we reached Liverpool in good time for all to catch connections to our various destinations. It was agreed by all that it had been a wonderful day.

T. MILNER.

### Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Chamberlain, of Gloucester, January 24th. (We have only just been notified of this, but many congratulations.)

\* \* \*

H. G. Boorman, of Peterborough, was awarded a First Class Certificate in the Bass Class at a recent Musical Festival held in Peterborough.

During my stay in Malta I made contact with many members of the R.A.O.B., of which I have been a member for forty years. They presented me with four jewels and a gold-plated tie-pin.

We left Malta at 9 o'clock on April 3rd and arrived at London Airport in record time at 2.15 p.m. My advice to all St. Dunstan's friends—travel by air!

We arrived home in Glorious Devon on April 6th, after spending the week-end in London, but it is not so warm here as it is in Athens and Malta.

Finally I should add that our eldest son is Engineer Lieut.-Commander in charge of the Reserve Fleet, Malta.

Brixham, Devon.

S. C. LORAM.

### Grandfathers

J. H. Dalton, of Middlesbrough (a daughter for George's wife); J. H. Martin, of Boreham Wood (a girl born to Patricia); and new grandchildren for G. B. Swanston, of Edinburgh (Esme, in Sweden, gave birth to a little girl recently—she already has a boy); H. Marsden, of Alderholt, Hants; and C. H. Wheeler, of St. Albans (a first grandson, born in Tasmania).

### Great-Grandfathers

P. Lynch, of Brandon, Co. Durham—another great-grandson.

### Ruby Weddings

Many congratulations to the following upon their Ruby Weddings:

Mr. and Mrs. John Dunks, of Ramsgate, April 10th; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Colclough, of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, June 1st; Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Varley, of Mark's Tey, Colchester, June 4th; Mr. and Mrs. A. Hayes, of Bakers Field, Nottingham, June 8th.

### Family News

We hear from Mrs. Brewer, of Bristol, that her eldest son was a successful candidate at the recent municipal election. (Mr. Brewer is a permanent resident at Pearson House owing to ill-health.)

Raymond Varley, Sheldon, has recently passed two accordion examinations with honours.

### Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Jean Dalton, Middlesbrough, on March 21st, to Thomas Knight.

Thomas Brown, South Shields, on Easter Saturday, to Elsie Moss.

## Talking Book Library

### Some Accompaniment for our Summer Rain

This month a little something about six books and a long list of "also released" to choose from.

"Light on a Dark Horse," by Roy Campbell, reader Eric Gillett, is an interesting autobiography of the Durban-born, hard-riding poet. South Africa, London, South France and Spain are the settings of an adventurous, restless, unconventional life. A very robust answer to the everyday conception of poets in general. *Cat. No. 328.*

"The Spotted Deer," by J. H. Williams ("Elephant Bill"), reader Robin Holmes, is a delightful story of the surveying of the forests of the Northern Andamans with a view to extracting timber by the use of elephants. Stone Age men and spotted deer are incidental to the exhaustive and exhausting survey. It is full of interesting items of history, anecdote and entertaining characters. *Cat. No. 335.*

"Low Notes on a High Level," by J. B. Priestley, reader Eric Gillett, is a rollicking frolic. A very junior composer-pianist throws up his job with a thinly disguised B.B.C., and is hauled into a pirate radio concern run by his prospective father-in-law. The low notes proceed from a new instrument invented by the father-in-law and eventually, after a series of most laughable situations, the instrument leads to the composer's reinstatement and promotion. *Cat. No. 345.*

"Brideshead Revisited," by Evelyn Waugh, reader Laidman Browne, sets off seemingly as a war story with a unit in foul hatted billets—then comes the move to Brideshead, a stately home. A lieutenant of the unit, an artist in peace time, recalls the days when he used to visit there and the problem of the son with whom he had been at university. This scapegrace son passed through many eccentric stages until he finally settled for alcoholism, and the painter friend, in trying to protect him from himself, is tacitly blamed for the whole business by some of the family. Quite entertaining and rather surprising. *Cat. No. 172.*

"Trial by Fire," by Charles Elliott, reader Laidman Browne, is a story of oil workers in an Arabian Sheikdom. The political officer, liaising between the com-

pany and the Sheik, and his wife are mainly concerned, plus the difficulties encountered with Arab labour. The general manager is quite a character. *Cat. No. 281.*

"The Red Fort," by James Leasor, reader Alvar Lidell, is a most interesting account of the siege of Delhi during the Indian Mutiny. No spectacular feat of arms but a remarkable feat of endurance. *Cat. No. 278.*

Also released:—

"Lucky Jim," by Kingsley Amis, reader Franklin Engelmann. *Cat. No. 329.*

"Persuasion," by Jane Austen, reader Eric Gillett. *Cat. No. 347.*

"The Poison Cupboard," by J. F. Burke, reader Robin Holmes. *Cat. No. 381.*

"Stars in My Heart," by B. Cartland, reader Duncan Carse. *Cat. No. 346.*

"Taken at the Flood," by Agatha Christie, reader Duncan Carse. *Cat. No. 364.*

"Wind on the Heath," by Naomi Jacob, reader Stephen Jack. *Cat. No. 402.*

"These Lovers Fled Away," by Howard Spring, reader Stephen Jack. *Cat. No. 366.*

"The Colour of Murder," by Julian Symons, reader Peter Fettes. *Cat. No. 401.*

"The Last Chronicle of Barset," by A. Trollope, reader Eric Gillett. *Cat. No. 330.*

"Danger under the Moon," by M. Walsh, reader John de Manio. *Cat. No. 376.*

"NELSON".

### South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group

At the 19th Annual Meeting of the South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group, the Viscountess Buckmaster and Mr. Esmond Knight delighted and amused the audience by reminiscing informally on drama, tandem cycling and other activities enjoyed at Church Stretton (St. Dunstan's war-time Training Centre). Miss Beryl Sleigh led all present in an inspiring rendering of "Jerusalem," and Mr. Horace Kerr, who had represented St. Dunstan's at the Group's opening meeting in 1940, gave a most interesting talk about gardening.

The Chairman, the Rev. D. G. Hawker, M.A., commented upon the success achieved by the Association in raising £10,000. The Hon. Organiser, Miss Mary Jameson, M.B.E., said that this was basically due to the fact that year after year St. Dunstaners themselves appeared at the Annual Meeting, testifying by their many and varied interests to the value of St. Dunstan's in their lives.

## Births

HUMPHREYS.—On April 24th, to the wife of E. Humphreys, of Walsall, a son—Paul Anthony.

WILLIAMSON.—On May 20th, to the wife of C. Williamson, of Darlington, a second son—Guy Keith.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

BEATTIE.—To J. Beattie, of Belfast, whose daughter, Mrs. Hume, died on May 24th.

DOWNES.—To S. R. Downes, of Brighton, whose wife has died after a long period in hospital. Our St. Dunstaner has been staying with his daughter at Gravesend.

LINCOLN.—To A. W. Lincoln, of Hightown, near Liverpool, and Mrs. Lincoln, whose daughter-in-law has died suddenly at the early age of 32, leaving a young family. Our deep sympathy is extended to their son in his great sorrow.

MIDDLETON.—To F. Middleton, of Willerby, near Hull, in the sudden death of his last remaining sister.

WARD.—To K. Ward, of Winchester, whose sister has died leaving a family of three young children.

### Sergeant Alan Nichols

George Fallowfield writes:

"Sergeant Alan Nichols, the 'Old Sarge,' as I used to address him, was the only handless man who learnt to do the manual alphabet with his artificial hands\* and the only difference to other people was that he wrote the figure '2' for 'B' and made the 'L,' 'M' and 'N' with one, two and three strokes across the palm of the hand. He used his left elbow a great deal for nudging me—once for 'Yes' and twice for 'No,' and we chatted a great deal in the old days.

Nichols' cheerfulness and triumph over his great double handicap did a lot to inspire me to overcome my own."

\*(Tommy Gaygan and Dicky Brett can talk to the deaf in block letters, the former very fast.)—G.F.

### Percy Holmes

Percy Holmes' passing leaves the large circle of his friends with a deep feeling of loss. If ever there was a St. Dunstaner who lived up to the motto of our Founder to the full, it was Percy. Through all the ups and downs of life he was always

the same—full of laughter and fun, an inspiration to everyone who knew him. A real countryman, marvellous with animals, a most successful poultry farmer, and greatly helped by his wife. I am sure we feel much sympathy with Mrs. Holmes and Reggie in their loss.

Percy's activities and interests were many. One of the sportsmen of St. Dunstan's, walking, sculling, athletics—he was into everything. He had such a zest for life. Looking back over the years there was hardly a gathering of the clans that he did not attend. From 1925 to 1958, he only missed one Camp. And racing! His doubles and trebles were the bookies' headache!

Especially my heart goes out to Drummer in the loss of so great a friend.

A.O.S.

### Charlie and Percy

W. T. Scott writes:—

My friendship with Charlie Williams and Percy Holmes has lasted over forty years. We were welcomed to the College Annexe of St. Dunstan's in Regent's Park, and brought together by our war disability. Charlie and I could see a little and were always ready and anxious to share our little bit with those who were not quite so fortunate. Matron Power, "Mr. H." and their wonderful staff soon welded us into a band of brothers. As time went on we were lucky enough to join that happy band of campers. Charlie—that old soldier and bachelor gay; Percy—the one-time gamekeeper with the lovely country brogue which echoed the language of the trapper. Our campers will mourn their passing.

As time passes and collects in the harvest, it occurs to me that it is a pity that we have not taken advantage of modern invention to record some of our special St. Dunstan's sounds. What a joy it would be to those who are left to hear again the voices of our pals and recall the memories of the past. However, without tape, the voices of Charlie and Percy will ring in my ears till my time comes.

### The Birthday Honours

In the Birthday Honours List, Major J. T. Spinks, former Chairman of the British Legion, receives the C.B.E., Miss J. L. Glazebrook, founder and voluntary transcriber to the Students' Library of the R.N.I.B., is awarded the M.B.E.

## “ In Memory ”

### Sapper Harry Raymond Arney, *Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of H. R. Arney, of Pinner. He was nearly 66. He was a First World War man, having enlisted in March, 1917, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until as recently as 1956. He did not undertake training as he was able to continue his work for British Railways as a storeman; from this work he retired in June of last year. He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy goes.

### Bombardier Charles Edmund Gill, *Royal Field Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of C. E. Gill, of Teddington. He would have been 67 this month.

Enlisting in June, 1915, he was discharged from the Army in January, 1917, and came to us immediately. He trained as a boot repairer and he continued this craft, building up a flourishing business. Unfortunately his health began to deteriorate in 1948 but Mrs. Gill and her sons carried on the business. He had spent much time in and out of hospital and for some time he had been at Pearson House, where he died on May 28th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Gill and her family.

### Lance Corporal Percy Holmes, *The Bedfordshire Regiment*

With deepest regret we have to record the death of Percy Holmes, of Flitwick, Bedfordshire, but for many years of Woburn. He died within a few days of his 67th birthday.

Enlisting in August, 1914, he came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1917, when he trained in mat-making and poultry-keeping. He followed both occupations until the 1930's, when he concentrated solely on poultry-farming at Woburn, which he did most successfully. He retired as recently as November, 1958, occupying himself with a little wool-rug making, but he had been in hospital once or twice this year and in May his health deteriorated very rapidly. He entered Bedford Hospital and later Guy's Hospital in London, where he died on May 30th.

Percy was a keen British Legion man and there were many Legionaires at the funeral. Mrs. Spurway was also present, motoring from Somerset that day to be there.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Holmes and Reginald in their great loss.

### Leading Aircraftsman William Edwin Lees, *Royal Air Force*

We record with deep regret the death of W. E. Lees, of Mancetter, near Atherstone, at the early age of 35.

He served with the R.A.F. in the Second World War, being discharged in December, 1946. He came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1951, but he was then too ill to undertake training. He had become even more seriously ill and he came to Pearson House, but had only been there a few days when he died quite suddenly on May 15th.

We send our deep sympathy to Mrs. Lees in her loss.

### Sergeant Alan M. Nichols, *3rd Durham Light Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Alan Nichols, of Portslade. He was 70.

He was an old soldier—he had enlisted in February, 1907, and when the 1914-1918 war broke out, he was one of the first to land in France. He was an Old Contemptible, of which he was justly proud. He was wounded in 1914 but remained in the Army as a Bombing Instructor and it was while acting in this capacity that he lost his sight and both his hands as the result of an accidental explosion. He came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1917. The following year he became a lecturer with the National Institute for the Blind (under Sir Arthur Pearson's leadership). Later he had a business in Harrogate, but in 1924 he joined Mr. Kessell's staff and worked as a lecturer and appeals representative for St. Dunstan's, and this he did most successfully for many years until his retirement.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Linda, his wife, who was for some years a member of the Appeals Department, and to the children of his previous marriage.