

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Retirement of Mr. Bob Young and Miss Westmore

TWO members of St. Dunstan's staff retire at the end of the year. Both are well known and both have rendered long and valuable service.

One is Mr. Bob Young, a genial, friendly St. Dunstaner, who has been a lecturer for St. Dunstan's Appeals and Publicity Department for forty-one years, and has travelled widely in Britain and overseas on our behalf. We are grateful to him for presenting the story of St. Dunstan's to so many people in his very attractive way.

From time to time I have had the pleasure of a talk with Bob Young about various aspects of St. Dunstan's life, and about blindness, and I have always admired his warm personality, keen observation and shrewd wit.

The other is Miss Westmore, or Westie as she is called by her friends. Miss Westmore's services have been of the greatest value for thirty-seven years, but it is as Editor of the St. Dunstan's REVIEW for twenty-six years that we know her best. I think under her editorship the REVIEW has developed, and that it has a deservedly wide readership and good reputation. Miss Westmore has also been the editor of NUGGETS for a very long time, and I am glad to say she will continue to do this in her retirement as a hobby.

Miss Westmore has for the best part of thirty years also helped me personally by reading aloud and recording news and comment on the affairs of the day, a task which I have to undertake and could not so easily have done without her skilled and very willing help. I express my warm personal thanks to her.

All St. Dunstaners will I am sure join with me in wishing Bob Young and Westie the best of good luck and happiness in their retirement.

In future the REVIEW will be edited by Lieut.-Commander Buckley who, apart from being our Appeals Organiser, is also in charge of our Public Relations Department.

Christmas, 1964

To all St. Dunstaners and members of their families all over the world, and to those who work for and help St. Dunstaners, Lady Fraser and I send best wishes for a happy Christmas and for good luck in the New Year.

FRASER.

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service at Ovingdean

Sir Neville and Lady Pearson together with Mr. Nigel and Lady Frances, Mrs. Hardy and Miss Noble attended the Memorial Service at Ovingdean Chapel. Padre Taylor officiated and Mr. Bob Young gave the address. It was the forty-third anniversary of the death of the Founder of St. Dunstan's.

★ ★ ★

A representative group of St. Dunstaners went to Hampstead Cemetery with Mr. A. D. Lloyds on the morning of Wednesday, December 9th. They were Messrs. W. Lucas, of Edmonton, and A. T. Hazel of London, S.W.19., of the First War, and W. C. Claydon, of Hendon, of the Second War. A wreath was placed on Sir Arthur's grave on behalf of St. Dunstaners throughout the world.

Brighton Notes

Christmas Greetings and many good wishes to St. Dunstaners and their families everywhere from the Commandant, Matrons and Staff of the Brighton homes.

★ ★ ★

Those who are coming to Ovingdean for Christmas may like to know that the Dance on Boxing Day evening will be Fancy Dress (optional), so please come prepared.

Mr. John Haley

On November 30th, in the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Mr. John Haley, 64, a registered blind person, was awarded £5,750, with costs, in respect of injuries he received on October 29th, 1956, as a result of falling over a punner-hammer guarding a trench dug by the London Electricity Board.

For Sale

MODEL BIPLANE of unusual design, but quite stable. Fitted 1 c.c. diesel engine, auto elevator, dural u.c., spng. rbr. wheels and wire t.s. Coloured yellow and grey, with blue flash. Would take a six-channel radio with 5 c.c. engine. £7 0s. 0d. o.n.o. Robin Fleet, Braxted, Warren Road, Purley, Surrey.

Bridge Instructional Weekend

It has been decided to hold another instructional weekend for Bridge players early in 1965, and Mr. A. E. Field has agreed to attend, helped by his wife and Mrs. Stokes. The actual date of this weekend will be announced in the January REVIEW, although it is probable that it will be at the end of February or early March.

The object of the weekend is to help beginners and improvers, and also to give the more experienced players a chance to learn the "Acol" system. The weekend will comprise talks and practice sessions in calling and playing hands under instruction. Wives of St. Dunstaners attending the weekend may also avail themselves of this instruction, in which case their expenses will be paid.

Watch next month's REVIEW, which will print some "hands" to be used during the weekend, and will announce the date.

Christmas Greetings

The Editor's first Christmas card came early in November from John Martin and his family in South Africa.

★ ★ ★

Robert W. Culling, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, sent good wishes from Canada "to all St. Dunstan's friends."

★ ★ ★

Arthur Bramson, of South Woodingdean, sent the following, not only to the Editor, but to St. Dunstaners everywhere:

Sitting by the fireside
In my little bungalow,
My thoughts go swiftly back to
Ten, twenty, thirty, forty,
And fifty years ago.

And as we each grow older,
With Christmas drawing near,
It brings back happy memories
Of friends who are so dear.

I can only hope and pray that
Those friends I used to know
Are as happy as the writer
In my little bungalow.

I therefore send you greetings,
This coming Christmas-tide,
To wish you all you wish yourselves
From my fireside.

ARTHUR BRAMSON.

London Club Notes Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held on Thursday, January 14th.

★ ★ ★

A very Happy Christmas to all St. Dunstaners and their families, with good health and prosperity in the New Year.

W. BISHOP.

Sir Arthur Pearson Competition Results

DOMINOES—Aggregate:

Winner: R. Bickley

Runner-up: R. Fullard.

DOMINOES—Knock-out:

Winner: W. Bishop

Runner-up: P. Nuyens

CRIB:

Winner: P. Nuyens

Runner-up: W. Bishop

Bridge Congress Ovingdean, November, 1964 Results

Sir Arthur Pearson Trophy

Pairs Cup Competition:

1st. M. Delaney, A. Caldwell.

2nd. R. Freer, J. Whitcombe.

3rd. Violet Formstone, Blodwyn Simon

Teams of Four Competition:

1st. C. Kelk, B. Ingrey, L. Douglass,
S. Webster.

2nd. F. Rhodes, E. Carpenter, R.
Giffard, J. W. Clare.

3rd. W. Bishop, F. Matthewman, G. P.
Brown, J. H. Smith.

Drummer Downs Cup

1st. S. Webster, A. Caldwell.

2nd. T. Woods, M. Delaney.

3rd. J. Smith, J. W. Clare.

4th. W. Bishop, F. Jackson.

Bridge Drives:

Saturday morning:

1st. J. Shirlaw, R. Fullard.

2nd. R. G. Stanners, H. Meleson.

Beginners:

1st. J. Shirlaw, R. Fullard.

2nd. T. Moorley, W. Burnett.

Sunday morning:

1st. T. Woods, Mrs. Gover.

2nd. F. Griffie, E. Slaughter.

3rd. W. Collins, F. Jackson.

Consolation Prizes:

J. Chell, H. G. Boorman, C. G. Andrew,
A. Smith, H. Gover.

Bridge Drive

The Christmas Bridge Drive was held at Headquarters on Saturday, December 5th, and we were delighted to welcome Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Lloyds. There were 19½ tables (nineteen St. Dunstaners each with their partner). I am sorry to say that the captain won first prize, but on the other hand, we were delighted that the second prize was won by one of our new young players, John Whitcombe, who was only defeated by a narrow margin. The third and fourth prizes went to F. Matthewman and W. Bishop. Bob Fullard had the best result of the other "beginners." Another special prize—for the first slam called and made—went to Mike Delaney.

After Mr. Lloyds had wished the Club and its members a successful coming season, Mrs. Lloyds kindly presented the prizes.

There was a hearty vote of thanks and a token of appreciation for Mrs. Willis for her services to the Bridge Club during the past year.

Introduction to Contract Bridge

This booklet, edited by Mr. A. E. Field, is now available in braille. It is the simplified Acol system taught by Mr. Field during the Bridge Weekends arranged for beginners.

Will any St. Dunstaner wishing to have a copy please apply to Mr. Christopher, Men's Supplies Department. The Catalogue Number is 25283.

Individual Competition, 1965

In accordance with a resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting, the Committee is arranging for an Individual Competition to be held in London and Brighton. So far as London is concerned, the competition will begin on Saturday, February 6th, and will be played on the first Saturday of each month until November with the exception of Whit-Saturday (June 5th) and August.

Details of the Competition will be circulated to all members of the Bridge Club in the near future.

Will anyone wishing to take part send in their name to me at Headquarters, saying in which Section it would be most suitable for them to enter.

P. NUYES.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Incidental—to the Bridge Weekend

It was not without some apprehension that I journeyed up from Devonshire to attend the Bridge Congress held at Ovingdean in November. This feeling, I fear, was mainly due to my lack of experience in the Arts and Wiles of Bridge Playing. Nevertheless, it proved to be a very fascinating weekend for me, and I hasten to express my gratitude to all those responsible for its organisation.

However, the incident which prompted me to write this letter has nothing to do with Bridge, except perhaps in a very remote way.

It occurred on the Sunday morning at a time when the prospects of a cup of "char" seemed imminent, and that, as all St. Dunstaners will tell you, can be very early. I happened to remark, half to myself, something about being stiff and unable to relax. Immediately a soft but firm tread approached my bed and before I could utter one word of protest, I came under "Orders" right away and in no time was carrying out a series of gentle exercises under the watchful hands of one of our own physiotherapists. I have since continued with these exercises and I find them without doubt, quite beneficial. So "Thank you, Physio, and good luck."

Yours, etc.,

TOM WOODS,
Paignton.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to say how fortunate it is for we men of St. Dunstan's that Lord Fraser has been asked to serve on the McCorquodale Committee to advise the Minister on modifications in the relativities between certain disabilities.

May I presume to suggest that one of the points that might warrant consideration is that whereas modern appliances and materials have been utilised to assist in certain disabilities, no such aid can help those whose sight has been damaged. In addition, changing conditions of everyday life now put an exceptional strain on the blinded who have to rely on their hearing. Despite the efforts of noise abatement bodies, all modern transport means more and more noise which must lead to increased nervous strain on any disabled

who have to rely on hearing to go about their daily round. Population concentration in our cities also throws additional burdens on public transport and anyone who has had to step into the middle of the road to get on a bus which is held up in some way back from the stop will recognise that for the blind, mobility entails constant risk and strain if we can do it now; in another fifteen years' time our disability will not be any easier to cope with under such worsening conditions.

Yours sincerely,

BOB FULLARD,
London, S.W.16.

DEAR EDITOR,

In the early 20's I was attending a Conference in Liverpool and something was said there which I mentally registered although at the time I did not fully recognise its significance.

The Lord Mayor of Liverpool had asked why St. Dunstan's appeals were so successful in that City and the reply given to him by Mr. Ben Purse, himself a very well-known blind civilian, was, "I think it is because the high percentage of St. Dunstan's men here are themselves such a living advertisement of it."

As the years have gone on I have come to realise the significance of those words.

Now in the 50th year of St. Dunstan's foundation, I have been wondering if it is not the turn of St. Dunstan's men to help the public and in some small way help to repay the debt we owe to them.

For instance, could we each subscribe, say, £1 or more towards a St. Dunstaners' Fund which would endow a suitable permanent memorial, to be decided upon by a Committee. In this way not only will the name of St. Dunstan's be perpetuated but also the gratitude of the men of St. Dunstan's for the public's help over so many years.

Yours sincerely,

H. V. KERR,
Harrow.

The following St. Dunstaners have already expressed their support for such a scheme: Messrs. H. Boorman, E. Carpenter, T. Gaygan, H. Meleson and R. Stanners.

In the meantime, please let us have your suggestions and comments.

Chess Instructional Weekend

Providing there is sufficient support from St. Dunstaners, Mr. Bonham has kindly offered to run an instructional weekend for beginners and improvers. The date has not yet been fixed, but is likely to be during late February or early March, 1965, and will be announced in the January REVIEW.

Will those St. Dunstaners interested please write to Matron Blackford at Ovingdean now.

False Alarm

Before retiring to bed, my wife decided to bring in the washing, but to her dismay found pants, nightdress, roll-ons and shirts missing from the line.

Our search of the garden was of no avail and I reported the matter to the police. The policeman decided to make a more thorough search than just the garden and carefully examined the path which runs outside the garden gate. After some time he returned to the house shyly displaying a pair of my wife's frillies, roll-ons, etc., torn to shreds, and asked, "Are these yours, Madam?"

My eight-month-old retriever dog had been playing the retrieving game while we had been watching television.

G. R. BICKLEY,
Clapham Common, S.W.4.

Civil Service Promotion

Congratulations to J. Harris, of Stoneleigh, Epsom, who has been promoted to the rank of Higher Executive Officer in the Civil Service. Mr. Harris will continue his duties with the Air Ministry, and will now be Lecturer. Hitherto he has been Assistant Lecturer. His new status will mean that he will be running his own Department and will be responsible for the general administration of certain Air Ministry courses.

Mr. Harris pays warm tribute to the help and encouragement he has received from St. Dunstan's and in particular to Mr. Norman French for his practical help and advice concerning essential equipment.

★ ★ ★

J. Humphrey of Belfast, had the honour of laying St. Dunstan's wreath at the Belfast Cenotaph on November 8th.

DEAR EDITOR,

Being an Old Contemptible who went out with the Regular Army in 1914, I wonder how many there are left in St. Dunstan's and still have the Princess Mary Gift Box of Christmas, 1914, as I have?

Yours sincerely,

H. TAYLOR,
Patcham, Brighton.

Chess Week-end

Because of sickness and other reasons, our ranks were somewhat depleted; only ten players were able to compete. Nevertheless it was an enjoyable and successful Tournament, and everything went off smoothly.

Our friend, Reg Bonham, came down from Worcester College and played his usual useful and inspiring part. It was very interesting to hear of his experiences in West Germany where he took part in a Tournament arranged by the International Blind Chess Association, of which he is President. He also appeared on West Germany's radio and television programmes.

Four players competed in the Senior Section of our Tournament, and the Cup was won for the fourth time by Jack Campbell, with Freddie Taylor gaining second place.

There was a Triple Tie for first place in the Minor Section, Roy Hyett, Joe Culshaw and J. S. Holden each winning three games.

The Sonnen Berger System had to be used in this event, and the Cup went to Roy Hyett, but it was a close thing.

Mrs. Mac was on hand to see that everything went smoothly, and Mrs. Bonham kindly presented the prizes.

The players sent a telegram to George Fallowfield, wishing him "Bon Voyage" on his journey to Australia.

We were pleased to have a visit from Percy Stevens and his wife during the weekend. His cheerfulness is a tonic and example to us all.

CHARLIE KELK,
Chess Captain.

★ ★ ★

Former Somerset county cricketer Bertie Buse, who has taken over the licence of the St. Peter's Finger, at Lytchett Minster, near Poole, Dorset, winced when he saw the inn sign, showing St. Peter with one finger raised—the umpire's sign for "out."

NUFFIELD TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

Additional Tape Titles—FICTION

Cat. No.	Additional Tape Titles—FICTION	Playing time in Hours approx.
724	BENNETT, ARNOLD—THE OLD WIVES TALE (1908) Read by Eric Gillett. The story of two sisters whose lives are lived in Staffordshire and Paris, and who rejoin each other in late middle age.	27
733	BENTLEY, PHYLLIS—INHERITANCE (1932) Read by Stephen Jack. The fortunes of a mill-owning family give a social picture of Yorkshire between 1812 and 1920.	20
730	CARY, JOYCE—THE MOONLIGHT (1946) Read by Robert Gladwell. Of an elder sister who brings up the younger rebellious sisters, and the family influences which threaten the proposed marriage of a daughter.	18
710	CHRISTIE, KATE—THE WAITING GAME (1962) Read by Gretel Davis. A study of the emotional ties binding three people who have grown up together.	7½
711	DAVID, MARGARET—TOMORROW'S SECRET (1963) Read by Arthur Bush. A girl adopted by a wealthy aunt and her difficult romance with a man she does not wish to marry.	8
734	DICKENS, CHARLES—A CHRISTMAS CAROL (1843) Read by Maurice Turner. The immortal story of Scrooge the miser and Marley's ghost.	3
728	ELIOT, GEORGE—MIDDLEMARCH (1871) Read by Gabriel Woolf. A novel with several plots featuring the lives and loves of provincial people in mid-Victorian days.	32½
713	HOWARD, ELIZABETH JANE—THE SEA CHANGE (1959) Read by Michael de Morgan. A story of four people which moves from London to New York and leads to an unexpected conclusion.	16
736	JEROME, JEROME K.—THREE MEN IN A BOAT (1889) Read by Michael Aspel. Comic adventures of three young men and a dog on a boating holiday up the Thames. <i>On the same tape with:</i> JEROME, JEROME K.—THREE MEN ON THE BUMMEL (1900) Read by Michael Aspel. The same heroes decide on a cycling tour in the Black Forest and involve themselves in laughable situations.	13
729	KINGSLEY, CHARLES—WESTWARD HO! (1855) Read by Stephen Jack. Adventures of Elizabethan seamen and their gallant exploits against the great galleons of Spain.	26
723	MITFORD, NANCY—DON'T TELL ALFRED (1960) Read by Marjorie Anderson. This novel about a British Ambassador and his wife in Paris pokes fun at some diplomatic customs and protocol.	8½
727	MOORE, JOHN—THE BLUE FIELD (1948) (Sequel to "Brensham Village," Cat. No. 683). Continues the story of people in a West country town.	7½
735	ORWELL, GEORGE—ANIMAL FARM (1945) Read by David Brown. A fable in which animals forming a society of their own satirise human class distinctions. <i>On the same tape with:</i> ORWELL, GEORGE—SELECTED ESSAYS (1961) Read by David Brown. Discussions on writers, literature, politics and language.	9½
722	PRIESTLEY, J. B.—THE GOOD COMPANIONS (1929) Read by John Curle. The adventures of a schoolmaster, a Yorkshire carpenter and a girl with a little money, who join forces with a stranded concert party.	29
719	SANSOM, WILLIAM—THE LAST HOURS OF SANDRA LEE (1961) Read by Gretel Davis. A young typist longs to be sophisticated and sexy and the office Christmas party, when the staff takes too many drinks, gives her the chance.	8
726	SNOW, LYNDON—DIFFICULT TO LOVE (1963) Read by Arthur Bush. A girl writes a best-selling novel but finds the atmosphere of the book invading her personal life.	6½
714	SVEVO, ITALO—THE CONFESSIONS OF ZENO (1930) Read by Duncan Carse. An Italian business man recounts his life in the form of a history written for his psycho-analyst.	17
732	WENTWORTH, PATRICIA—POISON IN THE PEN (1957) Read by Anthony Parker. Villagers receive anonymous letters and murders follow. The detective is Miss Maude Silver, an elderly lady who knits and listens.	9½

NON-FICTION

715	BIBBY, GEOFFREY—THE TESTIMONY OF THE SPADE (1957) Read by Duncan Carse. Of prehistoric European man, his cave-dwellings, primitive weapons, tools, art and customs.	15
717	BOULT, ADRIAN—THOUGHTS ON CONDUCTING (1963) Read by Alvar Lidell. Discusses the technique of several great orchestral conductors. <i>On the same tape with:</i> SHORE, BERNARD—THE ORCHESTRA SPEAKS (1938) Read by Alvar Lidell. Sketches of musical life by a great viola player.	9
731	COLLINS, WILKIE—THE MOONSTONE (1868) Read by Eric Gillett. A classic detective story concerning the disappearance of a great diamond.	23
712	NEWMAN, BERNARD—UNKNOWN FRANCE (1963) Read by David Broomfield. Journeys through the Cevennes, Auvergne, Alsace and Lorraine, combining the historic past with the daily life of French country people.	8½
709	PICKLES, WILFRED—BETWEEN YOU AND ME (1949) Read by the Author. The well-known broadcasting personality tells the story of his boyhood and early career.	6½
718	POPE-HENNESSY, JAMES—VERANDAH (1964) Read by David Broomfield. Victorian administration in the Crown Colonies, based on the private papers of Sir John Pope-Hennessy, Governor of Labuan, Barbados, Hong Kong and Mauritius.	13
725	PRINGLE, PATRICK—LET'S LOOK AT PARIS (1961) Read by Robert Gladwell. Of Notre Dame, the Marias quarter, the Conciergerie and the left bank and strolls through boulevards, markets and historic places of this famous city.	6
720	ROBINSON, JOHN A. T.—HONEST TO GOD (1963) Read by Stephen Jack. The Bishop of Woolwich states his view that the traditional frame of Christianity needs radical re-statement in the modern world.	4½
716	TREVOR-ROPER, H. R.—THE LAST DAYS OF HITLER (1947/62) Read by Andrew Gemmell. The author investigated the mystery of Hitler's death, questioned surviving witnesses and presents the dramatic story of the besieged Berlin bunker.	11½
721	WARREN, C. HENRY—ESSEX (1950) Read by Stephen Jack. A picture of the rural areas of Essex, showing how customs, crafts and activities are deeply rooted in past traditions.	6½

From All Quarters

D. E. Cashmore, of Selly Oak, Birmingham, has just left his job as telephonist with I.M.I. (Kynoch) Ltd. to take up another appointment. He had been eighteen years with the firm and many tributes were made to his efficiency and unfailing courtesy and helpfulness. He was the recipient of several gifts including a transistor radio, electric kettle, rose spray and garden spade from his colleagues.

★ ★ ★

E. West, of Egham, has taken the following prizes at recent horticultural shows: *Staines Lino Show* (in September), three first prizes, five seconds and two thirds for flowers and vegetables; at *Hythe Show* (also in September), two firsts, three seconds and three thirds, also for flowers and vegetables; and at *Staines Lino Show* (November), four first prizes, two seconds and two thirds, all for chrysanthemums.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. Newton, of Southport, December 24th.

Tape Correspondent

S. Brooks, of Welwyn Garden City, has found an enjoyable and most satisfying pastime. After his working hours he corresponds on tape with chronic invalids. The idea came to him after his son, Michael, of the aircraft carrier, H.M.S. *Eagle*, at that time stationed at Plymouth for twelve months, joined the Voluntary Emergency Service. With his motor bike, Michael was on call for any emergency and through him, our St. Dunstaner is now engaged in what he calls "Message Tape Correspondence." We need hardly add how his messages are appreciated.
Michael, incidentally, is now in Aden.

Grandfathers

H. Knape, of Handcross, Sussex (Barbara had a daughter on November 20th); J. Daly, of Liverpool (grandfather for the tenth time); H. Coad, of Newton-le-Willows (the seventh grandchild); a second grandson for E. Proffitt, of Epsom, Surrey; T. Wood, of Congleton, the twelfth grandchild.

How It All Began

Christmas cards, as we know them, are only just over a century old. In 1840, the introduction of the Penny Post encouraged the writing of a Christmas letter to exchange annual news and send greetings to distant friends and relations, and the first Christmas card appeared in 1843. Sir Henry Cole, a colourful Victorian character, found that he had not enough time to write his usual Christmas letters that year, so he commissioned an artist, John Calcott Horsley, to design a card to solve his problem. The cards were lithographed by the firm of Jobbins at Warwick Court, London, and they were then hand-coloured. It is believed that 1,000 cards were printed in all—400 were ordered by Sir Henry, and the rest were sold for 1s. each in Old Bond Street. Recently, one of these cards was sold for £100.

Another name connected with these early days of Christmas cards was W. Dobson, one of Queen Victoria's favourite painters; records show that in 1844, Mr. Dobson sent Christmas sketches instead of Christmas letters to his friends.

Soon after the introduction of the Penny Post, printers began to produce Christmas writing paper. This was used in place of cards by most people, until the 1860's when companies first began manufacturing cards on a commercial basis. Then in 1870, the General Post Office allowed unsealed envelopes to be sent at half price, and this gave a further impetus to the already slowly developing Christmas card industry.

At this stage, designs emphasised flowers, robins, snowmen and children, rather than religious themes—the star-in-the-east or the Nativity—and towards the end of the 1880s the trend was for postcard-size rather than the visiting-card size of the early days. Gradually, small folded cards began to appear, and these were sold complete with frilly envelopes; they were decorated with tufted silk, filigree paper patterns, and some were even scented.

Public interest and demand were now growing, and in 1880 Raphael Tuck & Sons launched a nation-wide contest in an effort to improve the standard of Christmas card design. Eminent Royal Academicians were selected as the judges of the 5,000

entries submitted for the competition, and 500 guineas was offered in prize money. As technical skill gradually improved, the sending of Christmas cards became established as a tradition.

Daily Telegraph.

Coming-of-Age

November 1943-64

How well I recall that night in November
One score and one year long ago.
A cold frosty night about mid-November,
Church Stretton in a blanket of snow.

I sat on a chair in the old Tiger Hall
When dim figures before me did prance.
And voices around me to others did call,
"Come on lads, it is time for the dance."

Blind guys going dancing? What do you know!
Are my lug holes behaving all right?
Then the shuffling feet in the white crunching snow
As they're off in the still of the night.

I've long ceased to wonder since given the keys,
As long as life lasts I'll remember
The help and the friendship I've had from St. D's.
Since that cold winter night in November.

But midst all the joys a tear will persist,
It happens at this time of year.
As I strike one more name from my Christmas card
list,
It's gradually dwindling, I fear.

There is wee Jacky Back, from Shaldon in Devon,
And a great many more of my mates,
Who are waiting to greet us up there in heaven
When we pass through those bright golden gates.

There is Harry and Arthur, there's Tommy and
Dick,
Bob Sheehan, Bill Bowering and Sammy,
Charlie Williams, Ernie Strand and old hairy Mick,
How well he loved that old tammy!

Nostalgic, maybe, but is it a sign of the weak
To shed tears for those gone before?
Many great men are humble and meek
When the angel of death taps the door.

They will sound a fanfare on their trumpets up
there
As the fiftieth anniversary comes round,
Spread wings, tip their haloes, come down to share
In our thanks to St. D's most profound.

GEN.

Shotgun?

"Seven days' notice is desirable, but in emergency wedding cakes can be supplied at short notice."—Announcement by a London bakery chain.

—But Once a Year

Why cigar smoking should be a "seasonal habit" with most British smokers is one of those recurring mysteries which is absolutely beyond me.

But there it is. Christmas, the researchers say, is the only time of year when the British smoker lets himself go and smokes his cigar with abandon—and without the guilty feeling that he is playing at being a tycoon.

When it comes to lighting that cigar, it seems, you and I, on this island of ours, lag a long way behind the rest of Europe. Here are the figures arrived at after some intensive research:

DANES smoke 290. DUTCHMEN smoke 180 cigars of various kinds per year. The GERMAN figure stands at 101. BRITAIN is bottom of the list at 11 cigars per male head (and I assume females, too).

Some Hints

Never pierce a cigar. Use a cigar cutter which either produces a "V" or a straight cut. An ordinary pen knife does the trick as well as any expensive implement.

Rotate the cigar against the knife with the left hand and apply pressure behind the head of the cigar with the right thumb. Americans, if we are to believe the films, bit off the ends of their cigars.

All my life I have believed that to leave the band on was one of those things that no cigar gentleman ever did. Now, I find that I have been wrong all my life. Further, that we are probably the only nation on earth that does this.

There are, in the cigar trade, two theories of why there should be that band.

One theory has it that a Cuban cigar manufacturer named Gustavo Bock started it all as a form of self-advertisement, which paid off well.

The other theory (and a much more charming one) is that the dandies of the 19th century, who always wore white gloves, did not want their gloves stained by the "segars" of which they were so fond.

In any case, my friends in the tobacco trade tell me, the band should be removed with care. There is always the danger of tearing that all-important wrapper. Therefore (and I have become adept at this) squeeze the band between thumb and forefinger of the left hand, carefully tearing the largest part of the band.

"And always downwards," I am told.

"Cigar smoking is a ritual to be lingered over and enjoyed. Never, never, hurry."

JOHN SIMPSON in the *Evening Standard*.

Christmas Competition

Each of the following ten clues suggests a word. Each word contains the four letters RATE (not necessarily in that order). The Editor holds the correct list. There will be five prizes of five guineas each for the senders of the first five correct solutions opened after the closing date, Saturday, January 30th.

Please send your entries to the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review," 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1, marking your envelope, REVIEW COMP.

Although alternatives are not intended, keen competitors may discover one or two, and in that case more than one list may be submitted, but in separate envelopes.

Here are the clues:

1. On and on and on
2. The R.S.M.?
3. In the middle
4. A shelf or two can enclose
5. Not a standing action
6. There's brass in this
7. Not for long
8. Result
9. No robbery
10. I ask you!

And the very best of luck to you all.

Family News

Ten-year-old Julie Vowles, Portsmouth, won the Cup for Elocution at Chichester Drama Festival recently, and has also passed her Third Grade with a Special Distinctive Honours Certificate.

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Top-of-the-form Francis Gorman, Liverpool, will receive a prize at the School Speech Day to be held in the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, next year.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is sent to the following:

ASHURST.—To Sally Ashurst, of Wigan, whose brother has recently died.

ELLIS.—To H. S. Ellis, of West Mersea, in the death of his wife on December 15th. Mrs. Ellis had been ill for some time.

HOLDEN.—To H. Holden, of Hindley, whose sister died in September.

WARD.—To F. W. Ward, of Northampton, whose wife died on December 8th. Mrs. Ward had been very gravely ill for some time.

"In Memory"

Alan J. Somervell, *Fourth New Zealand Field Regiment*

With deep regret we record the sudden death of A. J. Somervell, of New Zealand, at the age of 54. As an officer in the Fourth New Zealand Field Regiment, "Kiwi" Somervell received injuries in the Battle of Cassino, which left him almost totally blind and partly deaf. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1945 and trained as a physiotherapist, during which time his wife and family stayed with him in England. After qualifying, he returned with them to New Zealand and set up in private practice, later becoming President of the New Zealand Society of Physiotherapists. He was a Rotarian and Borough Councillor and very active in local and charitable activities.

We send our deep sympathy to Mrs. Somervell and their son and daughter.

George Frederick Furniss, *Munitions Factory*

With deep regret we record the death of G. F. Furniss, of Telscombe, at the age of 71. Blinded as the result of an accident in a munitions factory, he came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1920, where he trained in handicraft work. He reached a very high standard in basketwork and chair caning, and he continued with these crafts for many years. When the Second War came he helped the war effort by going to work in an aircraft factory and he carried on with this until 1947 when he retired to settle in Sussex.

He had been in poor health for the past few months and he died on November 25th after having been admitted unconscious to Pearson House four days before.

He leaves a widow and married son to whom our very sincere sympathy is sent.

Thomas Blackman, *Royal Air Force*

We have to record with deep regret the death at his home on November 17th of T. Blackman, of Cleveleys, Blackpool. He was 76.

He served with the Royal Air Force from 1916 until 1918 and was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1923. He trained in netting, joinery and boot-repairing, and he carried on these occupations for many years. Until his health failed, he was also very interested in gardening. He had been seriously ill for the last few months.

He was a quiet philanthropist and took much pleasure in doing little acts of kindness, particularly for the local children for whom he made wooden toys each year.

Our deep sympathy is sent to his widow and grown-up children.

Dr. Hugh Arthur Stayt, *2nd South African Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death on September 24th last of Hugh A. Stayt, of Natal, South Africa. He was 64.

Dr. Stayt enlisted on March 3rd, 1917, and was wounded at Ypres in September of that year. He came to St. Dunstan's on January 21st, 1918, and was the first beneficiary of St. Dunstan's from South Africa.

He trained in poultry farming and returned to South Africa in May, 1919, to carry on farming on a large scale. In 1921 he came to England again and he married in June of that year, returning to South Africa in 1922. In 1923 he came to this country to study at Cambridge University where he obtained his Master's degree and later became a Doctor of Philosophy. Upon returning to South Africa he took up research work for the University amongst native tribes and later published a book on the Bavenda tribe.

Having completed this, Dr. Stayt returned to England in 1929 to train in physiotherapy and after practising in this profession, he later studied osteopathy. In 1940 he was appointed as Recruiting Officer of the South African Defence Force for the South Coast District of Natal. He had been occupied for the past few years with farming.

Our deep sympathy is sent to his widow and to his children by his first marriage.

Joseph McDowell, *Australian Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death on May 17th last of Joseph McDowell, of Marrickville, New South Wales, Australia. He was 73.

He served with the Australian Forces in February, 1915, until his discharge in November, 1919. In addition to his blindness he suffered the amputation of his left leg.

Our deep sympathy is sent to his widow.

Eugene O'Sullivan, *2/3 Pioneer Bn., Australian Forces*

With deep regret we report the death on July 12th last of Eugene O'Sullivan, of Westmead, New South Wales, Australia, at the age of 67.

He had served on many battle fronts from the age of 17 until he was 48, but his service in the Second World War, in which he lost his sight, was from July, 1940, until June, 1943. He was then a Lance Sergeant. He was wounded at El Alamein. After his discharge he worked as a gardener with a Department of the Royal Australian Navy.

One of his two sons was killed in a car accident in November, 1961, and our sincere sympathy is sent to his widow and second son.