

**St Dunstons
Review
October 1990**



with
Anniversary Supplement
in colour

OCTOBER 1990

CONTENTS

Sweepstake Winners	3
Reunions	4
Observations	7
Tape Recording Week	8
St. Dunstan's South Africa	11
Amateur Radio Society	12
Mobility for Blind/Deaf	14
Letters to the Editor	16
Australian St. Dunstaners Celebrate	18
Handless Reunion	19
Balancing the Books	28
50 Years of the Royal Engineers	30
Family News	32
In Memory	34



Cover Picture: In this special issue we give our logo pride of place on the front cover.

From the Chairman

We have received a large number of heartwarming letters of appreciation for the 75th Anniversary Celebrations on August 1st – for which we are most grateful. Some extracts are reproduced elsewhere in this issue.

* * * *

Starting this coming winter (and continuing thereafter) St. Dunstan's widows will get their annual heating grants by mid-January. I hope that this will enable them to use their heating systems with less anxiety than in the past.

* * * *

If there is sufficient support I am considering introducing a 'Widows Weekend' at Ian Fraser House during a time when it is used by a very few St. Dunstaners. A possible programme for this would be:—

- Thursday 15th August — Arrive
- Friday 16th August — Visits
- Weekend August 17/18th — Local things at Ian Fraser House
- Monday 19th August — Shopping or other outing
- Tuesday 20th August — Depart

Those who are interested in this (but as yet without commitment) are asked to write to Mr. Weisblatt, at Headquarters, before the end of November so we can test opinion.



NOTICE BOARD



THE QUEEN MOTHER'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

The Chairman of St. Dunstan's Sir Henry Leach sent this greeting.

'On behalf of St. Dunstan's blinded ex-Servicemen and women throughout the world our Council and our staff I should be grateful if you would kindly give Her Majesty The Queen Mother our most loyal greetings on the celebration of her ninetieth birthday on 4th August.

We send Her Majesty all our good wishes.'

COMMUNITY CHARGE TAPE

The Royal National Institute for the Blind have issued a tape entitled 'You and the Community Charge'. The tape can be obtained from Ray Hazan, at Headquarters.

PHONE BILLS IN BRAILLE

Blind people will soon be able to read their own telephone bills thanks to a pilot scheme to print the bills in braille which has been launched in the East Midlands and, if successful, will spread to the whole country next year.

There are plans to expand the service to other utilities such as gas, electricity and water. Banks are already issuing statements in braille and large print, and building societies may follow suit.

The telephone bills will be specially printed by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. It aims to give blind people greater privacy and independence.

SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS

This year 3,269 Derby Sweepstake tickets were sold and the total prize money, less the cost of printing the tickets amounted to £587.60.

There were 18 runners and the payout was as follows:

First Prize £294.00 — Mrs Ivy Mendham, of Ilford, Essex. Quest for Fame, Ticket No. 2549.

Second Prize £118.00 — Miss Barbara Bell, of Ilkley, West Yorks, Blue Stag, Ticket No. 2117.

Third Prize £59.00 — Mr F. Morgan, of Bristol, Elmaamul, Ticket No. 2051.

The rest of the prize money was divided equally between all those who held tickets for the remaining runners.

DISABLED RAIL CARD

St. Dunstaners are reminded that they are able to reclaim half of the cost of the card from St. Dunstan's. Please contact the Welfare Department for further details.

BRIGHTON SOCIAL CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

The date for the Brighton Social Club's Annual Dinner has been set for Sunday, December 2nd. Club Members should contact Bob or Joan Osborne for further details.

ADDITION TO CASSETTE LIBRARY

SD 52. C90. After dinner speeches at Hilton Hotel on 1st August, 1990, and afternoon with Dame Vera Lynn at Buckingham Palace.



Mrs. Olive Hopkins presents Lady Johnston with flowers at the Bristol Reunion.

Reunions

Bristol Reunion, 27th June

A cool, air conditioned room at the Crest Hotel welcomed the 165 guests attending the reunion. Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston, accompanied by Lady Johnston, presided. 'I personally set great store by these reunions,' he said, 'for, to me, they typify the family element of St. Dunstan's, and I think that this is very important in this age we live in, where the family bonds amongst the younger generation don't seem quite so strong. I think they could take a message from us — the family matters. I think St. Dunstan's not only typifies the "family" between St. Dunstaner and escort, but within the wider family of St. Dunstan's itself.' Sir Maurice went on to pay tribute to the Presidency of Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, who was in the audience. 'He has brought a light hearted, but sure touch, and by gosh, he works hard.'

4

Sir Maurice continued, giving statistics, and to welcome six attending their first reunion; Alec Carter, Robert Morgan, George Roberts, Lionel Scott, Preston Woon and Colonel Walter Hingston. He hoped it would be the first of many occasions for them.

Sir Maurice explained that he was attending the parade that evening in honour of The Queen Mother's 90th birthday. He finished with the tale of a lady fishing on the River Dee in waders. Along the opposite bank came her Royal Highness. All the woman could think of doing was to curtsy — she got very wet!

Gwen Obern responded on behalf of the guests, firstly by thanking Sir Maurice and Lady Johnston for giving their time. 'It was a particular honour to speak during this 75th anniversary year,' said Gwen. 'How far sighted Sir Arthur Pearson must have been because of the way the organi-

sation was developed up to 1990.' Gwen especially mentioned Cynthia Mosley and thanked her for all work she does as Welfare Superintendent, and hoped that one day, Penny Lord would be able to take part in a reunion. After mentioning several members of staff Gwen went on, 'I hope I haven't left anyone out', whereupon there was a timely bark from Colonel Hingston's dog!

Liz Pearce and Irene Newbold were warmly thanked for organising the event. Gratitude was expressed to Colin Bentley and his drivers for all the travel arrangements. She finished with the tale about the man swallowed by a whale. He heard singing from within, and later found the source to be coming from another man in the same predicament. 'We are here for life, and yet you find something to sing about?' 'Well,' replied the senior inhabitant, 'We always sing in Whales!' A happy note on which to close a lively and happy reunion.



Jack Boorman speaking at the London Reunion.

London (Kent & Surrey)

This year the London (Kent & Surrey) Reunion at the Hotel Russell on 30th June may have been the last regional reunion, it was, however, not the last reunion in this anniversary year. Many of the St. Dunstaners, wives and widows were looking forward to the reunion of reunions planned for 1st August, reported in our colour supplement to this issue.

However, this London Reunion was no poor relation — more than 100 people were there including 22 St. Dunstaners and 31 widows. Three welcome guests were Miss Elspeth Grant, Miss Diane Hoare and Miss Maisie Streets — all well-known as stalwarts of the Naval Camp at Lee-on-Solent.

Presiding over the occasion was St. Dunstan's Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach. Opening his speech after lunch Sir Henry explained that Lady Leach was unable to be at the reunion due to a clash of dates. She was in the West Country escorting her elderly mother at a wedding. 'So she has gone West and I have come East as I promised so we are tempor-

arily separated to be reunited tonight, I hope.'

Referring to the widows attending Sir Henry said, 'Including, to my great delight and their extreme bravery, two who are well over ninety. One of them is sitting at my table pretending that she isn't that age!'

The Chairman welcomed three St. Dunstaners and their wives who were attending their first reunion: Vincent Garner, Henry Price and Richard Sutton.

'We live in times of great change', the Chairman went on. 'Who would have supposed a year ago that things in Eastern Europe, and now in the heart of Russia itself, would have changed to the extent that they have and with the rapidity with which it has occurred? One has to say and admit that these radical changes are for the better but there is a reservation.

'What we have lost is stability, a precarious stability but however uneasy, unpleasant and, at times, pretty suspicious, it was a stability that has lasted for some 40 years and which we in this country and the West in general, had grown

5

accustomed to and thought we knew more or less how to handle.

'Now it is no more and in its absence there has been created a vacuum. As you all know, a vacuum does not stay as a vacuum for very long. It has to be filled sooner rather than later with something and already one sees what that something or those somethings are.

The first thing to fill it has been a huge, understandable euphoria, especially in the areas concerned. That euphoria has extended also to the West, though, again understandably, in a slightly more restrained way. But you cannot run a country on euphoria for very long. Already we are beginning to see the next replacement of that euphoria and that is anarchy. It comes about because the people now in authority in these places in general have no experience whatsoever in administering or governing.

All we can do is sit back in our chairs and hope that we will get, sooner rather than later, into the next stage which will be, please God, prudence backed by, however limited, experience in administration.

In the meantime we have to face the fact that we are living in a period of extreme, utter instability. Now you may say, "Does that matter? How does it affect us?" and there I have to be direct and honest because it is a fact of life, in my judgement, that political expediences of the day will tend to dull the hard-learned lessons of the past and the memories thereof.

'So, weekly, you hear and read and see on the box a lot of stuff about massive cuts in the Armed Forces backed by the rather glib assumption that, since there is no longer any threat, we do not really need any Armed Forces and, "... think of the money you could save if you didn't have them."

'May I end by just reminding you that if you let things go down too far in terms of the more major capabilities like a frigate, a main battle tank or a type of aircraft it will take at least ten years to produce in effective numbers in the front line and it may be nearer fifteen. I suggest that we will not, if it comes to that, be given that time.

'So I hope that we shall find that people are sufficiently educated and their learning has been such that we do not make irresponsible mistakes, overcall the hand and live to regret it.'

After these comments, prescient in the light of subsequent events in the Middle East, the Chairman concluded his speech by wishing everyone a safe journey home, '... and I greatly look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 1st August.'

Jack Boorman replied for St. Dunstaners. In thanking the staff of the hotel for an excellent meal he said he thought St. Dunstaners' wives would particularly appreciate it because 'You didn't have to buy it, you didn't have to prepare it, you didn't have to serve it, you didn't have to clear away, you haven't got to wash-up. The only thing you will have missed is your forty winks afterwards!'

He went on to thank Miss Stewart, Mrs. Armstrong and Mr. Keith Martin for all the arrangements made for the reunion. 'Then I must go on to some other thanks and that is to the staff of St. Dunstan's and I have thought and thought and thought of what to say. On the *St. Dunstan's Review* tape this time there have been five reunions and in each one of the replies at those reunions was something I was going to say. This put me into a bit of a quandary but the last reunion, the gentleman replying there was speaking about our Welfare Visitors. I sat and thought: you know these people are not nine to fivers and the number of hours they are away from their homes must be tremendous. This gentleman at the last reunion said, "Our Visitor is like a breath of spring." I can tell you that our Welfare Officer is like a hurricane! She really is very charming and does such a great job of work. They all do a marvellous job for us and I am sure we thank them very much indeed.'

Jack said everyone would want to send their best wishes to Miss Lord 'and we hope to see her soon.' In thanking the staff at Headquarters and at the Brighton Homes he hoped St. Dunstaners would meet many of them on 1st August.

There was dancing in the afternoon until tea, when the prize draw was held and afterwards, slowly, the company dispersed to make their journeys home.

Observations

by Patrick Flanagan

Every town has one, a bar where you are as likely to get a bloody nose as a 'bloody mary'. Where for no apparent reason a brawl will erupt, as if some malevolent spirit whispered into the ear of the fellow sitting at the bar, 'The guy beside you is stealing your drink', and next thing you know they're using the chairs as artillery. Once it starts it seems to take on a momentum of its own, often spilling over into the street, until the combatants either tire or, are constrained by outside forces — 'til the next time.

Like that bar there are areas of the world blighted with the same malevolent spirit. The Middle East is one area that seems destined never to have that ultimate luxury, peace in its troubled domain.

The present bother in the Gulf is just the latest in a series of wars going back thousands of years. The land now known as Iraq is the cradle of civilisation (if that's the proper word after the events of the last few weeks) where man first settled down to farm the rich lands of the Euphrates and Tigris Deltas.

Iraq is in the unfortunate geographical position of being in the pathway between Asia and Europe. It has never been a state in the historical sense, so has never built up the confidence that comes to a people who have called themselves a nation for generations. Consequently, the actions of Iraq in the last month may stem from a lack of confidence rather than a surfeit of it. They may wish to see themselves as descendants of the Babylonian Emperors, but deep inside they know they belong to a republic that didn't exist until 1958.

There are frightening similarities between the present situation and the First World War i.e. world powers going to the rescue of little nations, poor Belgium in 1914, rich Kuwait in 1990.

If a war does break out it will not be the first occasion British Forces engaged an enemy in the Middle East. In the First

World War the British Army endured one of the worst capitulations in its history when it surrendered 13,000 men to the Turks at Kut-al-Amara. The troops were taken to squalid prison camps where over half of them died of disease. Indeed Mesopotamia had such an endearing effect upon my grandfather who served there during the Great War that it entered his vocabulary as a swear-word.

Meanwhile, politicians who never heard a shot fired in anger call for surgical strikes against strategic targets, believing modern technology will overcome superior manpower. On radio last week I even heard one such armchair general say it could be all over by Christmas (shades of the First World War again). As usual it will be Tommy Atkins and G.I. Joe who will be the scalpel in any surgical strike.

One difference this conflict will have is the way in which it will be reported. With modern communications we can see for ourselves the battle conditions in which the troops are living. If the fighting starts we will see the bodies and the pain within hours, this will have an effect on the morale of the public. If the public could have seen the mayhem on the first day of the Battle of the Somme would they have allowed the killing to continue?

Some of the tabloid press or, the 'bingo and jingo brigade' have been irresponsible in covering the events of the last few weeks. One paper called for pilots to be dressed in Mutant Turtle gear to frighten the Iraqi soldiers, while another warned that downed pilots faced the prospect of being eaten.

Hopefully reason will prevail and the sabre rattling will come to nothing. But reason, like that other precious commodity, water, is in short supply in the deserts of the Middle East. It's a bit like that aforementioned bar where you never know if the guy next to you is going to sit on his chair, or, hit you with it.

ST. DUNSTAN'S TAPE RECORDING WEEK, JUNE 4th-8th

by Roy David

As on previous occasions the first week in June saw a party of St. Dunstaners with their wives and escorts gather at Ian Fraser House for the Tape Recording Club's annual five days of recording. Thanks to the work of our Chairman, Bernie Blacker, a varied and interesting programme had been arranged.

Our first venue was Bentley, home of the late Gerald and Mary Askew. It was not until the 1960's that a wild fowl park was set up and at present it contains some one hundred and forty seven different species of ducks, geese and swans. The birds comprise many different British and European species as well as many more exotic birds from as far away as New Zealand, North and South America, Hawaii and Siberia. Our members were kept busy pursuing small flocks of red breasted geese who at times tended to be quite aggressive. Also recorded were Barren Island geese from islands off the coast of South Australia, barnacle geese, bar-headed geese, snow geese and emperor geese, all uttering their own distinctive cries.

Some had goslings in attendance and their high pitched chirping complemented the deeper calls of their parents. The ducks and swans were much less noisy, the widgeon making the most sound. On the larger of the lakes were Australian and New Zealand shell ducks, North American ruddy ducks, Carolina ducks and several other species common to the lakes and rivers of this country. The swans were represented by the European mute, whooper and bewick swans. Also present were the Western Australian black swans and the South American black necked swans, lovely birds with white wings and breast and jet black head and neck with a bright red casque on the upper part of the bill.

In the grounds the common Indian peacock and the silver peacock uttered the usual cat-like calls and an added bonus for the recordist was the unusual cry of the sarus crane, the tallest member of the crane family, standing almost six feet.

Tuesday saw Club members en route for the Zoological Gardens at Regent's Park. The journey was long and perhaps at times a little tedious, but we all arrived in good heart anticipating a variety of sounds for our machines. Alas our hopes were a little dashed as the parrot house was closed but there was quite a lot to hear and record in the tropical bird house, especially the calls of Nepalese hill mynahs, East African glossy starlings, bulbuls, a pair of Indian pied hornbills and a South American woodpecker.

Gordon and I were skilfully guided by Paul to arrive at the sea lion pool just as feeding time took place and both of us got good recordings of four adults and one pup being fed and making interesting sounds as they dived for the fish.

On Wednesday morning we assembled in the Winter Garden for our A.G.M with Bernie in the chair. Plans were formulated for next year's programme and it was decided that a visit to the North would be attractive. The centre chosen being Newcastle, from where visits could be arranged for the Beamish Museum, Holy Island, the wild fowl trust at Washington and perhaps a sea trip to the Farne Islands.

Plans will be made shortly and members will be informed in due course. On behalf of members Bernie thanked Gordon and Paul for the time and effort they had taken already in preparing a programme for next year's recording week. The meeting drew to a close with the presentation of a tape of song birds from

TAPE RECORDING WEEK *continued*

Dorset recorded by Roy David and some of his friends, all members of the Wildlife Sound Recording Society. This tape was listened to intently by his audience who at the end of the session expressed their interest and enjoyment.

After lunch members were allowed a respite from recording; the afternoon being free for whatever pursuits members and their wives wished to enjoy. In the evening a small party of dedicated recordists, despite a steady drizzle assembled in the entrance hall and under the leadership of Ivor Robinson, an old friend of our group and an accomplished recordist, being a member of the Wildlife Sound Recording Society. The party set off by bus to Haven Farm at Dane Hill, hoping to record the evening song of a nightingale which had been heard previously in the area by Ivor. However, it was not to be, although we were somewhat misled when the first few bars of a song rang through the wood, we were listening to the voice of a song thrush, not a nightingale.

As the recording session continued our microphones picked up the songs of a blackbird, wren, robin and chaffinch with the occasional 'coo' of a wood pigeon and as twilight settled on the wood, the screech of a tawny owl. Although from the recordists point of view the evening was not too successful, members who chose to brave the elements did enjoy themselves, despite muddy boots and trousers and, I rather suspect, damp feet, but not damp spirits. Our sincere thanks to Ivor for his time and trouble and great enthusiasm.

As the week drew to a close perhaps the most interesting of the days was when we visited Chartwell, the home of the late Sir Winston and Lady Churchill, now in the care of the National Trust. We were extremely fortunate in having the house opened especially for our party before the general public were allowed to enter. There was so much to see that our escorts were hard put to cover it all in a comparatively short time. The list of objets d'art was

almost endless and proved absorbingly interesting.

From the interior of the extensive, well ordered garden with trim herbaceous borders, flowering shrubs and small stands of superb trees. A minute waterfall tinkled gently over the pebbles and led to a large pool containing a magnificent collection of golden orfe which Sir Winston enjoyed feeding. The golden rose walk running down the centre of the garden was a gift to Sir Winston and Lady Churchill from their children in commemoration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. At some distance from the house lay the lake, divided into two by a dam. On one of these lakes swam two Western Australian black swans, a splendid sight with their jet black plumage and scarlet bills.

Friday was our last day and the coach took us to Heathfield, the headquarters of the Talking Newspaper Association of the United Kingdom. We toured the premises visiting the Copying Department with its fast copying machines which can copy a C.90 cassette in 6 minutes. There is a bank of eight of these machines performing this task and there are over 100 of these newspapers and magazines in the process of being copied for distribution throughout the U.K. and overseas.

From here we went to one of the studios where we listened to two ladies reading the *Sunday Times*. Sitting opposite them a third member of the team controlled the reading by the use of a mixer into which was plugged the readers' microphones, a master tape deck taking the output from the mixer. This was a very interesting visit and had to be cut short so that there is every likelihood we will pay a return visit sometime in the future.

The same evening we all gathered in the Winter Garden for a farewell dinner which was graced by the presence of Major Arthur Neve and Miss Sue Reynolds both of whom have done so much in the preparation of our visit there. A very excellent meal was served and we thank Paul James and his associates for it.

Finally to the Club Rooms where the evening drew to a close with members dancing to the music of Ernie Took and his Band. Our thanks to our Chairman,

TAPE RECORDING WEEK *continued*

Bernie Blacker and his good lady for arranging such an interesting and varied programme. A big thank you to Major Neve and staff at Ian Fraser House for their courtesy and help throughout the week, to our driver who conveyed us safely from place to place, to our escorts and wives who had so much work to do especially those who braved the rigours of the weather on Wednesday evening and to Paul for those more than adequate packed lunches. May our week next year be just as successful.

STORY-WRITING COMPETITION

Time for the story-writing competition once again, so dust off that old typewriter and get cracking over the winter months. The theme for the stories this year is: 'The most memorable . . .'. It can be fact or fiction. Three independent judges, to be named in a future issue, will assess the entries and prizes will be awarded to the two best storytellers. The winning entries will also be published by the *Review*.

To remind you, the rules are as follows:

1. The competition is open to St. Dunstaners, their wives or husbands, and to widows.
2. One entry only from each person. The story should be between 500-1,000 words, must be original and not previously published. With double line spacing. (There are about 400 words on an A4 page.)
3. Entries to be submitted under nom-de-plume addressed to the Editor. In a separate sealed envelope addressed to 'Writing Competition, St. Dunstan's Review at Headquarters', please write your nom-de-plume, the title of your story, your actual identity and full address. These envelopes will not be opened until the judges have chosen the winning stories.
4. Entries should reach the Editor by March 31st, 1991 and be typed in double line spacing.
5. First prize: £50. Second Prize: £25.

BRIGHTON WEST PIER

On June 15th, at the ninth A.G.M. of the Brighton West Pier Trust Ltd., held in Brighton, Ken Revis, of Oxford was elected to the Board of Directors.

At the same meeting it was resolved to grant a lease for a period of 150 years to Merlin International Developments Ltd., for the reconstruction of the pier.

According to Ken this is the most important hurdle cleared by the Trust since its inception, if the voting had gone the other way the whole scheme for restoring the West Pier could have collapsed.

It was also learned that the battle is far from won as a special Act of Parliament has to be piloted through taking months or even years of negotiations.

Monthly board meetings will be held in Brighton for the foreseeable future. Ken regards the whole project as very exciting, playing a part in the possible rebuilding of the West Pier, on which he was blinded prior to 'D' Day while serving with the Royal Engineers clearing anti-invasion explosive devices from the South Coast.

A POEM FOR ALL AT ST. DUNSTAN'S

This poem was written by Jemmy Harman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harman, of Hainault, Essex.

JUST KINDNESS
Kindness, just kindness is all that it takes.
To make a day happy, for kindness makes
For peace and for cheerfulness grace and
goodwill
Stirring no trouble, and speaking no ill
Feeling for others and trying to ease
the burden that presses, to help and to please
Forgetting yourself and your own heavy load
thinking of somebody else on the road.
The value of kindness you cannot assess
Spoken or written no word can express.
How one little kindness can make someone's
day
Giving him courage to go on his way
A smile on his lips and a song in his mind
Just because somebody, somewhere was kind.

St. Dunstan's South Africa

by Rev. Canon Michael Norman, Chairman

With greetings from South Africa included in our colour supplement, Michael Norman gave this brief resume of the work of his organisation in South Africa.

The history of St. Dunstan's in South Africa is divided into three distinct phases. The first two men to join St. Dunstan's were Hugh Stayt and Mike Bowen, who were both wounded in the Battle of Ypres, in September 1917. Hugh Stayt first studied anthropology after he was blinded and later physiotherapy, whilst Mike Bowen followed Lord Fraser's example and studied law and on returning to South Africa entered Parliament. He had a deep concern for the many civilian blind and was one of the prime movers in founding the South African National Council for the Blind in 1929.

The second phase began with the outbreak of war in 1939, when a rehabilitation centre was established in a house called Tembani, in Wynberg, just outside Cape Town. The men who were blinded in North Africa were sent to Tembani whilst waiting transport back to Britain. With the end of hostilities a permanent organisation was set up in Cape Town, with a board of directors to watch over the needs of all South African St. Dunstaners who emigrated to South Africa after the War.

Among them were such men as Jimmy Ellis, Tom Hart, Bob Owen and Roy French. Included in the South African St. Dunstaners there were a number of black and coloured troops, as well as English and Afrikaans speaking men. Tembani closed down at the end of the War and those St. Dunstaners who needed further training received this at Church Stretton or Ovingdean.

The third phase in the history of St. Dunstan's in South Africa began some 15 years ago with the outbreak of fighting on the South West African and Angolan border. Since then 22 young men have unfortunately joined our ranks. With the end of hostilities and the prospects of

peace it is hoped that no further men will have to join us.

Just over 25 years ago a rehabilitation centre was started in Johannesburg for the civilian blind and the South African National Council for the Blind have very generously offered to train any St. Dunstaners wishing to avail of this facility. A couple of our third generation St. Dunstaners have been welcomed at Ian Fraser House.

In addition to watching over the welfare of our St. Dunstaners, the Board of Directors in Cape Town administer two memorial trusts. The first of these was founded in remembrance of Sir John and Lady Ellerman who were both members of the Board of Directors in South Africa. Just before his death, Sir John was instrumental in bringing the long cane technique to South Africa when he invited St. Dunstaner Walter Thornton to South Africa. This Trust is responsible for subsidising the salaries of about a dozen instructors of all races in the many rural and urban areas of South Africa.

The second trust was founded in remembrance of Lord Fraser, who was a member of the Board of Directors and later President of St. Dunstan's in South Africa. This trust offers bursaries to any blind South African to attend any university or technical college of their choice in South Africa. This trust up to the present time has assisted 56 Indian, black and white students.

POCKET CLOCKS FOR SALE

We have 25 talking pocket clocks for sale. They measure approximately 3" x 3 3/4" x 1" deep, and are powered by four triple A 1.5 volt batteries. The clocks cost £12.60 and can be obtained from Supplies Department.

St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society, July Meeting

by Bill Shea

On Friday, July 20th members of the St. Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society assembled at Ian Fraser House for their July meeting and activity period. On Friday evening members met in the Winter Garden for an informal get-together, while the Committee were meeting in the radio shack. The July general meeting was held in the Winter Garden on Saturday morning. Before the meeting the Chairman congratulated George Shed G7FQA, on passing the morse test, we were all looking forward to having a contact with George on the HF bands with his new 'A' licence call sign. During the meeting, David Bell gave the members a report on the St. Dunstan's Radio Amateurs DX expedition to Jordan. A report on this visit, by Mike Tetley, has been published in the August *Review*. On show in the Winter Garden were the two beautiful plaques which were presented to the Society in Jordan. One from the Royal Jordanian Radio Amateurs Society and the other by the Royal Jordanian Signals Corps, Military Communications College.

Our speaker in the afternoon was Louis Varney G5RV. Louis who is an Honorary Life Member of our Society has worked in many countries and has operated amateur radio stations in many parts of the world. He has given many talks to the Society and is very well known for the 'G&RV antenna system'. The subject of his talk was 'The true origin of the misnamed morse code'. During the early days in the development of telegraphic communication many different methods were tried to convey intelligence along a long wire. In the United States, Professor Morse with an assistant called Vail, were involved in developing this type of communication. Eventually a code using dots and dashes was adopted, this became known as the morse code but was in fact developed by Vail. At the end of his talk, Louis gave a demonstration of different types of keys for sending CW.

On Sunday morning members got down to some serious operation using our special call sign, GB75STD, which we are using to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of St. Dunstan's. Members were operating on UHF, VHF and HF bands. Alan Reynolds G3VRI, made the first contact the Society has made on the 70 centimetre band. Contacts were also made using 10 metre FM. George Cole G4AWI and Ray Peart G0FHK were soon very busy sending CW signals all over the world using the morse or, is it the 'Vail code'. With the new line up of equipment we have in the radio shack we can now put out a very strong signal. During the activity period, stations were worked in all continents including some old friends and some rare countries. We were hoping to make contact with JY6ZZ, this is the H.Q. station of the Royal Jordanian Amateurs Society the station we used while we were in Jordan. Unfortunately we were not able to make contact. However, we did manage to talk to a couple of stations in Bahrain, who are in regular contact with Jordan and they promised to pass on our goodwill messages to our friends in Amman.

Many contacts were made with other special event stations, these included two contacts with the QE2, who was using the call sign GB2QE. One of these was on the 20 metre band while she was in the Mersey for the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Cunard Shipping Line. Another special event station was GB0HMS on board *H.M.S. Warrior* now moored in the Royal Naval Heritage Museum in Portsmouth dockyard. Our President Sir Henry Leach, had spoken to those who were responsible for the station, asking them to look for us, so we were very pleased to make this contact.

An incident which raised a good laugh in the radio shack was when Tommy Gaygan G4AFV was talking to an Italian station who wanted to know where Brigh-

ton was. Tommy told him it was on the south coast of Italy which really confused the Italian station. On Sunday evening while working the Canadian Naval net, we had a very good contact with Frank VE4FA in Winnipeg. Frank is the brother of Jane, wife of our member, Arthur Taylor. It was a shame that Jane and Arthur were unable to be with us.

During the week the Society made a retirement presentation of a crystal decanter and two glasses to Major Neve. The decanter has the badge of the Society engraved on it and around the neck is a chain with a metal plate with the inscription. 'Presented to Major Arthur Neve on his retirement, 1990'. An empty decanter looks very lonely, so there was also something to put in it.

On June 27th, June, Sybil, and David Bell, Mary Frith, Tom Hart and Joan and I attended the annual dinner of the Anglo Jordanian Society held in the Glaziers Hall in the City of London. Guests included members of the Cabinet and leading politicians and businessmen. The dinner was presided over by the co-Presidents of the Society, H.R.H. the Duke of Kent and H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. In his speech after dinner the Crown Prince said how pleased he had been to meet members of the St. Dunstan's party on Jordan. Tom Hart and I had a few words with the Crown Prince asking him to thank His Majesty King Hussein JY1 for the wonderful hospitality we received in Jordan. He promised to do this and remarked that we had made many friends during our visit. Reports on the trip to Jordan have been sent to the three service amateur radio societies, R.N.A.R.S., R.S.A.R.S., and R.A.F.A.R.S. Robin Bellerby G3ZYE, has also been asked to send a report to the R.S.G.B. *Rad. Com.*

The Society would like to express its thanks to all our friends in the Brighton area for all their help and support. To John Houlihan G4BLJ, for checking and maintaining our aerials. To Alf Lee G4DQS, our QSL manager who has a tremendous job sending and receiving the hundreds of QSL cards for our special event station. To Wally Lintot who keeps the radio shack clean and tidy. To Robin Bellerby G3ZYE, who organised our visit

to Jordan, kept our log and is our JY QSL manager and who brought along some of the many photographs he took during the trip. To our XYLs (wives) who helped with the log during the activity period. To Major Neve and all the staff at Ian Fraser House for all their help and support.

Finally, well done to George Shed on receiving his new call sign, GONUUY. There will be an activity period after the October meeting using our special sign, GB75STD. This will be from Saturday, October 13th until Thursday, October 18th.

WHERE ARE THEY?

A Canadian Red Cross worker who served in the Second World War has written to Mr. Edward Derwinski, Secretary of the Blinded Veterans Association in the United States. Here is part of the letter from Mrs. Verna Johnson Ritchie:

I served overseas during World War II with the Canadian Red Cross Corps, as a braille and handicraft teacher with St. Dunstan's, the training centre for war blinded men and women.

While stationed at Church Stretton, Shropshire, from July 1944 to September 1945, we had a group of American soldiers, all blinded after 'D' Day, probably in the early days after the invasion. They were sent to St. Dunstan's and stayed with us for a few weeks before being sent home. I have always wondered just how these boys made out and how they are today.

One lad came from Detroit and his name was Jack Miller. A second lad came from New York, but I don't remember his name. The third lad was called Martin, from either Kentucky or Virginia. Another man was Ronnie Robinson, from New York and I heard he regained some sight.

Even after all these years, the Red Cross Corps with St. Dunstan's keep in touch.

If you have any information about this group of blinded veterans, please send it to the BVA Bulletin, 477 H Street, Washington D.C. 2001-2694. U.S.A.

MOBILITY SUPPLEMENT FOR THE BLIND/DEAF

There has been some confusion over the new regulation regarding Mobility Supplement for the war blind/deaf. For the benefit of those who think they may be eligible, the following is the text of a letter sent by the Minister concerned in the Department of Social Security to The Royal British Legion:—

"As you may recall the Secretary of State announced last October that the Social Security Mobility Allowance was to be extended from April to include certain people who are both deaf and blind."

Although the Secretary of State did not specifically refer to War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement in his announcement, it was not intended that deaf, blind war pensioners should be treated any less favourably than those claiming Mobility Allowance. The relevant provisions of the Service Pensions Order, and the Civilians' Scheme, are therefore being amended to afford them parity of treatment.

War pensioners with an assessment of over 80% for blindness and 80% or more for deafness who, because of the combined effects of those conditions, are unable to walk to any intended or required destination out of doors without the assistance of another person will consequently qualify for Mobility Supplement, if they do not already do so under the present criteria.

War Pensioners who think they may qualify for Mobility Supplement under the extended criteria should claim by writing to War Pensions Branch, Norcross. Payment will be made where appropriate with effect from 9th April 1990.

The rules for the DHSS Mobility Allowance (Civilian Allowance) still remain as published in the Guide To The Social Services 1990 and are:—

Mobility allowance. Mobility allowance is available for people who are unable, or virtually unable, to walk because of physical disablement. People aged five or over and under 66 can claim the allowance. Anyone who is aged 65 when they claim has to show they could have qualified

before reaching that age. Once entitlement is established, payment can be made to age 80 if the conditions for receipt remain fulfilled. The medical conditions are that:

(1) the person must be unable or virtually unable to walk because of physical disablement; or the exertion required to walk would cause serious medical harm; and

(2) the inability to walk must be likely to persist for at least twelve months from the time the claim is made or the date such inability is found to have started (if later); and

(3) the person's condition must be such that they can benefit from time to time from increased facilities for mobility.

The weekly rate is £26.25. The allowance is payable together with any other social security benefit. Mobility allowance became tax-free from 6th April 1982. Recipients are also exempt from paying road tax on their vehicles.

Further information is contained in leaflet N1211, which includes a claim form, and leaflet N1243 which deals with payment direct into a bank or building society account.

Leaflet N1225 which has been sent to those with a vehicle or benefit under the former vehicle scheme includes a claim form for switching to mobility allowance. Leaflets are available from social security local offices.

TAKE CHARGE

A new book entitled *'Take Charge'*, A Strategic Guide for Job Seekers, has been published by the National Braille Press Inc. Boston, U.S.A. The book by authors Ramu Rabby and Diane Croft is a comprehensive guide for the blind and visually impaired job hunter and is accessible in print, braille, cassette and computer disk. For further information contact the R.N.I.B. — 071-388 1266 (ask for John Godbar, Marketing).

ST. DUNSTAN'S 75th ANNIVERSARY

The 75th Anniversary Celebrations which took place on August 1st, 1990, are reported in graphic and, literally, colourful detail in a supplement to this issue of the *Review* and all those who were present will have their own vivid memories of a very remarkable occasion. Many people have been inspired to put their thoughts on paper and something like 150 letters have been received at Headquarters, addressed variously to the Chairman, to me and to other members of the staff. These letters have been very much appreciated but I am sure that the writers will understand that it has been impossible to reply to them all individually.

Some unattributed comments have been included in the supplement, but I thought it worth quoting some further extracts which I have found amusing or touching — or, sometimes, both at once.

A good many letters, written with an affecting warmth and sincerity, expressed sheer happiness:

"It was beyond my wildest dreams"

"... sense of happiness and pride which surrounded the whole occasion"

"Never did I think that one day I too would go the 'other side' of the Palace railings"

"We met up with some St. Dunstaners we hadn't seen since the 1940's — and in such impressive surroundings too"

"I would not have missed it for worlds"

"I feel that my husband was with us in spirit on that special day"

Some kind people wrote in the most flattering terms:

"A mammoth exercise superbly carried out"

"The organisation for such an event must have been a nightmare — but everything obviously went without a hitch"

"Congratulations are surely due... for the splendid way it was organised. Many thought the task too difficult to attempt!"

Other shrewd observers suspected that there were stresses and strains behind the scenes:

"Those on the project must all be very relieved that 1st August, 1990, is now a past event!"

"All went smoothly as any well-planned battle

should do. If there were any disasters they were kept well covered up"

We were even damned with faint praise: *"Somebody prayed too hard for a sunny day and overdid it!"*

"There were only two minor blemishes... which, under the circumstances, were to be forgiven, utterly"

Finally, I would like to add my own comment. On behalf of all those who were involved in the organisation of these special events, I wish to say how delighted we are that things went so well and that, judging by their comments, written and spoken, so many people had an enjoyable and a memorable day.

William Weisblatt, *Secretary*

CAN YOU HELP?

A Mr. Ralph Paine has written to us in case any St. Dunstaner may be able to help him in his search for clues regarding his brother, who died in the Far East during the Second World War.

His brother's name was Private Leonard Ernest Ralph, No. 7647408, and he had joined the No. 4 Ordnance Company of the R.A.O.C. in 1940. He went to Singapore four days before it fell to the Japanese in February 1942 and was later confirmed a P.O.W. He had to work on the Burma Railway and his death was reported to have been on November 12th 1943, at the age of 23. He was buried at Kami-Sonkrai No. 28 Cemetery, and after the war transferred to Thanbyuzayat, Plot 4, Row X, Grave 15. Mr. Paine has discovered that there was someone, also a F.E.P.O.W., who was with his brother in Kami-Sonkrai when he died. This man returned to England by boat, suffering from malnutrition and blindness, and recovered in hospital around 1946-7. His name is not known.

If anybody can offer any helpful information whatsoever, please write to Mr. R. L. Paine, 6 New Bridge Way, St. Mary's Bay, New Romney, Kent, TN29 0HA.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Paul Baker, Sidmouth, Devon

The article on St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners and what both have done was most interesting but, why no mention of one profession which, I think, we pioneered against the odds and (then) female domination?

I speak of physiotherapy, which the blind now excel at the world over. Blind physiotherapists are held in the highest esteem, some reaching positions such as Departmental Head. I think, thus, on their behalf as a modest performer, I would like their great deeds put on record, as a big plus for the blind, and we take off our hats to the 'early martyrs'.

From L.W. Cook, Swindon

After attending the Bristol Reunion last month, I have been giving some thought to the difficulties of St. Dunstaners who suffer hearing problems.

For example, my wife and I noticed that Mrs. Ellis was the only one talking to Ron Ellis through the hands. I felt so inadequate not being able to converse with Ron, that I thought it might be a good idea if more St. Dunstaners, widows and escorts were to take up this hand reading, it would help ever so much on these occasions.

Perhaps something might be done in the way of literature being sent out together with the hand signs to those interested. It would be nice to have other peoples comments on this, simply to make life easier for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

From Miss Diana Hoare, Winchester

In the June *Review* you had a photograph of two unidentified St. Dunstaners 'com-

ing down the wire'. I expect you now have their identities, but if not, I can tell you that the one with a stick is Albert Paulson and I think the other may be Harry Boseley, of Liverpool, though I'm not sure. The upper part of his face was badly burned and he always concealed it under a felt hat with a fairly wide brim.

I knew Albert well, because being a countryman he simply hated being stuck indoors during the day. When I was a VAD at Church Stretton I would often find him hunched up in a chair like a disconsolate owl when the weather was wet. I would walk him down one of the valleys to tea at Mrs. Metters' Tea Shop which many St. Dunstaners will remember, she always boiled eggs for their tea.

Albert was a bachelor then and not very happy at home, so I encouraged him to come to the first Lee Camp where he was very happy. When the Surrey Reunion was at Windsor, I used to see Albert and his wife there, but I don't think they came to London except for one of the special reunions.

I haven't seen the Paulsons for many years but have never forgotten them. If the second man is not Harry, he may be Alf Waters, another of the party that used to play dominoes together. I used to mark and if one of them was absent and they needed a fourth they used to allow me to play.

Editor's Note: Since Miss Hoare wrote this letter Albert Paulson has died. He requested only a brief announcement with no details. However, we are sure he would have approved her letter.

From Colin and Elizabeth Johnston, Warwick, Queensland, Australia

We look forward to receiving the *Review* each month and reading about old friends, and now their children and grandchildren. In the fifties we lived in London for three-and-a-half years whilst I did my physiotherapy course.

We also have a grandchild, our first, and I thought it would be rather nice if you could give us a mention in the *Review*.

Our eldest son, David, and his wife, Catherine, of Healesville, Victoria, have

just had their first child, Lucinda Catherine, born on July 23rd.

From Dulcie Masters, Palmerston North, New Zealand

May I thank you all for sending me photos of you all at St. Dunstan's, England. What a delight it was going to my letter box and finding the photos of you all. I am very appreciative and feel very honoured to be remembered. I will treasure them and have them framed.

It was a great pleasure meeting Sir Henry and Lady Leach at the St. Dunstan's New Zealand Reunion, it was splendid of him to find the time to come all this way to attend the Reunion and we send our grateful thanks.

Back in 1965, my late dear husband, Ray, and I were the lucky ones to go to St. Dunstan's 50th Anniversary Celebrations in England. The late Lord and Lady Fraser were alive then and how kind and thoughtful they both were during our visit, they could not do enough for us. A trip never to be forgotten.

Once more my grateful thanks for sending me those lovely photographs.

From Valerie Nichols, Brighton

May I take this opportunity of thanking St. Dunstaners, their wives and widows who so kindly sent donations towards my retirement present.

I shall have very much pleasure going round the shops to find something suitable as a reminder of you all, and my many happy hours at St. Dunstan's.

Wishing everyone health and happiness in the future. God bless.

From Mrs. Frances Pennells, Brighton

Thank you very much for the photograph of my husband, the late Cyril Pennells, at Church Stretton Station which appeared in the June *Review*.

From Tom and Grace Renshaw, Gotham, S. Notts.

We thank our many friends at St. Dunstan's for the beautiful cards and messages of good wishes on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. Thanks also to Miss Mosley and staff for the lovely flower arrangement and gift.

Welcome to St. Dunstan's

On behalf of St. Dunstan's, we welcome St. Dunstaners recently admitted to membership and the Review hopes they will settle down happily as members of our family.

Mr. William Kennedy, of Peterborough, who joined on July 17th.

Mr. Kennedy served with the Royal Air Force from 1957 to 1979, finishing his career as a Royal Air Force Police Sergeant.

Mr. Kennedy is married, and he and Mrs. Kennedy have four grown-up children.

Mr. Richard Alfred Morcel, of Bolton, who joined on August 6th.

Mr. Morcel served as a Lance Corporal in the Corps of Royal Engineers from 1966 to 1973. He was a keen boxer and footballer who represented his regiment at squadron level.

Mr. Morcel is married with a family.

Mr. Julian Stevens, of Great Clacton, Essex, who joined on July 17th.

Mr. Stevens served with the Royal Marines from 1943 to 1952. He has been married since 1953, and has two grown-up daughters.

Australian St. Dunstaners Celebrate

by Alan Dean,
President

St. Dunstan's, Western Australia held a luncheon on Wednesday, August 1st, to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of St. Dunstan's. The venue was the Silver Room at the Langley Plaza Hotel, near the centre of Perth. It was decided to hold such an event when we heard that special functions were to be held in London.

Over 70 people were in attendance, including our Patron and Vice Patrons, our members and their wives, our widows, representatives from ex-Service organisations, Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Red Cross.

Mrs. Joan Hampton made a special celebratory cake and had it beautifully decorated, incorporating a replica of our National St. Dunstan's Badge. This created great interest and it was decided to remove the decoration and send it along with a portion of the cake to Headquarters in London. (We later learned that both cake and decoration arrived in perfect condition). Mrs. Amy Benness, wife of our Patron was given the honour of cutting the cake.

The Celebration opened with the serving of drinks followed by a beautiful meal. A recorded message from St. Dunstan's Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, was played during the meal. Sir Henry commented on the occasion and delivered a brief history of St. Dunstan's. This speech went down very well and enlightened many of our guests, some of whom were unaware of the work of St. Dunstan's. A number of copies of 'St. Dunstan's - A Story of Accomplishment' were given to our guests, so apart from being a very enjoyable luncheon it proved a fruitful public relations exercise.



Mrs. Amy Benness about to cut the cake with Alan Dean.

The venue, the food, the hotel staff and the company together with the great organisation of our ladies all combined to make this a great and memorable occasion. We thank the ladies and thank St. Dunstan's for all you have done for us. We look forward to celebrating your centenary with you!

DENNIS COLLINS

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Mr. Dennis Collins, on August 30th. He was 63 years of age. Mr. Collins was Assistant House Steward at Ian Fraser House for the past nine years and will be sadly missed by the St. Dunstaners and staff.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.



Hosts and guests at Bad Berleburg.

Handless Reunion 1990

by Ted Miller

We arrived at Ian Fraser House on Saturday, June 16th, for the commencement of the Handless Reunion which was to start the following day. Our Reunion was early this year as we were to be the guests of the German War Blinded Federation at their rehabilitation and rest home in Bad Berleburg, West Germany.

Our party consisted of David and Sybil Bell, Wally and Pam Lethbridge, Bill Griffiths and Peter Wiltshire, Winnie Edwards and her escort, Pat Deans, our President, Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, William Weisblatt and of course my wife and myself made it a party of 12. We were very sorry that Tommy and Audrey Gaygan, Joseph and Clare Loska, John and May Proctor and Gwen Obern and June could not be with us for various reasons, but we hoped to meet them all back at I.F.H. on Friday to continue our normal Reunion.

Our reunion really began when we boarded the coach at I.F.H. on Sunday

afternoon for the journey to Gatwick Airport. We had a delay due to a cycle rally, but we arrived in good time for our flight at 16.40 hrs. Mr. Weisblatt was waiting for us at the 'check in' and after the formalities we were on our way. We flew with Air Europe on board a Fokker 100 and a very comfortable trip we had. The flight took just over an hour and we landed at Dusseldorf at 18.50 hrs. We then adjusted our watches to European time which is one hour in advance. It was then just a matter of collecting our belongings. Pam, Sybil, Mr. Weisblatt and Peter helping us no end in the process. After a little wait our coach and interpreter arrived and we continued our journey to Bad Berleburg.

Bad Berleburg is in the Wittgensteiner Waldland (The Red Hair Mountains Nature Park) and is an old residential town with over 750 years of history. Bertholdt Fries (Bert to us) was our interpreter on the coach and was to be

with us during our stay at the home. He was a great help and I hope he enjoyed our company as much as we enjoyed his.

Departing Dusseldorf we travelled for nearly two and a half hours through beautiful countryside with great pine forests. The autobahns were very good and an excellent coach made our journey very comfortable. As we neared our destination we left the main roads, climbing to a height of 1,000ft along a winding road, finally arriving at 22.40 hrs.

What a wonderful welcome we received from Frau Kief who runs the home, Frau Erma Frey (Anna) an officer's widow who was such a help to us all and Herr Horst Beck, who is the Chairman of the Blind and Handless, who with his wife and the other blinded and handless were a great help. We were then shown to our rooms before having a meal. What a lovely welcome awaited us. There was a box of chocolates, and a bottle of fruit, both gift wrapped, as well as fruit drinks and mineral water on a tray and a beautiful bowl of fresh fruit.

The bedrooms were very nice with a shower and all mod cons, ours even boasted a veranda. It was surprising how quickly our apprehension at meeting our ex-enemies had vanished — they were all so kind and had so much in common with us, sharing the same disabilities and difficulties that we soon made friends with them all. After our meal we all went up to the bar and as it was getting late we had just a coffee and a few drinks before retiring for the night.

Breakfast the next morning was excellent, indeed the food was first class during the whole of our stay. There was even an English breakfast if we wanted it. Our Chairman, David Bell, gave a little talk, thanking our hosts for inviting us, and Mr. Weisblatt, who also speaks some German gave a short summary of the work of St. Dunstan's, while Herr Horst Beck, through our interpreter told us of the work of the B.K.D. (The German War Blinded Federation).

We were surprised at the number of German War Blinded, far greater than in



Bill Griffiths and Elizabeth Dacre dancing.

Great Britain, until we were told that their figures included all people blinded in the war, civilians and children as well as the armed forces. They have nine more holiday homes where they can stay, but the home in Bad Berleburg is the only one where they can also go for training for hobbies, etc. We also understand that the homes are mainly financed by the German Government.

We were shown their swimming pool, the sauna baths, the gym and the room where they make printed silk scarves and do other hobbies. We were also shown a room which houses facilities to help the blind. They can get much of the equipment similar to that supplied by the R.N.I.B. and we were very interested in the typewriter and telephone that had been adapted for the handless. The home has 28 double, and 26 single bedrooms, some of them adapted for handless and wheelchair bound visitors.

After dinner, our little party walked to the town, a spa town (Bad means spa in German) which was about one-and-a-half

miles each way. Mr. Weisblatt got a consignment of stamps at the Post Office, but he didn't make a profit from what he charged us for his purchases. It was very hot and we took refuge in a cafe before making our way back to the home for supper. The town is not very big, but there are quite a few musical chimes around the area and a lot of small shops.

After supper we again visited their bar and their generosity was such that they would not allow us to pay for any drinks. We were told we were their guests so therefore we did not pay. On Tuesday morning we again went into town. The house bus was put at our disposal so when we arrived in town we split up and went our different ways. Wally and Pam came with us, and we found a delightful park with a lovely lake surrounded by magnificent rhododendrons. During our walk we met up with Mrs. Dacre and Bill, Winnie, Pat and Bert together with our interpreter at a cafe. Winnie was thrilled with the purchases she had made, some were real bargains — she was lucky to have Pat as an escort as she really was so capable and helpful.

Mr. William Weisblatt presents Dr. Franz Sonntag with a St. Dunstan's plaque.



A trip to the castle just beyond the town had been planned for us in the afternoon. It was rather different from the castles in England, it is called a Schloss. It belongs to the Wittgensteiner family and the Prince still lives there with his family. Our guide spoke very good English and we started our tour in the chapel which was very cold and bare. She told us that in the old part of the castle there was only one room with a fire, but things improved as we came up to the present century. I think most of the pictures in the castle are by local artists, in the trophy room there was a white polar bear skin, almost big enough to cover an average room. There was a head of a wild boar on the wall and the guide told us there were no wild boar or bears in the forest now. They had some fine china and glass and in the hall a magnificent Steinway grand piano which our guide played for us. She said they hold concerts in the hall.

After supper that evening we went into the casino, which had nothing to do with gambling. I talked most of the time with our new friends. Bert had to work overtime going from table to table helping us

HANDLESS REUNION *continued*

out. It was surprising how we managed to make ourselves understood.

On Wednesday morning, Bill and Peter were booked in for a sauna — the only ones brave enough to chance it. Bill volunteered and Peter had to go along with him. They looked a lot paler when we saw them afterwards, and did they get their leg pulled! Dr. Sonntag's secretary, Frau Doris Hansen arrived from Bonn on Wednesday morning, she was the official interpreter and was coming with us to the famous Warsteiner Brewery, in Wald Park, in the afternoon.

It was about a two hour journey by coach, again through lovely countryside and our German friends joined us on the trip. We saw some ski runs en route, but were told that there had not been much snow this winter. On arriving at the brewery we were transferred from our coach to a little three coach train which was to convey us right through the brewery. We saw all the large vats as we passed by, but it was impossible to hear the guide's English translation as the German commentary was so loud. We saw thousands of bottles and cans being packed for export throughout Europe. The firm has been in the same family since 1753.

We then went on to the brewery's hotel where we were given five tokens each to spend. We could exchange the tokens for beer and food. We were also allowed to keep the tankards which the beer was served in, they had the firm's crest on them. Wally, who is an expert on beer thought the draught beer was very good and I must say I enjoyed it too, but Wally thought his own home brew was just a shade better. It was a very merry party that arrived home in time for supper.

Thursday was to be our big day when we were to meet Dr. Franz Sonntag, the President of the Federation. Dr. Sonntag who is a war blinded ex-serviceman has been an M.P. in Bonn and is also Head of the Red Cross. We spent the morning finishing our shopping in the town and after lunch we sat up on the balcony with coffee and cakes, chatting before returning to our rooms to get ready for the dinner party

which was to take place that night.

At six o'clock we made our way to the dining room where small gifts were given to Frau Dief and members of her staff. After our meal Mrs. Dacre rose to give us some information of the wonderful work that Dr. Sonntag has done and is still doing for the war blinded and disabled in Germany. In reply, Dr. Sonntag talked of the work that Lord Fraser had done and how much he had admired him. Mrs. Dacre thought it would be a nice gesture to present Dr. Sonntag's wife with one of the special St. Dunstan's brooches and she pinned her own brooch that had once belonged to Lady Fraser to Frau Sonntag's dress, with a promise that she would be sent a replica as soon as we got back to England.

We then made our way up to the Casino where David made a speech of thanks in German on our behalf for which he received loud applause. After being introduced to Dr. Sonntag, the ladies in our party received a special gift of a silk scarf, made by the war blinded at the home. They will be greatly appreciated as a reminder of the kindness we received there. After the speeches and introductions had been made, our hosts entertained us with some English songs which they had been practising for some time. It wasn't long before we were all joining in and as they had told us they had a barrel of beer that had to be used up before the evening was over, you can imagine how the evening went. Mrs. Dacre was the first to take the floor, where she gets her energy from I do not know, she was still dancing at the end of the evening.

Next morning it was a 6 o'clock start, with the coach arriving at 7.30 to take us to Dusseldorf Airport by 10.30. Our German friends were up and waiting at the hotel door to wish us Bon Voyage and lots of photos were taken before we were on our way. As we neared Dusseldorf, Bert pointed out Cologne Cathedral in the distance. Thank you Bert for all your hard work and thanks too to our lady behind the bar, Marie Louise and to the young man who conducted the 'choir' and played the piano for us. Our thanks to everyone at the rest home for a lovely five days. Did I say rest!



Auld Lang Syne at the final dinner at Ian Fraser House.

The plane was an hour late so we had time to visit the duty free shop. We had a very good flight home arriving at 12.40 English time. What a nice surprise awaited us at Gatwick Airport. The ground staff put on a small coach and took us to the entrance of the airport, our luggage was also collected for us and put in a large cage and we drove straight through customs up the lift into the main hall and out into the street where our coach was waiting. How's that for service! Our one regret was that Air Vice-Marshal Colahan and his wife, Ann, could not be with us on our trip and we all hope and pray he will be restored to good health, we missed them both very much. Mr. Weisblatt left us at Gatwick to make his way back to his office. "Thank you very much Bill".

On our return to I.F.H. we were pleased to see Tom and Audrey, Joseph and Clare and Gwen and June. Unfortunately John Proctor was not well enough to attend the Reunion and we send our best wishes to him and May. In the evening we had a little get-together after dinner in the Winter Garden. A meeting had been planned for Saturday morning in the Club Room to decide what we were going to do for the rest of the weekend. Tommy, Joseph, Gwen and their partners had booked a

table at the Grand Hotel for dinner, so we joined them in the bar later in the evening.

It had been suggested by Mrs. Dacre at the Saturday meeting, that after lunch on Sunday we might like to attend the 40th Annual Chattri Pilgrimage at Patcham (what's that, you may well ask). She felt they would be very honoured if we attended, so on Sunday afternoon we boarded the coach to Patcham with Mrs. Dacre and Miss Mary Stenning. Mrs. Dacre looked extremely smart in her British Legion costume.

We were informed that during the First World War the Brighton Pavilion and the Corn Exchange were used as hospitals for the Indian troops that were brought back from France. Many of them died from their wounds and in accordance with their religion their bodies were cremated on the hill top above Patcham. It was in 1950, that The Royal British Legion erected a monument in honour of the fallen on top of the hill and every year since, The Royal British Legion, The Indian Army Association, friends and families and many sightseers assemble there for a Service of Remembrance.

After assembling in the Memorial Hall, in Old London Road, everyone moved off

HANDLESS REUNION *continued*

in cars and coaches to get as near as possible to the Monument. We drove across several fields climbing all the time, but finally had to cross a couple of fields on foot to reach the memorial. There were representatives from the Indian High Commission, the Indian Army Association, members from other branches of The Royal British Legion and many old Indian soldiers proudly wearing their medals waiting to pay their respects. After an address, prayers were said by the Rev. Canon D. Gutsell, Vicar of Patcham.

At the wreath laying ceremony, Mrs. Dacre laid a poppy wreath from St. Dunstan's on our behalf. The last post was then sounded and the exhortation and Reveille then followed. There was an address by the India Office representative and a few words from the Mayor of Ealing before the final blessing. It was a very moving service and a colourful one and drew the attention of the television cameras.

After the ceremony our driver, Felix, took us by coach to Michelham Priory. Mary Stenning had given us a little talk about the Priory on our way to Patcham, so we had some idea of what we were going to see. The name of the Priory, 'Michelham' is Anglo Saxon in origin, meaning a large piece of land in a river bend (micel-hamm) and the Augustinian Priory and Church of the Holy Trinity were founded in 1229 by the Norman Lord of Pevensey, Gilbert de L'Aigle. Michelham Priory is now the property of the Sussex Archaeological Society and is situated at Upper Dicker, Nr. Hailsham, East Sussex.

We arrived late but the Curator, Jane Billam, kindly stayed on late to show us something of the history and the contents of the Priory which we all found very interesting. I suggest that if you are nearby do visit it, for apart from the Priory there is a medieval hall, a forge and wheelwrights museum, a rope museum, a great barn and the water and mill gardens.

We arrived home for a late supper but we were in time to catch the second half of the concert given by the Brighton Male Voice Choir, in the lounge.

On Monday morning the Handless Group gathered in the Club Room to talk over the subjects to be discussed at the afternoon meeting with the staff from Headquarters. After lunch we again returned to the Club Room where we met Mr. Weisblatt, Dr. Fletcher, (our good friend from Roehampton), Miss Mosley, Mrs. Armstrong and Major Neve. We had quite a few things to discuss with Mr. Weisblatt and Dr. Fletcher asked us if we had any problems with our arms or gadgets. It was a successful meeting as always.

While the meeting was taking place, my wife and Joseph's wife, Clare, took the opportunity to visit Peggy Brett in the nursing home. I think she had visits from Gwennie, Sybil and Audrey earlier. They found her bearing up well and she was so pleased to see them both and they found it easy to talk about Dickie with her. She sent her love back to everyone and hoped they were enjoying the Reunion.

Back in the lounge we met Ivy and Joan, two of our widows with their escorts, Iris and Pam. We were glad they could make it and we chatted over old times. They came to our final dinner in the evening, it's nice to keep in touch with them.

At about 7 o'clock we arrived in the Winter Garden for dinner and our principal guest was the High Sheriff of Sussex, Mr. P. Dunn who was accompanied by his wife. Other guests included Sir Henry and Lady Leach, Col. and Mrs. Hislop, Dr. Fletcher, Major Neve and his assistant, Sue Reynolds, Mrs. Dacre, Miss Stenning, Miss Mosley, Mrs. Armstrong and Mr. Weisblatt.

After an excellent meal our President, Mrs. Dacre, called on me to give the Loyal Toast before asking our principal guest, Mr. Dunn, to make a short speech. Mrs. Dacre then spoke of our trip to Germany and said they could read more about it in the *Review*, so I hope you won't be too disappointed with what you have just read.

I would like to thank all the staff for the kindness which we always receive on our visits to I.F.H., to the staff at H.Q. and to our Chairman and his wife, Sybil, who did such a lot of running about for us. We also thank Mr. Bill Weisblatt, who was always there if we needed anything. And of course we thank our escorts and Mrs.

Dacre who always manages to come up with something special for us every year.

After dinner our guests started to depart and we made our way to the bar for a final get-together, or so we thought, because when time was called most of us made our way to No. 10 for another final 'night cap' with David and Sybil.

On Tuesday morning we all said our goodbyes after another most enjoyable Reunion.

Note:

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Sonntag and a party of handless members of the German War Blinded Federation have accepted an invitation to visit Ian Fraser House in September, 1991, when we shall have a chance to return the generous hospitality shown to us in Bad Berleburg in June of this year.

William Weisblatt
Secretary

LONDON DISABILITY GUIDE

A major new guide to disability services, organisations and contacts in the London area is to be distributed free of charge by Thames TV and the Greater London Association for Disabled People (GLAD) in association with Freemans Home Shopping. The sixty page 'London Disability Guide' covers a wide range of issues.

The Thames Help Programme is to broadcast five programmes on disability in the week beginning September 17th. A phone-in will follow each programme allowing viewers to call in to request copies of the Guide. The Guide will also be available free of charge from Thames TV and GLAD and has been published in braille, moon and large print versions. The programmes will be broadcast at 5.55pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with a half hour omnibus edition on Mondays at 1.20pm.

H.M.S. DAEDALUS 1990

An Alphabet for St. Dunstan's Camp

by Fred Sunderland

- A is for The Archers, all budding Robin Hoods.
B is for The Bowlers, polishing their woods.
C is for Collingwood, who entertained us.
D is for Dolphin and D for Daedalus.
E is for Elspeth, one of the Grants.
F is for Friday, the Raffle, the Dance.
G is for Gosport, not far away.
H is for Haslar, we lunched there one day.
I is for Invincible, the aircraft carrier.
J is for Jump, when they loosed off a Harrier.
K is for Kings Head, there we skittled them at Wickham.
L is for lads who went there to lick 'em.
M is for motor bike, on which I did a TON.
N is for Navy, who made it all such fun.
O is for optimists, or would you call us diehards.
P is for Portsmouth, and the Naval Dockyards.
Q is for quarter, we don't give a lot.
R is for rum, when they issued us a tot.
S is for Sultan, and Sunday on the lawn.
T is for tea in bed, which came round at crack 'o dawn.
U is for unity, we're all united here.
V is for venture, but not for volunteer.
W is for the island they call the Isle of Wight.
X is for X-Ray, to make this thing come right.
Y is for YOU, and you've just come in time because,
Z is for zero, and the end of my rhyme.

TAPE RECORDER FOR SALE

An American Printing House four track cassette tape recorder for sale — £100. Must be collected. Contact Evelyn Reeves on 0892 515028.

A TRIBUTE

Tommy McKay

Sadly, in our In Memory columns, we record the death of Tommy McKay. With his passing St. Dunstan's has lost one of its most outstanding craftsmen and one whose achievements were the more admirable because they were made in the face of great disabilities.

Tommy joined the Royal Engineers in 1942 and served throughout the war until, in Germany, only a few weeks before the end of the war, he was seriously injured by an exploding mine. The explosion cost him his eyes, his left leg and damaged his hearing, his right leg and both hands.

In civilian life he had been a stonemason and examples of his work can be seen in churches in Edinburgh, the city in which he spent his early life. At St. Dunstan's he undertook joinery training and became skilled enough to take on special work fitting out kitchens and making articles of furniture to order. The list includes nests of tables, refectory tables, spinning chairs, garden chairs and children's desks. In 1971 he made an Altar Table, Cross and Candlesticks for St. George's Church, Kemp Town, Brighton.

Many of his products were made to his own design and one of them became a speciality. He designed a grandmother clock, building the case and installing the clock mechanism and fixing the face — a difficult task for someone totally blind. Over the years he made 56 grandmother clocks some of which went to distant countries. In 1981 H.R.H. The Prince of Wales graciously accepted Tommy's fiftieth clock as a wedding present. Later he received a letter which said, 'His Royal Highness and Lady Diana are delighted to have this most attractive clock and look forward to finding the right place for it at Highgrove.'

In 1962 Tommy won the top award, The Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance Shield, in the National Handicrafts and Art Competition and many Certificates of Merit in subsequent years.

He was also a published poet, in two volumes entitled 'Morning Dip' and 'Mental Pictures'. The latter appeared in 1974

and the last poem in it is entitled 'Phyllippa'. The last verse runs:

*'There is a lady with a sparkling eye
And merry laugh as she passes by,
Though I have ne'er seen that twinkling
eye,
Yet will I love her till I die.'*

The McKays were a devoted couple. To Tommy and to their friends his wife, Phyllis, has always been 'Phyll'. We send her our deep sympathy.

David Castleton

FR. FRANK TIERNEY'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

On Friday, June 15th, at Nazareth House Nursing Home, Blackburn, Fr. Frank Tierney celebrated 60 years as a priest in the diocese of Salford. It was a most enjoyable occasion as Fr. Frank concelebrated mass with the Chaplain, Fr. Given and a group of his clergy friends.

He belied his 91 years with an active interest in the celebration. Fr. Frank served as a Sapper in the First World War, and was effected by gas on the Somme in 1918. Some years later he studied for the priesthood in Osterley and Valladolid, in Spain. Ordained in June, 1930, he served initially in St. Alban's Church, Blackburn, and in several parishes in the Salford Diocese including eight years as Chaplain in Withington Hospital, Manchester.

In 1949, he was appointed as parish priest at English Martyr's Church in Whalley near Blackburn. He retired in 1969 but continued to reside in Whalley Village. However, in 1989 he came to Nazareth House, in Blackburn, as a resident and concelebrates mass most mornings with the Chaplain in the new oratory.

Fr. Tierney's eyesight began to fail over the years due to the gassing in 1918, and he subsequently joined St. Dunstan's, becoming the first Catholic priest to join the organisation. Fr. Tierney is visited regularly by members of St. Dunstan's.

After the Jubilee Mass a most enjoyable meal was provided by Rev. Mother and Sisters, who, with their staff show the utmost care and affection for Fr. Frank.

'Ad Multos Annos.'

INTERNATIONAL RAIL TRAVEL

Derek Dymond reported difficulties with British Rail in obtaining the travel concession for the blind persons and their attendants when he spent his holiday abroad this year. He was told at Bournemouth Station that the Disabled Persons Rail card is not accepted on the Continent but that concessionary fares were available on the Continent for the holders of Senior Citizens cards. Derek points out that, while the Disabled Persons card costs £12, to purchase Senior Citizens Cards for blind person and escort costs, with loading for foreign travel, £21 each.

We investigated this with British Rail's International Centre at Victoria Station and the following is a digest of information they sent us concerning blind persons travelling with escorts.

Provided the blind person produces a valid DHSS Blind Person Registration Certificate at BR Travel Centres and stations authorised for the issue of international tickets his escort will be issued a ticket free of charge. The concession is only available on international return journeys at full ordinary fare and, of course, the free escort ticket must be used on the same journey as the blind person.

Railways and associated carriers participating in the scheme are: BR — British Rail, including shipping services by Sealink to the Continent; CFF — Swiss Federal Railways; CFL — Luxembourg National Railways; CH — Greek Railways; CIE — Irish Travel Undertaking; DB — German Federal Railways; DSB — Danish State Railways; FS — Italian State Railways; NIR — Northern Ireland Railways; NS — Netherlands Railways; OBB — Austrian Federal Railways; SNCB — Belgian National Railways; SNCF — French National Railways.

Destinations in countries whose railways do not participate are not eligible nor are journeys which pass through such countries. Tickets issued under the blind persons and attendants scheme are valid for two months.

As Derek Dymond points out there are many factors to consider before purchasing rail cards — measuring initial cost



Joe Humphrey talks with Her Majesty The Queen Mother, at Hillsborough Castle, Belfast, on the occasion of the Northern Ireland Secretary's Garden Party.
photo: Belfast Telegraph

against potential benefit. For international travel within the conditions set out in this article the blind persons and attendants travel concession looks the best bargain.

BRAVE VIOLET

Plucky Violet Calcutt, of Abbey Road, London SE2, came to the rescue when she saved her daughter's baby from being crushed by hoardings which were blown over by strong winds. Violet, widow of the late Henry Albert Calcutt, was out walking with her daughter's new baby last February when she saw the hoardings being blown towards the baby. Disregarding her own safety she pushed the baby out of the way sustaining serious injuries in the process.

Local stall holders and passers-by dug her out and she was taken to the London Hospital, Whitechapel suffering from a fractured femur and a crushed pelvis. Fortunately the baby escaped unscathed. Violet was detained in hospital for two weeks. She is now recovering although she is still in pain and walking with a limp.

Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

America

Author: Alistair Cooke
Reader: Andrew Timothy
Duration: 13.25 hours
Catalogue number: 3022

I should think the 'Letter from America' man, has enjoyed a pretty affluent life-style since he settled on the other side of the Atlantic in 1932. His adopted country has been generous to him, I imagine, and I'll bet he's never been forced to live in a hovel, or worry about his children going to school without shoes on, like the miserable blacks who still huddle together in city tenements which were already slums at the turn of the 20th century.

Nevertheless, even the disenfranchised millions who know that America is no land of milk and honey, and do not see their world through rose-tinted glasses as Mr. Cooke seems to do, are still likely to enjoy this book of his, if they read it, for it is based on the scripts of an award-winning television series, and it is first class entertainment.

Being the sort of 'history' which is designed for a mass audience, the book tells the story of America from Columbus to modern times. And it does it in 'easy-to-listen-to' episodes. The language is simple enough for the simplest reader and, generally speaking, no subject is dwelt on at such length to render it boring.

I'd be more than a little surprised, moreover, if anyone could read this book

for the first time without getting to know a host of interesting facts they didn't know before. So even if, like me, you find little or nothing to admire in either America or what they call: 'The American way of life': don't let this prevent you from asking for this book, after all:

You don't need to like 'em to learn about the critters. No Siree!

History for a mass audience

* * * *

Boothroyd at Bay

Author: Basil Boothroyd
Reader: Joe Dunlop
Duration: 6.50 hours
Catalogue number: 5127

Do you remember that old music-hall song about a man called Jim, with an enormous mouth? The chorus goes something like this: 'What a marff what a marff what norff and sarff, blimey what a marff he's got'. And a bit later, the verse says that Jim had never been known to laugh; 'Cos if he did, it's a penny to a quid that his face would fall in half.' Do you remember now? It's quite a funny song... though not nearly so funny as this book is, because if he'd read it, 'Poor Jim' would have known the inconvenience of a split-level head before the first story was finished.

BALANCING THE BOOKS *continued*

Well actually, the book is a series of humorous talks, not of stories, which makes it absolutely ideal for those of us who listen rather than read. Furthermore, there are no topics which are beyond our comprehension; no characters we could not have met in our own neighbourhoods, no situations we could not imagine being in ourselves; the only thing which is *not* commonplace in fact, is the exquisite appeal of Basil Boothroyd's personal charm.

Except in the unlikely case that you are identical to big mouthed Jim in the song; or are one of those vinegary individuals with a sour and sad disposition, I hope you are all encouraged to send for this delightful book, it's a cracker!

The inconvenience of a split-level head

* * * *

Beyond the Pale

Author: Nicholas Mosley
Reader: John Rye
Duration: 14.25 hours
Catalogue number: 5306

This, in my opinion, is a very sad book indeed! It is written by a son about his father, and it tells of Sir Oswald Mosley's life from the time he created the 'British Union of Fascists', up to his death. It is not sad, however, just because it deals with his death, but because it claims that Sir Oswald had one of the finest brains of his age, whilst only providing evidence that the Mosley family had the misfortune to contain at least two, pompous, egocentric, and deluded idiots in its ranks. What unsufferable bores both father and son must have been! Letters between them, packed with congratulations and admiration for the size of the other's intellect, show how each could apparently be seduced by the sound of words, without any regard whatever to whether they made sense or not.

The son, for instance, describes an occasion at the Albert Hall, when his father, dressed in jack-boots and riding breeches like a miniature Mussolini, reveals his vision of a Fascist Britain, complete with such pie-in-the-sky notions as, 'we must create a new type of man, strong, honest and upright'; and, 'prosperity will come from people having higher wages, which will enable them to afford high-quality British goods and keep out shoddy imports.' I found it all rather pathetic.

'Oh, this is good' this is very good!' Nicholas Mosley alleges his grandmother or aunt said in rapture on this occasion, he admits he was quite overcome himself; but 'Oh this is ridiculous, this is blatant clap-trap', was the only exclamation it brought from me.

Nevertheless, I hope that many people will read this book. Not because I don't see why I should be the only one to suffer, but because I would like to hear what others think about the issues it raises. For example, how could a person so lacking in common sense as Mosley obviously was, ever have become a respected Minister of the Crown? And why did the government of the day think it so necessary to imprison him in 1940? Was he such a threat to national security? And if so, how? Nobody had voted for his silly party in elections; so what reason was there to think they would flock to his banner at any other time? We must make allowances for the author of course, though I find it almost impossible to take him seriously; of his own admission his respect for one of his company commanders in the light infantry, stemmed from the fact that the man had once read *The Mill on The Floss*; and in any case, you would expect him to make what excuses he could for his own father.

So please do get the book, perhaps you won't agree with me about its merits anyway, though I'm prepared to argue with anyone who believes that Great Britain will ever be made greater by the likes of Oswald Mosley.

Pompous bores with huge intellects

* * * *

50 YEARS ON ROYAL ENGINEER BOMB DISPOSAL - Were we too late?

by Ken Revis

In 1697 an entry in John Aubrey's diary read 'Devilish murderous, mischief-doing engines - bombs - discharged from mortar pieces at Blackheath'. So bombs are not particularly new.

During the early months of the Second World War four small German bombs fell on the Orkneys but failed to explode. Similarly a 500k bomb - about half a ton - was found in a crashed German aircraft near Whitby. These early incidents proved to the authorities after the fuses from these bombs had been examined that enemy bombs were detonated in some way electrically, presumably by shorting out a charge imparted by the enemy radar. Consequently it was not until the summer of 1940 that Royal Engineer Bomb Disposal sections were first formed and after an unedifying wrangle between the services it was decided that the vast majority of bomb disposals should be done by the Royal Engineers with the exception of those falling on Admiralty or, Air Ministry property.

This leads me to one of the most extraordinary stories of the war. In July 1932, the German Rheinmetall Company patented its 'electric impact and delay action bomb fuses' in all European countries, including of course the London Patent Office. This means we could have discovered exactly how enemy bombs detonated long before the war and certainly in the Spanish Civil War when similar bombs were used as a rehearsal for the Second War.

In April I was proud to present a silver salver suitably engraved about the 50th Anniversary to 101 (London) Engineer Regiment Explosive Ordnance Disposal. On May 25th a special service was held for serving and retired bomb disposal people in St. Paul's Cathedral when over 1600 of us were present. On the same day the Lord Mayor of London gave a splendid

luncheon for about 200 at the Guildhall where I heard the remark 'Don't our generals look young.' A lovely silver model of a bomb embedded in a chunk of masonry was presented to the Corps reminding us of the bomb that struck the Cathedral in wartime and which was safely defused by the sappers.

That evening a private party was held at the Union Jack Club, London, with about 40 Bomb Disposal 'old timers' and their ladies present. Many of us met friends which we had not seen since our training days.

A few days before a party of Royal Engineer runners started from John o' Groats and ran day and night to Land's End and then ran immediately to Chattendon, Rochester the home of 101 Regiment a distance of over 1300 miles. It was a sponsored run and the proceeds were handed to BLESMA, the British Limbless ex-Servicemen's Association.

Tom King, the Minister of Defence unveiled a commemorative plaque at 33 Engineer Regiment Explosive Ordnance Disposal, the regular bomb disposal regiment. After a Corps Guest Night on June 1st at the Royal Engineer HQ Mess, Bromton Barracks, Chatham, the runners were welcomed home on Saturday, June 2nd - Families Day.

We who were involved will always remember the splendid events of this anniversary year.

TOY APPEAL

Tom Page is continuing his childrens' toy appeal on behalf of Dr. Barnardo's Home in Kendal, Nazareth House in Lancaster and two playgroups in Morecambe. Any one who may wish to donate toys can contact Tom by ringing 0524 410455. Tom wishes to thank all those St. Dunstaners who have donated toys to the appeal.

REFLECTIONS

By the Reverend C. Le M. Scott

The grounds at Buckingham Palace are wide and generous; great ancient trees giving welcome shade, but the grass this year more gold than green. For over two hours in the full sunlight Princess Alexandra went from one, to another, then on with an authentic interest in each story and the ability to cover the odd embarrassed silence. This was not only devotion to duty but a combination of long training and, it might be thought, a courtesy bordering on love. Behind the stateliness broods the ever present risk to life itself which those who allow themselves to be seen as prominent personages bear, each day, each night. We were honoured by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra at the great 75th Birthday Celebration.

At the same time we were mourning Ian Gow, follower of Airey Neave, of Lord Mountbatten and others; prominent martyrs of our civilisation accompanied by many others whose names are less familiar. Terrorism seems a shameful by-product of our sort of democracy. The slimy, the shameful agents of evil expose themselves even as we are able to raise our spirits as Russia rejoins the family of nations; and the threat of desert war rises again.

The insights of Arab and Muslim civilisation deserve our gratitude. They introduced us to the writings of the Greeks who first tried democracy; they invented mathematics and set standards of hospitality to strangers above those of our ancestors. And we, as Europeans offered much to their ways of thinking: to find our beliefs in individual value and truth and freedom so crudely discarded was a betrayal of much we have struggled towards.

Once again we rely on the fortitude and readiness to risk sacrifice on the part of members of the Forces of the Crown. The finest of our people again oppose with arms the cruelty and viciousness of tyrants misrepresenting themselves as saviours of their people. We pray that the troubles looming ahead may be composed without appalling sufferings to more of God's children.

CLUB NEWS

BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE

July Individuals Match
Played on Saturday 21st July

RESULTS

1st	Bob Evans	69.3
2nd	Mrs. A. Clements	59.2
3rd	Wally Lethbridge	55.7
4th	Mrs. Vi McPhearson	53.4
5th	Mrs. D. Barnes	52.3
6th	Alf Dodgson	51.1
7th	Bill Phillips	48.9
8th	Mrs. J. McCauley	47.7
9th-	George Hudson	44.3
9th-	Joe Huk	44.3
11th	Reg Goding	38.6
12th	Miss Sturdy	35.2

BRIGHTON CLUB BRIDGE

The summer bridge drive postponed from August 5th was played at Ian Fraser House on Sunday September 2nd, 1990 when 26 St. Dunstaners and markers enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

RESULTS

1st	G. Hudson & Miss Sturdy	143.0
2nd	Alf Dodgson & Mrs. Holborow	118.0
3rd	Reg Goding & Mrs. McPhearson	90.0
4th	Mr. White & Mr. Douse	51.0

SCORES NEAREST ZERO

Joe Huk & Mrs. Barnes	+40.0
Harry Meleson & Mrs. Andrews	-36.0

LEARN BRIDGE

During the Bridge Congress weekend which takes place from November 30th to December 3rd there will be bridge instruction available to any St. Dunstaner, their wives or widows, who wish to learn bridge. Those wishing to stay at Ian Fraser House for that weekend should contact Headquarters in the usual way.



Rachel Sharples, grand-daughter of Tom Taylor, of Leyland, receives 2nd Prize in a design-a-toy competition run by Bluebird Toys and Prima magazine with a Fairytale Theatre.

FAMILY NEWS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Sarah Credland, grand-daughter of *Dennis and Joan Brown*, of Linden Village, Buckingham, on gaining her B.A. Degree at Essex University.

Julie Everett, grand-daughter of *Mrs. Sylvia Charlton*, of Brighton, who passed her B.Sc. examinations at Thames Polytechnic and is now Environmental Health Officer for Brighton.

Frank Tanner, Chaplain for the Deaf, nephew of *Dennis and Joan Brown*, of Linden Village, Buckingham, who has been ordained Canon for the Deaf at Southwark Cathedral.

Shaun, grandson of *Bill and Alice Griffiths*, of Blackpool, who has been accepted as a Trainee Pilot by British Airways. Shaun was among 200 picked from a field of 17,000 applicants and starts his training at Prestwick, Scotland, in September.

Peter Whitcombe, youngest son of *Mr. and Mrs. John Whitcombe*, of Eastbourne, who obtained a post graduate Certificate of Education from Oxford University this summer.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Mark and Diane Pilbeam, of Nuneaton, on the birth of their second child, Craig, born on July 29th.

GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Norma Rathmell, of Clacton, Essex, widow of the late *William Harold Rathmell*, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Gemma, to her daughter, Jane.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. George Betteridge, of Hucknell, on the birth of a great-grandson, Benjamin, on June 1st, to their grand-daughter, Michelle.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Frederick Boughton, of Old Duston, Northampton, on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Anthony Stephen, born on August 7th, to their grand-daughter Nicola, and her husband.

Mrs. Alys Briggs and her husband, Walter, of Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, on the birth of a great-grandson, Ben, on March 18th, to their grandson, Neal Wood and his wife, Sandra.

FAMILY NEWS *continued*

Mrs. Marion Hill, of Crawley, widow of the late *John Gibson Hill* on the birth of her 11th great-grandchild, Casey, born in July to her grandson, Gary, and his wife, Deborah.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Meleson, of North Wembley, on the birth of a great-grandson, on August 19th, to their grand-daughter, Ruth, and her husband, Peter Hoyland.

Peter and Ethel Price, of Hythe, Kent, on the birth of a great-grandson, Ryan Neil, who was born on August 2nd, to their grand-daughter, Paula and her husband, Neil.

Peter and Betty Surridge, of Reedham, on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Kerry Ann, who was born on July 19th, to their grandson, Adrian Fabry and Rosie.

Mrs. Julie Vowles, of Portsmouth, widow of the late *Ray Vowles* on the birth of her first great-grandchild, Lloyd, born on May 20th, to her grand-daughter, Mandy, and her husband Guy.

GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILD

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Violet Taylor, of Worthing, widow of the late *H.J. Taylor*, on the birth of a great great grand-child, Rebecca Jane, on August 3rd, her 91st birthday, to her great grand-daughter, Claire and her husband, Lew, whose birthday also fell on that day.

MARRIAGE

Congratulations to:

Dennis and Patricia Downes, of Bristol, on the marriage of their daughter, Susan, to Mr. John Sheppard, on July 21st.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cranch, of Kingsbridge, Devon, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on September 7th.

Mr. and Mrs. William Higgs, of Christchurch, Dorset, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on August 15th.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Duffee, of Seaford, Sussex, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on July 29th.

Mr. and Mrs. Colin Fraser, of Hove, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on August 3rd.

DEATHS

We offer condolences to:

The family and friends of *Mrs. Elizabeth Basson*, of Cheltenham, widow of the late *Major Thomas Basson*, who passed away on June 19th.

Mrs. Irene Bell-Scott, of Hassocks, widow of the late *Capt. Patrick Harry (Peter) Bell-Scott*, whose daughter, *Mrs. Buckie Taylor*, died on August 2nd, following a serious illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Benson, of Billingshurst, on the death of their mother and father respectively. Mr. Albert Benson died on July 13th, and Mrs. Smaile on July 30th.

Mr. Alfred Bradley, of Norwood, on the death of his sister, *Mrs. Betty Aldridge*, of Christchurch, who passed away on May 31st after a short illness.

The family and friends of Mrs. Kathleen Fitzgerald, of Huddersfield, widow of the late *Reginald Fitzgerald*, who passed away on July 22nd.

Mr. Colin Fraser, of Hove, on the death of his father who passed away on March 7th.

The family and friends of Mrs. Margaret Gresson, of Thornton Heath, Surrey, widow of the late *Frank Gresson*, who died on July 29th, aged 78.

The family and friends of Mrs. Dorothy Lloyd, of Blaenavon, Gwent, widow of the late *Evan John Lloyd*, who passed away on September 2nd. She was 95 years of age.

The family and friends of Mrs. Hannah Lund, of Hartlepool, widow of the late *George E. Lund*, who passed away on September 6th.

In Memory

It is with great regret we have to record the deaths of the following St. Dunstaners and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, family and friends.

F.S. Brooke, *Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers*

We are very sorry to report the death of Frank Saville Brooke, who passed away at his home on August 3rd. He was 71 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1956.

Mr. Brooke served as a Corporal with R.E.M.E. from February, 1940 until April, 1946. He became a St. Dunstaner in 1956 when his sight, which had started to give trouble during his army service deteriorated. He trained as a telephonist and then took a post with a firm in Liverpool where he quickly established himself as a valued employee and gave excellent

The family and friends of Mrs. Monica Morgan, of Brighton, widow of the late *Walter Morgan*, who passed away on July 12th.

Mrs. E. Rockshire, of Chingford, Essex, widow of the late *Mr. Rockshire*, on the death of her brother, Howard Lowe, who died on August 13th.

The family and friends of Mrs. Flora Emily Simpson, of Herne Bay, widow of the late *Joseph Simpson*, who passed away on September 2nd.

Mr. Edward Tate, of Barnsley, on the death of his wife, Jenny, who passed away on August 2nd.

The family and friends of Mrs. Dorothy Thomas, of Rustington, West Sussex, widow of the late *Lieut. Edward George Thomas*, who passed away on July 26th, aged 95.

The family and friends of Mrs. Henrietta V. Williams, of Sheffield, widow of the late *James Williams*, who passed away on July 8th.

service. Mr. Brooke suffered much pain over the years with an ophthalmic problem and this, combined with the stress of his wife's death in 1967, made it impossible for him to continue in his post and he gave it up the following year.

In 1969, Mr. Brooke commenced a period of training in joinery which he completed very successfully and this gave a useful and satisfying occupation. Happily, he remarried at the end of 1969 and in the years that followed he enjoyed many hobbies as well as keeping a greenhouse and budgerigar aviary. He also enjoyed the activities of local ex-Service clubs, especially those of his 8th Army comrades and

the El Alamein Reunions, but during the last year Mr. Brooke developed a painful problem which limited his mobility.

His funeral was attended by his local 8th Army comrades including their Standard Bearer who formed a Guard of Honour. Also present were St. Dunstaners Harry Boseley, Ted Cooper and Ted John and their wives.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow, Margaret, his son, Frank, and all other members of the family.

P.E. Carman, *80th Labour Corps*

We are sorry to record the death of Percy Edward Carman, of Leiston, Suffolk, who passed away on August 19th. He was 97 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1946.

Mr. Carman served as a Private in the 80th Labour Corps from 1916 to 1918. He suffered mustard gas poisoning during his Army service and although he spent a short time with St. Dunstan's following his discharge from the service, he was able to follow employment as a farm worker until 1946. In that year he became a St. Dunstaner. His wife died five years later but he remained with members of his family, enjoying a quiet country life in East Anglia.

In 1978, Mr. Carman moved to Leiston to be cared for by his step-daughter, Susan Bloss, and her husband, Frank. Unfortunately, Mrs. Bloss died in 1984, but Mr. Carman was able to remain with Mr. Bloss and his family and, despite declining health still enjoyed his daily walk in the garden.

We send our sincere sympathy to all members of the family and extend our grateful thanks for the devoted care shown to Percy.

T.D. Donnelly, *Pioneer Corps*

We are sad to report the death of Thomas Desmond Donnelly, of Llandudno, North Wales, on August 20th. He was 73 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1945.

Mr. Donnelly served as a Staff Sergeant in the Pioneer Corps from 1940. He already had impaired sight in one eye and lost the other eye as a result of a battle wound. He came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1945 and trained for industrial employment, commencing work in

Birmingham in 1946. This was the beginning of a long career which lasted until he was made redundant in 1975 due to the economic climate at the time.

However, he wasted no time in finding hobby occupations. He first took a woodwork course at H.Q. and then, after he and his wife moved to North Wales, he enjoyed courses in cookery, picture framing and leather work at Ian Fraser House. They also enjoyed holidays at Brighton during the summer and at Christmas.

We extend our sympathy to his widow, Christine, their three children and all members of the family.

A. H. Franklin, *Rifle Brigade*

It is with sadness that we report the death of Mr. Alfred Harold Franklin, of Hoddesdon, who died on July 7th. He was 68 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1943.

Mr. Franklin enlisted in 1941 and served with the Rifle Brigade as Rifleman until his discharge in May 1944. He was wounded at El Alamein and lost both eyes. Before the War he had been employed as a salesman and after the War he worked in industry until his retirement on health grounds in 1970. He greatly enjoyed gardening and also counted housework, which he found very satisfying, among his hobbies.

Mr. Franklin met his wife, Ruby, while at Church Stretton where she taught music, and they celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary in 1986, with a party at a local hotel surrounded by their family.

We send our sincere sympathy to his widow, their three children and all other members of the family.

J.H. Griffiths, *Welsh Regiment*

We are sorry to record the death of Mr. James Henry Griffiths who passed away on July 11th at Pearson House. He was 74 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1948.

He enlisted in 1942 and served as a Private with the Welsh Regiment. He lost his sight as a result of injury sustained during an air raid. Before the War Mr. Griffiths had worked as a bricklayer and after training at St. Dunstan's he

was employed in industry until his retirement on health grounds. His hobbies included joinery and he also enjoyed going on coach trips in the country.

Mr. Griffiths married twice, his second marriage was to Mrs. Betty Wilson, widow of the late Billy Watson, a former St. Dunstaner. She sadly died in 1982, and Mr. Griffiths became a permanent resident at Pearson House.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his daughter and step-daughter and all other members of the family.

A.A. Howell, *Royal Army Catering Corps*

We are sad to report the death of Alfred Arthur Howell, of Colindale, who passed away on September 7th. He was 71 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for 38 years.

Mr. Howell served as a Private in the Royal Army Catering Corps from 1940 to 1942 when he was discharged following an accident. He joined St. Dunstan's in 1952 and trained in industry. Although his health was never good he worked with three firms for over 20 years before taking early retirement on health grounds. From early days he had enjoyed gardening and his second hobby was carpentry. He was a firm believer in Spiritualism.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his children, and all members of the family.

Thomas Coleman McKay, *Royal Engineers*

Tommy McKay died at Pearson House on 24th August after some years of deteriorating health. He will be greatly missed by the Matron and staff at Pearson House and we offer sympathy to his widow, family and friends. A personal tribute appears on another page.

T.I. Meredith

Thelma Ivy Meredith, passed away at Pearson House on August 19th, after a short illness. She was 76 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner since 1943.

Thelma lost her sight and suffered injuries to one hand through the explosion of detonators while working on munitions in 1943. Her rehabilitation began while she was in hospital and continued at Church Stretton where she obtained excellent results in braille, typing, cooking and handicrafts. In due course Thelma taught braille to other St. Dunstaners.

After the death of her mother, Thelma went to live with one of her married sisters near Chester and kept herself happily occupied with her handicraft work, even while undergoing further surgery on her damaged hand. In 1953 she went to stay with another sister in Canada for six months, this was the first of many visits.

It was after the death of her sister, that Thelma came to live at St. Dunstan's but she continued to keep in close touch with her nephew, Edward Cooke and his family.

Although her health had failed in recent years, Thelma always retained her natural grace and ever remained an example of courage.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Edward Cooke, and all her family and friends.

A. Paulson, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Albert Paulson, who died on August 26th.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow, Patricia, and all other members of the family.

W. Tyson, *Royal Navy*

We are sad to record the death of William Tyson, formerly of Cornwall, who passed away at Pearson House on July 21st. He was 81 years of age, and had been a St. Dunstaner for nine years.

Mr. Tyson served as a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1943 until 1946. By profession he was a pharmacist and for many years he had a chemist's shop in Bude. He was a keen athlete and veteran harrier, winning many awards including a medal for finishing the New York Marathon in 1981. He was a life member of the Amateur Athletic Association and ran for the last time in the London Marathon in 1984, at the age of 75.

He and his wife were keen travellers and celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary by going on a tour from Niagara Falls to New Orleans. After living for three years in Saltdean they moved back to the West Country in 1986, but from then on Mr. Tyson was dogged by ill-health, and in March of this year he became a permanent resident at Pearson House.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow, Minnie, to whom he was happily married for almost 59 years, and to all other members of the family.