

BROTHER ABEL HONDERMARCK. SDB.

After sixty years of faithful service there, a familiar figure passed from the Battersea scene with the death, at St. Anthony's Hospital, Cheam, Surrey, on Friday, 10th August 1962, of Abel Hondermarck, a veteran member of the Salesian community at Battersea and a stalwart of the province from the earliest days.

Bro. Abel was born at Wormhoudt, Nord-France in the diocese of Lille on the 14th February 1878. He began a life-long work in the printing trade at Lille, in the Salesian house there, in 1889, as a pupil in the Technical School. In 1894, he entered the novitiate at Marseilles, was temporarily professed at Montpellier in 1896 and made his final profession at Battersea on the 20th October 1907. Meantime he had worked in the Salesian Press at Marseilles, and then, in 1897, at Nice. From 1898-1900 he did his military service and then he returned to the Salesian House at Paris. With the expulsion of the Religious from France he crossed to England and, in 1903, began his long career in the Salesian Press Battersea. Until the closure of the Press twelve months ago he was in charge of the linotyping department and was a model of industry and accuracy. His work was well-known and highly recommended. It was his life.

He was also a talented musician. In the days of Fr. Macey at Battersea, Bro. Abel was a leading figure in the choir and the orchestra at the then famous annual productions of Gilbert and Sullivan operas. His services, too, were in much demand for concerts outside the house.

In latter years he had given up all outside activities and, by his own choice, rarely moved outside the College grounds. He was, above all, a model religious, devoted to his duty and with a profound and reverent sense of his high vocation.

Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was sung in the Salesian College Chapel at Battersea on Monday, August 10th, and the interment followed at the cemetery of the Salesian novitiate Burwash, Sussex.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.