

Old Comrades'



Association

GAZETTE.

Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3.

JULY, 1920.

EDITORIAL.

From the Controller-In-Chief.

It affords me great pleasure to have an opportunity once more of sending a word of greeting to all my old comrades, and I hope that our Gazette will be a means of communication of which all those who served in Q.M.A.A.C. will avail themselves, so that although we are scattered all over the Globe, we may still keep in close touch. I feel confident that the "Gazette" will be an incentive to many to join the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association, and will give useful information with regard to the activities of our organisation. We want many more members.

All good wishes for the success of our "Gazette."

FLORENCE LEACH.

Gazette.

No apology is needed for the first number of the "Gazette." It is sent you in the belief that you will give it a warm welcome and ask for another every month. If this belief is unfounded you will never see it again; the decision rests entirely with you. In the event of your wishing to give the "Gazette" an opportunity of showing what it can do, you are asked to take the necessary action described on the last page. **May the matter be treated as urgent, please.**

It is agreed that there is not much to interest you in this preliminary number, and it is difficult to explain how extremely interesting we intend to be if you will give us a chance. When once the local branches of the Association are in running order there will be enough news to fill many columns, and we hope to keep in touch with members in all parts of the world. Letters which are well worth publishing, describing the adventures of ex-Q.M.A.A.C. in far away countries are already arriving, and a correspondence column will certainly be a feature of any future "Gazette."

Please Note.

There will never be another number of the "Q.M.A.A.C. Gazette," unless you fill up and return the order form on the back page.

The Old Comrade's Association was formed entirely for your benefit. It wants the support of every ex-Waac. You and all your friends must therefore join at once.

OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION.

During the first two years of the existence of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps fifty-six thousand women were enrolled. On looking through the register of the Old Comrades it appears that they have not as yet all joined the Association. This seems another case where action should be taken immediately.

The subscription is only half-a-crown, and although fifty-six thousand half-crowns make seven thousand pounds, which is quite a useful sum of money, it is not so much the money we want as the solidity and unity which the support of such a large body of women must bring with it. There is a very rosy future in store for the O.C.A. if it receives the support it has a right to expect, and practically no limit to the activities it could set on foot.

The history of the Association up to date is briefly as follows: A preliminary meeting was held at the Connaught Club in December when about seven hundred officials and members attended and it was agreed amid much enthusiasm to form the Association. A committee consisting of an equal number of officials and members were elected, with power to add to the number. This committee holds office for a year only. The names will be found in another column. The articles of association have already been circulated to all members.

The O.C.A. has been most fortunate in being allowed the use of excellent offices at the Duke of York's Headquarters. These rooms have been comfortably furnished, and here the Secretary is to be found every day. Members are assured of a hearty welcome and any advice and help which it is in the power of the Association to give.

Up to the present it has been inevitable that the main activities of the committee should be confined to London, but the intention is to start as many local branches as possible, and to decentralize the work. Edinburgh and Liverpool are already setting an excellent example in local government.

Q.M.A.A.C.

Headquarters in Grosvenor Street were handed over on April 30, the Clothing Depot closed a few days earlier, and Connaught Club shut its hospitable doors at the end of March. Records have been moved to the War Office Annexe on the Embankment, and about thirty of the clerks have gone with them as civilians. Miss Young, who has been working for some time in A.G., I.W., has also gone to the War Office until out-standing matters relating to the Corps are finished. There is still an undemobilized unit of sixty women in France. They were left at St. Pol, attached to the Headquarters of the Graves Registration when the others came home last Christmas, and there seems every likelihood of their remaining until next year. We hear excellent accounts of them and know that they are carrying on the best traditions of the Corps. The existence of the St. Pol unit gives us the satisfaction of feeling that we are still a live organisation.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, PLEASE.

Service Women's Association.

This Association has been formed to unite all ex-service women and to safe-guard and foster their interests. Membership is open to all women who enrolled for whole-time service in any of the recognised corps under the direction of a British Government Department. It is hoped that by combined action it will be possible to secure benefits for ex-service women under existing schemes for training, clubs, hostels and convalescent homes, and to administer to the best possible advantage any funds which may be forthcoming. If service women join the Association in sufficiently large numbers it is intended to apply to Lord Byng for a grant from the United Services Fund.

Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association is affiliated to the Service Women's Association, and members are therefore members also of the latter Association without any further payment.

Q.M.A.A.C. Benevolent Fund. This fund is now administered by the Old Comrades' Association, and a special sub-committee has been elected to make recommendations. The fund is a very small one, and is rapidly dwindling, while at present there are no apparent means of increasing it. As far as it will go however it is available for cases of distress among ex-members who cannot be helped by any other means.

Compensation for Injuries and Sickness Arising out of War Service.

In certain cases the Treasury is prepared to consider applications for compensation from disabled service women who do not come under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act. Any woman who is suffering from very serious illness due to the conditions of her employment while with the army, may, even if compensation has already been refused, appeal to the War Office to submit her claim to the Treasury for final decision.

Women's Reserve.

It has been definitely announced by the Secretary of State for War, that the formation of a reserve force of women was under consideration by the War Office. It is understood that when matters are sufficiently far enough advanced a conference will be held. In the meantime certain schemes have been submitted. Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades will be informed when further particulars are available. There have been many inquiries with reference to the reserve and it is regretted that no definite information has been received at present.

Investitures.

Over forty members of the Q.M.A.A.C. were invested with the Medal of the Order of the British Empire on Monday, May 31st, at Wellington Barracks by the General Officer Commanding, London District. There was a large attendance of ex-members of the Corps.

The recipients of the Medals were afterwards entertained to lunch at the Q.M.A.A.C. Hostel, 91 Belgrave Road, S.W. Dame Florence Leach presided.

Q.M.A.A.C. also figured largely at the investiture which took place at Edinburgh Castle on the 12th May, when the medallists were hospitably entertained afterwards by Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., and Miss Low, O.B.E.

One member received the O.B.E. Medal at an investiture at Winchester on June 4th.

Overseas Settlement Within the Empire.

Since April, 1919, women who have served for not less than six months as enrolled members of any recognised corps attached to a Government Department, who wish to settle within the Empire overseas, may obtain a grant of a free passage at the minimum rate to the nearest port of landing, provided they are recommended by the Headquarters of their former corps, and are accepted by the Agent-General of the Dominion concerned. The grant of free passage includes a free railway warrant from place

of residence to port of embarkation. This offer terminates at the end of the present year. Application should be made to the Women's Branch of the Overseas Settlement Committee, 22 Carlisle Place, Victoria Street, S.W., from whom further information can be obtained.

The Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment.

Is empowered to dispense the residue of the Queen's "Work for Women" Fund, and a further sum of £500,000 allocated by the Executive Committee of National Relief Fund. The committee is able to assist in training in cases where it is possible for the applicant to show that her earning capacity or opportunities have been injuriously affected as a result of conditions arising out of the war. Applications must in all cases be made on the committee's form (Form C.C.1.) which can be obtained from all Local Employment Exchanges. A number of Q.M.A.A.C. administrators and members have been successful in obtaining grants.

Women's Legion Household Service Section.

All service women willing to undertake work of a domestic character should communicate with Miss Massey, at Women's Legion Offices, 447 Oxford Street, W. A large number of Q.M.A.A.C. have been successfully placed.

Employment.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that after a somewhat disheartening experience at first the great majority of ex-Q.M.A.A.C. are now settled in civilian employment. Efforts have been made to give them all the help possible by putting them in touch with the various agencies likely to be of use, and by private inquiries.

A number have been helped by the Central Committee for Women's Training, by Women's Service, by the Central Bureau, by the Employment Exchanges, and by the Professional Women's Registry. Several have shown great enterprise in starting schemes of their own, and we hope to be kept informed of their progress.

At the present moment it would seem that the only demand for women's work is in connection with all branches of teaching and in domestic work and nursing.

The Secretary of the O.C.A. is always very glad to hear of any vacancies suitable for ex-Q.M.A.A.C.

Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Club.

This club meets every Thursday evening, from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m., at 91 Belgrave Road, Victoria, S.W. Dancing, games, canteen. Admission free. The club meetings are being well patronised, there being an average attendance of from eighty to one hundred members.

Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Camp.

A summer camp will be held from July 10th to August 5th, inclusive, near Datchett on Thames. Total expenses per week, including board, lodging, use of boats, and railway fare from London, will be about forty shillings. As the accommodation is limited, inquiries should be addressed as soon as possible to Miss Ireland, M.B.E., 12a Sidney Road, St. Margaret's-on-Thames.

Q.M.A.A.C. Dinner.

For officials who served with the British Armies in France was held at the Florence Restaurant, Rupert Street, W., on June 25th. President, Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan; Vice-President, Miss L. Dewy; guest of the evening, Dame Florence Leach. Eighty-four officials were present.

Army of the Rhine.

The administrators who were attached to the Provost Marshall's branch of the Army of the Rhine in Cologne are having a dinner in London in the autumn, when Mrs. Feiling will preside.

Q.M.A.A.C. Unit Camp 1, Attached Advanced M.T. Depot (Abbeville and Calais).

A reunion lunch will be held at the Florence Restaurant, Rupert Street, on July 17th, at 1 p.m. Tickets 8/6. Application should be made to Miss E. M. Clowes, O.B.E., Hambledon, Godalming.

ENTERTAINMENTS AND SPORTS SUB-COMMITTEE.

Report for Months, February, March, April, and May.

The first meeting of the above sub-Committee was held on March 30th, 1920, when the following elections were made:—

Miss Gibson as chairman, Miss Chapman as Secretary, and the following members were co-opted, and agreed to serve:—

Miss B. Richardson, Miss D. A. Taylor, Miss Baron, Miss Colin Bayley, Miss H. M. Thompson. Miss Baron and Miss Taylor have unfortunately had to leave London for the present, but it is hoped that they will continue to serve on their return.

Social Meetings.

The first social gathering was held on February 28th, at Connaught Club. This was before the Entertainments and Sports Sub-Committee was elected. The meeting was a great success, both socially and financially, a balance of £5 17s. 1d. being handed to the Treasurer towards the general funds of the Association.

During the months of March and April the following social evenings were arranged:—

On March 27th, at 21 Southampton Street.

On April 10th, at 28 Warwick Square.

On April 24th, at 44 Gloucester Place.

The Administrators in charge of these Hostels kindly acted as hostesses, and entirely organised the evening's entertainments and refreshments. Each evening was a great success, and thoroughly enjoyed by all members present. Progressive games, musical entertainments, whist drives, dancing, and other amusements were all much appreciated.

Social Clubs.

Mrs. Parkes has very kindly lent two of the rooms of her hostel for the use of members every Thursday evening, from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m., till such time as a suitable club room is obtained. The club is entirely free to all members. An excellent canteen has been arranged. One room is kept for quiet games, such as cards, etc., the other for dancing. Various members have kindly consented to act as pianists. The club is very well patronised, there being an average attendance of about 100. One member of the Entertainments and Sports Sub-Committee is on duty each club night, various other members go for some period of the evening

NEWS OF MEMBERS.

It will perhaps be as well to begin with a brief report of the doings of the officers of the Association up to date, as members may like to know the whereabouts of those who have been chosen to represent them.

The President, Dame Florence Leach, returned from abroad just after Easter, and it was announced in the "Gazette" that she "relinquished her appointment as Controller-in-Chief, Q.M.A.A.C. to date from April 30th." Dame Florence had been on the unpaid list since January. She is living in London, and is frequently at the Offices of the O.C.A.

Mrs. Chalmers Watson is the Chairman of the Board of the new weekly paper, "Time and Tide." She has been instrumental in starting the Edinburgh branch of the O.C.A., which promises to be very flourishing.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan resigned her appointment at the Air Ministry before Christmas, and returned to her post in the University of London. She is taking a keen interest in the work of the O.C.A., and the fact that she is President of the W.R.A.F. Association ought to make for co-operation and prevent overlapping in our activities.

Dr. Turnbull has taken up a post under the Ministry of Health, where Dr. Eaton is also working.

Miss Davy has been in the North of Scotland, but arrived in London for the Overseas Dinner and is helping with the London Branch of the O.C.A.

Miss Hilda Horniblow is in charge of one of the Centres for the training of demobilised women, under the Ministry of Labour, and her sister, Edith, is on her staff.

Lady Markham was elected an honorary vice-president of the Association in recognition of her work in starting the Active Service Club, which proved itself a boon to so many members of the Corps. Lady Markham has made most generous gifts of furniture and equipment to the O.C.A. and the hostels.

Dr. Roberts is a member of the Marylebone Borough Council, and is on countless committees connected with social work; her expert knowledge will be of great value to the Association.

Miss Edith Thompson was not demobilised until the end of June; she is engaged in writing the official history of the Corps and is actively interested in the work of the O.C.A.

Mrs. Esslemont has an important post as Lady Superintendent of the Borough Polytechnic, S.E.

Miss Ireland, after her six months with the League of Nations Union, has recently been appointed Organising Secretary to a scheme in connection with the federation of professional women. She is working in the same building in Westminster as **Miss Haythorne**, who is secretary of the

The achievements of **Mrs. Parkes**, if chronicled in full would fill the columns of the Gazette. She has now two large houses full of Ex-Q.M.A.A.C., and is just about to open a third. No homeless Waac is ever turned away from Mrs. Parkes' doors if room can be found by hook or by crook, and no demand on the part of the Old Comrades' on Mrs. Parkes' time, patience, or good nature has ever been refused.

Four members of the Committee, **Miss Gwythr-Jones**, **Miss Cox**, **Mrs. Moore** and **Mrs. Kilkelly** were decorated with the medal of the Order of the British Empire on May 31st. **Miss Gwythr-Jones** is employed at "The Times" Book Club, but hopes to start on a course of physical training in the Autumn. **Miss Shoubridge**, who is working with her at "The Times," also hopes to take up physical training as a profession.

Mrs. Arnold Jolly, the Hon. Treasurer, will be better known to most Old Comrades as **Miss Learoyd**, the Controller of Administration. She has worked very hard to give the O.C.A. a good start.

Miss Ethel Thomas, the Secretary, must have come into contact with nearly every member of the Corps, either as Clothing Controller or as Controller, London District. She now sits in the Association's Offices at the Duke of Yorks' Headquarters, and waits for the 56,000 to walk in and enrol.

This briefly disposes of the Committee, and also unfortunately of all the available space. If you decide to have another number will you please let me know what you are all doing? This column is by no means to be confined to ex-controllers in future.

All communications should be addressed to the Editor.

APPOINTMENTS VACANT.

Secretary to the Principal Warden, Edinburgh Hostels for Women Students. Candidate must possess a University degree or the equivalent, must be experienced in the routine of an office and be an expert typist. Experience in a residential college desirable. Salary £100 resident. Five to seven weeks holiday annually. Apply immediately to the Principal Warden, Buchanan Hostel, East Suffolk Road, Edinburgh.

Maid—Companion to invalid lady. In the country. Salary £40-£50. Apply Secretary, O.C.A.

Secretary. Greek, shorthand typing essential. Good salary. Apply Secretary, O.C.A.

Lady Cook. American convalescent hospital in France. Salary 200 francs a month, all found. Urgent. Apply Secretary, O.C.A.

Canteen Cook. Hours 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Salary 27/6 and meals per week. Apply Secretary, O.C.A.

OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION.

OFFICERS FOR 1920.

President:

Dame **FLORENCE LEACH.**

Vice-Presidents:

Mrs. **CHALMERS WATSON.** Miss **HILDA HORNIBLOW.**
 Dame **HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN.** Lady **MARKHAM.**
 Miss **DAVY.** Dr. **TURNBULL.**

General Committee:

Dr. ROBERTS.	Miss COX.
Miss EDITH THOMPSON.	Miss A. L. ATKINSON.
Mrs. ESSELMONT.	Mrs. PARKES.
Miss IRELAND.	Miss MANSFIELD.
Miss CHAPMAN.	Miss GWYTHR-JONES.
Miss HAYTHORNE.	Mrs. KILKELLY.
Miss GIBSON.	Mrs. MOORE.
Miss STEVENS.	Miss HAZELDEN.
Miss CROWTER.	Miss OGDEN.
Mrs. WALLIS.	

Hon. Treasurer:

Mrs. **ARNOLD JOLLY.**

Secretary:

Miss **E. THOMAS.**

Q.M.A.A.C. ENTERPRISES.

"Waac" Unit No. 1 Residential Club for Ex-Service Women.—Mrs. Parkes, 91 Belgrave Road, S.W.1.

Residential Club for Ex-Administrators.—Miss G. Watson, 15 Campden House Road, W.8.

Residential Club for Ex-Service Women.—Miss Bates and Miss Lorrimer, St. Mary's Hostel, 63 St. George's Road, S.W.1.

Residential Club.—Miss Tiltman and Miss E. M. Thring, St. Mary Abbott's Terrace, Kensington, W.8.

The Brownies Restaurant.—Mrs. Grimson, 96 Shoe Lane, E.C.4.

The Manhattan Luncheon and Tea Rooms.—Miss Grace Fletcher, 13 Kensington High Street.

Rendezvous Cafe.—Miss C. Hickson and Miss Palliser, 17 Duke Street, Brighton.

Luncheon and Tea Rooms.—Mrs. Lace Pritchard and Miss Robinson, Southbourne, near Bournemouth (shortly to be opened).

The Remy Car Company, Ltd.—Miss I. Macdonald and Miss Hodgson, Abercorn Mansions, Abercorn Place, Maida Vale, N.W.8. (Cars for hire, owner-driver.)

The Central Typewriting and Duplicating Company.—Miss M. Shepherd and Mrs. Fowler, 110-111 Strand, W.C.