

Old Comrades'



Association

GAZETTE.

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

SEPTEMBER, 1920, No. 3.

3/6 per ann. post free.

EDITORIAL.

The Gazette.

The next number will be published on October 14th. Subscriptions are still welcome, and unless the back numbers are wanted the year will date from receipt of postal order.

Some very nice letters accompanied the subscriptions, and no paper can ever have had a more hearty and generous welcome. Please accept our warm thanks for giving the "Gazette" such a splendid send-off.

We are not going to worry much about the literary merit of this paper: it is too small. So even if you were not good at writing essays at school, do not hesitate to send us all your news and to write a chatty letter when you feel inclined. Our object is to keep in touch with as many Old Comrades as possible, and not necessarily to make a mark in the journalistic world.

It will avoid confusion if you will add your old Corps number or rank when writing, as with such a large membership the same names are bound to recur.

Ex-Service Women in the Civil Service.

An important report on the staffing of Government offices was issued recently by the Committee appointed to consider the arrangements for appointing ex-Service men to posts in the Civil Service. The Committee consider that ex-Service women should be treated on the same footing as ex-Service men and, in the matter of retention, should have priority over non-service men and women; and when the reduction of staffs has reached a point which necessitates the discharge of ex-Service personnel no differentiation should be made solely on the grounds of sex.

Overseas Settlement.

The offer of free passages to the Dominions and Colonies made to ex-Service women by the Imperial Government will close on December 31st, and it would appear that, in spite of the opportunities offered in these countries, and the fact that many ex-Service women have found it difficult to settle down after their experiences overseas and at home, the number offering themselves for passages is comparatively small.

The emigration department for New South Wales, for instance, are only shipping thirty ex-Service women a month (250 in all have been sent out), whereas they could deal with 100 a month with ease. The value of the passage to Australia, taking it at its lowest figure, is £40, and those who wished to do so could nominate later suitable relatives for the Australian Government's scheme of assisted passages.

The Australian emigration authorities would welcome any number of suitable ex-Service women for domestic work. In New Zealand also there are some excellent openings at the moment, especially for ex-officers. Full information can be obtained on application. These free

passages are open to ex-Service women under 35. The Overseas Settlement Offices are at the Windsor Hotel, Victoria Street, S.W.

Employment.

Dr. Macnamara, after stating in the House of Commons on August 11th that there are 48,000 women and 12,000 girls on the registers of the Employment Exchanges, of whom 22,000 are drawing unemployment benefit, added: "About 700 ex-members of the women's corps are in receipt of out-of-work donation." That this figure is so low is very creditable to the women concerned, who are a very large number, even if the Minister's answer only refers to the regularly enrolled women who served with the Navy, Army and Air Force. Of the 700 probably quite a small percentage are Q.M.A.A.C. This does not mean however, that every demobilised Waac has found exactly the job she wants. On the contrary there has been a good deal of difficulty about this, and many girls have sensibly decided to take the first suitable post that offered, even though the work might not be quite congenial. When once in a post it ought to be comparatively easy to "better oneself," and move on in due course to a more attractive and perhaps better paid position, for curiously enough, experience shows that it is much easier to find another post when you are already at work of some kind. Employers seem reluctant to engage anyone who is actually out of work.

The problem of suitable employment is however becoming more and more difficult, and in this country and the overseas dominions as well, the only real demand is for teachers and domestic workers. Those who came under these two categories before the war very likely do not realise the far-reaching alterations that have taken place in both occupations during the last few years. In pay, holidays, and general conditions they compare very favourably indeed with any other walk in life. And after all, if you do not like the post you happen upon first, you can always leave it after a fair trial and try somewhere else. You are not obliged to "enrol for the duration" any longer.

The nursing profession may be included under the domestic category, and here there are any number of openings for the right type of woman. The lack of nurses which is now being experienced all over the country is a serious matter. Even large city hospitals are feeling the trouble, and in smaller institutions it is said to be acute. Girls will not come forward for training, nor does there seem to be any likelihood of a change for the better.

The clerical outlook is very gloomy at present. There is a regular glut of clerks and secretaries of all grades, and the supply greatly exceeds the demand. Of course there is always room at the top, but it is only fair to warn you that every shorthand-typist does not become the highly-paid secretary of a Member of Parliament.

There is practically no out of doors work available either. The few posts that were vacant have been filled by the Land Army, but in the majority of cases the work is being undertaken by men.

SERVICE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

Since the inauguration of the Service Women's Association in March of this year the energies of the Committee have been mainly directed towards formulating schemes for hostel accommodation, convalescent home and hospital treatment for its members. Some delay was at first experienced in getting these schemes laid before the United Services Fund. When the Women's Sub-Committee of the Fund was formed the S.W.A. was invited to nominate a representative to serve on it. We were fortunate in being able to persuade Dame Florence Leach to undertake this important work, and she has been successful in obtaining very sympathetic and favourable consideration for our proposals.

It is now confidently hoped that the grant applied for will be forthcoming at an early date, when it will be possible to set these various schemes in motion without further delay.

Membership has steadily increased, and the question of the lines on which the provincial organisation should be developed is now under discussion.

A branch already exists in the Channel Islands, another is in contemplation in Glasgow, and Miss Dickson, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., who is shortly returning to Australia, has promised to interest herself in the matter as soon as she arrive in Sidney.

M. E. GLYN,
Gen. Sec.; S.W.A.

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

Every member of the O.C.A. should take a keen interest in the Headquarters Office, so a few facts about it will not be out of place in this number of the Gazette.

To begin with, the address is on every number of the paper. We are the guests of the Territorial Force Association, who most generously give us the use of two rooms fitted with electric light and telephone. The furniture is our own, and each piece has its Corps history. The decorations include silver cups presented to members and camps, the Queen's Cup holding of course the place of honour.

A signed portrait of Her Majesty, and one of the Controller in Chief hang on the walls, together with an illuminated letter of thanks from the Director General of Transportation, A.E.F., and an autograph letter from the Prime Minister. The flag carried by our detachment in the peace procession is a treasured, but rather top-heavy, trophy.

The usual office hours are 9.30 to 5, but the Secretary will always see members in the evening, provided she is given time to adjust her arrangements.

Miss Atkinson, the first Hon. Secretary, opened the doors in January last, and did all the heavy spade work of organisation. In March it was decided to engage a paid Secretary for six months. That period is now almost at an end, and the members of the Committee at their next meeting will make plans for the future. The final decision must of course be theirs, but all suggestions and opinions are welcomed and will have consideration.

The term of office for the present committee, whose names appeared in the July number of the Gazette, expires in January next, when a General Meeting will be held and a fresh election take place.

LOCAL BRANCHES.**Edinburgh and East of Scotland.**

An enamel badge bearing the inscription, "Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades, Scotland," may now be obtained from the Secretary by members of the Association for 2s. 6d. each.

It was a great pleasure to see Miss Ireland when she passed through Edinburgh last week.

We are looking forward to a visit from Dame Florence Leach on September 7th, and are inviting all Comrades to meet her that evening.

London.

The Summer Camp terminated on August 10th. Although the weather was not ideal, fifty-six Old Com-

rades visited the Camp. It was most encouraging to receive a visit from Dame Florence Leach, and it also cheered us to think that one Old Comrade came all the way from Ireland, and another from Worcestershire, in order to spend a few days with us.

It was generally agreed that everyone enjoyed themselves, and the Camp was a success, both socially and financially. We should like to express through the columns of the Gazette very grateful thanks to Miss E. Gilchrist, who came from Glasgow in order to assist with the running of the Camp.

The re-unions on Thursday evenings at 91 Belgrave Road still continue to attract many new members. Since the formation of the branch in July 121 new members have been enrolled.

The re-union dinner arranged by the London Branch to be held at Pinoli's Restaurant, 17 Wardour Street, W., on October 15th, at 7.15 p.m., is not exclusively for London members, and it is very much hoped that many country members will find it possible to be present.

The first ramble arranged by the branch took place on Saturday afternoon, August 14th. Thirty-five enthusiastic Old Comrades met at West Wickham Station and walked to Addington Woods, where a very substantial old-fashioned tea of home-made cakes and jam received full justice. The walk was continued through winding paths and wheatfields over Hayes Common to Beckenham. Very grateful thanks are due to Mrs. and Miss Comyns Lewer for their kindness in entertaining the party to supper at their house at Beckenham, and thus giving a very pleasant finale to the first ramble.

A second ramble took place on Sunday, August 29th, and like the first, proved very enjoyable. The walkers met at Chingford Station in the morning and soon got into the woods of Epping Forest. After a picnic lunch the walk was resumed through a more open part of the forest where some patches of heather formed a pleasant resting place before proceeding to Loughton for tea. After tea the ramblers visited a nursery and inspected two fields of most beautiful roses, then returned to town, having spent a very pleasant day.

Liverpool.

The general Secretary was able during her holiday in July to accept the long standing invitation of the Liverpool Branch to one of their social evenings. Unfortunately she had to leave before the meeting was really in full swing, in order to catch the very early last train, but she found time to see several old friends from London District and to make some new acquaintances with members from several camps overseas and commands at home and to hear of their present life and doings.

Like all city branches, matters were almost at a standstill during the summer, and the bad weather had rather spoiled plans for rambles and sports. But all the members were full of enthusiasm and seemed very interested to hear of the general working scheme of the Old Comrades Association and the constitution of the General Committee. There was no doubt whatsoever of their pleasure in meeting one another, or their appreciation of the efforts of the promoters of the Liverpool Branch. The Secretary would like to thank them again for the happy evening she spent with them and the cordial welcome they gave her.

Manchester.

Several new members have joined this branch since last month. There is not much activity just now however, owing to the holidays. On Sunday, August 8th, a picnic party spent a very enjoyable day at Marple. The committee will meet at the end of September to arrange a winter programme.

Reports from Local Branches must be received by the 1st of every month.

Signals Re-union.—A party of Old Comrades spent a week at Boxhill, Surrey, September 11th-18th. Miss I. M. Robinson was responsible for the arrangements.

NEWS OF MEMBERS.

South Africa.

Miss L. P. Dennis writes from the Rhodes' Hostel, Mowbray, Cape Town.—“The work here is most interesting. I meet all the ships and get railway and luggage concessions, etc., for all my passengers; put them up for a few days and generally use the house as a sort of base for women settlers going up country. I have a permit for going on board these ships as soon as they are docked, and am the only woman who has one. I have an office at the docks as well as at the hostel. I meet first and second class passengers and have several times met people I know. . . . Two Waac officers, **Mrs Eldred** and **Miss Stokes**, stayed with me. I have just got in touch with **Miss Eastgate**, and am still looking for **V. D. Haigh**. . . . I have had a good deal of minor domestic worries and some illness among my staff. One cook used to pin notices on Saturday mornings on both front and back doors, saying, “No admittance. Cook cleaning stove.” But she never cleaned it. . . . One of the third class passengers tipped me half-crown at the docks last week.”

Miss Dennis is in charge of the Hostel run in connection with the Overseas Settlement Committee. We have put her into touch with **Miss Stillwell** (Records) who is now Secretary to the Navy League in Cape Town. **Miss Maud B. Thomas** (Clerk at Headquarters) sailed on the Saxon on 23rd August to work with Miss Stillwell.

Miss I. Bowditch writes from S. Gwelo, S. Rhodesia, but gives no news of her venture to settle ex-Service Women on the land. **Miss G. C. Russell** has also been living in South Africa since she was demobilised.

Canada.

Old Comrades in Canada are increasing rapidly, **Miss Ethel G. Rogers** (Overseas) and **Miss J. F. E. Elmhurst** both write from Alberta. **Miss Agnes Hawley** (Havre), **Miss Cunningham** (Boulogne), and **Miss Celia S. Thorne** (420) sailed for Canada in August.

Serbia.

Miss Mary Geddle (Scottish Command) went to Serbia on 3rd July as Asst. Secretary to S.W.H. Child Welfare Association. She has been engaged in visiting Hostels, Orphanages and Institutions situated in towns on the banks of the Danube.

Poland.

Miss Clay and **Miss Constance Smith**, both of whom have been working with the Friends Relief Committee, write from Berlin, where they have been spending their leave. **Miss Smith** has just become engaged to be married to an American, and will shortly go out to the States.

Egypt and Palestine.

Miss Rose A. Batty (Bostal Heath and Connaught Club) writes at length from Alexandria. She hopes to start an Egyptian Branch in October. She says, “It is sad not to be near enough to attend any of the socials, but I shall look forward very much to doing so when I am in England, as I hope to be next summer. I am finding life out here very novel and interesting, despite the great heat. My work consists in helping my brother, who is the English chaplain, and is very much the same that it would be in a parish in England. In the autumn I hope to visit the Holy Land and Cairo, and Upper Egypt, which I am looking forward to tremendously, but I often think of the dear old days at Connaught Club and Bostall, and wish very much that one could live them all over again. We certainly had very happy times and very interesting work, and I think we all miss the corporate life of the corps very much indeed.”

Miss Sarah Slater (40027) will be living in Palestine for the next few years. Her address is c/o Main Supply Depot, Ludd, Palestine.

China.

Miss Lilian Hooper (Headquarters, London District) writes from Peking as follows: “I arrived here on 4th May, after eight weeks' travelling. I have come as Secretary to the Managing Director of an engineering concern here, but do not at all care for the life or place. I have

therefore made up my mind to return to England next spring, and should be very glad to “do things” for the Corps if I have time. I met an old Waac administrator from London District (whose name I know not) out here a while ago. I think she teaches Chinese children in what they call the Anglican Mission. Please give my love to the whole Corps.”

At Home.

Miss Isabel Gilmour (U.A. Perth) is taking an active interest in Edinburgh and East of Scotland O.C.A.

Miss Mabel F. Harvey is at the G.F.S. Home, Criccieth, North Wales. She will be glad to get in touch with any Q.M.A.A.C. within reach, and to hear from old comrades.

Mrs. Leonard (U.A. Bedford) is the Lady Superintendent of the domestic department of the Domestic Workers' Bureau Ltd., in Leeds. The work is most interesting, but it is difficult to find the right type of worker. There is a great demand for service women. Arrangements have been made with the G.F.S. at Leeds for accommodation in their hostels.

We shall be glad to hear from the **Ordination College, Knutsford**, where a number of Q.M.A.A.C. are employed.

Mrs. Caborne has been spending her time since she was demobilised in “The Snail Shell” Caravan, crawling over most of the southern counties. Some of her experiences have been most amusing. She is now somewhere in Wiltshire, and has taken a house in Shropshire as a permanent abode. She has already started for her new home, but does not expect to arrive for two months, as her “Snail” crawls slowly. She wants the addresses of I. Grant (forewoman clerk) and Q. Clare (laundress) can anyone help?

Mrs. Pyke (nee Chubb), formerly Assistant Controller on the Recruiting Staff, has given up her post in connection with Women's Service, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. **Miss Betty Richardson** was also working in the same office, and **Miss E. D. Allen** (France) has been appointed there. **Miss Richardson** is starting a physical training course in September.

Miss Haines (U.A. Bovington) and **Mrs. Hopkins** (U.A. Clipstone) are both doing secretarial work in London.

Miss Adeline Bourne (B.E.F., and Cologne Leave Club) is special appeal secretary to the Princess Helena Hostels Scheme.

Miss N. F. Corner (Boulogne Area) is training in domestic science at the Battersea Polytechnic. **Miss Allen** (head clerk Q.M.A.A.C. Headquarters, G.H.Q., France) has finished a course of training as a secretary, and hopes to get a post in London later on, but has been trying vainly to get back to France. **Miss Bartlett** (London District) is working at the Foreign Office, and giving a lot of help to the London Branch of the O.C.A. **Miss Feiling** (Recruiting) has been at the Service Women's Headquarters in Victoria Street for some time, and **Miss Bowen** (Headquarters Q.M.A.A.C.) is secretary to a section of the Overseas Settlement Committee at the Hotel Windsor. **Miss Nora Stack** (Recruiting) is secretary to the Society for Equal Citizenship.

Miss G. Murray (Haines Park and Cologne) is librarian at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. **Miss Renny Tallyour** (Lowestoft and France) is managing a hostel in Cornwall Gardens, S.W.

Miss Winifred Wilton writes from Leeds as follows: “You ask in the Gazette for particulars of members. I am a teacher of domestic science in the West Riding of Yorkshire, was there before the war, then went as lady cook in a war hospital near Chichester for two years, then enrolled in the Women's Legion early in 1917, demobilised the end of 1919, and returned to my own work January, 1920. I keep in touch with two or three members, and through them I hear of the happenings of the O.C.A., as they belong to the Household Service Section, and are working in London. Can anyone supply the address of **Miss Baker**, late U.A. Chadderton Depot?”

Mrs. Violet Foster is taking a course of midwifery in Bath, and will be there until April next.

Miss Irena Goodman (Patrol Section and Cologne) writes to tell us that she is working very hard for her massage certificate, and will shortly start on the remedial exercise and electricity course.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, September 25th.—Ramble from Richmond, through Richmond Park to Putney. Approximate distance, five miles. Assemble at the No. 33 'Bus Terminus at Richmond at 3.15. Members going from London can travel by L. & S.W.Rly., District Rly., or No. 33 'bus from Charing Cross.

Friday, October 15th—Re-Union Dinner.—To be held at Pinoli's Restaurant, 17 Wardour Street, W.1. (near Piccadilly Circus) at 7.15 p.m. Tickets 5/6. As the accommodation is limited, it is hoped that members who wish to be present will make their applications—accompanied by a remittance of 5/6—not later than September 11th, in order to avoid disappointment. It is suggested that the seats shall be arranged according to units, will members therefore, who have served in more than one unit, kindly state to which unit they wish their seats allotted.—Apply B. Ireland, Hon. Secretary, 12a Sidney Road, St. Margaret's-on-Thames.

Saturday, September 18th.—Q.M.A.A.C. Unit, Wimereux. A re-union dinner will be held in London on September 18th. For tickets apply to Mrs. Dundas, c/o Miss Watts, 4 Upper Park Road, Hampstead.

Saturday, November 6th.—Bazaar, New Gallery, Edinburgh.—Will all Scottish Q.M.A.A.C. send donations to the Sec., Miss J. H. Cowan, 6 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.

Answers to Correspondents.

E.N.E. (1215).—We have no local branch at Stoke-on-Trent yet. Are you in touch with any Old Comrades in your neighbourhood? You might get a branch going.

M.P. (Washford).—No, it is never too late to subscribe to the Gazette. We only mentioned July 14th because we had to have some kind of a guarantee before embarking on a second number.

N.H. (Clifton), N.B. (Landford), J.F.E., and many others.—See answer above. Subscriptions are always welcome, and so is news of your doings.

I.L.K. (Folkestone).—No, the award of the medal of the Order of the British Empire does not entitle you to put the letters O.B.E. after your name. This is correct only if you are appointed an officer of the order. (1) Discharge badges were issued to those who were invalided out of the Corps.

ARMY OF OCCUPATION.—You are in exactly the same position as the home service people, who also have no ribbon or medal to show for their work with the Army. The case is just the same for men and women. In our opinion those who worked for three and four years at home during the war, many of them in positions of real danger, are more deserving of recognition than those who have had the "time of their lives" on the Rhine, after the Armistice. But the whole matter has been represented to the authorities over and over again.

UNIT 3, SIGNALS.—We thoroughly enjoyed your poem, but the Gazette on its present economical lines cannot launch out into publishing poetry. We never realised before that Deputy Controllers were so easy to deal with, nor Overseas workers so difficult.

Maresfield Park.

There seems to be a Waac unit still in existence here, though officially demobilised. Miss N. Corse writes as follows: "As you ask what we are all doing, I thought you might be interested to hear that twenty ex-Waacs are employed here in the two officers' messes, and have been ever since we were demobilised. We don't feel much like civilians even yet, as we have never left the camp. It speaks well for the Waacs, that they wanted us to stay on. We all came from the Bedford Centres: A. B. and C. being represented as well as Haines Park, Dunstable, and Wellingborough. In a few week's time I am leaving to be married, but that will not affect my interest in the O.C.A."

APPOINTMENTS VACANT.

RATES.—Members of O.C.A. three lines free of charge, space permitting, every additional line 1/-. Non-members, 3/6 two lines; 1/6 each additional line.]

Good Governess Wanted to start small school for officers' children (ages 5–10) at Aldershot; suitable room provided; excellent opening.—Apply Miss Roads, Southbourne, Twyford, Winchester.

Ordination Test School, Knutsford, Cheshire. Entire Staff Q.M.A.A.C. (12). Two Pantry Maids, one Scullery Maid wanted at once; £30.—Apply Miss Robinson (formerly Administrator), at above address.

Table Maid. Miss Low, late D.C. Havre and Calais, requires House Table Maid, middle of October, for Edinburgh. Q.M.A.A.C. cook kept. Overseas member if possible.—Apply 12 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.

Waac Staff Wanted. Good Cook-general and House-parlourmaid; also married Waac who understands laundry and dairy, with husband who can garden, milk a cow and look after small engine. Nice furnished cottage, three bed-rooms, good garden, coal, oil and milk; boy old enough to help welcomed.—Apply Mrs. Caborne, Loppington Hall, Wem., Salop.

Good Plain Cook (Q.M.A.A.C.) required for Surrey, 18 miles from Waterloo; Q.M.A.A.C. housemaid and butler (ex-Marine) kept; Women's Institute in village.—Apply c/o Miss Edith Thompson, O.C.A. Office.

Reliable Q.M.A.A.C. Wanted. General Help for small maisonette; very plain cooking; good wages and every consideration; comfortable home.—Apply Sister F. Finlay, National Orthopaedic Hospital, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Cook-maress Wanted for Canteen; £2/10/- and lunch and tea; 50–100 meals.—Apply Miss Morris, "Times" Office, Printing House Square, E.C.4.

Q.M.A.A.C. Cook-Housekeeper wanted to run 6-roomed house in Chelsea; help given; £40-£45.—Apply Mrs. Burrell, 38 Eaton Terrace, S.W.

Wanted, a reliable ex-Service woman to do Housework; wages £45; good home, and every other Sunday afternoon and evening off, also one afternoon and evening a week.—Apply Mrs. F. Newton, 276 Willesden Lane, N.W.2.

Upper Housemaid for Students' Hostel in Clapham; wages £28 to £30; five maids kept; 31 students; but no mid-day meal except Saturdays and Sundays; very good holidays.—Apply Miss I. M. Fitzgerald, St. Margaret's, Kingsland, Nr. Plymouth.

POSTS WANTED.

Children's Nurse in London. Crèche experience.—Apply, stating salary offered, Box 1003, O.C.A. Office.

Dressmaker, fully skilled, fine hand-work, wants home orders.—Miss E. Aldridge, 63 Sandilands Road, Fulham, S.W.

LOCAL BRANCHES.

Manchester Branch—Hon. Sec.: Miss Darwent, 12 St. Werburgh's Road, Chorlton-Cum-Hardy.

Liverpool Branch—Chairman: Miss Moss, 75 Grove Street, Liverpool.

Glasgow Branch—Hon. Sec.: Miss Gilchrist, 13 Royal Terrace, West Glasgow.

Ayrshire Branch—Miss Sloan, 47 Fort Street, Ayr.

Plymouth—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Marrack Harvey, 20 Carfrae Terrace, Lipson, Plymouth.

Leeds—Mrs. Leonard, 11 Blenheim Terrace, Leeds.

Dorset and Bournemouth—Miss Lever, 105 Sea View Road, Parkstone, Dorset.

S. Wales—Miss Owen, The Palace, Abergwili, Carmarthenshire.

Brighton—Miss Cable, 8 Langdale Road, Hove.

Edinburgh and East of Scotland—Joint Hon. Secs.: Miss May Finlay and Miss J. H. Cowan, 45 Minto Street, Edinburgh.

London and District—Hon. Sec.: Miss B. Ireland, 12a Sydney Road, St. Margaret's-on-Thames.

Further list will be in next month's magazine.

Seymour-Jones.

To Capt. and Mrs. Donald Seymour-Jones (née Millicent E. Baggs), at 3 Carlton Villas, Wrexham, on 9th August, a daughter (Gwynneth Millicent).

Hargreaves.

A marriage has been arranged between Capt. W. H. F. Crowe, M.C., R.F.A. and Mabel Florentia, elder daughter of J. R. Hargreaves and Mrs. Hargreaves, of Arborfield Hall, Berkshire, and Drinkstone Park, Suffolk.

Miss Clowes, O.B.E., was married in August.