

# Old Comrades'



# Association

## GAZETTE.

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

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### EDITORIAL

#### The General Secretary.

All members of the Association will regret the departure from the office at the Duke of York's of Miss Ethel Thomas, who has been general secretary for the last year. Miss Atkinson (late Controller, Scottish Command) generously gave her services during the first three months and started the Association on such a sound basis that it was soon apparent that the organisation would grow too large to be carried on entirely by voluntary workers. Miss Thomas (Controller, London District) was therefore appointed for six months, and this was afterwards extended to a year. It is due to her initiative that most of the local branches have been formed, and her unfailing kindness and sympathy have been specially valuable in administering the Benevolent Fund. Applicants have found in Miss Thomas a real friend in need, and she and Mrs. Parkes between them have never been too tired or too busy to do everything possible to help an Old Comrade out of her difficulties.

The Committee feels that thanks to the efforts of these pioneers, the office work can now be carried on by a part-time Secretary. Mrs. Jackson (late Miss L. M. Rogers, Connaught Club and Clothing Depot) has accepted the post. Mrs. Jackson is already hon. treasurer of the Association, and has done a great deal of useful work for us in a voluntary capacity.

#### Special Effort to Increase Membership.

The General Committee at the April meeting will consider suggestions for a special recruiting campaign which will have for its object the endeavour to get into touch with ex-members of the Corps who have up to now heard nothing of the Association. The success of this effort will really depend on each individual member providing the addresses of any of their friends who have not yet joined the O.C.A. These addresses, and whenever possible personal letters to be enclosed, should be sent to local branch Secretaries, who will send enrolment forms, leaflets and a copy of this number of the Gazette, and who will defray the cost of postage. This will be refunded later to the local Secretary.

Suggestions are invited for a new leaflet to replace the preliminary one still in use at present. It is proposed to incorporate the enrolment form in this, and also the order form for the Gazette, and the Badge.

Members are asked to send in their ideas of the best way to discover ex-members of the Corps, either to the General Secretary or to local Secretaries. Offers of help will be gratefully received.

The membership of the Association shows a steady and a satisfactory increase, but the O.C.A. is now such a thoroughly "going concern" and we who belong, appreciate its advantages so enormously, that we feel it is up to us to organise a search for some of our missing old comrades, and give them the chance of hearing about, and ultimately sharing, the benefits we lucky ones already enjoy.

#### Q.M.A.A.C. to the Fore.

Not content with cropping up in every part of the globe ex-Q.M.A.A.C. are always to the front in any event of importance. In the last number we heard of the Queen's visit to our Hostel in London, and of Miss Neale being presented to the Prince at Sydney, N.S.W. A week after her inspection of the Hostel Her Majesty paid an official visit to Oxford and the women's colleges. At Somerville Miss Haythorne (D.C.C.) and Mrs. Kilroy Kenyon (Controller) and Miss Holtby (F/W.) were among those past and present students who received her, and noticing their medals, Her Majesty stopped and had some conversation with Miss Haythorne about the Corps, and alluded in most cordial terms to the recent visit to the Hostel.

Miss Eastgate (U.A., Connaught Club) writes from Cape Town, on March 12th, as follows: "Among the huge crowd of ex-service men who assembled in the City Hall last week to welcome Lord Haig there were four ex-officials, Miss Dennis, Miss J. Evans, Miss Porter and myself. Unluckily Miss Bowen had just left for Pretoria. There were very few women there, but of course we easily got tickets from the Comrades of the Great War, who arranged the meeting. As we were asked to go in uniform, three of us did so, and aroused great interest. It was certainly a unique occasion. You should have heard the men shout and cheer and yell, and then give the Springbok war-cry. It did our hearts good, though we felt very homesick (and

extremely hot in our uniforms). Lord Haig made a short but charming speech, prefaced by a few words from General Lukin. He was cheered before and after it, and then the whole assembly filed past him to shake hands. It was a great inspiration of his to come, and it was certainly appreciated."

### **The Polish Women's Legion.**

Miss Clay, who recently returned from six months in Poland has given us the following history of the Polish Women's Legion:—

"It appears that a Polish lady who lost her son in the war founded it in November, 1918, so it is much younger than the Q.M.A.A.C. She devoted her life to it after her son died, and is now a Major, Major Yagorska, the leader of the Corps. The Corps number 3,000 and the women are employed on garrison duties and guarding munition dumps. We visited two of these camps. The first was an old Bolshevik prisoners' camp, in Praga, and was very bare and cold. It had stone floors and walls, and its sleeping rooms were like vaults, with small barred windows, through which ventilation is possible. The beds were laid on shelves, side by side. The shelves were a couple of feet from the ground, and ran all round the room. The women had no mess room, and had their meals in the bed-rooms. We saw a dinner, it was quite good, and the meat fairly plentiful, but the meals seemed to be few and far between, and often the women got no supper through lack of supplies. They had a recreation room, decorated by the American Y.W.C.A., and there they were served with cocoa and biscuits three days a week about 5 p.m. The Y.W.C.A. had also given the girls a piano, which was a great boon. In fact that society must have been a great blessing to the Legion, for their amusements seemed almost nil. They sang songs for us, and as far as the language difficulty permitted, gave us a very interesting time. I have never felt so at home in Poland as I did then in that recreation room, surrounded by khaki figures, all talking at once, or dancing and singing. The recreation room itself was enough to take me back to Blighty. The second camp, Agricola, we went to was one where the women were trained for the front. It was altogether smarter and better equipped. It possessed a chilly and depressing mess room, but a very good recreation room, quite as nice as any we ever had, and better than very many. For this also the Y.W.C.A. was responsible. The Commandant, who took us round, was a very impressive person. She had several medals, and had fought on all fronts. She had been in the army 14 years, as she joined dressed as a man, and fought beside her brother for years until he was killed. Later she joined the Women's Legion, and has commanded a battalion of women at the front. The sick bay in this camp was very bare, though very clean and warm. I saw no mats on any floors, and all the floors were of stone. That struck me as rather a hardship, but all the women appeared more healthy than the average Polish civilian, who is decidedly anæmic and pale. The health of the Corps is undoubtedly good.

"I know you would like to know about the rules! Well they appear to reduce themselves to one great rule, and it really seems to be almost the only one, as upon it hang all minor matters, such as punctuality, etc. It is that no

girl soldier may speak with a man ever, under any circumstances. The one exception is on Sunday, when fathers and brothers may visit the women at the barracks, but the women are not allowed to go out with them. I wonder what my fellow members and old friends think of that. I asked the nature of the punishment for breaking this rule and was told fourteen days in a cell with bread or either water or coffee (and I know Polish coffee, it's made of acorns) and every third day a meal. That struck me as a little stiff.

"I must not forget to mention the cookhouse in Praga camp, as if you put this in the Gazette the cooks will want to know. It was awful, half the floor was flagged, the other half was mother earth. It was very small, and not too clean. The cooks wore their uniform, they seemed to possess no cookhouse kit of any sort. They had boilers for the meat and cocoa, no ovens. They had two cooks and three bolshevik prisoners for the 200 women, which is quite a good proportion. The cookhouse depressed me, but the one touch of Q.M.A.A.C. that made me feel kin with them all was when I found the commandant in her orderly room struggling with the pay-sheet. How I know those struggles, it brought Aldershot back in a flash. The pay sheet was so exactly like the old ones we had in 1918.

"I learned that the women have to sign on for three years, that promotion is through the ranks, and special schools are provided for training the officers.

"I enclose a photograph of the commandant of Agricola camp, Warsaw, please note the girl sentry with bayonet: I was told she knew how to use it. The girl in the background is a lieutenant."

### **Ex-Officials' Dinner.**

A re-union dinner for all ex-Q.M.A.A.C. officials, overseas and home service, is being arranged on April 29th, at the Abercorn Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate. Tables will be arranged in areas or commands. Tickets, price 9s., to be obtained from Miss Ireland, 12a Sidney Road, St. Margaret's-on-Thames. Will applicants kindly state in which area or command they wish their seat allocated. No tickets can be despatched after April 26th.

This is the first dinner to be arranged at present which is open to all ex-officials, and it is hoped that there will be a good attendance.

### **Shanghai-on-Thames.**

The summer camp, "Shanghai," will be opened at Whitsuntide. The island lies just below Datchet, and is not far from Windsor. Full board and lodging, 30s. per week. Return fare from London, 5s. 3d. Will members who wish to arrange to spend their holidays there kindly communicate with the Camp Secretary, 8 Chaucer Mansions, Queen's Club Gardens, West Kensington. Offers of help from those who are willing to assist in getting the camp ready will be welcomed by Miss Ireland.

### **Maison de Repos, Abbeville.**

Further sums have been received for the French Children's Camp at Abbeville, among the subscribers being Miss Davy, late Chief Controller, B.E.F., and Miss McIntyre (late member, B.E.F.) who sends a donation "in memory of the W.A.A.C.'s killed in Abbeville and for the

good of the invalid children." The Matron in charge of the camp has written most gratefully, and says she has had several letters from Q.M.A.A.C., expressing interest in her work.

#### St. Pol.

It is just a year ago since Q.M.A.A.C. headquarters in Grosvenor Street closed, and just a year since the last remaining Q.M.A.A.C. unit was officially inspected. The Controller of Medical Services (Dr. Roberts), and the Assistant Chief Controller i/c Inspection (Miss Edith Thompson) spent their last few days in the Corps at St. Pol, in April, 1920, and left there under the impression that the unit would be home a few months later. The following letter just received from Dr. Roberts, who is now on a holiday in France will be of interest:—

"Yesterday, being 'somewhere in France' near St. Pol, a visit to the Q.M.A.A.C. unit, Graves Registration, seemed imperative. Although the telegram notifying our visit had not been received, and we were a very travel-stained motoring party of three, Miss Brodie and Miss Taylor gave us a most cordial welcome on our unexpected arrival, and we gratefully accepted their invitation to tea.

"The unit is now reduced to thirty women, among whom are Ellison, who used to be at Isleworth, and Brown, who so faithfully looked after the Medical Board at Hyde Park Street and Hyde Park Place for the best part of two years. All appeared well and happy, and the unit expects to be kept on probably until September.

"As we came away, our chauffeur, an ex-service man, confided to me that he had had a particularly good tea, and that it was very nice indeed being among "them" (the Waacs) again—which was just what I was feeling too."

#### HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

**ADDRESS:** The Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

The staff of the Headquarters Office has now been reduced and the work is being carried on by a part-time Secretary and a full time clerk. With the help of local branch secretaries and members it is hoped that this arrangement will be a success. Thanks are due to Miss Thomas for establishing the Old Comrades' Association on such a firm basis, to enable this change to be made. It is most unfortunate that Mrs. Hills was unable at the last moment to accept the post of part-time secretary. Mrs. Jackson, however, has consented to accept the post, and is already carrying on the work of the office. The Secretary hopes to be at the office every morning, but if possible appointments should be made beforehand.

Badges are still obtainable, either at the Head Office, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, or from local branches. Price 1s. 6d. each.

Will anyone knowing the addresses of ex-members of the Corps who are not yet members of the Old Comrades' Association, forward the names and addresses to the headquarters office or to local branches, in order that a copy of this month's Gazette may be forwarded to them?

**Illuminated Farewell from the Controller in Chief.**—There are still several of these letters which may be purchased from this office. Price 1s.

**Overalls and Coatfrocks.**—There is no stock of these in this office, but members wishing to purchase them could possibly obtain them from Messrs. Ponting, Kensington High Street, who had them in stock a short time ago.

**Correspondents** are urged to insert Q.M.A.A.C. invariably as a preface to the address of this office. There are several O.C.A.'s here to which much of our correspondence is delivered owing to insufficient address.

#### LOCAL BRANCH REPORTS FOR MARCH.

##### Bournemouth and District.

We had a very successful meeting at "Birchvale," on March 19th, which was attended by representatives of the W.R.N.S., W.R.A.F., and V.A.D., as well as our own members. We have decided to form a club for ex-service women and to meet for the present once a week on alternate Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Our first meeting as a club will take the form of a social evening on April 9th in our club room, at "Birchvale." If there should be any members of the Association in Bournemouth at that time we shall be very pleased to see them at 6.30 on that date.

We are still hoping to get the use of a tennis court and a bathing hut, but both these are very expensive to hire.

##### Cardiff.

On March 2nd we had a fancy dress social for members and their friends at the Oddfellows' Hall; it was a very enjoyable evening and we got several new members. On March 23rd we had a whist drive in our club-room. Both the social and the whist drive owed their success very largely to the energetic work of Miss E. Chubb and Miss D. V. Williams.

We now have to give up the club-room in Duke Street, where we have met on Wednesday evenings through the winter, but fortunately we have been offered a new home at 4 Park Grove by the Comrades of the Great War (women's section). Miss Byrne, who was nursing in France during the greater part of the war, and is hon. secretary of the section, came to our club one evening and discussed with us the possibility of amalgamation. It is decided that during the summer months we shall have a club evening every Tuesday (or possibly Wednesday) with the Women's Section at 4 Park Grove, but it is quite understood that we shall maintain our identity as ex-service women, and shall be free to organise expeditions and other outdoor activities of our own.

##### Edinburgh.

The dance on Thursday, March the 10th, proved a great success, 110 people being present. We were specially glad to welcome Mrs. Jamieson and other members of the W.R.N.S. O.C.A. The music and refreshments were excellent and there is already talk of another dance.

Wednesday, the 23rd of March, Warriors' Day, was observed in the club, and a whist drive took place. As a result over £5 has been sent to Earl Haig's fund for discharged soldiers.

On April 6th Mr. Allan Beaton has kindly consented to give a lecture on the Peace Treaty, and on the 27th Miss Alice Low (our chairman), has been asked to give a lecture on Ireland. On Saturday afternoons fancy dress parties are held in the club and are much enjoyed. Arrangements are now being made for rambles, and we are all looking forward to the summer. Our membership is now over 300, and we hope to welcome many more Old Comrades. We have now got a piano in the club which is much appreciated. Twelve new members have been enrolled during March. Several members of the W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F. O.C.A.'s have joined our club.

#### **Glasgow and West of Scotland.**

To celebrate the finish up of the club at the end of April there will be a "Guest Night" on Friday, April 22nd, when every member is expected to bring one friend, male or female. Admission will be by ticket. There will be dancing, games and music. The final meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 27th.

During the summer months there will be rambles to interesting places round Glasgow. Miss Miller, Convenor of the Entertainments Committee has drawn out a most attractive programme for the season. Particulars will be given in the Gazette. The first of the season will take place on Saturday, April 16th. Members will meet at Burnside car terminus at 3 o'clock, and walk from there to Carmunnock, via Cathkin Braes.

Mrs. Clark, captain of the hockey team, has sent the following report: "The first match of the hockey club, Glasgow Branch, was played at Bellahouston Recreation Grounds, where the O.C.A. have a pitch. The opposing team was Kelvinside North second eleven. The O.C.'s showed great aptitude, and during the first half the play was pretty equal. There was a hard struggle, and in the end the O.C.'s were beaten. The weather was fair and the ground muddy, but the good sport was greatly enjoyed."

It was a great pleasure to receive a visit at the club from Miss Mary Laird, our representative on the General Committee in London.

An interesting lecture was given at the club on Wednesday, 23rd March, on "Precious Stones," by Miss Dewar. Miss Dewar was introduced by Miss Banks. The lecture was very much enjoyed.

#### **London.**

A very successful dance was held on March 5th and it gave us much pleasure to have Dame Florence with us on this occasion. We were also glad to welcome members from the other service Old Comrades' Associations.

We were very grateful to the W.R.A.F. Old Comrades for the invitation to play a hockey match on their ground at Finsbury Park, the W.A.A.C. Old Comrades winning with 3-1. Our thanks are due to Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, D.B.E., for so kindly inviting all our members to tea afterwards.

A ramble was arranged around Croydon on Sunday, March 13th, and a whist drive was held at Belgrave Road, on Thursday, March 17th.

The forthcoming events during April are: A theatre party on Saturday, April 16th, to go to "Jumble Sale," at the Vaudeville Theatre, pit, 3s. Those intending to join the party should meet at 91 Belgrave Road at 6 p.m.

A whist drive will be held at 91 Belgrave Road, on Thursday, April 28th. Tickets, price 6d., to be obtained from Miss Billington, 91 Belgrave Road, S.W.

A char-a-banc trip to Folkestone is being arranged for Whitsunday, May 15th. Return fare, including luncheon on arrival, £1. As the number is limited those intending to go must send in their names, together with postal order to Miss Ireland, 12a Sidney Road, St. Margaret's-on-Thames, not later than May 1st. Char-a-banc will start from the Clock Tower, Vauxhall Bridge Road (Victoria Station end) at 8.30 a.m.

A ramble will be arranged around North London on Sunday, May 8th. Members to meet outside Golder's Green Station at 11.30 a.m. Miss Mitchell (Signaller) will conduct the ramble.

It is proposed to form a tennis club at the Avenue Farm Court, Cricklewood, a few minutes from Golder's Green Station. Subscription 12s. 6d. for a season of 21 weeks, commencing Saturday, May 7th. Play is permitted all day and every day with the exception of Sunday. Intending members should apply to Miss R. Comyns Lewer, 6 Oakwood Avenue, Beckenham, enclosing postal order value 12s. 6d. Application should be made as soon as possible as the number is strictly limited. Further details together with rules will be forwarded upon application.

#### **Manchester.**

This month we had a dance instead of the usual whist drive, about 150 people were present, and we raised £14 for our branch fund.

Owing to the fact that Miss Darwent is leaving Manchester for a time the new secretary will be Miss Robinson, 5 King's Drive, Heaton Moor, who was elected at the general meeting on 8th January.

#### **Oxford.**

A meeting was held at 12 Western Road, Headington, near Oxford, on Saturday, March 19th, from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

Very few members took advantage of this, probably owing to the inclemency of the weather, and also to it being on a Saturday night. The badges recently sent from headquarters were much admired and speedily sold at 1s. 6d. each.

The Secretary will be glad to know if other members are requiring badges, if so, will they send a postal order for 1s. 8d. to cover postage, at once.

The arrangement of another social was discussed, and it was decided that another should be fixed for the last week in April, or the first week in May, on a Thursday evening.

The Secretary will make arrangements for this on her return after the holidays.

#### **Southampton.**

This branch has now sufficient members to be represented at the General Committee. Miss Mills, the local secretary, has been elected as the representative.

#### **South Wales.**

The South Wales branch has now over sixty members, and it is steadily increasing its membership and activities.

Cardiff members, who have rented a club room during the winter months, being unable to have the same room

any longer, have had the offer of sharing a club room with the Women's Section, Comrades of the Great War, and also have been asked to unite with them in social activities. "The Socials" organised by the Cardiff members have been most successful, but unfortunately not many members outside Cardiff itself have been able to join in owing to the long distances our members are apart—being scattered over six counties.

Swansea is now forming a local branch. Miss Doris Radford (ex-Administrator, overseas) and Miss F. Irene Davis (ex-hostel Forewoman, Kemmel Park and Chadder-ton Camp) are forming a Committee and organising a reunion for members in that part of Glamorganshire.

Twelve Carmarthenshire ex-Waacs are having a reunion in April if they can arrange to meet. They all live about 30 odd miles apart, and none of them have met yet.

Mrs. K. P. Davies (late U.A., Chester) is going for a holiday to Canada and the U.S.A., and hopes to look up ex-Waacs wherever possible. She intends later on with other South Walians to visit the "Shanghai" Camp during the summer months.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### A Letter from India.

"At last I am letting you have the long-promised letter to tell you about India. To start with I must tell you I had a most exciting voyage out, between Gibraltar and Port Said we had terrible weather, and it was a miracle that we arrived safely. My nursing experience that I had whilst in the Corps came in very handy, for one of our women was taken very ill with sunstroke, and I had to look after her and nurse her, as there was no trained nurse on board. Since my arrival here I have been thankful for my training in the sick bay, as I have found it very helpful to me to assist people who have been ill. This is a very hot station, and I believe it is the worst station in India, there is absolutely nothing at all for us, no amusement of any kind.

"There are rumours that we leave here before long, I hope it is true. The nearest town from here is Agra. My husband and I went over there last week-end to see one of the 'seven wonders of the world,' the Taj Mahal. It is a wonderful place made of marble, containing the tombs of the King and Queen of years ago. We were told that it took 20,000 workmen of every nationality seventeen years to complete it. I have never seen such a wonderful sight.

"Being out here is an experience I shall not forget, Muttra is within half-an-hour's ride of a very thick jungle. So you can guess the men like this place in the winter, as there is plenty of shooting.

"This quiet life is so different for me than the busy time amongst all the girls of the Corps. I miss them all so very much. All one has to do here during the heat of the day is to lie down under a 'punkah.' It was 116 degrees in the shade two days ago. I have been told that in the winter time the cold is very intense, and at night time, and the first thing in the morning one is glad to be wrapped up well. I am longing for that time to come.

"I have seen some very peculiar animals and insects, really it is wonderful the different kinds of things there are. I was astonished on my way to Agra, to see a huge thing flying in the air, its head and body was like a fox, and yet it had great wings, it is called a flying fox. We have a great number of vultures here, huge birds, larger than a full sized English cockerel, and oh, the horrid monkeys, there are tons of them in Muttra city, they are sacred to the natives, and some of them live in the same place as the native people. Oh, it is horrid, it makes one shudder to see the things we see out here. I shall be so pleased when the time comes for me to return to England.

"I have been wondering if my medal will be sent direct to me here, or to the colonel of the regiment."

LILIAN A. BATEMAN (nee Robinson).

Married Quarters, 19th Royal Hussars, Muttra, India.

### To the Members of the Edinburgh Club.

I must thank you all very much for the pleasant evening I spent with you. How splendid it was to find such a delightful club of the dear old W.A.A.C.'s, and it has given me infinite pleasure to have joined your membership.

Since my demobilisation my hopes of travelling further afield have been realised, and for the past eighteen months I have lived in Turkey. En route there I visited many interesting places—the most interesting and most impressive was passing through the Straits of the Dardanelles. We passed quite close to the "River Clyde," which was the first and only vessel to be beached in the Dardanelles, so that the troops could land more easily. The Turkish forts are on the cliffs above, and one could well understand how it was that so many of our men made the supreme sacrifice at the landing. A gentleman on board pointed out the different beaches, and all on board paid silent homage as we viewed the little cemeteries with the simple white crosses. The last morning of the voyage I was on deck very early, and saw the sunrise on the Golden Horn, and watched the white mists arising and gradually unveiling the city of Constantinople—the loveliness of the scene is indescribable. Constantinople as seen from the sea is magnificent—its situation I believe is unrivalled. My first impression of the city was sadly shattered when I went ashore and discovered the city is a network of narrow filthy streets—never have I seen such squalor—beggars everywhere, and one is amazed to find that they are quite a privileged class. I arrived during the autumn, and spent a unique and interesting time in that city of intrigue and insecurity. In June last the British Embassy removed up the Bosphorus and took over the Austrian Embassy for their summer residence. That part of the world is intensely interesting, as it is the home of the world's diplomats. At Yeni Keng we remained until the end of October, and during that time I spent the most glorious summer I have ever known—sailing, bathing and picnicing in the delightful bays of the Black Sea were special joys, despite having to have a Gurka guard to protect us. One of the exciting incidents of these summer months was when the Kemalists, with more daring than wisdom, swept down to the shores of Beikos. Thanks to a little play from our battleships the

enemy soon scurried away and repeatedly failed to gain their objective. There are so many incidents I should love to tell you of, but I am afraid that to write of them would fill volumes. I left Constantinople last month, and journeyed home by the overland route, passing through Bulgaria, which is a most beautiful country, and very mountainous. The peasants wear very picturesque costumes. Then Serbia, which is a very pretty country—the whole country struck me as being extraordinarily tidy and clean, and gave me the impression that that noble little race have materialised the spirit of reconstruction. The next frontier was Hungary—the Hungarian forests are magnificent, and great tributaries of the Danube flow through that country. The landscape of Italy is very fair to look at, and the little churches are beautifully designed. The scenery by the famous Italian pass to Switzerland is perfectly wonderful. After crossing the French frontier, how dreadfully one misses the huts and khaki figures of the old days—yet the spirit of the W.A.A.C. days is still there. One fancies the wayside flowers and passing breezes have gathered the gleeful spirit of our dear old corps.

SADIE BARCLAY (Worker).

#### A Letter from South Australia.

"As requested I take the pleasure of writing to let you know I have got settled in a very good situation. I stayed six weeks in Western Australia but I am sorry to say I did not like it, and so decided to try my luck in another state. I arrived in Adelaide on the 7th December, and without any difficulty got my present position the following day and left Adelaide for Victor Harbor, on the 9th December.

"Speaking of Australia as a growing country I think it an ideal place, and plenty of scope for England's surplus women, and I am quite sure anyone can do well out here if they are prepared to work, but it is no place for weary willies, as by what I can see Australia has plenty of them in the country already. Hoping I shall still continue to hear of immigrants coming out to populate this vast country."

ANNIE E. HUGILL.

#### NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

**Miss L. G. Allies**, who was originally a recruiting N.C.O., then Hostel Forewoman at Gordon Square, and then an A.A. at Grove Park, writes a most interesting letter from Bewell, Alfrick, Worcester: "At Christmas time I met **Bell** (an ex-A.A., who trained with me in June, 1918). We arranged to meet again, and I gave her my address, which she wrote on the back of a £1 note, and before I could give her mine she was whisked away in a crowd of Christmas shoppers, and I have seen or heard nothing of her since, and I naturally conclude that she spent the note! Don't you think this tragic episode is worthy of a notice in the agony column? [Miss Bell's address is Hampton Villa, Sherrington Road, Cheltenham.—Ed.] I should be so glad to hear of any Waacs in this part of the country. I feel sure there must be some. I hear from **Franklin** sometimes, occasionally from **Finny** and **Hughes**, also **G.**

**Rogers** (of Gordon Square). She is now teaching domestic science at a Reformatory School in Liverpool, and seems to like it. I've heard from **E. K. Fowler** (U.A.) from the Chinese frontier, where she is trekking and seems to be thoroughly enjoying herself, living in the saddle and sleeping under canvas.

"I expect you remember **Chapman**, who was at Gordon Square and as Assistant Administrator at the Connaught Club, and A.E.F. She was married to Major T. P. Bassett last June and sailed for Bangalore on 22nd December. She hoped to spend a few weeks in Egypt en route.

"Members who knew **M. Preston** (ex-A.A., Abbeville) would like to know that she was married last August to Mr. Stanley Day, and is now at Aden, and writes very happily. It is beginning to get very hot there now, but her last letter described the joys of bathing. The coast is just like Cornwall she says, and the water buoyant and clear, and the bathing pool enclosed in barbed-wire closely meshed to keep out the sharks. I am afraid there is no news about me. I intended to go to India last year, but decided to do hostel forewoman at home instead. I hope very much to come up for the dinner on the 29th. Another ex-Waac who is not yet a member of the O.C.A. is **Miss B. White** (F/W, Grove Park), she and her sister have started a dressmaking business at Bedford, and I feel sure that a copy of the Gazette will make her thirst for more."

**Dr. Agnes Cowan**, writing from Women's Hospital, Ashiho, Manchuria, says, "While in the homeland during war time I was for nine months in the Northern command as Medical Official in Brocton and Rugeley Camps, on Cannock Chase. I am very proud of having been in such a splendid organisation as Q.M.A.A.C. I am now back at my old job in China, in charge of a Mission hospital in North Manchuria, and find the work as interesting and fascinating as ever." Dr. Cowan's sister is Hon. Sec. of the Edinburgh Branch.

**Miss M. A. J. Robertson**, now living at La Guardiola, Taormina, Sicily, and late D.A., Albany Street Barracks, points out that her name was given as Robinson in the January Gazette, which may have misled members of her unit. She says that her hopes of becoming manageress to a lace school have been disappointed, as the partners in the firm have decided that they cannot afford an English manageress. She may return to England to take a course in book-keeping and typewriting.

**Miss M. M. Stevenson** (Connaught Club, Folkestone and Bostall) writes to tell us that **Miss N. L. Dickson** is now at Mulra, Simpson Street, Mosmar, Sydney, N.S.W., where she is in touch with 300 ex-Q.M.A.A.C., who went out under the Overseas Settlement Scheme. She has started a Waac Club of which we hope to hear full information.

**Miss Batty** writes from Alexandria: "I hope you will not think that I have forgotten my promise to try and start a branch of the Old Comrades Association in Egypt. In January I invited the two ex-Waacs whom I already knew here to come and talk it over with me, and we agreed to publish a letter in the "Egyptian Gazette," asking ex-members and officials of the Q.M.A.A.C. in Egypt to communicate with me. Alas! my only response was from an old soldier, who wrote eagerly saying that if I did not mind

a very old comrade, aged 58, he would very much like to join the Association. I wrote to him to explain the mistake, and saying that though I could not enrol him as a member we should be very pleased if he would come and have tea. This elicited a prompt reply regretting that he had just been moved elsewhere, but saying that my action in inviting him, a complete stranger, to tea showed that I was one of those ladies who are the pride of the English race. Quite satisfactory of course, but we are no nearer forming a branch. The two ex-Waacs who live here are **Miss Packer** (D.A., Aldershot) and **Miss Cutter** (F./W. Connaught Club and Gateshead)."

**Miss May Mussell** is sailing on the 15th April for the Dutch East Indies. She promises to write and tell us her experiences—apparently matrimony will be one of the first, as she says in future her "name and address" will be Mrs. A. Simmons, Begerpang Estate, P.O., Bangoen Poerba, E.C. Sumatra. **Miss Kathleen Tizard** writes from Glantworth, Ontario, "I have met **Elsie Chambers**, who has been out here since February, and is doing quite well. There is a great deal that is interesting about Canada. They are very nice people but have ideas quite different to the English on almost every subject. I am staying on a farm which is principally dairy. We use a milking machine, and there is also a machine for doing the washing and pumping the water. People out here are go-ahead, and there are many conveniences which we in England seldom have, and yet for all that I prefer England a great deal. Nothing seems to beat it and it's just lovely to have an Association and Gazette to keep up the old country's memories, so that on one's return one feels not utterly out of touch with old friends."

**Mrs. West** (late F/W, 25,759) writes from Alverstoke, Hants: "When I read the Gazette and hear of my comrades abroad I really feel a bit envious. I should love to be with them, I think it a splendid thing for girls to get this fine opportunity of travelling. I should like very much if it is possible to be very kindly remembered to Mrs. Starkey and Mrs. Eldred, U.A. I had a very nice card from Mrs. Starkey at Christmas. I do not know her address. Also I should like to be remembered to all the Unit 7 girls of Boulogne, especially to (Paddy) Collins, of Ireland."

**Miss Theodora Martin** is leaving almost immediately for Zanzibar to work for the University's Mission to Central Africa, and where she hopes she may meet some of the Old Comrades. **Miss Mary Moynihan** writes from Saskatchewan, Canada, that she has received a Gazette from a friend in Scotland, and in consequence wishes to enrol in the O.C.A. **Miss Hehner**, writing from South Africa, finds that the Gazette is a great comfort to her in her loneliness in the veldt, and promises another letter when she has settled down. **Miss Amy Bishop** hopes to go out to Newfoundland in May to be married. Good luck to her. **Miss M. M. Reid**, who has been acting as Woman Patrol at Messrs. Rowntree's Cocoa Works, York, is leaving after fifteen months service, owing to the present unsatisfactory condition of trade.

Members who remember Connaught Club in the early days will be interested to hear that **Forewoman Gilligan** is anxious to join the Women Police. She is not at present engaged in any work.

We hope that **Miss G. Lamb**, New York, has at last received her Gazettes, which have gone astray in the mail. Like the rest of us, she looks forward to the news of her old friends and comrades, but has been very unlucky in delay of delivery caused by the post.

**Miss Amy King** (19675) writes that she became Mrs. Woodward last September, and sends best wishes to all comrades. **Miss Marion B. Paton**, late A.E.F., Tours, has been in Vancouver for the last six months, and has hopes of forming a small club of members out there. **Ellen Smith** and **Bertha Farley** (St. John's Wood) are running a restaurant in the Brixton Road, and will be pleased if any Waac's that call, will make themselves known to them. If they will send further details we will add it to the list of Q.M.A.A.C. Enterprises.

**Miss M. Mountstephen**, writing from London, Ontario, tells us that she has met some Old Comrades out there through the Gazette. She also promises a letter about her life, to which we look forward. **Miss E. Hartwell** writes from Yattendon, Berks, "I am cook at Mrs. Waterhouse, whose daughter, Miss Rachel Waterhouse, was a V.A.D. at Pont de L'Arche, in our camp; the announcement of her engagement appeared recently in the Gazette. We are always anxious for the 15th to come round to get the Gazette. If you have a little space, may I send my best wishes to all 'Ponty' Girls."

**Miss Gladys Smith** (F.W., Havre) has a Government appointment as shorthand typist in Melbourne. She is expecting two Old Comrades from England and one from Canada to join her shortly. **Miss Carrie Jarvis** is leaving Saskatchewan very soon and going to Winnipeg. As she is not very happy now, we wish her luck in her move. **Miss L. Slater**, who is in Ludd, Palestine, has met **Mrs. Turtle**, late U.A. in the Rouen area in Jerusalem. As she is cut off from her Waac friends the Gazette is of special interest to her. **Miss Jessie Blades** (Signals, Calais) says that the Calais Signal Girls (L. Signals) are having their own re-union at Conway in the first week in June. We hope to have an account of their doings for the July Gazette. **Miss A. Harvey**, who went out to Ceylon in November, 1919, met her husband on her way home in October, 1920, and became Mrs. Green in Cape Town in December of that year. She is very happy in spite of the climate in East Africa, but hopes to come home at the end of this year to see her old friends. She has met **Mrs. Faure** (Wimereux, Unit I) in Cape Town.

**Miss S. A. Cocks** sailed for Durban on March 18th, taking with her a number of addresses of Old Comrades who had preceded her, in the hope that she may get into touch with some of them.

**Miss Eastgate** writes from Cape Town with news of several Old Comrades. **Miss Baggs** is at Grahamstown, and is settling down happily as matron at St. Andrew's College, at Mr. and Mrs. Knowling's house. He is a brother of Miss Knowling, A.A. **Miss Bowen** met in Cape Town the identical man who, in the very early days of the Connaught Club, arrived with all his luggage thinking it was still a men's club, and was horrified to find a female invasion had taken place. **Miss Stilwell** is learning to farm near Stellenbosch, and **Miss Porter** has just opened a tea shop in Cape Town, and seems sanguine as to its success.

## PERSONAL NOTICES.

**Wigglesworth—Stephenson.**—At Holy Trinity Church, by the Rector, Edward (late Sergeant of R.A.O.C.) younger son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Wigglesworth, Preston Park, to Ellen Irene, late Signaller, Etaples, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson, Orlandon Road, Clapham.

**Simpson—Culf.**—A marriage has been arranged and will take place quietly on April 12th between Frank George Simpson, of Stonham Aspal and Vera M. Culf (late A.A., of Bostal Heath and Norbricourt) and Marine Terrace, Lowestoft.

**Stott—Thompson.**—On March 15th, at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, Walter Stott to Mary Thompson (late of Connaught Club and Clothing Depot). Since demobilisation Miss Thompson has been working in the Secretary's Office of the Savoy Hotel, and a reception was held in the Hotel after the wedding. Miss Smart (late A.A.) was bridesmaid. Mrs. Stott's address is Wainfleet, Brannhall Lane, Davenport, Cheshire.

**King—Jordan.**—On April 6th, William Isaac, second son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Mark William King, of Highgate, to Olive Kelsey (late U.A., Havre and Boulogne) eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jordan, 188 Hamstead Road, Birmingham.

**Mrs. Sarsfield-Hall** (nee Clowes) writes from Kuttum, Darfur Province, Sudan, and asks if she may thank the members of her old unit, Camp I, Abbeville, for the wedding present with which they so kindly presented her. She was delighted with the beautiful silver biscuit box and salver, and hopes in time to thank each one individually.

## LIST OF LOCAL BRANCHES.

**Bournemouth and Dorset.**—Miss Lever, 13 Longfleet Road, Poole, Dorset.

**Brighton.**—Miss Cable, 8 Langdale Road, Hove, Sussex.

**Cambridge.**—Miss Deighton, 47 Hills Road, Cambridge.

**Cardiff.**—Miss Barke, 7 Corbett Road, Cardiff.

**Birmingham.**—Miss Birinsford, 167 Birchfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

**Cheltenham and District.**—Mrs. Higgins, Mill House, Elmley Castle, Pershore, Worcs.

**Edinburgh.**—Miss Cowan, 6 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.

**Glasgow.**—Miss Gilchrist, 13 Royal Terrace West, Glasgow.

**Leeds.**—Miss Smith, Q.M.A.A.C., O.C.A., c/o Y.W.C.A., 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds.

**Liverpool.**—Miss Latimer, Kirtle House, Knutsford, Ches.

**London and District.**—Miss Ireland, 12a Sidney Road, St. Margaret's-on-Thames.

**Manchester.**—Miss Robinson, 5 King's Drive, Heaton Moor.

**Newcastle.**—Miss Taylor, 10 Wentworth Place, Newcastle.

**Norfolk.**—Miss Marsters, 51 Christ Church Road, Norwich.

**Nottingham.**—Miss Revell, The Pines, Lowdham, Nottingham.

**Oxford.**—Miss Haws, 12 Western Road, Headington, Oxford.

**Plymouth.**—Mrs. Marrack Harvey, 49 Haddington Road, Stoke, Devonport.

**Portsmouth.**—Miss McGuire Bate, 97 High Street, Portsmouth.

**Reading.**—Miss Trotter, Horton Lodge, Reading.

**Southampton.**—Miss Mills, 27 Winn Road, Southampton.

**South Wales.**—Miss Owen, The Palace, Abergwill, Carmarthenshire.

## To Those Who Don't Know.

DON'T YOU KNOW we have an Old Comrades' Association?

DO YOU KNOW why we were formed?

DON'T YOU KNOW it was just to keep in touch with one another and talk over old times?

DO YOU KNOW of our Re-unions?

DO YOU KNOW what we talk about? How we laugh over all the little things that used to fret us and all that irritated us most.

DO YOU REMEMBER the fuss we made over light collars and stockings and those dreadful hats?

DO YOU KNOW what we like best to remember? Our good friends, the jolly old times and the fact that once we were all W.A.A.C.s.

DON'T YOU KNOW we miss you?

DON'T YOU WANT to come to our Summer Camp?

DO YOU KNOW your name is not included on our Roll Call? Enrol at once to keep alive the old traditions. No matter where you go there will be someone to welcome you. We have branches all over the world.

DO YOU KNOW we have an Old Comrades Badge?

DON'T YOU KNOW this is for **YOU**?

Write to-day to the Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**Miss May Bradford**, late U.A. Q.M.A.A.C., Fir Cottage, Bracknell, Berks. Private school of cookery, orders taken for home made cakes, etc.; wedding cakes a speciality.

**Dainty Undies.** Hand made and embroidered if desired. Waste paper and work baskets artistically decorated, moderate.—Miss D. C. Thompson, 21 Inverness Terrace, Bayswater, London.

**The Clerical and Professional Women's Insurance Society** is an Approved Society for professional and business women. The official valuation shows a surplus for additional benefits.—Write to the Secretary for particulars, 12 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.2.

**Holidays.** Dartmoor. Sitting and bed-room to let in country cottage from Easter onwards.—Terms on application, Mrs. Tucker, Ska View, Sticklepath, Okehampton, Devon (late forewoman cook, Q.M.A.A.C.).

**Clerical Old Comrades** should join the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, which is working for increased efficiency, improved conditions and equality in the clerical world. Ex-service women have already joined in numbers, the Association having secured for them the right of admission to certain special examinations for the Civil Service. Two thousand members coached at cost price for examinations in six months; £250,000 in increases obtained for members; 22/- a week unemployment benefit; social club; summer and winter sports clubs, etc., etc.—Particulars from the General Secretary, Dorothy Evans, M.A., Head Office 12 Buckingham Street, Strand, London.

**Lloyd's Sunday News.** An arrangement has been made with the Editor, whereby a space in the above paper is placed at the disposal of the Association for the announcement of forthcoming engagements. Notices to members will appear in the Old Comrades' Column on occasion arises.

**Paying Guests Wanted.**—Apply to Mrs. Barff, Whitfield, Perminuit Avenue, Bexhill.

**Home Made Cakes and Sweets.** Chocolates, fondants, caramels and loffee, orders taken.—Miss Cockedge, 2 Bracken Road, West Brighthelm, Yorkshire (late Q.M.A.A.C., B.E.F.).

**Ordination Test School, Knutsford.** Wanted, forewoman cook, meat cook and vegetable cook, also pantrymaid for Mav (The domestic staff is entirely Ex-Q.M.A.A.C.).—Apply Matron, Ordination Test School, Knutsford.

**To Let.** A nice bed-room to let near Sloane Square, S.W.1, also breakfast supplied.—For further details apply Box 31, Q.M.A.A.C. Offices.

**Lace Cleaning.**—Miss E. F. Davidson, Expert Cleaner of Real Lace, 12 Viewforth Square, Edinburgh, no chemicals used.

**Are you taking a holiday, or needing a rest?** If so, book our room at 6 Adrian Square, Westgate-on-Sea. Ex-forewoman Murphy and her sister will look well after you. Terms on application. It is hoped to suit all. Sea and station two minutes.

**New South Wales.** 100 Girls wanted as home helps: wages 20/- to 45/- weekly, all found; free passage out (under S.O.S.B.W. Scheme). Friends may travel together; good homes, liberal free time.—Apply Immigration and Publicity Office of New South Wales, Australia House, Strand, daily 10 to 12 and 1 to 5; Thursday evenings 7 to 9.

**"Eight Months with the Women's Royal Air Force."** by Gertrude A. George, with a foreword by Air Marshal Sir H. M. Trenchard, K.C.B., D.S.O., includes 28 full-page illustrations of life in the Force in its various phases, 7/6 net, postage 9d. extra.—Publishers, Heath Cranton, Ltd., Fleet Lane, E.C.

**Lost at London Branch Dance.** Cream lace scarf.—Will the finder please inform Miss Laird, 81 Lancaster Gate, W.2.