

Old Comrades' Association



GAZETTE.

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

JUNE, 1921, No. 12.

3/6 per ann. post free.

EDITORIAL

From the Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty the Queen.

26-5-1921.

"The Queen commands me to thank you and all the members of the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades Association for your good wishes and loyal greetings on Her Majesty's birthday."

Conveyed to Her Majesty the Queen, by Lady Bertha Dawkins, from Dame Florence Leach, on behalf of the Old Comrades Association.

25-5-1921.

"We shall all be so grateful to you if you will convey to Her Majesty the Queen on behalf of all members of the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades Association our humble duty and loyal greetings on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday to-morrow."

Factory Inspection.

Several vacancies for junior Inspectors of Factories, both men and women will be filled shortly. All women applicants must have had at least twelve months' recent experience in a Government Department on responsible work of administration or inspection concerned with conditions of labour. The age limit is 25-40. Applications should be made to the Home Office.

Unemployed Women.

The Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment is offering unemployed women maintenance at the rate of a pound a week, and a training in household crafts which will fit them either for domestic service or for home-making. 'Cookery, laundry, housewifery, needlework, and domestic hygiene will be taught, with singing and physical exercises by way of recreation. Women drawing unemployment benefit may join the classes, but will not receive benefit in addition to maintenance. The difficulty of entering domestic service for those who have not a suitable outfit is met by a grant for the purchase of suitable clothing, which is obtainable at Labour Exchanges by candidates who can satisfy the Committee that they have the offer of situations. Applications can be made through any Labour Exchange.

League of Nations Rally.

Owing to the coal strike and train difficulties the arrangements for the pilgrimage have been cancelled, but the rally in Hyde Park on June 25th, will take place as announced. It is hoped that everyone in London who can possibly manage it will join in the processions. Although the General Committee decided that the O.C.A. as a whole could not take an active part in the proceedings, there is nothing to prevent the London Branch joining in. It would be pleasant to see a contingent of Waacs on the march once again—and they would be warmly welcomed by the organisers of the rally.

Women Police.

The Women's Police Service will in future be known as the Women's Auxiliary Service to distinguish it from the Women's Police Patrols, working with the Metropolitan Police, under the Scotland Yard authorities.

Voluntary Aid Detachments.

It has recently been stated that 141 V.A.D.'s died while on active service and sixteen were killed or drowned by enemy action. Q.M.A.A.C. owe much to the V.A.D.'s who worked in their camps, and we have been pleased to welcome several of those who were thus attached, as members of the O.C.A. "Our V.A.D." was a very popular person in the camps in France.

Maison de Repos, Abbeville.

The matron of the French children's home tells us that the appeal in the Gazette not only resulted in a very welcome addition to the funds but also the voluntary holiday services of an ex-Q.M.A.A.C.—Miss Judge—who gave most valuable help. There are now fifty children in the home.

Correspondents.

The Editor's post bag is growing heavier each month, and it is almost impossible to reply individually to each correspondent. It has therefore been decided to answer those letters that are of general interest and not specially urgent in the Gazette. So those of you who can keep your inquiries till the end of the month should look in the Gazette for a reply. As many members ask for much the same information we may be able to answer several at once.

SERVICE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

In view of the fact that the Service Women's Association has accomplished the object of securing grants from the United Services Fund, it has been decided to dissolve the Executive Committee and to carry on the S.W.A. by means of a Standing Committee, meeting quarterly, with an honorary secretary

It is not proposed to enrol members in future or receive subscriptions from direct members or capitation fees from Old Comrades Associations. The Standing Committee will hold a watching brief on behalf of Ex-Service Women in general and in particular in connection with those activities which have been started as a result of grants from the U.S. Fund, i.e., 1, residential clubs, 2, benevolent fund, 3, holiday home. Inquiries should be made as follows: 1, General Secretary, 82 Lancaster Gate, Hyde Park; 2, Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association (local branch), or Old Comrades' Association; 3, General Secretary, 82 Lancaster Gate, Hyde Park, W.2.

O.C.A.'s of W.R.N.S., Q.M.A.A.C., W.R.A.F. have each consented to guarantee a small sum yearly (£10) in lieu of capitation fees to meet necessary administrative expenses, and it is hoped to reduce the present office expenses to a minimum

Offices have been secured rent free, owing to the kindness of the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association, who are allowing the S.W.A. to use their Headquarters Office. The address of the S.W.A. will therefore be: Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, Chelsea.

A memorandum and circular letter is being sent out to direct members of the S.W.A. who will not receive a review of the position through an Old Comrades' Association or by means of the Gazette and leaflets issued by the Q.M.A.A.C., W.R.A.F., or W.R.N.S. Old Comrades' Associations.

SHANGHAI-ON THAMES.

Grateful thanks are due to Miss McClosky (late Crookham & Bostall Heath) who has come from Ireland especially to run the camp. Also to Mr. and Mrs. Cross at the pumping station from whom we get our drinking water and who accept delivery of bread and groceries, etc. They have been most kind, and whenever W.A.A.C.'s go over to their house to fetch anything, they are invariably invited to have a cup of tea or cocoa. They also receive telephone messages for us and hoist a flag on a flag staff when any "Shanghai-ite" is wanted! They have expressed a desire to have a copy of the Gazette as they say they know so many W.A.A.C.'s now and know what we are doing at Shanghai, but they also want to know of our doings in town!

The Camp consists of one large hut, 40ft. x 18ft., one end is divided off to form a dressing and ablution room; in the middle eight beds are arranged on either side, and the other end has been fitted up as a sitting room for use in wet weather. There is a smaller hut, 20ft. x 15ft., which Miss McClosky uses as a bed-sitting-room and office. Another hut, 12ft. x 8ft., is fitted up with a kitchen, and

we have a perfectly fascinating large oil cooking stove with an oven so there is every possibility of "hot joints." A 6ft. verandah runs the entire length of the 40ft. hut, facing south. If meals are not taken actually in the open, they can always be arranged on the verandah unless too cold.

The 40ft. hut backs on to an adjoining camping pitch, but runs the entire depth so keeps Shanghai private, it faces south, and looks on to a delightful meadow. On the one side is a large field planted with cabbages—which we are tempted to steal—and on the other side the river bank. All the huts are being painted green and white outside.

Arrangements have been made to accommodate sixteen members at a time, but it would be possible to take more quite comfortably. It is hoped that all Old Comrades who visit the Camp will wear an O.C.A. badge, so that they may be recognised as "en route" for Shanghai when arriving at the station.

We are very glad to welcome Miss Ruxton, from Glasgow, among the first holiday party, and hope that it will be a meeting place for members from all branches.

If any Old Comrade has any cushions or a tea-cosy to dispose of, such gifts would be much appreciated at camp. Still plenty of accommodation vacant, but intending visitors should book up without further delay.

Extract from a letter from an Old Comrade after spending a week-end at camp. "I wanted to just send you a line, and tell you how much I enjoyed the Camp. W.A.A.C. shows are always good, but this one far surpassed my expectations. I thought it was a Camp but found it a little "Ritz." We all hope to come again in a month or six weeks, the same cheery party as before!"

All applications for accommodation at Camp must be addressed to Miss McClosky, Shanghai, c/o Pumping Station, Ham Island, Old Windsor, Berks. 2/6 deposit must be enclosed, which will be deducted from the first week's account or returned if accommodation is not available on the date required.

CHARGES.

Board and Lodging —per week	30/-
Week-ends. —Friday night to Sunday night	12/6
Friday night to Monday morning	14/6
Saturday morning to Sunday night	7/6
Saturday morning to Monday morning	10/3
Saturday afternoon to Sunday night	6/-
Saturday afternoon to Monday morning	9/-
Sunday only	2/3

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

At the May meeting of the General Committee, it was decided to appoint the following Finance Committee: Mrs. Jolly, O.B.E., Miss Suggate, Miss Robertson, Miss Gibson (Treasurer).

The United Service Fund, on the recommendation of the Service Women's Association, has approved of the formation of a Committee to deal with the Benevolent Fund in respect of Women's Services. The following were elected to represent Q.M.A.A.C. at this Committee; Miss Gibson. Treasurer to

the Association (to substitute Secretary), Miss Prestage (to represent other ranks). All ex-service women are players short, but I am inclined to think the result would have been the same, had they had a full team (that is gible for benefit, and in the case of Q.M.A.A.C. applications should be made to the General Secretary through the local branch Secretaries, who will obtain the necessary verification.

All subscribers are reminded that the issue of this number completes the first year of the Gazette, which has undoubtedly proved a great success in all respects. All subscriptions should be forwarded to Headquarters Office without delay, to ensure delivery of the July number. It is hoped soon to arrange interesting competitions through the Gazette, also to make same a double number as often as news will permit.

According to the number of Badges still in hand, it is obvious that all Old Comrades are not yet wearing the Badge. They are obtainable from the Duke of York's Headquarters, or from Local Branches, price 1s. 6d. each, postage 2d. extra.

LOCAL BRANCH REPORTS FOR MAY.

Brighton and East Sussex.

We hope from now onwards to arrange regular meetings of the branch, notice to be given in the Gazette, so be on the look-out for happenings, and do turn up, as we can have all sorts of fun if only members will support us. A ramble to Rottingdean has been arranged for May 29th, and a tennis party at Hove Park for June 9th. These are still in the future at the time of writing, but we hope they will have gone off well, and that we shall have several suggestions for other meetings. The following fixtures have been arranged.

Sunday, June 19th.—A ramble to the Indian Chattri. Cyclists meet in Preston Park, Stanford Avenue entrance, at 4 p.m. Hove District, pedestrians, at 3.30, Hove Station. All foregather at Patcham Fountain at 4.30 p.m., Chattri only two miles away.

Saturday, July 2nd.—Ramble (walking only), starting from Seven Dials at 3.15. Do come and bring your own rations as this saves trouble. The Hon. Sec., Miss Cable, is away, and Miss H. A. Baron, 25 Wellington Road, Brighton, is carrying on for her until July 15th.

Cardiff.

We are having very jolly club evenings every Tuesday, at 4 Park Grove. On May 31st there was a whist drive, it was to have been held in the garden, but the weather proved too cold, so we played indoors.

Ex-Service women have been invited to parade with ex-service men at the Cardiff Arms Park before the Prince of Wales on the occasion of his visit to Cardiff on June 9th. We hope there will be a good rally.

The annual meeting for the election of secretary, committee, etc., will be held at the club on Tuesday, June 21st, at 7 o'clock.

Edinburgh.

On May the 7th, there was a ramble in the Crammond House grounds. A delightful afternoon was spent by all those present. On Victoria Day a large party left town at 10 a.m. for the Pentlands. The weather was perfect. We returned to the club about 8 p.m., where one of our W.R.N.S. club members had supper ready.

On Saturday, May 28th, a farewell party was held in the club for Miss Jean Hawley, who leaves for Canada on the 2nd of June. In presenting Miss Hawley with a suit case and hand bag from her many friends in the club Miss Low spoke with the warmest appreciation of the work she had done for the O.C.A. The success of the club has been largely due to her untiring efforts. Miss Low said that all present would miss Miss Hawley more than she could express. Her sense of humour, ready sympathy and friendliness to all the members made her departure a real disaster. The O.C.A. wished her a happy time in Canada, and asked her to convey their greetings to all comrades who had preceded her. They would not say goodbye to her but au-revoir, and a safe return before too long a period had passed away.

Four rambles have been arranged for June, and on the 18th of June we are taking part in a pageant in aid of the League of Pity.

The following two letters have been received:—

White Rock, British Columbia, May 5th

DEAR MISS LOW,

I received the circular letter dated April 9th yesterday and was awfully pleased to notice from it that the Corps were going to volunteer their services in the present crisis. Unfortunately I am too far away to be of any service at present, but my best wishes go out to all the members of the old Corps. I have no doubt a number of your members will remember me and I know Miss Gilmour at least knows me quite well. I was before marriage forewoman Mackie 1460 and was at Etaples for a long time, but Miss Gilmour and a few others will probably remember seeing my sister and I at Hastings as we were there at the opening of that Hostel. The news sheet is awfully interesting and I am always delighted to get it. With my best wishes for the future of the Association, yours faithfully,

MARGARET M. MANN.

Miss Low thanks Mrs. Mann very much for her letter. This branch of the O.C.A. wish her success and happiness in her new life and the members look forward to more letters. Miss Gilmour asks to be especially remembered and to say that she has not forgotten the old days spent together at Hastings.

As a result of the appeal sent out during the recent coal crisis the following letter has been received.

" I only returned here yesterday from Scone Camp, Perth, having been three weeks cook in the officers' mess of the 6th Black Watch there. It was like old army days. The battalion left Scone Camp yesterday for Dundee and I returned here."

Yours sincerely (sgd.) E. B. GORRIE.

Glasgow.

Mrs. Clark, captain of the Hockey Team, reports: The last game took the form of a match in which we scored, the opponents being North Kelvinside First Eleven. North Kelvinside were playing at a disadvantage, having two players short, but I am inclined to think the result would have been the same had they had a full team (that is the attitude to adopt). The first ten minutes of the game was all in favour of North Kelvinside and the O.C.A. were hard put to it to defend their goal. This lack of energy was probably due to the excessive heat. After a tussle the forward line got the ball away with almost a clear field. Clearing the opposition backs the O.C.A. centre forward shot a clean goal. During the next five minutes the O.C.A. were bucked up by this encouragement, and after a splendid defence on the part of North Kelvinside, another goal was marked to the credit of the O.C.A. Half-time, O.C.A. 2, North Kelvinside First Eleven 0.

North Kelvinside seemed to have regained their confidence, and five minutes after play had recommenced, their centre forward sent a splendid shot from the circle through the goal. Until the end of the game play was pretty equal, both sides feeling the strain of playing in the heat. Three minutes before time up, North Kelvinside's centre forward gave way through exhaustion and had to be carried off the field. We agreed to stop then. Result, O.C.A., 2, North Kelvinside 1.

Reviewing the match and taking into consideration the fact that some of our players were beginners, the O.C. Hockey Club played splendidly. Our First Eleven had been considerably altered for this match, and had no previous opportunity of getting to know one another's play and positions occupied until informed on Saturday where each was to play. The passing between the forward line was good and now that the First Eleven O.C.A. have recognised that in Hockey there is no individual play, next season's games ought to prove interesting.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Clark for all she has done to make the Hockey Club a success. She has overcome all difficulties and discouragements. Herself a keen player, she has imbued the others with the same spirit.

Golf.

A match was arranged with the W.R.A.F. O.C.A., but as the evening was wet and stormy, it had to be postponed.

On Saturday, May 28th, a char-a-banc trip took place to Aberfoyle, on the borders of Perthshire. The route was via Strathblane and Dumgoyne. A magnificent view was obtained of the mountains round Loch Long and Loch Lomond. On arrival high tea was served at the Bailie Nicol Jarvie Hotel, nestling at the foot of the hills, with the river Forth right in front and Ben Lomond in the distance. After tea the party walked along the river to Loch Ard, made famous by Sir Walter Scott's "Lady of the Lake," and Jean Macalpine's "Jim," mentioned in "Rob Roy."

A girl with a dyed Waac coat was quickly spotted and recruited for the O.C.A. The return journey was made amid woodland and mountain scenery via Port of Menteith, skirting the lake for some miles, then through Balfron and

Killearn, where a view of Loch Lomond was obtained. Glasgow was reached in day-light, at 10.30 p.m.

Leeds.

On May 23rd Miss Britten arranged a very good programme, which was much enjoyed. The sketch was most amusing. Unfortunately it was a beautiful evening, and there were not many present. Several members who had said they would come did not do so. Perhaps they will send their 1s. to Miss Britten. The funds from this entertainment are to go towards music, etc., for the pierrot troupe. All contributions will be most thankfully received.

Miss Berry has arranged a ramble for June 4th. It has been suggested taking the "trackless" to Guisley and walking to Otley, having tea, and then returning by another road.

This last week we heard of two more members. If each member could find another friend how glad we should be.

There are always some members present at the fellowship meeting on Tuesday evenings, and we are very pleased if it is only a "pop" visit. Mrs. Lancaster has commenced to take orders for "undies." The proceeds to go to one of the local charities.

We very much regret to announce the death of Emma Todd (nee Newman) who joined September 10th, 1917. After one week in Connaught Club she was drafted to Kimmell, from there to Brocton Camp, demobilised from Tidworth. She married and sailed for New Zealand Dec., 1919, and died at Wellington, N.Z., at the birth of her baby, March 26th, 1921.

London.

The annual general meeting of the branch will be held at St. John's Institute, Tufton Street, Westminster, on Thursday, July 7th, at 7.30 p.m. It is proposed to hold an informal social and dance at the conclusion of the meeting. Refreshments will be provided free of charge to those who notify their intention of being present by sending a postcard to Miss Ireland, 12a Sidney Road, St. Margaret's-on-Thames, not later than July 1st. Items for the Agenda must reach Miss Ireland by June 20th.

Newcastle.

A meeting was held on Tuesday, April 26th to elect the officials for the coming year. Miss H. H. Warskitt, 14 Wentworth Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was elected President, Miss P. A. Taylor, 10 Wentworth Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was re-elected Secretary, Mrs. Wild, Benwell Towers, Newcastle-on-Tyne, who has always taken a very great interest in the Q.M.A.A.C., has become an hon. member of the Association, and was elected vice-president. A general committee was elected, and also an entertainments committee. Several new members were enrolled, and we hope to be able to arrange meetings once a fortnight during the summer.

Oxford.

At a meeting of the Entertainment Committee it was decided to postpone the dance and social arranged to take place in May on account of the coal strike and general labour difficulties. It was decided instead to arrange a

summer outing or picnic as soon as the weather permitted. Hearing of this, our vice-president, Mrs. Rouse Rowell, of Barton End House, Headington, at once offered the loan of her garden for a social to be held on Saturday, June 4th, from 3 to 7 p.m. Tennis, music and games to be held. It is hoped that a good number will be present, and that the weather will be kind.

Reading.

In order to wipe out our small deficit and with the hope of raising enough money to keep the Branch in funds for some months to come, we organised an "American Tea" and garden fete in the grounds of Horton Lodge, kindly lent by Canon and Mrs. Trotter, on June 1st. We were fortunate in having a beautiful afternoon, and the sunshine and the delightful strains of the Glenmore Ladies' Orchestra, which most kindly played for us, made everything very gay and cheerful. Tea was enjoyed in the shade of the trees and afterwards the Misses Bradford did a roaring trade at their stall. Miss Priestley and Mrs. Powys-Lybbe ran the competitions, including clock golf, guessing the weight of a gorgeously decorated cake, made at the Domestic Science School, University College. Thanks to the support of our friends who came to the fete and the donation of several who could not attend it, our financial position is now quite healthy, and our deficit a thing of the past. So we will be able to carry on for some time to come without any fear of a financial crisis.

We are very sorry that Miss N. Evans, who was elected to the Committee at our last meeting is unable to serve owing to her leaving Reading, but we wish her every happiness in her approaching marriage, and have no doubt she will come across "Old Comrades" in India, which is to be her future home.

Tennis.

The "Wrens" and "Wrafs" having challenged the "Qmaacs" for Tennis, it has been decided to fix a trial match on the 25th June, and all members wishing to compete should forward their names, not later than June 18th, to Miss Youell, 10 Stanley Gardens, Bayswater, W.11.

ROUEN SIGNALS RE-UNION.

The first week in May saw the realization at Colwyn Bay of the much looked forward to re-union of the Rouen Signals unit. Despite the impossibility of choosing one's own holiday date in the telegraph and telephone services eighteen of us managed to secure the desired week. The arrangements were carried out by Miss D. Hodgson in characteristically thorough manner.

I think the good people of Chester were rather alarmed at the scene they witnessed when the respective contingents from Manchester, Liverpool, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and London met on their station platform where they joined the train for Colwyn Bay. The scene later at the boarding house, where we found the Irish girls awaiting us is beyond description, and perhaps the poor sleep-seekers who occupied the room below are best qualified to describe the midnight arrival of the last of our party.

Sunday we spent on the beach and in the woods, enjoying to the full the glorious sunshine. On Monday we set off by char-a-banc for Snowdon and drove through Llanrwst, Bettws-y-coed, Capel Curig, and along the beautiful Llanberis pass to the base of the mountain, whose summit we reached after a climb of about two and a half hours. An hour less sufficed for the downward journey and we had a most interesting run home through Carnarvon, Bangor, Penmaen-Mawr and Conway, having covered a distance of over 80 miles.

On Tuesday we went by train to Penmaen-mawr, which had especially attracted us on the previous day, picnicked on the moors and afterwards visited the Fairy Glen. Passing the quaint little village of Dwygyfelli we found ourselves in the Sychnant Pass, which leads through a magnificent countryside to Conway. After tea there the Samsons of the party returned to Colwyn Bay "a pied," while the less energetic stayed to explore Conway. A walk round the grass-covered town walls revived memories of happy unofficial visits to Montreuil, when French railway officials were yet in ignorance of the difference between a movement order and a postal order counterfoil! In crossing by boat from Conway to Deganwy, this little party were spellbound as they watched the wonderful effect of darkness descending among the mountains, and as they looked back at Conway Castle they felt they were indeed seeing "the splendour fall on castle walls."

We went by train on Wednesday afternoon to Llandudno, the mountaineering enthusiasts climbing to the top of the Great Orme from there while the others preferred the five miles level walking round the base. That evening's jazz band performance was even more fierce than usual, a raid on the local toy-shop having produced a variety of instruments to reinforce our good friend the paper-covered comb.

For Thursday our tireless organiser had planned a motor tour of 130 miles, which far exceeded all our expectations. Our route lay along the Conway and Gwynant valleys to Beddgelert, the scene of the tragic story of Prince Llewelyn and his dog. After a picnic lunch we proceeded through Penryhndendraeth, Harlech and Barmouth to Dolgelly, thence along the shore of the lake to Bala, returning to the now familiar Conway valley by Cerrig-y-Druidion and Pentre-Foelas.

On Friday we returned to the river valley to see the beautiful swallow, and also the Conway Falls, making the return journey on the opposite bank of the river, which we had not so far explored.

As some had to leave early on Saturday we made the most of the Friday evening, dancing till midnight, when "Auld Lang Syne" was sung and hearty cheers given to those whose efforts had made our re-union the tremendous success it was. Our next meeting is fixed for May 21st, 1922, at Row in the West of Scotland.

We said our goodbyes with the firm resolution that by hook or by crook we will all meet in Scotland next year, and we would remind those who will not have memories of Colwyn Bay to spur them on that "where there's a Waac there's a way."

M. H. R.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Letter from Saskatchewan, Canada.

I have been appointed art teacher at St. Alban's College, Prince Albert. It is delightful to receive the Gazette every month. I believe there are a number of Waacs scattered about Canada, and I often wish I could come across them, but Prince Albert is rather far away from—shall I say civilisation? Perhaps that would give you a wrong idea of the conditions under which we live in this funny little town. Fifteen miles north of us the railway ends, and dog sleighs are the only means of locomotion, but we are very far from being "wild and woolly." The Bishop of Saskatchewan and his family live in Prince Albert and he and Mrs. Newnham are both directors of the school, in fact they founded it and sent their daughters as pupils. I have had to paint an oil portrait of the Bishop to hang in the college, and I am at present painting Mrs. Newnham, his wife.

It has been a mild winter they tell me, but of course very cold indeed, the thermometer often fell to 10 degrees below zero, and sometimes to 30 and 40 degrees below. We are still under deep snow ice. There is very little out-of-door skating as it is too cold, but we have a huge covered rink, like a tent, in which crowds assemble, and a band plays.

Do you remember Somerville, D.A.? I think she was at Camiers when you were there. I am hoping she will join me as a member of the staff in the autumn, but this is still in the air. Please remember me to all members of the corps.

15/9/21.

FAITH KENWORTHY BROWNE.

A Letter from Quetta, India.

The spring is coming at last in Quetta, after a bitterly cold and snowy winter. All the hills were quite white on Christmas Day, and it looked rather beautiful. It is so frightfully dry and dusty as a rule. I came out in September when it was still hot, and the Scende Desert that we came through in the train was like a furnace, so hot that I wore a Waac overall and almost nothing underneath, for the thirty-six hours, we had to hang cloths wrung out in iced water all over the carriage and have every window shut and shutter up!

Quetta is the largest military station in India, and they have a whole division here of three British regiments. I haven't come across any other Waacs, but my British warm seems quite familiar, and I have heard many pretty appreciative things said of the corps by officers who were out there in France. It is lovely to know I am still among the army, and the familiar words of command and bugle calls appeal very strongly to the soldier part that is always in me.

Good luck to the Gazette and its welcome appearance. I nearly devour the paper when it comes. Might I make a suggestion, and that is that the Gazette could be wrapped up more when it comes abroad? The outside sheet is almost unreadable when it has finished its 8,000 mile journey.

Miss Neave (Hostel Forewoman, Bostall Heath) travelled out on the same boat that I did, as far as Bombay. She has gone to Agra. It was nice being together on board.

E. BURKITT,
(Late A.A., Bostall Heath).

A Letter from Ludd, Palestine.

Thank you very much indeed for enclosing the W.A.A.C. O.C.A. badge in your last letter to me. I like it very much and think it a very neat pretty badge. We are living in stirring times again here. Perhaps by the time you get this you will have seen in the papers all about the trouble and riots in Jaffa. The trouble lies between the Arab and the Jew, who hate each other whole heartedly. The Jews have never forgiven the Turk for taking Jerusalem and building the beautiful Mosque of Omar on the site of the old temple. Even now there is a portion of the old temple wall remaining and there any day in the week the Jews may be seen reading a portion of Scripture and rocking to and fro and bewailing the fact of the Turks having built their mosque on holy ground. This little portion of wall is known as the "Jews' wailing wall."

Now that the Jews are coming back to claim their own the Arab who has been so long in the country, is raising objections, and so from time to time the smouldering hatred breaks out, as it has done now in Jaffa.

Jaffa has a large Jewish colony, and the Arabs have been murdering all Jews, men, women and children, they could find.

All Jewish shops are closed down, and some were already looted before the arrival of our troops.

The only danger now is of trouble spreading, but we hope in a few days our men will be able once more to restore law and order. We are fairly safe in Ludd, owing to the fact that there are very few Jews. Jews will not live singly in an Arab village, they like to form a colony.

We are having very hot weather now, yesterday was 97 degrees in our living hut and to-day is hotter.

Tennis and dancing seem to be the order of the day, though to play tennis is often more a duty as exercise than a pleasure, but as yet the evenings are cool enough for dancing. A small dance is soon arranged out here. The table is removed out-side and the rugs rolled up, a record put on the gramophone and away we go, three couples being able to dance comfortably. As you can guess, officers' quarters are never too full of furniture. At the next new moon, Ramadan, commences and continues 28 days, during which time the good Moslem neither eats nor drinks while the sun is up. You can imagine what it means to a native not to drink, when during the shortage of water in the war the native was allowed 2 gallons of water to a Britisher's 1 pint. As soon as the sun is down, about 6.30, from then the Moslem sits down to feast and in the villages the tom-toms are played and the dancing girls dance nearly all through the night.

I have suddenly realised I have gone on writing, without thinking whether all this will interest you as it interests me.

SARAH N. SLATER.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F.L.K. (Sutton).—You are not entitled to a grant for training from the Central Committee, because you are an ex-service woman, but you are very likely eligible. Ask at any Ministry of Labour Employment Bureau for Form C.C.1., and see if you can fill it up accurately. The form readily explains itself, but we will gladly give you any further help.

Ex-D.A. (Manchester).—You can still benefit under the Overseas Settlement Scheme. The time limit was extended until the end of the year. Write to the Secretary, S.O.S.B.W., Hotel Windsor, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

M.B.N. (Windsor).—Send your letter c/o this office and we will forward it.

B.L. (N. Herts).—An advertisement in the "Woman's Leader" might help you. It is a useful paper for small advertisements, and is read by the right sort of people. The address is 62 Oxford Street, W.1.

N.O.V. (Kensington).—You might obtain some help from the Benevolent Fund, but you would have to make a clear statement on paper and send it to the Secretary—or better still ask your local branch to take the matter up.

K.F.H. (Bermondsey).—Yes, any member of the O.C.A. can book accommodation at Shanghai-on-Thames. You and your friend would be sure of as pleasant and economical a holiday as you could get anywhere.—Write to the Camp Secretary, c/o O.C.A.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Miss Payne (Northern Command) is in training as an almoner at St. Thomas Hospital, and the School of Economics, and is most interested in her work. **Miss Wotzel** is learning massage at St. Thomas' Hospital. Can anyone supply the address of **Miss Julia Castledine**, formerly stationed at Harrowby Camp? **Miss E. B. Neave** writes very happily from Agra. She likes India very much, but says she would give up everything to return to her life in the army, as it was the happiest time she ever had. She has recently become engaged to be married, so may return home before long, when we shall hope to see her and hear all her news. **Miss Winifred Tyte** writes from Wells, Somerset, and sends us the notice of **Miss K. C. Gridley's** wedding at Cheltenham, and also some addresses of ex-members who have not yet joined the O.C.A. She points out that she has not seen much news in the Gazette of the former staff of the Imperial Hotel, Bristol. **Miss Ruby Wills** has a post at a Ladies' Club in 22 Cartwright Gardens, W.C., which she obtained through the Women's Legion Household Service Section. She has been there nearly a year and likes it very much. **Miss Haywood** (late F/W.) is living at the same address, and they are both members of the O.C.A. **Miss Annie Bartlett** (O.B.E. Medallist) writes from Northwood, Middlesex, "I am a cook in private service now, with a family of two, rather different from my last post in the army, when I was forewoman of the only cookhouse in a camp, with a family of 2,000. My days are not so strenuous and my nights are not vivid with nightmares as they were then, but though I firmly believe I should eventually have succumbed, and died on active service if the war had continued, I look back with regret on four glorious years of service, and would gladly do it all over again, even with the prospect of a military funeral"

Miss J. Collins writes entertaining letters from India, where she is secretary to Lady Rawlinson, wife of the C. in C. Among other interesting guests at G.H.Q. have been M. Clemenceau and the Duke of Connaught, and the change of Viceroys has led to a good deal of entertainment and social functions.

Miss Maden, who used to be at Holland Park, was married a year last January and has a little son. **Miss Judd** of the same unit is in Canada. **Miss Barnard**, who was at one time second assistant to the Controller of the Scottish Command, and afterwards went to Cologne, was married last December, and is now Mrs. Bradfield. She is sailing for India immediately with her husband and takes up permanent residence in Madras. **Miss M. Merrylees**, who was Head Patrol, is now Head Cook at the Ordination Test School Knutsford, **Miss Robinson**, the Matron, tells us that the ex-Waacs there are all keen on sewing and make their own clothes. They have whist drives about once a month, and the prizes now consist of material for undergarments. They are all hoping to turn up for the reunion in Manchester. **Miss Margaret Hayman** (Rouen) intends going to Canada in the near future. **Miss Cecily Delaney**, now Mrs. Frank Leroy, one of the first eleven girls in Ireland to join the Irish Command, has written from Quebec, where she is now living. She was married last September and is very happy in her new life. **Ex-Forewoman F. M. Goodwin** has won the second class certificate for a blouse at the Gloucestershire Exhibition over many other entries.

Miss M. E. Gardner has just arrived in Toronto, her first thought has been to amend her address for the Gazette as she finds that only one copy goes to the house where she is staying and has to make a complete round.

Miss Agatha Lumby has interesting work in the National Industrial Training Section for Disabled men, under the Ministry of Labour. **Miss M. Cairns** is nursing at Erdington Infirmary, Birmingham.

Miss Elsie Hughes, late U.A., Recruiting Staff, has been working since December last as Private Secretary to Lord Dawson of Penn, consultant physician to the King, and though the work is sometimes a 15-hour day, it is extremely interesting. **Miss Hilda Franks** (Sheerness and Rouen) is now working as telephone operator in London, she would be pleased to chum up with an ex-Waac. Her address is 123 New King's Road, Fulham, S.W.6. We are sorry to have been so long in publishing this message. But the letter was mislaid. **Miss Sheila Brown** (U.A., Maresfield Park) says, "I am enjoying life in the Bush very much. It is all a great experience, and one I would not have missed for anything. I hope a little later on to take a temporary post in Melbourne, and afterwards in Sydney, just to see these cities before returning to England, and I hope I shall meet some Old Comrades there." **Miss Brown** writes from Neryula, Addington, Victoria.

Miss Grace M. Rogers (Gordon Square) is teaching domestic science at a Reformatory School for girls in Liverpool. In addition she coaches games for two hours each day and plays the accompaniments for dancing and singing, with a great deal of supervision so that her time is well filled. **Miss L. Leadbeater** (Unit V., Boulogne) is in Canada with her two sisters, who were stationed at Woodcote Camp, Epsom. She is very anxious to hear from some of her old friends so we give her address. 12122, 106th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. **Miss Effie B. Boyd** (Abbeville) is in Toronto, Ontario. **Miss Mabel Critchlow** (Camp III., Abbeville) writes that **Sister Fortescue**, who

was in charge of the sick bay, has married, and is living in Bury St. Edmunds. She is now Mrs. Carew. Her nurse is another Waac who was at Abbeville, **Maud Scrimshaw**. Miss Critchlow herself is working at Birkenhead Union, and her chief sorrow is that she is unable to attend the meetings of the O.C.A., owing to night duty.

Miss A. M. Pym, 33, would be very glad to hear any news of Old Comrades of Summerdown Camp, the old E.F.C., Boulogne, 4th B.R.D., 5th Army Infantry School, and Unit 1, Dieppe, and has been anxiously scouring the "News of Old Comrades" every month for any familiar name, but has been disappointed at finding so few as yet."

Mrs. Jouren (late F/W., Hamshare) writes from P.O., Essendon, Victoria, Australia. "I came out with the first party of ex-service women to Victoria, in May, 1920. We numbered twelve and we were quite a family party whilst on the boat, and found in the Australian soldiers returning home most cheery companions, whom we were all very sorry to leave on arriving at Melbourne. After staying a week in the city and becoming acquainted with the people of Australia, we each took a position in various suburbs and villages in Victoria. The first attempt in some cases was not quite up to their desire, but they soon changed and found something suitable. I myself gave up my first attempt but the next was more successful, so much so that I have taken a permanent position and have not only adopted the country but a husband too, and am very pleased to tell you I am happy in my new life. I can recommend this country to any ex-member, providing she has the average woman's idea of a domestic life.

Miss Blackwell (late London District) writes a most interesting letter from Vienna where she is working for the Japanese Legation at the Peace Mission. Her work is very well paid and pleasant. She expects to go on to Hungary later in the year, and intends to travel for a while before returning to England. Miss Blackwell adds, "By the way, if you hear people talking about the starving Austrians don't you believe them. The Austrians beg from us and then laugh at us for being such fools. They look fat and flourishing."

Mrs. Kingsley (D.A., Devizes) has just started a small convalescent home at Niton, I. of W.

Miss E. K. Browne (Belfast and Bourges) is shortly coming to London to train in domestic science. She has been staying recently with **Miss Kemmis Betty**, who has a busy summer before her with many tennis tournaments.

Miss Ursula Pudsey, late U.A., Holland Park and Scarborough, has just begun work after being ill since she left the Corps. **Miss Dorothy Pullan**, who was at Rouen, tells us that her sister, Madge, who was there with her, is now in Pennsylvania, U.S.A., having married a Yankee whom she met in France. She is very happy and her new relations are very proud of her because she is British, and was a Waac. **Mrs. Taylor** (Miss Towyn Jones) has written from Penang. We hope to publish her letter next month. **Miss Phyllis Brown**, late U.A., Andruicq, B.E.F., has just arrived in Pretoria, and is working at the Afrikans Medium High School, where she is the only English member on the staff. She is likely to travel about, and is anxious to meet

ex-Waacs. **Miss Amy Hardy** has only recently left the St. Pol. Unit. She is going to work at home for the present, but it is her ambition to open a copying office at a later date.

Miss E. Bulman (Gailes, N.B.), is living at home, keeping house for her father and brother. She also gives invaluable help at the Wallsend Y.W.C.A. Club, and belongs to the Newcastle Branch of the O.C.A. She would like to hear from Miss Macready and Miss Winter. Address to Rosehill Terrace, Willington-on-Tyne.

Miss E. Larnier, late of Camp 10, Rouen, left England on the 26th of May for New Zealand.

Miss Winifred Speechley has written a most interesting letter from British Columbia. She is working in a law office in Victoria. She asks us to send her best wishes to all her friends and tell them how nice it would be to hear from some of those whom she used to know and with whom she is no longer in touch. Her address is Y.W.C.A., Yates Street, Victoria, B.C. She would very much like to see some more of the Waacs out there replacing the Chinamen who are employed in every house, although they are very different from those whom she saw in France wearing the old Waac hats. According to her letter British Columbia is the finest country in the world, and she is thoroughly enjoying life out there.

Old Comrades who passed through the Metropole, Folkestone, will be interested to hear that **Miss Carlisle** and **Miss Jacobs** have returned from doing relief work in Serbia.

PERSONAL NOTICES.

Dudding—Toyer.—On April 6th, at St. David's Church, Exeter, Isabel Muriel Dudding (U.A., Norwood), to Arthur Manley Toyer (late R.A.S.C., M.T., Norwood).

Holmes—Young.—At Camphill U.F. Church, Glasgow, on April 2nd, Violet A. F. Young (Glasgow) to W. Y.S. Holmes (Liverpool). Both late of Rouen Area.

Subscribers are particularly reminded that this number completes the first year of the Gazette, and that subscriptions now due should be forwarded without delay to ensure the delivery of the July number.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Working Housekeeper for middle-aged couple or for flat in Kensington, every convenience and help given, wages £50.—Apply by letter to Miss Foley, 51 Elm Park Mansions, Park Walk, Chelsea.

Winsome Waac Cartoons. These can still be obtained from the Edinburgh branch of the O.C.A. Price 3/6 and 2d. for postage, from Miss J. H. Cowan, 6 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.

Cook General wanted immediately for ladies' college sanatorium; 2 in household except during epidemic when extra help provided; wages £50.—Apply Matron, Ladies' College, Cheltenham.

Middle-aged Gentlewoman, formerly V.A.D. cook, wishes to undertake sole charge of small flat for professional woman in London.—M.H., c/o Q.M.A.A.C. Offices.

Holidays in the Isle of Wight. Mrs. Kingsley (late D.A.) can take a few paying guests at Rydel Mount, Niton, Isle of Wight. She is a trained nurse, from 2½ guineas weekly.