

Old Comrades'



Association

GAZETTE.

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

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EDITORIAL

Everyone is away on holiday, and there is very little general news for this number of the Gazette, but we hope the next number will contain some account of the holiday experiences of those who have been anywhere of special interest. Some of our members have arranged to re-visit their old camps in France, and see what the familiar places are like under peace conditions. Their experiences will be of the greatest interest to the other members of their old units and we shall rely on receiving some account of their travels. Those members who are staying in England and Scotland are lucky to have such a good choice of holiday homes where they can stay very comfortably and at a remarkably moderate cost.

Southsea.

The United Services' Club here was opened with great éclat at the end of July, and a full report of the proceedings will be found on another page. It is now up to the Service women to make the Club as great a success as it promises to be if properly supported. Miss Ireland, General Secretary of the Helena Residential Clubs, Ltd., writes as follows:—

"I believe quite a number of Old Comrades cannot understand why the prices charged by the United Services Club for Women, 26 South Parade, Southsea, are in excess of those charged by the Helena United Services Holiday House, 58 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

"May I be permitted to state that the United Services Fund made a much larger grant to St. Leonards, which enabled the Helena Residential Clubs, Ltd., to purchase the house, re-decorate, and equip, and yet have a balance in hand which the United Services Fund have invested to form an endowment. The prices charged to visitors at St. Leonards by no means cover all out-going expenses, but with the endowment to fall back upon, the Board of Directors are able to meet their liabilities.

"In regard to Southsea, the grant only just covered the cost of the house, re-decoration and equipment, in fact, it hardly covered the completion of the equipment, and with nothing to fall back upon, the Club has got to be self-supporting. This, unfortunately, has not been the case during the last few months, but it is hoped that when it becomes better known, more Old Comrades will arrange to spend their holidays there, and by so doing help to keep it going. Local members of the Ex-Service Women's Association have not rallied to the Club as we had hoped, and the thought of having to close it from lack of support is a very unhappy prospect. We must, however, try to be optimistic about its future."

Our London Club.

The news that Miss Ireland has been appointed Secretary to the London Club at Buckingham Gate, will be received with universal satisfaction, and we venture to think that the other Services with whom we share the Club will be almost as pleased as we are. Miss Ireland is persona grata to all Service women, and the appointment is an excellent augury for the success of the Club. Miss Ireland still retains her post as Secretary to the Board of Directors of the Helena Residential Clubs, Ltd., and will therefore continue to be directly interested in the Southsea, St. Leonards and Lancaster Gate Clubs. The offices of the Helena Clubs, Ltd., will be transferred from Lancaster Gate, W.2, to Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. Everyone seems to be becoming thoroughly excited over the London Club, and it is to be hoped that they will promptly take the necessary action in the matter, i.e., buy a postal order and fill in the enclosed form.

Service women are getting so many benefits showered upon them that they may be in danger of getting slightly blasé. A few years ago it would have been difficult to believe that we should be able to belong to a Club immediately opposite Buckingham Palace, for 6s. a year, or stay in the best part of Edinburgh, Southsea or St. Leonards, or camp by the Thames, at the most expensive time of the year, for about two guineas a week or even less. Still more unlikely that we should be given a free holiday if luck was against us and we were out of work and ill, or that the Benevolent Fund would come to our aid at a critical time and tide us over it.

Yes, we are rubbing it in purposely. Certain people in each of the women's Services have done a great deal of hard work since we were demobilised, and it is now up to the rest of us to show we appreciate it.

Overseas Settlement.

We hear from the Secretary of the S.O.S.B.W., 304 Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C.2, that there is now a large demand for domestic workers in Canada. The S.O.S.B.W. will supply full information and all details of assisted passages and will be glad to interview anyone wishing to know more about the opportunities for women in Canada.

Five hundred women are wanted in Toronto, 150 in Ottawa, 77 in London, Ontario, 40 in Hamilton, and smaller numbers in Belleville, Kingston, Oshawa, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, St. Catherine's, and Windsor. The posts available are in city, town and country, in hotels and private houses, and the salary ranges from 15 to 40 dollars a month. Cooks are in the greatest demand, but all domestic workers can be placed easily.

Applicants for these openings can arrange to go out to Canada with the protected parties of the S.O.S.B.W.

They will be housed in Government hostels on arrival till they go to their positions.

A correspondent in the current number of the "Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette" complains "that of the ten old copies of the Gazette I have selected at random, I find in five of them references made to W.A.A.C.'s. It is quite possible that other ex-women war workers read the Gazette and would like to see some mention of other branches of the service which opened up for women during the war." We are sorry he is so bored with us, but hope the Editor will continue to find us interesting copy. He is apparently unabashed by his correspondent's criticism so far as on another page there is an excellent paragraph calling attention to the amenities of the Southsea Club, for which we are most grateful.

Our Contemporaries.

We beg to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of the following publications: "The Wren," "The W.R.A.F.," "Bulletin," "The Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette," "The Veteran and Briton," and "The Imperial Colonist."

The W.R.A.F. Old Comrades Association is organising a bazaar to be held in London on December 2nd. The Wrens are evidently taking up the Sea Guide movement wholeheartedly and have apparently found it exactly the outlet they required.

"The Veteran and Briton" quotes the following figures given in the House of Commons relating to the number of persons employed at the headquarter offices of the Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes:—

Non-Service men	313
Non-Service women	362
Ex-Service men	230
Ex-Service women	10
Serving officers	4
Other serving ranks	Nil
Disabled personnel	61

Although not Service women, it is probable, however, that the majority of the women now employed at these Headquarters were employed by the N.A.C.B. during the war.

The British Legion.

Amongst other interesting items taking place at the British Legion Rally on September 30th, at Crystal Palace, there will be a three-mile walking race on the cycle track arena, for ex-Service women. Any Old Comrade desiring to compete should apply at once to the Secretary, Sports and Entertainments Committee, British Legion Headquarters, 26 Ecclestone Square, S.W.1. As the other Services are being invited by the Legion to compete we trust the W.A.A.C.'s will keep up their reputation, and the first prize for this event will be a cup.

Talking of the British Legion, it is interesting to note they are not waiting for our membership before giving us their help. I heard the other day of an ex-W.A.A.C., who, having been given compensation of 4s. 7d. per week (while not earning more than £2) for bronchitis contracted on service, was offered a final settlement of £25 by the War Office. Before accepting she sought advice from the Legion, who took the matter up, and finally obtained £60 instead of £25 for her.

We very much regret that Miss E. M. Mills has had to resign from the post of Hon. Secretary to the Southampton Branch. Miss Mills has given much valuable time to the work of the branch, and the O.C.A. is much indebted to her.

SHANGHAI-ON-THAMES.

I am very much afraid that there is not much of note to report this month as the weather has been so unsympathetic, and the attendance at the week-ends has not been as large as the Secretary and Treasurer could have wished but even so there have been quite a number of brave spirits for whom the rain has held no fear. However, optimism has always been characteristic of the association, and I'm entertaining great hopes for a splendid August and September.

All old comrades who frequent the camp will be sorry to hear of the death of Miss Williams, of "The Lock." Both Miss Williams and her brother have become good friends with all the Waacs, and we extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. Williams. We are grateful to the residents in camp at the time who sent the floral tribute on behalf of the O.C.A.

HILDA HORNIBLOW.

EX-SERVICE WOMEN'S CLUB, LONDON.

The work at 5 Buckingham Gate is progressing rapidly, and the workmen are under contract to be finished by September 9th, so every effort will be made to have the club ready for members on October 1st.

Apart from the dining room, smoking lounge, reading room and writing room, there are nine bed-rooms, with accommodation for eighteen beds. The committee have decided to let eight beds to permanent residents, leaving ten beds available to members who only desire to sleep at the club for a few nights, the charges for which will be:—

Single Room	4s. 6d. per night.
Share of two-bedded room	3s. 6d. per night.
Share of three-bedded room	3s. 0d. per night.
Share of Four-bedded room	2s. 6d. per night.

These charges include bed, breakfast, baths, service and light.

In the rooms for two or more, each bed will have a large four-fold screen, which will give a certain amount of privacy.

One large two-bedded room and one three-bedded room will be let to permanent residents. Charges for which will be:—

Two-bedded room, bed and breakfast, each per week £1.
Three-bedded room, bed and breakfast, each per week, 10/6.

All other meals can be obtained in the club at reasonable charges. There will be a gas fire, with penny in the slot meter in each bed-room, and no charge will be made for baths.

Those members who desire to dress for the theatre may have the use of a dressing room at the rate of 6d. per half hour. This includes bath. It is hoped that arrangements can be made for a table d'hôte luncheon to be served in the dining-room from 12 until 2, at a charge of 1s. 3d., or a la carte. Teas will be served from 4 until 6, and supper from 6.30 until 8.15. Arrangements will be made for the respective Old Comrades' Associations to reserve the drawing room for re-unions. Dame Florence Simpson has very kindly sent a large supply of books with which to start a club library, together with a liberal contribution of music.

The committee have had rather an anxious time in their endeavours to spend the limited amount of money at their disposal to the best advantage, and in order to economise to a certain extent, the Secretary is hoping that some of the Old Comrades who have a little spare time in September will join a working party at the club for the purpose of marking linen, making curtains and cushions, etc. Those willing to volunteer should forward their names to the Secretary, stating the time which they are willing to give, so that working parties can be arranged to suit the majority.

An application form for membership is enclosed with this copy of the Gazette, and it is hoped that all Old Comrades will again "fall in" and send their subscription without delay. Membership will date from the time that the club opens. Those members who have already paid their subscription to any of the other clubs which have been started as a result of a grant from the United Services Fund can become temporary members of the London Club if they are only in town occasionally, by paying a subscription of 2d. per day. It is hoped, however, that a large number of Old Comrades living in the provincial towns will join as country members.

The following domestic staff will also be required: One experienced cook, two kitchen maids, one housemaid, one pantrymaid. Applicants should state age, experience, and salary required. It will not be possible to interview applicants until early in September. Kindly address correspondence in connection with accommodation and vacancies on the staff to the Secretary, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.

Official Opening of the Southsea Club, July 21st.

The Southsea United Services' Club for Women should prove a boon for all resident ex-members of the three premier Service Women's organisations, the Q.M.A.A.C., the W.R.N.S., and the W.R.A.F., and to all ex-members visiting the town. The club, which is situated at 26 South Parade, has a delightful site, overlooking the sea front, and is well appointed, was officially opened by Rear-Admiral E. Hyde-Parker, C.B., Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan (Chairman of the Services Women's Association) specially visiting the club to preside at the opening. Amongst those present also were: Miss B. Ireland (Headquarters, London), Mrs. Powell (Service Women's Association), Miss Ethel Royden (Headquarters, W.R.N.S.), Rev. R. Edmonds Smith (Hon. Chaplain of the Club), Miss Davey (late Chief Controller, Overseas, Q.M.A.A.C.), Miss McQuire Bate (Warden and Secretary of the Club), Col. and Mrs. Boul-derson, Col. F. L. Penno, and members of the House Committee.

Apologies for absence were received from Dame Catherine Furze, Dame Florence Simpson, Miss Edith Thompson, Dr. Adeline Roberts, Sir Bertram and Lady Falle, Sir Thomas and Lady Bransdon, and Col. Commandant E. S. Girdwood, the latter writing as follows: "I hope that the good comradeship which existed during the Great War will continue, and that the club in Southsea will be the means of keeping alive that wonderful esprit de corps which enabled the women's services to win the respect and admiration of all the fighting forces with whom they were associated."

At the outset the Chairman pleaded for the maximum of support for the club, which could not exist otherwise. There must be many ex-members of the women's forces living in and around Portsmouth, and the club should prove of the utmost advantage to them, while it would help to preserve that spirit of patriotism which prevailed among the women during the war. She trusted that they would take keen interest in the present day affairs of the country, and use the club as a meeting place for discussion of such ideas as would result in social and national improvement. As president of the W.R.A.F. Old Comrades Association and Vice-President of the Q.M.A.A.C. Association, she tendered the good wishes of those organisations.

Admiral Hyde-Parker, in declaring the club open, paid a great tribute to women's work in the war. He could not speak with much first-hand knowledge of the other organisations, but the W.R.N.S., who were associated with the Navy, performed admirably, and he caused a report to be sent to the Admiralty about their achievements. He remembered attending a meeting of the National Services' Ministry towards the end of 1918, when it had become obviously the fact that the country had passed the zenith of its man power, and that substitution by women for men wherever possible would be vital to the nation. Had the war entered into 1919 all three women's services would have increased enormously. As it was, 50,000 served in the Q.M.A.A.C., 32,000 in the W.R.A.F., and 6,000 in the W.R.N.S. In the latter service women did jobs which had been thought to be totally unsuitable for them. Of all the dirty jobs he knew the foremost was that of boiler cleaning. But the women revelled in it. Then they worked as armourers, depth charge workers, and motor mechanics.

A vote of thanks to Admiral Hyde-Parker was accorded on the motion of Miss Wood (Chairman of the House Committee), seconded by Dr. Marjorie Westby, while Miss Monkhouse tendered the thanks of the club to Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan. At the close refreshments were served in the dining room, and some members took the opportunity of inspecting the club, which also contains a recreation room, writing room and bed-room accommodation for 17 people, the object being to provide holiday apartments for ex-Service women.

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

It is gratifying to note how many tributes of appreciation have been paid to the late Miss M. M. Stevenson by members of her old staff. Subscriptions to the memorial Fund have been received this month from Mrs. A. Mercer, Mrs. Bannacott, Mrs. Jerrett, the Misses A. J. Burnett, E. M. Gilchrist, R. Batey, G. Blanchard, M. A. Watts, E. Fuller, M. Onions, M. A. Silver, A. Walton, W. A. Mack, M. Druitt, J. H. Corvan, making a total of £18 15s. up to the end of July. The list will remain open until August 31st.

At the last meeting of the Council, the Limited Company seal was presented and approved. It really is a beautiful design—our own Q.M.A.A.C. badge, encircled by a scroll bearing the words "O.C.A. Ltd." Signatures have been affixed to the final document, and all business concerning registration is now completed.

LOCAL BRANCH REPORTS

LONDON AND DISTRICT.

Club room is open each Thursday evening at 91 Belgrave Road, S.W.1., from 7.30 to 10. The Secretary would be glad to be informed of any member ill, either in hospital or at home.

RAMBLE.—A joint ramble with the Association of Wrens will take place on Sunday, September 10th, at Banstead. Meet at Banstead Station (L.B. & S.C.Rly.) at 11.45 a.m. Train from Victoria at 10.55.

SWIMMING CLUB.—The jumble sale held on July 27th was, thanks to our hard-working committee and many donors, an unqualified success. Our gratitude is also due to the "lady of the flowers," they realised a comparatively large sum under Mrs. Jackson's brilliant auctioneering. It requires a considerable amount of talent to beguile from one's pocket one's Thursday night "all" in exchange for articles of somewhat tarnished glory and sometimes doubtful utility, though we venture to assert that there were many bargains. Perhaps our best thanks should go to the loyal "customers," who apparently must have wended their various ways home absolutely without "visible means of support," unless one could count the mysterious and numerous bundles about their persons. Mrs. Parkes' long-suffering premises may not have accommodated a "sale" before, but we hope it was not the least enjoyable of the many uses to which they have been put. We should like to acknowledge here her kindness in presenting to the swimming club last month a camera, which added to our funds when raffled, and in permitting the sale to be held at 91. With some funds in hand we hope now to give rein to our ambitions. For further particulars, see future Gazettes.

N. Mitchell, Hon. Sec., S.C.

Richmond Sub-Branch.

The week-end, 8/9th July, is one which the members of this branch will long remember. On Saturday afternoon the 8th, about a dozen of us had the pleasure of accepting Mrs. Pratt Barlow's kind invitation to tea at her delightful cottage in Weybridge. A tour of inspection of the artistically arranged rooms confirmed our belief that in our hostess we have an ideal committee member for the furnishing of the new Buckingham Gate Club. After a characteristically Scotch tea, we spent a glorious hour in the garden and surrounding grounds. We hope Mrs. Pratt Barlow did not afterwards regret letting us "loose" among her roses and sweet peas. On leaving we really looked more like a brighter London demonstration than a respectable party of ex-Waacs. We take this opportunity of assuring Mrs. Pratt Barlow of our appreciation of her kindness.

Sunday, the 9th, saw the successful result of plans laid by our energetic committee member, Piper, and carried out by Williams and herself, for an open picnic in Oxshott Woods. Despite the unsettled state of the weather in the

morning twenty enthusiastic old comrades turned up. We were delighted to have this chance of meeting members from the various other London sub-branches, besides having the distinct pleasure of the company of Miss Gilchrist, Secretary of the Glasgow Branch. We feel so glad "Pip" lives in this area. Only those of us who saw her during the days—and weeks—preceding the picnic know how hard she worked for it; and we take up here the echo of the three cheers, which resounded through the woods for Mrs. Piper, who baked such quantities of lovely cakes for us. She has a very large corner in her heart for Waacs, as those of us who have met her well know. We missed Harvey from the party, but thought of her as we "perished" the huge batch of home-made sausage rolls she had sent along. We are also indebted to Millman (Squeak) for a donation from her ingenious farthing fund.

Oxshott is a perfect spot for a picnic; the woods are so like those on the outskirts of the various French bases that we almost imagined ourselves repeating one of our good old days off in the Corps.

Several of our visitors have sent nice letters thanking us for the outing. We are so glad they enjoyed the day, and hope they will come again and bring some others with them. Arrangements have been made for a charabanc trip to Southsea on Sunday, 17th September, leaving Richmond station at 9.30 a.m. Tickets price 16s. 6d., including dinner and tea at the club, at 26 South Parade, Southsea, may be obtained from me, and should be applied for not later than 31st August.

M. H. ROBERTSON, Hon. Sec.

HOCKEY CLUB.—All inquiries regarding next season's Hockey Club should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Miss E. M. Smart, 81 Lancaster Gate, W.2.

S. B. MURRAY, Hon. Secretary.

81 Lancaster Gate, W.2.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Last year I told you a little of the joys of the river and Shanghai-on-Thames. This year I am enjoying the sun and sea breezes at Southsea, and I had the good fortune to be present at the opening of our Club, where I am staying, but, as that is described in another column, I need not here enlarge. If possible, come here by char-a-banc, which leaves Grosvenor Street, London, at 2.30 p.m., and deposits you on the doorstep of the Club at 7.15 p.m. in time for 7.30 dinner. The fare is only 9s. single, and the drive is through some most delightful scenery, some parts equal to Scotland. A warm welcome awaits you from Miss McGuire Bate, Warden, and Miss Robertson (late R.S.M., Bostall Heath), who is on the staff. The Club, with large airy rooms, is beautifully situated on the sea-front overlooking the Isle of Wight, and is also close to the Pier, where the entertainments are continuous, but the chief attraction lies in the bathing and in the cheap excursions which can be had by motor and boat along the coast and to the Isle of Wight.

Miss McGuire Bate is always willing and able to give information, and, with so much to entertain, there need not be a dull moment. The services at the Garrison Church, where seats are reserved for members and visitors to the Club, is of special interest to ex-Service women. Those wishing to go on to Shanghai-on-Thames can do so by char-a-banc, the fare from Southsea to Windsor being only 7s.

On July 8th, through the kindness of the members of the Kew Branch, I was invited to join in their all-day ramble to Oxshott Woods. In spite of rain and clouds a goodly number turned up at the meeting place at Kingston-on-Thames, where the bus was taken to Esher, after which an hour's walk brought us to the delightful spot in the woods where we encamped for the day under the pines. Here, with beautiful sunshine and congenial company, full justice was done to the sandwiches, home-made cakes, fruit salad, and creams, which were so generously provided. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking

the Secretary, Miss Robertson, and the members for the hearty welcome and the great kindness and hospitality extended to me.

The annual general meeting will be held in the club-room, 212 Bath Street, on the third Wednesday of September, at 7.30 p.m.

E. M. GILCHRIST.

Liverpool.

Nothing of importance has happened this month, as the majority of members are on holidays. May I again remind a goodly number that we are still waiting for their subscriptions. At the end of this month four of our members will be "en vacance" in Paris-Plage. Would any old comrade like them to put flowers on any grave in Etaples Cemetery? Please write to Secretary before August 24th.

D. HOLDER, 49 Claremont Road, Wavertree.

United Services Club, Liverpool.

Sad to say Miss McMichan has to resign the treasurer-ship of our club, as she is leaving this division. Her cheery presence has been a great boon to us during the winter months, we shall miss her very much, and also her valuable work as treasurer, this job will now be taken over by the Press representative, i.e., myself.

We hope that any ex-Service women who are visitors to Liverpool will at once let us know, and come to our club meetings, we shall be delighted to see them.

(Miss) LINDSAY,

Liverpool United Service Women's Club.

18th July, 1922.

Bristol and West of England.

As so many of our members are to be on holiday during the forthcoming month, we do not intend to hold any meetings until our river picnic at Frenchay, Saturday, September 2nd, when it is hoped our members will do their best to come. May I remind all members that we meet at the Tramway Centre at 2.30 p.m. on that date.

Edinburgh and East of Scotland.

The W.U.S. Club at 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, continues to be a great success. We would impress on all ex-Service women that they should join as soon as possible. The subscription, including entrance fee, for town members is 11s., and for country members 7s. The club is probably the finest of its kind in existence. A large membership is necessary to ensure its continued success and the members are coming in satisfactorily, but what we ex-Service people want to ensure is that the majority of members, for some time to come, should be ex-Service women. Honorary members are so delighted with the club that it is necessary to have frequent ballots for their admission. The membership should be considerably increased during the next few months. For their own sakes, as well as for that of the club, we hope that our old comrades will join up well.

Members from the following places have visited or stayed at the club during the last two months—London, Birmingham, Glasgow and Canada. All seemed to be delighted with their reception and with the comfort and beauty of the club.

The tennis court at Pinkhill is open daily, and has provided a great deal of pleasure and amusement for members. It is an ideal spot for beginners, and we are very much indebted to Miss "Bill" Kennison, W.L., for so willingly giving up her Monday evenings to come out to help and to encourage those who are taking up tennis for the first time.

On Saturday tea is provided at 6d. a head, and during the fine weather some very pleasant afternoons have been spent at Pinkhill.

As comrades have not taken as much advantage of the tennis court as was expected some of our W.U.S.C. friends have joined the club, thereby adding to its success and to their enjoyment. Racquets and balls are provided, and old comrades are always ready to help new comers and show them which end of the racquet to use.

BRITISH LEGION.—It is understood that the Scottish Branch of the British Legion is still considering the position of the ex-Service women. Scottish members should therefore take no steps about joining the B.L. without definite information from their O.C.A. Secretaries. All members should in any case be prepared to give the Legion any help on Armistice Day that may be required, in organising the sale of poppies, etc.

WAAC'S NAME ON WAR MEMORIAL.—The name of the Waac who is commemorated on the Cupar War Memorial is Beatrice Campbell. She was killed in an air raid at Abbeville. The memorial was unveiled by Earl Haig. The O.C.A. was unfortunately not represented, as nothing was known of the event until it was over. Members will greatly oblige if they will notify the Secretary of any event likely to be of interest to ex-Waacs. We are proud of our dead comrade, and wish that our branch had been represented at the ceremony of the unveiling of the memorial.

Miss Low wishes the Rouen Waacs to know that she was deeply disappointed to miss them when they passed her door on their tour of the Lake of Menteith district. She wishes all her friends to know that she and Miss Lambert are now back at Cailzie, Ruskby Stirling. The Aberfoyle to Stirling bus passes the gate, and she would be so glad to see any of her friends who are touring in this part of the country.

Portsmouth.

Owing to unfavourable weather our ramble for July 9th had to be postponed.

July 14th, the official opening of the United Services Club for Women, 26 South Parade, Southsea. Among our notable heads were, in the chair, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Q.M.A.A.C. and W.R.A.F., Miss Davey, C.C., Overseas, Mrs. Powell, Q.M.A.A.C. and W.R.A.F., Mrs. Feiling, D.C.C., Overseas, Miss Hobbs, U.A., Etaples, Miss Ireland, D.A.C.C., Eastern Command, Dr. M. Westley (nee Mac Muelen) M.O., Overseas and Bostall Heath.

Members are to be congratulated upon the utility, and, shall we say, beauty, of this new club. The club is to be the headquarters of the local O.C.A.'s, and when we come to think upon the many and varied ways in which the different associations have been able to minister to the needs of their members, we cannot but realise the very able manner in which ex-Service women's problems have been sought out and solved. As a class, ex-Service women suffer from a sense of isolation, more than any other people. This we feel will be met, and to a great extent remedied by these rallying centres.

July 15th, we were well represented at a dance held in the newly opened club, and thoroughly enjoyed it.

July 19th, quite a large party attended the charity carnival on the South Parade Pier, the outdoor dancing was in highest favour.

We have been pleased to meet the following visiting members: Miss Gilchrist, Secretary, Glasgow Branch, Miss Churcher, Bournemouth, Miss Watts, of Barton-on-Sea. Our welcome extends to new member A. Johnson, late of Camp 7, Rouen.

Next ramble, August 13th, to Lee-on-Solent.

Secretary, Portsmouth Branch.

Oxford.

A steamer trip to Abingdon and back was arranged on Thursday, July 20th, the weather was kind, and the river very enjoyable. It is a pity that so few members were able to come.

M. GRUNDY, Hon. Sec.

[Oxford members, wake up! Your Secretary is getting desperately sick of organising outings, etc., to which only three members turn up. You want to keep your branch in the land of the living, don't you?—ED.]

Brighton.

Quite a number of us met on July 19th at the Regent, for an evening's entertainment there. We decided to meet again on Wednesday, August 23rd, at 7.30, at the same place, the Queen's Road entrance. If it is a nice evening we can go on the pier or for a walk, instead of the Regent.

H. H. BARON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Vancouver, B.C.

DEAR EVERYBODY,

I just can't say how delighted I was yesterday to receive my back numbers of the Gazette, and how I gloated over the news of old friends and members. Ever since we came out here (May Bannerman and I) we have intended joining the O.C.A., but we went straight to Winnipeg, and expenses one way and another swallowed up what spare cash we had! But you know the old Waac's faith—"Luck is on our side"—(old Calais signals will maybe recall that slogan!) and we had a wonderfully happy time in the 'Peg despite many an anxious waiting for pay days!

You have heard about the Club we formed in December in Winnipeg, but as I was changing my name in January and coming through to Vancouver, I was only able to attend the first two meetings. I shall never forget the enthusiasm of the first one. I always knew Waacs could talk, but questions and answers were just pelted at one another, and the result was that we found many mutual friends, and the evening was a great success. I may say in passing that it was a bitterly cold night, as only prairie nights can be cold, but two Waacs (I cannot just remember their names now), came a good many miles across the prairie to be present, and I do believe if the palm went to anyone special for enthusiastic talk it went to them.

I expect old Calais Signals who knew and loved Sister MacQuade, will be interested to know that she was married on the last day of the year. Her new name is Mrs. W. R. McPhail—address, Leather River, Tisdale P.O., Sask.

She was married at her home, and Dr. Douglass, May Bannerman and I represented the old gang at the ceremony. I was especially interested as I was to go through the same ordeal on the 12th January, and she behaved beautifully and looked ever so happy. Spite of the snow being over three feet deep, we waited outside and gave them a proper pelting, and then we set off in the cutters again for our four-mile drive over the prairie.

As I said before, on the 12th January, Cath Gourlay disappeared and Mrs. W. D. Layton emerged, an unblushing bride. We had made many good friends in Winnipeg, not least among them being Mrs. Robb, mother of Maurine Robb, late A.A., Queen Eleanor Camp, Calais. Maurine has got an appointment down in Boston, Mass. Among the "distinguished guests" present were Dr. Douglass, Betty Ewen (Etaples), Miss Macdonald (Y.W.C.A., Harfleur, and President of the Winnipeg O.C.A.), Mary Knox (Signal, Dieppe and Boulogne), and May Bannerman, who was my bridesmaid. We were married in Augustine Church by Dr. Pidgeon. After a very happy evening with all our friends, we left the same night for Vancouver, stopping off for two days at Regina and Calgary. It was a wonderful trip, and we were especially lucky in having it moonlight coming through the Rockies, and I can never tell of their exquisite beauty. The day trip, too, was lovely, and I couldn't eat my breakfast next morning when we arrived at Vancouver, I was so excited with the sight of the sea and the docks and the big ships again.

This is a lovely city, not so well laid out as Winnipeg, but it has ideal natural surroundings, and my husband, being an ardent fisherman, we have had many trips up the hills and round the coast.

After our venture in Winnipeg, we decided to try and gather forces here, so we had a meeting last Friday of all ex-Service girls, and twelve turned up, and everybody said they knew there were others. So we formed a committee to get busy, and Madge Benton (Waacs Sigs., Etaples and Wimereux) was elected Secretary, May Bannerman (Sigs., Boulogne and Dieppe) treasurer, Mrs. M. J. Chapman (N.C.O., W.R.A.F., Hythe) vice-president, and myself president. Our next meeting is on the 19th May, when the Y.W.C.A. have very kindly put their club-

room at our disposal. Before that, the committee is having a discussion of ways and means at my home, so later on you will be hearing from us officially, I hope. There is just one thing we should like in advance, and that is the names and addresses of girls in Vancouver, or any part of B.C., so that we may gather them all in, if you can find time to do so, or, failing that, perhaps, members who read this could get in touch with me at my home—3529 1st Avenue, W. Phone, Bayview 1584x.

I hope some day to be home for some of your reunions, but until then, I can only wish that our Association may carry on its wonderful work and our Gazette continue its cheery way into all parts of the world. I really think we, who are outside of all meetings, appreciate it even more, if possible, than the home folks.

I found on checking over my money order that I sent you a shilling short in my Gazette subscription, so I am enclosing same with allowance for extra postage on back numbers. Thanks ever so much for sending on the Gazettes and for not drawing attention to my short payment. It was my understanding that the annual sub. for the paper was 2s. 6d., but I am glad I noticed it.—Yours sincerely,

CATH LAYTON.

(Cath Gourlay, Sigs., Boulogne and Calais).

3129 1st Avenue, W.

From Essendon P.O., Victoria, Australia.

Very many thanks for six Gazettes, received safely. I was disappointed at their non-arrival previously, and more than enjoyed reading them. I have several ex-Waac friends who also enjoy them. Although not possessing a branch of the O.C.A. in Melbourne I am always happy to receive a visit from comrades residing here, and should be pleased to receive any who should arrive late in the city or any of the suburbs for the sake of the friendship of the old days in the corps.

I have arranged with Miss Pym to renew my membership. I should like, too, to hear from any of the girls of Unit 1, Dieppe.

A. YOUREN,

(late F.W. A. Hamshare).

I am sorry I am unable to take any part in the Club as I am away from any branch and do not have the chance to get over to Shanghai. All the same I wish the Club every success and I still have pleasant memories of the old Corps. Kind remembrances to Miss Lambert and Miss Low who, I hope, has now quite recovered. Best of luck to all.

13065. EDITH M. DENNIS.

Late H.P., Calais.

Ditton Park,
Langley, Bucks.

I would very much like to express my appreciation of the Women's United Services Club, Edinburgh, through the medium of the Gazette.

My friend and I have just spent two nights there on returning from a holiday in Scotland, and we were delighted with its hospitality. We cannot speak too highly of everything; it is well managed, exceedingly comfortable, and the cooking is O.K., to say nothing of the extremely moderate charges. The furnishing is almost palatial for a Club of its kind, and everything is beautifully kept.

We heartily recommend others to spend a week-end or longer at 12 Drumsheugh Gardens to verify this. It is only to be expected that many would probably hesitate, fearing that Service routine might be too forcibly in evidence. May we dispel any qualms of this description—the

only real reminders of the Services that I can think of being a couple of shell cases, part of an aeroplane, and a few etchings of our late leaders!

Our very best thanks to the management and staff there.

ELSIE JONES.

Birmingham.

22nd July, 1922.

I was so interested to see in the May number that there was to be a D.G.T. re-union dinner on the 20th. I should dearly have loved to have been present.

However, I do take a great interest in the work of the Mission, and the correspondence which I have to type is very interesting.

Warsaw is the Head Office of the work in Poland, then there are six "Outposts," where there are members working in the devastated areas, situated in the Eastern provinces of Poland. In these provinces the people have been driven out into Russia, and are now returning home again, only to find their houses and villages completely destroyed, and during the bitter cold of last winter many of them had to live in "dug-outs." During the winter our members gave the peasant women flax to spin and weave and embroidery work to do, the latter is quite an industry now, and very beautiful some of it is. This work was paid for, and, by this means, the peasants were able to buy food for themselves. Also, in special cases, our workers gave them "food rations." In the spring seeds were distributed, also spades and other agricultural implements sold at a moderate price. In many places there is now a garden, where there is still no house.

Horses were bought from the Polish Army and ploughing columns organised, which go from village to village. Each man in the village is allowed to plough a morg of land, but first of all he must plough the same amount for a widow, as that is his payment for the use of the horse and plough. The horses are also used for hauling timber, for the peasants to build houses with.

Sheep have also been bought and brought from the Carpathian Mountains and sold to the neediest peasants at a very low charge.

The delight of the peasants is very great at receiving a sheep, and many of them carry them home, because they are afraid that the creatures will be tired after their long journey.

Warsaw is a very interesting old city, but looks rather the worse for wear in some places, as the streets and pavements are very uneven and badly wanting repair.

There are some beautiful churches, of which I like the Russian Church the best. There is also a very good Opera House, and some good concerts at the Philharmonic Hall.

The shops are not as good as Cologne, and prices are about the same as in England. There are no wonderful bargains like we got in Cologne.

We have got a little villa at a place called Milanowek, about an hour's journey from Warsaw, at which we spend many delightful week-ends. I like the place very much, as we lead quite a simple life there, and it rather reminds me of camp life. We have two bedrooms for the men members and two for the women, and sleep on refugee bedsteads, with mattresses stuffed with straw. We also drink out of earthenware mugs, just like we did in the Army. Milanowek is quite a pretty place, with pine and birch woods, and the meadows are full of all kinds of wild flowers. There are numerous shell-holes about, and the woods are traversed with trenches, left by the Russians and Germans in 1914. Sometimes I could almost think I was in France again.

GEINA BLANCHARD.

Misja Angielsko-Amerykanska.

Widok, 26.

Warsaw, Poland.

BANK HOLIDAY—

When it Rains at "Shanghai."

Did anyone say that Waacs were downhearted, not though the rain had never ceased! What mattered it at "Shanghai" where there is a perfectly good (at least it was once a "perfectly good") piano, and a perfectly good Longman and Mitchell to play—anything from Schumann to ragtime. Our camp was full to overflowing this week-end, and on Sunday it nearly did overflow. At noon the rain came to us and stayed with us far into the night. Accordingly we cleared the floor in the good old simple way of "banking-up the beds, and gathered round the piano. The Scotch girls treated us to "Annie Laurie," and I would here ask if any English woman has ever said "Snow-drift" to a Scotswoman's satisfaction. Then (in courtesy to our hostess I presume) "Moya my Girl" followed, and it is not necessary to mention that the "Hills of Donegal" was the first concerted item given. The faster the rain, the faster our fun. Fox-trots, Lancers, Dreamy Waltzes—and then a rest while the Waac who made "My Day Out" famous, reduced us to helpless laughter. "O'Grady says," and Blindfold Squad Drill were then demanded, and you all know what state we were in after that. We managed to eat our supper however, with our usual zest, and then most of us tumbled into bed, while two or three Christian spirits carried on the good work on the piano, until gradually one by one we went silent, and at last all was still—to Mc'Closky's great relief, no doubt! On Monday the sun smiled on us once more, and the usual happy day was spent. But oh! the moon on the water that night. We know now that the very nicest time to be in a boat is at 11.30 p.m., when the water is just one long span of shimmering silver, mirroring the stars; when it is just a home for fireflies—and maybe fairies!—and stray lucky mortals, who for once in their lives had ceased giving tongue. Wherefore I ask you, who'd grumble at the rain, though it did break your dreams and drive you to the shelter of the hut in the night, or when it's Tuesday morning and time to go—and a long wet walk's before you—not if you had had a week-end like us.

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NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Miss G. Collins, our Bristol Branch Secretary, has recently made the acquaintance of **Miss Frances Wood**, who is now attached to her branch. Miss Wood is at present living as an inmate of the "Blind Women's Home," at 9 Gordon Road, Clifton, Bristol. She is not actually blind, but can see very little. She was a Forewoman Tailor at Rhyl, and seems out of touch with her old friends. Will not some of the girls who knew her write and cheer her up? I am sure any news would be very welcome.

If there are any ex-administrators or ex-members of Q.M.A.A.C. in or near Wanborough, near Swindon, Wilts., will they communicate with **Mrs. A. M. Toyer**, Upper Wanborough, with the idea of forming a local branch of O.C.A.

The "Daily Mirror" has discovered the romantic story of an ex-Waac. and a member of the O.C.A., and tells the following history:—

How two girls, with no capital, but plenty of grit, built up a successful decorating business, was revealed by one of the original partners. Having located "the new decorators" in their tiny but tasteful office in Bond Street, **Miss Watson**, the originator, proceeded to narrate what would make a delightful real life story under the title, "The Romance of a Girl Paperhanger." "When I was disbanded from the Waacs after the war, I found myself with neither money nor job," she said, "so, partly to amuse myself, I did up my own room. It really did look nice, and I found I liked the work. So I took on an order to do up a friend's flat, and with the money I received started my business with the help of a girl friend, my next-door neighbour. Orders began to come in, and we did work hard. Our day began at 8 a.m. and ended at 11 p.m. We carried our own plant and did everything ourselves—painting, papering, white-washing and even repairs. People liked our work, and we received so many orders that we employed a manager and eighteen men. Last year, when we were doing a job in Hertfordshire, we met a man who was doing practically the same thing on his own, installing electricity, etc., so we took him on and engaged him as our electrician." Herein lies the romance, for Miss Watson has engaged her electrician permanently. They are to be married next month. Miss Watson served overseas at Rouen and at Boulogne, as an administrator, and joined the Edinburgh Branch of the O.C.A. in 1920.

Miss Dora Suter wishes to send greetings to all the girls who remember her at St. Omer, Venaroux and Wimereux. She has had a very busy life since her demobilisation. **Miss M. C. Brinsley Richards** has been commissioned by the "Friends Famine Relief Committee" to undertake a publicity tour in Russia. She leaves England on September 5th, and will be away till October, as she is to visit some of the relief outposts in the famine area. She would be so glad to know if there are any Waacs either in Warsaw or Moscow in case she has to spend a few days there whilst waiting for trains.

Miss Marion Mackenzie, who has a secretarial bureau at 124 High Street, Stockton-on-Tees, has lately become interested in Girl Guide Work. She has been excused nearly all the tests for an officer and is now Captain of a Company. She thinks that the movement cannot be too well known amongst ex-Service women, as it seems at present the best way of passing on our own experiences.

Miss Rose Hurley reached New Zealand on May 16th, and was lucky enough to get a situation the same day. She says there is still plenty of work for women, although none for the men. She lives in hopes of the institution of

an O.C.A. out there, as she has such happy recollections of our London Branch. **Miss Annie Jewitt** is working with the N.A.A.F. Institute at Strensall Camp, near York, where her duties are similar to those of the old army days.

Miss Edith Hartwell says that she has got into touch with many of her old friends from Wisques St. Omer through the Gazette, but that it never holds news of Pont de l'Arche girls. As there were 500 members there it really does seem strange that none of them write to us.

It may interest some of the Gazette readers to know that **Edwards and Brooks** (Birmingham) of Unit 1 Paris-Plage, have safely arrived in Brisbane, Australia, and taken up work there. During a short landing visit to Sydney en route they fell in with "Billy" Williamson and her sister (also of P.P.) and spent a short while with them exploring the town. **Miss Alice B. Anderson** (known to her friends as "Andy") of Claims Commission at Le Touquet and Paris, is now the proprietrix of a very nice boarding house at Le Touquet, called the Villa Janinet and situated in the Rue de la Paix. Some of the old Paris-Plage Waacs might be interested to know of Anderson when re-visiting P.P., and she says that she will always be very pleased to see any old friends and find them accommodation during their holidays. **Miss Amy Ball** (Signals) left for Winnipeg 21st April, and her present address is 157 Furby Street, Winnipeg. **Miss F. M. Robinson** has just returned from a three months holiday in Canada, where she met quite a number of Old Comrades, and visited the new Winnipeg Club.

LOCAL BRANCHES.

- Birmingham.**—Miss Brinsford, 167 Birchfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.
- Bournemouth.**—Miss F. E. Lever, Ferndene, Commercial Road, Parkstone.
- Brighton.**—Miss Baron, 25 Wellington Road, Brighton.
- Bristol.**—Miss G. Collins, 4 Brookfield Road, Cotham, Bristol.
- Cardiff.**—Miss Marson, 4 Kyveilog Street, Cathedral Road, Cardiff.
- Cheltenham and District.**—Mrs. Higgins, Mill House, Elmley Castle, Pershore, Worcs.
- Edinburgh.**—Miss Cowan, 6 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.
- Glasgow.**—Miss E. M. Gilchrist, M.B.E., 13 Royal Terrace West, Glasgow.
- Leeds.**—Mrs. Leonard, 46 Hyde Terrace, Leeds.
- Liverpool.**—Miss D. Holder, 49 Claremont Road, Wavertree, Liverpool.
- London and District.**—Miss S. B. Murray, 81 Lancaster Gate, W.2.
- Manchester.**—Miss M. A. Robinson, 5 King's Drive, Heaton Moor, Stockport.
- Newcastle.**—Miss W. Maunder, 31, Norwood Avenue, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- Nottingham.**—Miss E. D. Newberry, 10 Melrose Avenue, Sherwood, Notts.
- Oxford.**—Mrs. Grundy, West Wood House, Kinksey Hill, Oxford.
- Portsmouth.**—Miss C. Robertson, 26 South Parade, Portsmouth.
- Reading.**—Miss B. A. Priestley, O.B.E., 55 Northumberland Avenue, Reading.
- Southampton.**—Miss Pargiter, Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton.
- South Wales.**—Miss E. Owen, The Palace, Abergwili, Carmarthenshire, S. Wales.
- Wallsend-on-Tyne.**—Miss Conder, Y.W.C.A. Girls' Club,

PERSONAL NOTICES

Engagement.

A marriage is arranged, and will take place at the end of August between Nancy Littlewood Bastard (D.A., Havre and Calais) and William Kenneth Bastard, of Nanyuki-Kenya Colony.

Kinroy—Brownlee.—On 6th June, at Slateford U.F. Church, Edinburgh, John S. Kinroy, C.A., Falkirk, to Helen Jane, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Brownlee, Slateford (Brownie, late B.S.D., Rouen).

On Friday, June 2nd, a number of old comrades met at the Edinburgh Club to wish Miss Brownlee happiness in her married life and to give her a present. Miss Davidson made the presentation, and after Miss Brownlee had thanked the members, the company all went downstairs and entertained her to tea. We all wish Mrs. Kinroy the best of good fortune in her married life and hope we shall often see her at the club. Her address now is, Mrs. J. S. Kinroy, 30 Rennie Street, Falkirk.

ADVERTISEMENTS

[Rates: Members of O.C.A., 1s. for four lines; non-members, 2s. 6d. for four lines. Larger advertisements by arrangement.]

A SUMMER SCHOOL IN DANCING.

Those interested in dancing and the drama generally may be glad to know that the Chelsea School of Dance (Margaret Morris method) is holding its second summer school at Enderley House, Amberley Common, Stroud, Glos.

Dancing will be taught in all its branches, including Greek, national and ball-room dancing, musical appreciation, painting and design, dance composition and theatrecrafts. Weekly performances will be given, when students will have the opportunity of showing original work.

The school premises are situated amidst beautiful country on the Cotswold Hills, and afford an ideal spot for a holiday.

The Greenleaf Theatre Summer School, providing a training in art theatre methods, which, under the direction of Constance Smedley and Maxwell Armfield, has shown such good work, both in England and America, adjoining the Chelsea School, and students will have full opportunity of benefiting by the Greenleaf Theatre classes.

The whole arrangement offers a unique opportunity for teachers, professionals, amateurs and those interested in wartime work, girls' clubs, etc., to gain new ideas for the coming winter season.

One full course extends from July 31st to September 9th, but students may join for any length of time, each week's work being complete in itself.

One school is under the direction of Katherine Whinkop, late staff of the Margaret Morris School, Diplomee of The Chelsea College of Physical Education, and Daisy Luther, trained teacher of the Margaret Morris School.

Colin Baillie, trained teacher of the Margaret Morris School, and late Q.M.A.A.C., will be on the Staff, and is personally responsible for all the household arrangements. The terms will be kept as low as possible and Colin Baillie would welcome any ex-Waac and endeavour to give her a happy and interesting time. All enquiries from O.C.A. members will be welcome. For further particulars, apply to Miss K. E. Whinkop, 65 Oakley Street, Chelsea, S.W.3. State if an ex-Waac. An early application for rooms would be much appreciated.

Voluntary workers in connection with the Children's Country Holidays Fund, to help select and assist in the despatch of and meeting of the children sent during the school summer holidays. One voluntary worker can be the means whereby 28 children can get their holidays, but it is essential that volunteers carry out the work they undertake.—Any offers of help to be made to The Secretary, C.C.H.F., 18 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

The "Leighton" Orchestra. Conductor, F. Gibbs, late Grenadier Guards Band, late Band Instructor, W.V.R. and Q.M.W.A.A.C.'s. Bands provided for all occasions. Smart blue and white uniform or evening dress.—Terms on application. 'phone Latchmer 4528, 78 Manor Street, Clapham, London, S.W.4.

HAND STENCILLED FROCKS, jumpers, and curtains, Madeira embroidered lingerie.—Winifred Clark, 76 Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, S.W.3 (5 mins. walk headquarters O.C.A.).

WANTED. Experienced cook, able to take charge of kitchen, for Ex-Service Women's Club in Scotland, wages £50.—Apply Pox 208, Q.M.A.A.C. Offices.

NELL STEWART, Mrs. Athole Stewart, C.B.E., late Commandant, Women's Forage Corps, sells fruit and flowers, wreaths and bouquets, and attends to palms, conservatories, window boxes and floral decorations, at Number One Clarges Street, Piccadilly, W.1.

New Song just published. "There's One Little Spot."—Post free 2/1 from Miss Marion S. Mackenzie, 134 High Street, Stockton-on-Tees.