

Old Comrades'



Association

GAZETTE.

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

SEPTEMBER, 1922, Vol. IV., No. 3.

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EDITORIAL

Annual Dinners.

The local branches are now getting to work on their winter programmes, and in several cases the annual dinner is the chief event. Experience has proved that a dinner is a very popular form of re-union, and all those arranged hitherto have been well attended.

The London Branch officials have once again nobly undertaken to organise the big annual dinner for Old Comrades who are able to come, and full details of time, place and price will be given in the next number. The Glasgow dinner is already fixed for Armistice Day, and the Overseas Officials' dinner is announced to take place in January.

Women's Exhibition at Olympia.

At the Women's Exhibition recently held at Olympia. Forewoman F. Ling, late of Warwick Square, London District, won the first prize in a Cookery Competition open to members of the British Legion. Hearty congratulations to Miss Ling. This result will cause no surprise to those who were lucky enough to be invited to the Officers' Mess at Warwick Square. The guests always congratulated themselves first and then Forewoman Ling, and then, perhaps, remembered to thank their hosts.

British Legion.

We are informed that the walking race for ex-Service women, to take place at the British Legion Rally at the Crystal Palace on September 30th, has been reduced from three miles to half a mile to conform with the rules of the Women's Amateur Athletic Association. Two further events for women are an 880 Yards and High Jump. Both these events are open, and have also been arranged under the rules of the W.A.A.A. Entrance fee 6d. for each event. The programme the Legion is organising for the day is considered one of the best sports programmes organised in England this summer, and, in addition, a Band Contest will take place. Combined tickets (price 2s.) admitting one to the Palace, the Imperial War Museum, the Sports and the Band Contest) can be obtained only from the Entertainments Secretary, British Legion Headquarters, 26 Eccleston Square, S.W.1, from whom also entrance forms for the above events can be obtained.

Our Contemporaries.

We acknowledge with thanks the September numbers of the "Veteran and Briton," "R.A.O.C. Gazette," "British Legion," "W.R.A.F. Leaflet," and the "Ex-Service Women's Bulletin" (Sydney, N.S.W.). For some reason or other the "W.R.E.N." is missing, but perhaps it has flown into the wrong letter-box. What has happened to the Edinburgh Branch? No Newsletter and no report have arrived from the North; presumably they are

all holiday-making. The "Ex-Service Women's Bulletin" is full of news of old Comrades, some of which we hope to quote in the next number.

In view of the satisfactory financial position of the Gazette the Committee have agreed to insert photographs of general interest from time to time. The Editor will be very glad to receive any clear prints suitable for reproduction. The Committee will also welcome most gratefully any suggestions from readers as to improvements or alterations in the Gazette.

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

The Memorial Fund to the late Miss M. M. Stevenson has now reached £34. During the month, donations have been received from Mrs. E. Wood, Mrs. D. Esslemont, Mrs. D. Parkes, Mrs. L. M. Jackson, Mrs. Peters, Dr. O. M. Anderson, Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch, the Misses M. E. Thomas, E. M. Suggate, A. Kinross, A. R. Maxton, M. Laird, E. M. Lendrum, D. E. Brown, M. Harcourt Browne, A. S. Fulton, E. M. Norden, S. K. Buck, J. Bryant, E. Bertrand, E. M. Warrior, E. E. Bly, D. Porter, C. Smith, A. A. Baker, I. Stephenson, E. M. Wittering, O. M. Longman, C. M. Sutton, Machin, Hoad, Winter, H. Pink, E. Trotter, E. Hughes, Kemp, B. Freeman, R. Dolier, H. Hodgson, U. E. Pring, M. Guest, E. Reynolds, C. M. Ford, K. M. Swanston, D. V. Williams, and A. and J. Hawley.

The Gazette.

At a recent meeting of the Committee Miss Warrior (late D.C. Northern Command) was elected Secretary and Advertisement Manager, and Miss Pink was chosen to represent the Gazette on the Finance Committee. The Committee now consists of the following members: Miss Edith Thompson (Chairman), Miss Warrior (Secretary), Miss Pink, Miss Mitchell, Miss Bartlett, Miss Bickell, Miss Wittering, Miss Longman, and Miss Bertrand (ex-officio). Membership of the Gazette Committee is no sinecure as it involves most of the work of addressing, stamping and dispatching the Gazettes, and the fact that for the last six months the Editor has been practically out of reach, with a different address almost daily, has considerably added to the difficulties of the job. On more than one occasion the Gazette might have failed to put in an appearance at all had not Miss Pink stepped bravely into the breach, and the rest of the Committee with much patience and good nature given up even more than usual of their spare time.

Annual Dinner for Oversea Officials.

It is proposed to hold the fourth annual dinner for overseas officials in January next. If anyone has any views with regard to dates, will she kindly write to Miss I. F. Narracott, 34 St. George's Square, S.W.1.

Shanghai-on-Thames.

It is pleasant to relate that my optimism of last month with regard to the numbers of visitors at camp has justified itself, for Miss McClosky tells me that the numbers have been very gratifying. On Sunday, 27th August, 29 visitors were there for lunch and during the week-end 23 were resident guests. We were delighted to welcome Dame Florence, Mr. Simpson and Miss Simpson, and hope that this short visit is to be the forerunner of many more, and longer ones, too. Miss Owen, Hon. Secretary, South Wales Branch O.C.A., and Miss Sivewright from Dublin, late U.A. Felixstowe and Woolwich Arsenal, have been to inspect us. It is so cheery to have these long-distance members of the O.C.A. come to see us, and we hope that they will make the charms of Shanghai known to others. Those who were fortunate enough to be at camp at the time very much appreciated the gift of two cheeses from Miss Edith Thompson. During my visit to the Edinburgh Club I had much pleasure in telling members of the Scottish Branch of the O.C.A. of the attractions of the camp, and hope that next year, when the Buckingham Gate Club is in full swing, we shall welcome many Scottish Comrades who are passing through.

H. HORNIBLOW, Hon. Sec.

LOCAL BRANCH REPORTS**LONDON BRANCH.**

Club-room is open each Thursday evening at 91 Belgrave Road, S.W.1, from 7.30 to 10. The date on which we shall begin to use the new Club-room in the Service Women's Club at 5 Buckingham Gate, will be published in next month's Gazette.

The Secretary would be glad to be informed of any member ill, either in hospital or at home.

SWIMMING CLUB.—We are proud to announce that our Captain and Vice-Captain have both obtained the bronze medal of the Royal Life Saving Society. Miss Stansfield and Miss Bartlett are the first to obtain distinction under Club instruction, although they are not the only medalists we number among our members. Intending swimmers need have no fear of going under unnoticed as the rescuers would be rushing to the spot in a body eager for a subject on whom to practice. We are having a series of weekly competitions, the points for which total towards a monthly prize. The winner of this will be announced later. Q.M.A.A.C. are competing in a Gala, to be held at Holborn Baths on Monday, September 18th, at 7 p.m. Admission 2s. 4d. and 1s. 3d.

The event of the year is the Inter-Services Swimming Sports, organised by the Association of Wrens, to take place at North Kensington Baths on Saturday, September 23rd, at 3 p.m. The Challenge Cup presented by Dame Katherine Furse, at present held by the Wrens, will be competed for again. The members representing Q.M.A.A.C. last year worked nobly and succeeded in winning several competitions, but the other Services had a large list of entrants, and we were hopelessly outnumbered.

This year, with our numbers considerably augmented and with a season's practice behind us, we should be able to put up a good fight for the Cup. Perhaps those swimmers who have been unable to join us previously, will do so now; it is not too late to enrol. The events which will count for the Cup are:—

- 1.—Three Lengths.
- 2.—Two Lengths.
- 3.—One Length.
- 4.—Graceful Diving.
- 5.—Plate Diving.
- 6.—Plunge.
- 7.—Relay Race (Four members).

There will possibly be included an Obstacle Race. In addition to these, there will be several humorous events. We hope all Old Comrades will come and give their support and cheer on their colleagues.

Tickets are 1s. inclusive, and may be obtained from the London Branch Secretary, the Swimming Captain, 81

Lancaster Gate, the Vice-Captain, 83 Belgrave Road, any of the Swimming Committee on Thursday evening at Belgrave Road, or the Swimming Secretary.

Several members have expressed a wish for a winter session, for which a further fee of 3s. would be payable, and in order to meet the convenience of the majority, Marylebone Baths will probably be selected, with a change of practice night to Tuesday.

The Baths are warmed throughout, the winter is an excellent time in which to practice owing to the unfrequented state of the bath, and with ordinary precautions there is no more risk of catching cold than in the summer. Will intending members communicate with the Swimming Secretary as soon as possible, as arrangements cannot be made until it is known how many desire to join.

Instruction at Ladbroke Grove ceases on September 22nd, and, if possible, will be continued the following week at Marylebone. Members who have agreed to a continuation will be informed later on this point.

N. MITCHELL, Hon. Secretary,
40 Denman Drive, Golders Green, N.W.

Richmond Sub-Branch.

Saturday, September 23rd.—Cycle run to Virginia Water. Meet Richmond Station yard at 2.30 p.m.

Saturday, October 1st.—Ramble to Chessington and Epsom, leaving Kingston Station at 11.15 a.m.

Miss M. S. Mackenzie was married at Putney on August 28th. "Mackie," now Mrs. Hopkins, who was a member of our Committee, has her new home in Southsea, and she is paying us a visit at the Club on the 17th inst., when our long-looked-forward-to char-a-banc trip takes place.

As cut glass is apparently "the" thing to give "Mary," the wedding gift from the members and Associate members of this Branch took the form of an English cut glass salad bowl and servers.

Mackie's Army days were spent in Rouen, to which area she was attached as a signaller for almost two and a half years. Our very best wishes go with her.

M. H. ROBERTSON, Hon. Secretary,
3 Harrow View Road, Ealing, W.8.

Dance.

A Fancy Dress Dance (optional) has been arranged and will be held at the R.E. Drill Hall, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, Chelsea, on Friday, October 13th, at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets, 2/-, can be obtained from Mrs. Jackson, 5 Hazlewood Lane, Palmers Green, N.13, and also from members of the Dance Committee. A hearty invitation is extended to all members and their friends.

O.C.A. Gymnasium Class.

The above class will re-open on September 20th, at 7 p.m., at the Women's Institute, Cosway Street, Marylebone. Will any new member wishing to join please communicate with Miss Bartlett, at 91 Belgrave Road, who will give her particulars as to dress, etc.

This will be our third term, and we hope to produce some very good work during the next few months, and trust members will maintain a regular attendance. It may be mentioned that no girls other than O.C.A. members will be admitted.

SECRETARIES:

Hockey Club—Miss E. M. SMART,
81 Lancaster Gate, W.2.

Dance—Mrs. JACKSON,
5 Hazlewood Lane, Palmer's Green, N.13.

Gymnasium—Miss BARTLETT,
91 Belgrave Road, S.W.

Golders Green Sub-Branch—
Miss N. MITCHELL,
40 Denman Drive, Golders Green, N.W.

Ilford Sub Branch—Miss M. DRUITT,
74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.

Richmond Sub Branch—
Miss M. H. ROBERTSON,
3 Harrow View Road, Ealing, W.8.

S. B. MURRAY,
81 Lancaster Gate, W.2. Hon. Sec., London Branch.

Brighton.

At our meeting on Wednesday, August the 23rd, we were delighted to welcome Mrs. Jerrett, who brought back memories of Warrior Square and Bostall, also Miss D. I. Poole (late Signals, Havre) who is down for six months, and glad to find some friends to hand in the shape of Old Comrades. Being a nice evening we betook ourselves to the Front, where we made up a char-a-banc party for a little trip along the cliffs to Rottingdean. We enjoyed this so much that we decided we simply must book it for a trip to Hastings to see Oversea and our Old Comrades in that direction.

Sunday, September 10th.—Blackberry Ramble. Meet at tram shelter at top of Ditchling Road route. We shall make our way towards the valley below the Chattri, where we found heaps of blackberries last year. Members can bring their tea, or we can have it at the very nice Rose Tea-rooms in Patcham. Bus or walk back according to energy.

Members visiting Brighton may be interested to know that Mrs. White (late Barton-on-Sea), is now working on the L.B. and S.C. boat, "Arundel," which is making trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays between Brighton Palace Pier and Dieppe. She has kindly offered to show any Old Comrade the sights of Dieppe. Any member of the crew would direct them to her.

Sunday, September 24th.—Char-a-banc trip to Hastings to see Old Comrades at "Oversea," the Helena Holiday Hostel at 58 West Hill, St. Leonards. We have chartered a small char-a-banc, and the fare will be 10s. a head. Meet outside Steine House (Y.M.C.A.), Old Steine. Start at 10.30 a.m., as punctually as possible. Route via Eastbourne, arriving at Eastbourne Pierhead at 11.50, where we hope any local members will make an effort to meet us for a talk (please send a card to me a few days before). There might be a possibility of squeezing one or two in. Arrive at St. Leonards soon after one p.m. Miss Walton, of "Oversea," has kindly undertaken to cater for us for dinner and tea (3s. a head). We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone, also Warrior Square. We shall have to start back at 5.30 p.m. Brighton about 7.30. Now anyone who hasn't already booked a seat, please write at once, and send the 10s. fare, as there may still be room. If you are near Hastings and would like to join us at "Oversea," please send a card to Miss Walton, so that she knows who to expect. We shall go wet or fine, as the car can be covered if necessary.

25 Wellington Road, Brighton. H. A. BARON.

Glasgow.

DINNER.—The annual dinner will take place on Armistice Night, November 11th, at 7.30 p.m. till 11 p.m. The dinner will be held at "The Athenæum," and the price of tickets will be 7s. inclusive. Tickets may be had at the Club on Wednesday evening up to November 1st. Those desiring tickets by post might kindly enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

VISITORS TO THE CLUB.—The visitors to the Club this month include Miss G. Warren, Manchester, who was on a visit to Miss Ruxton, Miss J. M. Robertson (Rugeley and Bostall Heath Camps), and Miss Anderson, Edinburgh Branch.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.—The meeting will be held at the Club-room on Wednesday, September 20th, at 8 p.m. Business: Financial Statement, Election of Officers, etc., etc.

CLUB-ROOM.—The Club-room, 212 Bath Street, is open daily, except Sundays, from 1 to 10 p.m. The Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. special night is Wednesdays. A handsome gift of furniture, dishes, etc., has been received from Miss Janey Allan, and the House Committee have been busy putting up fresh curtains, so all is in readiness for cosy winter nights. We can also boast of a piano of our own now.

REPRESENTATIVE ON COUNCIL.—Mrs. Bircham has kindly consented to remain on the Council as representative of this Branch for another year. We are under a deep debt of gratitude to Mrs. Bircham for the interest she has taken in this branch and for the full report she forwards of the proceedings at the Council

meetings. During the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Bircham from the last two meetings of the Council, Miss Robertson, representative of Edinburgh Branch, has kindly let us have a report. We tender her our best thanks. E. M. GILCHRIST.

Liverpool.

We have every reason to congratulate ourselves on a very successful week-end in camp. The hut was comfortably filled, and we had plenty to eat.

Colquitt made a wonderful stew. We knew someone would suffer when we saw what was going in (all "scroured" from a neighbouring garden). Sad to relate one member had to go home completely "knocked out." (Kind friends say it was a chill). Molyneux went right through her bed at a very early date, and, nothing daunted, slept next night on a screen on two trestles.

On Tuesday morning we were greeted with "You poor girls, we were so sorry for you yesterday." They did not know that it takes more than rain to damp a true Waac's ardour. Here's looking forward to another week-end, before next year, we hope.

D. HOLDER, Hon. Sec.

Portsmouth.

Our ramble to Lee-on-Solent on August 13th was thoroughly enjoyed. We were pleased to have a visit from Miss Chidley, of London Branch, and Miss Ratledge and Miss Keyes, of Windsor Branch. Just at the moment our Branch seems to be standing still. That, we hope, will not be for long. The members have entered into the spirit of the work and kept it going "steady." Now we must "keep smiling and carry on." We must realise that, though our achievements seldom reach the standards at which we aim, if we continue to put our energy and interest into the things we are doing, the results will surely give cause for satisfaction. We have been pleased to greet the following visiting Old Comrades: Miss Thomas of Dartford, Miss Collins of Bristol, Miss Rause of Birmingham, and Miss Latham, of Ilford. For coming events watch your O.C.A. Gazette and Lloyds News.

SECRETARY, Portsmouth Branch.

Manchester.

Owing to the fact that so many members have been on holiday we have not been doing anything startling to relate. Most of the week-ends have been spent at the hut, which has proved a financial success so far and has been well supported. The weather has been bad, but not bad enough to damp our enthusiasm, and the hut has been full almost every week-end.

We are having our char-a-banc trip to Llangollen on 10th September, and the W.R.A.F. O.C.A. Secretary has kindly offered to get us a pass to go over the Manchester Line's new vessel, the "Manchester Regiment," when she is next in dock. It will be arranged for a Saturday afternoon, so those who would like to join should write to the Secretary for further particulars. The hockey team are very anxious to raise funds, being their first year they have many expenses, so they are holding a dance at the Caxton Hall on September 23rd. Tickets, 2s. 6d. inclusive, from the team Secretary, Miss E. Smith, The Firs, Burton Road, West Didsbury.

We much regret having to announce the retirement of Miss M. Anderson as President of the United Services Club for Women, Manchester, owing to pressure of work. She has done much for the Club, and we owe her many thanks for her extreme generosity and for several very entertaining evenings last winter, when she arranged concerts for us. All of us hope she will visit the Club as often as her business will allow her, and all express regret that she cannot continue to hold the office in the Club. Concerts are being arranged throughout the winter season, commencing October for the first Friday in every month, some very good concert parties have been promised, including some members of the Halleé Choir, some of the Minniehahas. So it is hoped we shall have some good attendance. They will all be free.

We are trying to get together a concert party. Any member who is interested, will they please send in their name to the Secretary.

King's Drive, Heaton Moor. W. A. ROBINSON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Stevenson Memorial Fund.

From Miss E. M. Trotter, C.B.E.—I enclose a donation to the "Miss Stevenson Memorial Fund." I saw a great deal of Miss Stevenson in the early days of the corps, when we were sending out the first drafts to France, and had a great admiration for the splendid pioneer work she did in starting the first Depot Hostels. Latterly our work did not often bring us into touch with each other, but we met occasionally, and I was very grieved to hear of her breakdown, and, eventually, of her death.

From Miss E. M. Lendrum, from Naples.—I am asking my sister to send a postal order for the Memorial to Miss Stevenson. I should like to subscribe in some small measure. She was much beloved and respected, and no doubt sacrificed her health for the corps, and I do think the suggestion of a writing-room would have pleased her and is what she would have wished. As they say here, I salute her memory.

Ex-Service Women's Club, London.

I am writing to thank you for the very kind reference which you made to my appointment as Secretary of the Ex-Service Women's Club, London, in the August issue of the Gazette. Needless to say, I appreciate very much the fact that the Committee, which was representative of all the Services, should have recommended me for the post and that the Board of Directors of the Helena Residential Clubs, Ltd., offered me the appointment. Every endeavour is being made to make the staff as representative of all the Services as possible. Miss Hunt, ex-W.R.N.S., has been appointed Assistant Secretary, and Miss Anderson, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., Edinburgh, housekeeper. I have always been most appreciative of the kind help and support which I have previously received from Old Comrades in connection with any undertaking for which I have been responsible in respect of the Old Comrades Association, and I can only hope that they are not yet tired of the many demands made upon them, but will continue to give me their support in the future. Again thanking you.

BLANCHE IRELAND.

5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.
August 25.

From Grahamstown, Cape Colony.

It may interest you to know that, after having worked in Cologne since the spring of 1919, I resigned my post there in December last and came out here about four months ago. I found quite a small company of ex-W.A.A.C.'s—Miss Baggs, Miss McWilliam, and Miss Hayworth—who have all been out some time, and Miss Prior, who is on the staff with me here. She came out a week before my arrival.

I was most awfully sorry to give up my work in Cologne, where I was attached to the River Provost Branch. It seems like cutting a big slice out of one's life to sever one's connection with the Army and all that it meant to us. Enclosed is a photograph which may interest you. [Unfortunately it is not clear enough to reproduce. Ed.]

The figure of the W.A.A.C. is the huge poster we used to use when on our recruiting stunts in the South-West and elsewhere in England. It seems the remains were pasted on to the walls of one of the offices in the Railway Commission in Cologne, and as it has been there as long as I remember, spring of 1919, it must have been one of the first things the Army brought up with them when they entered Cologne in December, 1918, and took over this building for one of their headquarters. I think it is a magnificent testimony of what the Army thought of the corps and somewhat of a surprise for the Germans to see it on one of their walls!

Out here the country is magnificent. Prior and I have had some splendid rides on horseback and have already seen quite a bit of the country round about this town—but

distances are tremendous, and it is nothing unusual to undertake a journey when one has to be in the train for four and five days and nights. We long to see the news in the "Gazette," so please send mine along.

MURIEL A. HUGHES, Ex-Ad.
Provost Marshal Branch, B.A.R.

From North Sydney, N.S.W.

I left England (Tilbury Dock) on April 11th and arrived here on May 22nd. I came out on the "Moreton Bay," one of the Commonwealth Government Line of steamers, and we came out via the Suez Canal. We had simply a splendid voyage out, which I thoroughly enjoyed, being a good sailor. We stopped at several ports on the way out and were able to go ashore and see all the places of interest. The ports we stopped at were Port Said, Colombo (where I paid a visit to where the Exhibition was when the Prince of Wales was there), Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, and then Sydney. If any girls think of coming out here I should advise them to travel on the same line of steamers as I came out on, as they will be well looked after and the food will be good, and everybody was very kind to us.

ROSE JOHNSTON.

WEDDINGS.

Bastard—Bastard.—On the 29th August, at St. Mary Abchurch, E.C., by the Rev. Auriol Murray, Vicar of Chigwell, William Kenneth Bastard, of Nanjuki, Kenya Colony, to Nancy Littlewood, youngest daughter of the late Segar Richard Bastard and Mrs. Bastard, Chigwell, Essex.

Hornsby—Macleod.—At Winnipeg on July 21st, Joseph Hornsby, of Frany, Ontario, to Mary Macleod, late Worker 241, Rouen

ADVERTISEMENTS

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

WANTED. Good maid or help, comfortable home, no children, small house, charwoman to help, alternate whole and half Sundays free, resident or daily.—Apply Secretary, O.C.A. Headquarters

TWO FRIENDS (ex-Waacs, Scotch) would like situations together as cook and house-parlourmaid, also another as cook in London or district.—Apply M., W.U.S.C., 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

WANTED. The second week in September, three ex-Service women to undertake the cooking and housework of a boys' private school, twelve in household, good outings and holidays, man kept for schoolrooms, boots, etc.—Apply Mrs. Gray, Oxted Preparatory School, Surrey.

GET YOUR VELOURS and felts remodelled to 1923 shapes. One price only—3/6 plus 1/- for postage and carton. All ex-Service men employed. Catalogue free on receipt of p.c. Agents wanted to canvass and collect.—C. A. Samm, M.C., The Hat Factory, West Parade, Dunstable, Beds.

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