

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

APRIL, 1930.

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EDITORIAL.

War Fiction.

We are in excellent company! It is now our turn to endure the mud-slinging which hitherto has been reserved for the men of the British Expeditionary Force.

Many books recently published have endeavoured to depict our men-folk in as foul a light as possible, and now some of these authors have turned their attentions to the women who also formed part of that famous Force.

Just as we stood up to it in France during the war, so can we stand up to it again now, and with the same spirit.

All ranks of Q.M.A.A.C., B.E.F., will be grateful to their one-time "C.C.," Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, for the action she took with the author of "The Death of a Hero," and for her letter to the "Times" with reference to "W.A.A.C."

"THE DEATH OF A HERO."

A number of members of the O.C.A. have recently protested against the reference made in a book called "The Death of a Hero," to the women serving in the Corps in the Etaples area. As a result Dame Helen asked her solicitor to take up the matter with the author. She has now received from the author an expression of regret and an undertaking both to alter the words in all new editions or translations of the book and to have an amended page bound into all copies of the present edition that are as yet unbound. He says: "It was entirely foreign to my intention to depreciate the women who served in the ranks of the W.A.A.C. . . . I much regret that the passage has given offence to the Old Comrades' Association."

"W.A.A.C."

The following letter appeared in the "Times" of April 2nd:—

WOMEN IN THE WAR.

(To the Editor of the "Times.")

Sir,—Among war books recently published are two or three describing the adventures of women in a theatre of war. Some of these show a surprising ignorance of the organisation of the women's services. In a volume entitled "Waac," which appeared last week, the anonymous author retails her career as a partly-trained nurse and afterwards as an ambulance driver. The only members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps ("Waacs") who appear in her pages are three women serving in a canteen—presumably E.F.C.; they make a few remarks disapproving of the heroine's conduct and so pass out of the picture.

I am at a loss, therefore, to imagine the significance of the title, and hope you will allow me to give publicity to the fact that members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary

Corps did not either nurse or drive ambulances. These duties were magnificently fulfilled by the military nurses and the members of Voluntary Aid Detachments, and were also undertaken by some voluntary bodies. Our women were employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, telegraphists, telephonists, storekeepers, and in similar occupations. The Corps came into being early in 1917 as a unit of His Majesty's Forces under the name of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (hence the abbreviation "Waacs") and was accorded its later title in 1918, when the Queen did us the honour to become our Commandant-in-Chief.

The name is not applicable to any other body. In its present context it is as inappropriate as would be the title "R.E." for a stretcher-bearer's experiences, and must, even apart from internal evidence, cast a similar doubt on the authenticity of the story.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. C. I. GWYNNE-VAUGHAN,

Chairman of Council, Q.M.A.A. Corps Old Comrades' Association, and sometime Chief Controller, Q.M.A.A. Corps, British Armies in France.

93 Bedford Court Mansions, W.C.1.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT.

A meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday, March 25th, 1930, at 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, and was presided over by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E.

New Branch.

A new Branch of Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. has been formed at Tunbridge Wells, the honorary secretary of which is Mrs. Boylett. Meetings are to be notified to members, and communications to the hon. secretary should be addressed to her at 114 Queen's Road, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Clothing.

Mrs. Johnston reports that she has received very useful parcels for the clothing cupboard. Among those sending them were the London Branch, per Miss Saunderson and Miss Rogers; Mrs. Spaul (two parcels), Bournemouth Branch. Mrs. Rix, who has undertaken to do the laundering of our layettes, has just returned a large parcel of beautifully washed clothes. Grateful thanks are sent to each for their work.

THE DOUGLAS HAIG MEMORIAL HOMES.

The following letter has been received from Captain W. Wilcox in acknowledgment of the donation recently sent by Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A.:

Dear Madam,

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge receipt of the generous donation of £42 10s. 3d., sent on behalf of

your Association to the Douglas Haig Memorial Homes, and I enclose herewith an official receipt, M10254.

The Trustees desire me to tender you their warmest appreciation of this gift and ask that all who so kindly contributed to it be given their grateful thanks for the sympathetic interest shown in the Homes. I also enclose a copy of the first Report and Accounts issued by the Trustees for your information.

With renewed thanks, believe me,

Yours very truly,

W. WILCOX, Captain.

Hon. Appeal Secretary, Douglas Haig Memorial Homes.

"MISSING."

The last War Memorial to be erected in this country by the Imperial War Graves Commission is nearing completion at Southampton.

Our vast army of "missing" is remembered in many fine memorials as, for instance, the Menin Gate, where thousands of soldiers names are recorded. The Royal Navy commemorates its missing in monuments at Chatham, Portsmouth, and Plymouth, the Royal Air Force at Arras, the Mercantile Marine at Tower Hill, London. This new memorial at Southampton is to the honoured memory of all soldiers—marines, airmen, Q.M.A.A.C.s, Nurses and V.A.D.'s—who lost their lives when the hospital ships and transports in which they were torpedoed or mined, and whose bodies were never recovered. Among these names will be found that of Mrs. Long, Q.M.A.A.C., the sister of Dame Florence Simpson, who was drowned in the Channel in 1918.

The memorial is set up at Shirley, in the Hollywood Cemetery, and is adjacent to the military graves. The panels, of which there are twenty-nine, will be engraved with the names of 1,861 men and women, and the general inscription reads:—

1914-1918.

"To the Glory of God and in memory of 1,861 officers and men of the British Empire, who fell in the Great War, and have no other grave but the sea, to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death."

LOCAL BRANCH REPORTS FOR APRIL.

We have been busy lately! Our concert held on the 8th of March, was as usual very successful and quite a large number turned up. Again the members of the Branch who could entertain contributed towards the programme for the evening, and those members, although very busy otherwise on that particular evening, rushed along to the club, gave their turn, and in some cases dashed away again because they were due elsewhere. In between the turns, while we waited, we sang to ourselves all the old songs we knew, and I am sure Miss Winter's arms must have ached responding to our demands. Our young friends, Lulu and Pat, gave us a good half hour's entertainment after Miss B. M. Scott opened the concert with two songs. Then came our turn. "A Long, Long Trail," etc., were sung in good old army fashion. Miss Smart, No. 1 late artiste on the programme, then breezed in, and in a quick and business-like way proceeded to deliver the goods; three or four numbers she contributed to the programme which were thoroughly enjoyed; each time she disappeared off the stage (drawing-room carpet) into the dressing-room (screen in corner of the room) there were shouts for more, and she was sporty enough to oblige each time, despite the fact that she came prepared to do two items only. More community singing, then Eileen Yorke was soon spotted as she entered the room and escorted to the piano, and we settled down to enjoy her songs, of which she gave her best, as she usually does. More singing by the audience, and the last artiste, Annie Banks, strolled in from rehearsal which had taken up her time the whole evening, and she sang two songs which were thoroughly enjoyed. This concluded a very nice little concert and I am still looking for more talent to help entertain, because this form of entertainment is very popular. What about those fifteen minute sketches? They are ever so easy if one or two members will just get together and see what they can do: let me know when you are ready and I will help you all I can.

The Sunday ramble to Great Amwell was very well supported. Twenty-two members journeyed down by charabanc, and several came in the afternoon for tea at the George IV. Hotel, including Miss Walton, who was at one time Warden at "Oversea," St. Leonards, in fact the 'bus deposited the party just outside her door in Ware and hearing a lot of laughter and chatter Miss Walton thought at once it would be the Old Comrades and came to the door, and sure enough she was right. When we arrived at the George IV. several members ordered lunch, while others proceeded to eat the lunch they had brought with them, and then all went on the tramp until teatime. The weather was beautiful and we enjoyed our walk by the river and also a frisk about in the fields. Tea in the club house, which was specially laid out for the W.A.A.C. party with a large card on the table which bore the words "Cheerio, W.A.A.C.'s," put us in a very good humour and we did full justice to the home-made cakes, scones, etc., that Brownie and Teddy Edwards provided. Thirty members in all sat down to tea, and readers can just imagine that plenty of good-natured banter was indulged in, much to the amusement of the various other clubs and parties who were teeing in the same room. After tea someone struck up jazz and the most daring of our party took to the floor and danced up and down the centre of the room. We left our old comrades in time to catch the seven-thirty 'bus back to town, feeling a bit tired, but also feeling very much the better for the fresh air in our lungs. So many people crowded into our car that I decided to tell the others a story of how the firm who owned the car would have let the party have their smaller car had this particular driver not smashed it up a few weeks before. Revenge is sweet; the crushers looked dead scared; we did not mind being crushed then. But nevertheless, old comrades, the story was true.

Only two members and the Honorary Secretary visited the Zoo on the 29th of March. What happened to the other ramblers who usually join us on these rambles or visits I wonder? I know everybody has been to the Zoo but you can go again and again and still learn a little more each time, and we three had a wonderful time, so much so that we decided to dispense with tea until the Zoo closed at 6.30. For those who have not been recently, the newest fashion in eats for the monkeys is sticks of macaroni dipped in jam, and they do look funny all sitting in rows with these sticks, licking for all they are worth; carrots and bananas are also popular, but nuts they are bored stiff with, in fact I saw one little chap take a nut and throw it back in the visitor's face. We envied the sea lions their lovely dives and wished we could dive a little bit like them. The ever fascinating insect house claimed our attention for a long time and I have to report that we saw an ant on the other side of the water and according to the lecture we had some two years ago they are not supposed to cross water. I must find out who is in the wrong, the ant or the lecturer. One large lion had rather a tough joint for supper and we watched him struggling valiantly with it until at last he overcame the difficulty and he ate it up and actually smiled as he lay down again. In our travels we met a gentleman who opened one of the little compartments and tickled George, such a funny little animal. George was then taken and given to Dorothy Porter to play with for a minute. We all played with him and I don't think George liked us because he gave a squeak of thanksgiving when he was back again in the arms of the keeper who came along to put him to bed. One more word. Don't ever go away without paying a visit to the penguins. The funniest sight is to see them trotting along, looking ever so serious, hand in hand with some small child. If Alice had known how very interesting a penguin could be I am sure she would have hunted all over Wonderland to find one to trot around with her in her travels.

LONDON BRANCH DINNER AND DANCE.—It is ten years this year since the Branch was started and a suggestion was made that a dinner and dance be held. The idea has caught on and we will hold our 10th anniversary dinner and dance in the Lysbeth Hall, Beta Cafe, Soho Square. W.C.1, on Saturday, 10th May. As the number is limited to 250 it would be advisable for members to get their

tickets at once or they may be disappointed. The tickets are 4s. and a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed with remittance. Medals and Decorations to be worn.

SHANGHAI WEEK-END.—A London Branch week-end is being arranged at Shanghai Camp with the Honorary Secretary in charge for Saturday, 17th May. The fare from Waterloo is 3s. 9d. week-end ticket, and the charge at camp is 6s. from Saturday afternoon till Sunday night.

By request of those members who rambled through Ken Wood last year and those who could not manage to join us, another ramble has been arranged and those who wish to join the party should meet either at the club at 2.30 p.m., or at the Hampstead and Highgate underground station at 3 p.m., on Saturday, April 26th.

WHIT HOLIDAY.—For the Whitsuntide holidays I am trying to arrange a party for Oversea, St. Leonards. Will members wishing to be counted of the party please write immediately and send a booking fee of 2s. 6d., because I cannot make arrangements until I get the party complete, and usually Oversea is well booked-up for the holidays. The fare is 10s. and the approximate cost of the holiday should be round about 30s.

The Aidershot Tattoo party is complete for one car, but if enough members send in quickly another car can be booked, but not unless a goodly number of bookings are received.

There are lots of subscriptions overdue. Can I have them soon, please?

The Honorary Secretary regrets that through some oversight the name of Miss B. Haines was omitted on the membership cards. She is a member of the Committee and her name should appear on the front page, so if all members would write her name in then the Committee number will be correct.

R. S. ANDREWS.

BRANCH REPORTS.

Glasgow and W. of Scotland Branch.

WHIST DRIVE.—A very successful whist drive and American tea took place in St. Andrew's Ambulance Halls in order to raise money for the decoration, etc., of our new club. There were 56 tables, and a sum of £22 was made after expenses were paid. Nearly every member took one, and some two or three tables. A cheering item of news is that new premises have been secured five minutes' walk from the old, and with the same accommodation, but on a smaller scale. As the numbers are decreasing annually this is all to the good, and the rent correspondingly smaller.

THE HUT.—Once again we have taken the hut which we have begun to look on as our own. From May to September it may be booked by any ex-Waac of any branch for herself and friends.

There are two bedrooms, a sitting-room and kitchenette. Three double beds and two bed-couches give accommodation for ten persons if a large party desires to take it. The charge, which includes coal, oil and bed and table linen, is 25s. from Friday night to Monday morning, and 5s. per day during the week. Each party caters for themselves, which is an easy matter with Mrs. Holms and the adjoining farm. The Secretary is Miss Jeffrey, 388 Great Western Road, Glasgow, to whom all communications, with a stamped addressed envelope, should be sent.

E. M. GILCHRIST.

Norfolk.

Our meeting on March 13th, at 122a Thorpe Road, Norwich, proved to be a most enjoyable evening. We were quite a record crowd for the branch—almost every member who lived within travelling distance was there! The welcome from our hostesses—the Misses Newberry and Prothero—was as warm as ever, and the evening cold enough to snuggle round the fire. The summer programme was discussed but nothing definite decided. However, arrangements will, I hope, be made for our various outing at our next meeting on April 10th, at 84 Thorpe Road, Norwich—Mrs. E. Howson being our hostess on that date. Having talked to "hunger point," ten of us sat down to a dainty supper, regaling ourselves

with various dishes so thoughtfully provided by our hostesses. Returning once more to the cosy fireside, all enjoyed the scramble of the "Miniature Shop" (I trust members arrived home all serene with their various articles!).

Norfolk members will be pleased to know that Miss Edith Thompson has joined our branch. This brings our total membership to 14, and should be a great incentive to other Old Comrades in or near the county to join us; although owing to various reasons—such as home ties, awkward train services and distance—they may not be able to share in our little festivities. To one and all we extend a hearty welcome.

L. W. CHILVERS.

Newcastle.

During these two months we have had three social evenings, our hostesses being Miss Floyd, Miss White and Miss Henderson respectively, all of whom we have to thank very much for their kindness to us. A whist drive formed the basis of each of the gatherings, but we had also all sorts of guessing games, etc., in connection with which there were numerous attractive prizes. While all the evenings were equally enjoyable, I should like to mention particularly the one at Miss White's house, because on that occasion, besides having with us two new members, Miss Holmes and Miss Geddes and also Miss Low from Sunderland, we had the pleasure of a visit from Mrs. Johnston, M.B.E., from Headquarters. It was most awfully good of her to spare us an evening when in the North, and especially to come out all the way to Gosforth to join us, and we did appreciate it very much.

Then on the 19th February we gave our annual whist drive and concert to the men at the War Pensions Hospital at Dunston, which went off very successfully, and all the men appeared to enjoy the evening's entertainment immensely. I must again thank Miss Snee for her help in making the arrangements for this and for the trouble she took in connection with it.

I would like to say how sorry I was to be out when Miss Douch, from Eastbourne, called to see me recently. I hope if she should be in this neighbourhood again I shall have the pleasure of meeting her then.

M. MOYES.

Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch.

The Sixteenth General Meeting of the Women's United Services Club was held at 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, when a large representation of members was presided over by Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., M.D. The same evening we had a delightful surprise in the visit of Dame Florence Simpson, who, after being welcomed by her Old Comrades and members of the Club, introduced to us Mrs. Francis, who gave a very delightful and interesting talk on the subject of "Curative Education." Dame Florence Simpson intimated that they hope to hold a meeting on the above subject in Edinburgh early in May.

The Badminton Club have had a good season and the following are the results of recent matches played:—

W.U.S. Club v. Braid Church Club.—Result: W.U.S. Club won by 13 games to 3 games.

W.U.S. Club v. Lothians and Border Horse Club.—Result: W.U.S. Club won by 9 games to 7 games.

Lothian and Border Horse Club v. W.U.S. Club (Return Match).—Result: Lothian and Border Horse Club won by 10 games to 6 games.

Braid Church Club v. W.U.S. Club (Return Match).—Result: W.U.S. Club won by 10 games to 6 games.

VISIT OF OUR CHAIRMAN.—During last month our Chairman, Miss Alice Low, O.B.E., spent a very happy evening in the Club when a large number of her Old Comrades were present to meet her. Miss Low's visits are always a great joy to all members and on this occasion we were all delighted to see her looking so well and happy.

Misses Abbey and Fairley have returned from their holiday abroad, both looking very fit and full of interesting news about their holiday in Africa and Spain.

In another part of this Gazette will be found an interesting letter from Baxter (late of A.E.F. Tours).

Baxter is now in a secretarial post with The Scottish Mission in Accra, Gold Coast.

Mrs. Hislop (nee Cowan, late Branch Secretary), in writing from India, wishes to be remembered to all Old Comrades.

Members are reminded that there are still a great many subscriptions unpaid and the Secretary will be very glad to have a remittance as soon as possible from those who have not yet paid their annual subscription.

An invitation to a week-end Party at their Home, "Bon Accord," North Berwick, has been extended to members of the Branch by Misses Turnbull and Finlay, and as this report goes to press the 25 members who are fortunate enough to be able to accept this very kind invitation are keenly looking forward to the visit.

MARY INNES, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Leeds.

GENERAL MEETING.—The Leeds Branch held their Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 19th. The same officers were asked to stand for the coming year, this they agreed to do. The meeting was followed by a tea and social chat.

MONTHLY MEETING.—At our next monthly meeting, which takes place on April 2nd, our Summer programme will be arranged. We hope that this will take the form of regular rambles and one or two trips. All Old Comrades, whether regular attenders or not, are cordially invited to join us at any of our gatherings at any time.

A. ANNINKIN.

Brighton.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH, 7.30-10.30 p.m.—A small friendly whist drive for members and their friends will be held at Salford House, Grand Parade. Directions as to which room to come to will be left on the mantelpiece of the entrance hall. A small charge will be made for players, not more than 1s. for members and 1s. 3d. for friends. This will include refreshments, and there will be prizes.

We had a very happy social evening on March 26th at 31 Wellington Road, and were kept busy with competitions. These were won as follows: Kim's Game by Miss Bowes; Word-making by Miss Potts; Advertisements by Miss Ashton; Authors by Miss Gowden and Miss Burnett. The prizes for highest number of points were won by Mrs. Susie Smith and Miss Potts.

H. A. BARON.

"SHANGHAI" CAMP CHARGES, 1930.

The Camp Committee would like all those who are interested to know that camp will be ready for visitors by April 26th, and we hope to have a record number during the season.

Members of the Committee are as follows: Misses Bushell, Banks, Day, Leach, Nixey, Norden, Robinson, and Mrs. Phillips.

We have already had private bookings—for April till September—one for each month.

Prices are as usual, but for those members from other branches, who would like to spend a week-end at Shanghai, here are the following charges:—

	W.A.A.C.	Friends.
Friday evening/Sunday night	10/6	14/-
Saturday morning/Sunday night	7/6	10/6
Saturday afternoon/Sunday night	6/-	8/-
Saturday afternoon/Monday morning	9/-	12/-
Bed and Breakfast—one night	2/-	3/-
Sunday only	2/6	3/6
Lunch	1/6	2/-
Tea	9d.	1/-
Supper	1/-	1/3

A working party will be going to camp at Easter to do their best (or worst) with paint brush and solignum-ning," and we hope to make the huts really posh.

Those wishing to book the camp for the week-end or longer will they please send in their applications to the Secretary: E. Norden, 79 Alderney Street, S. Belgravia, S.W.1.

AUGMENTATION OF FUNDS.

Dear Old Comrades,

In 1925 a letter was circulated drawing attention to the fact that as our expenses for maintaining the Headquarters Office, considerably exceeded our income, the Association would only exist until 1927, unless our funds were augmented.

In reply many Old Comrades offered to send a donation or an annual subscription to the Augmentation of Funds.

Even so, the Council felt that every effort must be made to curtail expenses, and since 1926 only a part-time Secretary has been employed, with the result that our expenses are very considerably reduced. But, in spite of every economy, our expenses still exceed our income.

Some 90 Old Comrades continue to contribute to the Augmentation of Funds, but it has been suggested that many, including some old Life Members, and some who joined the Association since the appeal was made, would be willing to help us if they realised our circumstances.

I am, therefore, venturing to write to you in respect of the matter, but shall understand if you do not feel able to send us an additional contribution.

Yours sincerely,

H. M. BILLINGTON,

Hon. Treasurer, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A.

Mrs. HAY-NEWTON.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Hay-Newton, the mother of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, recently met with an accident which resulted in the breaking of her thigh. At the time of going to Press we learn that she is "going on comfortably." We would like to send to Mrs. Hay-Newton the sympathy of all our members and to wish her a speedy recovery.

FOUND.

Two menu cards were picked up at the Annual Dinner and handed to the Hon. Secretary of London Branch. They are well filled with autographs and if the two members still wish to have them just drop a post-card to Miss R. S. Andrews, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. The names on the cards are **Budge Walker** and **Reid Gibbons**.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Mrs. Johnston (Etaples and Boulogne, Calais Areas), who has been visiting her sister in the North, says she spent a very happy evening with the Newcastle Branch on March 3rd. The meeting was at the home of one of the members, a most cheery affair where true Northern hospitality reigned. Miss Moyes, the secretary, and other members gave her a real W.A.A.C. welcome. Mrs. Johnston was delighted to meet so many Old Comrades, and promised **Miss Low**, secretary of the Sunderland Branch, who was present, that on her next trip to the North she would visit the Sunderland Branch.

Dorothy Bays is enjoying life in Australia and doing well.

G. Jarvis wishes to be remembered to all Old Comrades she knows in London.

Miss V. D. A. Lyon (Boulogne), who has been for ten years Assistant Secretary to the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association for the Blind, is succeeding the Secretary on her retirement. The additional responsibilities entailed, including frequent journeys at short notice, oblige her regretfully to resign from the Gazette Committee on which she has served for some time. Our congratulations and best wishes to her on her well-deserved promotion and success.

Mrs. Forbes (Maude Lewis), of 18 Poolbrook Avenue, Staveley, near Chesterfield, who was in Ostrohave Camp, Boulogne, in 1918, would be glad to have news of any members of that unit.

Mrs. E. E. Lyons (Eileen Thompson) asks if there are any Waacs in Vancouver? She lives at 10723 111th Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and generally goes to Vancouver each year. She served in Northern Ireland, Abbey

Wood and Connaught Club, before going over to France in the summer of 1918.

After a long silence comes a letter from **Mrs. Hugh McPhail (McQuade, V.A.D., Calais)**. She is living in fairly remote spot and would very much appreciate letters from some or those she knew in Calais, etc. Her address is "Riverside," Ridgedale P.O., Sask., Canada. She asks particularly for news from **Randall, Cowden, Dawson-Smith, Richards**, of Vendroux, and **Grundy, M.**, all Administrators at one time in the Calais Area. McQuade has now three daughters—Hope, Marjorie, and Shirley Ruth. In her letter she says that **Dr. Ellen Douglass** has recently been round the world and was for some time in London.

Miss K. Randall (Calais Area) is still living in Cardiff, and finds Girl Guides of absorbing interest, and says her troop has grown from 20 to 120. She hopes to attend the next Overseas Officers' Dinner.

Miss Elsie Andrews, 350 S. Grand Avenue, Pasadena, California, in writing, says how much she enjoys her Gazette. Her sister, **Mrs. R. McLean**, is now living at 2690 McGill Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Mrs. A. Simmons has again changed her address and is now at Sungai Kari Estate, which is "somewhere in Sumatra." Her husband has been promoted manager.

Mrs. W. Evelyn (Winifred Harding, 31840), who served at Bristol, Salisbury Plain, Camp 20, and was for some time orderly to Dr. Martha Stewart, and was demobilised at Eorstal Heath, now lives at 48 New Street, Appledore, N. Devon. She says she has not seen or heard of a Waac since demob., and is very anxious to get in touch once more. She has been married nine years and has a son of seven.

Miss E. Wilks has just discovered that her colleague in their office is an ex-Waac from Abbeville, and so promptly sends to Miss Andrews for membership forms.

The notices in the Press of our Annual Dinner seems to have brought to the notice of many Waacs the fact that the O.C.A. exists. Among those who have written to Miss Andrews for particulars are **E. A. Mackley, Elizabeth F. Rose, C. Jones**, and **L. Munting**. **Miss Lily Howard** (16086), who has been out of England for some time, has now rejoined the O.C.A., and is living in Berkshire.

Miss Elsie W. Coleman has also rejoined. She lives at Eastbourne.

Miss C. H. Osborne (A.A., Intelligence, St. Omer and Paris-Plage) thought the Overseas Officers' Dinner most enjoyable and was delighted to meet so many Old Comrades. Miss Osborne's home is in Co. Donegal, Ireland.

Mrs. O. M. Penfold (Olive Mary Hicks), who was head waitress at Bisley in 1917, is now manageress of the Hop Market Hotel, Worcester.

Miss Hilda Whittaker, 15 Melbourne Avenue, Derbyshire Lane, Stretford, Manchester, wants news of the following: **May Gould, Norah Swayne, Phoebe Daniels, Peggy McKeever**, and **Lucy Ball**.

KARELIAN "W.A.A.C.'s."

The following is taken from "The Murmansk Adventure," by Major-General Sir C. Maynard, who, with a handful of men, held Murmansk, on the White Sea, during 1918-19, to prevent this port being used by the Germans as a submarine base. It is interesting to note the type of women this British general calls "W.A.A.C.'s," and to compare his view with those of recent writers!

Writing of the difficulties of transport in Karelia, Major-General Sir C. Maynard says:—

"The Karelians made full use of the River Kem for some 60 miles. But there was a shortage of suitable boats, and the swiftness of the current made light loading essential. It was, too, a most difficult matter to ensure the protection of convoys.

"In connection with this conveyance of supplies by river, an incident occurred which is probably without parallel in our military annals. Karelian women had taken upon themselves to supplement the crews of ration-boats, and in this they were not to be denied. They were excellent water women, and had a fixed determination to assist their men folk in driving out the Finns. One and all argued with some show of reason that in times of peace they had

always been accustomed to row boats carrying food for men who were away from home, and that surely it was of more importance that they should do so now, when their men were at the front. On one occasion two women formed the sole crew of a ration-boat, and had started ahead of their escort. They were spotted by three Finn soldiers, who put out in a boat to intercept them, and a naval action followed. The Finns were armed and opened fire, but their marksmanship was bad.

"The Karelian women had never heard of Nelson, but they acted as, in all probability, he would have done. They promptly turned their boat, drove hard and straight at the enemy craft and struck it amidships.

"The Finns, taken utterly by surprise by this unlooked-for attack, were hard put to it to prevent their boat capsizing, and profiting by this the Karelian women proceeded to belabour them with their oars. All three Finns were placed hors de combat, two being knocked overboard and drowned.

"However unprecedented and irregular it might be, I felt that devotion such as this should not go unrewarded, and a little later I decorated both women with our Military Medal. There were I think, no two prouder ladies in North Russia that day than this couple of brave Karelian 'W.A.A.C.'s."

RECENT FICTION.

"NOT SO QUIET"— "Vice and Lice."

After the tiger, follows the jackal—the dish-licker. After the mud-singers have done their worst to blacken the memory of the men of the B.E.F., here follows a smudging effort to do likewise for the women who tried to do their best. And it is so easy. Take some thousands of women living in unaccustomed surroundings, nose round till you can find out some startling events, lump them all together as happening in the experience of one individual, publish it, and rake in the shekels from a scandal-loving public.

Never mind about tarnishing the good name of women who did not live, speak, or act like Helen Z. Smith and her charming friends, forget the thousands of ordinary-living, decent-spoken women who served in France, and exhibit them all to the world as a set of foul-mouthed, loose-living rotters.

Forget the pluck, the determination to cope with cold, with fear, with hardship, and want of sleep without making a song about it, and remember nothing but the few failures.

Some people ought never to have gone to France, they could not face it decently. Like Helen Z. Smith, who whined because she had no bath-salts, and grouched because she had to clean her car, they were unfortunate in their experiences of vice and lice.

As a motor ambulance driver of nearly four years' experience said on reading the book: "I think we must have gone to a different war!"

"Not so Quiet" has patches of vivid writing, with some peculiar statements. Did anyone ever hear of British ambulances with doors, or which carried six stretchers?

Miss Smith's companions seem to have been as remarkable as the capacity of her ambulance.

EX-M.A.C. DRIVER.

(The writer of this saw much active service and was decorated for bravery.—Ed.).

"W.A.A.C."

Every Waac who opened her newspaper on a morning recently must have had the thrill of her life. There we read of a complete "revelation" of how Q.M.A.A.C. behaved when serving with the British Expeditionary Force. It was all so utterly amazing that after a spell of intense indignation one sat back and laughed. It was all such arrant nonsense. This latest so-called war book, "W.A.A.C.," is said to be written by a V.A.D. She dared not put her name to it, nor apparently dare she give any real names of places where the most startling events of her war career took place. She calls herself "Connie," says her father was a clergyman, and that she

joined up in 1914 at the age of 19. Connie was a V.A.D., nurse, and later on V.A.D. ambulance driver, so that you may be left to guess just how much first-hand knowledge she has of Q.M.A.A.C. Remembering that the "W.A.A.C.s" only came into existence at the beginning of 1917, the London "Star" says:—

"The book for the most part purports to be a revelation of the change which came over feminine psychology during 1915. For this reason it is unfortunate that such a title should have been chosen, for the writer seems to have had very little to do with the famous corps which did such wonderful work in the armies at home and abroad. Most of her experience seems to have been gained with hospitals, about which she is for the most part rather vague."

And later goes on to say:—

"The anonymous author leaves little to the imagination, but after making every allowance for the abnormal conditions of the time, few men and women who served overseas will agree that the conversations and incidents related with so much gusto were the everyday occurrences that we are asked to believe they were. A tendency to hysteria is not the best qualification for nursing, and the author's friends seem to have been a particularly neurotic lot."

When one reads of the marvellous adventures Connie claims to have had in company of her "lover"—Captain Rupert C., a very rich man of title," whose wife, incidentally, was in a mental hospital, one rather wonders why we were so dense and hard-working—why we stayed in our cook-houses, offices, messes, and the like—instead of being up and doing like Connie—spy-hunting—dressed as old women, capturing the said spies and bringing back their dead bodies. She also spends a week behind the German lines, still dressed as an old woman, having been dropped by an aeroplane and is duly picked up, at the end of her week of invaluable service, by another plane which encounters the enemy on its return journey. Even later, installed in a luxurious suite of rooms in Berkeley Square, rented by the dashing Captain Rupert, she, posing as a fortune-teller, causes the disappearance of a "woman of foreign origin." One can only conclude that, being of His Majesty's Forces, we were rather more restricted by King's Regulations, G.R.O.'s, and the like, and not able, therefore, to be so remarkably useful! Connie really isn't at all nice to know! When she is supposed to be nursing she spends quite a lot of her time kissing her patients, and does not seem content with having "kidnapped" Rupert. The truth is that Connie was man-mad. You will wonder what this all has to do with Q.M.A.A.C. Very little. This V.A.D. just chose "W.A.A.C." in order to have a very attractive title to her book.

One cannot but feel sorry for all the decent V.A.D.'s—and there were thousands—that one of their number should have written this ludicrous book, which, according to an ex-officer, is largely made up of the "sort of thing one might dream after a heavy lobster supper!"

Incredulous Officers.

"None of the women who held office in the W.A.A.C.s would take the book seriously.

An officer of the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association said:—

"We had ten thousand on our roll. They were drawn from all classes, and no one is going to pretend that every one who joined us was an angel. I am afraid that the writer's credentials do not impress me. She writes anonymously and she seems to have had very little to do with the Corps. I can only say that her statement that war 'changed women from prudes into creatures lacking all restraint,' is simply preposterous. The women in the W.A.A.C.s were too fine for wild charges of this sort to be taken seriously."—"The Star."

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Mrs. H. Hodgson, c/o Mrs. Pirie, Karirana, Limuru, Kenya Colony, British East Africa.

Limuru is a lovely place and in all my travels I don't think I've seen anything prettier. I'm having a dear little

bungalow built for nurseries all to myself. The people are awfully sweet I've come out to. I had a ripping voyage out especially before I could cross the line. There were six passengers who had been before. Rather Neptune came all dressed up in sack cloth, long beard and hair, and read charges against us. Our faces had to be lathered in soft soap and water, then a 12-inch wooden razor came along and we were shaved and thrown into the swimming bath to be baptized. It was really fun. I haven't time to tell you more. The post-office is a good five miles away and we have to fetch all our letters. There's no postman and no letter-boxes.

From Mrs. Doris Cotterell, 798 Dufferin Avenue, London, Ontario, Canada.

My husband enjoys the Gazette. He knew several of the girls in Rouen in 1917, and often relates how when passing Camp 3 he would throw lumps of coal off his engine into the camp grounds. Coal was scarce that winter, and I often wonder if the girls who helped to burn it remember the pilgrimages in the early morning to gather in the spoils? I do!

We are having a real old-fashioned winter, the coldest since 1918. There is a great amount of distress in the larger cities, though I understand the situation is not so acute as in England.

My brother, who has spent eighteen months in the sub-Arctic, came out last October. He stayed with me a couple of weeks, leaving in November for a trip to England and the continent. He intended staying until the beginning of this month. Greatly to my surprise he came to my place on New Year's Eve. He was so disgusted with the English weather (nothing but rain) that he curtailed his visit, and spent the remainder of his leave with me. He says he preferred the Arctic, it was at least dry. I infer from that the weather was unusually wet.

I wonder if anyone could tell me the whereabouts of Tony German, who was at Camps 3 and 10 in Rouen? I have never heard of her since I left England in 1919.

I must finish this up or I shall miss the mail man. Wishing the O.C.A. and all its officers every success.

From Miss B. M. Baxter (late A.E.F.), P.O. Box 135, Accra, Gold Coast.

15th March, 1930.

I did mean to write in time for the Christmas News Sheet, but the weeks and the months slipped past and now that the novelty of things has worn off I wonder if I have anything interesting to write about.

Before I came out I wondered if there would be any Waacs on the Gold Coast, and almost the first people I spoke to on board ship (Miss Ross and Miss James) were ex-Waacs, both of Signals. Unfortunately neither of them were located in Accra—Miss Ross went to Sekondi and Miss James to Kumase. I saw a little of Miss Ross when she was in Accra for a few weeks temporarily. Miss James has now come down for a month or two, and we have already foregathered and hope to see more of each other.

The Headquarters of the Scottish Mission, where I work, are not actually in Accra but in Christianborg, about two or three miles from the town. My bungalow is just about five minutes' walk from the office. We are in good company, because Christianborg Castle is the Governor's official residence. It is an old fort built by the Dutch about 200 years ago, right on the seashore, and is very picturesque with its white walls glistening in the sun against the blue of the sea and the green of the surrounding palms, etc. On Armistice night the Governor and Lady Slater had a Reception for all ex-Service people. There must have been about 200 people present (including wives), but I think I was the only Waac. We were entertained in an inner courtyard, beautifully illuminated with coloured lights fixed among the trees. Some of the Government House people and others acted a Revue about the coming of the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British to the Gold Coast, and it was most amusing. Then we had community singing and joined in all the old war-time favourites. We sat at little tables and light refreshments were served at intervals. Imagine sitting outside from 9 p.m. till 12 on a November night in light evening dresses! It would make one shiver to think of it at home, but here

it was perfectly delightful—much nicer than it would have been inside.

Accra, being the capital, is quite a "civilised" town, but it is a place of queer contrasts. In the main streets are some large stores where almost anything can be bought, with electric light, telephones, etc., and there is a constant stream of motor-cars and lorries, with traffic policemen (black) at the busy corners. In some of the back streets the natives still live in mud houses, the children run about in a string of beads and a smile, and women carry huge loads on their heads and babies on their backs.

I've had rather a busy time since coming out, but I'm expecting a colleague next month who will share my bungalow and also the work at the office. I'm enjoying the life, and it seems to agree with me in spite of the heat. This is the hot season, and one rather envies the children who run about in their birthday suits. Bathing is a delight these hot days, but as I am a bit from the shore and dependent on motor transport, I don't go as often as I would like. Swimming is impossible because of the heavy surf, but it's fun being nearly smothered in great waves or letting them carry you up on to the beach. It is because of the heavy surf that ships cannot come in to Accra. They have to lie a mile or two out, and passengers are hoisted over the side in a "mammy chair" into a flat-bottomed surf boat manned by ten husky black men who paddle the boat ashore. When the surf is bad the boat goes up and down like a figure eight railway. I rather enjoyed it when I came ashore, but one lady in the boat was sick.

I enjoyed my first Christmas out here immensely. I stayed with the Wilkies most of Christmas week. We had a Christmas Tree for the African Teachers' children on Monday night. On Tuesday we were at a Party. On Christmas Day we went to Church in the morning, played tennis in the afternoon and had a Dinner Party at night. On Boxing Night we went to a Fancy Dress Dance at the Club. I didn't have time to feel homesick, even though our Christmas mail was delayed for a fortnight. There is plenty of opportunity of leading a gay and giddy life in Accra if one has the inclination. For my part, I prefer going to bed reasonably early—late nights are all very well for the wives of Government officials and such-like people who can sleep all the next day.

My official hours of business are from 8 a.m. till 12, and 2 till 4. There is nothing doing here between 12 and 2—all shops, offices, schools, etc., close during that period, as it is really too hot to do anything. I walk to the office in the morning and home in the afternoon, but the car takes me home and calls for me at lunch time.

I'm afraid this is not a very interesting letter, but if you would like to make any extracts from it for the News Sheet you are welcome to do so. I'm typing it in the office and find difficulty in concentrating.

Kind remembrances to all my friends at the Club. I often think of you though this is the first time I have written.

From Mrs. Arthur P. Mills (Mabel Guest), Hopkinton, Concord, N.H.

Hopkinton is a very pretty old town, eight miles from Concord, the capital of New Hampshire. I have a very pretty old Colonial House here of seven rooms and bath-room, which we had put in, and sun porch on the back, that also we have had put on, and a very nice garden. We also have a small bungalow of 3 rooms and sun porch away up in the woods where we will be going for vacations, and week-ends this summer, when it gets very hot here.

Next year—1931—I hope to join you all once again at the Annual General Dinner.

I hope you are keeping well, with all best wishes.

From Mrs. Cass (I. S. MacLaren), 5009 Halldale Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

I wish I could bottle up some of our sunshine and send it home. We have not had a drop of rain since last winter until this week, and we had only two nights of rain then, and the sun is out as brilliantly as ever to-day. I wonder if I could get a new list of Waacs in U.S.A., the last one I had was a few years ago, and no doubt some have moved since then. If there are not enough in one

town to form a branch they could perhaps join the "Women's Overseas Service League," as I have done. They are a wonderful bunch of girls, and we have such a good time at our meetings.

I got quite a thrill on December 31st, at 4 p.m., Pacific time. I heard Big Ben strike midnight over the radio; also the chimes of the various churches around Parliament Square.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Board-Residence. Quiet, restful holiday in country cottage. Bus to Basingstoke, Newbury and Reading; bath-room. Also 3-roomed bungalow in garden, with board and partial attendance. Moderate terms—Lyall Pamber End, Nr. Basingstoke, Hants.

89 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1—Hostel for business girls. Terms very moderate. Miss H. Pink. (Telephone Victoria 3911).

Eileen Yorke, Ladies' Hairdresser, 9 Seaham Avenue, Southampton Row, W.C. (late Connaught Club). Phone: Hol 1281. First-class attention at moderate prices. Marcel Wave, 1s. 6d.; Shampoo, 1s. 6d.; Permanent Wave, whole head, 25s. Try an Old Comrade and receive satisfaction. Two minutes' walk from Holborn Restaurant.

Le Touquet, Paris Plage—Scotch House, 44 Rue de la Paix. Re-opening April. All rooms fitted hot and cold running water. Excellent cuisine; comfortable and central; near sea, tennis, Casinos. Moderate terms. Alice B. Anderson, proprietress (ex-Wimereux and Le Touquet).

Stormont House, 43 and 45 Longridge Road, Earls Court, S.W.5. Misses A. Crockford and O. Mainland having extended their premises, are now able to offer additional accommodation. Bed, bath and breakfast from 5/6 single rooms; from 5/- each double rooms. Lunch, tea and dinner optional: 6d. per night extra for bookings for less than three nights. Gas fires in rooms. Telephone: Frobisher, 0986.

Gannes.—"Scotch House—Pension," Avenue de Madrid; central, near sea and tennis; large sunny garden. Home comforts, good food. Excursions and tours arranged all over the Riviera, Italy, etc. Apply to Alice B. Anderson (ex-Service, Wimereux, Le Touquet, etc.). Terms moderate.

Furs Home-made Chocolates, Bon-Bons, Toffees, Caramels, etc. Fancy boxes of Chocolates and Sweets, suitable for Presents, from 2s. 6d. to £2 2s. 0d. Price list on application.—Miss E. Cockedge, 2 Bracken Road, West, Brighouse, Yorkshire.

Board-Residence or Apartments. Every convenience. Terms moderate. Apply Miss F. H. Smith, "Kinver," Chesham Road, Weston-Super-Mare. (Opposite Ashcombe Park).

Bon Accord Private Hotel, Marmion Road, North Berwick, convenient for station, golf and tennis—Misses Turnbull and Finlay, Telephone North Berwick 77.

Numerology.—Your name your guide for life. Full reading 5s., Character only 2s. 6d. Old readings brought up to date 2s. 6d., U.S.A. and Canada \$1.—Send full names (maiden name if married) and date of birth to Blanche, 47 W. 84th Street, New York City, U.S.A.

Any garments "hand knitted," light weight hand embroidered knitted frocks 40/- and 45/-, all shades. Embroidered sleeveless Cardigans 35/- and 40/-—M. Cowens, 16 Fisherton Street, Salisbury.

George IV Hotel, Gt. Amwell, Ware, Herts. Telephone: Stanstead Abbots 39. A beautiful spot for a quiet country holiday. Saturday to Monday, 15s. Other terms on application. Teas, luncheons. Parties catered for by arrangement. Combine a ramble with your general meeting and come here for tea. Club room accommodates 50.—A. G. Brown and A. Edwards (Camp 1, Etaples).

Self-contained Furnished Flat to let, Hastings, sea-front, close to Pier; gas, electric light; every convenience. Apply Mrs. E., Curzon Villa, 25 White Rock, Hastings.

Branch.	Name and Address of Secretary.	Address of Club or Meeting place.	Day and Time of Meeting.
Birmingham.	Miss E. C. Brinsford, 167 Birchfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.	38 John Bright Street, Room 19.	Wednesdays. 7 to 10 p.m.
Bournemouth.	Miss E. Jones, Kirkley, Westhill Road.	Cavendish House, 8 Christ Church Road.	Last Monday in each month 8 to 10 p.m.
Brighton.	Miss H. A. Baron, 25 Wellington Road, Brighton, Sussex.	Y.P.C., 17 Compton Avenue, Brighton.	On last Wednesday in the month; 7.15—10.15.
Bristol and West of England.	Miss Pearce, 1 Pierrepont Place, Bath.	No permanent room fixed.	Not fixed.
Cheltenham.	Mrs. Mann, 84B High Street, Cheltenham, Gloucester.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Exeter.	Miss J. Rose, 164 Sidwell Street, Exeter.	164 Sidwell Street, Exeter.	First Wednesday of the month at 3 o'clock.
Eastbourne.	Miss N. Peters, 5 Spencer Road, Eastbourne.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Edinburgh and East of Scotland.	Miss M. Innes, 1 Granville Terrace, Edinburgh. Benevolent Sec.: Miss F. M. Lush, 11a Gilmore Place, Edinburgh.	Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.	1st Saturday of each month, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Glasgow and West of Scotland.	Miss E. M. Gilchrist, M.B.E., 13 Royal Terrace West, Glasgow.	109 Douglas Street, Blythswood Square.	Every Wednesday, 7.30.
Headquarters.	Mrs. Pratt Barlow, O.B.E. 85 Chester Square, S.W.1.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Ireland.	Miss E. C. Finny, Erith Lodge, Sandymount, Dublin.		Not fixed.
Leeds.	Miss E. Mair, 29 Victoria Terrace, Belle Vue Rd., Leeds, Yorks Benevolent Sec.: Miss A. Annikin, 2 Hollin Park View, Roundhay. Leeds, Yorks.	British Legion Club Rooms, Greek Street, Leeds.	First Wednesday in the month, 7.30 p.m.
Liverpool.	(Temp.) Mrs. Ryley, 199 Picton Road, Wavertree.	79 Lime Street, Liverpool.	Friday, 7.30 p.m.
London.	Miss R. S. Andrews, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.	1st and 3rd Thursdays in each month at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1; 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays. Mess. Central Canteen, Duke of York's Hdq., King's Rd., Chelsea. Winchfield, Shirehall Lane, Golders Green Road (nearest 'bus stop Brent Bridge). Telephone: Hendon 1925.	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Golders Green.	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10.	122 Cranbrook Road, Ilford. (Telephone Ilford 0058).	First Tuesday of each month; 7.30—10 p.m.
London Sub-Branch Ilford.	Miss M. V. Druitt, 74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.		Alternate Tuesdays at 8 p.m.
Manchester.	Mrs. Stear, 8 Gainsborough Street, Higher Broughton, Salford.	The Kingston Cafe, Spring Gardens, Manchester.	Every Friday, 7—10.30 p.m.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Miss Margaret Moyes, 1A Eslington Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle. Benevolent Sec., Miss L. M. Floyd, 13 Beacon Street, Low Fell. Gateshead-on-Tyne.	The British Legion Club, 6 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle. Interviews at British Legion, N.E. Area Offices, 10 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.	First Monday and Third Wednesday, 7—10 p.m.
Norfolk.	Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 32 Grove Road, Norwich.	No permanent room fixed.	Monthly. Members notified individually.
North Staffs.	Mrs. E. Stretton 10 Sparrow Terrace, Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent.		
Oxford.	Mrs. M. Grundy, M.B.E., West Wood House, Hinksey Hill, Oxford	No permanent room fixed	Members notified individually.
Notts.	Miss Burder, 65 Harcourt Road, Forest Fields, Nottingham.	Meldrum's Cafe, Lister Gate.	First Wednesday in the month, 7-9.30
Plymouth.	Mrs. O. Foster, 2 Notte Street, Plymouth.		
S. Wales. and Cardiff.	Miss Diana V. Viney, 201 Carlisle Street, Cardiff.	Y.M.C.A., Cardiff.	Second and Last Tuesday, at 7.30 p.m.
St. Leonard's.	Miss E. Taylor, 58 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea.	58 West Hill, St. Leonard's-on-Sea.	Not fixed.
Sunderland.	Miss M. M. Low, 15 Featherstone Street, Roker, Sunderland	Y.W.C.A. Rooms, Burdon Road.	Second Wednesday each month, 7 p.m.
Tunbridge Wells.	Mrs. Boylett, 114 Queen's Rd., East Grinstead.		Members to be notified.

All Old Comrades are cordially invited to any of the above re-unions. If no definite meetings are fixed, application should be made to the Branch Secretary concerned, who will give the necessary particulars