

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

SEPTEMBER, 1930. Vol. XIII., No. 2.

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HEADQUARTERS REPORT.

We were very glad to have a visit at the Headquarters office from Mrs. Lester, who is the assistant benevolent secretary at Newcastle-on-Tyne Branch. She was able to give us some very interesting information about conditions up north and also regarding cases dealt with by the Newcastle Branch. Mrs. Lester will be known to many members as Forewoman Lester at Folkestone.

Clothing.

Already our stock of clothing has been augmented by the arrival of several parcels—so that our advertising is beginning to work. We need a great deal more yet to enable us to supply those many requests that are sure to come as soon as the autumn weather really begins. Many folk seem to think it has long since set in! We are grateful to the following for their kindness in sending such useful supplies: Mrs. Cronch, Miss Comley, Miss Leedal, Miss Warrior, Miss McKnight and Miss Andrews, and the donor of the suitcase and its contents.

BRANCH ADMINISTRATION.

Supposing you were elected Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer of your Branch and you did not know very much, if anything, about the secretarial or financial duties. How would you feel about it? Some readers may say that no one has any right to take on duties that cannot be well carried out. That is so. But on the other hand this very often happens. It is quite usual to hear members say to one member, "Will you stand for election for Treasurer or Secretary this year?" as the case may be, and it is not a bit unusual to hear that member exclaim, "I really don't know anything about accounts" or "I don't know the first thing to do in connection with secretarial work." Well! It usually ends up with one member being inveigled into taking over duties she knows nothing whatever about, just to be a sport and take her share in the work of the Branch. I know there must have been many members who found themselves in this position, and I daresay they would have been glad of a little information at the time and were far too shy to seek it, although they are experts at the game now. These few hints are meant for those who are still in the groping stage:—

LET'S SUPPOSE YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED HONORARY SECRETARY OR HONORARY TREASURER.

1.—It is the duty of the Secretary to send out notices of meetings to the members of the Committee at least seven days beforehand. On the agenda should appear everything of importance to be discussed at the meeting.

2.—A book should be kept wherein a true record of the business discussed at these meetings should be entered. The minutes of the previous meeting should be read at each meeting and presented to the Chairman for signature.

3.—A register should be kept wherein the name of each member belonging to the branch should be entered. A card index file can also be used for this purpose, and is, in my opinion, easier handled and quicker to refer to.

4.—The social work of the branch can be run quite successfully by the members themselves as many branches have proved. Give any member who is gifted in organising a job and you will find the work made easier for yourself and the members will be quite content in the thought that they are all doing their bit towards helping with the work of their branch.

5.—No Branch Secretary should lack advice for the asking. Your Branch Representative (if your branch is large enough to entitle you to nominate one), is at your service. She will be only too pleased to give advice, or seek it from Headquarters Council, if approached at any time. If you have no Branch Representative, then write straight to the General Secretary.

6.—Now we come to the all-important finance! This is a most important factor in the working of a branch, and it is the job of the Honorary Treasurer to see that this part of the work is carried out in a most accurate way. No member should undertake the duties of Honorary Treasurer unless she has a working knowledge of book-keeping, otherwise she may find herself in a terrible muddle and not know which way to turn to get out of it. Figures are the most mischievous imps one can meet, and unless you have some experience in handling those little beggars they can make life very miserable for you. Even very experienced people are baffled by them occasionally and they need all their wits to struggle through.

Here I am going to pass you on to the Honorary Treasurer of the Association who will endeavour to give clear and concise instructions on the financial side of the workings of a branch, together with a specimen balance sheet as it should be drawn up.

BRANCH FINANCE.

Hints for those branches which are not large enough to employ an official auditor:

Each branch should have a cash book, in which is entered all cash received on the left side, and on the other side all money spent, the items should be posted into a ledger, under such headings as: Subscriptions, capitation fees, postage, stationery, and miscellaneous, etc. If the branch is small, exercise books will answer the purpose just as well.

An account should be opened at a local bank, and all money paid into the bank; if again the branch is very small, a cash box could be used for that purpose, the secretary or treasurer being responsible for the money.

Branch return forms should be sent in each month, that is, of course, if you have any capitation fees to send to Headquarters, the names and addresses of members

should be written in block letters, and in the case of a member being transferred, the branch from which transferred should be stated in column three.

Now we come to the balance-sheet, not such a dreadful thing really; it sounds worse than it is. All that is necessary is a statement of what money you have in hand, money received, and how you have spent it, but there are one or two things to remember:

Firstly, if you have a grant from the United Services Fund, it must not be shown on your Balance Sheet.

Secondly, if the branch is run in connection with a United Service Club, subscriptions for the club must not be shown.

Thirdly, if your membership includes W.R.A.F. or W.R.N.S., their subscriptions must not be shown, nor must they be included in your totals. The balance sheet must only be for Q.M.A. A.C. O.C.A., and one other thing, this statement of accounts must be sent in the beginning of each year.

SPECIMEN OF A BRANCH BALANCE SHEET.

Q.M.A.A.C. OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION, X BRANCH.

Receipts and Payments Account for year ending
October 31st, 1930.

<i>Receipts.</i>				£	s.	d.
Nov. 1st, 1929:						
To Balance in Hand	...	...	...	5	6	11
22 Annual Subs. @ 2/6 each	...	...	...	2	15	0
Capitation Fees, Six Life Members @ 1/6 each	...	...	...	9	0	
				£8	10	11
<i>Payments.</i>				£	s.	d.
Oct. 31st, 1930:						
By 22 Capitation Fees to Headquarters	...	...	...	1	2	0
Postage	...	...	...	10	0	
Stationery	...	...	...	5	6	
Prizes for Whist Drive	...	...	...	10	0	
Playing Cards	...	...	...	12	0	
				£2	19	6
Balance, October 31—						
Bank	...	...	...	5	0	0
Cash	...	...	...	11	5	
				5	11	5
				£8	10	11

The above statement should be signed and checked by someone other than the Secretary or Treasurer.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR AUGUST.

Norfolk.

On Thursday, July 31st, the members of our little Branch accepted Mrs. Paston's invitation to visit her at Tasburgh, a charming old-world village about eight miles from Norwich.

Although the Yarmouth members left home in pouring rain, there had been none at Tasburgh, the weather being perfect for tea in Mrs. Paston's lovely garden.

All members turned up with two exceptions, one being our secretary, who was still on holiday, and was very much missed.

We always feel rather like sheep without a shepherd when she is missing, which, fortunately, is very rare.

After tea we explored the village, which must be one of very few where the builder has not intruded of recent years. Our hostess's house is a hundred years old, and I should imagine there are very few of more recent date in the whole village.

It was a real "rest cure" afternoon and evening. Once or twice a motor horn sounded in the distance, and once we saw a motor bicycle, ridden by the village postman (great excitement, this). They were the only sounds of the outside world in that peaceful village.

Back we strolled to the house, and peeped at little Geraldine (our Waaclet) in bed, and then a delicious

supper was ready, and eaten with Waac appetites, after which, very regretfully, we made ready to depart.

We bade good-bye to Mr. Paston, whom we left to enjoy the peace of his home once more.

Mrs. Paston came to see us safely on our way, all going by train, with the exception of Miss Green, who had cycled nine miles to be with us.

Our little party made quite a stir at the station, where we were the only passengers to board the train.

With many thanks to our hostess for such a delightful time we made our way back to the noise and bustle, each carrying with us a memory as fragrant as the flowers which bloomed in the old-world garden.

D. RUMBOLD.

Oxford.

On the morning of Friday, August 8th, the weather was doubtful. Dark threatening clouds were overhead with but little sun. Early in the afternoon, however, we assembled outside Queen's College to meet Miss Payne and Mrs. Grundy, who motored us over to Hambledon Lock, about three miles from Henley. At Huntercombe we picked up Miss East, and were met by Mrs. Butler and her little boy at Hambledon. The lock is in the midst of what is perhaps the most beautiful country on the Thames.

Our party was too large for all of us to go in the row-boat together, so we divided into two parties—one going in the boat, the other sitting on the river-bank or by the lock and admiring the scenery. We in the boat went upstream, past a most beautiful house and an equally attractive garden belonging to Viscount Hambledon, more generally known as W. H. Smith. Then we turned back downstream and joined the others to have a large tea prepared by the lock-keeper's wife. After tea those who had been in the boat took the place of those who had remained by the lock and vice versa. During this time a considerable amount of traffic passed through the lock. On the return of those in the boat and after "snaps" had been taken, we went back to the cars, content and very thankful to Mrs. Buxton, who had ordered the tea and procured the boat. Then a pleasant drive saw us at Oxford once more.

Miss Payne's car returned by a different route, passing through Watlington in order to visit Mrs. Ledgerwood, whom they found busy making jam. She found an old acquaintance in Mrs. Jackman, who was one of the party, and they talked over old days in Rouen together.

M. GRUNDY.

London.

Several members from overseas visited London during July and August, but their time was so fully occupied and dates did not fit in to allow them to visit the London Branch members on their reunion evenings. However, the Honorary Secretary was delighted to entertain those who located her when they had an hour or two to spare.

Nothing very entertaining has happened as August is a recognised holiday month, the only organised entertainment being a visit to the Zoo one Thursday evening at the beginning of August, as the club was closed for cleaning, etc. The reunion meeting was advertised in the July Gazette, but only six members had the pluck to turn up. The grounds were beautifully illuminated with fairy lights, and two bands supplied music to the crowds of people who had ventured out on such a dark dreary evening. We were ever so glad that we decided to meet in spite of the rain earlier in the day and because it was certainly very bright inside the grounds. We wandered for some time inspecting the animals, and just when we had decided that a cup of coffee would be extremely cheering, three of the party were not to be found. They were last seen at the bear house watching a very tired and nuzzled bear which paced up and down in a most mournful fashion. We were just thinking of placing a notice on one of the band stands, "Lost, three youngish-looking Ex-W.A.A.C.s, last seen standing by the bears' cage waiting for adventure; it is thought they may have been embraced—by the bear—and have said good-bye to their old comrades for ever." Just as we were trying to compose a nice notice and wondering whether we should say "perhaps they have been kidnapped by the monkeys or

the bears," they strolled towards us. To celebrate our second reunion meeting that evening we all adjourned to the open-air cafe and consumed sandwiches and coffee. We sat there chatting until nearly eleven o'clock. It was an evening well spent, and we were so sorry more members did not take advantage of the invitation and join us. Theirs was the loss.

Our annual social will be held on October 16th for members and their friends, and members are asked to get their tickets as early as possible. Please write to the Honorary Secretary, enclosing postal order for one shilling, and stamped addressed envelope.

The Roamers Concert Party have promised to give London Branch members a concert at the club on Thursday, November 9th, instead of September 18th, as formerly mentioned in the Gazette. A small and informal concert will be arranged for Thursday, September 18th, so if any member can contribute to the programme in any way, will she please communicate with the Honorary Secretary at the club.

Workers are urgently required to take needlework and knitting home for the clothing cupboard. Miss Rogers is in charge of this department, and she is to be found at the club any Thursday evening at the reunion meetings. If a member can give this work a few moments a day, it will be very much appreciated. If knitting is more convenient, ask for some wool, and don't forget that the children are growing bigger each year and need larger garments. If you or your friends have any clothes which have been discarded as useless, these come in very useful for making up into small garments, so try your hand at cutting out one garment, make it up and bring it along to Miss Rogers. She will be delighted because all the cutting-out falls upon her at present.

There are still many subscriptions to come in, and I shall appreciate the early receipt of postal orders so that these can be paid into the account by the end of October. Again I strongly advise members to cross all postal orders and do not send Treasury notes in letters, unless by registered post. Also keep the counterfoils of the postal orders until you get your receipt—this is most important.

R. S. ANDREWS.

NEWCASTLE TRAINING HOSTEL.

A successful garden fete was given by the Newcastle-on-Tyne Migration Committee on July 19th, in the grounds of the Committee's Training Hostel for Women at Benton, to raise funds for the Hostel.

This was their second fete which the Committee has organised, their aim being to secure at least £500, the sum which is needed annually to meet their share of the cost of running the hostel.

During the first year of the hostel's existence 73 young women who had received training sailed for Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and 20 others were then under instruction.

Ten weeks' free tuition are given at the Hostel, with board and lodging, and a small weekly sum of pocket money. The training includes cooking, housework, laundry and needlework. Each student takes her turn in the house, laundry and kitchen and is taught to cook on a coal range, an electric cooker, a gas stove and a Canadian wood stove.

QUEENSLAND.

The Work of the Country Women's Association.

It is, perhaps, difficult to appreciate fully the work of such an organisation as the Country Women's Association. In England the parallel organisation is that of the Women's Institutes. Both are founded to band country-women together in service to one another, and for "home and country." Both work entirely in the rural districts and among country people. But how different are the conditions under which they work. Queensland, with a vast territory as large as France, Italy and Scandinavia combined, and a population smaller than that of Birmingham—while in the homeland there is but one-seventh of Queensland's space for fully fifty times as large a population.

Nothing daunted, the Country Women's Association is gradually covering the whole of Queensland with its Branches of country women linked together for a common purpose and a central organisation. We learn from the seventh Annual Report of the Southern Division that there are 169 Branches in the Division and a membership of 7,500. Much practical work has been achieved, the most notable, perhaps, being the building by the Association of forty Rest Rooms or "small cottages containing a large room for meetings, etc., a bedroom for anyone wishing to rest or stay the night, and a kitchenette." Then there are the seaside Homes and Huts, where already 1,122 women and children have enjoyed holidays in fresh air. Again, the dearth in remote districts of books, is being met by the establishment of libraries. We read also of money collected for a wireless set to bring the news and music of the outside world to a "tiny township 120 miles from Birdsville."

Now while some women prefer the more conventional life of the cities, others hear the call and feel the charm of the up-country homes in Australia—and it is there that both the companionship and work of young women are so greatly wanted. And Queensland can take almost any number. It only asks that the newcomer be willing to do any chance or available job, and do it or, at any rate, try to do it, with a smiling face. To such a one there will be a wide opening of doors and of hearts. She will soon find herself sharing not only in the work but also in the home life and amusements of her employer. She will be paid well and be able to save regularly, whether for a holiday in the old country or in some other part of Australia.

And if she is wise she will join the Country Women's Association and so have the right to claim the many advantages it brings to country people. Girls and their parents need have no fear of taking up work in the up-country homes of beautiful Queensland. Friends are there for all who are ready to give and forget about getting—friends whose names and addresses can always be had at the Oversea Settlement Office.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Miss Andrews writes—A visit to my office by Mrs. Spencer (nee E. Mansfield), one day in August gave me a pleasant surprise and after we got our greetings over, which were rather prolonged because we had not seen each other since the old service days when we shared dug-outs, etc., together at Vendroux, I settled down to hear all the news of the Toronto W.A.A.C.S.s. Mrs. Spencer was on a visit from Canada and she was sorry she could not fit in a visit to the members of the London Branch on their reunion night. Tricky (Mrs. Neils), is still working hard amongst the Toronto members and in fact from what I heard they all seem to get quite a lot of good work fitted in one way or another. Mansfield tells me whenever there is a W.A.A.C. reported to be within decent travelling distance of Toronto she is met by the others if they happen to know of her intending arrival. News of Bessant, who arrived a short time ago, was given and appreciated. I hear that Fisher, late Rouen and W. Huggins (now Mrs. Brass), of Vendroux, are both in this country. Mrs. Brass has her three children with her. Bobbie Williams (Vendroux), is still working and is well, M. Hayman (Rouen), M. Hailes, (W.A.A.C., W.R.A.F.), and Hardy (now Mrs. Sam Kelly), of Etaples, are all members of the club out in Toronto.

Mansfield wishes to be remembered to Bickell, and Mrs. Senn.

From Miss Edith Thompson, at Gwelo, S. Rhodesia.

All goes well with us so far. We are in a special train of the most luxurious type—67 all told—England, Scots, Australian, South Africa, and Rhodesia. I have never been so far North before. We have been up to Livingstone this time. We have just spent a day at the Zimbebe ruins;

very interesting. Also a week at Victoria Falls. I have not discovered many Waacs.

Mrs. B. Reid (Montreal), says,—“May be you will be interested to hear just where I am writing—I am sitting in an ambulance car—No. 19 Nursing Division, M.D., No. 4, Montreal, at the St. Hubert Flying Field with the R. 100, swinging in the breeze overhead. We have been on first aid duty since she landed and have been kept busy!”

From Mrs. C. C. Bampton, c/o Messrs. Anglo Persian Oil Co., Mohammerah, Persian Gulf.

As a late member of the W.A.A.C., and also a late member of your club, I wish to know if you can give me the addresses of the following members of the W.A.A.C. who were my friends during the war.

Miss Ruby A. Start, whose address used to be at “Riverside,” Welford, Nottingham. I have done my utmost to trace her, but I have had my letters returned “address unknown.” She used to be very friendly with a **Miss Lily Neville** (now married I believe) of Denmark Hill.

Miss Start joined up at Hastings, and then was attached to the R.A.O.C., first at Calais and then at Vendroux. I believe she worked for Camell, Laird and Co, Nottingham, after the war, and I think her people went to Manchester to live.

The other is **Miss I. O. Palmer**, who after the war lived at 91 Belgrave Road, then at Highbury, and eventually sailed for New Zealand in 1923, I think.

And also the address of **Miss Marjory L. Peacock**, who lived at 5 Buckingham Gate, for some time and went to Australia in July, 1924. I have lived East since 1925, although in the year prior to my departure for Persia I helped Miss M. Low to organise the branch of the O.C.A. in Sunderland, and kept up my membership until a year or so ago when, I am afraid, I did not pay my subscription and I suppose my membership has lapsed.

I shall be most grateful to have any information you can forward me about the above people.

“SONGS AND SLANG OF THE BRITISH SOLDIER.” 1914–1918.

A book of war interest has just been published, entitled “Songs and Slang of the British Soldier, 1914–1918,” and is an anthology and a glossary. This book has been compiled by Messrs. John Brophy and Eric Partridge, who point out in the introduction that all troops in all times ancient and modern, have sung, yet their songs are completely lost as time goes on, and that even from the more recent wars—the Crimean and South African—only the concert-room and music-hall songs survive. “It therefore seemed a worthy task to set down—twelve years after the Armistice of 1918 and before memories have grown entirely confused and dim—those songs which the British soldier sang out of his own invention in Flanders, France, etc., etc.” As we are all quite aware, none of these soldier songs are “drawing-room ditties,” but they were part and parcel of the war. We all know most of them, though we did not sing them! Also our presence on the route of march very often caused a sort of breakdown in the singing, and either a burst of whistling or a chorus of the La-la variety.” The introduction to this anthology is almost the most interesting reading of the whole book, and one would like to re-print a great deal of it—certainly the last page or two.

The songs are divided into three groups: (1) those predominantly sung on the march; (2) those sung on the march, but more often in billets and estaminets; and (3) chants and songs, rarely, if ever, sung on the march.

Among those in Group 1 are to be found:—

WE'RE HERE BECAUSE—

“We're here

Because

We're here

Because

We're here

Because we're here.”

Of which the editors' note, “Sung with great gusto be-

cause—ninety-nine times out of a hundred—the men who sang it had no idea why they were there, or where ‘there’ was, or how long they would continue at it.”

And of “Rolling Home,” they say that “in spite of the implications of alcoholic revelry this charming air was often sang quietly and with much sentiment. In the evening and towards the close of the afternoon, the words would sometimes be omitted and the air whistled and hummed.

In Group 2 is placed what the editors term “one of the most famous of war songs, ‘I Don't Want to Die.’” It marks the first disillusionment of the 1914 volunteer when he discovered that war was not romantic and that the Germans were not subhuman. But it is very far from ‘defaitisme.’ It certainly expresses the soldier's war weariness, but it also conquers it with ridicule.”

Among the chants, etc.—Group (3)—“She was poor, but she was Honest.” “Never sung seriously: always as a travesty of the old street ballad, with an excessive cockney accent and a whine in the voice,” and “Mother Hunt”—not a line of which is printed, the reason being explained in the following note: “An eight-lined snatch, more witty than the run of soldiers' songs. But this gay and ribald commentary upon an old lady's misfortunes can hardly be printed here.”

Almost every song conjures up pictures. “At the halt on the left, form Platoon!” etc., brings back among other memories a certain morning at Folkestone when Miss Ireland tried to get that particular evolution of drill into certain thick heads. Perhaps she had many such mornings. Mercifully I only encountered one, for after a time one became quite hazy as to odd or even! The glossary must be quite instructive to the younger generation or those not in close touch with the troops. It seems odd to see these terms having to be explained. One thing very evident is that one of the compilers has anything but kindly feelings towards Lewis guns.

Here are a few items from the glossary:—

“**W.A.A.C.** Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, members of which were known as ‘Waacs’ (pronounced ‘Wacks’). They wore khaki uniform and performed clerical, cooking, waiting, etc., jobs at the Base camps. Civilians were always ready to spread scandal about Waacs; to the French it was inconceivable that decent women could live in close proximity to so many men and remain virtuous, and most soldiers were ready to invent and pass on ribald stories just as boys do about girls' schools. The W.A.A.C.s and V.A.D.'s roughly correspond to the 1914-15 volunteers; they were never conscripted, and nine hundred and ninety-nine lurid stories told about them can be entirely discredited. The thousandth *may* be true about an odd Waac or two, etc.”

“**Wonky.** Adjective—defective, not working properly, e.g., “the Lewis gun's wonky again” (they always were). Origin obscure.”

“**Town Major.** An officer, usually of a rank considerably below the rank of Major, who was permanently stationed in a town or large village and had to find billeting accommodation as requested by the Area Commandant, for large or small parties of troops passing through. At one period Arras possessed a Town Major of eccentric character who used to stroll through the streets under shell fire serenely confident beneath the shade of an umbrella.”

Hom Forty. A goods wagon on the French railway in which troops were moved at an average rate of one-and-a-half miles per hour. From the inscription on the sliding door: Hommes 40, chevaux 8. (N.B.—The horses were an alternative, not an extra, load).

Battle Bowler. Officers slang for steel helmet.

Box open, box shut. A phrase used when offering cigarettes in company, the inference being that the donor's generosity was limited by hard circumstance. Those who were quick or near got a cigarette. Most soldiers kept a permanent tin, round or flat, into which were emptied the paper packets of “issue” or canteen cigarettes, which otherwise would have been crushed to uselessness, etc.

Bump. The nearby explosion of a shell. Used as a verb almost always in the passive voice, e.g., “We didn't half get bumped last night.”

Cold Feet. Cowardice, temperamental and permanent. Not to be confused with "wind up."

Wind-up. Fear. Used with *have*, not *feel*. To *have the wind-up* implied no disgrace, and could be mentioned casually in conversation, although usually in the past tense. The term appears to be a war-time creation.

Wangle. Verb. To procure goods at an advantage of some kind, illicitly, but without punishment, by the exercise of cunning, moral pressure, blackmail, or bribery. Almost everything could be *wangled* in the Army, etc., etc. Noun. A successful piece of jobbery or unwarranted privilege.

Up the Line. There was no line along which one travelled. To go up the line from the Base Camps at Etaples, Rouen, etc., meant to travel 20 or 30 miles to within marching distance of the trenches, etc.

Tin Hat. Typical English facetiousness for a steel helmet.

Appendix A. Is devoted to "Chants and Sayings," and here again one meets many almost forgotten classic phrases, such as "That's the stuff to give the troops," and that wonderful beginning to a letter: "Dear mother, I am sending you ten shillings—but not this week."

Appendix B. Here we have bugle calls, the writing of the last call of the day and the most beautiful "The Last Post." C. E. Montague is quoted as writing in "Disenchantment": "That most lovely and melancholy of calls, the noble death of each day's life, a sound moving hither and thither like a veiled figure making gestures both stately and tender, among the dim thoughts that we have about death, the approaching extinguisher."

THE ROAMERS.



"ROAMING" IN THE GLOAMING!

A chat on the 'phone with Miss Bilbrough, Honorary Secretary of the W.V.R., O.C.A., London Branch, and also a member of the Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A., London Branch disclosed the news that the Roamers were booked to go roaming on the Banks of the Lee, one Saturday evening in August and I was not slow to take advantage of an invitation to "fall in"—with the roaming party, not the river. The concert was given for the W.V.R. Social Club, Ilford Branch.

A very chilly morning turned out a lovely afternoon and evening and the 2 p.m. train steamed out with the concert party and luggage all aboard; in the mind of each member lurked the thought "thank goodness! No more staggering about with props till we get back to town to-night." A fleet of cars was waiting at the station to convey the party to the W.V.R.'s bungalow where a very substantial tea was spread for the visitors. The bungalow was indeed a picture with its lovely garden and dainty verandah framed in rambler roses. After tea little trips up river were indulged in and the boat was well in demand. The party went out in relays, one pulling, while the others sat back trying out their voices by singing encouraging songs such as "Row, My Boatman, Row." I may say here, in one case the boatman did have a little difficulty in making much impression because one hardy and absentminded member tried to steer for her by pulling one steering rope and one piece of rope which

was tied to the side of the boat. Garnie's face was a study! She wondered what had happened to the Steerer, who is known to be able to handle a boat, and the steerer wondered what had happened to her until we found out the cause of the trouble. On the lawn, the two great chief Roamers sat discussing arrangements and the programme for the evening's alfresco entertainment and around them danced some lucky ones who had nothing to do but perform—and they did, too. Every member's wardrobe was inspected and each one dressed up according to her fancy from the wardrobes laid out and the effect was far too funny to try and describe. They appeared on the lawn to be admired or laughed at—principally laughed at—and it was great fun. "Amy Johnson" made a triumphal tour of the lawn, carrying a bouquet of old flowers, radiantly smiling and requesting her admirers to call her "Johnnie," another character, with her feet strangely shod (one red sandal and one big old fashioned boot), provoked shrieks of laughter by performing some strangely convulsive movements which she called dancing. Two hats and a very young bathing costume at one time covered the upper part of Garnie! It was a nice bathing costume; what there was of it! The last actor in the afternoon's fun and frolic was an old woman (whom I expect readers will make a very good guess at), gravely trying to play galloping horses astride the rail of the landing-stage sent us all into a state of collapse. The Chief, thinking they had had enough of this mad fun, called the party to attention, lectured them mildly about saving their voices and energy for the higher jinks later on, and finished up by telling them to go and get ready as the camera people were waiting to take photos.

A marquee, erected on the village green, fitted with chairs and piano, was the concert platform and the wide open space, the hall, each camper bringing his or her own chair to sit on. Two obliging campers ran their cars up each side of the marquee and manipulated lime light effect on the performers, while a piece of rough board, run along in front of the stage with about two dozen fairy lights did duty for foot lights. An oil lamp on the piano gave the necessary light for the pianist. The artistes soon made themselves at home in their unusual surroundings. After a little struggle with feet that were too big and boards a bit coggly they were soon treading the temporary boards with all the airs of the professionals at the seaside and they also had all the thrills. The concert was well applauded; the old songs with choruses claimed plenty of singers from the audience. Afterwards we were entertained in one of the bungalows nearby. The 10.50 being the last train and the waiting care at the Fish and Eels hotel reminded us we had better catch it, concert party, props, visitors and campers, all squeezed in and as one after another of the cars loaded up we moved off with cheers goodbyes and promises to go again. I am now waiting for the evening when the concert party will give a bumper show at Shanghai-on Thames.

FLOCK HOUSE.

Some years ago the New Zealand sheep owners raised a fund in memory of our seamen lost during the war—the fund is to-day known as the New Zealand Sheep Owners Debt to British Seamen Fund. One part of that memorial is Flock House, a training farm in New Zealand for the sons and daughters of those British seamen who were either disabled or killed on active service. The girls are given a very thorough training in domestic work and also in those duties about a farm which they are called upon to do. The boys are equally well and thoroughly trained in farming generally. Recently the trustees of the Fund have decided to give a marriage dowry to the girls who have been trained at Flock House—the dowry is to be either in cash or kind.

R 100.

I feel I can now write you an article of interest for printing in the Gazette, as most members at home and abroad are at present air-minded, and we members in

Montreal particularly so, owing to the visit of R 100. The population of Montreal was greatly interested in her arrival on the early morning of August 1st. At 12 p.m. news was received by radio of the R 100 having hit the storm at Trois Rivers, and, sustaining damage to her fin, had returned over to that city again. Immediately St. Huberts Air Port officials communicated with the ship, saying to proceed direct here, as all was in readiness for her to anchor by the aid of flood lights, etc. She then headed for Montreal. I was with friends when we first heard her engines right over our heads, and oh, the sight! She was fully lighted, and with the aid of flashlights and movable motor lights flashed on her, we had one magnificent view. She headed for the centre of the city, then turned for the Air Port, but not to anchor; she cruised around while over the mooring mast. Then, turning her nose over Montreal again, she circled the city, then over to St. Huberts Air Port once again, and, to our surprise, yet to our satisfaction, she again headed for Montreal and cruised very slowly round. This brought the time to 4 o'clock. She then headed for her destination again with a view to anchoring in daylight. We turned in for a cup of tea, then walked to the wharf near by, and as daylight streaked the sky, watched her gradually lowered to the mooring mast. Temporary repairs had been accomplished between Trois Rivers and here. Great was the excitement. All that night and morning people in excitement had flung on coats and dressing-gowns to run and see her and every nationality took an interest in her. Saturday was one busy day at St. Huberts. I went over to view her, but it poured with rain most of the time while there. However, I was able to see her damaged fin, and envied people visiting her interior. On Friday evening I went over with car, and guess my disappointment to see "umpteen" privilege people ascending the mast to view her and myself refused. However, suddenly, on August 10th, I had a brain wave, and at 12 o'clock was fully confident to try out the said brain wave. I did. First I telephoned a very high official, said who was speaking, and that I very much wanted to view the R 100 interior. He in turn referred me to Mr. X. He is, however, one of the highest men in town. I telephoned him, and he referred me to Mr. — (Military) who was on the field. I was to see this gentleman on my arrival at the Air Port, while in the meantime he would leave instructions there for my admittance. I then sought an escort, and the only available one at the time was a cousin; he was thrilled at the idea. So away we went for our tour. We had quite a little trouble to find the Military authority, but he knew by phone of our intended visit, and to our surprise we were told we were a little too late, but by dint of conversation and a little persuasion he telephoned over to the mooring mast. We walked over there, and after a little strategy and a short wait at the head we were conducted aboard ship. My surprise and yet delight to view her were beyond description. We both had to take off our shoes and leave them outside, also cigarettes and matches. Then after mounting the steps and approach, we found ourselves within; the coolness and purity of the air was very noticeable. We were conducted all through, and the workings were explained by a member of the crew, and at the time she was just taking in gas and making some preparations for her departure to Ottawa to-day. We were shown her berths, promenade deck, recreation room, control room, engines, etc., and it sure was marvellous how so large a ship crossed over. One item struck me with great force, and that was the thinness of her fabric. How she stands storms and winds is certainly a wonder. We took several photos of her, and one right at the head of the mast, but the print of that I have not got yet, but think it will be a good one. We wrote our names in the visitors' book, and am afraid mine is very noticeable, and it happened to be the first on the page and with "Ex-Service O.C.A., Montreal" written too; my cousin's is immediately beneath mine. It took us from 4 o'clock till 8.30 to get over and back, but was time well spent. To-day she has left for Ottawa. She left the mast about 6 p.m. (D.S. time) and headed for Ontario. We again had a wonderful view, although she

was miles away. Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Smillie have been quite busy with the St. John Ambulance Brigade over at St. Hubert's Air Port.

ELSIE J. ADDISON, (née Barnes 25112, Etaples).

THE ARMADA LEVIES.

Following the discovery at Lamport Hall of the famous letter describing Sir Walter Raleigh's last hours, recently reproduced in the "Morning Post," another document, of about the same period, has been brought to light in Hertfordshire, giving minute particulars of the troops levied for defence against the Armada.

The document is the muster-roll of the Edwinstrey Hundred of Hertfordshire; for years it was hidden away in the archives of Cassiobury, the former seat of the Earls of Essex, where its presence was unsuspected.

Following the sale of the property, many family records and manorial rolls passed into the possession of the Hertfordshire County Council; and recent researches, carried out by Captain le Hardy, have brought to light this detailed account of the troops levied in the villages of East Hertfordshire at the time of the Armada.

Three hundred men were levied from the Edwinstrey Hundred in 1588. They were recruited—or, to use the contemporary expression, "prested"—from various trades; and it would appear that inn-keepers were the only class exempt from military service.

The trades best represented in the troops against the Armada seem to have been carpenters, bricklayers, glovers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, and maltmen. Carpenters predominated, and in one village eight out of a total levy of 24 men followed that occupation. The frequent mention of blacksmiths is interesting in the light of the recent and spontaneous revival of the farriers craft in the same area as that covered by the muster-roll.

Compared with the Army List, a Sixteenth Century Muster Roll makes interesting reading. Personal notes are added after the name of each recruit; one, Thomas Swann, of the village of Anstie, was "a tall man," while in another village father and son fought side by side in the same platoon.

At Hadham a man was "prested;" but his "wyfe came into the towne and sayed if her husband went she would tary upon the charge of the towne." The constable, we are told, in order to avoid having so embarrassing a jade on his hands, exempted the husband from military service.

The publication of this work will dispel many popular fancies concerning the equipment of Elizabeth's army. It is made perfectly clear that, while the troops were not whole-time soldiers, the majority of them were skilled at arms. Most of the Hertfordshire troops had practised archery in their villages in rather the same way as the modern rustic plays cricket; and many of them were also pikemen or heavy-armed fighters.

There is also a record of a ploughman from Pelham who had had experience of warfare in Flanders, and the roll makes a clear distinction between the able-bodied troops and the raw recruits, of whom the latter formed only one-fifth of the total force. Interesting light is also cast on the system whereby each village provided a quota either of armour, money or troops.

It is suggested that large numbers of Hertfordshire troops lost their lives at the hands of the Armada; for in the years immediately following the Armada the majority of the villages preferred to provide money rather than fighters from their depleted numbers.

From the "Morning Post."

NOTICE.

"Oversea," 58 West Hill, St. Leonards.

I feel I ought to warn Old Comrades that there is a possibility of "Oversea" being closed during the month of October.

It is advisable that certain repairs which are necessary to the roof should be undertaken before the winter. The staff will also take their holiday during the closed period.

At the time of going to Press, the dates for closing have not been determined, but I would advise any intending visitor to write to the Warden, Miss Taylor, in the event of accommodation being required.

BLANCHE IRELAND, Secretary.

Helena Residential Clubs, Ltd.

FURTHER BRANCH REPORTS.

Leeds.

Monthly meetings continue to be held in the Women's Legion Club-room, Greek Street, Leeds, on the first Wednesday in the month. We shall be glad to see more new faces; also faces we have not seen for some time.

It is a general custom now to have a cup of tea, a biscuit and a friendly chat at the close of the business part of the meeting, different members taking a turn in providing the needful, and this is much appreciated by all.

The July meeting, at which I was unfortunately absent on holiday, proved an extra special one. The meeting was made the occasion of a presentation on behalf of members who are regular attenders at the meetings, to Miss Mair, our hard-working joint Secretary, who has decided to carve out a new career for herself and at the same time to furnish and equip her own little domain. The opportunity was seized therefore of showing our practical appreciation in the form of half a tea service, a case of cutlery, and a jam jar. The gifts were handed to Miss Mair by Miss A. Tunnington, and Mair, on recovering from her astonishment, suitably replied. Then followed a surprise supper, provided by Tunnington, of some of her mother's home-baked pies and cakes, all beautifully set out on tables decorated with wild flowers. A most enjoyable party and one which will not be forgotten for a long time. Our thanks are due to Tunnington for her untiring help on this and other occasions.

Our representative on the Council of the O.C.A., Mrs. E. Spaul (Phillips), made her annual visit to the North during August, and at not a little inconvenience managed to squeeze in a couple of hours to meet Old Comrades at my house on Friday, August 15th. The number who turned up was small unfortunately; we should like to have seen more. However, better luck next time.

A. ANNIKIN.

Brighton.

Wednesday, September 24th.—Club night, 7.30—10.0 p.m., at 4 Lancaster Road, Brighton, by kind invitation of Miss Ustoson, a new member.

Sunday, September 14th.—Blackberry and nut ramble round Ditchling. Mrs. Ambrose will meet the 2.40 bus from Brighton, arriving at Ditchling at 3.25, and she has kindly asked us to tea at her home, "Kennel Cottage," Ditchling.

H. A. BARON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Miss D. V. Williams, R.M.S. "Orbita."

Just a line from the middle of the Atlantic. I have pictured you all doing Gazettes to-night. It is only 5 p.m. here but about 10 p.m. in England. We keep putting the clock back day by day.

It has been quite a good trip so far, a bit choppy in the Bay of Biscay. I was quite O.K. but for a terrific head. We just sail along with hardly any motion now.

We arrive at Bermuda in the morning and stay there all day. I am not going ashore this trip, but I may go ashore at Havana on Sunday. After Havana we go on down the Panama and stop at a fort every other day or so. This should be interesting, as it gets rather monotonous not seeing land for over a week, although the sea is beautiful—a lovely deep blue—and the weather very hot. I go in bathing at 6.30 a.m., then a hot sea bath, and a swim before dinner. We have not seen land since last Wednesday when we called at the Azores for a few hours. The Azores is a funny little Portuguese island, very poor, the houses look like mud huts painted different colours.

Things are very slow on board; I do nothing but eat and sleep. I shall have to diet soon. Just about here we see crowds of flying fish, they fly over the water like swallows. I dream of London every night and wake up and put my head out of the porthole and look across the

Atlantic. It is very beautiful, but I would that it were London.

We are glad to learn that Miss Fluster has made a speedy recovery after an operation for appendicitis, and hope she will soon be quite fit again.

MARRIAGE.

Pestall—Rouse.—On August 2nd, 1930, at Dale Road, Hampstead, London, Arthur Pestall to Emily Rouse (formerly Forewoman, "D" Mess, Pont de Larche, B.E.F.).

ADVERTISEMENTS

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, New York City, U.S.A.

Cigarettes, Confectionery, and Small Groceries.—J. Warwick, 42 Drummond Street, close to Euston Station.

Photography.—Try us for perfectly finished high-class work. Films, all the best makes and sizes. Postage paid one or more.—Whyman (Betty Gray, 2513, Etaples), 212 Seaside, Eastbourne.

Bournemouth.—Mrs. A. Stocker, "Glencora," 3 Hawkwood Road, Boscombe. Comfortable board residence, good food; separate tables; 4 mins. sea, one minute Arcade, shops, etc. Every consideration for the comfort of visitors; large shady lawn, South aspect; Moderate terms.—Telephone: Bournemouth 962.

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, Wares, 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).

Eileen Yorke, Ladies' Hairdresser, 9 Sicilian 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.

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

Very Comfortable Furnished Flat (3rd floor), to Let; two rooms and kitchen, bathroom same floor; electric lighting, heating and cooking; plate, linen; good piano; very quiet and airy. Rent 3 guineas, or rather less to careful single tenant. To view by appointment. Miss E. Rust, 55 St. George's Road, S.W.1.

Branch.	Name and Address of Secretary.	Address of Club or Meeting place.	Day and Time of Meeting
Birmingham.	Miss E. I. Dipple, 29 Marston Road, Erdington, Birmingham.	38 John Bright Street, Room 19.	Wednesdays. 7 to 10 p.m.
Bournemouth.	Miss Trotter,	Cavendish House, 8 Christ Church Road.	Last Monday in each month 8 to 10 p.m. On last Wednesday in the month; 7.15-10.15.
Brighton.	Miss H. A. Baron, 25 Wellington Road, Brighton, Sussex.	No permanent room fixed.	Not fixed.
Bristol and West of England.	Miss D. Mould, 11 The Tyning, Bath.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Cheltenham.	Mrs. Mann, 84B High Street, Cheltenham, Gloucester.	164 Sidwell Street, Exeter.	First Wednesday of the month at 3 o'clock. Not fixed.
Exeter.	Miss J. Rose, 164 Sidwell Street, Exeter.	Not fixed.	1st Saturday of each month, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Eastbourne.	Miss N. Peters, 5 Spencer Road, Eastbourne.	Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.	Every Wednesday, 7.30.
Edinburgh and East of Scotland.	Miss M. Innes, 1 Granville Terrace, Edinburgh. Benevolent Sec.: Miss F. M. Lush, 11a Gilmore Place, Edinburgh.	316 Bath Street, Glasgow.	Not fixed.
Glasgow and West of Scotland.	Miss E. M. Gilchrist, M.B.E., 13 Royal Terrace West, Glasgow.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Headquarters.	Mrs. Pratt Barlow, O.B.E. 11 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Ireland.	Miss E. O. Finny, Erith Lodge, Sandymount, Dublin.	British Legion Club Room.s, Greek Street, Leeds.	First Wednesday in the month, 7.30 p.m.
Leeds	Miss E. Mair, 29 Victoria Terrace, Belle Vue Rd., Leeds, Yorks Benevolent Sec.: Miss A. Annikin, 2 Hollin Park View, Roundhay, Leeds, Yorks.	79 Lime Street, Liverpool.	Friday, 7.30 p.m.
Liverpool.	(Temp.) Mrs. Ryley, 199 Picton Road, Wavertree.	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.
London.	Miss R. S. Andrews, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.	122 Cranbrook Road, Ilford (Telephone Ilford 0058).	First Tuesday of each month; 7.30-10 p.m. Alternate Tuesdays at 8 p.m.
Golders Green.	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10.	The Kingston Cafe, Spring Gardens, Manchester.	Every Friday, 7-10.30 p.m.
London Sub-Branch Ilford.	Miss M. V. Druitt, 74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.	No permanent room fixed.	Members notified individually.
Manchester.	Mrs. Stear, 8 Gainsborough Street, Higher Broughton, Salford.	Interviews at British Legion, N.E. Area Offices, 10 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.	Monthly. Members notified individually.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Miss Margaret Moyes, 1A Eslington Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle. Benevolent Sec., Miss L. M. Floyd, 13 Beacon Street, Low Fell, Gateshead	No permanent room fixed.	Members notified individually.
Norfolk.	Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 32 Grove Road, Norwich.	No permanent room fixed.	Members notified individually.
North Staffs.	Mrs. E. Stretton 10 Sparrow Terrace, Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent.	No permanent room fixed.	Members notified individually.
Oxford.	Mrs. M. Grundy, M.B.E., West Wood House, Hinksey Hill, Oxford	Meldrum's Cafe, Lister Gate.	First Wednesday in the month, 7-9.30
Notts.	Miss Burder, 65 Harcourt Road, Forest Fields, Nottingham.		
Plymouth.	Mrs. O. Foster, 2 Nottle 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.		July 20th and Nov. 25th.

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