

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

OCTOBER, 1930. Vol. XIII., No. 3.

3/6 per annum, post free.

EDITORIAL.

The Annual Meeting.

In order to comply with Article 17 of our Articles of Association, an Annual General Meeting **must** be held once in each calendar year. Accordingly an Annual General Meeting has been fixed for Thursday, December 18th, 1930, at 5 Buckingham Gate. This meeting is purely formal and in no way interferes with our usual arrangements of holding our Annual General Meeting—Meeting of Branch Secretaries and the Annual Dinner on the same day. These will take place on Saturday, January 3rd, 1931. Some confusion seems to have arisen in one or two branches as to the date. THE day is January 3rd, 1931.

THE ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER

on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 3rd, 1931**, at the Georgian Restaurant, Harrod's Stores, Brompton Road, S.W.

RECEPTION, 6.45 p.m. DINNER, 7.15 p.m.

ORDERS AND MEDALS TO BE WORN.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

ELIGIBILITY.

The Dinner is open to all who served in Q.M.A.A.C. (irrespective of rank) overseas or home service, whether members of the O.C.A. or not . . . but it is NOT open to those who did not serve in Q.M.A.A.C.

Mrs. A. E. B. Johnston, M.B.E., is acting as Convener of the Dinner Committee.

TICKETS

PRICE SIX SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE (6/6).

Stamped addressed envelopes **MUST** be enclosed with applications for tickets, also the name of the table at — which it is desired to sit, must be stated. —

Tickets will not be sent unless the money accompanies the order.

Several tickets can be sent at the same time if the full amount accompanies the order.

Tickets can be obtained from Miss E. WINTER, 455 GROVE GREEN ROAD, LEYTONSTONE, LONDON, E.11, or the Hon. Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. (London Branch), 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER JANUARY 1st.

In accordance with suggestion made at Branch Secretaries' Meeting on December 8th, 1928, Branch Secretaries can obtain tickets to dispose of to their members.

Application, stating number required, to be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. (London Branch), 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. Proceeds of sales and unused tickets to be sent in to the Hon. Secretary (as above) not later than December 30th.

The perforated slip on the Dinner Ticket should be filled in distinctly, then torn off and securely fastened to your dress on the night of the dinner. Be sure and do this as it makes matters much easier when looking for friends.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS.

Parties of people can arrange to sit together PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION IS SENT WHEN THE TICKET — IS TAKEN. —

Tables are usually allocated to Northern and Southern and Western and Eastern Commands, Connaught Club, Brighton, Folkestone and Dover, Golders Green, Ilford, Calais, Audruicq and Vendroux, St. Omer, Rouen and Pont de l'Arche, Etaples, and Dieppe, Abbeville, Signals, etc. If desired, special tables can be arranged for a group of friends.

Will those who are coming to the Dinner alone make a special point of asking for Miss Ireland, who, with other well-known Comrades, will be making introductions.

OFFICERS WHO SERVED IN FRANCE.

As the O.C.A. Dinner is taking place in January this winter, it has been decided to postpone the Overseas Officers' Dinner till later in the year. It is hoped that some of the ex-officers who are always away in January will be able to attend, as well as those who have come regularly.

AUGMENTATION OF FUNDS.

As our financial year ends on October 31st, the Hon. Treasurer will appreciate it very much if the members who are putting by one penny per week for the above fund, would send the money to her at Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, S.W.3, by October 24th.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT.

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday, September 24th, at 5 Buckingham Gate. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan presided, and in the course of the business reported that she had visited the Bristol Branch and

spent an enjoyable evening with the members. Every member of the Branch was present to meet her. Dame Helen reported the Branch to be very much alive and keen. Miss Lila Davy, C.B.E., also reported a visit she had paid to the Edinburgh Branch and the motor coach trip she was able to take with that energetic Branch to the home of Miss Low (late D.C., B.E.F.) at Butterstone.

Clothing.

The Clothing Cupboard is refilling slowly, thanks to the parcels received lately, and yet we need many more things to get a real stock in hand against the cold days to come. At the time of writing we have only sufficient to meet our immediate needs.

Splendid parcels have been received from the following: Mrs. Russell Barr, Miss Sanderson, the London Branch (per Miss Rogers), Mrs. Spaul, Miss Bushell, Golder's Green Branch (per Miss Setterfield), and Miss Mould—who sent seven very useful pairs of shoes. We are very grateful to the senders of all these useful things.

IMPERIAL EX-SERVICE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Victorian Branch.

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 30th June, 1930.

SIXTH GENERAL MEETING.

The Sixth General Meeting was held on the 4th July, 1929, at 8.30 p.m. in Anzac House, presided over by Mrs. Britomarte James.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.—The Annual Report for the year ended 30th June, 1929, was read at the General Meeting, and as the result of a resolution passed, a copy was forwarded to each member not present, to the Sydney Branch, to the W.R.E.N. Association, who thanked us for same, and to the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association in London, where it was read before the Council, and was published, together with the Secretary's covering letter, in the November copy of the Gazette. The "Duckboard" and the Melbourne Press also gave it publicity.

TREASURER'S REPORT.—This was presented, and the financial position of the Association was considered quite satisfactory.

VOTES OF THANKS.—In accordance with a resolution passed, LADY STONEHAVEN was informed of the gratification and appreciation of officers and members in her continued patronage and a copy of the Annual Report forwarded. This was acknowledged, and Lady Stonehaven expressed thanks and appreciation.

Expressions of appreciation of the hospitality and co-operation extended to this Association were also forwarded to the State and Melbourne Branches of the R.S.S.I.L.A., to which the State Secretary replied, intimating that the State Branch was willing at all times to help this Association, and regretting that the limited space in Anzac House precluded the extension of the privileges granted.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS.—Mrs. Britomarte James expressed regret at her retirement from the office of President, owing to many calls upon her time and energy, and was pleased to vacate in favour of Miss Lilian Foster, who was unanimously elected. Miss Foster complimented Mrs. James upon her untiring efforts, and the deep appreciation of all members was recorded.

The following officers were elected: Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Britomarte James, Dr. Ethel Osborne, and Miss Jean Todd; Secretary, Miss Jean Crocker; Treasurer, Miss M. Lummis; Committee, Mesdames Piggott and A. Smith, and Misses Henthorne, E. Smith, G. Smith, Night and Whyte.

MEMBERSHIP.—The number of members during the period under review has increased from 49 to 54. On an average attendances have been larger than formerly, numbering nearly 30 recently. About 10 members are resident in country districts. We have been pleased to welcome the following new members: Mrs. Shannon, Miss Jones, Miss Milton, Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Purslow. Miss Jean Thorpe also paid us a visit from America.

PERSONNEL.—There have been no changes in Committee

during the year. Mrs. Britomarte James spent a few months in New Zealand; Dr. Ethel Osborne was absent on account of the Pan Pacific Conference, and at the end of June Miss Todd left for Queensland, the latter therefore not being available for re-election as Vice-President. The Committee has worked together excellently throughout the year.

MEETINGS.—The Club Room has been open to members every Thursday evening throughout the year, with the exception of three weeks' vacation after the Christmas party. Quarterly Committee Meetings have been held, also several Special Meetings.

BIRTHDAY DINNER.—This was held at the Palms on the 19th July, 1929, and presided over by Mrs. Britomarte James. A war-time spirit prevailed, and the dinner proved one of the happiest re-unions of the Club. In response to Mrs. James' opening remarks after dinner, Padre Tregear, Colonel Pottinger, Captain Marshall Wood, Major Stillman, Mr. Joyce and Mr. Williams each spoke a few words in addition to a bright little speech by Miss Foster and Dr. Vera Scantlebury, these being interspersed with two splendidly rendered items on the piano by Miss Alice Cadogan and Miss Henthorne, accompanied by Mrs. Pauline. Later all indulged in community singing and then retired to the ballroom and spent the remainder of the evening dancing.

ANZAC DAY.—At 10.15 a.m. members met and, headed by Miss Foster, marched up the steps of the Cenotaph where Miss Foster laid a poppy wreath with ribbons of the Club colours, inscribed "In Undying Memory of Fallen Comrades." Members then went to the Cathedral to attend a Service by Archbishop Head. Seats had been reserved. After luncheon some members went to the cars provided and others mustered outside the Y.M.C.A. ready for the afternoon's procession. A larger percentage of members marched this year than on any previous occasion, and were afterwards able to see themselves at the pictures and also in various papers. As usual, members had seats in the enclosure in Exhibition Buildings for the Service. This Club was responsible for the sale of tokens to the value of £7.

EMPIRE DAY, May 24th.—The Women's National League were good enough to invite all members to the Celebration in the Melbourne Town Hall in the evening.

CANTEEN FUND.—A submission has been forwarded to the Secretary, Benevolent Fund, London, endeavouring to obtain some funds with which to make provision for future requirements of sick and needy members.

SOCIAL EVENTS.—The monthly Guest Evening continues to be a success. In July, 1929, Mrs. Piggott and Miss Whyte were hostesses, and a number of petty officers and men from the visiting New Zealand Fleet were entertained.

On the 19th OCTOBER, members and friends were entertained by Mr. Owens, who showed lantern slides and gave illuminating details of wonderful spots in dear old London—all the most interesting and haunting memories of "The Big Smoke."

OCTOBER 24TH.—Members of the Executive of the Toc H were entertained in our Club Room. Various musical items were well rendered, and Col. Pottinger amused all with his witty stories.

NOVEMBER 6TH.—Members and guests spent a jolly evening of farewell to Miss Foster. Mrs. Britomarte James, on behalf of members, presented Miss Foster with a boomerang decorated with roses, but explained that our President was not leaving for England after all. Major Stillman explained that owing to the Immigration Policy of the new Government, it was necessary for Miss Foster to remain in Australia. Dr. Ethel Osborne made a bright speech, touching on the political situation generally, and altogether, as Miss Foster said, the evening was a great success, as it helped her to recover from the blow, unfortunately not a "Blighty."

NOVEMBER 16TH.—Miss Foster invited all members to attend a lecture on Palestine by Sir Harry Chauvel at the Auditorium.

DECEMBER 12TH.—At the invitation of Miss Foster a large number of members thoroughly enjoyed the Christ-

mas Social of the Overseas Club in Anzac Hall. It was pleasant to have with us on that occasion Miss Macfee, of "New June," the Toc H Hostel in London. At the end of the evening all were saddened by the news of the sudden death of Colonel Pottinger, President of the Imperial Ex-Service Association.

DECEMBER 14TH.—On this Saturday afternoon nearly 50 children of members and other Ex-Service parents made merry around a Christmas tree and enjoyed a delicious tea. Mr. Piggot, in the guise of Father Christmas, was very popular, and found plenty of presents for all the children. Miss Foster was specially to be thanked in that direction.

DECEMBER 19TH.—Nearly 50 members and guests had an enjoyable Christmas party. Mr. Patterson caused much laughter by the clever delivery of his stories, etc. Musical items were also appreciated. During the evening, at Miss Foster's suggestion, all present rose and maintained a minute's silence in memory of the late Colonel Pottinger, a great and honoured soldier, well-known and highly esteemed by all present.

DECEMBER 23RD.—A number of members attended the Exhibition Building to join in the welcome to the new Archbishop of Melbourne, Archbishop Head, and, as ever on these occasions, felt themselves honoured by seats in front of the dais, observing that 10,000 were present.

FEBRUARY 17TH.—As well as acting hostess for the February Guest evening, Mrs. Edwards entertained members at her home, and the talent of the various artists was highly appreciated and enjoyed. The number of guests were rather alarming, but supper was plentiful, so perhaps too many did not turn up after all.

MARCH 20TH.—On this occasion a successful evening was held to obtain funds to help a sick member furnish a small cottage she had been able to build by a miraculous stroke of fortune. Visitors were splendid in their response to our efforts, especially the Imperial Ex-Service men—furniture and provisions were delivered to ease the path of this member, and she is now fairly comfortable.

MARCH 31ST.—Members were invited to a lecture by Col. C. E. Hughes, War Graves Commissioner. The lecture was most interesting and illustrated by slides showing scenes and groups in Eastern Countries.

APRIL 10TH.—Members welcomed back Mrs. Britomarte James from New Zealand, presenting her with a posie of flowers in the Club colours, and Mrs. James responded with a talk on her travels. Dr. Ethel Osborne made a most interesting speech concerning her forthcoming visit to Honolulu to the Pan-Pacific Conference. We bask in reflected glory, for Dr. Osborne has received the honor of being chosen to organise this International Conference of such urgent importance to the womenfolk of the world.

JUNE 12TH.—Miss Crocker acted as hostess, when nearly 70 members and guests were present. A number of leading artists were good enough to give items, among this Miss Eunice Weston, and her pupils. Miss Weston is a well-known teacher of dancing, and it is hoped she may become a member of the Club. Mr. Whitton was present, representing the State Branch, and spoke a few words in response to Miss Foster's little speech.

JUNE 17TH.—Those able to do so, attended the Town Hall to welcome Miss Amy Johnson, and were thrilled to have an opportunity of seeing and listening to such a wonderful and charming young lady. (National Council of Women reception).

JUNE 20TH.—Members were invited to Anzac House by the State Branch R.S.S.I.L.A. to meet Miss Johnson. Miss Foster presented her with a boomerang with ribbons of the Club colours on it, and also presented her with a badge of the Association, making a charming speech on behalf of the members.

JUNE 26TH.—A farewell evening was held for Miss Todd, who has gone to Brisbane (Queensland). Miss Foster presented her with a silk scarf from members and expressed the views of the 26 members present in saying how much she would be missed.

JEAN CROCKER, *Hon. Secretary.*

BRANCH REPORTS FOR OCTOBER.

London.

September is usually a dud month with regard to branch life, and the only notable event I have to report is the return of our President from her South African tour. We are pleased to hear that she has had such an interesting tour and are equally glad to have her back again with us. Although this past month has been a slack one with regard to social life the various activities are beginning to show signs of awakening interest, and as I write I have in mind several social events which are due to take place during the months of October and November, so please keep in close touch with the branch if you want information regarding these events.

It would be an immense help to the Hon. Secretary if members could spare the time to come along occasionally to the meetings to find out information (I mean this notice for members who do not come very often) as the Branch mail is usually very heavy at this time of the year, and it is more than the Hon. Secretary can do to cope with it daily. If you must write, then drop a card to me, and take it for granted, unless you hear to the contrary, whatever social event you are entering for, your name has been added to that list. Of course, where there are queries which must be answered, please do not let this note deter you from your purpose of writing. This appeal is to those who send in names for, say, the Armistice Parade; if they do not receive a reply saying their name has been put on the roll, another card comes along enquiring if I have received the previous one and is it "O.K." I should like very much to reply to all these letters but it is really impossible. I print this explanation here because I know during the next three months I shall have many such letters and I want members to know that it is not lack of courtesy but lack of time which demands that I shall curtail the work at this time of the year.

Our Social and Dance for members and their friends will be held on Thursday, 16th October, at 8 p.m., at the Club. There will be games, dancing and whist. The tickets are one shilling, including refreshments, and these must be purchased before the 16th of October.

Saturday, the 25th of October, is a date down on the membership card for a theatre party and visit to a Dockland Settlement, but as this is the date chosen for the Inter-Services Swimming Gala, I propose to postpone the visit to another Saturday in favour of the Gala. The Swimming Gala will be held at St. George's Baths, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1, at six o'clock, and the price of admission is 1s., or round about that figure. Miss Bartlett will have tickets and these can also be purchased at the door on the night of the Gala. Let's make up a large party! We got lots of thrills last year!

On Thursday, 6th November, a specially organised combined Services re-union meeting will be held to which members of the sister Services are cordially invited. The Roamers Concert Party will give an entertainment, which, will, if we can arrange it, be followed by an entertainment by members of the other Services Old Comrades' Associations. At any rate roll up and bring along your Service friend and see what surprises are in store for you. A small charge of threepence will be made for programmes.

Odds and Ends Sale.

I should like to see a large crowd of people in the drawing-room of the Club on Thursday, 20th November. An effort is being made to raise a few more pounds for the funds before the end of the year, and November has been carefully chosen because it seems the most appropriate time as everyone is looking for gifts of some kind, whether large or small. I will not guarantee you will find many large gifts, but I do guarantee you will find plenty of small articles which will prove the very thing you are looking for. If any member has not got time to make or send a gift, or cannot attend the sale then a postal order, or even six penny stamps, will be most acceptable and appreciated. All gifts for the sale should be addressed to me at the club. PLEASE GET BUSY!

Here are a few suggestions for the small useful articles for members who don't know what to make:—

Kettle-holders. From small pieces of bright-coloured silk or material.

Small mascots. An inventive brain and anything bright required.

Small woollies. Anyone can make these.

Knitted cotton dish-cloths. These are very easy to make and are very useful.

Cakes, sweets and jams always sell and are amongst the more difficult things to make, but we have many experts who have supported in this way before, and I look to them to help again.

In addition to the above, there are many articles which can be purchased for a few pence, and a little time and work expended transforms these articles into works of art. Just let your imagination run riot and bring along the result to the Thursday evening re-unions. Don't save up your gifts until the 20th because we sell at any time from now onwards until the day of the sale.

Armistice Day Arrangements.

These arrangements are controlled by Headquarters Council who, in turn, have them passed on from the British Legion Headquarters, and members will be notified with regard to the arrangements made in due course. In the meantime all names of London Branch members should reach the Hon. Secretary, London Branch, not later than the 6th of November.

A Theatre Party will be arranged for Saturday, 29th November, and all information will be in the November Gazette. R. S. ANDREWS.

Oxford.

We are informed that owing to ill-health, Mrs. Grundy, Hon. Secretary of the above Branch, has been ordered to winter abroad. Her work in the meantime has been taken over by Miss A. Haynes, 15 St. Omer Road, Cowley, Oxford. We hope to hear good accounts of Mrs. Grundy soon and of her return to fitness and strength. We shall miss her at the annual re-union in January.

Brighton.

Thursday, October 30th, 7.15 to 10 p.m. Club night at 15 Bristol Gardens, Kemp Town, by kind invitation of Mrs. Anscombe.

Thursday, November 30th.—8 p.m., Local Annual General Meeting at 31 Wellington Road.

We think it would be a good idea if Branch members would undertake to dress an inexpensive doll each, or else give a small toy, to be used as Christmas presents for deserving Waaclets. These should be brought or sent to me by November 29th, when we can display them and they can then be dispatched.

November 11th—Armistice Day.—Some of us hope to lay a wreath on the Memorial as usual. Meet at 10.30 at Burt's Corner, Edward Street. H. A. BARON.

Bristol.

On the 31st August the President of our Branch, Lady Taylor, invited the members to tea at her holiday house at Berrow, and a very happy time was spent in the beautiful garden and on the seashore.

Tuesday, the 9th September, was also a red-letter day for our Branch, as we had the privilege of having Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan with us. Dame Helen was in Bristol for a few days, for the meetings of the British Association, and she invited the members to meet her at the Whiteladies Road Cafe. A record number came, and we were delighted to welcome back some who had been absent for some time through illness. Dame Helen addressed us in her own inimitable way, giving us a few sidelights on the early history of the Corps, and inspiring us to serve in these present days, in some way or other. A "catechism" of our present doings followed, and great was the amusement caused through the competition aroused by the counting of little "Waaclets," the palm being given to a "Step-Grandmother."

Manchester.

Those members who do not visit the Club regularly, will be sorry to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Hughes have had to give up the Kingston Café. We feel it because they seem to have grown part of us and we now feel very unsettled.

Holidays are almost a thing of the past, though last week we heard of a mysterious journey Nell Savage was about to start on. Let's hope it will be romantic! Miss Stephenson had a wonderful trip to America, but thinks she likes England better.

We were all very sorry to learn that Mrs. Barnes had lost her little four-year-old niece. She was killed in an accident. Most members have met the little girl for she has been to the Club and was always brought to the station in London to meet our train when we were attending the Annual Dinner. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to her mother and father.

Now we talk about our Annual Meetings, etc. Our own Annual Meeting and Annual Dinner are on two separate occasions. Then the Annual General Meeting and Dinner in London. These will take place on January 3rd, 1931.

Kate Day is having a bad time through ill-health.

We have received clothing from our members and are very grateful. The clothing has been sent out again. We have a new Waaclet, who, although only twelve weeks old, has already visited the Club in company with her proud mother, and has been pinched by most of our members! Pearce, we would like to see you.

Roll on our Annual Dinner, when we will (D.V.) see the usual faces. The date is not yet fixed but members will be notified later. We have had a visitor from London—Miss Nelsen—who seems to have had a nice time. She certainly likes a Lancashire Brew (not liquid).

Edinburgh.

V. STEAR.

ANNUAL RE-UNION.—The Annual Re-union of the Branch will be held in the Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, on Saturday, 15th November, at 7 p.m. Tickets (including supper) are 4s. each, and may be had on application to the Branch Secretary or at the offices of the Club. All ex-Waac's will be heartily welcomed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.—The Annual General Meeting of the Branch will be held in the Club at 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, the same day as the re-union—15th November—at 6 p.m. The chair will be taken by Miss Alice Low, O.B.E., Chairman of the Branch.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.—The Christmas party for children, and nephews and nieces of Branch members, will be held this year on Saturday, 20th December, from 3 to 6 p.m. Any member wishing their "little folks" to attend, please send the names and ages to the Secretary as early as possible, so that invitations may be sent out. Contributions of toys and cash to defray expenses will be gratefully received and should be sent to the Branch Secretary: Miss Mary Innes, at 12 Drumsheugh Gardens.

CHRISTMAS NEWS SHEET.—A Christmas News Sheet is being prepared for members at home and abroad, and the Secretary will be glad to have any contributions in the way of letters, etc., at an early date. MARY INNES.

Glasgow.

ANNUAL RE-UNION.—As the numbers are now greatly reduced it was decided at a general meeting of this Branch to alter the form of the Annual Re-union. Instead of the Dinner, a Reception and High Tea will be held at the Club at 316 Bath Street on Saturday, November 8th, 1930, at 5.30 p.m., after which a visit will be paid to the Alhambra Theatre to see the play "Rio Rita." Tickets 6s., inclusive. Those intending to be present please notify the Secretary by Saturday, October 17th. E. M. GILCHRIST.

Bournemouth and District.

There is not a great deal to report of late. Owing to pressure of work, especially in the summer, Miss Jones, to our regret, was obliged to resign the Branch Secretaryship in June. As no one else appeared to be available to take her place, Miss Trotter, the Chairman of the Branch, agreed to do so for the time being; Miss Jones consenting to act as Hon. Treasurer as before.

An expedition by motor-boat from Poole to Wareham was planned for July 20th, but a very wet afternoon made it impossible for us to go. The second "meet" of the summer season, on the beach for tea on Sunday, August 17th, was only attended by the Chairman and Miss Jones, who kindly brought a tent. It is hoped to arrange a cinema party in November. E. M. TROTTER.

NEWS OF LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS.

Miss E. Guest writes from Bermuda a very interesting letter which her friends will enjoy reading. Here it is:—

I was so pleased to get your chatty letter. What a lot of changes seem to have taken place since I left! I hear bits of club news from different members who write to me. I have also heard from **Jarvis**, the swimming star; she was very brave because I actually posted her letter with only a penny stamp but she very kindly answered it, knowing how very absent-minded W.A.A.C.s are at times. I wish I had the nerve to swim like some of you members of the O.C.A. Swimming Club! I should just love to be able to do stunts and show off to the married families when they come to the bathing pool, which, by the way, is a special part of North Shore for the garrison only. No doubt you would say I had improved a bit if you were to see me. The things we have to beware of here are jelly fish. I have been stung twice but quite slight compared to some people; eight were stung one afternoon, and the hospital is on the road home so it was quite easy for treatment. I get a good deal of tennis, and you might tell **Coddington**, **Sanderson** and others whom I have played with that on my return I am thinking of playing at Wimbledon.

Life here is much the same from day to day, you either bathe or play tennis, or watch the cricket matches. Tomorrow, they are having a comic one, West Yorks against the Staff and Departments. We have moonlight bathing picnics. I had to smile when I read your account of the moonlight ramble. If you were here for a moonlight night you would enjoy it, the moon is so bright you can read books or papers, but I guess you would all feel like most folks here, too romantic to read.

We are now in what they call the "hurricane season"—from the end of August until October. It was so funny last week, we had our first experience. We started on the Sunday with a high wind. Monday was much worse and warning was sent out to fasten all doors, windows and shutters. About 9.30 in the evening the electricity was cut off, so you can imagine the panic. We had very few candles in the house, also very little food, as you cannot keep food long unless it is tinned stuff. We knew we were all right for ourselves but we were thinking of the two soldier servants, who would finish the contents of the store in less than a day. Nothing special happened in the night but for wind and rain, which you get used to if you come to live in Bermuda. Tuesday morning we woke to find the wind still going it like an express train past the house. After breakfast warning came again to be prepared for the worst; never had a morning seemed so long. It got so hot indoors with the house all shuttered up one kept going for a breath of air on the verandah, but even the wind seemed hot. You would have smiled if you had seen the rescue work going on. The Padre and family collecting the ducks and chicken. They had to be shut up until the storm was over, and the ducks looked so surprised at the treatment they got. The storm grew fiercer, and from the windows without shutters we saw a few trees fly past, and our banana trees collapsed with such lovely bunches of bananas not quite ripe. The highest speed of the gale was 90 miles, but to be a real one the Bermudans say it travels at 140 miles. So we were disappointed after having the discomfort not to have had a real one. The "All Clear" went about 7.30 p.m., and you can imagine the feeling of relief. We put on our macs and paraded the grounds to see the damage. Trees and branches in all directions. We did not get our electric light until next day in case the storm returned. Wednesday, however, turned out such a glorious day that it was hard to believe we had experienced such a day on the Tuesday. So here we are living calm and collected lives again. I went to a whist drive in the camp and all the gossip was "What did you think of the storm?" and "Our Jackie's pram was taken to the end of the quarters." We have little Jackies and big Jacks out here, too. I think the Army stationed here must be fond of the names of Jack, Bob and Joan, they all seem to have the same name.

I hope you won't be bored with all this. Here's wishing all London Branch members everything that's good. I suppose you are all saving your pennies for the Dinner.

Miss G. R. Wiggins writes from Hunsdon, Hertfordshire, saying she has charge of two pretty villages near ware. She is very happy in her new work, which is comprised of general nursing, midwifery, school nursing, and night visiting. She is kept pretty busy but declares the new life is much more interesting and more beneficial to her health than the old office routine of H.M. Stationery Office.

Miss Hilda Whittaker, of 15 Melbourne Avenue, Derbyshire Lane, Stretford, writes enquiring for news of **May Gould**, **Peggy McKeever**, **Nora Swayne (Billie)**, **Lucy Ball (Boo)**, and **Edith Henshaw (Bunny)**. The latter was working at Lewis's, Manchester, just after the war; she did postal duty with the enquirer at Chadderton. Miss Whittaker is looking forward to her first London Dinner this year.

Dorothy Bays writes from Litango, Lismore, Victoria, Australia: I had a delightful letter from **Mrs. A. Larkins** the other week and it made me want to hear how the old club was going. I trust you are all well, also the other girls I used to know. Is **Doris Cape** still at the same place? If so I will write when I hear. I am at a big sheep station about three miles out of Lismore and I have bought a bike to get in. There is a horse and cart, but he is not very dainty nor reliable and so I don't fancy him. Had a good few bruises and torn stockings learning to ride the bike. However, I can manage all right now. Have not been able to keep up swimming very much; there is not much water in Lismore but there is a lake four miles out and they talk of improving it before next summer. I hope they do. I've learnt to ride a horse, and have had some great fun, especially when I did not know that a horse took to its heels going home. Oh my! I hung on for dear life and my cap blew off. I couldn't stop the horse to go back for it. Finally she did stop by a fence, and so did I, on the ground. However, no bones were broken, and she stood still and I got on again. That was my one and only spill and I hope the last. I was stiff for three days after. I have been to the ex-Service Women's Club when I have been to Melbourne, which is not very often. The folks I am living with are very old-fashioned, they still have lamps and candles. If electric wires were run through the house I am sure they would fall down. There is a wonderful collection of trees on the estate which extends for miles around. The Wattle trees are all in bloom at present and are a mass of golden yellow, and are just the club colours against the blue sky. At least they remind me of them.

Here's wishing you all success and kind regards to the girls I knew, also yourself.

A HOLIDAY IN NORMANDY.

It has struck me that many members must spend very interesting holidays in places perhaps unknown to others, and it would be so nice to pass on a little information by sending along an account of a well spent holiday somewhere. If I may I should like to start the ball rolling with a short account of a very interesting holiday spent by a small party this summer.

I daresay Honfleur has been explored by many an ex-W.A.A.C. who were stationed at Le Havre, but none explored this quaint little town with more pleasure and enthusiasm than we four London Branch members while looking for a restful holiday and something entirely different from the usual run of seaside places of the more fashionable type. From its funny little beach with its vast stretch of mud and sand when the tide is low, to the lovely woodland tableland some three-hundred feet above sea level, where stands one of the daintiest of Normandy's churches to delight the eye of the artist, it is delightful, and the view from this lofty position is one than can never be forgotten by those who take the trouble to climb up. As far as the eye can reach, blue sky and blue sea, with the distant coast land hiding behind a misty cloud; turn your back on that and the soft green velvet grass beneath your feet with the darker shade of the beautiful trees which protect you from the full glare of the sun creates a fresh impression. The branches of the trees of the Cote De Grace as this place is called, wafted a nice cool breeze on us more than once during our stay in Honfleur.

For the benefit of those who may be looking for just such a spot next year, I will endeavour to give an account of a really delightful holiday which cost very little and was all we desired it to be. Given good weather, Honfleur is an ideal spot to enjoy a restful holiday. There is no alternative; one must live out of doors during the day, and as there is no "night life," bed is the only place wherein to spend the remaining hours until it is daylight again. Leaving Southampton about midnight, and having taken good care to book berths well in advance, we went straight to bed and so were thoroughly rested (even if we did not sleep) when the morning cup of tea came along at 5.30 a.m. Being lucky with the weather wraps, rugs, etc., were not unpacked. The moon generously lent its light as we steamed down the Solent, and it kept steady watch for hours as the boat sped ahead in the silence of the night. A perfect morning followed an absolutely beautiful dawn, and at 6.15 a.m. we found ourselves lining up for kit inspection at Le Havre. After the usual performance was over, we were free for a few hours before the local steamer was due to leave for Honfleur, so you may guess the very first thing we did was to look for a decent cafe where we could get something to eat and drink, and even at that early hour we were provided with rolls and coffee. Breakfast over, we strolled round the town, which was just beginning to show signs of life. We killed time nicely until 11 a.m., had lunch, and made our way back to the quay to collect our luggage. We presented ourselves to the little steamer which plies between Le Havre and Honfleur. We did not know its name, but we found out a lot of other things about it which were interesting and funny; for instance, the same captain, a little round red-faced man, had been on it for sixteen years, and also the steamer boasted a "more than first-class" deck on which we found ourselves by accident (the Captain's Bridge), where everyone who came aboard shook hands with "Captain Kettle" whom we christened straight away. Oh! Such a lot of shake hands! And so there we were to be found and a nice state of affairs—more than "first class," and had not shaken hands with the Captain, whose sole occupation seemed to be the receiving of visitors and ringing the bell on the arrival and departure of the boat. The little steamer which obediently cantered off at the sound of the bell was known to us while we were at Honfleur as the "Au Havre" and the "Au Revoir," according to which way it was steering when we happened to see it. The arrival of the local boat was the signal for the sleepy little town to wake up and take notice. It was also a Fete Day, and so the entire population seemed to be down meeting and greeting visitors. Apart from the fact that the whole town came to meet us we knew we should love Honfleur. Its old-world houses nestling at the foot of the thickly wooded cliffs looked a picture in the afternoon sunlight—no wonder the place is a happy haunt of many artists. The bathing is not good at Honfleur, although, at full tide, swimming can be indulged in quite well. Close to Honfleur, and which, until quite recently, was just a fishing hamlet, is Villerville, another quaint little place which is well worth a visit. It is within easy reach of Honfleur by motor-bus, and it makes a nice afternoon trip. There is a little open-air Casino where one can have a small flutter for five francs a time, tea is served on the terrace, and we were quite taken with the orchestra which was also installed there. Everything was so free and easy and no unnecessary dressing up.

A few miles further along the same road are Trouville-Deauville. Neither of these very fashionable places appealed to us, their blatant display of wealth was rather boring and the beach here was like a desert with no shelter at all unless one purchased or hired a tent and a pitch to plant it on. However, this did not worry the little party who had invaded its golden shores. Two volunteered to go shopping and the other two parked themselves on the beach awaiting the return of the shoppers. The shopping expedition was great! No English spoken by the shopkeepers, and very little French spoken by the shoppers; anyway, we were clever enough to collect a yard of bread,

rolls, butter, cream cheese, biscuits, pears and peaches, cream cakes and a couple of bottles of cider which we bore back in triumph to the beach where we had a scrumptious picnic lunch. We spent a few more hours there and then had a glorious drive back in the evening along about twelve miles of hilly road which has been cut through the forest. We made excellent passengers in the old car "Autocars Rouges," which, for convenience sake, we christened "Otto of Roses," and we wished that the drive could have lasted for hours. Another quaint little town quite close to Honfleur is Pont Audemer, "the Venice of Normandy." The river Risle runs through its streets and the houses are built flush with the stream on either side. Further inland still lies Lisieux, an old-fashioned town with fifteenth century houses. It is now famous for its many thousands of pilgrims who prefer this town to the more famous Lourdes. I could not here describe all the historic treasures of Lisieux, but must mention that the Cathedral, St. Pierre, is the most interesting Gothic Church in Normandy. The Carnel Chapel contains the Shrine of Soeur Therese (popularly known as the "Little Flower of the Child Jesus") whose beatification was proclaimed on 29th April, 1923, exactly twenty-six years after her death. The trip to Lisieux, although only twenty miles, was not without the usual thrills one gets on the French railways. We started off about ten o'clock and arrived at our destination exactly two hours later, although when the train got started it seemed to be going all the time. At a certain junction we halted long enough to have collected all the trains in France, and a mighty bump told us that a train was being attached to us. Away we go again, but before we got very far it was obvious that something was wrong, and when the train did attempt to draw up at the next station, everybody was pitched forward. On looking out of the window we were amused to see parents bundling their families, also deck chairs and other holiday props., out of one of the compartments. On investigation it was found that the two portions of the train had only become uncoupled; not a bit serious though, because the engine could have competed in a race with a snail and said snail would have gained the honours. However, after a great deal of chattering and running about, papa was persuaded to re-enter the compartment with family and furniture, and our journey started again. On going back to the station in the evening we were ready for any emergencies and so were not at all dismayed to find that our portion was reposing far far away, waiting for an engine to bring it along. It was most amusing to watch one little overworked engine rushing about taking trains hither and thither to the various platforms, each time we would say "this is coming our way now," but no! The little engine puff puffed in another direction when it got to the crossing, and we still waited. However, the engine brought along our portion at last and deposited it well beyond the station platform. It seemed we travelled for miles along that railway line in the boiling sun to catch that train. When we did reach the train it was so high and the ground so low we had to help each other up as we climbed in. We all giggled so much that we kept tumbling back; it reminded us so much of the old service days when there never seemed to be a platform for a train at any wayside station. Here I must stop, but should just like to mention that Honfleur's close connection with English history make it also a very fascinating place. The book says "From this little old-fashioned town sailed Champlain and his settlers for Canada in the days of James I. They founded the city of Quebec." The little port being a valuable one for the inland towns as it stands on the Estuary of the Seine, was stormed and captured twice by the English, one of the churches, St. Etienne, was built by an English King. Another church which ranks amongst the curiosities of the town is the Church of St. Catherine. This church is most remarkable, being entirely built of timber and plaster, and is divided into two parts, one part being used for worship and the other across the market square seems to be used as a storeroom for market produce—this, I may say, made us feel quite sad.

There are very few hotels or pensions in Honfleur and nobody speaks English, also very few English visitors seem to get there, but for anyone who can put up with a really quiet and simple holiday, it is ideal.

R.S.A.

INTER-SERVICE SWIMMING SPORTS.

The inter-Service Swimming Sports will be held at St. George's Baths, Victoria, on October 25th, at 6.30 p.m.

It is hoped that the Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. will be able to enter a team for the cup events, and that a few London Franch members will enter for the fancy events, etc. The races are arranged for swimmers of every grade, so that nobody need feel nervous of entering, but if they cannot enter for the competitions, their presence (and voices) in the gallery will be very welcome and inspiring to the Old Comrades in the water.

Entry forms may be obtained from M. C. Bartlett, 23 Oaks Way, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, who will be at Aldgate Baths on Friday evenings for practice.

Roll up, London Branch, and make a big splash!

M. C. BARTLETT.

ARMISTICE DAY.

As we go to Press we are informed by the British Legion that the ceremony at the Cenotaph will be on the same lines as last year. About 80 tickets will be available for Q.M.A.A.C. Applications for these must be made to our Headquarters Office. A rehearsal parade will be held on November 10th, at 8.30 p.m., at 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W. "Fall in" on November 11th at 9.30 a.m. at Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, S.W. Six members (not officers) who possess complete and correct uniform are required for the pageant at the Albert Hall on the evening of November 11th. A dress parade will be held at 5 Buckingham Gate, at 7.30 p.m., on October 23rd.

"TOUCHING LUCKY."

The following was not sent with the idea of its seeing the light of day in the Gazette and so I have omitted the writer's name and the barracks—but many will guess both! This "old soldier" has not forgotten any of the "tips" of B.E.F. days:—

"I have had great fun moving my office this week to the Barracks and have fallen right into my old scrounging ways again quite easily. Managed to get nice fire going, just don't know where the coal came from but it arrived this morning pending our own indent being dealt with, then a coal-box arrived in the afternoon by the messenger. I asked no questions, just took it in and indented for fire-irons at the same time. I spent a miserable day on Tuesday looking for a place with water to fill a kettle for some tea, could not find one and gave up in despair, and just then along came a soldier who volunteered the information that there was a tap right across the drill-hall, down along somewhere else at the back of beyond, and it must have been very funny to see a worried-looking figure running around the barrack-yard with a kettle in her hand: no wonder the guards looked at me. However, another soldier saved my life by getting water from somewhere, and I was happy once again, until I found I had mislaid the matches in the move and could not find anyone who had one either. I then gave in properly and took myself out to tea—a luxury I hate. All the basins that I have seen so far for washing are fixed with those taps one can't draw water out of except into the basin for washing purposes. Isn't that like the Army—one implement one job. Yesterday being the 1st of October, fires were laid on, and because nobody informed anybody about us being here of course we were left out—again like the Army to just dump you in the place. And again like the Army's soldiers, war time and otherwise, I found a way to get what I wanted. I don't really know how we are placed or what we are entitled to, but I am taking all they bring to me in case of accidents. I have also been on show all this week. Every now and then the door would open slightly, someone would put in his head, say, "I beg your pardon," and shut the door again. There are five other women scattered

about the barracks somewhere; so far I have seen one, and I think I must be quite a novelty in this part anyway. However, I can stand a look and a great deal more.—Cheerio."

BIRTH.

Robuck.—On July 12th, 1930, to Mr. and Mrs. H. Robuck (R. Richmond, W.A.A.C., Place Capeure, Boulogne), the gift of a daughter, Joyce.

MARRIAGE.

Horsley-Mansfield.—On September 11th, 1930, at St. Paul's Church, N. Finchley, London, Thomas Benjamin Horsley, to Jessie Mildred Mansfield (Forewoman Clerk, "B" Company, Connaught Club).

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, 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).

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 lookings for less than three nights. Gas fires in rooms. Telephone: Frohisher, 0986.

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

The Bond Street Rendezvous, 97 New Bond Street, W.1 (50 yards from Oxford Street). Morning Coffee. Afternoon Teas. Light Luncheons. A Luncheon and Tea-room that is different has been opened by an Old Comrade. Good cuisine, courtesy and service with a smile. Tel.: Mayfair 5870.

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 Edith Trotter, C.B.E.,	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.		
Bristol and West of England.	Miss D. Mould, 11 The Tynning, 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.	316 Bath Street, Glasgow.	Every Wednesday, 7.30.
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.		Not fixed.
Leeds.	Miss E. Mair, 19 Lyddon Terrace, 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. 122 Cranbrook Road, Ilford. (Telephone Ilford 0058).	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Golders Green.	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10.		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.	No permanent room fixed. Interviews at British Legion, N.E. Area Offices, 10 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.	Members notified individually.
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.	(Temp.) Miss A. Haynes, 15 St. Omer Road, Cowley.	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.		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