

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

NOVEMBER, 1930. Vol. XIII., No. 4.

3/6 per annum, post free.

NOTICE.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

In order to comply with Article 17 of the Articles of Association, an Annual General Meeting must be held in each calendar year. As the Annual General Meeting summoned below for January 3rd falls in 1931, it is necessary to hold an Annual General Meeting in 1930. This will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, December 18th, 1930, at 5 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1.

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1, on Saturday, January 3rd, 1931, at 3 p.m. It is hoped that as many members as possible will make a point of being present so that the meeting may be representative of all branches.

ANNUAL MEETING OF BRANCH SECRETARIES.

The Annual Meeting of Branch Secretaries will be held at 1.30 p.m., the same day at the Ex-Service Women's Club.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Association Dinner will be held at the Georgian Restaurant, Harrod's Stores, Brompton Road, London, S.W.1, on January 3rd, 1931, at 7.15 p.m.

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 the Hon. Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. (London Branch) 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, or from Miss D. Hayward 91 Rosendale Road, West Dulwich, S.E.21.

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.

Nota Bene.

1. Counterfoil of postal order should be carefully kept, in case of loss in the post.
2. A receipt will be sent with each Dinner Ticket. If this is not received please notify the sender of the ticket at once.
3. Each ticket will have a perforated slip. On this portion will be stated the table at which the owner will sit. This must be detached from the larger portion and very carefully kept and worn as these portions will be collected during Dinner by the stewards, thereby ensuring that no "gate crashers" are among the assembly.

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.

Correction.

The name of Miss E. Winter, as one of those dealing with the disposal of Dinner Tickets, was given in error in the October issue. Will members please note the amended notice in this issue.

A Reminder to "Signallers."

In order to avoid any of the confusion which occurred at last year's Annual Dinner, when applying for tickets kindly state "**Signal**" table, and **not Area**.

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.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT.**RESIGNATION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY.**

The many members who have known or corresponded with Mrs. H. M. Robinson will be sorry to hear of her resignation as General Secretary, which was received by the Council at their meeting on October 23rd, and will take effect on November 30th. Mrs. Robinson has now gone to live in the country and finds it impossible to come to the office regularly.

The Council have asked Mrs. A. B. E. Johnston, M.B.E., to undertake the General Secretaryship for a preliminary period of three months, and she has accepted the invitation. She is a keen worker for the O.C.A., has for some time been in charge of the Clothing Cupboards and is acting this year as Honorary Secretary of the Dinner Committee. Many Old Comrades will remember her as U.A., Camp 1, Etaples, and later as U.A., First Army Infantry School, Hardelet, and all will wish her success in her new office.

The Clothing Cupboards will revert to the charge of Mrs. Garrard.

DONATIONS.

It was reported to the Council that a donation of £5 has been received from the Leeds Branch towards the O.C.A. funds and that there was more to come. A donation has also been received from the Norfolk Branch Copper Box. These gifts are greatly appreciated.

CLOTHING.

We have received a most excellent collection of parcels this month each one being full of very useful things. Our grateful thanks are sent to the following:

Miss I. Gregson, Miss Trotter, Mrs. Spaul, Mrs. K. Whyte, Miss Mason, Miss Comley, Mrs. Rolfe (Bournemouth Branch), Norfolk Branch, Miss Watts, Mrs. Banbridge, Miss Watkins, Miss Breach, Mrs. Laing, Miss Pinchin, Miss Haines, Mrs. Macdonald, Mrs. Grundy, Miss Passmore, Mrs. E. Fuller, Mrs. G. Jones, and the senders of quite a number of anonymous parcels.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER.**London.**

By the time this report appears in print all members who have paid their 1930 subscriptions should have received their agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Branch, which will be held on Thursday, 4th December. If by any chance any member has not got an agenda please let me know and it will be forwarded by return of post. The Hon. Secretary earnestly hopes that those members who have not yet renewed their 1930 subscriptions will take the very earliest opportunity of doing so so that the branch may be able to show as good a total figure of membership for 1930, as formerly.

The social and dance for members and their friends, held on Thursday, 16th October, was as usual enjoyed immensely. Some sixty people rolled up and joined in the evening's entertainment, and though chat seemed to be the favoured pastime, games, dancing, competitions; and whist were also indulged in for which prizes were presented to the lucky winners. No prize was offered for the talking competition, of course; the branch would go bankrupt in one night if prizes were awarded because it would

be difficult to judge and everyone would have to have one. Refreshments were served about nine o'clock and everybody remarked that the sandwiches, cakes and coffee were very, very nice, and also there was plenty. At 11 p.m., those of us who were left, finding that all the musicians had gone home, struck our own note for "God save the King," and a very good effort, too, said good-nights and "See you at the dinner," and hurried off to catch our trains, buses and trams home to bed.

The Inter-Service Swimming Gala.—This Gala was held on Saturday, 25th October, at St. George's Baths, Victoria, and those who did not come along missed the most thrilling and exciting entertainment. I know that all the old Swimming Club members who have helped year after year to try and win the Dame Katherine Furze Cup will be ever so bucked to hear that AT LAST the coveted Cup is in our possession. Although this year we have had no swimming club the O.C.A. was represented by Bartlett, Vince, Millbank, and Gay, and we were indeed proud of our representatives. They put up a wonderful performance which resulted in their gain over the W.R.N.S., our strongest opponents, of three points. Consequently, the Cup for which we have fought so patiently each year for eleven years, was handed over to London Branch Old Comrades and remains in our possession for one year. Only four W.A.A.C.s entered for the Gala, and of these four three have entered for several years in succession. Bartie's name was amongst the first entries for the Cup in 1919 and ever since, at the back of Bartie's mind, there seems to have been an idea "we might do it one day if we can hold out long enough," hence the reason for the urgent whip-up each autumn of our best swimming members. "Bravo! Bartie. I hope you were well rewarded when you heard the shouts of your Old Comrades urging their four representatives on to victory." Gay and Vince, also two "Diehards" of the Swimming Club, must feel satisfaction that at last they have achieved their ambition. The last member of the team and certainly not the least by any means was Millbank, an old member of the Swimming Club and well known to the members of the branch as an excellent swimmer, entered at the last minute to make up the team. The Relay Race fought out between the W.R.N.S. and W.A.A.C.s provided the thrill of the evening. We shouted and bullied our swimmers from the gallery in turn as each one entered the water until she had finished the course—in fact, we all swam that race with them on dry land. We were worn out and hoarse before the Gala was over but our efforts were not in vain because the swimmers told us that they heard the shouting even while they were swimming. The W.A.A.C.s did their part by cheering and encouraging, the competitors did their part by winning the Cup for the Association, and the other Services did theirs by providing some excellent swimming because the teams were well drawn. The W.R.N.S., as usual, gave a good exhibition of fast swimming and our folks had to go "all out" to win. Members of the Swimming Club, I know, will feel immensely proud and other readers please pardon any trace of swank which may have crept into this report. I simply cannot help swanking just a little, not so much because the Cup is ours for twelve months but for the great feeling that although "Anno Domini" it has been whispered, is not exactly on our side, it is nice to know we still have a good strong kick. Details and figures will appear in this number if they arrive in time.

Coming Events.—Don't forget our sale in aid of branch funds, which is to be held on Thursday, 20th November, at the Ex-Service Women's Club. If you cannot attend and are too far away to get a small parcel posted, a P.O. for any small amount will do. Every little helps.

Bachelor Girls' Exhibition.—On another page you will read of this very interesting event, which is to be held in the Horticultural Hall, Westminster, from the 12th to the 21st of November. A book of tickets will be purchased by the Hon. Secretary of London Branch at a specially reduced price, i.e., sixpence each ticket, and any member wishing to avail herself of the cheap rate should send a *stamped addressed envelope* to the Hon. Secretary, stating

the number of tickets required—no tickets will be posted unless the order is accompanied by a postal order and a stamped envelope. A party of London Branch members will pay a visit to the Exhibition on Monday evening, 17th November. The party will meet at the club at 6 p.m. A special invitation is extended to Old Comrades from other branches who may be in London to join the party. Tickets will have to be reserved for that evening, so please drop a card if you wish to join the party.

Saturday Afternoon Visit to the Albany Institute.—A very cordial invitation has been received from Miss Bertrand to visit her Settlement at Deptford on Saturday, 22nd November. The arrangements include a tour of inspection of the Institute and Hospital, also a large L.C.C. men's lodging-house (accommodating about 800) and afterwards we are to be Miss Bertrand's guests to tea. Members wishing to join the party should send in their names as soon as possible and at the very latest by the 20th of November. We will meet at the club at 2.30 p.m.

Christmas Concert.—The concert which is due to be held on Thursday, 18th December, will have to be cancelled, but a concert will be arranged to take its place early in the new year.

Annual General Meeting.—Don't forget the date of the General Meeting and don't forget to come along and give your support. All sorts of suggestions for next year will be welcomed so please don't feel too shy to send them in. They say "Two heads are better than one," so just think what a lot of suggestions we should get from, say, ninety heads; the room should absolutely vibrate with brain waves!

R. S. ANDREWS.

Tunbridge Wells.

The branch will hold their next meeting on November 27th instead of the 25th, as previously arranged. Will members please note that as this is the Annual Meeting do make an effort to attend. Notices are being sent out as to time and place of meeting. Any articles of children's clothing for Headquarters Cupboard can be brought along for the Secretary to despatch, or material for making, either old or new. The Secretary is willing to undertake the sewing and sending. So don't forget our distressed comrades.

E. BOYLETT.

Norfolk.

A jolly meeting was held on Thursday, October 9th, at 32 Grove Road, Norwich, when all members within travelling distance were present. It was unfortunate the Tasburgh 'buses not running conveniently this time, as it prevented Mrs. Paston being with us.

Not having met since July, members found plenty to talk about in the short space of time at their disposal—the holidays naturally proving the predominant subject, full of interest to all.

After refreshments had been served, great excitement prevailed whilst the lid was forcibly removed from the "Copper Box," and amid much scrambling, the contents were counted out. By good luck we were able to make the amount up to £1 again this year, and this sum has been forwarded to London for the augmentation of funds. A new box will be in evidence at the next meeting, so members please remember to bring along your odd coppers.

A parcel of clothing has been forwarded to London from the branch.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6th, at 5 Market Place, Norwich, when Miss West will be our hostess.

L. W. CHILVERS.

Brighton.

Thursday, November 27th (not 30th, as in last Gazette) 8 p.m.—Local Annual General Meeting, at 31 Wellington Road. Please send in suggestions and nominations for the Committee beforehand, and, still better, come yourself. Also remember the doll or small toy to be sent or brought to me so that we can have a nice display on the 27th.

Thursday, December 4th.—Local Dinner at the Ship Café of the Regent. Meet at main entrance at 8.15 for

8.30 dinner. Open to members and their friends. Afternoon dress. Cost not more than 3s. 6d. We hope for a good number, as we are celebrating our tenth year of existence as a Branch.

H. A. BARON.

Leeds.

Christmas Cheer.—Our Christmas cheer is a determined effort on our part to make money for the Branch, and it is the sincere wish of the promoters that it will be a huge success. There is no reason why it should not be as it affords a golden opportunity for members who cannot attend meetings, etc., to do something in their own area. If you have not got a book, drop a post-card to Miss E. Mair, 19 Lyddon Terrace, Leeds. If you have one and can sell more coupons please write for more.

Prizes in connection with the cheer will be gratefully accepted, so if you can assist in this direction Mair will be pleased to hear from you. The smallest help will be thankfully received.

A. ANNIKIN.

RESULTS OF INTER-SERVICES SWIMMING GALA.

The full results were as follows: The Dame Katharine Furse Challenge Cup was won by the Q.M.A.A.C., O.C.A. with 18 points, the Wrens being second with 15 points, and the V.A.D. third with 11 points. The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps Cup went to the V.A.D. with 13 marks, the Girl Guides being second with 9 points, and the Q.M.A.A.C., O.C.A. third with 2 points. The F.A.N.Y. Life Saving Cup was won by the Wrens with 6 points, the Girl Guides being second with 4 points, the Q.M.A.A.C., O.C.A. and the V.A.D. tied for third—both scoring 3 points.

RESULTS.

ONE LENGTH.—1, J. Newman, V.A.D.; 2, M. C. Bartlett, Q.M.A.A.C.; 3, M. K. Milbank, Q.M.A.A.C.

LIFE SAVING.—1, M. C. Bartlett, Q.M.A.A.C.; tied 2nd, B. Swinburne-Hanham, Wrens, J. K. Taylor, Wrens.

RELAY RACE (F.A.N.Y. Cup).—1, V.A.D.; 2, Girl Guides; 3, Q.M.A.A.C.

CIGARETTE RACE.—1, M. E. Barker, Girl Guides; 2, B. Swinburne-Hanham, Wrens; 3, J. K. Taylor, Wrens.

PLUNGE.—1, M. K. Milbank, Q.M.A.A.C.; 2, M. Gay, Q.M.A.A.C.; 3, J. Newman, V.A.D.

TWO LENGTHS (F.A.N.Y. Cup).—1, V. Newman, V.A.D.; 2, L. E. Heath, V.A.D.; 3, E. C. Smith, Girl Guides.

STYLE.—1, K. E. Neave, Wrens; tied 2nd, J. Newman, V.A.D., M. C. Bartlett, Q.M.A.A.C.

GRACEFUL DIVING (Dame Katharine Furse Cup).—Tied 1st, B. Swinburne-Hanham, Wrens, J. Newman, V.A.D.; 3, N. I. Higgins, Wrens.

GRACEFUL DIVING (F.A.N.Y. Cup).—1, E. C. Smith, Girl Guides; 2, V. Newman, V.A.D.; 3, J. M. Reddie, Girl Guides.

RELAY RACE (Dame Katharine Furse Cup).—1, Q.M.A.A.C., O.C.A.; 2, Wrens; 3, V.A.D.

SURPRISE RACE (in pairs).—1, N. I. Higgins, Wrens, E. C. Smith, Girl Guides; 2, M. Gay, Q.M.A.A.C., M. C. Bartlett, Q.M.A.A.C.; 3, M. E. Barker, Girl Guides, Atkins, Girl Guides.

TWO LENGTHS.—1, B. Swinburne-Hanham, Wrens; 2, M. Gay, Q.M.A.A.C.; 3, V. Laughton Mathews, Wrens.

SURFACE DIVE.—Tied 1st, V. Newman, V.A.D., B. Swinburne-Hanham, Wrens; tied 2nd, E. C. Smith, Girl Guides, J. M. Welsford, Girl Guides.

OBSTACLE RACE.—1, B. Swinburne-Hanham, Wrens; 2, J. K. Taylor, Wrens; tied 3rd, S. E. King, Girl Guides, M. E. Barker, Girl Guides.

The following very kindly gave prizes: Association of Wrens, Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps O.C.A.; Women's Volunteer Reserve Club, Miss Edith Crowdy, Miss Dennis, Miss N. I. Higgins, Mrs. Hunt, Miss H. G. Hunt, Mrs. Kemp, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Miss Mason (F.A.N.Y.), Miss D. Robinson (V.A.D.), Miss Royden.

And the following firms: The Ardath Tobacco Company (cigarettes), Eversharp Pencil Company (pencil),

Messrs. L. and C. Hardtmuth (pencil), Messrs. John Knight (soap), Messrs. James Pascall, Ltd. (chocolates).

Hot Bovril was supplied free to competitors by courtesy of Bovril, Limited.

NOTICE.

Members are advised that the Club will not be entirely closed over any part of the Christmas holidays, but the House Committee have decided that with the exception of providing breakfast for resident members, no other meals will be served from Christmas Eve, December 24th, to the morning of Monday, December 29th. The Coffee Lounge will be open on Christmas Eve to meet the requirements of members passing through or arriving and departing.

H. M. HARVEY.
Secretary.

OLD COMRADES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

I owe the Editor a humble apology for not having sent any account of my adventures in South Africa before, but although I arrived at Port Elizabeth in June it was some time before I was able to establish contact with any Old Comrades, and there was not much to write home about. It was disappointing not to be able to see Mrs. Roe at Grahamstown, as she is a keen member of Headquarters Branch, and was formerly stationed at Le Havre, where she was working at the same depot as Miss Billington, now our Honorary Treasurer. I only had Mrs. Roe's box number as an address, and I had no idea if she lived in Grahamstown or at some distance outside, so I rang her up on the telephone and found she was twenty miles away and that it would take a considerable time for her to drive in in her buggy. As I was only in Grahamstown for one night there seemed no possibility of meeting, but it was nice to hear her voice again.

I saw Miss Knowing's brother and sister-in-law in Grahamstown, and spent a very cheery morning with them.

We next went to Durban where I was very glad to meet Mrs. Collingwood with her husband and two children, a boy and a girl. The whole family came along to watch a hockey match, and brought me a most attractive walking stick of native manufacture which has already become a tried and trusty friend. Their little girl has been rather delicate, but is getting stronger, and the boy was a sturdy little fellow.

At Bulawayo I saw Miss Wellings (A.A.B.E.F.), who is farming about ten miles out on the veldt. She and her mother have been there for five or six years now, and like the life very much, though it is, of course, hard work. Unfortunately I was unable to go out to the farm but I enjoyed a good talk with Miss Wellings.

A good many W.A.A.C.S. who were serving in London during the War will remember Antony Croxton, the son of our good friend Mrs. Croxton. In those days he was quite a lad, but it may be remembered that he was one of the London Scottish Contingent on guard in the courtyard at Buckingham Palace on Armistice Day 1918, when the Corps paraded at the request of H.M. the Queen. He is now married and an official of the Rhodesian Railways, and was most friendly and helpful to me while we were travelling in the district.

At Salisbury I had the most amusing time hunting for Louis Elder, whom I was quite determined to find. The address of the firm by whom she was employed had been given to me by our Headquarters, but on arriving there I found she had now become Mrs. McKechnie and had been married six months before and left. A friendly girl in the office, however, informed me that she had married a Civil Servant who was employed in one of the Government Offices and added the encouraging remark "If you are anything to do with that little paper that comes every month, she will be pleased to see you." So I

hastened away across Salisbury to what may be described as the Whitehall district, and there ran Mr. McKechnie to earth. He seemed to know all about W.A.A.C.S. in fact, as I subsequently discovered, had first met his wife in France as a member of the Corps, and he directed me to the charming little house that they are living in, within easy distance of his office. Difficulties were still not over, however, as the house was bolted and barred, but having come so far I was determined not to be rebuffed, so I sat firmly on the verandah, though eyed suspiciously by two native servants, until Mrs. McKechnie turned up. She gave me a warm greeting and in five minutes had miraculously produced a wonderful "morning tea," and then we sat down to one of those talks with which all Old Comrades are familiar.

From Rhodesia I went South to Pretoria, and there found Miss Bowen in great state in a magnificent office in the Dominion Buildings. Her Chief, the Prime Minister, General Hertzog, to whom she is secretary, had just left for the Imperial Conference in England so she was not as busy as usual and I was able to see something of her. I was also very pleased to see Miss Phipps.

I stayed for a whole week with Miss McWilliam, Headmistress of the Pretoria High School, where I enjoyed myself enormously. It is a beautiful school with quite the finest buildings I have seen in any part of the world. Miss McWilliams gave me excellent news of Bridgarner who is nursing somewhere in Rhodesia and doing well. I am sorry not to have been able to discover her when I was in the neighbourhood.

It was a disappointment not to see Mrs. Colville Reeves, who was on her way to England when I was in Johannesburg, and I was unable to see any members of the Branch except Miss Hughes, though also had a telephone chat with Mrs. Widdicombe. Miss Hughes is still living at Rhodes House, where she has been for the last five years and teaching at the Jeppe High School. I had a good chat with her one evening and also visited her in the midst of her class at the school. I did not see Miss Inkster, to my regret, but had no up to date address. On the way to Bloemfontein I was lucky enough to be able to spend the night with Miss Vera Simpson on her farm near Harrismith. Old Comrades will remember that she is the step-daughter of our President, and went out to South Africa about five years ago and took up farming. Miss Simpson made nothing of meeting me at 4.30 on a bitterly cold morning and driving me out to her farm. This she has made extremely comfortable and it looks a most prosperous and going concern. It is wonderful what she is able to do with her own hands. The efficiency displayed in all directions made a great impression upon me. Like all farmers, she was very optimistic for the future, and has evidently found the life that suits her although there is no doubt it is very hard work. She seems able and willing to turn her hand to anything.

My next stopping place was Bloemfontein where I was greeted by some very sad news. Some of you may remember that when I was in Africa five years ago I was delighted at coming across Patrol Dalby, an Irish girl from the Curragh Camp, and a most enthusiastic "Waac." She was married to a Mr. Rothwell, and she and her husband had started a business in Bloemfontein and after a hard struggle were just beginning to do well when I first saw them. This time I found a letter from Mr. Rothwell saying that his wife would have been the first to greet me but that she had died a little while before, leaving him with one little girl. Mr. Rothwell and the child came to tea with me the next day, and he told me how keen his wife had always been to keep in touch with the Corps and how splendidly she had helped him make good.

At Kimberley, where I did not know there were any ex-members of the Corps, Mrs. Ashworth (nee Carr, of Aldershot) came to call upon me with her jolly little girl, leaving a small boy at home. Her husband is in a good position in one of the Banks at Kimberley, and

they are quite old inhabitants. She was very anxious to hear all that I could tell her of the Corps and its post war activities.

This brings me back to the Cape, where Miss Black, of Olympia fame, is still in charge of the Physical Training Department of the Teachers' College. She seems very successful in her work and most popular. She came and saw us on the boat and it was very pleasant to have a cheery send-off from an Old Comrade. I also discovered Miss Biggar, staying at the Settlers Club, in Cape Town. She has become a confirmed globe-trotter and has travelled over most of Africa.

No doubt there are many more members of the Corps scattered up and down the country, but when one is travelling continuously and has a great many official engagements it is impossible to go far afield to look them up. On the whole I think I was very fortunate to see so many, and I am grateful to them for their cheery welcome and friendly talks.

EDITH THOMPSON.

"TURNING POINTS OF HISTORY."

Writing in the "Morning Post" of October 17th, of the late Lord Birkenhead's last book—"Turning Points of History," E.O.B. says:—

Lord Birkenhead never underrated the influence of women in the lives of men and in his own. So we find him paying a new (and true) kind of tribute to the work done by our women in the war.

"There was a moral aspect to the affair more effective than was possibly appreciated at home. There was something inexpressively cheering to the man at the front in the appearance of his womenfolk so close behind the line... The women of the French countryside—small blame to a race of tried heroines—were rarely ornamental. In the workmanlike—yet still feminine—appearance of his own girls, the British soldier found yet further cause for the national pride which was his mainstay."

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Our Australian and Canadian members will regret to learn that **Mr. John King**, Fore Street, Wolverton, Somerset, died on September 22nd, 1930, after a painful illness extending over a period of more than two years.

Can anyone give **Mrs. A. L. Davies** (4686 F/wm clerk. **A. L. Gooding**) the address of **Miss Winifred Speechley** (F/wm clerk, Boulogne, etc.)? **Mrs. Davies'** address is c/o Clayton, Byng and Foley and Co., 4 Tokenhouse Buildings, Tokenhouse Yard, London, E.C.2.

Mrs. McClelland (nee **Scrutton**), who was at Canchoise, Rouen, is now living at Sea Point, South Africa. She is very happily married and has two children.

Miss J. Blake would like to get in touch with members of the 4th and 5th Army School Units. She is running tea-rooms over her brother's garage, and the address is The Garage, King's Worth, near Winchester, Hants. **Miss Blake** heard of the O.C.A. through **Miss Wren**, and is now "joining up" again.

Will Old Comrades of **6442 Harding, A.**, write to her? She is anxious to get in touch with them again. Her address is now **Mrs. A. Hatch**, c/o J. H. Long, Duncan, Okla., U.S.A.

Miss Elsie Emerson (7834) has recently returned to her home in Montreal from a trip to Rome.

Miss F. I. Gammon (A.A., Boulogne, Camp 6), who has been on the staff of the Ex-Service Women's Club, Buckingham Gate, for the past three and a half years, has resigned in order to take up a post with the Imperial Tobacco Co., at Bristol, where she will cater for the staff. It is with very mixed feelings one learns of **Miss Gammon's** departure, for while we all wish her every success in her new post, we shall miss her very much from her old one.

Several of our members are on the casualty list these days, and we are sorry to learn that the "Chief Roamer," **Miss Dulcie Taylor**, has been far from well lately, and is (or was) recuperating in the country. We are not used

to this sort of thing from Taylor and we hope she will very soon be back in her old form. **Miss Gibson, O.B.E.**, has also been ill and, in consequence, has resigned from the Q.M.A.A.C. Council, where she represented the Newcastle Branch and also the Service Women's Benevolent Fund. It is hoped that when the time comes for re-electing the Council and representatives of Q.M.A.A.C. on the S.W.B.F. **Miss Gibson** will be in better health.

The Secretary of the North Staffs Branch, **Mrs. M. E. Stretton**, writes from hospital to **Miss Billington**, and says she has just undergone three operations but hopes to be well enough to attend the Annual Dinner. We shall all hope to see her there again this year.

Mrs. E. A. Bartlett (Helen H. Warskitt, F/w, Connaught Club, and A.A., Salisbury Plain, etc.), is now matron of the Kent Farm Institute at Borden, Kent. Prior to this appointment she was, for three years, matron of the Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture.

Mrs. Wilson and **Miss A. P. Wilson** (D.A. and Drafting Officer, Connaught Club) have left Swanley Horticultural College, where **Miss Wilson** has been lecturing and doing research work, and returned to their old quarters in Hampstead. Perhaps we may see something of them now?

Mrs. Hislop called at Headquarters during October. She is home on a year's leave from India and hopes to attend the Annual Dinner.

REVISITING CALAIS.

Having been stationed in Calais and district for two years from 1917-1919, we thought we would like to revisit the town, and have just returned from doing so.

Queen Mary Camp is fast being built over; only a little of the barbed wire fencing remaining to show what had once been there, but the Y.W.C.A. hut in the field opposite is still there.

Chateau Valdelievre, of interest to "Signals," still exists, but the garden is in a wild state, as it has been divided up into building plots, indeed, some small houses are already up.

Madame Lequien, the owner of the patisserie near by, still flourishes, and was most pleased to see us and have a talk, and insisted on treating us to some of her cakes. In the course of the conversation, she produced a photograph of a Waac, who was recognised as **Grace Mallet**.

The billet in the Rue Neuve looked just the same, indeed, that was our impression of the whole of Calais. The large hole in the tower of the "Belgian" Town Hall has been repaired, and flower-beds, etc., laid out round it and the theatre.

The site of the Church Army Hut overlooking the railway line has been partly built over.

We went out in a tram to Guines and endeavoured to have tea at a little patisserie, well-known to some of us there, although out of bounds, but were told that they did not serve it now.

The Ordnance Depot at Vendroux is razed to the ground, but the little footbridge still exists over the canal. We could see no signs of Queen Elizabeth Camp.

Owing to lack of time we were unable to visit Queen Eleanor and Queen Alexandra Camps and the Valdelievre salvage depot, but we saw that a bridge had been built over the canal near the salvage dump where we had to depend on a ferry boat.

D.J.T. (Ordnance). C.R.D. (Signals).

ATTRACTIONS AT THE BACHELOR GIRLS' EXHIBITION.

NEW HORTICULTURAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.

November 12—21, 1930.

A Tasteful Exhibition in Harmonised Colour Scheme, containing Exhibits of direct interest to women.

A Uniformed Orchestra, composed entirely of women, each member an expert on her own instrument.

Celebrated Women or Bachelor Girls from each Profession will open the Exhibition daily, including **Miss Winifred Brown**, **Miss Margaret Bondfield**, **Miss Betty Nuttall**, **Lady Astor**, **Dame Louise Mellroy**, **D.B.E.**, **M.D.**, **D.Sc.**, and **Mrs. Wilfrid Ashley**.

Women Police, Women Gate Attendants, Women Assistants.
 Aeroplanes and their Control.
 Electrical Flat arranged by the Electrical Association for Women, in conjunction with the Electrical Development Association.
 A Wireless-controlled Flat specially appealing to women.
 Various Flats, Flatlets and Kitchenette designed by women for women.
 A "Women's Chamber of Horrors," arranged by the "Gateway," a paper controlled by women and appealing to women.
 A Government Exhibit by the only woman Agent-General in the British Empire, the first woman representing a Government.
 Various Societies, Associations and Schools for the Service and Training of Women.
 A Complete Guide of the greatest interest to women going overseas.
 Working Exhibits. The Exhibition will be "alive" from start to finish.

Competitions of Interest to Women—

"What Not to Wear." Organised by Experts Prize, a Frock daily.
 "Dress Costing." Organised by "Home Notes." 1st prize, £100; 2nd, Outfit; 3rd, £5.
 "The Unexpected Guest." Organised by "Good Housekeeping" Institute. 1st prize, Suite of Furniture and £20; 2nd, Suite of Furniture; 3rd, £5.
 "Cake-making." Organised by "Good Housekeeping" Institute. 1st prize, £5; 2nd, £3; 3rd, £2.
 A Motor Rally for Women Motorists is being arranged by the Women's Automobile and Sports Associations.
 Fencing, Table Tennis, Badminton, Jumping, Quash Tennis, Dancing, Swedish Gymnastics. (Prizes: Challenge Cups, Shields and Medals). Entrance will be by Catalogue only. (No entrance fee).
 Competitors should send in their names immediately to—

THE SECRETARY, "COMPETITIONS,"
 BACHELOR GIRLS' EXHIBITION,
 45 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

ANNUAL DINNER.

Will members please note the following:—

1.—Miss Warrior and her assistants will have, as usual, a table where subscriptions for the Gazette will be received, but will members please not *all* wait for that evening to renew same!

2.—Mrs. Pratt-Barlow, O.B.E., Hon. Secretary, Headquarters Branch, will be pleased to meet members of her branch at her table where she will be glad to receive subscriptions to her branch of the O.C.A. Headquarters Branch must not be confused with London Branch, of which Miss Andrews is Hon. Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Mrs. W. H. Smith (Jean Mackenzie), 7 Craig View, Banklands Silsden, near Keighley, Yorks.

I am an ex-Waac, having served at the I.C.D., Catterick, Yorks., and would like to get in touch with some Old Comrades through the medium of your Gazette. I only got to know of its existence last December, and attended the Annual Dinner hoping to meet some friends, but was thoroughly disappointed at not meeting a single Waac who served at Catterick. I would like to get in touch with Miss W. M. Tillet (now Mrs. Middleton), an officer at I.C.O., also Flo Goodings, Miss Purkis, and Ethel Cunio, or any others who remember me, as I would like to attend the Dinner again this year.

From Miss Bushell, on board the Cunard R.M.S. "Carmania."

Dear Jondon Branch,—This is just a line to tell you that until now I have had a very enjoyable trip, and I am sure it is due to all the good wishes you wished me before I left. I thought of you all on Thursday evening about

the re-union time. I have met and talked to some very nice people and have not felt lonely since Sunday last, although I did on Saturday after leaving so many of you on the platform at Waterloo. It was very good of you to come at that early hour of the day and see me off, and I appreciated it very much, and dear old Hinslie sent me a telegram to the boat. You can bet it was nice when my name was called out among others for a nice message. There was a fancy dress dance on board on Thursday, and the lady who took the first prize for the prettiest costume was a bride, but I didn't think she looked nearly as nice as our bride of last January, and the bridegroom wasn't a patch on ours, but for originality a lady who came in a "beauty parlour" costume took first prize. Her hair was in a permanent wave—sticks or wire (I don't know what you call them), a face all mud-packed, with a hair-dresser's overall on, and caused quite a lot of amusement. Last night there was a concert by some members of the ship's crew, which was very good, quite a lot of talent, and the seamen's charities benefited to the extent of £24. I shall be able to tell you something of my opinions of New Zealand next time. All the best to London Branch.

From Miss Molly Howes, Box 6, Lumbwa, Kenya Colony.

First of all, let me thank you very much indeed for those copies you sent me of the Old Comrades Gazette. I read every word from beginning to end with interest, and saw lots of names of girls I knew at Etaples, and I am going to pass the copies on to Mrs. Delaney in Nairobi. She was Miss Scott, in charge of the medical hut in Camp I for some time.

I expect you heard from Miss Giles that this place is on the way to Uganda and 60 miles from Lake Victoria Nyanza. In fact we can see the setting sun reflected in the lake, and a lovely sight it is too. I hope to go for a trip round it before I come home. It takes ten days. That's some lake, isn't it?

We are 60 miles from the nearest town—doctor, dentist, clergyman—all are that distance away, and Nakuro is a small place, too, and not much use for shopping, so that one usually has to send to Nairobi, and that is 197 miles away, and also usually out of the very things you send for. It cost 1/50, i.e., 1s. 6d. (the coinage is shillings and cents only, 100 cents to the shilling; no pounds), so that you have to buy things at 700 shillings instead of £7 and so forth, to have the smallest parcel sent up. As almost everything is double the price out here it's very expensive living.

I like the natives very well on the whole, and considering that they are not far removed from savages, are simply wonderful. They come out of a little grass-roofed hut, where their articles of furniture and crockery consist of blankets on the floor for beds and gourds and calabashes for drinking vessels, bottles, etc. Now they have a few enamel plates and a mug or two and a cooking pot. They are put into a house to work where they've never seen a table laid for a meal before. They wash up china in hot water where their own things are cleaned by rubbing them with dirt, and so forth, and they show no sign of amazement at a polished table, with lace mats and lighted candles and an array of silver and cutlery, and very seldom make mistakes after being shown. The same applies to the cook. They live on posho (ground maize) with an occasional piece of meat from something they kill, and very soon they are serving you up a dinner of soup, joint, vegetables, pudding and savoury, and making you bread and cakes. Don't you think that's marvellous? They do not break as much as a servant at home, and in the house they wear a long white gown called a kanzoo and usually a red fez. When they go out they wear a shirt and khaki shorts. Perhaps they will work for you for months, and then they will want to go back to the reserve, and soon they will be back there dressed in a blanket and with clay smeared all over them. On the whole they are very honest. I have found them very much so, but I believe in the towns of Nairobi and Nakuro they are an awful lot of rogues. They get some education at a mission school and then, sad to say, usually pick up the white man's vices and not his virtues.

The Lumbwa, the tribe that we are amongst, do not

often work in the house. They usually keep to the cattle. They are a brave, fine-looking lot of men, wearing just a blanket round their shoulders and strings of beads, but the Kavirondos and Kikuyus are wearing a varied assortment of European clothes. The latter tribe are getting troublesome out here. They are the jews of Africa, and lately many of them have been arrested for singing seditious songs and getting propaganda distributed. All the atrocities committed are usually done by Kikuyus or they are at the bottom of it. They are thrifty regarding money matters and are a wealthy tribe. It is the young ones who are getting out of hand, the old men are nice. A fine old chief they had died last year, and since then they have been getting worse. The Kavirondo is the tribe mostly found in the house.

The Kikuyu women carry terribly heavy loads from a strap across their forehead, hanging down their backs. It makes me feel sick to see them. Of course, nearly all the women are badly treated out here and do most of the work, but they seem happy, poor things. I suppose they know nothing else and expect no more of life.

There are all kinds of buck and baboons, monkeys and porcupines. They do lots of damage to the maize and the lather in the kitchen garden. There are also a number of snakes and leopards. We had a most exciting leopard hunt on the farm last week. It took 5½ hours of tracking him through undergrowth before they could get a shot at him. But he proved his own undoing by springing at a boy. He was a splendid beast, and the calf he carried off the previous evening was twice as large as himself, so it just shows their strength. It was thrilling when they brought him home, carried on a pole. They were singing a weird chant and doing a slow dance. The boy who was nearest to him when he was shot was wearing a piece of blanket round his shoulders, carrying a large knife, and on his head was an opera hat. Can you picture anything so ridiculous? I took some snaps, but unfortunately it was so dull that they were no use.

Well, I am afraid I must stop now, as I am very busy and I see a boy wanting a cut tied up afresh. He came to me yesterday with the blood streaming from a big gash in his thumb and told me he had "cutta nyama"—cut meat. We have to dose them for all their sicknesses and their favourite medicine is paraffin and milk, which certainly seems to do them a marvellous amount of good in cases of cold, flu, etc., and Epsom salts is another favourite. If it tastes they think it's good, but fancy that what they believe to be a tasteless medicine can't be of any use.

From Miss M. Howes (4800), Box 6, Lumbwa, Kenya Colony.

I have only recently heard about the Old Comrades' Association, and Miss Nora Mitchell send me some of the copies of the Gazette to read. I was delighted to have them, and promptly asked her if I could join.

I have no idea what information it is necessary for me to send, but I was a gardener working in the cemetery, and quartered at Camp 1, Etaples. Previous to that I was at Tweezledown Camp, Crookham, Hants.

I am so anxious to become a member, and should like to know if there are any more members out here, as it is a very lonely life. My work out here is children's nursing, and at the moment I've a babe of less than three weeks, hence my hurried, and I'm afraid muddled, letter.

I have met and stayed in Nairobi with Mrs. Delaney. She was Sister Scott, of the Medical Hut, Camp 1.

My regrets are many that I have not known before about the Association, and I am anxiously awaiting a reply.

Wishing the Association a long life, and good luck to all its members.

FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION AND PROMPT ACTION, PLEASE.

Will those members who have not yet renewed their Subscriptions for 1930, please double up.

MARRIAGE.

Bartlett—Warskitt.—On August 23rd, 1930, at St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall, Kent, by the Rev. A. Archer, Edgar Alfred, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bartlett, The Greys, Eastbourne, to Helen Herbert, daughter of the late Herbert Charles Warskitt and Mrs. H. W. Allcock, The Grove, Ilkley, late of Newcastle. The present address of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bartlett is the Kent Farm Institute, Borden Sittingbourne, Kent.

BIRTH.

Buckingham.—On September 24th, 1930, to Mr. and Mrs. Buckingham (nee D. Towner), a son. Present address, 9709-111 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

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, 106 W74th Street, New York City, U.S.A.

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 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.

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.
Brighton.	Miss H. A. Baron, 25 Wellington Road, Brighton, Sussex.		On last Wednesday in the month; 7.15—10.15.
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. C. 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.	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Golders Green.	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10.	Winchfield, Shirehall Lane, Golders Green Road (nearest bus stop Brent Bridge). Telephone: Hendon 1925.	First Tuesday of each month; 7.30—10 p.m.
Ilford.	Miss M. V. Druitt, 74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.	122 Cranbrook Road, Ilford. (Telephone Ilford 0058).	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.	Members notified individually.
Norfolk.	Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 32 Grove Road, Norwich.	Interviews at British Legion, N.E. Area Offices, 10 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.	Monthly. Members notified individually.
North Staffs.	Mrs. E. Stretton 10 Sparrow Terrace, Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent.	No permanent room fixed.	
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