

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

APRIL, 1931. Vol XIII., No. 9.

3/6 per annum, post free.

NOTICE.

The Annual Q.M.A.A.C. Dinner, for Officers who served with the British Armies in France, will be held at the Hotel Belgravia, Grosvenor Gardens, Victoria, S.W.1, on Saturday, June 6th, 1931, at 7.15 p.m. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., will preside. Tickets, price 7/., should be obtained as soon as possible from Mrs. A. E. B. Johnston, M.B.E., H.I. Queen Alexandra's Court, Wimbledon, S.W.19. When applying kindly state Area in which you last served.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT.

A meeting of the Council was held at 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W., on Tuesday, March 24th, 1931. The meeting was presided over by Miss Blanche Ireland in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman—Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan.

Clothing.—The cupboards are deplorably empty in spite of the many parcels received—there seems to be very little else in the cupboards than small woollies for babies. It must be due to the almost constant unemployment of so many up north and in Wales that the demands on our supplies are so heavy. Members who have not applied for five years and more are now writing to us for "anything, no matter how old." We do our utmost to supply their various needs but it is not at all easy!

We have received most useful parcels from the following good friends: Norfolk Branch (2), Miss McKnight, Miss McCarthy-Jones (2), Miss Passmore, anonymous, and Miss F. M. Sampson.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR APRIL.

London.

A lovely day greeted the party of ramblers who turned out to ramble to Ashstead on the 22nd of March. The party met at Waterloo and decided to go straight to Ashstead by train and ramble round Leatherhead. On arriving at Ashstead we made straight for the woods where, after selecting a spot marked "Private," we parked ourselves for lunch. We sat there for an hour eating and chatting. After lunch photos were taken and we started to tramp again. About 4 o'clock we duly presented ourselves at "Maromme," the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hall-Callow. There we found our host and hostess awaiting us. A good wash and brush up made us feel quite refreshed and soon we were laughing and talking about the never, never failing subject—the good or bad old service days. Mr. Callow preferred to be a useful member of the party and got the tea ready—husbands are useful sometimes—thus allowing Mrs.

Callow to compete with the "talkie" stars. After tea there was music and a spot of singing in the drawing-room. Then supper and a nice walk to the station to catch the nine-something train finished our very enjoyable Sunday outing.

The Social held on the 5th of March was a howling success so to speak. It was a "Surprise Night" on the cards and many surprises came our way. The various entertainments which had been arranged in secret by a few members kept us amused and well occupied the whole evening. Mrs. Powell drew forth articles from what seemed impossible places, and did other tricks which made us hold our breath. The Misses Fluister and Roberts gave a Coster turn which brought down the roof with applause. They obliged with an encore and Miss Longman their tutor and pianist was real proud of them. They responded to a direct appeal for talent and as pioneers were a great success. I hope we shall hear them again and I also expect to receive a few more entries for the next entertainment now that Fluister and Roberts have shown the way. Old choruses and songs were lustily sung by the company during intervals and altogether it was a very enjoyable and original evening. We were all pleased to greet those new members who turned up for the first time.

Coming Events.—A Whist Drive will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Thursday, 30th April. Each player will pay 1s., and three cash prizes will be given. Members may bring along friends to the Whist Drive.

Sunday Trip to Bournemouth.—I hope to arrange a trip to Bournemouth for Sunday, 26th April. Members wishing to join the party should write and get particulars as the arrangements are not complete at present. If possible, tea will be arranged at Mrs. Stocker's house and perhaps Bournemouth Branch will look us up, or arrange to meet us should the trip come off. The fare is 6s. 6d., and the trip should not cost more than 10s.

Dinner and Dance.—A very special event this, and one that should be well supported by all the members of the Branch and particularly those who voted at the General Meeting for a social function of this kind. The Dance will be held in the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, W.C.1, on Saturday, 9th May. We are looking forward to greeting a large number of husbands at this Dance, so married members see that they don't back out at the last moment. Price of the Ticket, including Dinner, is 5s. Evening dress optional. Please send stamped addressed envelopes for tickets as early as possible.

A Week-End at Camp.—A week-end at Camp for the Whitsun Holiday will be arranged if possible. Will

members who are thinking of booking write immediately. as arrangements must be made some time ahead.

Tattoo.—The same also applies to the Tattoo arrangements. This year there will be one coach only so please send early for tickets.

Our Competition for the Funds.—The total brought forward, £2 0s. 6d.; Mrs. Callow, 10s.; total to date, £2 10s. 6d. Mrs. Callow made her 10s. by raffle a few odd ends amongst the rambles she entertained on the 2nd of March.

The Subscriptions are not coming quick enough. Hurry up or a reminder will pop out of an envelope one morning when you open your mail.

R. S. ANDREWS.

Brighton.

Sunday, April 19th.—Primrosing ramble. By train, Brighton Central, 2.10 (London Road a few minutes later). Cheap ticket (2s. 5d.) to Buxted, arrive 3 p.m. Please verify train. We propose to wander through the lanes round about, where we know there are lots of primroses. Bring picnic tea.

H. A. BARON.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

With the coming of spring the lectures and whist drives in the club are over and our thoughts naturally turn to the hut at Gourcock. Having more than paid our way each summer we feel there is nothing in the way of taking it again, and in order to ascertain the mind of the Branch a General Meeting was held at the club on March 11th, when it was unanimously agreed to rent it for the months May to September inclusive. Mrs. Holmes is ready to receive us with open arms and already booking is brisk. Any ex-Waac with a party of friends may take the hut, which holds eight to ten people. The charges are the same as formerly, and Miss Jaffrey, 388 Great Western Road, has again agreed to be secretary. All applications should be made to her.

Sick Children's Hospital.—

A whist drive in aid of the above was held at the club on Saturday, March 21st, organised by Miss E. C. Smith. This was well attended, and after paying expenses about £5 was handed over.

E. M. GILCHRIST.

Leeds.

A whist drive and dance was held at Messrs. Ward's Cafe, Leeds, on Tuesday, March 10th. It was a very happy and enjoyable evening with an excellent band in attendance. We regret that more did not turn up, but it was such a wretched night that it was only to be expected that only our hardest friends would turn out. The whist prizes were excellent, and we take this opportunity of thanking the donors. They were much appreciated.

Miss Mair will be glad to receive subscriptions. Gazette subscriptions should be sent direct to headquarters.

A. ANNIKIN.

Norfolk.

Our branch held its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 12th, at 122a Thorpe Road, Norwich, the Misses Newberry and Prothero being our hostesses. Quite a good number were able to be present in spite of the cold spell, and all enjoyed the dinner prepared for us. A jolly evening was spent around the fire, ending with the usual scramble and hurried good-byes in our rush to catch the last trains and 'buses. Our thanks to our hostesses for a very happy evening.

A parcel has been despatched to London this month from the Branch.

Members will be notified by post the date of our next meeting in April, as arrangements have yet to be made at time of writing Gazette notes.

L. W. CHILVERS.

Manchester.

All seem quite used to our new meeting-place. Last month Miss Stephenson ran a successful whist drive. This month Mrs. Hearn was hostess and a very pleasant evening was spent. Mr. Thomas kindly acted as M.C. We

were pleased to have Mrs. Robinson with us. Miss Matley is now able to visit us more often; she has brought a nice parcel of children's clothes for the needy ones. We miss Miss Stephenson and hope she will soon be quite well again. The general cry is "Where's Stevie?" We have lost Mrs. Barnes, she having gone to live near Blackpool. We wish her all kinds of luck and hope to pay her a visit. The Hut is in order so come along and book your dates.

Subscriptions are slow in coming in.

Can you find a new member or one who has forgotten us for a while, please?

V. STEAR.

Edinburgh and East of Scotland.

Entertainment to Disabled Soldiers.—On Saturday afternoon, 21st February, the W.R.A.F.O.C.A. joined us in entertaining the disabled men from Lady Haig's Poppy Factory. The men arrived early in the afternoon, and after being entertained to tea, a delightful musical programme was carried out. Lady Haig wishes to thank all those who contributed to the party, and helped to give the men such a very happy time.

Visit to North Berwick.—The Misses Turnbull and Finlay once again extended an invitation to the members of the Branch to an evening party at their home at "Bon Accord," North Berwick, and also to stay overnight, on March 21st. Seventeen members of the Branch motored to North Berwick, where a very enjoyable and happy time was spent.

Cake and Candy Sale.—At a meeting of the Committee held last month, it was decided to assist Headquarters General Fund by having a Cake and Candy Sale. The date has been fixed for Saturday afternoon, 9th May, from 3 to 6 p.m. The Sale will be opened by Miss Alice Low, O.B.E., and it is hoped that members and friends will come along in large numbers and help to swell our efforts to assist Headquarters. The Secretary will be glad to receive gifts for the Sale, and same should be sent to her at 12 Drumsheugh Gardens.

THE PRINCE IN VALPARAISO.

I thought you would perhaps like to hear about the Princes' visit to Chile. Although Prince George came with the Prince of Wales, when he was in Valparaiso the people here rather overlooked him in that they always referred to Him (the Prince of Wales) it was a case of—have you seen Him? However, they had a wonderful time and would have liked to have stayed longer I am sure. It is just as well they didn't or there would have been no Prince of Wales left.

They arrived in Santiago a fortnight yesterday and flew to Valparaiso a week last Monday. I shall never forget their arrival in Valparaiso; had they been making a spectacular film they could not have staged it better. He was due to arrive here at 6.40 p.m. (I am afraid I am as bad as the others in referring just to the Prince). There were thousands of people waiting at the quay; I was rather optimistic and was one of the crowd waiting with a camera. The strange part was we were all crowded together and did know in which direction to look for him, as he was flying. It was after 7 p.m. and I was anxiously looking at the light, thinking of my pictures, when there was a murmur in the crowd and all eyes were focussed over the hills. It was really a wonderful sight and worthy of the Aldershot Tattoo. Just picture a lovely bay with wooded hills at the back, the sun just setting, and seven large birds flying over the treetops! They came in beautiful formation, the Prince's airplane in the centre and the other machines on either side in graceful formation, the sun shining on the machines making them appear as gold. They circled round the bay and Valparaiso, the guns at the Naval School at the quay gave the salute, and then the Prince's machine swooped away on its own and the others seemed to drift into space. The Princes' machine then flew round and round Valparaiso and came very low at times, much to the joy of the people, then gracefully skimmed the water to the quay. It made me feel very proud at

that moment. There was one Englishman in the crowd who had previously wangled me to the front of the rope barrier so that I might take a picture; in his excitement he turned to me and said, "this is a moment when I feel proud I am a Britsher"! You can imagine how impressed he was, for an Englishman does not usually express his feelings in this way. The crowd then got rather restless and started pushing, and it looked as if the Prince would be mobbed. I managed to push my way to an island at the corner of the street and in doing so had to get out of the way of a car that was trying to make its way through the crowd, and much to my surprise, on looking at the car, I saw the two Princes sitting at the back looking like two young boys. I got rather excited and waved and cheered, and they waved back. It was rather a clever move on the part of the authorities. The crowd were waiting for a procession and a magnificent car to come along; instead of that the Princes must have been put in a car immediately on arrival (a very shabby car too: it looked like an old taxi!) so they went through the people unmolested and were not recognised until they had got almost through, although they were in an open car without an escort. Immediately afterwards the crowd broke down all barriers and it was just as well the Princes were through; they are not like an English crowd, they care nothing for a policeman. It sounds rather unlike the Prince of Wales to make an entry like this, but he evidently knew his people, at least, I should say the Latin people. You have no idea the friendly spirit created by such a spectacular entry. The English were the best people in the World just then. He spent a week in Valparaiso and went amongst the people all the time, much to their gratification. He played Polo every day, and every night he danced and played at the Casino, and attended all sorts of functions where the public were admitted. He has done a great deal of good for England in cementing our friendship with the Chilians, which in these days is splendid, for we are gradually being pushed out of the Chilian market by the Americans. I went to see him play Polo one day and had a good opportunity of seeing him; there were not many people there that day and, as usual, he mixed with everybody. I enclose a snap I took of him. Just as I was taking it he saw me and posed for me, but I had already pressed the button and it was my last film. However, it is quite good, the other man in the picture is Lord Ednam. A week yesterday, about 6.30 p.m., the airplanes came back to fetch him and from my office window I saw him go out in a little boat, get into his airplane and fly away.

On the Wednesday the British Colony officially met at the quay, and after the Prince had visited part of the Chilian Navy, which was in port, he walked round the British Colony and was presented to various people. We had been waiting two hours in a very hot sun, but it was worth it.

On his way to Buenos Aires he went through the South of Chile and of course the people were looking out for him all the way. At a little place called Temuco, the people knew he was to pass through there at a certain time but did not know whether he was flying or coming by train. It was then verified that he was coming by train and would stop at Temuco Station for ten minutes. Of course, all the people decided to wait at the Station, the Mayor was there, Legion men, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, all the English Colony, and of course crowds of notable Chilians. When the train arrived much to their dismay they were informed that the Princes were in bed, fast asleep. However, after a little wangling the Prince was wakened and informed of the reception, and he good naturedly got up and dressed and in ten minutes was on the platform of his sleeping car greeting the people. That impressed them greatly.

There was one tragic accident in connection with the Prince's visit. Last Sunday he was passing through one of the Lakes in the mountains, and at one little place they had arranged a dinner for him. A Military Band played for him, and when the Band was going home in a boat, their boat crashed into another boat and twelve of

the members of the Band were drowned, one man had his head cut right off. There were 13 in the band and only one saved, so you can imagine how superstition runs.

D. V. WILLIAMS.

BRITISH LEGION BATTLEFIELD TOURS.

The Metropolitan Area's Party (limited to 1,000) will leave London (Victoria Station) on Sunday, August 2nd, and travel by the short sea route, Dover-Calais, to Arras, where they will be received by the Mayor and President of the Committee of Old Soldiers. On the following day one train-full will proceed to Ypres and thence on to the little station of Kruiskalsijde in the Salient, from which the tourists will be able to visit Sanctuary Wood, where, by the courtesy of the owner, they can see the best remaining examples of the trenches, and defensive positions, as they really were in the Great War, and many other interesting spots also in close proximity. The remainder of the party will have the day for visiting places in the Arras, Albert and Somme Sector. On the Tuesday the other train load will make the journey into Belgium, and those who have been to that part the day before will have this day for arrangements from Arras. There will, of course, be the usual facilities for individual visits to Cemeteries, as in previous years. On Wednesday morning the whole party will go to Paris, where a fitting ceremony, under the auspices of the F.I.D.A.C., will take place at the grave of the Unknown Warrior, under the Arc de Triomphe. Charabancs will take the tourists to lunch and afterwards will convey them to places of interest in Paris, such as the Tomb of Napoleon, the Pantheon, the Cathedral of Notre Dame, etc., eventually setting them down at the big exhibition being held on the outskirts of Paris this year. The party that evening will dine in the exhibition, and will subsequently be conveyed to the Gare du Nord to entrain for Calais, where they will embark for home in the early hours of Thursday morning. The fare, including the conducted tours in Paris, and the entrance fees to exhibition, etc., will be £4 7s. 6d. Arrangements are being made for tourists joining this party from provincial towns to obtain the usual cheap return tickets from their home stations to London. Registration forms, and any further particulars, may be obtained from branch secretaries of the Legion in the Metropolitan Area, or from Captain Kingdon, Honorary Tour Organiser, 9 Upper Belgrave Street, S.W.1.

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Arrangements are now complete for receiving applications and bookings of the party. The period will be for one week, from August 1st, 1931, to August 8th, 1931, and the charge will include return rail fares and hotel accommodation in Arras. Trips will be made to various sections of the battlefields, such as Ypres, Vimy Ridge, Lens, La Bassée, Armentières, Beaucourt, and the Somme Area, and facilities will be available to visit any particular cemetery. A day excursion will also be made to Paris, which will include a motor trip round the principal places of interest. Payments can be made weekly or monthly where desired, and a deposit will ensure acceptance. Early registration is desirable so that the necessary arrangements for berths on the boat and hotel accommodation can be made. Full particulars may be had on request, and any information supplied on application to the Secretary, "Arras Tour," 1 Carlton Hill, Leeds.

TOOK HOCKEY GIRLS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

Miss Edith Thompson, C.B.E., Conducted English and Scottish Teams.

Warm welcome back to Canada did not wait until the arrival of Miss Edith Thompson, C.B.E., who is here as organiser of the tour which twelve headmistresses of British schools are to make shortly, for the news that she was coming brought her a cablegram of greeting from the Ex-Service Women's Club of Montreal, signed

by the president, Mrs. David Reid. Interviewed yesterday, Miss Thompson's first word was one of delight at this gesture of comradeship from women who had been war-time associates of hers.

During the war, Miss Thompson was controller of inspection of the "Waacs"—Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. Asked whether she knew Dame Rachel Crowdy, D.B.E., who was Principal Commandant of the V.A.D.'s in France and Belgium from 1914 to 1919, and who is to visit Montreal shortly, Miss Thompson said Dame Rachel's sister, Miss Edith Crowdy, had the opposite number to hers in the "Wrens," and that they had marched side by side in the Armistice procession in London. Another sister of Dame Rachel, Miss C. Crowdy, has just been appointed secretary to the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Philip Game.

This will not be Miss Thompson's first experience at conducting a tour across Canada, for in 1928 she was in charge, with Miss Stewart Galt, who is again associated with her, of the party of British school girls which visited the principal cities of the Dominion.

Last year, Miss Thompson recalled, she conducted 60 young women who were taking part in the Empire hockey tournament to South Africa. These were the England and Scotland teams and they sailed on the same ship. They arrived at Cape Town just two hours after the Australian girls from Freemantle, and all went ashore together. They had a tour of South Africa during their visit, and the final event was the marriage of one of the South African players at Cape Town, when the girls formed a guard of honour and the bridal pair walked under an arch formed by the crossed hockey sticks of the four Empire teams.

England won the Empire tournament, Miss Thompson said. Everywhere that the Scottish girls had a match on, there were pipers to play them on to the field, a distinction that was the envy and admiration of the rest.

The item in "Who's Who" concerning Miss Thompson notes that she was educated at Cheltenham College and at King's College University of London, and mentions her as a member of Aldeburgh Town Council; member of the Council of Bedford College, University of London, and president of the All England Women's Hockey Association. Her home is at Aldeburgh, Suffolk. —From "The Gazette," Montreal, Friday, March 6th.

BRITISH HEADMISTRESSES TO TOUR CANADA.

Arrangements have been completed by a Special Committee under Mrs. L. S. Amery's Chairmanship, for a party of twelve British headmistresses to make a tour of Canada starting from England on March 27th. The object of the tour is to bring the Heads of schools into personal contact with the life of the Universities in Canada, and the party will examine, in consultation with Educational Authorities in the Dominion, the question of girls from the Secondary Schools in Great Britain taking their University courses over there and thus entering at an early stage into the life of Canada. The party, which will be under the leadership of Miss Edith Thompson, C.B.E., and accompanied by Dame Meriel Talbot, is a thoroughly representative one, including as it does the headmistresses of such diverse types of schools as Cheltenham; King Edward's High School, Birmingham; the North London Collegiate School; Christ's Hospital; the Edinburgh Ladies' College; two of the L.C.C. secondary education schools; two of the Girls' Public Day School Trust; Manchester High School; St. Leonard's, St. Andrew's; Queen Mary, Liverpool; County Secondary School, Streatham; Croydon High School; County Secondary School, Sydenham; and the Stafford Girls' High School.

The idea of such a tour first took shape from a suggestion of the Headmistresses' Association in England for a visit on the lines of a Headmasters' Tour last year; the Association being anxious that a representative body of their members should study, at first hand, the educational system of Canada, which in many ways is very different from our own; and also the social life of girl

students in the Dominion, and the possibility of after careers for our girls so that on their return home from the tour the Headmistresses will be in a position to give the most reliable advice both to girls and to their parents.

The organisation of the tour has been in the hands of a non-official committee, consisting of Mrs. Amery (Chairman), the Duchess of Atholl, M.P., Dr. Brock, Litt.D., Mrs. Howard Ferguson, the Viscountess Harcourt, G.B.E., Miss E. Addison Phillips, M.A. (President, Headmistresses Association), Mrs. E. D. Simon, Miss Edith Thompson, C.B.E., Lady Trevelyan, and Miss Margaret Wrong, M.A., with Miss Gladys Pott and Dame Meriel Talbot, D.B.E., as Joint Secretaries. The Committee, in selecting the personnel of the party and in making its arrangements, has kept in view the dominant idea which is, through personal contact with colleagues and educationists in the Dominion, to acquire an enduring experience of the opportunities Canada has to offer to British girls in the Universities of the Dominion and in the professions.

Miss Thompson sailed for Canada on February 20th to meet her vis-a-vis there, Miss Stewart Galt, of Toronto, and in conjunction with Miss Galt, to arrange the details of the itinerary and to prepare the ground before the arrival of the party. The Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railways have offered the same measure of generous co-operation as on the occasion of last year's visit of the British schoolmasters. It is, perhaps, of good augury that the Headmistresses will sail by the Duchess of Bedford, the steamer by which the Headmasters sailed last year, and that they sail practically on the anniversary of the day on which the headmasters started.

It is proposed to visit the following Universities:—Dalhousie, Nova Scotia; Fredericton University, New Brunswick; Laval, Quebec; McGill University, Montreal; Queen's, Kingston, Ontario; Toronto University; Manitoba University, Winnipeg; Saskatchewan University, Saskatoon; Alberta University, Edmonton; and British Columbia University, Vancouver.

The party is expected to return to England about the middle of May.—"The Overseas Settler."

SHANGHAI CAMP.

The Committee are glad to let Old Comrades know that Shanghai will be open by the time this goes to print and that they are ready to welcome both old and new friends.

There is now an electric train service from Waterloo with trains every half-hour, it is only about 45 minutes' run to Datchet; there is also a half-hourly 'bus service from Oxford Circus—this run takes a little longer than the train but is a pleasant ride, via Shepherd's Bush and Hounslow, through Staines to the "Bells of Ousley" or Old Windsor, either being within easy walking distance of the Camp. If any member wishes to have times of trains and 'buses I shall be pleased to send them on.

A number of bookings have already been received, and we hope that Old Comrades will help us to make it a very successful season.

G. LEWIS, Hon. Secretary.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Mrs. A. Peppin (Lillian Andrews) has recently re-discovered an old Gazette of 1925 which was sent out to her while she was in Canada. She has now returned to this country and is living at 2 Brook Cottage, Crick, near Chestow, Mon., and wishes to "join up" again. Mrs. Peppin was formerly at Bovington Camp, Wool, Dorset, where she was Forewoman at the Headquarters Mess. She writes that she has been elected Standard Bearer of the Caerwent Branch of the British Legion—Women's Branch—and that their banner is to be dedicated on Palm Sunday. Mrs. Peppin hopes to be able to attend the Cardiff Branch meetings of the O.C.A. sometimes.

Mrs. Dorothy M. Ashton (Hastings, 1631), has also just found the address of the O.C.A. and is anxious to know if

we still exist. Information as to our well-being is being sent to her at once! She is now living at 204 Hoover Hall, 5042—12th Avenue, N.E., Seattle, Wash., U.S.A., and is keen to get in touch with her "Old Comrades of 1917-18-19." Mrs. Ashton served in Camps 2 and 3 at Abbeville, and also at Huchennville, and particularly wants news of **Jean Dobie**, **Peggy Keir**, **Marjorie Gardner**, all of Camp III, Abbeville, and of "**Bob**" **Lee** and "**Billy**" **Bailey**, of Huchennville. She would be very glad to hear of any members who remember her and also wishes to know if any ex-W.A.A.C.s are living in the U.S.A.

Mrs. P. Freedling (Nora Baynes, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Vendroux), 317 W. Hanna Street, Tampa, Florida, U.S.A., writes:—"Writing this letter is something I have intended doing for a long, long time. As an ex-W.A.A.C. I get very lonely for old friends and England. While I lived in Toronto, Canada, I had several friends of Vendroux days to talk over old times with, but here, as far as I know, there are no other ex-Service women. While visiting Toronto some time ago, I got your address from Mrs. B. Spencer, formerly Evelyn Mansfield, of Vendroux. I am writing to find out how to go about receiving the Gazette and get in touch with any of the old-timers who remember Nora Baynes, of Queen Elizabeth Camp, Vendroux. I am now married, the mother of two small boys, who keep me very busy, but not too busy to remember old days and to long to see old friends and the old country again. This is a climate famed far and wide for sunshine, but a London fog would look wonderful to me—maybe I'll see one again, who knows?"

Mrs. M. Simmons (Mussell), Sunger Kari Estate, P.O., Galong, E.C. Sumatra, is sailing on July 18th next for England, on leave, and says she is already excited at the prospect of being able to attend the next Annual Dinner.

Mrs. Marjorie K. Hay (F/w Edwards, Calais, and A.A., Bulford Camp), has been home on short leave from the Malay States, and was very sorry that she was unable to arrive in time to attend the last Annual Dinner. Mrs. Hay would like news of (Forewoman) **G. Ironside**, Queen Mary Camp, Calais, and of (Forewoman) **Fall**, also Queen Mary Camp. She is shortly returning to the F.M.S., and her new address is The Residency, Perlis, Malay States.

We regret to learn of the death of one of our members—**Mrs. Roper**. As **Edith Hird** she was forewoman cook at Weedon. She had been ill for some time and died on March 15th at Hull, and was buried at Sittingbourne, her home town. She leaves a husband and little daughter of three years. We would extend the sympathy of her Old Comrades to her husband and to her sister, Mrs. E. Hollands.

Mrs. Duncan (nee **Wells**, W. Hartlepool and York), joined her husband at Bombay last November, having remained at home in Ireland for a time with their son. She writes (Feb. 19th): "We went off on six weeks' leave and visited several of the States in Rajputana, which are teeming with historical interests. The country is lovely, all green and wooded, a very different type from our barren hillsides up here on the frontier (Kohat, North-West Frontier Province). We have settled down here until we sail for England on April 23rd. We could not get a bungalow so have quite comfy quarters in "Army Mansions," a complete rest for me from the eternal problem of food! You will remember that Kohat is where I first came out to my brother some eight years ago. It isn't nearly so cheery as in those days. Club life is practically dead; very few ever go there now; they remain in their bungalows in the evenings and one visits them instead of going to the Club. Personally, I think this will develop into a much narrower life and will not tend to promote the friendliness which has always existed in life out here. Kohat itself has changed, too. These mansions had only their foundations laid when I left. The Air Force have put up wonderful flats for their people and many bungalows have arisen. Kohat is surrounded by barbed wire entanglements; there are large gates on every road leading out of it which are closed at sunset, and police patrol all roads night and day, at night with rifles. Women are not allowed beyond a mile outside each gate by day, unless

accompanied by a man, and are not supposed to be out alone after sunset unaccompanied. Everything is quite peaceful round about but we have most elaborate schemes for turning the columns out at sudden notice, and great alarms are sent forth at any hour of the day or night. When the former happens, we say good-bye to the husbands, expecting them back when we see them; it may be only for some hours or it may for three or four days. Last week we were hauled out of bed at 2 a.m. for this stunt. I got up and packed the valise while my husband got into his uniform. When the alarm goes, the whole of Kohat is astir, everyone rushing to their lines in cars, tongas or bicycles, or horses—just one continuous stream on the road for a short while. The women stay in their bungalows. In any case, when it comes to the real show, both B.O. and Sepoy will be found ready. No one knows what this hot weather will bring forth. I think a lot depends on what Gandhi will settle with the Viceroy. Last hot weather our battalion was in most of the "shows," and I had a very anxious time at home, as you can imagine."

EX-SERVICE WOMEN'S CLUB.

Members, or prospective members, of the Ex-Service Women's Club, are advised that the House Committee have decided to set aside certain accommodation for the use of members on a more permanent basis than has hitherto been considered advisable. The accommodation will be assured for not less than three months, on a weekly basis. The rates will remain the same, namely:—

3-bedded room (3/6 per night), 24/6 per week.

2-bedded room (4/- per night), 28/- per week.

Single room (5/6 per night), 38/6 per week.

Applications should be sent to the Secretary stating the approximate date members would like to be received.

The Committee are anxious that the above arrangement should be considered in the light of a temporary measure only, as it is essential that the facilities and privileges under which members have joined should not in any way be restricted and that short period accommodation in emergency should always be available as hitherto.

H. M. HARVEY, Secretary.

5 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1.

THE ROAMERS.

Please make a note of the date of the Roamers' Concert in aid of the London Branch funds. Tickets: Reserved, 2/6; unreserved, 1/3. Wednesday, 29th April, 1931, commencing 7.30, at the Q.V.R. Drill Hall, 56 Davies Street, W.1. D. W. TAYLOR.

RE-CALLING WHIT-WEEK, 1918.

Twelve months ago I was holidaying in the Midlands, and this particular day was being spent shop-gazing in Birmingham. Tea-time came, and we (my sister and I) hied to Prince's Cafe to satisfy our hunger and thirst! After getting comfortably settled at a table, my eyes fell on one of the waitresses who I felt immediately I ought to know. After watching her for some moments, it came to me that the same face went with me to France in the days that were gone. I beckoned to her, therefore, and said, "Excuse me, but is your name Emily Tew?" She said, "Yes." I said, "Well, do you remember that crossing to France in Whit-week, 1918?" She answered, "Rather." She then remembered me, and in the next 20 minutes or so we crowded as much chat as only Waacs could do. I was never in camp with Emily, but were at Folkestone together and were in the same draft for France. It was a bad crossing, and at one time, Emily and I, if I remember right, were the only two girls left on deck. All the other girls were below prostrate! We were at Etaples for a day or two, then I went to Abbeville, and Emily, I don't know where she went, I forgot to ask her when I saw her in Birmingham. She did not belong to the O.C.A. then, but I hope you did join, and that you now have the Gazette, Emily, and that this short contribu-

tion will catch your eye. (You see, I am assuming that it will be accepted for publication).

I think Burchie's "I wonder—" made good reading (mine won't), and I do hope we shall see lots more of these romantic Re-unions in print in the Gazette.

Ex-Wkr. LEA,

1373, Women's Legion.

17811, Q.M.A.A.C.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Miss Buckingham, Yokohama.

DEAR COMRADES,

Having just wished you a Happy New Year, I am sure you will be frozen indoors, wishing that annual dinners would last for ever, and wondering what to do next. So turn up the light, put on your old slippers that won't crack with the heat, put your toes in the fender and listen to me. Once upon a time a ship named Rawalpindi, of 16,000 odd tonnage, left George V. Dock, North Woolwich, but it must have been years and years ago that she called at and left Southampton, when it became a question of "Sea, sea, sea, Oh why are you angry with me, etc." The weird part about it is that one never knows when the sea will be angry. You may make up your mind that you will get it at a certain place and be stricken down even before you have unpacked your belongings, or you may heave a sigh of relief just a little bit too soon, "Ah, now she won't get it at all," to get it worse than ever at the very next turn. But on this occasion we got it in the Bay of Biscay, for a whole day and night we wished ourselves somewhere else, and it took another half day for people to revive, and then the mothers (they were nearly all mothers) started to *dhoby. We passed Gibraltar one afternoon close enough to see where the rock had been smoothed out or over to lead the water into the reservoir in the rocks below, and soon we reached Marseilles, and as the powers that be in London had decreed that no leave should be granted to the pursers department at intermediate ports, we were feeling very fed up with ourselves even at this early stage. Then the order went forth—"Turn into whites"—and we set sail again for Port Said and the Suez Canal, but the canal has lost its old charm and gained a new one. We went through in the evening, and it is wonderful how they have widened it, but even now two vessels cannot pass. Electric lights twinkled at us from the new city, and almost all the way along, and we could see the railway station for Calais and Dieppe quite clearly, and it was warm. We called at Suez and then Aden, and all the time it was too hot for words and, still in stages of undress, the mothers dhobyed, and had we any such exalted notion that we would wash our faces or clean our teeth at a certain basin—well, we soon came away disillusioned, and then we reached Bombay. Well, some may dream of India and Rajahs and jewels, elephants, lions and tigers, and ivory, but we only knew that those people going ashore, in spite of restaurants, would turn up at the next meal. And after all it was the same old two to four when sensible people took off their sticky clothes, got on their berths, turned the fan on oneself and went to sleep, and as we had gone off tea and coffee, to be called by Topas with a cup of hot water. And so tired and weary with rings under our eyes and, in my case, lids half shut from mental stagnation, we set sail for Columbo, and still my cabin mates chumped and chumped, and I had to cling on to the rails with both hands to get myself up to the companion, and then we reached Columbo, where it was a few degrees cooler and teaming in torrents of rain. This was a great disappointment to the passengers, as they had been building on a good time there, which had to be reduced to a ride in a closed car. At Penang I was given a mangastan that one of the passengers had bought ashore, and I never saw a prettier fruit; also I liked it, which was the main point, but I had ambitions of turning it into a powder bowl—it was such a pretty red colour with four little pale green leaves; one eats the pale bit in the middle inside. It was raining again at Singapore

* Dhoby—wash.

in heavy showers, and now I had only six ladies left. It is considered nice ashore in these places if you get outside the towns. Leaving Singapore, we ran into bad weather, and D deck with ports closed and people down, was like a furnace, and feeling that I must have air or go crazy, I ran up on deck. There was an effect of sunlight, although the sun could not be seen. The water was of a blue-grey reflection, and huge waves played such a game with her that the steamer's main intention seemed to be to take us on a fishing expedition to the bottom of the sea, but she mounted the next wave and the old game of sea-saw continued. But it wasn't till later I discovered that salt spray and a strong wind are not too good for the complexion. Next day wind-driven rain made decks unbearable, and drove everybody inside to pack up as best they could for Hong-Kong. But by now I was taking a fresh interest in life, whether as a result of cool weather, or the sight of a curio man I don't know; and the children had given over trying to make up their minds what they wanted to eat and decide they didn't want anything at all. We were four days reaching Shanghai and then commenced an interesting time. John came down to our cabin. "You buy vase, Missie, copper underneath this enamel wire," but what part the wire plays I don't know. The vases were certainly lovely. I decided to go on deck, and walked straight into a paradise of brass tables, sagured tables and vases and bowls. Then the cobbler came to our cabin; yes, he would make me a pair of canvas shoes with a leather sole and heel for six shillings, and as my white uniform, ordered at home, had failed to reach me, the tailor took my measurements and said he would make me two white cotton dresses for eight shillings each by the time we return to Shanghai. So that solved the uniform problem. All day long, first one merchant and then another, visited the cabin. The next morning canaries were singing aboard ship, and John had, all unbeknown to officialdom, laid out Sagur powder boxes and photo frames just outside our cabin door. But second, Topside. What did Topas mean? I went up on deck. I had never even dreamt of the Northern Passage, and here we were in the Aegean Sea—all peaks, points, inlets and islets, ridge behind ridge; not a flat bit of land anywhere, blue sea and sunshine and the sails of yaws. "And now I come to see it again I really believe it is prettier than Scotland," came from a passenger. Of course, it isn't came from another—well, well. Getting nearer Kobe were more signs of habitation on the hillsides—bush cleared and plots cultivated in ridges, each plot a little higher than the other. A guany here a bay full of little boats there, larger settlements with their grave yards. November 14th, at 6.30 a.m., they raked us all out for medical inspection. So this is Kobe—sunrise, mist and sails. We went ashore in the evening along the Monocmachi to hear the click-clack of Japanese sandals and admire the old-fashioned hairdressing now dying out. But, I wonder, will they really give up their charcoal for those new electric rings? Yes, the shops are full of Western modern things, and there are buses and trams and motor-cars, but along the Monocmachi—and here you can buy Satsuma ware, so fine is the painting on this thick pottery that the work is done with rats' whiskers—and here we are in Yokohama. The best shopping dory is Benton Dory. And they serve a nice cup of tea at the Fugiya in Theatre Street on dory. They bring it in the cup with a toy jug of cream—just the right quantity—but they don't understand buttered toast. Soft underdone and flat on the plate, it is accompanied with hard balls of butter. Jap food we dare not attempt, and their fish shops sell such weird things—we can't even imagine what they are—and although their cookies look tempting, oh, no—not for us, thank you. There is very little to see of the disturbance. The new offices are fine buildings, the streets good and clean and lit with electric light. Quite a lot of Western woollies are bought here, as it really does get cruelly cold. Everything seems very quiet. No business, says the rickshaw man. We went to the cinema to see "All Quiet on the Western Front." Paid 1 yen, 50 sen (3s.) for a special seat, stepped inside. A boy came forward, slipped a cotton cover over our shoes to save the

carpets. Then we went upstairs. The Japs sit on cushions only, that is why some places are suitable for us and others are not. Though Kobe is considered better, you can get lovely crystals and pearls quite cheap here; also beads of Fugama stone from Trom, the Fugama Mountain. All over the place—in the shops, I mean—we can see pearls being cultured, that is, the oyster and shell are kept in liquid in glass jars for years until they reach the size and colour they want. Attached to the oyster is the full pearl, and in the "lid" is half a pearl used for setting. The natural pearls are small and queer shapes, having been removed from the oyster without being kept, but nevertheless genuine pearls.

Form Miss Sheshell, 129 East 76 Street, Apt. W.4, New York City.

I wrote to you from the boat I came over on, and each month since I have intended writing to you and each month it has been left undone, but now I will try and get a line off and tell you a little of my doings.

Through the influence of the friend I came out here to, I was put into a position right away, and got started as supervisor in a cookery school. It was a very interesting job and I liked it, as the students came from nearly all parts of Europe, and some of the very nicest type of women, made the work very agreeable. I have been there until last Thursday, 29th January, and as there had always been a little friction between one of the Heads and myself I decided to come away. It was very gratifying to me when she sent for me and asked me not to turn the work down, as my work, my attitude to the students and theirs to me had been of the highest order, but I felt I couldn't carry on, and with some amount of regret came away.

I take up a new position on the 6th of the present month, and shall be able to tell you about that in my next.

The unemployment in New York is very acute, but I consider I have been fortunate in not losing any time.

I found there was a branch of the British Legion here and applied for membership and am accepted. I went to the meeting on the third Friday in January, but didn't get much of a reception as hardly anyone spoke to me. Probably it was because I was a little late and the lecture had already begun. Anyway I shall see what happens this month.

Last week-end I took advantage of an excursion to Niagara Falls, to see it in its winter beauty. My friend and I left New York on Friday night, having booked sleepers with rail tickets, and arrived at Niagara on Saturday, the 9th, at 7 a.m., and found the world all snow and ice, but after having had a good breakfast we started out to see all there was to see. We were persuaded to take a taxi by a licensed guide who assured us he could tell us all about the place, and he sure did. We were very delighted with the way he took us round. We were able to leave the taxi at all the points of interest and walk around both on the American and Canadian side. Everyone agrees the Canadian side is much the prettier, and I was very pleased to put my foot on Canadian soil, or I think it was Canadian snow this time as there was no soil visible. We got back to Niagara town early in the afternoon and were glad to get a rest. After that we had a nice little dinner and went off (on foot this time) to see the illuminations, which is one billion candle-power, giving the Falls the appearance of a rainbow. This, you can imagine, is very beautiful. We thought the spray hid quite a lot of the Falls. It snowed on us all the evening, but we enjoyed our visit immensely. Sunday a.m. we got a train to take us back to New York, travelling all day to see New York State which was all white but pretty, the Hudson River all frozen over.

I have had two menus of the dinner sent me and you must have had a glorious time and my thoughts were with you, and I felt I could hear you all talking! Jarvis, who I have seen several times out here, hit on a good idea of asking Blanchard and myself to a little dinner with her in conjunction with the Annual Dinner. With some contriving and some Waac previous experiences, borrowing articles, and a visit to the 5 and 10 cent. stores, Jarvis put up a good show and a good dinner. Needless to tell you we enjoyed every bite of it and all the gossip attached to it. I hope not to miss too many London dinners. I have not had the Gazette yet but am looking for it every mail.

We three Waacs who meet here sometimes—Blanchard, Jarvis and myself—talk about getting a New York branch together, if it were possible. My friend, Miss Tremer, has kindly offered us her parlour for all our preliminary talks, but people change their address so often it's quite a problem to find them. All best wishes to you for 1931.

BIRTH.

Laing.—At 38 Wilderhaugh, Galashiels, Scotland, on January 28th, to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice W. Laing (Sheila M. Brown, formerly U.A., Maresfield Park Camp), a son.

DEATH.

Hird.—On March 15th, 1931, at Hull, Edith Hird (Roper, F/w Weedon). Passed peacefully away after much suffering. Sadly mourned by all. "Au revoir, Old Pal."

ADVERTISEMENTS

Numerology.—Your name your guide for life. Readings, 7/6, 5/-, and 2/6; U.S.A. and Canada, \$2 and \$1. Old readings brought up to date, 2/6. Send full names (maiden name if married), and date of birth to Blanche, 48 West 82nd Street, New York City, U.S.A.

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).

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.

Scotch House, 44 Rue de la Paix, Le Touquet. Family Hotel; Pension; comfortable; moderate; central. Rooms fitted with hot and cold water. Excellent cuisine; personal supervision. Alice B. Anderson (Unit 11, Wimereux, and of Claims Commission, Le Touquet).

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.

To Let, Furnished.—Comfortable, weather-proof, wooden Bungalow at St. Agnes, Cornwall. Sitting-room, three bedrooms (sleep four), large kitchen, and sunny verandah; indoor sanitation. Beautiful view; 20 minutes' sea, village, station. Terms: May, 1 guineas per week, including plate and linen; June, 2 guineas per week, including plate and linen; July, 3 guineas per week, including plate and linen; August, 4 guineas per week, including plate and linen; September (1st fortnight), 3 guineas per week, including plate and linen; 2nd fortnight, 2 guineas per week, including plate and linen; Oct.-April, 10/- per week, including plate and linen.

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

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.

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

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, O.B.E., 4 East Avenue, Bournemouth.	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 Umpleby, "Rokeby," Long Aston, Bristol.	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.	18 Colquitt Street, Liverpool.	Friday, 7.30 p.m.
London.	Miss R. S. Andrews, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.	1st and 3rd Thursdays in each month at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1; 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays. Mess. Central Canteen, Duke of York's Hdq., King's Rd., Chelsea. Winchfield, Shirehall Lane, Golders Green Road (nearest 'bus stop Brent Bridge). Telephone: Hendon 1925.	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Golders Green.	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10	122 Cranbrook Road, Ilford. (Telephone Ilford 0056).	First Tuesday of each month; 7.30—10 p.m.
Ilford.	Miss M. V. Druitt, 74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.		Alternate Tuesdays at 8 p.m.
Manchester.	Miss Stephenson, 7 Hartwood Road, Withington.	The Continental Cafe, 14 Oxford Street, 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	Members notified individually.
Oxford.	(Temp.) Miss A. Haynes, 15 St. Omer Road, Cowley.		
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.		
Gardiff.	Miss Diana V. Viney, 201 Carlisle Street, Cardiff.	Y.M.C.A., Cardiff.	Second and Last Tuesday, at 7.30 p.m.
S. Wales.			
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