

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

MAY, 1931. Vol. XIII., No. 10.

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.

EDITORIAL.

ANNUAL DINNER OR RECEPTION?

A suggestion has been made that in lieu of (good old Army term!) the Annual Dinner—a reception be held. Nothing has been worked out in any detail, but it is thought that the idea is well worth exploring and that there is much to be said in favour of it. At the same time it must be thoroughly considered and having regard to the great alteration it will mean, members are asked to think it over and be ready to record their vote at the next Annual Dinner, when the question will be put from the Chair and a show of hands asked for. The rough idea seems to be that a hall would be hired as hitherto, and set with small tables, that a good buffet be run, and that at appropriate intervals entertainments could be given. It is estimated that the cost would be much the same as the Annual Dinner. In favour of the suggested reception it has been urged that it would give more time to talk to friends and that we could move from table to table. In favour of the usual Dinner it is said that the Annual Dinner is a Red Letter Day in the yearly life of the O.C.A., that most members like the idea of the Dinner with its distinguished guests and the speeches. Guests and speeches at a reception would, we gathered, not be possible—but perhaps that is a question which must be settled by “higher authority.”

Will all members please give this question of Annual Dinner or Reception their serious consideration?

BRANCH REPORTS.

There have been very few Branch Reports received lately. Some Branches have sent in no reports for months and as these reports are the only means of broadcasting the working of branches and so showing their liveliness, it seems a pity to let month after month pass by without sending up to Headquarters even a short report. It is difficult to imagine any branch so inactive that there is not something to write up each month.

We should be very glad to hear from Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, and other groups—not strictly branches of the O.C.A. perhaps—but nevertheless of great interest to their Old Comrades on this side of the Atlantic.

TO BRANCH SECRETARIES.

Time and again Headquarters receives letters from late members of Q.M.A.A.C., who by some chance have just heard of the O.C.A., and they write full of regrets at not having learnt long ago that we had such an Association. Leeds Branch recently managed to get the following paragraphs inserted in the “Yorkshire Post,” and so obtain some extra publicity:—

WOMEN WHO SERVED.

A Little-known Activity in Leeds.

What has become of the W.A.A.C.s and the W.R.E.N.s and the W.R.A.F.s who played so fine a part in the war? Although there is a flourishing Old Comrades' Association for ex-members of these organisations, it is not often the public hears of their activities.

Miss E. E. Mair, hon secretary of the Leeds branch of this Association, is just now making an appeal to all ex-members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (the W.A.A.C.s) and the various bodies associated with it, in the Leeds area, to join the branch. There are nearly 100 members on the books of the branch, but it is estimated that there are many more who would like to join, and take the opportunity of foregathering occasionally with their war-time comrades.

As an illustration of the liveliness of the branch, it need only be stated that 16 members from Leeds, with several others from outlying places, attended the recent annual dinner of the Association in London. On this occasion Mrs. Vernon Hope, wife of the organising secretary of the Yorkshire Area of the British Legion, accompanied the Leeds contingent as a guest.

The local branch meets on the first Wednesday every month at an informal gathering, when members as often as not are quite contented to chat about old times, and many a story of war days is told.—From “Yorkshire Evening Post.”

Is it not possible for other Branches to approach the editor of their local newspaper and get some notices of their activities published? Many new members might be secured by those means.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT.

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday, April 22nd, 1931, at 5 Buckingham Gate.

The month of April has been a particularly interesting one at Headquarters Office. Dame Helen honoured us with a visit on April 22nd, before going to meet Princess Mary. She was, as usual, full of interest in our doings. We have also had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Grundy, who had just returned from her trip abroad, Miss Reid, Mrs. Maunsell-Thomas, Mrs. Kennedy, Miss Le Temple and Miss L. Creighton.

CLOTHING.

There has been a splendid response to last month's appeal for clothing and as a change we are able to report that—for the moment—the cupboards are comfortably filled. As there are already about half a dozen applicants to be supplied within the next few days, please continue to send all you can spare, for our needs are continuous. Among the parcels received was one of men's clothing, sent to us by an ex-gunner officer and we are most grateful to the "fighting forces" for sending us supplies. So often members write to us to help them get clothing for their menfolk and most times we are quite unable to do so. We are always very glad to get men's clothes.

Our thanks this month go to the following friends, branches and members. They have indeed been generous: The London Branch (2), Miss Lilian Machin, Miss Madonna Watts, Miss Porter, Mrs. Mason, Huntley S. Gordon, Esq., Miss Saunderson, Miss B. Mould, the Sunderland Branch (2), Miss Norah K. Crundall, Miss W. M. Johnson, Mrs. J. Maunsell-Thomas, Miss M. E. Comley, Rupert Paget, four anonymous donors, and Miss Macrow.

SOMEWHERE NEAR WINNIPEG, MARCH 27th.

I have now been in Canada just a month, and have been right across from coast to coast once. I am now on my way down to Halifax again to meet the party of Headmistresses I am responsible for, and we shall then travel together over the route I have already mapped out. It is a wonderful trip for me, and I feel I shall really know something about Canada by the time I get back to England at the end of May.

The changes of climate are somewhat startling. On Tuesday I was in Victoria where all the flowering shrubs were in full bloom, and beds of wallflowers and daffodils everywhere. At Calgary where I spent yesterday (two days later) the temperature was eight degrees below zero. For the last two days I have been travelling through the prairies; an unbroken expanse of snow, but at night when the sun is getting low the colours are beautiful, the snow turns a rosy pink and the sky which has been a pale blue (the shade of a duck's egg) all day becomes a clear green. The first two days after leaving Vancouver the train passes through the Rockies and one sees some of the finest scenery in the world. I had been in the Rockies before in the summer, but thought them still more magnificent in the snow and brilliant sunshine.

However, you will hardly expect an essay on scenery from me, and will wonder when I am coming to the Waacs. I am sorry to say they have been rather few and far between this time. It is a long while now since we were demobilized, and people have left their original addresses and it is difficult to trace them.

The Montreal branch was the first to greet me, as I had a cable from Mrs. Reid before I left home, saying they would be on the look-out for me. So they were, and I spent a pleasant evening chatting with Mrs. Reid, and Mrs. Ridgeway (nee Honor Connolly, Irish Command). The latter has lost her husband recently, and has gone back to Ireland for a few months to see her parents, but intends returning to Canada to settle. This decision interested me, because when I was out here just over two years ago, Mrs. Ridgeway had only just come out, and was most terribly home-sick and convinced that she would never like Canada. Mrs. Reid told me that they had recently had a special gathering of the branch and that thirty-three members had been present; a very good muster. I am hoping to see more of them when I get back to Montreal. I got on to Mrs. Neis at Toronto as soon as I arrived there, and am hoping that she will be able to arrange a reunion while I am there. Unluckily I cannot be in the city for any of their usual dates. The branch meets regularly twice a month and has a good attendance. I should have got into touch with Mrs. Neis sooner but unfortunately had mislaid her address and headquarters were unable to discover it either. It is 74 King Edward Avenue, Toronto. Mrs. Neis and I had tea together, and she told me the Branch news. Some

of the members have been through rough times of late, sufferers from the general depression, but it is hoped that things are looking up.

At Ottawa I saw Miss Burnham who, although not a Waac, was in France with the Canadian Hospitals for the greater part of the war, and has always been keenly interested in the Corps. She has done a great deal to help some of our old comrades over here, and as she is Chief Woman Migration Officer has been of the greatest possible assistance. Both the Montreal and Toronto branches speak of her with much gratitude, and we are all indebted to her for her interest and sympathy. Miss Burnham recalled the annual dinner in London which she attended three years ago as one of the guests of honour, and said she had never been to such a remarkable function before or since. She would hardly believe me when I told her that our numbers had steadily risen each year since then.

While I was in Toronto I met Miss Trotter's sister. She has been living out here for some years. I had never met her before, but felt at home at once as her voice on the telephone was exactly like that of our former Controller of Recruiting.

I was only in Calgary a few hours, and had no business there at all, because—I may as well confess it—I calmly stood on the platform, and let the train, with my perfectly good sleeper and all my worldly possessions leave the station without me. So there I was stranded without so much as a tooth-brush, and no train for hours. Even my address-book had gone, which was really maddening as there were heaps of people I could have looked up. However, luckily I remembered where Louie Saffary, Chisledon Camp, lived, as I called on her two years ago. I was fortunate enough to find her at home in her lunch hour. She has now been in Calgary eleven years, and in her present post for seven. At one time there was an O.C.A. Branch here, of which Saffary was president, but one by one the members have drifted away, and now she did not know of any others within reach. She has a good post, and seems to have lovely holidays exploring the Rockies on horse-back, and seeing all the beautiful places within easy reach of Calgary. Writing this with some difficulty in the train has made me a bit home-sick. I wonder what my branches are all doing? London, Norfolk and Dublin. I was pleased to have the send-off message from Norfolk, and will write to them. The Irish branch will be interested to hear of Mrs. Ridgeway and may have seen her. She will be in Dublin all April. What are the Londoners up to for Easter? I expect the energetic secretary is personally conducting them somewhere on the continent.

EDITH THOMPSON.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR MAY.**Exeter.**

We spent a very pleasant afternoon in Exeter on Thursday, April 11th, taking a stroll round the city and through the beautiful Rougemont Castle and Gardens. They were indeed a picture; we then went to Deller's Cafe for tea. Although there were not so many members as one would have liked, I am sure those who did go thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. At present we have no settled meeting-place, so I hope, during the summer months, to fix up a few outings to keep things together. We hope to be settled in somewhere for our meetings before the winter comes round again. Miss Rose, who has been honorary secretary of this branch since it was formed, has resigned. We are all very grateful to her for the hard work she has done.

M. VICARY.

Brighton.

Wednesday, May 27th, 7.30 p.m.—Meet at the tram shelter, Old Steine, for a cinema party, the picture to be settled beforehand.

We had our primrosing ramble all right on Sunday, April 23rd, round Buxted, in spite of a spot of snow during the night. My word, it was cold to the hands picking in the rain, but the three of us who braved the elements felt it was worth it when we saw the gay array, and we much

appreciated the hot tea kindly provided afterwards by Miss Reed's friend.

Some of us hope to go over to Mrs. Ambrose on May 10th to look for cowslips, at Ditchling. We did get some at Buxted, so hope to be lucky, but it is the searching that matters, more than the finding! H. A. BARON.

Birmingham.

The weekly meetings have not been so well attended, owing to the extremely bad weather, but we welcomed back one or two members who had not been in for some time. We also had a welcome visit from Mrs. Powell at our meeting after Easter. Another member who has found us out after seven years' silence is Mrs. Mason (Felton), who was in "B" office, Rouen. She enquires for news of other "B" office people.

Subscriptions have come in remarkably well, only two outstanding now, but the writer will be delighted to deal with a rush of new members.

In reply to the member who wrote about Effie Tew, this name is not on the Birmingham book of members, but if the address is available, someone will look her up.

E. I. DIPPLE.

Manchester.

All who know Miss Stephenson will be sorry to know that she has to take a month's rest from work owing to heart-strain. She will be sadly missed at the Club for her company and her kindness. We know of so many turns she does, we wish her the very best and pray that she will soon be restored to good health again and be back with us to help us soon. We are rather unlucky just now losing our regular attenders—first Barnes, now Steve and Bigg, who we will not see often now for she is going into business on her own and, of course, will have to keep on the spot. Miss Savage has deserted us, too, owing to extra work. The only brightness I can think of is that Miss Matley has returned to the district and we can only hope she will keep us together. Miss Robinson, unfortunately, cannot attend very often, but her mother and sister always turn up for whist drives, and are now hoping, with combined scores, to win a prize.

Trade is very bad, it's either weeks about or no work at all, and everyone feels very depressed. We are hoping members will use the Hut this summer. Come along to the Club and hear about it.

Subscriptions are due, so when you can manage it I will be pleased to receive them. Miss Matley has supplied us with a parcel of clothing, which is gratefully received.

V. STEAR.

Norfolk.

Our Branch spent a most delightful evening on Thursday, April 30th, at 122a Thorpe Road, Norwich, the Misses Newberry and Prothero once again being our hostesses. We regretted the unavoidable absence of Miss West, but hope to have her with us in May. A tasty dinner was prepared for us, which all enjoyed; and later, seated round the fire, we were able to read letters received during the month from Old Comrades, including one full of interest from Miss Molly Howes, in Kenya Colony.

Time, as usual, passed all too quickly, and although the date of our next meeting will have to be notified to members by post later, it was arranged that we should meet at "Holly Lodge," Southtown, Great Yarmouth, one Thursday in May, at the invitation of Mrs. Rumbold.

L. W. CHILVERS.

London.

By the time this report is published Miss Edith Thompson's thoughts will be turning homeward and her Branch looking forward to seeing her soon afterwards. We know she has had an interesting time in Canada and hope to hear all the news when next she pays a visit to the Branch.

It is regretted that the Branch has lost, through death, two of its members. Mrs. D. C. Parkes, well-known to many London Branch members, and Miss Addison, also a well-known member, who died as the result of an acci-

dent. Another death which I feel I must mention in this report is that of our old friend Mr. Cross, of Ham Island, Old Windsor. Mr. Cross was well known to the members who visited camp, and those who met him year after year as the season opened will learn with real regret of his death.

It was lucky that the trip to Bournemouth had been postponed until the warmer days because it rained without stopping the whole day on the 22nd of April, the Sunday chosen for the trip. We hope to go later on in the summer and shall then take the opportunity of meeting our Bournemouth Old Comrades.

The Roamers gave a really excellent show in the Q.V.R. Hall, Davis Street, W., on Wednesday, 28th April. A very good house greeted the party when the curtain was raised and the programme provided excellent fare for everybody's taste. We are glad to see that Taylor is better and hope she will remain well. Miss Mainland also had a great reception on her debut as a Roamer. Here's hoping that the financial side of the show will prove as successful as the entertainment.

Coming Events.

The Aldershot Tattoo.—The party will leave the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, at 6.15 prompt on Saturday, 13th June, for the Tattoo, and will return to the club somewhere about 2.30 a.m. Will members who are coming please take this notice as the final arrangements and report to me at the club at six o'clock. At present there are a few seats to spare, price 10/- inclusive.

Thursday, 28th May.—Instead of meeting at the Duke of York's Headquarters on the 28th of May, we shall ramble somewhere, perhaps Kew Gardens, Hampstead Heath or the Zoo. Will members who wish to join the party please meet at the club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, at 6.30 p.m.

Competition to Raise Funds.—Slowly but surely the idea of earning ten shillings is catching on. I hear rumours of all sorts of ways and means which are being tried out to earn the cash and capture the prize for the most original or best way it has been earned. Thinking that many members may have bright ideas while on holiday it has been decided to extend the time until the end of October. I am expecting to be inundated with ten-shilling notes accompanied by real original reports as to how the cash has been earned. If you have not got the time to think out an original scheme, do not let that keep you back from making the ten shillings because any means of making money, old or new, is fascinating. This month we are indebted to Mrs. Hardy and Miss Leech for their contributions. Mrs. Hardy laments that she was devoid of original ideas so made a silk garment, raffled it, and the proceeds of the raffle now reposes beside five other little efforts. Miss Leech writes: "Not exactly earned, but some football team, I cannot even remember the name, earned it for me." There's certainly a touch of originality in that method of earning because she put the work out, so to speak, and it is not always one gets away so easily when the work is put out. Anyway, it was a good speculation, sixpence laid on and ten shillings won—a twenty-to-one chance.

The total amount received up to date is £3/10/6.

Subscriptions.—Will the members who have not yet paid their subscriptions please send them along as soon as possible to save having to send out so many notices

R. S. ANDREWS.

THE W.R.A.F. O.C.A.

I had the pleasure, as Q.M.A.A.C. representative, of attending the Annual Dinner of the W.R.A.F. Old Comrades Association which was held at the Florence Restaurant, Rupert Street, W.1, on Saturday, April 11th.

The scene was a very gay one when I arrived. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan received the guests, who were announced by a member of the Committee. It was a surprise to the Announcer to find that Dame Helen and I were already acquainted! This was the first time on

which I realized that Dame Helen is not entirely the personal possession of Q.M.A.A.C. She is always so interested in all our doings that I felt almost jealous to find her surrounded by an admiring crowd who owned her as Commandant.

After the Royal Toast, Dame Helen proposed the toast of the Royal Air Force in a delightful speech, with amusing references to some new R.A.F. Association which had just been formed. Air Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.F.C., replied, giving a most interesting account of the taking over of Iraq from the Army, and the work done by the R.A.F. in keeping raiding parties in order. The toast of the Guests was proposed by Dr. Fairfield in a happy speech in which she made pleasant and appropriate remarks about us all. Air Commodore B. C. H. Drew, C.M.G., C.B.E., replied with a speech which caused much laughter.

After the Dinner a Dance took place. I watched this gay scene for some time, then left bearing with me a charming hand-painted menu, as a souvenir of a very delightful and happy evening.

A. E. B. JOHNSTON.

THE BLUE PACIFIC.

An attractive picture of life in Queensland is given in the following passage from a letter from Windsor, Brisbane. The writer is Australian born, her father having gone out to Queensland as a settler some forty years ago.

"We get lots of flowers in our gardens and like to fill our houses with them. There are fewer flowers than usual at present (the letter is dated February 1st, 1931), for we have just passed the worst of the summer when the gardens are rather scorched. But the rainy weather of February is setting in and after that we can look forward to long months of wonderful gardening. Our winter months, though they can be cold at night—really cold with frost—are gorgeously warm and sunny in the day time.

We are just back from seven weeks at Southport—a pretty seaside town 50 miles south of Brisbane. We have a little shack there, really just a camping place, but it is a shelter in case of wet and a garage for the car—otherwise we live out of doors.

We are only 20 yards from the most magnificent ocean beach, where big Pacific rollers break all day.

We have a wonderful view on fine days—and it is nearly always fine: 20 miles of snowy white beach and wonderful breakers, with Coolangatta to the South and nothing East and North but the blue Pacific.

We all love the water and go surfing two and three times a day. Even little B—who is 6½ years of age can use a surf-board in quite a practised manner and A—who is almost 14½ years of age is a fine swimmer. Most Queensland boys are, for the long hot summer makes swimming very general.

Of course the town of Southport is not like our little Arcadian spot. It is quite a big place with big hotels and boarding houses, and hundreds of private houses all full to overflowing. Being the fashionable resort it is most expensive and houses, very ordinary ones, sometimes range from 6 to 10 guineas a week.

We are four miles out of town, but with the car we can get in easily. Between the town and our little spot is another settlement quite of the Los Angeles type, centred by a most beautifully built hotel called 'Surfers' Paradise,' as well as the main building there are most artistic log cabins for bedrooms and suites, also tea gardens and a quite wonderful private zoo. Really to see the hundreds of cars packed there every week-end—especially Sundays—mostly owned by Brisbane people, it was hard to believe that we were in the throes of financial depression."

SHANGHAI CAMP.

The Committee have to thank the Liverpool Branch for their donation of £2 2s., to Camp Funds last Season and sincerely hope they will accept the Committee's

apology for not acknowledging this before but it was received after the last meeting of the Committee in 1930. We hope to have the pleasure of again welcoming members from this and other distant Branches during the Season, as well as our London members.

Although the weather at Easter was not very favourable the work went on fine, those who turned up to help included Misses Leech, Norden, Watson and Willis also Mrs. Phillips, who brought some friends to lend an extra hand on the Sunday, and we hope that members will show their appreciation of all the work which has been done by supporting the Camp during the Season.

The following Members of the Committee will act as hostesses for the week ending: May 2nd, Miss Norden; May 9th, Misses Hannon and Lewis; May 16th, Misses Banks and Hannon; May 23rd, Misses Hayward and Norden; May 30th, Private Booking; June 6th, Misses Lewis and Willis; June 13th, Hockey Week-end.

The charges are as in previous years:

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

The Committee wish to point out that the mid-week bookings do not entitle Members to the exclusive use of the Camp unless the full number of beds are paid for; should two or more bookings for mid-week parties be received the Secretary will advise each party of the fact.

G. LEWIS, Hon. Secretary.

5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Mrs. C. D. Hindley (Wilkins, D.A., Eastern Command, Wimereux-Eoulogne) writing from Assam, says that she will be in England from May to November, and that she hopes to attend the coming Annual Dinner. We shall hope to see her at the Overseas Officers' Dinner on June 6th as well.

Miss Frances Mackenzie, who served with the B.E.F. in Camps 1 and 2, Etaples, has been living in West Hartlepool for some time and rather wants to come nearer to London. She says one never felt lonely if nearer W.A.A.C.s and where she has been she has known none apparently.

Mrs. A. C. Colville-Reeves (A. C. Scott), who lives in South Africa, is learning to fly, and says the conditions are perfect. She wishes to be remembered to all old friends and comrades, sending greetings to all ex-officers attending the Overseas Officers' Dinner.

Miss J. Murray-Scott has returned to Los Angeles, where she is on the faculty of the University of California. She served at St. Omer and later at Harfleur Valley.

From Mrs. Bastard (N. Bastard, Calais, etc.), Sweet Waters, Nanyuki, Kenya Colony.

Dear Mrs. Johnston,

It really is most awfully sweet of you to write to me again. I left answering your letter so long that I was ashamed to reply eventually. My only excuse was that I was doing my bit for Kenya by adding another colonist!

I wish very much that we were to be home this summer but times are too bad just now to contemplate holidays—the price for produce seems to go down consistently out here and the cost of living up! However, wool seems to be more cheerful just lately. Fortunately for us, stock farming seems to be the soundest wicket at present. If you were fond of South Africa you would love this country. My husband was born and brought up in Natal and East Griqualand, but he doesn't think anywhere can touch this country. Of course, we are getting terribly civilised—the lions have moved on and the railway moved in—we have even electric night signs in Nairobi and wireless from London. However, we have

still our herds of lovely impala and gazelles. As a matter of fact, a neighbour had four cows killed by lions quite recently and as they are still at large, they may come our way next. We really prefer the lions to stay in the game preserves as our best pedigree cattle sleep out in paddocks, and if a lion has his choice he will always pick the most valuable animal for a kill!

Life always seems so full with a baby in the house, left my letters completely in arrears. My mother came out at Christmas and held my hand in Nairobi. Fortunately, I rewarded her with her first grand-daughter—Jill—she is now the family toy and seems to love life as she is always laughing. Segar, the son, is six. Happily, he isn't a bit jealous and shows off the baby as if it was a prize pig!

I hear from various Waac friends, but mostly Le Havre people. If you ever see Heloise Martin I want to hear from her and send my love, I have lost her address. Mrs. Douglas lives in this direction but I have never happened to run across her. Mrs. Anderson (Downing) lives in Nanyuki. I heard from Miss Low, and went to see her last time I was home. You will be amused to know that I have a lavender Wedgewood tea-set like yours! I always told you I meant to have one some day.

I hope the dinner will be a great success—I shall drink to "The Corps in France" on June 6th. If you will put in some sensible Government at home and buck up the world in general I hope for another holiday at home before too long. Anyway, when I come I will write and find out if you are in London and come and call on you if I may.

THE NEW ZEALAND EARTHQUAKE.

The following letter contains a first-hand description of the recent earthquake in New Zealand and is sent for publication in the Gazette by Miss C. R. Leach, who tells us that Miss A. M. Boyd has been teaching in New Zealand for some years. She was forewoman-nurse at York, Harrowby Camp, and, lastly, Brocton Camp, and many who served under the Northern Command must remember her untiring energy and kindness, especially through the severe "flu" epidemics:—

419 St. Aubyn Street, W., Hastings, New Zealand.

28/2/1931.

Just a few lines to let you know how things are. We have had an awful time in the earthquake, but are fortunate in having life and limb. There have been so many sad homes and such tragedies have happened that one is appalled and scared. It all happened so suddenly and the results are not realisable unless actually seen. Hundreds of people are ruined and have no hope of any recovery. The young may have some chances and be able to battle along, but one is very sorry for them. More so for elderly people who were comfortably off with incomes derived from property. Now there is only a heap of bricks and mortar and no income. It is just awful to think about. Then there are poor little children left to the care of orphanages or the mercy of a busy world.

The one fortunate feature was that the schoolchildren were practically all outside for play at the time. As the buildings rolled and swayed, getting them out would have been an impossibility.

Napier, with its awful fires, is worse off than we are. Our town now has tiny tin sheds where once stood decent shops, still, we are fortunate in having these where needs can be supplied. Prices went up and this was trying, with this camping life wearing out one's belongings in double-quick time. You see, practically all folks were sleeping in tents and cooking out of doors. We had wonderful weather conditions for this life. Our house was very much knocked about and the little personal belongings in our own rooms very much broken. Then the water was cut off and this and no light for three weeks (and we don't know how much longer) is very trying. Families were rationed, and in many ways it resembled war-time over again. Especially with military in charge and every street-corner picketted by men in khaki uniforms. My friend and I reported for work on the morning following the disaster. We were welcome and my friend worked at the canteen cutting up sandwiches and I at the casualty dressing-

station until the day we had to return to our own work again.

The tremors which still persist are very trying and affect one's nerves. The people in Napier had to leave as mains and sewerage failed, and we were told to be in readiness in case we had to leave. There were hundreds in hospital, and we had busy days at the dressing-station, which was like an out-patients' department.

Both my friend and I feel now that a holiday is what we really need, and this is out of the question. Had there been a boat and we with fares we would have sailed off to England last week when our re-action took the form of bad depression. Now we feel we have weathered the storm and will carry on. The prices are all up and wages down, so times are very hard. Teachers have had a 10 per cent. cut. I fear New Zealand has had a nasty knock.

A. M. BOYD.

"FORM-THREES!"

Some rather wistful memories will be evoked by the announcement that presently the British infantry will be organised in "threes" instead of "fours." Old soldiers, volunteers, hundreds of thousands of those suddenly called out of civil life to join "Kitchener's Army," may have forgotten many details of their early military training; but they will remember their anxious throes, at an elementary stage in their warlike education, when the order to "Form Fours" barked across the parade ground. And how many times afterwards was that command heard, and automatically obeyed, on dusty roads in Britain and soaked fields in France!

Now the whole fourfold arrangement is to go, and there will be three, instead of four, platoons to a company, three companies to a battalion, and so on. The column will move, it is held, more conveniently in threes. When the men were on the march in fours and required to deploy a slightly complicated arithmetical formula had to be borne in mind for the manoeuvre to be performed smoothly. An ingenious subaltern tried to simplify it with these lines, which became deservedly popular:—

At the halt, on the right, Form Platoon.

At the halt, on the right, Form Platoon.

If the odd numbers don't mark time Two Paces,

How the hell can the rest form platoon?

But the infantry machine-gunner of the future, carried on an armoured lorry, will not, perhaps, be expected to form platoon, or even to march in column.

"The Sunday Times."

It was not only the men that went through "anxious throes" and have "wistful memories" of forming fours. Some of us have almost painful memories—on the other hand one *does* hear of members who swear that they really enjoyed drilling or should I say being drilled? What interesting articles we might have from say, Miss Ireland, Mrs. Jackson (Rogers) and Miss Chapman, to mention only three of whose drilling I have personal knowledge—if they could be induced to tell of some of the drills they took. Does Miss Ireland, I wonder remember certain drills at Folkestone, in 1917, on bright, sunny mornings when the mysteries of "forming fours" proved to be completely beyond two members on parade? Time and again came the order "As-you-were." Being one of the "odd numbers" endeavouring to "mark time" and out of the corner of my eye catching sight of a mix up of my two neighbours I felt more and more nervous lest I was at fault! Whether the rest ever did form platoon I don't know. My usual good luck was in and a thoroughly bad arm resulting from inoculations and vaccination placed me on the more or less sick list and I was excused drill. What splendid drill instructors those three were and with what envy did I regard their ability.

HAPPY DOMESTIC WORKERS OVERSEAS.

It seems at first sight a little curious in these times to find a girl writing, "I really think coming out to Australia is the finest thing a young girl can do these days, and I don't think I shall ever regret the step I have taken." And another girl, who, like the first one, was

trained for household work at the St. Mary's Hostel in Portobello Road, writes with equal enthusiasm about Canada, where she says she is very happy and that "the people she is with are very nice and treat her like one of the family." The training course, no less than the life at this Hostel, appears to have made a strong impression on all the girls who have gone out to the Dominions under the aegis of the Catholic League. A girl, i.e., at Waterdown, who writes, "No matter how happy I may be in Canada or how well treated I may be, I won't be any happier or any better treated than I was in St. Mary's," really does but repeat what another old St. Mary's girl writes, who is now in Toronto, and who says, "I would not go back to England to stay if someone offered me a thousand pounds, but if you asked me to come back to St. Mary's I should be back before you could say Jack Robinson." This is very flattering to the Hostel, especially as most of the girls trained there write home quite spontaneously in this vein: but it is also to be borne in mind that they write in an equally enthusiastic vein about their new life in the Dominions. This is no matter for surprise, for what domestic worker in England could be in a position to write home like a girl now in Brisbane, who says, "Since I have been here I have learned to ride a horse and do various other things which I could never dream of doing at home;" or like a girl in Ottawa who writes to say that she "often goes out in the car with her mistress and sees all the beautiful places in Ottawa." It is evident that a much wider life is opened out for the domestic worker in the Dominions than in England. "Most of us," we are told by another girl now in Ottawa, "on our half-days go to some of the beaches and have a picnic. We bring our bathing suits and go swimming and have all sorts of games and enjoy ourselves very much." It all reads as if life in the Dominions for these girls was one long holiday. It is, however, not difficult to see that where good service is given it is appreciated and that these girls owe their happiness to the use they made of their opportunities at St. Mary's. Altogether, since 1929, when the Hostel was opened, over 80 girls trained for domestic work overseas have sailed for the Dominions and the great majority are obviously very grateful to the Catholic Women's League for the training they received in the Old Country.

OBITUARY.

Many members will read with regret of two deaths which have occurred during April.

Mrs. Dorothy G. Parkes.

Mrs. D. G. Parkes passed away at 69 Belgrave Road, S.W.1. She has been ill for a long time but the end came very peacefully and for that we feel grateful. Many members who knew Mrs. Parkes have just cause to remember her. The many little kindnesses she performed during her life-time will long be remembered by those who knew of them and also by the recipients themselves. Although many came in contact with the real good work she created and carried on at 91 Belgrave Road, not so many knew of the many little deeds of kindness and of the real help which she offered at a time when help was needed most. Mrs. Parkes, in her capacity of Administrator, had charge of, what I believe, was almost the last W.A.A.C. Hostel in London, at 82 Belgrave Road, and in the very early days of "Demob." many an ex-W.A.A.C. found shelter there while she was pulling herself together, preparatory to re-entering civil life, and applications for accommodation far exceeded the limit. Early in 1920, when the official hostel was closed down, 91 Belgrave Road came into being, through the energies of our Old Comrade. I well remember attending the house-warming party which was given in honour of the opening of a hostel which was so much needed and which has proved its worth a thousand-fold. More members have passed through 91 Belgrave Road than can ever be told here, and many were the needy ones who were helped over hard times. There was always a home for anyone who happened to be out of work, even though there were no prospects, and the money for board, etc., was usually settled afterwards. Again, it was at 91 Belgrave Road that the first real reunions took place and very cheery evenings they used

to be. A very warm welcome awaited any ex-W.A.A.C. who visited the Thursday reunions and much cheerful chat. Other houses were taken over by Mrs. Parkes as the need for accommodation became more acute and soon three houses were flourishing. It used to be quite a common occurrence for all the chesterfields in the recreation room to be in use for folks waiting until rooms were ready and were willing to "rough it" while they were waiting. The Swimming Club was also indebted to Mrs. Parkes for the very great interest she took in its welfare. Although, latterly, unable to take any active part in the work of the O.C.A. Mrs. Parkes took a real interest in the Branch until the very end. She was a loyal member and a true friend to the Branch and to all members of the Corps. We shall miss her very much.

Miss M. Addison.

It is with great regret that the untimely death of Miss M. Addison, "Addie," as she was affectionately known to her friends as, has to be reported this month. Poor Addison pulled over a bath of boiling water and scalded herself so severely that she had to be rushed off to hospital. For some eight weeks her life hung in the balance and it seems so sad that she should have suffered so acutely and then had to leave us after all.

Miss Addison served with the A.E.F. at Tours and Bourges and later with the B.E.F. She was always so cheery and never missed any of the special events connected with the branch. We missed her so much at the Social in March last that inquiries were made by her friends to find out the cause of her absence—illness was the explanation given by her friend with whom she had lived for ten years. We felt that it must be something very serious to keep "Addie" away and this is what we found to be the case. She met with the accident that caused her death on the previous Saturday.

R.S.A.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Mrs. Freedling (Nora Baynes), 317 W. Hanna Street, Tampa.

I was delighted to receive your letter and to know you remember me. I can imagine you are swamped with work alright, but it must be wonderful to be in touch with so many ex-Waacs. I wish I knew of any in Florida, surely, with ex-Service women "covering the earth," I'm not the only one in this State!

Knowing how busy you are, I don't want to bother you too much, but if you know of any other member in this part of the world, I would love to have the address, and Neville's (Mrs. Ball's) address, too. After all these years you can imagine what a thrill it is to hear of the old-timers again. I hear once in a while from E. Spencer, and from Mona Barrett, now Mrs. Fahey, living in Massachusetts. Bobby Williams is in Toronto, Canada, but no doubt Mrs. Spencer told you of her.

This is a beautiful country, but how home-sick I get for Blighty. I don't know whether you like the movies, but if you do, and happened to see the moving picture "Hell's Harbour," you will have an idea of what Florida is like, for the picture was taken in Tampa. My husband loves to fish, and we go quite often to the place where the "set" for "Hell Harbour" still stands, and picnic where Lupe Velez, Al St. John, Jean Hersholt, and other well-known film people made a really good picture.

From ex-Wkr. Trixie Heaney, of Camp 3, Abbeville, and Wimbledon.

One day in January, 1930, a friend of mine asked me if I would care to go with her to a party which was being held in aid of a club that she belonged to. There was to be tea, dancing and a concert, so, of course, I went. As I was watching some girls dancing one of them seemed so familiar that I turned to ask my friend if she knew who she was. Her answer being in the negative, I said I could not leave the hall until I found out. Just then this girl was walking towards me, and I went to her and said, "If you'll tell me your name, I'll tell you mine." She said "You needn't, Trixie Heaney." I said "Right oh, Edith Wallis." Then we began to talk and talk, forgetting

that 12 years had passed since we worked together at Wimbledon in 1918-19. The best of luck to any Old Comrade of Wimbledon who may read this.

From Mrs. Beeston (A. B. Swinden, 2861), 19 Kamka Road, Whangari, North Auckland, N.Z.

I am afraid I am rather late with my subscription, but the notice came just in the midst of the summer holidays. We were camping at the beach and the packing up was sure some business—beds, bedding, cooking utensils—everything in fact, but once established we made it a real holiday, avoiding most of our usual daily duties apart from eating and sleeping. We were favoured with glorious weather and almost lived in our bathing costumes. My small son, aged six years, when naked, looked exactly like a copper-coloured Maori wearing a white bathing costume. He must be getting quite toughened, for he did not blister with the sun-burn, a thing that so often happens when one takes the first sun-bath of the year.

The December Gazette just to hand, contains an article on Armistice Day, written, I think, by Miss Roach (I cannot be sure, the magazine has slipped me for the moment). May I say how much I enjoyed that description. Here in New Zealand, the day passes without comment, apart from the attempt by some to remember the Two Minutes' Silence, for Anzac Day is the big day here. The Broadcasting Station here attempts to re-broadcast the service from the Cenotaph, but conditions are seldom very favourable. Last year was very poor, but the year before was not so bad. I could hear the band distinctly, the singing of "O God our Help," and the commands of the officers to the soldiers. Now, with this beautiful description in mind, I shall hope to visualise the scene much more vividly on November 11th, 1931.

I am hoping to get you a new member, Miss D. P. Clayton, Rouen, now Mrs. Pryce-Evans, who arrived in this district from Canada a few months ago.

May 1931 bring happiness and health to all members of the O.C.A.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Routine Order 132: Military Sugar Tickets.

After the 1st January, 1918, all officers and other ranks in receipt of pay from Army funds will be unable to obtain sugar as ordinary civilians. It has therefore been found necessary to arrange for the necessary provision of military sugar tickets to be used by all officers and other ranks in receipt of pay from Army funds who do not draw sugar in kind from Army stocks.

A sugar permit will be issued to each officer and other rank proceeding on leave from an Expeditionary Force to the United Kingdom, for the period of leave. No sugar will be obtainable in the United Kingdom without a permit. (Authority A.C.1., 1840 of 1917.)

* * * * *

Routine Order, 122: Rations.

The following ration having been ordered under Q.M.G.'s 186 (Q.S.I.) of 3/12/17, in accordance with War Office Letter 123/Abroad/31 (Q.M.S.C.) dated 29/11/17, will come into force on 22/12/17 from which day all W.A.A.C. Units will indent for this ration instead of a proportion of the L. of C. ration as hitherto:—

Meat, 8ozs.; Bread, 11ozs.; Tea, ½oz., or Coffee, 1oz., or Cocoa, 1oz.; Sugar, 2ozs.; Salt, ½oz.; Bacon, 2ozs.; Jam, 3ozs.; Fresh vegetables, 4ozs.; Potatoes, 8ozs.; Rice or Oatmeal, 2ozs.; Milk, 2ozs.; Pepper, 1/100oz.; Mustard, 1/100oz.; Cheese, 1oz.; Margarine, 1oz.

This ration will be described as Ration for W.A.A.C., and reference to W.O. Letter above will be made on first indent. One ration will be drawn for each woman. It will not be necessary to obtain ration bills or to pass the new ration through and impress. Neither will 10/- a head a week be credited.

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Routine Order 97: Economy in Fuel.

The attention of all concerned is directed to the need of economy in fuel. General instructions on this subject for cookhouses will be found on p. 14 of the Manual of Military Cooking and Dietary, 1917. As regards ashes:—

Ashes.

All ashes should be shaken through a riddle made from wire netting or perforated tin. The cinders should then be wetted and mixed with fine coal slack. This makes excellent fuel for Soyer stoves and can be used for keeping stock pots simmering. (Authority L. of C., R.O. Dated 15/11/17.)

ADVERTISEMENTS

St. Agnes, Cornwall.—Comfortably furnished timber Bungalow, three bedrooms (sleep four), living-room, kitchen, large sunny verandah with sea view, indoor sanitation; vacant June 13th to July 11th. June, £2/2/-; July, £3/3/- weekly; July 25th to August 8th, period, £7/7/-, with plate and linen.—Bertrand, 6 Wilmington Avenue, Chiswick, W.4.

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.

Brighton.—Ex-W.A.A.C. has Private House in the valley; near sea, tennis, and golf. Very central, very clean and homely and well recommended. Picnic rambles arranged when she will try to accompany, if desired, as guide.—Terms: Board-residence, £2 2s. per week; Bed and Breakfast, 4s. each, per week 25s. each; July and August, £2 5s. inclusive: Saturday to Monday, 15s.; or long week-end, 25s. Good home for anyone wishing to winter in Brighton at reasonable terms.—Mrs. Sutehall, 17 Beaconsfield Road, Brighton.

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 982.

Stormont House, 43 and 45 Longridge Road, Earls Court, S.W.5. Misses A. Crockford and O. Mainland having extended their premises, are now able to offer additional accommodation. Bed, bath and breakfast from 5/6 single rooms; from 5/- each double rooms. Lunch, tea and dinner optional; 6d. per night extra for lookings for less than three nights. Gas fires in rooms. Telephone: 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, C.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.	Mrs. Vicary, The Belvedere. Powderham, near Exeter.	164 Sidwell Street, Exeter.	First Wednesday of the month at 3 o'clock. Not fixed.
Eastbourne.	Miss N. Peters, 5 Spencer Road, Eastbourne.	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. 122 Cranbrook Road, Ilford. (Telephone Ilford 0058).	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Golders Green.	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10		First Tuesday of each month; 7.30—10 p.m.
Ilford.	Miss M. V. Drutt, 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.	
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.		
Cardiff.	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