

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

OCTOBER, 1931.

Vol. XIV., No. 3.

3/6 per annum, post free.

THE ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21st, 1931, at the Georgian
Restaurant, Harrod's Stores, Brompton Road, S.W.**

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

ORDERS AND MEDALS TO BE WORN.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

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

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

TICKETS

PRICE SIX SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE (6/6).

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

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

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

Tickets to be obtained from the **Dinner Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A., Duke of York Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3.**

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER NOVEMBER 18.

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

Application, stating number required, to be sent to Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A., Duke of York Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3. Proceeds of sales and unused tickets to be sent in to the Secretary (as above) not later than Wednesday, November 16th.

Nota Bene.

1. Counterfoil of postal order should be carefully kept, in case of loss in the post.
2. A receipt will be sent with each Dinner Ticket. If this is not received please notify the sender of the ticket at once.

3. Each ticket will have a perforated slip. On this portion will be stated the table at which the owner will sit. This must be detached from the larger portion and very carefully kept and worn as these portions will be collected during Dinner by the stewards, thereby ensuring that no "gate crashers" are among the assembly.
4. Every endeavour will be made to send out tickets within three days from the receipt of applications. If, however, tickets are not received within reasonable time the Dinner Secretary should be notified.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS.

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

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

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

GAZETTE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Will members please note that Miss Warrior and her assistants will have, as usual, a table where subscriptions for the Gazette will be received, but will members please not ALL wait for that evening to renew the same!

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1, on Saturday, November 21st, 1931, at 3 p.m. It is hoped that as many members as possible will make a point of being present so that the meeting may be representative of all branches.

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF BRANCH SECRETARIES.

The Annual Meeting of Branch Secretaries will be held at 1.30 p.m., on Saturday, November 21st, 1931, at the Ex-Service Women's Club.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.**Annual Dinner or Reception?**

Under the above heading a paragraph appeared in the May issue of the Gazette, stating that a suggestion had been put forward that in place of the usual Annual Dinner a Reception should be held.

Members are reminded once more, that a show of hands will be called for at the Annual Dinner on November 21st next in order that some idea of the feelings of those gathered there may be arrived at. In the May issue members were asked to give the question serious consideration, and it is hoped they have done so and will be ready to record their vote when this matter is put to them. The question will also be discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT.

A meeting of the Council was held on Monday, 21st of September, 1931, at 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan presided.
Room 9, Central Block.

The great news this month is that we have moved into new quarters. Headquarters office is now situated in Room 9, Central Block, of the Duke of York's Headquarters. We have a most imposing entrance—the main entrance with the huge portico, once in the doorway you start a lengthy climb of two flights of stairs—it's quite a pull up but hardly as stiff as up to the Council Room at Buckingham Gate. When you get up, it will be generally agreed, I think, that the move is decidedly for the better. The new office, though smaller than the old one, is delightful, overlooking as it does the sports ground and getting every scrap of sun available. It's so clean and cheery, the walls being newly painted—all cream—and as every one will guess who knows Mrs. Johnston and all her works, she has made the very most of the space and made the office really charming. It is all so neat and compact. The move was strenuous and grubby. For days before the General Secretary turned out, tidied up, tied into bundles everything possible. The clothing cupboards, too, had to be evacuated and all the goods tied up and wrapped in bundles. If any of you saw the inhabitants of towns near the line evacuating their goods, you can picture us when the day arrived. Mrs. Johnston's part of the proceedings looked normal, that is, for an office move, but the clothing cupboard bundles looked as though we were really being turned out "neck and crop." When the afternoon of the appointed day arrived, up came Mr. Ross and six of his men, and under his supervision, the six men made short work of the moving. All the big pieces of furniture were soon placed in position but a pile of things accumulated in the middle of the room. However, by about 5 p.m., Mrs. Johnston had managed to get the whole place into a semblance of order. At about this point O.C. Clothing Cupboard departed and left the General Secretary to it. Anyway, by about 6.30, everything was settled, and save for a few files that managed to get adrift, all was ready for "Business as usual" next morning.

The insubordinate files were speedily dealt with on the following morning, and the office has now the most spic-and-span appearance.

We are all delighted with the new office and extremely grateful to the powers-that-be for the room they have so generously allotted to us.

CLOTHING.

We have been most generously supplied of late, and it is a boon to be able to comply with so many requests for clothing and boots. A splendid parcel of boys' clothing was unpacked to-day but the kind sender seemed to have omitted her name. If she sees this, it's hoped that she will know how glad we are to have all these things. There were also several other anonymous parcels. Our thanks go to those senders and also to Mrs. M. Simmons (Mussell), Miss McKnight (two parcels), Miss E. Umpleby, Miss Wilks (?), Miss Lydia Fraser, and Mrs. L. G. Parker.

ARMISTICE DAY.

A number of tickets for the Parade at the Cenotaph on November 11th will be available on application to the General Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A., Duke of York's Headquarters. Application should be made immediately. Tickets will be sent out as soon as these are received from the British Legion.

The arrangements will be the same as in preceding years. A rehearsal parade will be held at 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W., on Tuesday, November 10th, at 8.30 p.m. "Fall In" on November 11th, at 9.30 a.m., at Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London, S.W.

Six members (**not officers**) who possess **correct and complete uniform**, are required for the British Legion pageant at the Albert Hall, South Kensington, on the evening of Armistice Day, November 11th. A full-dress parade (medals, etc.) will be held at 5 Buckingham Gate, on Tuesday, November 10th, at 8.30 p.m.

B.B.C.

The British Broadcasting Company have kindly promised to broadcast an announcement of our forthcoming Annual Dinner. This broadcast will be made towards the end of October and will, we presume, follow on the news bulletin, as was the case last year.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR OCTOBER.**Brighton.**

The boat trip on Tuesday, July 23rd, was delightful. It was a perfect evening, and we had a smooth journey some 20 miles or so along the coast with fine views of the cliffs and Rottingdean, Newhaven, Seaford, Cuckmere Haven, the Seven Sisters, Beachy Head, and Eastbourne—all this and back for 1s. 6d.

We have just had our Branch Annual General Meeting, and the following members were elected to the Committee: Mrs. Anscombe, Miss Ashton, Miss Newnham, and Mrs. Smith.

Our finances are in a very good condition, which is a comfort these hard-up days.

We hope to have a regular monthly meeting-place this year, probably Jay's Tea-rooms, 5 St. James' Street. Also we hope for a whist drive and dance at the end of October, particulars of which will be sent when settled. Members will parade as usual on Armistice Day to lay a wreath on the Cenotaph.

H. A. BARON.

Oxford.

As Mrs. Grundy has now left Oxford, Miss Payne, 106 Woodstock Road, Oxford, has kindly undertaken the work of Benevolent Secretary, and all applications for assistance should be addressed to her, but Mrs. Grundy will continue to be secretary of the Branch for a time at any rate. Her address will be Woodside Cottage, Windsor Forest.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

At the invitation of the W.R.A.F., O.C.A., this Branch enjoyed a delightful evening in the company of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, who never fails to pay a visit to the club when in Scotland. After Dame Helen's talks, we always feel inspired to follow her example and do our utmost for our fellowmen, taking our places in the battle of life and endeavouring to leave the world better than we found it.

With the commencement of winter time, our week-ends at the hut are over, and we regretfully say good-bye to the locks and hills on the Clyde and the lambs and calves and chickens at the farm.

Mrs. Holms is always quite depressed to see the last of us, but looks forward to another summer with an occasional visit from us or to us during the winter.

The general meeting for the discussion of the Armistice re-union is taking place on Wednesday, September 30th. All members will be notified of the date, and we hope as many as possible will make an effort to be present and let

us see their faces at least once a year, as the committee will do their best to please everyone.

Later.

At a general meeting of the Glasgow Branch held on September 30th; it was decided that the Armistice Re-union take the form of (1) a reception in the Grand Hotel from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.; (2) Dinner at 6 p.m.; (3) theatre at 7.15 p.m. The date is November 14th, and the price of tickets 6s. each inclusive. Any old comrades from any branch will be welcomed.

E. M. GILCHRIST.

Bristol and West of England.

There is, I fear, no special news to send to the Gazette this month. Our President, Lady Taylor, very kindly invited the members of our Branch to visit her at her home at Burrow. Owing to the fact of the prices of charas. having been raised beyond our pockets, and there being no other way of going there, we had to very reluctantly refuse. We were all very disappointed, having memories of a delightful day spent with her last year. We very much regret to hear of the illness of one of our members—Miss "Winks" Fisher, and sent sympathy and best wishes that she may soon be well again. Our next meeting will be our annual dinner in November, when we hope all new and old members will turn up.

E. UMPLEBY, Hon. Secretary.

Edinburgh.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the club at 12 Drumsheugh Gardens on Saturday, November 7th, at 6 p.m., when Miss Alice Low, O.B.E., chairman of the Branch, will preside. The meeting will be followed by a Re-union of Old Comrades at 7 p.m. The Re-union will take the place of a social evening. Tea will be served, and tickets (price 1s. 6d.) will be had from the Branch Secretary, Miss Mary Innes, 1 Granville Terrace, or at the offices of the Club.

MARY INNES.

Norfolk.

Our Autumn Session has started well, with a "bumper" meeting at Tasburgh on September 24th. Mrs. Paston invited us over to spend the afternoon and evening at "Fir Cottage," where we had the pleasure of being introduced to her four-months-old twin daughters. Those members who were fortunate enough to arrive on the early train, made later comers green with envy, by recounting their "doings" of the afternoon. Voices met them with "Oh, you should have been here, they are just lovely," "I nursed Lavender—the elder, you know—she's a darling," "Oh, Marguerite is so sweet, I held her," "I took Lavender out in the pram whilst Marguerite was prepared for bed," etc., etc. However, they were lovely darlings, and just refused to go to sleep until we had all arrived to inspect them in their cots, smiling and chuckling at us, whilst we bent over them in baby worship. They were just the sweetest little waaclets any branch could have—and we were all very proud of them. Little five-year-old Geraldine, too, was proud of her baby sisters, and she holds a warm spot in all our hearts.

During the afternoon tea was daintily served for early arrivals, and much appreciated. Conversation drifted around the babies, and the branch presented them with a silver spoon, engraved with their initial. Time, as always, passed far too quickly. A most appetising supper was prepared for us by our hostess, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. And then the usual scramble and hurried good-byes to catch the last train, which left at the early hour of 8.30 p.m. Thanks to Miss Newberry and Taff, four of us were able to linger and have a quiet chat with our hostess before returning home in their car, some little recompense for being "late arrivals."

Many thanks to our hostess for giving us such an enjoyable time—we had so counted on seeing the babies, but knowing what a lot of work they entailed, we hadn't expected that pleasure for some months to come! We look forward to the time when the babies will be old enough to spare her to us for some of our future meetings.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22nd, at 122a Thorpe Road, Norwich, our hostesses being

the Misses Newberry and Prothero. We hope to open the "Copper Box" on that date, and also discuss our arrangements for the annual trip to London for the Dinner on November 21st. It is hoped that all members will do their best to be present.

L. W. CHILVERS.

London.

September held no special social events of interest as things were so unsettled. The social for members and their friends was postponed until a later date—that of Thursday, 15th October. Tickets are 1s., and should be applied for at once.

There will be no theatre party arranged for Thursday, 29th October, as we are invited to a lecture which is to be given by Professor Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan on "Heredity." The lecture will be given at the Ex-Service Women's Club, and the time is 8 p.m. prompt. We are to be the guests of the W.R.A.F., O.C.A., who kindly gave us an invite to their chat on "Some Sidelights on the Schneider Trophy Contest" and "The Air Exercises of 1931," given by Mrs. McAlery, who is Service Editor of the "Aeroplane." We thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and came away with quite a lot of real useful knowledge.

Don't forget the Inter-Services Swimming Gala! An S O S from Bartlett tells me we are in danger of not being well represented—in fact, not even a team can be scraped together. Surely our expert swimmers are not going to let us down! *Where are our swimmers?* Those who cannot, or will not swim, will be amongst the onlookers, I hope, and help by encouragement to lead the few who *dared*, on to victory. Entrance programmes, 1s. each, can be had at the door of St. George's Baths, Victoria, on the night of the Gala—17th of October—or at the re-union meeting the previous Thursday.

There is to be a Christmas bazaar in the drawing-room of the Club on the 19th of November, and it would be nice if we could make a few pounds for the funds as a Christmas gift to the branch. Our activities use up our funds quickly, and we must be continually on the make to keep the coffer filled. Anything you think will sell as Christmas gifts will be acceptable; but the donations must not be too expensive. I think by this time we all know pretty well what we like to make for sale, and we do know that dainty home-made gifts are most acceptable. So please get busy and send in your donations to the Club, addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C., O.C.A.

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch will be held on Thursday, 5th November, 1931. Members are asked to send in their nominations for the 1932 Committee. Nominees must be willing to serve. We are always anxious for "new blood" on the Committee, so please have a good look around for suitable members and see that they are willing to serve before sending their names up.

The subscriptions have been coming in thick and fast this month, but there are still quite a few yet missing from the "paid file."

OUR SPECIAL DONATION FUND.—Our Special Donation Fund was started at the beginning of the year to augment our income, which has suffered depreciation through some sixty Life Members' subscriptions running out after a tenure of ten years. At the last general meeting a suggestion was made that members should try and earn ten shillings in some way before the end of the financial year, and Miss Edith Thompson offered a prize for the most original way in which the ten shillings was earned. Well! here we are nearly at the end of the financial year, and some £5 to our credit already in the bank and many promises of more to come. Next month I will publish the full list of "earnings" and members shall judge for themselves who deserves the prize. In the meantime, I publish herewith how Mrs. Spaul and Mrs. Hay earned their cash:

Mrs. Spaul purchased a small red flannel, padding, crash and embroidery wool. She cleverly made a little cottage tea cosy at a cost of 1s. 5½d., and sold or raffled same for 10s.—good business!

Mrs. Hay's own letter published below tells its own tale with far more eloquence than I could ever hope to do. Look out for next month's Gazette for the full list, and don't forget to send yours along! It is never too late!

THE RESIDENCY.

PERLIS, MALAY STATES.

DEAR MISS ANDREWS,

8/9/31.

I have just received six months' Gazettes all in a bunch, and observe that members are invited to earn 10s. for the O.C.A. funds. I am very pleased to send along my contribution which I earned by *not* spending that sum on something else! A most attractive sale catalogue arrived by post from our poshest European store in Kuala Lumpur, and having made a list of small items, I wanted to purchase, I held on tight till my knuckles were quite red—and didn't send it! Believe me, that money was justly earned, for the lure of the summer sale is quite as potent out here as at home, even though it's summer all the year round!

With all good wishes, yours sincerely,

MARJORIE K. HAY

(née M. K. T. Edwards).

Manchester Branch is calling for the loan of six complete W.A.A.C. uniforms so that they can take part in the Festival of Remembrance which is being organised by the British Legion. I know several London Branch members have uniforms, and I feel sure they will lend them if they do not require them themselves. If any member is willing to lend the uniform, please send it direct to Miss A. Stephenson, 7 Hartwood Road, Withington, Manchester, and at the same time advise me by card that you have done so.

R. S. ANDREWS.

THE "OVERSEA SETTLER."

It is with regret that we read that the September issue of the "Oversea Settler" may be the last. This bulletin was issued by the Overseas Settlement Department of the Dominions office and was full of interesting matter dealing with emigration. We have been indebted to the "Settler" for many articles on women emigrants to the Colonies and also on the training centres in this country and for women going overseas. Quoting from this issue of the "Oversea Settler":—

"The reasons for this step are obvious. The function of the "Oversea Settler" has been to record, month by month, fresh developments in all branches of migration and settlement, both at home and overseas; and so long as the flow of migration was being maintained at a high level, it was very desirable that a publication of this nature should be continued. Circulating, as it has done, to the press, shipping companies, voluntary migration organisations and public libraries, as well as to individuals actively interested in the subject of the development and settlement of the Empire, the "Oversea Settler" has proved a convenient method of making known not only the general trend of migration policy and practice, but also of acquainting the numerous bodies engaged in the actual work of recruitment, transport, settlement and aftercare with each other's doings. At the same time, by printing letters from individual settlers and by seeking to portray something of their daily life in the Dominions, it has tried to emphasise what may be called the human aspects of migration.

For the moment, however, the pressure of an unparalleled economic depression has compelled the virtual cessation of all State-aided migration and settlement; and it appears doubtful if there will be a revival on any appreciable scale in the near future. This being so, the "Oversea Settler" has at present no useful purpose to fulfil. There is, moreover, the question of cost. In the five and a half years of its existence the circulation of the "Oversea Settler" has attained to the respectable total of 10,500 copies monthly. Notwithstanding the modest scale of its production, this represents a monthly expenditure which, having in mind the urgent need for economy in every direction, could be justified only by a clear necessity for its continuance; a necessity which it must be admitted does not exist to-day."

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Writing from her home in South Africa, **Mrs. Marion Roe** (née Walters) asks for news of her old comrades who were stationed at Hostel IV., Havre. If any see this will they write to her at "Moorlands," P.B., Grahamstown, South Africa.

Mrs. L. G. Parker has recently been able to get in touch with an old friend through the Gazette and writes to say how glad she is.

Miss T. Slee sends news of **Mrs. Stokes** (Hilda Evans). She is living in Leicester and has been married for four years and is very happy. After being in hospital at Hastings for eleven weeks, she was discharged from Bostall. Later she spent two years on her back in hospital, but now, according to Miss Slee, is quite fit and getting along splendidly.

Miss G. M. Brett has resigned her hon. secretaryship of the Relief Committee of the Enfield Branch of the British Legion, owing to the fact that she is leaving the district. The Enfield Branch is very regretful at losing her or she has done her work extremely well, and with great tact.

DIARY OF A V.A.D.

France: March—July, 1915.

[This Diary was kept by a V.A.D. who afterwards became a W.A.A.C.—Ed.]

BOULOGNE, FRANCE.

March 23rd, 1915.

I left London on *Sunday, March 14th*, with Commandant R. Crowdy by the mid-day train. I was armed with a passport, containing an appalling photo of myself, also an equally appalling description of my appearance as a whole and in detail, an identification certificate containing much the same information and another copy of the photo, an identity disc and a startling red and white brassard with the number 2350 and the date and a red cross. None of these precious things must leave me day or night, and if I lose one I shall probably be instantly taken out and shot!

At Victoria Station we were taken into an inner chamber where people were searched, but as I am working officially under the Red Cross, I am spared that. We were asked several questions, such as: Why were we going to Boulogne, had we any letters, and so on, and were then allowed to pass.

The train was quite empty, a few officers and ambulance men, one or two women, and that was all. At Folkestone we had our passports stamped by an official before being allowed on the boat. Just outside Folkestone Harbour a sailor pointed out a stick with a flag on the top sticking up out of the water; it was the top of a mast of the latest ship sunk by German submarines!

We reached Boulogne at 6 p.m., where our passports were again visé by a French official before we were allowed to leave the boat. While this was going on, I watched a sad little scene, which, for the time, made me feel quite sick and certainly made me realise that I was really going to see something of the terribly sad side of war. A man and his wife, who had been sitting silent together all the way over, were standing by me waiting to have their passports signed, and suddenly an officer pushed his way through the crowd to them and said, "Are you so and so?" They nodded. He said, "I have to tell you, you are too late." They had evidently come across to see a wounded son, and the poor things just crumpled up. The poor officer who broke the news did his best for them, and was nearly crying himself. It was piteous.

We were met on the quay by the Secretary, G.— and motored straight to the Gare Centrale, where our work was carried on. It was quite dark when we got there, and our kitchen and dispensary looked so cosy and bright, and everyone seems so pleased to see us. Then we went on to the B.R.C.S. Headquarters at the Hotel Christol, where the Commandant has her office, and I went upstairs to the nurses' clubroom to see M. B.—, who was in charge there that day; it was so nice to see her again. Then we went on to the Chateau where we live, and had dinner with the

night shift at 7.30 p.m. The day shift do not come in until 9 p.m., when they have supper. Then I was taken upstairs and introduced to my bedroom, and I must own that for the first moments my heart sank a bit, but I love it now, and wouldn't change it for any other room in the house. It is a large attic with a high, beamed, sloping roof, with the tiles showing through, a very weird room indeed. Six of us sleep here, in funny low, narrow camp beds, curtained off one from another. The furniture is almost nil—one table and a chair each, supplemented by anything we can make ourselves from packing cases and two wardrobes between us. Sometimes the rain comes in, and sometimes small pieces of plaster fall on us during the night!

The household consists of: The Commandant, the matron, another trained nurse, two quartermasters, two head cooks, a secretary, an ambulance driver, ten ordinary members. How we all get into the Chateau is a miracle, but we are all very comfortable and happy.

On Monday morning, March 15th, I started work in the Kest Station as staffroom orderly—but first to describe the vans. We had eight ordinary goods or luggage vans in a siding with a high platform. The first one is for reserve stores, and is loaded up as full as it will go. The next is the staffroom where we keep our things, have our meals and do all our odd jobs. The next one is the Quartermasters' store piled high to the ceiling with tins of cocoa, condensed milk, barrels of flour and sugar, butter and cheese, boxes of cigarettes and tobacco, shelves of matches, cards, haberdashery, stationery, medicines and stores of all kinds, packing cases full of woolley comforts for the soldiers, piles of brown paper and sacking—in fact, a regular Whiteley's in miniature. The Quartermaster reminds me of Mrs. Swiss Family Robinson; she can supply anything you like to ask for!

The next van was a postal one, and we have made it a dispensary. The pigeon holes are splendid for keeping bottles in; there is an oilcloth-covered floor and a stove, and the whole van has been painted white. With the red curtains it looks awfully nice. Next comes the kitchen, not such a showy van, but the one where the real work is done, and it looks as nice as possible under the circumstances. On the other side of the platform are the remaining three vans. One is half a carpenter's shop and half a tiny office for the Commandant, the other two belong to the orderlies, and they sleep and live in them.

The platform runs down into the cobbled enclosed courtyard of the station. Here we have a rough shed-like room, put up by the orderlies for their own use, also a washing-place for them under the shelter of the station roof. A large open fire burns here where the cocoa dices boil, and we also have two large boilers which keep hot water going day and night. The orderlies, who are B.R.C.'s Lancashire boys, have to keep all these fires going, and make themselves generally useful to us.

The day shift came on duty at 8.45 a.m., and we were at once told by the night shift that there was an evacuation train to be fed immediately, so I started straight away into the business of the thing. The orderlies prepared the cocoa and brought it in the dices on a trolley along the platform. T—and I loaded up a small hand-cart with trays of mugs, and jugs for ladling out the cocoa, and large baskets of bread and butter and hunks of cheese. An evacuation train, I discovered, is one which loads up here with men who are well enough to leave the Base Hospitals and move on to others further from the fighting line. The hospitals here are continually clearing out their patients (most of them only stay a day or so) as they are being continually refilled by the Ambulance Trains. Just as this time there had been a good deal of fighting (Neuve-Chappel) and the hospitals were crammed to bursting point. A good many of these men did not look fit for a journey, but Boulogne cannot hold them all. This particular train was an improvised one, this only occurs when there is an exceptional rush. It was made up of goods-vans, the stretcher cases slung one over the other, and the interiors seemed very dark and overcrowded. The men were all filthy dirty, unshaven and

covered with mud, all wounded and suffering, but their indomitable courage and never-failing "Tommy" humour shone through it all—they are wonders.

(To be continued).

THE "STAR AND GARTER MAGAZINE."

We have just received a copy of the "Star and Garter Magazine." This is the first time we have seen or even heard of this publication, which describes itself as a "Journal of the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers, Richmond, Surrey, and Sandgate, Kent." It is conducted by the patients themselves, and is very cheery and breezy. The Editor covers himself at the outset by refusing to hold himself responsible for any opinions expressed, but judging by the current number he has nothing to fear. The magazine is very interesting and has a goodly supply of that wonderful spirit which these men maintain in spite of suffering—the Service spirit that makes the best of everything.

The following is taken from the magazine, the subscription to which is 2s. 6d. a year:—

Epistle of Imahlia to the Kroks.

- (3) Concerning the Flying Squad—(5) Of their mysterious rites—(6) Of the war with pedestrians—(8) Of the Press publicity—(10) Edmund's journey to Sangit—(12) Mr. Stone's magic box—(15) Starungarta talkies.
1. Brethren of the sect called Spinekases, and others of the divers sets that dwell in the land called Sarungarta, unto you and unto all that extend the hand of friendship towards you, greeting! May your years be peaceful.
2. Now of that which hath come to pass in Starungarta since my last epistle, he that desireth to know may read below.
3. Now, there is within the land a certain sect who, as part of their devotions, take each day a journey in a chariot of strange design, and on these chariots are levers weird and wonderful for the doing of this and the doing of that, but some also which do nothing; nevertheless, they are justified, because of the effect they impart, also for the confusion of the uninitiated.
4. Now, the god which is worshipped by this sect is called "Speed," and in the worship thereof is burnt much incense. Yea, and many are the burnt offerings of carbonised oil which ascend to heaven.
5. And the name of this sect it is "Flying Squad," and many and mysterious are the rites performed within the oily of oilies, which is in the basement over against the place which is called cinema. And on certain "Fast" days there is much fitting and polishing and sitting in sackcloth and ashes. To other sects it appears that the anointing with ashes is more or less the permanent state of the chief priests of the cult, and woe unto the poor benighted wight who shall intrude upon these rites.
6. Now, the natural prey of this sect it is the sect which is called pedestrians, and there is war between these for evermore. And they who have grown old in the sect do make complaint that the game of pedestrian chasing is not what it was. For the pedestrians have become agile and can only be approached with circumspection and subtlety.
7. There is much murmuring and talk of an agitation for a revision of rules so that pedestrians shall be handicapped in some way, such as the amputation of a leg, or compulsory blind-folding, for verily I say unto you, it hath been known for one of the "Flying Squad" to hunt all day without success.
8. The hope of catching the unwary one is rendered almost nil by the scribes who hath noised it abroad through the Press. Yea, and pictures were also printed in the papers, so that the "Flying Squad" are known some distance away, and the chances of getting near enough for the final rush have vanished.
9. Now, in the writings of these scribes is it written, "These men do their own running repairs," but of a surety they only do the running and leave the repairs to the firm of Wattgud, for only the chief priests may approach the inner shrine of the cult of speed.

10. Now, there was one of the "Flying Squad" who was named Edmund, and he made a journey unto Sandgit in his chariot, which is called "Speed Wagon." Yea, verily, and he stepped him upon the gas right merrily, insomuch that the "Speed Wagon" did jib forthwith, and the steppings upon the gas which he made, verily they did avail him nothing, for the thing which had gone wrong was the clutch.

11. And much time did he spend until a priest of the cult of speed was found that could help him upon his journey. Nevertheless, it hath reached mine ears that Edmund was still able to toy with the viands set before him at Sandgit. Yea, there are some even who say that he made wet his whistle and consumed choice baked meats.

12. A certain man came unto the land and brought with him a great box, and within the box was much magic, and he called the box "Radiogramophone," which is a name of great portent among wizards. And the name of the magician it was Christopher Stone. Truly a name much used by the fans of wireless.

13. And this man made his box to play music, insomuch that many listening thought he must have a host of dwarf players upon the lute and harp hidden therein, but verily I say unto you, this box having heard the musick in another place, did remember it and could again put it forth at the will of the magician.

14. The music which he played it was a number of pieces played by the musicians of the army at a great course of warrior bands which was called a tattoo. Yea, many were the memories recalled by old warriors in the land called Starungarta who are no longer able to get to the place of musick-making.

15. It is being noised among the multitude that the rulers of Starungarta are putting in the place which is called cinema a machine for what is called the "Talkies." There appeareth to me to be a measure of superfluity about getting a machine to do this when it is well known that in Starungarta are many Nurses and Sisters who could supply as much talk as is required, for it is borne upon me that the difficulty is not to get them to talk but to stop.

16. George hath said unto me privily that it is exceeding difficult to get films with captions printed thereon for silent pictures, and of a surety science marches, so why should we lag?

17. Now, O my friends of Starungarta, I again bid you farewell for a space with all good wishes.

ZEPPELIN RAIDS.

As Raiders Saw Them.

The following is a review of a German war book, which was published in the "Evening Standard" of October 8th. This book, "Zeppelins Over England," should be of almost personal interest to some of us!

The maroons fire with a dull reverberating boom, the sirens shriek out the alarm! All lights out! Take cover! London goes black.

Londoners remember how they waited, tense and fearful, for the bombs. But what were the feelings of the men in the Zeppelins themselves as they dared the barrage knowing that a single hit would bring their craft plunging to earth, a mass of flame? Their story is now told graphically by the man who commanded the first Zeppelin to cross the English coast and who took part in 19 raids on London and England.

Freiherr Treusch von Buttlar Brandenfels was the most famous of all German airship commanders. He missed death for the first of countless times by being left behind when L2 made her maiden flight in 1913 and fell in flames; he was given his first command, L 6, when a junior lieutenant.

He tells in "Zeppelins Over England" (published by Harrap, 8s. 6d. net.) how he made the first raid on England when our defences were "absurdly inadequate." Without informing his superiors, he decided to extend a reconnaissance flight into an attack.

"It was 1 a.m. and still no land in sight. Should I turn back after all? . . . Suddenly a thin shaft of light

came into view. The misty arm of a searchlight darted across the sky. It was probably looking for us. We were over England!

"Then we saw faint lights beneath us, myriads of them! We must be over some town. Let fly then? . . .

"We kept over our objective and climbed to 3,500ft. It was impossible to take the ship any higher . . .

"Whitish green beams came up through the mist again and began searching the sky. They crossed each other, drew nearer, their light grew brighter, and suddenly covered the ship's envelope in a blinding glare! They've got us!

"Little spots of red fire appeared below. They were the anti-aircraft batteries. I gave Schiller (the bombing officer) the sign. Then I climbed slowly in a spiral to a height of 4,500ft. above our objective.

The incendiary bombs at that time had to be thrown out by hand, and the commander says simply:—

"Meanwhile Schiller dropped the three 10wt. bombs. By this time the space between us and the ground had become a perfect inferno of gunfire and bursting shells—shrapnel meant for us. When all the bombs had been thrown I leant well out of the car and saw a fiery "6" burning gaily on the ground. We had certainly branded the number of our ship indelibly on English soil."

The town he had bombed was Maldon, Essex.

Like a Ball of Fire.

The Zeppelins were much bigger and more deadly by September, 1916, when Brandenfels tells of a raid on London in L11 in company with L32, commanded by his friend Peterson.

"That night at 12 o'clock I was over London. I had found Peterson again—he was a little further to the west—but I saw nobody else.

"Underneath us every spark of light went out. How magnificently their 'lights out' orders functioned! Then the anti-aircraft batteries started barking. Searchlights began their scrutiny of the skies, and their quivering ghost-like beams shot across the heavens.

"For an instant I saw Peterson's airship, like a gigantic white cigar, lit up from below. The enemy had not found me yet, but were searching the sky and missing me each time. The batteries barked like mad. But they did not find me.

"Suddenly a red light shone out vividly through the darkness, and then seemed to fill the sky. At my side in the west a ball of fire hung in the heavens. It was Peterson's airship!

Overwhelmed by Horror.

"We held our breath, and caring not a rap for the anti-aircraft batteries and the searchlights, we stared and stared. And then, like a gigantic torch, the ship dropped faster and faster to earth. She crashed to the ground and continued to burn.

"Mechanically we terminated the raid, dropped our bombs and fled from the rapid fire of the anti-aircraft batteries. But our spirits seemed paralysed, petrified! Our grief was overwhelmed by horror. This was war with a vengeance!"

Later the anti-aircraft defences became so good that the Zeppelins had to go up to 18,000 ft. Sometimes five, sometimes nine, sometimes as many as 17 ships received orders to carry out a simultaneous attack on England. This is how the bombs were dropped on London:—

"I gave the order for action. Schiller pressed the first button and the first ten-pounder bomb whistled down to the depths. . . . The next bomb followed, then the third and fourth. The bombs were plainly visible. A tiny klob of light appeared 18,000 feet below us, a few seconds later we heard the dull thud above the hum of the engines.

"The heavier fellows, the 100 and 200 cwt. bombs, were released at regular intervals and crashed down below with a loud whine. . . . Immediately after the first burst the searchlights had found us. One, two, three, four! We were flying through a cloud of glaring light. I could read the smallest print on the map before me.

"The shrapnel salvos drew nearer and nearer. . . . Suddenly, on our port bow, we saw a brilliant light but no

searchlight beam. The searchlight was penetrating a cloud. 'All engines full throttle.' We were saved! Up we climbed into the cloud."

The author took part in the raid on England by 11 airships in October, 1917. This was the most disastrous trip ever carried out by Zeppelins, for although Brandenfeldt dropped bombs on Derby and Nottingham, seven of the airships were driven by a gale over the Western front and were wrecked in France.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Mrs. Dobby (Flora Blaker), Tatong, via Benalla, Victoria, Australia.

I thank you very much for your kind letter containing good wishes for our happiness. I was so delighted to receive your letter, which I fully intended answering earlier than this, only we have been a little unsettled. At present we are living eighteen miles into the bush, Benalla being our nearest shopping centre, therefore letters from "home" are very precious. We have three mails a week. On Mondays the English mail arrives. The country around here is very pretty, so rugged and wild. We have a sports paddock five minutes' walk from here, where the boys play "football" and cricket, also two tennis courts. Last season my husband was captain of the cricket club, but most of his team lived over nine miles away. I travelled with them when they visited, one spot was over twenty miles away, a perfectly glorious ride up the mountain side, and only in parts had a road been made, otherwise it was very rough and dangerous, but the scenery was wonderful. Where the road was made, it was white metal, the soil at each side being a rich red, with the tall blue gums towering ahead, and towards the top of the mountain the blue gums were tipped with red. Tatong has been allotted as a township by the Government. It possesses a police-station, hotel, Post-office, small wooden church, and small railway station, the line ending here. It is mostly a dairy farming district. We are getting into our second month of winter, it rained the whole of June. Last Saturday, only twenty miles from here, they had two inches of snow.

I had a perfectly wonderful voyage out, leaving Tilbury in a P. and O. mailboat calling at Malta, Port Said, Aden, Colombo, Fremantle, Port Adelaide, and destination, Melbourne. A nice party of passengers collected together at every port to go ashore sight-seeing, and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. At Colombo, Guide David from the Globe Hotel, came on board and made up a party of twenty of us. Returning from "Buddha's Temple" (where we had to sit upon a form outside and take off our shoes before being allowed to enter the Temple) we saw a sight very few tourists are privileged to see, namely, a Mohammedan's funeral.

Enclosed please find 10s. note. It will pay my membership fees for last year, also this and next year.

Upon second thoughts I will ask my sister to add a 5s. postal note, which will cover the cost of the Gazette for this year and next, as I always enjoy reading it, and wish it all prosperity.

We are fitted with a beautiful wireless cabinet, which my husband bought me a little over a year ago, so that although living so far into the bush, we are kept daily in touch with the home country.

My very best wishes to the O.C.A. and all its members.

DEATHS.

Whitley-Owen.—On August 15th, 1931, at Bath, suddenly, Anna Ruth, of The Bank House, Montgomery, widow of Colonel Whitley-Owen, R.A. (Mrs. Whitley-Owen was Miss R. Bowle-Evans, U.A., Northern Command. Transferred to W.R.A.F. in 1918. Formerly Commandant R.C. Hospital in Cheltenham, 1915-1917).

Dymont.—On September 10th, 1931, Ellen Gwellean Dymont, late U.A., Southern Command.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Ann Wilkinson, 159 Ebury Street, Victoria, S.W.1, ex-W.A.A.C., has opened at the above address. Knitting wools, silks, art needlework lingerie, hosiery, children's frocks, and woollies; maids' uniforms ready made and made to measure.—C. Wilkinson, Garrison Headquarters, Felixstowe.

Flat, 44 Bedford Avenue, Barnet. (Miss) K. Wind would like to meet an Old Comrade who would share the expenses of her comfortably furnished and convenient flat. Good position.

St. Agnes, Cornwall.—Comfortably furnished timber bungalow, three bedrooms, sleep four, living-room, large kitchen, indoor sanitation, verandah, sea view, lovely country. Plate and linen provided. October 17th, 1931, to May 10th, 1932, 15/- per week inclusive; May, £1/1/- per week; June, £2/2/- per week; July, £3/3/- per week; August, £4/4/- per week; September, £2/2/- per week; October, £1/1/- per week.—Bertrand, 6 Wilmington Avenue, Chiswick, London, W.4

Bedsitting Rooms, Single or Double, available at 12 Nevern Road, Earl's Court. Rooms comfortably furnished, and terms moderate. Gas fires and rings in all rooms. Constant hot water. Breakfast as required. Apply, Miss H. Pink, Frobisher, 1740. Also available, partially furnished, very large, light and airy basement sitting-room. Small kitchenette attached with hot and cold water, gas ring, etc. Separate entrance. Gas fire, own meter. Electric light included.—Apply as above.

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.

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, 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.
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 (Women's Section) Rooms, 14 Hanover Square.	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 Gree	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10		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 Hartswood 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.	
North Staffs.	Mrs. E. Stretton 10 Sparrow Terrace, Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent.	No permanent room fixed.	Monthly. Members notified individually.
Oxford.	Mrs. Grundy, Woodside Cottage, Windsor Forest.	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. and S. Wales.	Miss Diana V. Viney, 201 Carlisle Street, Cardiff.	Y.M.C.A., Cardiff.	Second and Last Tuesday, at 7.30 p.m.
St. Leonard's.	Miss E. Taylor, 58 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea.	58 West Hill. St. Leonard's-on-Sea.	Not fixed.
Sunderland.	Miss M. M. Low, 15 Featherstone Street, Roker, Sunderland	Y.W.C.A. Rooms, Burdon Road.	Second Wednesday each month, 7 p.m.
Tunbridge Wells.	Mrs. Houchen, Sunny Ridge, Rotherfield, Kent.		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