

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3. NOVEMBER, 1931. Vol. XIV., No. 4. 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.

OFFICERS OF Q.M.A.A.C. B.E.F.

It is proposed to hold the next Annual Dinner for officers of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps who served with the British Expeditionary Force, in the month of September, 1932, at a date to be arranged later.

It is hoped by completely changing the time of year for the re-union, many who have hitherto found it impossible to attend will be present.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT.**Clothing.**

Already the demand for clothing—warm winter clothing—is becoming heavy, and there have been a number of large parcels despatched, for the most part to Wales and Yorkshire. The letters of thanks received at the office show how welcome the parcels are and it is a pity one cannot show all these to the generous members who send us the clothes to hand on. We have received splendid parcels from the following: Miss Frances M. Sampson, Miss M. Wain, Miss Heywood, Miss W. Johnson, Miss M. Passmore, Mrs. Russell Barr, (two parcels, Non-member), A.L.P. (?), and several Anon. Mrs. Barr has sent us lots of boys' clothing which have been a great help. We still cry out for boys' garments and will be very glad of any.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER.**London.**

Our social on the 15th of October was a real happy family affair, one saw many faces which have been missing from reunions lately, and for some time. Just over fifty turned up and, as usual, there was much chat, some music, dancing, whist and competitions. But we all think our socials get more and more chatty each year. One constantly hears grumbles of stiff joints, etc., but never a tongue gets stiff or misplaced. Perhaps it's just as well if we have to make use of them to make up for the shortcomings of our limbs later on. I've often thought that nobody has ever had the pluck—at least not to my knowledge—to start a Chat Chat Competition. What fun it would be to watch the last couple in, and lay bets on which way they would finish up—all out, or brisk and still chatty.

The Inter-Services Swimming Gala. Everybody admired the pluck of our two lone representatives who upheld the good name of the Corps in the gala on the 17th of October. Right gallantly did Bartlett and Millbank work for us and between them they scored for Q.M.A.A.C. fifteen points, the W.R.E.N.S. gaining two points more and thus securing the Cup yet another year.

The gala itself was, however, one of the best yet held with regard to the swimming, and we who looked on were well pleased with the results. Competitors were well matched and although only two entries on Q.M.A.A.C. side could be raised for the relay race which always gives us our biggest thrill, the W.R.E.N.S., considering our plight and realising what a big disappointment it would mean to all if the race were scratched, decided to carry on, withdrawing two of their team. This race, now usually fought out between the W.R.E.N.S. and Q.M.A.A.C., provided us with our excitement of the evening. Two evenly matched couples showed us some swimming and those who were unable to enter this year, and also the lazy ones, made a vow there and then to be in the water supporting their pals next year. Such a good display did what no amount of talking can ever do several members agreed to meet once a week when and where possible so that they shall get in some practice during the winter. We hope that Bartlett and Millbank were not too tired the next day.

Our Invitation Evening With the W.R.A.F. O.C.A.—One of those really social evenings held at the club, which give great satisfaction to all parties, was held on Thursday, 29th October, when we replied to the W.R.A.F. invitation to attend the lecture given by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan. We listened to the lecture on "Heredity" intently, hoping that the clock would suddenly stop so that

the lecture could go on without interruption for as long as possible, or until Dame Helen got thoroughly tired of talking to us. But although Dame Helen did not seem to tire of our numerous questions, the clock inconsiderately ticked the hours away and all too soon the Chairman announced that refreshments had been ready for some time and we had better go downstairs. It was a jolly evening as well as a thoroughly instructive one, and as there is just a hint that it might be continued at some future date we shall look forward to joining forces again with our friends if they will invite us.

Christmas Sale.—Don't forget the sale which is to be held in the drawing-room of the club on Thursday, 19th November. Make anything you like and send it along or get a sale for it first and send the cash, and also come yourself and have a look round.

Combined Services Christmas Concert.—On the 17th of December the Combined Services Christmas Concert will be held at the club at 8 p.m. The Roamers have promised to lend a hand with the entertainment and also the W.R.A.F.s are getting busy. The W.V.R.s and W.R.N.S. will, we hope, also contribute to the programme and so make it a real entertaining evening. As this is the only social event during December we are expecting a large attendance.

There will be no re-union meeting on Thursday 24th December.

Competition to Raise Funds.—In order to give everybody time to earn that 10s. the list will not be published until December. Several members told me they were well on the way towards making the cash but so far these members have not given an account of themselves.

May I remind members that 1932 subscriptions can be paid at the dinner this year as in former years.

R. S. ANDREWS.

Exeter.

I am glad to be able to report that through the kindness of one of our members we are now fixed up with a room in which to hold our meetings. I hope that as many of our members as possible will make an effort to attend. We held our October meeting on Thursday, the 15th, and a very jolly affair it was, and we then decided to make Armistice Day our November meeting. We intend going to the service at Northernhay at 11 o'clock and afterwards to lunch. I will fix up the afternoon according to the number of members who show up. I'm hoping for a crowd, so please don't disappoint me. Any members who are coming from a distance please try and be at the 'bus depot, Paul's Street, by 10.30. May the weather be fine! Please make a note of the following:—

Place of Meeting: 16 Dix Field, Exeter, at 3.30 p.m. on the first Thursday in each month.

M. VICARY.

Manchester.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the Women's United Services Club, New Continental Restaurant, Oxford Street, on October 23rd, and in spite of the weather we had a fairly good attendance.

A meeting of the O.C.A. was held first and we are very pleased indeed that Mrs. Stear has consented to continue her duties as secretary. We all feel that Mrs. Stear is ideally suited for the work—she has tact, energy and rather more time at her disposal than the rest of us. Her report was very satisfactory, and we all understood that a very great deal of effort lay behind it all. As committee, Mrs. Hearn and Miss Stephenson were elected.

It was agreed to again ask Dr. Peake to be our London representative.

Our United Services Meeting followed and regret was expressed at the absence of our President, Miss Matley. We surmised that the black fog which lay over many districts was the cause of the trouble and we have since learned that our surmise was correct. Reports of the year's work and also the balance sheet were read, and favourably commented upon. Our treasurer, Mrs. Bigg, was also among the absentees, owing to domestic duties.

Miss Stephenson, who has been benevolent secretary for the past four years, announced her decision to retire

and Miss Aldred was elected to fill the post. We all feel grateful to Miss Stephenson for all she has done, especially as her health is none too robust and hope she will soon feel more vigorous.

The post of treasurer is being undertaken by Mrs. Hearn, and on the Committee there are Mrs. O'Rourke (Forage), Miss Mason (W.R.A.F.), Mrs. Haycock (W.A.A.C.), Mrs. Major (W.A.A.C.) and Miss Foster (W.A.A.C.).

Miss Blease is carrying on again as hut secretary, with Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Smith as Committee.

Our meetings had to be rather hurried as we were rather late in starting, owing to members trying on uniforms for the Festival of Remembrance, to be held at Belle Vue on November 11th.

However, we kept very strictly to business and so got through very well. Very often at a meeting someone goes off at a tangent, with the result that the point under discussion gets somewhat fogged.

Our thanks are due to all retiring officers and our good wishes to those elected for the coming year.

Our first committee meeting is the second Friday in November when, I understand, there will be a good deal to discuss.

Let us hope for fine Friday nights and large attendances.

H. FOSTER.

Leeds.

London Dinner.—Leeds Branch party will be quite a substantial one this year and it is a pleasure to state that the number increases yearly. A party has arranged to attend the Annual Dinner by means of a day trip from Leeds, leaving at 7.50 a.m., and we shall be pleased to welcome any member travelling by the same train. Miss Mair and myself expect to be members of the party on this trip.

It was a pleasure to welcome, at a special meeting on October 21st, an old comrade who left Leeds some years ago, Mrs. Phoebe Martin is an old member of the Leeds Branch and it was good to see her amongst us once again.

Mrs. Spaul, our Council representative, is coming north for a week-end, but owing to the briefness of her visit she will not be able to meet her old comrades.

We have launched our second Christmas Cheer or Raffle for Branch funds. Books containing 25 coupons can be obtained in any number from Miss Mair, 19 Lyddon Terrace, Leeds. Each coupon is valued at 2d. and if you can sell just a few Mair will be pleased to send you a book. If you cannot sell any tickets your assistance towards obtaining prizes for the raffle will be much appreciated. Any donations or prizes will be received and duly acknowledged by Mair.

A. ANNIKIN.

Glasgow.

The syllabus of the United Services Club, of which Miss Laird is chairman, has been issued:

October 21st.—Song recital, by Rev. J. A. Campbell.

October 31st.—Hallowe'en Party.

November 19th.—League of Nations, by Miss MacDonald.

December 5th.—Whist.

December 19th.—Christmas Party to wounded soldiers from hospitals.

1932.

January 30th.—Whist and music.

February 11th.—Some War books, Captain Reid.

February 25th.—Concert Party to soldiers at Ralston Hospital.

March 16th.—"First Aid," Dr. Pirie.

March 21st.—Annual business meeting.

A splendid variety! Surely something will be found to suit all tastes.

Will members and friends take special notice of the party to wounded soldiers on December 19th and come and help and send contributions in money and "kind."

Gazette.—Occasionally there is a notice in the Gazette referring to Miss Warrior and her committee. The secretary would like to thank Miss Warrior and her committee for all the work which they do so quietly in addressing wrappers and despatching the Gazette every month. It would be interesting to know how many are sent out.

E. M. GILCHRIST.

Norfolk.

A jolly evening was spent on October 22nd, at 122a Thorpe Road, Norwich, when the Misses Newberry and Prothero were our hostesses. Quite a good number of members were present, which was very gratifying on such a foggy night. A most enjoyable dinner was prepared for us, and much appreciated by all. After dinner we had the interesting and amusing task of opening the "Copper Box," and counting the contents. Thanks to a little addition from members present, the amount again reached £1 for the year, and will be sent to London for the augmentation of funds. Needless to say, a new "Copper Box" will be well in evidence at our next meeting!

The Annual Dinner came in for a good deal of discussion, and arrangements were made for spending the night in London. Time slipped away very quickly, in spite of the fact that Yarmouth members lingered until 11 p.m. train—a sure sign with us of having spent a happy evening together!

One thing I should like to mention. One of our members has kindly offered to make our favourite sweets and sell amongst us to help swell the fund of our "Copper Box." "Cokernut kisses" and "peppermint creams" will be on sale at each meeting, at 4d. and 6d. per ½lb. respectively. We heartily thank our member for this offer.

There will be no local meeting in November, owing to the dinner. Arrangements for December will be notified later to members individually.

L. W. CHILVERS.

Nottingham.

The 7th October was rather a gala day for our club having, with the exception of two or three members, a full attendance. And yet it was sad because our old secretary and standby was bidding us au revoir for some time to come. Active in many spheres of life, her unselfish devotion to our most afflicted brethren at the blind institute will feel her departure so keenly. For years her life has been wrapped up with those less fortunate, and her decision to go out to Cyprus to carry on her work there leaves one with a void very hard to overcome.

Though differences at times so often arise in club life, Miss Burder always had a way of bringing us to a unanimous feeling of well-being. Her work in club life here in Nottingham was untiring, and it seems strange that her duties with it should end in the same month three years later from the month she took up secretaryship.

We regret her decision to go so far away from us all. Our consolation is in the fact that she is going out to carry on her work of devotion to the blind in Cyprus.

The wish of every member is for her good health and happiness, and should she ever come to stay in Nottingham that our club will be here to receive her with open arms.

We meet the first Wednesday night in every month, from 7 to 9.30 p.m. Will all ex-Service women try and get in touch with the local secretary and so help to make our evenings enjoyable with chats of experiences of the past and hopes for the future.

PAT. SKELLINGTON.

ABBEVILLE ?

Brig-General John Charteris, who was at the head of Intelligence at G.H.Q., has recently written a book called "At G.H.Q.," and while reading it Dame Helen came across the following:

"May 20th, 1918. The German aeroplanes gave us rather a dose last night—much noise that kept us awake, but very little damage. All the W.A.A.C.s were bundled in their night attire into shelters. Some of their huts, with all their garments, were destroyed by bombs, and the young women presented rather an amusing appearance next day in all manner of borrowed clothes. They were not in the least panicky. I went round during the raid to see how they were getting on and found them running quite a good impromptu concert, apparently entirely unconcerned."

Dame Helen thought we would be interested to read this, and adds: "It sounds to me like the raid at Camp II.,

Abbeville, but the author does not speak of being away from G.H.Q."

Perhaps some members who went through this raid will give us an account of this impromptu concert?

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Miss Dorothy M. R. Burder, who for some time now has acted as hon. secretary of the Nottingham Branch of the O.C.A., has recently been appointed Superintendent-Matron-Teacher of the School for the Blind in Cyprus. She left London to take up her new appointment on October 19th last. The good wishes of all her Old Comrades will go with her and they will hope to see her when she visits England next.

Mrs. Pat Skellington, 94 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, has taken over the hon. secretaryship of Notts from Miss Burder.

Mrs. L. Little (nee Izzard) writes from 1390 Chalmers, Detroit, U.S.A., sending a donation to the Augmentation Fund and wishes to be specially remembered to **D. Taylor**, **Smart**, **Garnham**, and **Longman**.

Miss Faith Kenworthy-Brown now has her studio in London where she has been doing a good deal of painting. She has an oil study "Spanish Boy," exhibited at the R.O.I., Princes Gallery, Piccadilly.

Among the new members who have joined us recently is **Mrs. Lillian M. Sharp** (2370, Worker, Clerk) and she is anxious to trace **Miss Irene Huntington**, who was in Queen Mary Camp, Calais in 1917. So far the only member mentioned in the Gazette known to Mrs. Sharp is **Miss Douche**, who, she says, was one of her officers. Mrs. Sharp is a member of the British Legion and acted as Standard Bearer at Canterbury Cathedral last July. Her Address is Orchard House, Lynstead Lane, Teynham, Kent.

Mrs. George Horlock (Jean Black), to whom a daughter was recently born, has now four daughters to keep her occupied. Until a short time ago she and her husband and family were living in Southend, but have now moved to "Clover Bar," 30 Sourberie Avenue, Letchworth, Herts.

Miss E. M. Warrior, who, with her Committee, works so hard each month to get the Gazette distributed, sends us a very interesting extract from a letter of another member, and to which she adds a paragraph upholding the good climatic conditions of Skye! This extract will be found in another column of this issue.

Rouen members will be interested to know that the Hon. Mary Pickford, who successfully contested Hamersmith in the last General Election, is the sister of the **Hon. Dorothy Pickford**, who served as Administrator in the Rouen area.

"JOHNNIE OF Q.M.A.A.C."

Some months ago I wrote in these columns of a happy chance re-union with my old U.A., Miss Christian Lorimer, of Camp 4, Rouen. Later, Miss Lorimer loaned me a book, "Johnnie of Q.M.A.A.C."

I had to confess that I had never heard of it, so that it was with complex emotions of surprise, happy reminiscences and sadness that I perused it. You see I knew "Johnnie," whose life story is enshrined in its pages, and it was in memory and appreciation of this very courageous, joyous and charming soul that I am now tempted to write.

There was, I am sure, a "Johnnie" in every billet, camp or hostel of the corps, just as surely as there was a "Billy," "Jimmie," or "Paddy." Many of them, alas, have long since "Gone West." Let "Johnnie of Q.M.A.A.C.," therefore, be symbolic of them all whom we remember with affection.

Elizabeth S. Johnston, "Johnnie," was attached to the Corps of Signallers and a member of Camp 4, Que-

villey, Rouen. Her tragic death, due to a fatal accident during the Christmas of 1918, cut short what promised to be a brilliant career because "Johnnie" possessed literary gifts of a very high order. She was also beloved by all who knew her, because of her kindly, sunny nature with a very keen sense of humour. Her passing cast a gloom over the Camp for days. I saw her laid to rest with full military honours, and the incident will always remain with me as a vivid and poignant memory.

As "Johnnie" herself once wrote, little thinking it would be fulfilled in her own life:—

"This is the night of a star,
This is the long road's ending.

* * * * *

Valour and youth, lost hope and
a myriad dreams splendidly given."

Thinking what an ideal Christmas gift the book would make for my W.A.A.C. friends, I was referred by the publishers to the authoress, Miss Agnes Anderson, securing her two last copies. I retained one, and sent the other to a W.A.A.C. friend in Australia. She was overjoyed to receive it, and her unstinted tribute, following as it did other letters of appreciation from all parts of the world, definitely decided the authoress to embark upon the publishing of a cheap re-print, even though it entailed spending her last penny, and the book has recently been published in an attractive form at the price of 1s. 6d. per copy. It should be a treasured possession of every W.A.A.C., from any sphere of service, for in addition to literary sketches and poems, the letters and diary give such a really and truly clever pen picture of W.A.A.C. life as we all knew and lived it (with, of course, individual variations), that it acts as a refreshing antidote to those garbled effusions latterly published and purporting to represent the life of the corps. For that reason it should also appeal to a wider circle.

All who are making the pilgrimage to the Re-union Dinner should secure a copy and take "Johnnie" as a travelling companion. She would, I am sure, inspire you with a greater enthusiasm (if that were needed) and take you right back to the old days of your "Great Adventure."

To those pondering the vexed question of just what to give for Christmas—your problem is quickly solved.

A copy of the book is in the Library of the War Histories Museum, and a letter of acknowledgment has been received from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

J. A. TAYLOR ("Burchie").

NOTICE.

Will **Miss M. Cowens**, late of 16 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, forward her address to this office? A member who wrote to her recently to the address advertised in the Gazette has had her letter returned, "Address unknown—gone away."

CORRESPONDENCE.

From **Ethel E. Bushell**, Apart. 13a, 812 Park Avenue, New York City, U.S.A.

Dear Old Comrades.—It's quite a long time now since I wrote to you through the Gazette, in fact, just as I was leaving the cooking school for a private position, which I am now in, and has been quite a success. This coming week the apartment is changing hands and I am taken on with the new tenant, for which I am very glad, as owing to the depression in America it is not so easy to get positions as I believe it was once, but I have been out here a little over a year and have only lost four days, and that was from choice, so I have no cause to complain. I have had some very nice times with the British War Veterans. Last time I told you no one spoke to me, but they have made up for that omission since, and I am a member of the House and Entertainments Committee. At the June meeting I found a new member, who to my surprise was Miss Lockyer, whom some Pont d'Arche members will remember as a forewoman in "B" billet. Need-

less to say we had a good gossip over old times, and are now good friends and meet often. Miss Lockyer has been in New York ten years and is a very enthusiastic ex-Service woman, and has planned to lend us her apartment this coming winter for some "get togethers."

Someone (Miss Billington, I think) put in the February Gazette I would like to get in touch with ex-waacs, and it has brought quite a few replies, and a visit from Miss Edith Pierce, who is an ex-Waac, and after was transferred to the W.R.A.F.s, and is now a War Veteran, and is also very eager to help get in touch with other members. We have been able to meet other members and have some nice times together. One evening we were seven gathered at my friend (Mrs. Turner's) apartment—Blanchard, Jarvis, Mrs. Lucky (nee Johnstone), Reynolds, Pierce, Doran (V.A.D.), and myself, not a bad show. The next time the West Side Waacs invited the East Side Waacs to their side as it was equal sides—three W. and three E. It was very good fun. Jarvis rolled up late with Eskimo pies (ice cream) and someone else dropped a good iced cake on the floor, so you can all guess it was a real Waac gathering.

In this city everyone seems to have to go away. I was away four weeks in Mass., which I liked very much, but unfortunately had to come back to New York the end of July. I certainly had a very easy time, but I didn't like the heat at all and shall not stay in the city another year. I believe this year the heat has been more than usual, but I got through and am thankful to say kept well. I spent as many days as possible at the sea, which is very easy and cheap to get to from New York; and that helped a lot.

I saw quite a lot of Blanchard as she, too, was in the city all summer, but she likes the heat, it suits her well. We had a nice trip to Lake Hopatcong one Sunday, setting off early in the morning and taking our food with us. We had a very enjoyable time.

Now everyone seems to be back in New York for the winter, and I got a letter from Mrs. Rose (nee Lamb, Etaples), who is very keen on starting an O.C.A. branch, and 'phoned me to see how many we could get together, and planned to have our first meeting at her apartment in Brooklyn last Thursday, the 8th. We were four only, including our hostess, and after having talked over forming a branch, we decided there was so much coming and going from here it would hardly be possible with so few, and decided to have as many "get togethers" as possible, and arranged to meet at Mrs. Rose's every second Thursday in the month. Mrs. Rose gave us such a delightful welcome and we felt at home right away and talked so much. I really think her husband was pleased to have us too, he looked like it, and made us a very nice cup of tea, so I really think we are making a little progress. Jarvis has not been too well. She paid me a visit last Friday evening, and I hope she will soon be better.

We intend having a little dinner somewhere—as many as can gather—in conjunction with the Annual Dinner in London on the 21st, and we shall talk about everyone we know.

The War Veterans have a ball on November 11th, and it is a big affair here and should be extra special as it takes place at the new Waldorf Astoria, and they have a very swell ball-room.

On Tuesday I hope to see Mrs. Mills (nee Guest), who is passing through New York on her way to England for two months' holiday.

Here's all the best to Old Comrades for the Dinner and Christmas, 1931.

From Maude M. Steenkamp (nee Wood), Main Street, Vryburg, Bechuanaland, South Africa.

Dear Editor.—Each month, on receipt of the Gazette, I want to get in touch with you all right away, whilst its influence is still upon me! I look forward to its coming more than I can tell, and enjoy every word of it. Long may it flourish!

Just a word of my affairs. After my husband's tragic death last year in the Belgian Congo, I returned south

with my two infants to my parents-in-law. After that I went down to Durban for ten months to regain myself a little, meantime taking up a course of book-keeping. Returning to Vryburg I obtained a very satisfactory billet in the office of a merchant here. I have bought a dear little house in Vryburg for myself, but unfortunately have not sufficient to run it on, so meantime I have let it, and am making my home with my parents-in-law, who have been splendid to me and my little ones.

With kind thoughts to all Old Comrades.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM AN OLD COMRADE.

Our holiday was a tremendous success, in spite of being so different from what we had planned. We stayed in the Juras from the Tuesday till the Saturday only, having originally, of course, intended to spend our whole three weeks there, but, apart from one really good and sunny day, the rain was relentless, and the fields, etc., so soakingly wet that we could not get off the roads; quite Skye-like, in fact! All the people there said that once the rain had begun, it was no use expecting it to clear, so one wet morning we just sat down to what maps we had (i.e., rail ones) to see how we could best escape from the rain and find the sun, and we decided on going to Geneva and then getting a through train to Marseilles and the Riviera. It was a big step to take, knowing we had no suitable clothes, and not knowing where to go once we reached the coast. Anyway, we took tickets from Geneva to St. Raphael, which we reached about 7 a.m. on the Monday morning—and the sun was blazing! Here we did some necessary shopping and bought a length of material each to make frocks. We then set out to walk along the coast until we found a small, unsophisticated place devoid of English people. We reached Agay at the end of our first day, and liked it enough to stay two nights. Then we walked on again to Le Trayas, which we liked even better, and ended by staying there our remaining eight days. It was a glorious little spot, and we hit on a very nice hotel (literally a "shot in the dark" as we reached it after 8.30 p.m., rather weary after walking in the heat with our packs all day).

Our days were spent on the beach, in and out of the water, and most evenings we had a walk in the hills (! mountains) behind the coast. The Cote d'Azur is all that the advertisements say it is and the colourings marvelous—brilliant blue sea and sky and brick-red rocks. I have always imagined the Riviera would be too hot for me in the summer, but it was not so at all. They did say, however, that it was cool this year, so perhaps that made it so ideal. Our frocks were cut out with nail-scissors in our bedrooms; we sewed them together on the beach, and felt quit smart in them. Of course, we had no beach pyjamas—which were worn at dinner, as well as on the beach!—and our shoes were rather "strong," but nothing else mattered, as stockings are not worn at all, night or day, and very few clothes of any sort! A coloured silk handkerchief, attached to a string of beads round the neck, suffices for the upper part of the wardrobe, and pyjama trousers for the lower!

We found a little beach which we shared with a French family—father, mother, auntie, and two babies about three and four, perfectly sweet—hardly anyone else came to it. We always took our lunch with us, so as not to return to the public life in the hotel. We did not adopt the oiling method of preventing sun-burn, but we almost think we should do it if ever we go again. We found we had to cover ourselves up from the sun when lying in it in our bathing suits.

There was a remarkable lack of vegetation and no cultivation. The season was over, of course, but what vegetation there is consists of woody shrubs, mostly in berry now—very intriguing, some of them, I assure you! (The writer is a keen botanist.—Ed.) There are no vines, even, but quite a lot of small pine trees—no birds, no seagulls, and no life in the rock-pools. And yet, in spite of all this negativity, it was all *very* beautiful, quite a new experience for me.

So it proved an excellent holiday, after all, though I was very sorry to leave the Juras. I had seen enough of them to make me want more; very soft and wooded, fields of autumn crocus, and blue monkshead, and lovely torrents and waterfalls.

(With regard to the reference to Skye weather in the early part of the above letter, the recipient would like to remark that, while whole-heartedly agreeing that a typically wet day in Skye will provide a more thorough soaking than any other place she has visited, under good conditions, it is one of the most romantic and lovely of islands, with a wild grandeur one had not expected to find south of Norway).

DIARY OF A V.A.D.

France, March—July, 1915.

Boulogne.

Every man was glad of his mug of cocoa and hunk of bread and cheese. Each van was in charge of a French orderly, knowing no English and, I should think, no nursing, but this is an exceptional case, our people had never seen a train like it before. All the ambulance trains are comfortable and well equipped, and have a good staff of doctors, sisters and English orderlies.

We fed two of these improvised trains that morning, and all the while the worst cases off the ambulance trains were being carried away on stretchers to the hospitals. The rush had been so great that many of the stretcher bearers and ambulance drivers had been working 24 or 36 hours at a stretch and looked fit to drop, but that day proved the end of the rush for the time being and things have been much slacker since.

During the day an aeroplane flew over the town, but we were told it was a friendly one so no alarm was shown. We got constant rumours of zeppelins in the neighbourhood, but we felt astonishingly unperturbed. I think it must be partly that we are too busy to worry about little things like that.

On these improvised trains many of the men still had on their first field dressings and some were in a terrible state. Matron went to help the doctor and they did their best for them in the short time they were in the station.

We had a very heavy day, as there was another train in the evening, one of the real ambulance ones, and I worked with the Commandant on one cart, which made me very nervous. This train was made up chiefly of ordinary first and second class carriages, very high and awkward to get into with the heavy trays of mugs and bulky baskets of bread and butter. All the sitting up cases and some of the lying down ones are put into these carriages with a sister and orderlies to each coach or two, and the worst stretcher cases are put into properly fitted up vans with fixed beds or else bunks. (This type of ambulance train is still used in France in addition to the beautiful hospital trains made in England and sent out during the summer. Nos. 1 to 11 ambulance trains are the old ones made up of French rolling stock, Nos. 12 to 25 are hospital trains of the new type, and most of these are now in France. Before loading up the carts, permission is always asked of the officer in charge of the train if we may feed the men, and we never feed a stretcher case without first asking permission of the sister or orderly in charge, as it may be an enteric or abdominal case).

I was tired that first night, and how my feet ached from the cobbles and pavements, and my arms and shoulders from lifting the heavy trays and baskets. Bed was a heavenly place!

My duties as staff room orderly are—to keep the fire up; to keep the van tidy, to lay and clear away the meals for the staff, to wash any dirty cloths, and do any odd jobs for the Quarter-master, such as opening cases, sorting parcels of things sent out for distribution among the soldiers, counting bandages, and so on. Besides this, I have to go with one of the carts when feeding a train, the dispensary orderly taking the other, and wash up the mugs, jugs and trays afterwards. These mugs are made

from condensed milk tins by the tinsmith, who puts on a handle and smooths down the rough edges, for the large sum of 1d. each! These mugs are splendid as they are economical, and not sufficiently attractive to be taken off as "souvenirs" by the Tommies. I believe the amount of enamel mugs stolen at first was something awful! Still, they have one disadvantage from our point of view, and that is that they are the very dickens to keep clean!

My second day at the Rest Station, Tuesday, March 16th, was not quite so hard. We fed an evacuation train of about 350 cases in the morning, mostly British, but about 20 German wounded prisoners on board also. Such terribly sulky looking men; some were grateful for the hot cocoa and bread and butter, but some refused it.

During the rest of the week we had not much feeding to do, the trains came down from the front less frequently and often when they did come they wanted nothing from us. Once or twice we just took round cigarettes and magazines, and these are much appreciated.

The shifts change at 8.45 a.m. and 8.30 p.m. When on day shift we have breakfast at 8 o'clock, lunch at the Station or Chateau (according to arrangements as the staff room will not hold us all) at 12.30, tea at the Station at 4.30, and supper at the Chateau at nine. On night shift we have breakfast at 9 a.m., a light lunch at 11.30 a.m. for those who have not already gone to bed, dinner at 7.30 p.m. and two meals at the station during the night.

We take it in turns to work on night and day shift, and in staff room, dispensary and kitchen, for a week at a time, the shifts changing round on Mondays at 2 p.m. when there is a sort of "general post." The work is delightful, being out of doors, and is rather like caravaning, but the dirt is awful, and is our only real trial now that the weather is better. Our own chimneys and the engines in the station simply rain smuts on us all day long and it is impossible to keep even tolerably clean for five minutes and everything you touch is black.

We get two hours off duty during the day, and I have spent most of mine shopping and exploring the town. I had no idea it was so picturesque! The harbour is really lovely and quaint old narrow steep streets run up from it, with queer old houses on either side. The town in war time presents an extraordinary sight, with quite as many English as French about, all in khaki or nursing uniform of some kind. Great grey motor ambulances decorated with huge red crosses, crawl carefully over the cobbled streets to and from the hospitals and station. Other motors labelled with mysterious letters, rush about filled with important looking officials. English notice boards are in the streets, English goods are in the shop windows, hurrying, busy people are everywhere! Our Military Police in khaki, with M.P. in red on a black brassard, rub shoulders with the French Gendarme, and everywhere you see the grey and red dress of the Army sister.

On Monday, March 22nd, we changed shift, and I was moved from the staff room to taking charge of the Nurses' Club which we are running. This is in the Hotel Crystal, a large, comfortable room, with a lovely view over the harbour from the window. Here the nursing sisters may come and rest and read the papers during their time off duty and it is indeed a boon to them. There is a bathroom attached, which is a great joy, especially to those working on ambulance trains. There is a lending library, and tea can be obtained for 50 centimes. It is rather a dull job after the excitements of the station, but it is only for a week, and the sisters are very interesting to talk to.

March 31st.

I am in the kitchen this week, still by day, working under W. (one of the cooks). I like the kitchen work enormously, though it is the hardest and the dirtiest. We have lunch for the staff to cook, and also to keep coffee going all day for anyone who may come in, which often happens at any hour. We also have to be ready with enough bread and butter for about 200 men (two thick slices allowed per man. We have a bread cutting machine, of course) as we don't get much notice before the trains come in. Yesterday afternoon we fed 190 Indians with tea and biscuits, and in the evening No. 8 ambulance train

came in and we fed 200 with cocoa and bread and butter. When "kitchen orderly" you don't do the actual feeding of the men, but when a train does come in you have a good rush cutting bread and butter and mixing more cocoa. We got lots of visitors in the kitchen, supply train officers, R.A.M.C. doctors and all sorts drop in for coffee, especially in the evening.

Easter Sunday, April 4th.

We have had a fairly busy week, but then one is always busy in the kitchen. When there are no trains, there is the staff to cook for, and there is perpetual washing up and cleaning and stoking of the fire. One evening we had two trains in almost simultaneously, each with about 200 cases to be fed, so we were rather rushed. Sister came in to help me, and we cut bread and butter steadily for about two hours! In the meantime W. mixed basin after basin of cocoa which, as fast as it is mixed, is taken by the orderlies down to their fire where Mr. W. (Orderly superintendent) superintends the boiling up. For each large dixie we mix $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of cocoa powder with 8 tins of condensed milk (or $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of fresh milk) and three gallons of water, and about 3 lbs. of sugar. I think that evening she mixed eight lots! (This is a far larger allowance of cocoa and milk than the army gives, which we found to our cost at Abbeville, but as the B.R.C.S. allows us as much cocoa as we want, we are able to give the men a really good nourishing drink. The butter is also a great luxury as it is not given in army rations). To add to our difficulties we have nearly always an empty ambulance train in on the other side of our platform between us and the orderlies' fire (which has recently been moved, together with their hut and the hot water boilers). The trains are shunted in there to be cleaned. This means, if you cannot get one of the orderlies on the train to let you through the carriages, that you must climb through between them over the connecting couplings, rather a gymnastic feat with you arms full of trays and jugs.

April 8th.

I am on night duty this week, in the dispensary with "Sister." Things are very quiet and there is practically nothing to do. After our midnight supper, we settle ourselves with rugs and cushions, into our chairs and sleep as best we can until 6 a.m. when we have breakfast. After that we make up for it by a strenuous "spring cleaning." Everything is taken out on to the platform and well scrubbed, the shelves and pigeon holes are all wiped over, and the floor is washed by the orderly, and all the enamel ware is washed. It takes us all our time to get through by 8.45 when the day shift comes on.

Last night we had a zeppelin scare, two had been seen in the neighbourhood and all lights were put out, but nothing happened.

There have been very few trains wanting feeding this week, since I have been on night duty, we have only had one and we took over one begun by the day shift.

(To be continued).

BIRTHS.

Smith.—On the 24th October, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith (nee Edith Cope, formerly of Connaught Club), a son.

Horlock.—On August 31st, 1931, to Mr. and Mrs. George Horlock (both of Casualty Branch, Rouen), a daughter.

Keenan.—At "Machriedene," Cairnryan, Stranraer, in September, 1931, to Mrs. Keenan (Agnes M. Brown, 48, 166, Bourges A.E.F., Calais and Paris Plage), a son.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

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.

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.

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 Nevers 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, c/o Miss Muuse, Apt. 2 South, 251 West, 81st Street, New York City.

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).

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).

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

Devon.—Comfortably furnished rooms. Every convenience with attendance; facing South. Five minutes walk from sea.—Apply Mrs. Waite, 1 Major Terrace, Seaton, Devon.

An Ideal Christmas Gift for Old Comrades, "Johnnie" of O.M.A.A.C., by Agnes Anderson. Popular edition, 1/6; postage, 3d. An Old Comrade writes: I value this book more than all the presents I have ever had." Copies may be had from Miss Anderson, Ormiston, Bridge of Allan, Scotland.

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, Roe ad 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.	16 Dix Field, Exeter.	First Thursday of the month at 3.30 p.m.
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 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. Druitt, 74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.		Alternate Tuesdays at 8 p.m.
Manchester.	Miss Stephenson, 7 Hartwood Road, Withington.	The Continental Cafe, 14 Oxford Street, Manchester.	Every Friday, 7—10.30 p.m.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Miss Margaret Moyes, 1A Eslington Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle. Benevolent Sec.: Miss L. M. Floyd, 13 Beacon Street, Low Fell, Gateshead	No permanent room fixed.	Members notified individually.
Norfolk.	Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 32 Grove Road, Norwich.	Interviews at British Legion, N.E. Area Offices, 10 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.	Monthly. Members notified individually.
North Staffs.	Mrs. E. Stretton 10 Sparrow Terrace, Porthill. Stoke-on-Trent.	No permanent room fixed	Members notified individually.
Oxford.	Mrs. Grundy, Woodside Cottage, Windsor Forest.		
Notts.	Mrs. Skellington, 94 Shakespeare Street, 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.