

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

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NOTICE.

All Subscriptions Are Now Overdue.

"THE LANCET COMMISSION ON NURSING."

The Final Report of the Lancet Commission on Nursing was issued on February 19th. This Commission—one of whose members was Miss Edith Thompson—has been studying the nursing services and its conditions for some time past, and their findings are most interesting, not only to those of the Service but to the public generally. For a long while now hospitals have been complaining of the lack of probationers and the shortage of nurses generally, but when one reads the recommendations of the Commission the marvel is that there are any women to-day willing to submit to the antique rules, regulations and conditions as shown to exist in so many hospitals, by the findings of the Commission. Perhaps one of the most astounding things revealed to the lay mind, by this Report, is the way in which the present system attempts to regulate the private lives of the nurses. When one reads that not even trained nurses may go out between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., without special permission, that they must be in their bedrooms by 10 p.m., and "lights out" at 10.30 p.m., that "in half the hospitals questioned the nurse does not know her hours off duty until the morning of the same day," that telephones are not available even if the women pay for the calls, that there are often no reception rooms for guests, and a hundred and one out-of-date restrictions, one is left amazed. But that is only touching one item of the Report, which is full of plain common sense. One can picture Miss Thompson plying the unfortunate powers-that-be with questions such as must have made their ancient rules and regulations look very feeble and sorry. If even only half of this Report is put into action the whole nursing system must be improved out of all recognition. It was always a source of amazement to me in France why the nursing service put up with all those ridiculous restrictions they had to endure. When one thinks of the work they did and the long hours they had, it's almost incredible to remember the lack of recreation they put up with.

It always appeared to me that they were permitted to do nothing but work. They certainly had little time to sleep, less for meals, and none to speak of for relaxation. While we of Q.M.A.A.C. had discipline I consider the Nursing Service had tyranny. Now, thanks to Miss Thompson and her colleagues, all this ought to be altered and put right. Anyone interested in the Nursing Service and the staffing of hospitals should get this Report. It is published by "The Lancet," 7 Adam Street, London, W.C.2 and priced 2s. 6d., by post 2s. 9d.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR MARCH.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

The Hut.—At the general meeting held at the Club it was decided to rent the hut at Gourrock for the summer months.

As all the world knows by now, the Hut stands on a hill overlooking our beautiful Clyde. It has two bedrooms a sitting room and kitchenette, and members of any Branch may take it. It accommodates eight persons and the charges are 25s. for a week-end, Friday night to Monday morning, and 5s. per day mid-week. Sailing from London by the west coast, the boat calls at Greenock, half an hour's run by 'bus or tram from the Hut.

All information can be had from Miss Jaffrey, 280 West Princes Street. Terms include coal, oil and bed and table linen.

Visit to Edinburgh.—At the invitation of the Edinburgh O.C.A., Mrs. Holmes, Miss Gilchrist and Miss Maclellan attended the soldiers' party at the club on Saturday 13th February.

The afternoon's programme was arranged by Miss Innes and, of course, was a good one, including a visit to the shrine (as Mrs. Holmes had not yet seen it), shopping, tea at the club to meet Miss Crombie, of Wendover and Bostal Heath Camps, dinner, whist drive and concert, and the 9.30 train to Glasgow, Mrs. Holmes reaching Gourrock 12.15 midnight. A most enjoyable "hustle."

E. M. GILCHRIST.

Brighton.

We had a very enjoyable evening with Mrs. Sutehall on January 27th, when I expect she found that whatever else we had lost it was not our youthful Waac appetites!

Our little Whist Drive on February 24th went off happily, and we were specially envious of the winner of the extra prize, a lovely little azelea, given by Mrs. Anscombe.

There will be a country ramble on Sunday, April 10th, but details are not settled yet.

H. A. BARON.

Leeds.

Jumble Sale. Arrangements are now completed to hold a Jumble Sale on Friday, March 4th, in Domestic Street, Leeds. A goodly collection of articles has been made by members and friends and we hope the sale will prove well worth while. In the case of most of us it is a first experience in organising such a sale and we are looking forward to a good turnover.

The Savings Club.—The Savings Club, where members can put a little by towards the next Annual Dinner, has been unanimously voted for and the responsibility of the care of the treasury has once more been left in the capable hands of Miss Denton. The small sums saved last year during the brief period the club was in progress proved a

welcome addition to members attending the dinner in London.

The vice-chairman of the Yorkshire Area Committee, British Legion, Mrs. Vernon-Hope is proving a wonderful worker in the cause of an increased membership of the O.C.A. Not only does Mrs. Vernon-Hope tell the ex-Service women about us, but she actually collects the 2s. 6d. as well. Mrs. Vernon-Hope visits many branches of the British Legion in the area and we are very grateful for the personal effort she has made.

Subscriptions are now due. Please see back of Gazette for times of meetings, etc.

A. ANNIKIN.

Late News. Important.

Jumble Sale. The sale has been postponed until Friday, 22nd April, owing to the room not being available. This is a further opportunity for members and their friends to dispose of surplus goods. We would like lots more clothing and articles for sale, so please send yours along to Miss Mair, 33 Victoria Terrace, Belle Vue Road, Leeds. If you can help on this occasion will you please write Mair.

Annual General Meeting. The A.G.M. was held on 2nd March, 1932, and the following members were re-elected: Chairman, Mrs. J. Hall; Vice-Chairman, Miss D. Thompson; Committee, Misses Tunnington, Denton, Senior, Messdames Walker and Rice; Joint Hon. Secretaries, Miss A. Annikin and Miss E. E. Mair.

A. ANNIKIN.

Exeter.

There is not much to report on our January and February meetings, which were held on the first Thursday in each month, but I do wish a few more members would show up. We are now nicely settled in our new room at Dix's Field, so if any members come along, don't start ringing, please walk straight through to back room on first floor. I say this because one of our members intended coming to the January meeting and when she rang and got no reply (of course it was the usual hubbub) so she was not heard, thought she had mistaken the day and went away again and as our numbers are so few we can't spare one. We missed Miss Farmer who has been kept home by the illness of her mother whom, we hope, is much better by now.

N. VICARY.

Norfolk.

As predicted in the January Gazette, this has been a Red Letter month for the Branch. On Thursday, February 11th, in spite of the snow and bitter cold weather—and the unforeseen alteration of train service—Miss Edith Thompson travelled many miles from an outlying village in Suffolk to spend the evening with us at 122a Thorpe Road, Norwich. We almost cheered when we saw her stepping off the platform smiling—after long and tedious delays en route! All members within travelling distance managed to get up to the city to meet her, and the Misses Newberry and Prothero entertained us all to dinner. A jolly evening was spent round the fire, Miss Thompson giving us news of old comrades with whom she is in touch, and all were very sorry when her friend called for her at 9.30 p.m.

During the course of the evening, a ready sale was found for peppermint creams, and cokernut kisses, and all the money taken for them found its way into the copper box. To our energetic members—many thanks.

Wymondham and Yarmouth members had to leave at 9.30 p.m. owing to the rough weather, but local members lingered over the fire until nearly eleven o'clock! One and all voted it a very happy evening, and thank Miss Thompson very much for risking such a cold journey to be with us.

The best wishes of the Branch go with Miss Bathy, who sails for Australia in March, on a six months' visit to her brother.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 3rd, at 5 Market Place, Norwich; by kind invitation of Miss West.

L. W. CHILVERS.

Nottingham.

On Wednesday, February 3rd, a successful dinner was given in connection with the official opening of the East Midland Women's United Services Club, at 94 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, and it is hoped that members will make use of it and endeavour to make it known to all other ex-Service women with whom they come in contact.

The room will be opened daily 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. All meals and light refreshments may be had at moderate charges, also sleeping accommodation for visitors.

There is a library for the use of members, also cards and games. Members are requested to let us know if they are interested in swimming, tennis, hiking or biking, as outings will be arranged from time to time. Will you please note the following date, others to appear in Gazette each month: Sunday, March 13th, ramble, assemble Club Room.

East Midlands Women's United Services Club.

There is little or nothing to report apart from being two days' late. However, I thought you would like to know about our first whist drive held on Saturday, February 27th, at our club-room. Socially a huge success; financially a success, that is, we are not in debt, which is a good start.

We have been asked to run more, so at our meeting last night decided to run a whist drive every fortnight, and the next one is fixed for Wednesday, March 16th. We hope to make this a great success. Through the last we learnt of three ex-Service women. I have written them and hope to have more members to report next month; I have only one this month.

Last night many of the old members assembled and, being our own room, we could stay after business had been settled, and many a tale was told and memory refreshed of incidents that happened at home and abroad during our service. One of our members, a Mrs. Palmer, started to tell of her experience when we discovered she and I trained and went overseas together. We had met often at our last meeting-place without recognising each other. This room is a long-felt need satisfied.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves, the talks did seem to put us on a sounder footing one with another. You know we have a number of W.R.A.F.s, and many who did not go over overseas. Our talks made them very interested.

The end of the month is to see a musical entertainment. A quartette have offered their services free, and with the two or three musicians in the Club we should have a great night. The date is not yet fixed. We are collecting names with a view to arranging a week-end down at Shanghai Camp. Perhaps you can let me have price list or details of same for week-ends, also fare from London to camp. (Will Shanghai secretary oblige!—Ed.). I hope this is not asking too much of you.

PAT SKELLINGTON, Hon. Sec.

London.

There was really no news of much interest to report for January and as the honorary secretary was working at high pressure and in her spare time fighting the old enemy 'flu, perhaps she will be pardoned for the non-appearance of the usual chat. By letters received, many members were disappointed and so I hope to make amends by giving a little extra news this month.

First of all I would mention that this subscription business is very slow at present: I should welcome a steady flow of half-crowns from now onwards.

The members' social was held on Thursday, 4th February and we were so pleased to welcome new members at that function; sixty-seven members attended and they all voted that it was one of the best yet. Games, dancing and competitions were again arranged and everything went with a good swing from the beginning of the evening until the end. I nearly forgot to mention that we also chatted, but as chat is the natural mode of entertainment when we all get together it hardly needs mentioning—chat understood. The competitions were voted very interesting and that reminds me, I promised to publish the winner

of the "Parts of the body" competition, along with the answers. Here it is: No. 1, tongue; 2, sole; 3, teeth; 4, muscles; 5, tulips; 6, hare; 7, vein; 8, mouth; 9, eyes and nose; 10, brow; 11, chest; 12, enamel; 13, ribs; 14, waist; 15, cheek; 16, foot; 17, head; 18, lash; 19, kidney; 20, gums; 21, jaw bone; 22, heel; 23, blood; 24, palette; 25, pupils; 26, heart; 27, hips; 28, arms.

The papers with the highest marks are as follow: Miss McCarthy, 22; Miss Macin, Miss Hayward, and Miss Martin, 21; Miss Haines and Miss Parker, 20; Miss Dodd, 19; Miss Sanderson, 18; Mrs. Hardy 15. The prize goes to Miss McCarthy. Members may have their papers back if they wish them.

The children's party was again a great event in their young lives, seventy-two children and thirty-five grown-ups sat down to a splendid tea in the gymnasium at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, the 6th of February. The room was gaily decorated with festoons of gay colours, the pillars covered with yellow and blue paper and the tables a joy to behold. Down the centre of each table was a runner of red bunting and standing on this many vases of daffodils stood like sentinels over the bonbons which were laid by each plate, little snow houses filled with toys looked very important standing in rows down the tables, all ready to have their cotton wool torn off and their snow scattered in the excitement of getting at the toys, and the dainty paper serviettes added their charm to the whole affair; then there was jelly and all sorts of lovely things to gladden the hearts of small boys and girls. But the balloons simply took their breath away; they made a dazzling show as they hung in clusters from every available place in the room. The pillars with their blue and yellow gave tone to the room, the festoons swung gaily in real party-spirit, but the balloons nodded welcome to the young guests as they entered and they were not long before they became very much acquainted with each other. After tea was over the tables were cleared away and all the chairs arranged in front of the stage and amid great excitement the entertainer took up his position. Of course all the very littlest ones in front, big ones behind them and at the back the biggest ones were content—many having little sisters and brothers whom they had planted in front so that they should not miss anything of the show. My word, this was an entertainment! There was paper tearing, singing all together, stories, and lastly the marionettes. They simply loved it and Mr. Moore will not be forgotten in a hurry. Then came an entertainment given by a few of our talented guests. One little boy played the violin and what mattered it that his back was turned to his audience; a little difficulty about a music stand and so he calmly turned his back on the company, pinned his music to the paper on the pillar and carried on in good style. An Irish jig in costume, and the Highland fling in Scotch cap and sash, and also a very clever entertainment by another young guest. There must have been one very sad little boy, I am sorry to say, and that was the little boy who brought his music to sing and did not tell us. When his father called for him I heard him ask if he had got his music safe. The small boy replied, "Yes, it's in my pocket and nobody asked me to sing." Games were played throughout the evening both for the mothers and the children and special prizes awarded. Everyone got a present of some kind, and on leaving each child was presented with a dainty bag of sweets and fruit and in two cases, something for the little sister who was ill at home and could not come. Nor do we leave the mothers out. This is also their night they will tell you and they look forward to coming as much as the children do, for a chat together and they are specially proud to have a chat with Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, who always finds time to come along and chat with them for a few minutes while the Waaclets are making a terrific din. Mrs. Johnston, our General Secretary, was there, and Captain Garrard came along with Mrs. Garrard to watch the children enjoy themselves. It is pleasing to know that the expenses are halved owing to the generosity of the members and our friend Captain Garrard. This year three of our smaller branches claimed the privilege of sharing the expenses of the party, Brighton sent toys, Ilford and

Golders Green each sent cash donations. The total sum received in cash was £5 2s. And gifts of toys, balloons, apples and oranges were also received from the members. I especially thank little Margaret Newton for the lovely book she gave me and the caps. Also our thanks to Captain Garrard for paying the entertainer's fee—the book was sent to a little girl who is in bed ill, and Captain Garrard saw for himself what pleasure his donation gave to the children. It was certainly a wonderful night for them. I am told that the children start talking about this party whenever the winter comes round. They will now look forward to their trip up river with us in the summer time. We hope to take them again this year and will look for the same support if it be not asking too much.

Our Special Donation Competition.—By this time everybody knows what this competition was started for. To raise funds for the Branch without too much effort. Here is a list of the competitors and how much they raised the amount by individual effort: **Mrs. Powell:** Refuses to divulge how she earned 10s. **Miss R. S. Andrews:** Told a bed-time story to the "Evening News." **Mrs. Rix:** Made ginger wine and sold it at 6d. a pint. **Mrs. Paget:** Bedroom wall caved in owing to demolition next door, landlord allowed a little deduction off the rent for two weeks. **Mrs. Callow:** Ruffled a few sundries one day when London members paid her a visit. **Mrs. Hardy:** Proceeds of a raffle. **Miss C. R. Leach:** Handed over sweepstake winnings. **Mrs. Hodgson:** Earned her money by giving extra help with the poultry in Kenya. **Miss Parker:** Dressed dolls, made perforations in their heads and filled their bodies with talcum powder—sold at 1/3 each. **Mrs. Spaul:** Made a cottage tea-cosy out of red flannel, etc., which cost 1/7½. She sold it at a profit of ten shillings. **Mrs. Hay:** Saved her money by not spending it. She lives in the Malay States and tells me she also gets sale catalogues. She perused one, picking out all the little things she would like to buy to the amount of ten shillings and just did not buy them. Sent the cash to the fund instead. **Miss P. H. Harvey:** Earned her cash by knitting two caps for members, at the modest fee of one shilling each, made a frock for friend, a coat for her sister and did some whitewashing for her mother. **Miss D. Hayward:** Made peppermint creams and sold them. **Miss Edith Thompson:** Collected a lecture fee for the good of the cause. **Mrs. O. Newton:** Drank lemonade and water instead of wine at dinner-time.

This little effort brought us in £7 6s. 6d., and it is now for the members to decide by vote which member earned her donation in the most original way. Please send in your vote to the Honorary Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. (London Branch), c/o the ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, before the 31st of March. The winner of the prize, which is being presented by Miss Edith Thompson, will be published in the April number along with a full list of votes received.

Aldershot Tattoo.—It's very cold to-night to be talk-about all-night rides to Aldershot, but these things have to be arranged, so please send along your names soon if you intend to come. Saturday, the 11th of June, is the date chosen and requests are coming in for seats already. Send 2/6 booking fee when you apply for seats.

Supper Dance.—A supper dance is being organised in obedience to the many requests for another the same as last year. The First Avenue Hotel has been booked provisionally for Saturday, 7th May. The price of tickets will be 5/- Last year many members said they would have loved to have been there had they known about it so please spread the glad news and don't let's have any worry about filling the hall and making the affair pay its way. The treasurer will start a dinner club for those who would like to save up gradually for the dance so don't hesitate to put away sixpence if you want to. There is only one way in which we can keep ourselves together and that is by social events. There is no other way in which we can keep alive except by occasional gatherings, so book your next re-union meeting with your special friends at the First Avenue Hotel at the London Branch Supper Dance.

Make this your special night for 1932 because the Annual Reunion Dinner will not take place until January, 1933.

Re-union Meetings.—For those who live within easy distance of Hammersmith and also those who have the energy to come out as far, the fourth Thursday in each month there will be a re-union evening at the rooms of the Honorary Secretary at 110 Castelnau, Barnes, S.W.13. We had our first evening on the 24th of February and several members came along and had a very enjoyable time. They started by playing cards but they finished by talking—in fact we went all talkie and I am afraid the cards were neglected. There was also canteen to be opened at nine o'clock which caused a little extra diversion and so on, and the time slipped away very pleasantly. If we get a big crowd there will, very likely, be a shortage of chairs, but there is still the floor left.

R. S. ANDREWS.

Edinburgh and East of Scotland.

Party to Disabled Soldiers.—Combined with the W.R.A.F. Old Comrades Association, our Branch entertained 50 of the disabled men from Lady Haig's Poppy Factory in the Women's United Services Club at 12 Drumsheugh Gardens on Saturday, 13th February. Miss E. G. Abbey (late U.O. Overseas) welcomed the men on behalf of the joint O.C.A.s and read a telegram of greetings from Miss Alice Low, O.B.E., Chairman of the Branch, who was unable to be present. 40 Old Comrades joined the men at dinner and afterwards at a whist drive and musical entertainment. During the evening Miss K. Gilmour, hon. secretary W.R.A.F. O.C.A., presented the whist prizes.

We were delighted to have with us Misses Gilchrist and MacLellan from Glasgow, also Mrs. Holmes from the farm at Gourock, who very kindly brought a supply of home made shortbread for the soldiers.

A very grateful letter of thanks has been received from the manager of the Poppy factory, who says that the men all thoroughly appreciate the kindness shown them. It is little return we give for all these brave lads did for us.

The late Miss Jean Hawley.—We deeply regret to announce the death of Miss Jean Hawley (formerly of Le Havre and Rouen), one of the original members of our Branch and a former hon. secretary and treasurer.

Miss Hawley's death took place at a nursing home in Edinburgh on 3rd March after a very trying illness. We had all hoped that she would make a good recovery, but this was not to be and her passing has left a great blank in the hearts of her comrades by whom she was loved and admired. She was ever ready to lend a hand to a comrade in distress and her kindly ways endeared her to all.

Her memory will be cherished by the many comrades who loved her.

Our sympathy goes out to her mother and the other members of her family in their great loss, especially do we remember her sister—Cis—(now Mrs. Lloyd Hayward, in Peru) who is also a member of our Branch.

The Branch was represented at the funeral, which took place on Sunday, 6th March, at Inveresk Churchyard, and a Haig Poppy wreath, in the form of a Q.M.A.A.C. Badge, was sent from the O.C.A.

MARY INNES, Hon. Sec and Treas.

SHANGHAI CAMP.

By the time this Gazette is issued, the date and, we hope the weather, will foretell the near approach of spring and summer, and you will be making your plans for outdoor enjoyments. Don't forget that "Shanghai" will be ready to welcome you immediately after Easter. The new Camp Committee is already making preparations for your comfort.

Unless you support the Camp it will be closed after this year for we cannot go on unless it pays its way. We believe that the closing of the Camp would be a great loss to the Old Comrades' Association, but its future is in the hands of the members. If they want it and support it, it will continue. If they do not want it, it will be closed.

There is no need to say more. In making your arrangements for spring and summer please remember "Shanghai." Choose your week-end and book early. Those who have seen to "Shanghai" will need no description of its attractions. Those who have not been should come and see. We are doing our best to serve the Camp—please do yours.

There is an electric train service from Waterloo every half-hour, it is only about 45 minutes' run to Datchet; there is also a half-hourly bus service from Oxford Circus to the "Bells of Ouseley," or Old Windsor, either being within easy walking distance of the Camp. The Secretary (Miss S. T. Hannen, 30 Elmbourne Road, Balham, S.W.17. Telephone No.: Streatham 5779) will be pleased to answer any questions.

The Camp charges are as follows:—

	W.A.A.C.		Friends.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Friday evening/Sunday night	10	6	14	0
Saturday morning/Sunday night ...	7	6	10	6
Saturday afternoon/Sunday night ...	6	0	8	0
Saturday afternoon/Monday morning	9	0	12	0
Bed and Breakfast (one night)	2	0	3	0
Sunday only	2	6	3	6
Lunch	1	6	2	0
Tea		9		1 0
Supper	1	0	1	3

Week-end **exclusive** booking, £3 3s.

Mid-week booking (not **exclusive**), 2s. per bed per night.

Exclusive mid-week bookings the whole number of beds available must be paid for.

E. H. HORNIBLOW, Chairman.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

We are glad to welcome as a member of the O.C.A. Miss M. Hargreaves, who has recently joined the Headquarters Branch. She lives at 11014—129 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Miss E. Gordon has recently been staying in Pau, but has now returned to Paris. She says it does her good to read of old friends and familiar names in the Gazette. She finds the Gazette very interesting.

Will Battersby, A., 2376, send her address to Mrs. Garrard, 6 Lake Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19? A letter awaits her.

CHRISTMAS AT OVERSEA.

"Where are you spending Christmas?" This time-worn question always does pop up when one has little or no idea where to go or what to do to make the most of the few days at one's disposal during the festive season. "Let's make up a party and go to St. Leonards," said one bright soul with an idea, when we met to discuss plans for the holiday. Somebody shivered and said, "The sea at this time of the year?" Why not? You have such a jolly time at 'Oversea' that you don't notice the cold. I was there two years ago, and did not feel a bit cold. We had a perfectly lovely time." She drew such an attractive picture for us of large fires and Christmas fare, that the discussion ended with an overwhelming desire on our part to book at "Oversea" for Christmas. What memories that discussion recalled of those now-far-off-days in 1917. I had not stayed in, or near Hastings, since those ten miserable days which were spent while waiting for orders to proceed overseas, when the cheerlessness of our surroundings absolutely blinded me to any attractions which this well-known seaside town might, even at that time, have striven to lure us with. It recalled the days when you formed fours and marched to the Opera House for your tenth part of a loaf, your ration of cheese which always seemed to be in a state of perspiration, and an interview with "Lance-Corporal Bacon"—so dubbed because of the single strip of meat which struggled through the fat of each rasher of our streaky ration. Never mind, I was about to proceed to "Oversea," and with the assurance that there would be bright fires and plenty of tea, and who knows, perhaps the "lance-corporal" might have been promoted to three stripes by this time.

House fifty-eight was mine and I gazed at it with

mingled feelings one day when we paid a visit to the Opera House, now The Elite Picture House, to see "The Ghost Train." Believe me, I saw many ghosts in that house as I sat there—for instance, a jam-roll which I had the misfortune to lose track of when I was mess orderly one day, a concert at which I helped to cut sandwiches, thinking I would have a clear chance of an extra one, and finished up by losing any chances I ever had of even getting one through working too hard behind the scenes. A very wet night—my first there—and drops of water falling from my neighbour's mackintosh and sou-wester on to my tenth part of a loaf and my already weeping ration of cheese. Oh, yes! Those and many more ghosts I raised as I sat there. Well! Those are some of the memories of ten miserable, happy, if somewhat hectic, days. I now proceeded to "Oversea" for Christmas, 1931.

On Christmas Eve two of the party arrived about nine o'clock. Miss Taylor had supper ready for us and, of course, the ever-welcome cup of tea. A brisk walk by the sea followed the refreshment, and at midnight we trotted off to meet two others of the party. We were amused to find that the station had retired but was willing to open a sleepy eye to receive the midnight train from London. After rather a cold wait the 12.5 steamed into the station and our heroines stepped briskly on to the platform—indeed, so briskly that we forgot to sing a carol to greet them. That was a night! Our room overlooked the sea and boasted a gas fire, so we dug ourselves in very nicely and chatted until the early hours. We hung up our stockings, hoping for the best, and it was great fun waiting your turn to play at Father Christmas just as day was dawning. Christmas morning, a long walk to the little church in the wood, and a very nice service. I was charmed with the simplicity and friendliness around me and also with the music. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens, and the weather was so mild that the overflow of the congregation sat in the porch. The service over, we shook hands with the Vicar and started off for our walk back home and to the Christmas dinner which was awaiting us. The dinner was really a most enjoyable meal, as was the tea in the comfy drawing-room. We had a lovely cake, which was sent by Mrs. Jefferson, a good friend to the "Oversea" folks, and we just hated cutting it because it was so beautifully decorated. However, our natural craving, and shall I say greed, got the better of us and we did the deed, despatching all trace as quickly as possible. Feeling real snug we now settle ourselves for a chat round the fire, and in the evening we played cards with our fellow-guests. I forgot to mention that Miss Taylor would have been pardoned if she had thought we were staying for an indefinite period on account of the luggage. One gramophone, about two dozen or more records, a small kettle for odd cups of tea, and complete outfit for drinking and making same, hot-water bottles, and a few other sundries, and the few necessities for our own personal use for which there seemed to be very little room. We started the music going in the evening and the strains of the "Blue Danube" were too much for Mrs. Fox-Clarke, a lady who was staying there. She got up and danced with us, a thing she had not done for fifteen years. There is really too much to tell about that holiday, but I must tell you that we followed the hounds in a car and were thrilled with the experience. It came about like this: When we went down into Hastings one day we met a charabanc which stated that it took visitors to the meet on certain days. The next day we noticed, was one of the dates mentioned, and we immediately booked our seats. The driver promised faithfully to pick us up at the "Bo-Peep," and we took ourselves there in plenty of time. We waited and waited and no sign of a car like our's. Then, just as we were thinking of going along to ask for our money back, we espied a very nice car standing right outside the inn. On inquiry we found that it was really for us. Nobody else had booked and in order to keep faith with us they had sent this car along. In we hopped and told the driver to get on with the driving and get there as soon as he could because we were now late. We got to Little Common, and here I would mention the meet had met and departed. However, the

excitement had just begun. Away we sped after them and caught them up at a place called "Scotch Corner." We got out of the car and dashed across the field, first of all climbing a fence, where I tore my coat getting over daintily.

"Here they come," shouted the crowd, and "here we are," said we, not missing much. As soon as they cleared that part we dashed towards the car with the now excited driver, who had also never followed the hounds in a car, and away after them again. Well, we played like this for hours, and could have gone on playing, but lunch called, and besides, we had only booked until lunch time. The driver took us home in state straight to the door, and we felt thoroughly pleased with ourselves. What a large lunch we ate that day: We did full justice to Miss Taylor's excellent cooking. And this was our last day. We were due to leave by the seven something the same evening. We were sorry. We had enjoyed every minute of our holiday, and the comfort and fare at "Oversea" far surpassed any reports I had ever heard about the place.

I know there are many who, like myself, have not yet visited "Oversea," and I feel sure if they do but book up once, they will also feel as I did, many regrets that I have never stayed there before. Miss Taylor was kindness itself to us and the house is run on excellent lines. With the help of one maid Miss Taylor seems to work wonders. There is never a sound of work going on or a smell of cooking, but the house is kept beautiful and the meals well cooked and served punctual to the time.

Our party would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Taylor for giving them such a decent time. Also to ask if the telephone number of "Oversea" could not be inserted in the advertisements—indeed, an advertisement quoting prices, including the correct address and telephone number, might be published each month, because there are so many new members who know nothing of our seaside home. And I know there are many more who do know of it and would book up occasionally perhaps if they found they had a few days to spare and could be put up, or could get information by telephone. R.S.A.

MISS GERTRUDE HALL.

An "Old Comrade" Retires From the Post Office.

Old Comrades, especially those of the "Signals," who had the satisfaction of serving with Miss Gertrude Hall in France, will be interested to know that she retires from civil "Active Service" at the end of the month, having faithfully served the State for a period of 42 years.

Miss Hall has attained the highest possible position, for women, in the telegraph service, being Chief Supervisor at the Central Telegraph Office, London. She retires with the love and affection of all who have continued to serve under her since demobilisation, in common with the remainder of the staff of the C.T.O. Never was there a more popular officer in the Post Office.

I am sure that "Signals" everywhere will join us in wishing her a long and well-earned freedom from official duties. Her friendship we shall continue to have, and we hope to meet her at many more annual gatherings of the O.C.A.

BERTHA M. JAMES (CASTLE)

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Mrs. E. M. Chubbock (Cook, 1501), P.O. Box 583, Bulawayo, Rhodesia.

I'm once again sending you my subscription for 3s. 6d. I should just like to say "Thank you" to Miss Warrior and her helpful band for their monthly labours in sending out the Gazette. In the November issue I noticed an article re how, during a raid, one unit spent the time enjoying a concert got up amongst themselves; but well do I remember that once, during a raid in Abbeville, in the cellar of the old Q.M.A.A.C. headquarters there, Dame Helen Gwne-Vaughan herself, read the story (or part thereof) of "Little Peter," and everyone present enjoyed listening so much that the raid outside was almost forgotten. If I am not mistaken U. A. Harcourt was there, also F. W. Campbell, Johnman (the cook), Boulton,

Nixon, and Bellington (all of Glasgow), and Jean Robertson and Dolly Thornton. My apologies to anyone present there whom I have forgotten. I am glad to learn the O.C.A. is still carrying on, and wish all Old Comrades a Happy New Year, brimful of good luck.

I should be very grateful to have news of some sort of Mrs. Reynolds, U.A., Base Depot, Etaples, of whom I have very pleasant memories. Can anyone oblige?

I now remember another two of Headquarters Staff, "Old Jollie," with her sun-tanned face, and Ruth Lascelles.

From Mrs. Delany, P.O. Box 111, Nairobi (Sister Scott, Medical Hut, Camp I., Etaples).

I am grateful to you for writing to me and giving me such interesting information about the O.C.A. The truth is I put your letter away so carefully that I mislaid it, and it was only this morning, to my delight, that I found it again.

I would very much like to become an associate member. You are quite right. I was a V.A.D. attached to W.A.A.C.s, but I shall never forget how proud I was one day to play in a cricket match at Etaples in Waac uniform, to fill a blank!

I remember Mrs. Johnston very well and all my messmates at Camp I.: Honeybun, Knowling, and Baggs, whom I met out here.

My Waac patients I shall never forget. I feel sure if they lined up again in a queue outside my little dispensary, I would still give them their special medicines, especially my little nervous friend, whose headaches were always cured by a soda mint.

I meet Miss Howes occasionally and she gives me news of some of the old girls and lends me her Gazettes. Now I hope to have my own. I have asked my lawyer at home to send you 20s., which will cover my annual subscription to the O.C.A., the Gazette, and the remainder is a very tiny gift to your Benevolent Fund.

I am afraid there must be a great deal of distress at home. Kenya is passing through rather lean times also, but such is our glorious climate, and the possibility of living very simply where necessary, make bad times less depressing than at home.

We only come home about once in five years. I have three children—two girls and a boy. My eldest girl is at a very nice boarding-school here, but I intend leaving her at school in Mayfield when we come home next year. She is only nine years old. We love this country so, we intend making our home here, but these separations are dreadful.

My husband is a lawyer, but we have a tea farm, and look forward very much to the time when he will be able to retire.

I find life very busy and very interesting, there is so much work to be done on the farm. We have a big acreage under potatoes, which we sell mostly for seed. I also market my vegetables all over the country, and the orchard entails a lot of work when packing commences. There isn't a crop that won't grow in this country, and it's very annoying when the locusts harvest it.

If ever there is any little bit of work to be done for the O.C.A. out here, any of the old girls wanting any help of any kind, I would be only too pleased to do anything I could.

From Mrs. Elsie Shulver (F/w. Holder-Weedon), Box 13, Pleasantdale, Saskatchewan, Canada).

I think it is a splendid idea for the speeches of the O.C.A. dinner to be published in the Gazette, for anyone who can't possibly get to the Dinner; it's very interesting to hear all about it in the Gazette. I read it from cover to cover, and then pass it on to another ex-Waac. I always put other things aside when the Gazette arrives, so I soon have it read.

We are having a nice winter out here, lots of snow where we are, but mostly bright and sunny. I so much enjoy reading everyone else's letters in the Gazette from all parts; they are very interesting. I think it was Miss Thompson who was asking everyone to write more; it is a splendid idea, but I don't do my share. I always mean to do more writing, but it don't get done. I hope the Gazette and O.C.A. will continue for years yet, and with

every good wish for 1932 and kind remembrances to old friends.

From Miss Alice B. Anderson, Sheffield.

The Gazette has reached me this morning, as I have been "en route" for some time and am proceeding to Le Touquet to re-open "Scotch House" on March 1st, but will not be in London longer than one day—Sunday—so will not be lucky to see old Army friends.

I've enjoyed "the grumble" on the first page of the Gazette, and trust you will have so many articles and replies you will be working overtime!

While in Edinburgh I've been fortunate in seeing quite a few members of Unit II., Wimereux, at the Edinburgh Club—Kennedy, Kath Fairlie, MacLeod, Jean Kerse (now Mrs. Wilson), Wann, Maxwell (of the Cheerio Concert Party), and a few others. It was nice to meet again and, of course, talk over old affairs. I went to a dinner organised by Miss Innes, hon. treasurer and secretary of Edinburgh O.C.A., held on February 13th, and where we entertained about fifty ex-Service men from Poppy Factory. The hero I took down to dinner was a Reservist and at the retreat from Mons. He was most interesting and told me of his work, etc. He spoke very highly of the treatment and conditions under which he worked in the factory. The dinner was a great success, and the staff of Edinburgh Club worked very hard behind the screens carving and dishing up right hot helpings. I had a man's portion, and in spite of the fact that I'm reducing—or trying to do so—no return was made.

Whist and music after dinner completed a right jolly evening.

Looking round the gathering of men and women, it seemed impossible that all these years since the war could have passed—and we were all Jock Tamson's bairns! Living again in hard times, and very uncertain days ahead—but all smiling and happy. Long live the King!

From Miss Ethel Budd, "Cherry Trees," Beaconsfield, Bucks.

I see by the February Gazette that Mrs. White, of Newhaven, says there is never news of the Southern Command. I agree. I am a Southern Command member, having been at Fort Wallington, Fareham, and I never read news from that quarter. What has become of the officers, Mrs. Cousins, U.A., and Miss Beckwith, J.A., and the forewomen of Fort Wallington and Fort Wareham?

Here is some news of some of the others: Isabel Nairn (Jock) is married and has two children. She lives at Malden. Edith Green is living somewhere in Hampshire. She is married and has three children. Olive Swinbank is also married and has a family. They live at Barnsley. Elsie Burns, when last heard of five or six years ago, was still living in Portsmouth. Gertie Cullingsworth was last heard of somewhere in Devonshire. Perhaps this will interest some readers. What has happened to all the other Household Staff of these two camps?

From Miss Ida E. Buckingham, The Hill, Hatten Street, Marori, Wellington, New Zealand.

Here I am for the next little while working hard. We had a lovely journey on the "Ballarat" as far as Sydney. It was teaming in torrents of rain when we got there, but we could see the New Harbour Bridge. We arrived on December 3rd, and I sailed on the "Marama" on the afternoon of December 4th, reaching Wellington on the morning of December 8th. I found the wind very cold here. It is known as Windy Wellington. I have been told that the weather is a little exceptional for the time of the year, but we have had some lovely days; unfortunately I was busy. To-day, my half-day, it is dull. I stayed at the G.F.S. Hostel, 23 Vivian Street, for three weeks. My sister came from outside Hastings to be with me for Christmas, which we spent at the hostel. The Matron and Commandant Secretary had given each girl a gift, which I think was exceptionally kind of them.

Although there is a great deal of noise just now about unemployment, I didn't have to look for work, it just came along, and here I am without paying any fees. The English pound note a week ago was worth 16s., but if

you wanted to buy one back it would cost 19s. I did very well on the exchange in Sydney, and due to our going off the gold standard I gained instead of losing on my Japanese and Chinese notes. There's a shop in Wellington selling things made by unemployed people. I am hoping to get into touch with ex-Service women here and would be pleased if you could give me any address.

And now I am going out to take tea at Kircaldie and Staines, which is the Stores out here.

I was very interested to read Miss Bushell's letter in the Gazette. And now I really must go.

OBITUARY.

Miss Jean Hawley.

All those who know Jean Hawley at Rouen, and Hostel 5, Havre, will grieve with us, her Scottish comrades, at her early death, which took place at an Edinburgh Nursing Home on March 3rd, after a long illness, courageously borne. We remember so well her arrival at Havre, soon after her sister Agnes, who could not be happy until Jean joined her there.

She was in every way the best type of Waac, and her keen sense of humour and cheerful spirit added much to the happiness of both officers and other ranks in Hostel 5 and in the Local Supplies Office where she worked.

After the war was over she was one of the original band of Edinburgh ex-Waacs who formed the "Whas Like Us" Club, which was soon transformed into the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Old Comrades Association. Since then she has been one of the most ardent supporters of the O.C.A., and has served on the Committee for many years. Many a comrade in trouble or sickness was cheered and helped by her and she took a leading part in every Ex-Service activity, whether connected with the Women's United Service Club or organised by her own O.C.A. She was in Canada for a time and it was with very glad hearts that we welcomed her back to Edinburgh. A member who knew her well writes: "She was a real and true comrade to us all and if kind thoughts of her will keep her memory green then she will have mine always." All who knew her well would say the same.

The funeral took place on Sunday, March 6th, at Inveresk, near Edinburgh. The O.C.A. was officially represented by Miss May Finlay, M.B.E., acting Deputy Chairman, and Miss Mary Innes, Honorary Secretary.

A wreath of poppies, in the form of the Waac badge, bearing the inscription "In affectionate and loving remembrance of our very dear comrade Jean, from the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Old Comrades Association," was placed upon the grave.

ALICE LOW

MRS. BIRCHAM, AN APPRECIATION.

It was a shock to some of us to read in the daily papers, at the end of December, of the death of Mrs. Bircham, and I see that the January issue of our Gazette makes mention of this. I am sure there must be many Rouenites who would also like to pay a tribute of respect and affection to her memory.

Mrs. Bircham, better known to us as Miss Saunders, was well-known to the Rouen Waacs who were billeted at Rue Cauchoise, for in the early days of 1917 she was Administrator in that Billet. We were the first draft to go to Rouen and things were in the early pioneer stages which perhaps did not make for smooth working. Things were very difficult at the time but Miss Saunders quickly altered all that. Immediately things changed for the better, and in quite a short time the billet took on a very different aspect. Work was made tolerable by the able and kindly administration of our new officer, who seemed to take a personal interest in each member. She was a woman of wide sympathies, practical and kindly, and a splendid organiser.

It was a sad day for the Cauchoise billet when Miss Saunders received her marching orders to proceed to St. Omer, and she herself was none the less sad at parting with her Rouen unit. We recall the farewell musical evening given in her honour. Although our musical

evening did not commence until 10 o'clock that Sunday evening after office duties finished, it remains a very happy memory in the minds of many of us.

It was not until the War was over that we again met Miss Saunders at the Reunion meetings held at that time at Mrs. Parke's house, in Belgrave Road, Victoria.

Miss Saunders instituted the first Rouen Re-union Dinner in 1921, when over 80 members were present. She also took active part serving on the Benevolent Committee at the Duke of York's Headquarters until her marriage a few years later when we unfortunately lost sight of her.

We sincerely regret her passing at a comparatively early age, and those of us who were fortunate enough to come in contact with her hold her in affectionate remembrance.

E. M. WINTER.

The sympathy of all our Old Comrades will go to Miss Dorothy Stone (F/w Signals, B.E.F.), who has lost her mother, after a long illness. Miss Stone is and has been for some time Supervisor at Worcester Exchange.

DEATH.

Hawley.—At a Nursing Home in Edinburgh on 3rd March, 1932 (after nine weeks' illness), Jean, younger daughter of the late Mr. George and Mrs. Hawley, 67 Millhill, Musselburgh, Midlothian, Scotland (late of Le Havre and Rouen).

ADVERTISEMENTS

Scotch House, Le Touquet—44 Rue de la Paix.—Excellent Family Hotel. Moderate, comfortable; hot and cold running water in bedrooms; first class cuisine; 8/6 to 12/6 per day.—Particulars from Miss Alice B. Anderson, Proprietor (Unit II., Wimereux and 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.

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).

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.

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 to 10.15.
Bristol and West of England.	Miss E. M. Phillpot, 14 Florence Park, Redland, 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 Grdns., 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.	Mrs. O'Meara, Ard-Muire, Baily, Co. Dublin.		Not fixed.
Leeds.	Miss E. Mair, 33 Victoria Terrace, Belle Vue Road, Leeds. 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.	Miss F. M. Bragg, 59 Victoria Road, Tue Brook, Liverpool.	30 Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane.	Alternate 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.	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Golders Green. Sub-Branch.	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10.	Winchfield, Shirehall Lane, Golders 'Green Road (nearest bus stop Brent Bridge. Telephone: Hendon 1925.	First Tuesday of each month, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Ilford.	Miss M. V. Druitt, 74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.	122 Cranbrook Road, Ilford. (Telephone: Ilford 0058).	Alternate Tuesdays, at 8 p.m.
Manchester.	Miss Aldred, 227 Oldham Road, Newton Heath, Manchester.	The Continental Cafe, 14 Oxford Street, Manchester.	Every Friday, 7 to 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. Interviews at British Legion, N.E. Area Offices, 10 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.	Members notified individually.
Norfolk.	Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 32 Grove Road, Norwich.	No permanent room fixed.	Monthly. Members notified individually.
North Staffs.	Mrs. E. Stretton, 10 Sparrow Terrace, Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent.		
Oxford.	Mrs. Grundy, Woodside Cottage, Windsor Forest.	No permanent room fixed.	Members notified individually.
Notts.	Mrs. Skellington, 94 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.	Meldrum's Cafe, Lister Gate.	First Wednesday in the month, 7 to 9.30 p.m.
Plymouth.	Mrs. O. Foster, 2 Nottle 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.