

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

APRIL, 1932.

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HEADQUARTERS REPORT.

A meeting of the Council was held on March 14th, 1932, at 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan was in the chair.

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At a recent Council meeting, the General Secretary read a letter that had been received from the late Miss Mary Silk, 8814. This letter, written just prior to her death in Vancouver, B.C., asked that mention be made in the Gazette of the great kindness shown her by the ex-Service women of that city. Miss Silk wrote:

"I am writing for a word of real praise and recognition for the ex-Service Women's Club of Vancouver. They are Old Comrades really, and now from a club numbering at one time 30 or more members, there are just nine or ten old diehards left. Four years ago I got sick and they found I was 'up against it,' and so scraped together 25 dollars a month to keep me off the parish or city. When they couldn't possibly do any more, they worked hard and got the Canadian Legion interested—so, with some groceries from one society, medicine from another, they still got me somehow, God knows how, for none of them had a cent to spare, five dollars a month."

Later in her letter she refers to the visit Miss Edith Thompson paid to her when in Vancouver. Miss Silk says, "She was so very kind and so very interesting."

Miss Silk asked that special mention be made of Mrs. Sherlock (Boleyn, P., W.A.A.C., B.E.F.) and all her work on her behalf.

By this time the Vancouver ex-Service women will have received a letter from Dame Helen and will know how much all this work and sympathy has been appreciated by all on this side. They are splendid Old Comrades.

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The following letter was received by the General Secretary from the Hon. Secretary of the Vancouver ex-Service Women's Club:—

3242 W. 24TH AVENUE,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Your letter to Miss Silk was forwarded to the Club, and we feel sure you will be glad to know that she received it just the day before she passed away. She suffered so much, but was always so cheerful when any of us went up to see her, though lately she was too weak to have many visitors.

We never really knew that the money Mary received was from you, but we had our suspicions, and now we thank you for it.

It was really wonderful the way in which help turned up for Mary. When we found after a year that we could not keep up the monthly payment of \$25.00, our secretary of that year—Mrs. Sherlock—got in touch with the

Women's Auxiliary to the Canadian Legion, and they collected over \$200 from all their branches in B.C. and disbursed it at the rate of \$20.00 monthly. We made up the balance of \$5.00 per month. We hated to let it go out of our hands, but we really are a very small branch—about twelve members—and quite a few of us have been hit by these hard times.

The amazing part is that the Legion had come to the end of their money with the December payment, and had been wondering how they could raise more, as they have had so many calls on them.

I am telling you this, because we think it was splendid of them to come to our help so generously.

Personally, I think a very great deal of credit goes to our president, Mrs. Sinclair, and our Secretary-Treasurer for two years—Mrs. Sherlock—who used to be Phemie Boleyn. They have both been untiring in their efforts. Being good soldiers we followed our leaders, because we felt we could not let Mary down. She had a horror of going to hospital and being so far away from everyone she knew here. She was with her friend Mrs. Alchin all the time, and no one could have given her better attention.

It was dreadfully sad for Mrs. Alchin that her husband died the same day as Mary passed away.

Now to brighter things. We are looking forward to seeing Miss Thompson again, for we all enjoyed her visit so much.

By the way, Mrs. Sherlock sent a years' subscription for the Gazette for the Club.

Another thing we should like to know is—How to help ex-Service women who make application to us for aid. We have two calls at present and our funds are exhausted, and it will take us a little while to build up a reserve again. These calls are not from our own members, but from women who have served with the forces, one with the A.S.C. and the other is up in Northern B.C.

We shall be glad to hear from any of the other clubs, or from anyone coming to or passing through Vancouver. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at the house of one of the members. Some of us have done that for about nine years, so we are quite friendly by now!

During the summer we had picnics at some of the beaches, and our various families became acquainted. I should not be surprised if they form a club of descendants! Can't you imagine them saying "Was your mother a worker?"

When my old friends see my signature at the bottom of this letter they will say, "Cath. talks as much as ever." So I do, once I get started! My instructions were to tell you everything, which I very nearly have.

With best wishes from our Club to you all.

Yours sincerely,

CATH G. LAYTON, Hon. Secretary.

CLOTHING.

There are many parcels to be acknowledged this month. It is regretted that last month the Headquarters Report was overlooked and therefore two months' parcel senders to be thanked. We needed these parcels very badly. Our cupboards were dreadfully empty, and they are once again! We are badly in need of all warm clothing.

Will the following accept our grateful thanks and apologies for any delay there may have been in thanking them: E.G.M., Mrs. Gregson and Mrs. Hanley, Miss Wilkinson, Miss M. F. McKnight (new cot blankets and new shirts), Mrs. Spaul, Mrs. Hay-Newton, Mrs. Cherry, Mrs. Simmons (Mussell), Miss Madonna A. Watts, per Miss Andrews. Three parcels, Norfolk Branch: Mrs. Carrick, Miss Markendale, Mrs. K. I. Whyte.

A CAMPING HOLIDAY IN CANADA.

It is proposed to organise a party of about thirty people (men and women) to travel to Canada together for a camping holiday in Ontario. They will sail about the middle of August and be away approximately five weeks, of which a fortnight will be spent in camp.

Camp Mazinaw, Bon Echo, is in ideal surroundings and is run by Canadian experts; a party of Canadian campers will be there at the same time. On leaving the camp it would be easy to arrange to travel further afield if desired, and it should be possible to see Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, and possibly Ottawa and Niagara at small additional expense. Miss Stewart Galt, of 147 Admiral Road, Toronto, will be responsible for all arrangements in Canada.

Further information can be obtained from Miss Edith Thompson, who will travel with the party, and to whom applications to join should be sent as soon as possible. It is difficult to give an exact estimate of the cost at the moment as the ocean fares are under revision, but it is hoped that the total expenses will be from £55 to £60, travelling tourist class, and this could be considerably reduced if necessary by travelling third on the boat, which does not entail any special hardship. A personal introduction to one of the following will be required:

Miss Rhoda Power, 20 Mecklenburgh Square, W.C.1.
Miss Kathleen Doman, 27 Albert Mansions, Albert Bridge, S.W.

Miss Margery Thompson, Broome Hill, Cobham, Surrey.

Miss Edith Thompson, The Gables, Aldeburgh, Suffolk

BRANCH REPORTS FOR APRIL.**London.**

Now that the Branch only meets once a fortnight, there is not so much chat with regard to activities for the Gazette. However, I hope we shall have more to report as the days get brighter. In the meantime if everybody will bear in mind the date of the London Branch Supper Dance which is to be held at the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, on the 7th of May, and send for their tickets as early as possible, it will be a great help; at the moment, although many have announced that they are intending to be present, no tickets have been applied for. The tickets are 5s., and for those members who are not quite sure about the arrangements for that evening, here they are: The dance will begin at 7.30 p.m. and supper will be served at 9 o'clock. Members may bring their friends if they wish to, and parties can be made up for the supper tables: parties of four, six and ten can be accommodated, and there will be also a few tables for two. The organisers have made every endeavour to make the evening as enjoyable as the last one, and it now lies with the members to do their share by booking up at the earliest possible moment, in order that the affair will be as free from worry as it is possible to make it. Please send a stamped addressed envelope with your application for tickets, and don't forget to cross your postal order.

The Aldershot Tattoo is in danger of falling to pieces this year if the bookings do not come in shortly. I don't want to put any extra stress financially, but just want an idea how many wish to go this year, so a postal order

for 2s. 6d. booking fee will reserve your seat. The total cost of the trip is 10s. and the date is Saturday, June 11th. Arrangements for this affair must be made so far in advance that the Committee have to risk taking a chance if they allow the seats to be booked up out of the funds, and it is only fair that those who wish to be of the party should guarantee their booking early.

An invitation has been received from Miss Bertrand, of the Albany Institute, to take a party down to Deptford one Saturday afternoon next month; the date will be announced in the next number of the Gazette.

Another invitation has been received from Dame Florence Simpson for a party to pay a visit to her place in the country some Sunday when the weather is good.

A ramble to Kew Gardens will be arranged for Saturday, April 23rd, meeting at Hammersmith Broadway Underground Station at 2.30. The party will move away about 2.45 p.m. A walk by the river to Kew Gardens and tea at the Honorary Secretary's rooms later in the evening is planned. Please send a postcard if you wish to ramble with the party.

I should like to see more subscriptions, as there are quite a lot to come in yet. I also take this opportunity of apologising to those members who have not received their receipts and cards as promptly as usual; it is really want of time at present that keeps them late, but I hope to catch up soon with the back correspondence and then mend my ways.

R. S. ANDREWS.

Exeter.

Our March meeting took place on Thursday, March 3rd, and I felt quite bucked at such a good attendance. We were very pleased to welcome Miss Farmer's sister, and I think, by what she said, she quite enjoyed herself. I wish more members would bring along friends for a cup of tea and a gossip. I'm sure it does us all good, but perhaps now the longer days are coming, some of our members that live at a distance will make an effort to attend. They will be sure of a warm welcome.

M. VICARY.

Norfolk.

We have been fortunate in having two meetings this month. On Thursday, March 3rd, a most enjoyable evening was spent at 5 Market Place, Norwich, our hostess being Miss West. Gathered round the fire, we read letters from absent members, and discussed plans for summer picnics. A delightful supper was served during the evening, which one and all much appreciated. As Miss McDermott was leaving Norfolk on March 17th, Mrs. Rumbold invited us all over to Yarmouth for a farewell party, and plans were made accordingly.

On Tuesday, March 15th, a merry party travelled down to Yarmouth. As is usual, on our visit to that particular town, the sun was shining gloriously on our arrival—a perfect spring day. Arriving at "Holly Lodge," we found our hostess entertaining both Miss McDermott and her mother, the latter a very welcome addition to our numbers. A special tea was prepared for us, the greatest attraction on the table being a most charming chocolate cake decorated with pale pink roses of cream and maiden-hair ferns, and inscribed "With best of luck to Mac." In due course, Mac rose to the occasion and spoilt its beauty with a knife, amid much fun and laughter, and one and all—shame to relate—helped to complete its demolition! Tea finished, Mac was presented with a little gift from all her friends in the branch, this being a pair of book-ends, inscribed with the Coat of Arms of Norfolk. Mrs. Rumbold also gave her a charming little green comb in a case—Mac's favourite colour!

Returning to the drawing-room, a most amusing evening was spent telling fortunes—we sincerely hope they don't all come true! Mrs. McDermott gave us some wonderful recipes for home-made wines and other little items, so much appreciated by us all. During the evening, a telegram was received by Mac from the Misses Newberry and Prothero, wishing her the best of luck. We were sorry their work took them to the other part of Norfolk that week, and so prevented them from joining us at Yarmouth.

We also regretted that ill-health prevented Miss Howson from being with us, but all wished her a speedy recovery from her illness, conveyed later by letter. Supper was served round, and, rising to the occasion, we raised our glasses to Mac, wishing her the best of luck in her new work in the Isle of Wight. Time slipped away very quickly, and thanking Mrs. Rumbold for her kind thought in inviting us all over to give Mac a cheery send-off, and Mrs. McDermott for joining us—we hurried away to catch our trains home.

Three parcels have been despatched to London this month for the cupboard. To the members who supplied them, many thanks.

No date has yet been fixed for the April meeting, but members will be notified by post in good time.

L. W. CHILVERS.

Manchester.

We have been very quiet at the Club this month, the only events of notice being our Whist Drives, which have been very successful.

Two or three new members have joined us, and I heard a short while ago how one of them (Brennan) heard of the Club. She was travelling home by train to Knutsford, and in the same compartment was a lady attired in the old familiar khaki. Brennan surveyed her for some time and then her curiosity got the better of her, and she asked, "Are you really a Waac, or are you just dressed up like that for to-night?" referring to the Tattoo which had been held that evening. The Waac (Bancroft) thereupon assured her companion that she really was a Waac, and in the course of the ensuing conversation, told her all about the Club, which she has since joined.

Another of our members, who was in the Forage Corps, discovered someone who had also been in the same Corps, and brought her along. There must be still many more such people, and to them all we are ready to extend a hearty welcome.

H. FOSTER.

Brighton.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH.—Our proposed primrose ramble has been transferred from the 10th in order to get the benefit of summer time. At the suggestion of Mrs. Houchen, secretary of the Tunbridge Wells Branch, we hope to have a joint meeting. We should get the 2.10 p.m. train, arriving Crowborough 3.15, at which station we should foregather, and go into the woods near by; fare 3s. 6d. return; take food and cups. Arrangements are being made to get tea brewed for us.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH.—By kind invitation of Mrs. Anscombe, 17 Bristol Gardens Kemp Town, 7.30—10. Will those hoping to come let Mrs. Anscombe know a few days before.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH.—Whist Drive at Jay's Café, 5 St. James's Street. Open 7.30. Start at 8 p.m. prompt. 1s. each.

H. A. BARON.

SHANGHAI CAMP.

First of all, the Camp Committee would say how very pleased they were to see, in the last issue of the Gazette, an inquiry from Nottingham for particular of charges and ways and means of getting to Camp. We hope the inquiry will materialise into a visit and that other Branches of the O.C.A. will follow suit. The Camp exists for the pleasure of all Old Comrades, and we feel sure that the joy derived from a visit would compensate for any "saving up" that might have to be done. We are glad to report that the annual spring-cleaning has been accomplished and the place is looking "spick and span." The kitchen has been equipped with necessary additional cooking apparatus and the floor has been covered with linoleum. We are fortunate in having been able to arrange an exchange of the worn-out Valor Perfection Cooker for a new one, so that cooking is now a real joy.

The Committee is working on the knowledge gained by experience of the appetites created by the healthy conditions at "Shanghai," therefore no apology is needed for stressing somewhat the domestic improvements.

Optimism being the pervading spirit of the Camp

Committee, we feel sure that the increase in the number of visitors this season will justify the outlay of money.

The Camp, which has accommodation for nineteen, is now ready to receive visitors. Bookings are coming in extraordinarily well so, in order to avoid disappointment, you are advised to arrange dates for a visit as soon as possible. Hostesses will be on duty to see to your comforts.

To refresh your memory, the Secretary's name and address is as follows: Miss S. T. Hannen, 30 Elmbourne Road, Balham, London, S.W.17.

E. H. HORNIBLOW, Chairman.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Writing from 1341 Osler Street, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, **Mrs. Crone (Agnes L. Brask, 49812, Hostel Forewoman)** says that she has just learnt of the O.C.A. from a paper her husband brought home from the Canadian Legion, and is anxious to know if she is eligible to join us. We are very glad to welcome her. Perhaps she will be able to get in touch with other ex-Service women in Saskatchewan and will write and give us her news from time to time? She does not expect to come home again to live but would like to keep in touch with her comrades of the old days. Life with Q.M.A.A.C. was very happy, she writes.

Mrs. Mardy (Forewoman Clerk Winifred Prince), Headquarters Lines of Communication, B.E.F., now of 28 Needwood Street, Burton-on-Trent, is rejoining us after a lapse of some years, and we are very glad to have her back in the fold. She has been abroad for some time and says that since her marriage life has been very busy.

Miss Sylvia Corner, Quartermistress at Bostal Heath, and with the A.E.F., who recently started on a tour round the world, which is planned to take about two years, has reached Australia. On the day of her arrival in Melbourne, she was entertained to lunch by Mr. Sam McKay, a member of the Victoria League Hospitality Committee, and in the afternoon the Hon. Treasurer of the Committee drove her round all the places of interest. On her arrival in Queensland, she was taken in charge by Mrs. A. E. Moore, wife of the Premier, and introduced to people who are interested in the Barrier Reef. Miss Corner has a Cine-Kodak with her and hopes to lecture on her return.

Mrs. MacKechnie (Louie Elder), 105 Fife Avenue, Salisbury, Rhodesia, hopes to come home on "long" leave this year with her husband and son, though there is some doubt of her husband being able to get away. If successful, however, she is very anxious to meet Old Comrades and to take advantage of **Mrs. Pratt Barlow's** invitation to go and see her.

Mrs. Hugh McPhail (Sister McQuade, V.A.D., Chateau Valde lievre, etc.) sends Easter greetings from her home "Riverside," Ridgedale P.O., Saskatchewan, Canada. She was delighted to get some Gazettes recently, and having read them through thoroughly mailed them on to Dr. Loughlass (Calais) and says they will probably be passed on yet again. Things are pretty terse up in her part of Canada and she says it is "very difficult to make ends overlap" with eggs at 24 a shilling, butter 7½d. a pound, and good-sized pigs for butchering selling at 24s. each. In most cases, she says, it's just a question of whether one can carry on till things begin to take an upward trend. The church services and Sunday Schools have been suspended owing to lack of interest and income. Mrs. McPhail's daughter, Hope, was able to pay a two weeks' visit home last August. She is well into her second year's nursing training in Winnipeg. After her third year there are hopes that she may pay a visit to this country. McQuade wants to know how to join the O.C.A. She says she attended a meeting some years ago at Winnipeg, called to form a branch, but heard no more about it. Perhaps some of the W.A.A.C.s in Winnipeg will get in touch with her?—Ed. Writing on March 20th she says the snow is several feet thick and that a gang of neighbours were coming in a day or so to help saw up a year's supply of firewood.

Miss Cliff (Administrator, B.E.F.), called at Headquarters Office recently, having just returned from Japan. She was in Shanghai when the fighting began and only got out in time. She found Shanghai most exciting.

Miss Ottman (Administrator, B.E.F.) is taking up a new post with the Royal School of Needlework at Exhibition Road, South Kensington.

Miss Knowling (A.A., Camp I., Etaples) has recently taken up a new appointment near London.

THE EX-SERVICE WOMEN'S CLUB.

At Headquarters we are constantly being asked to supply particulars as to membership fees, etc., of the ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, so perhaps it will be helpful if these particulars are printed here. Any further questions should be referred to the Secretary of the Club, Miss Harvey.

QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

All ex-Members of the following Services shall be eligible for membership:—

Women's Royal Naval Service
Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps
Women's Legion (Motor Transport Section)
Women's Forage Corps
Women's Royal Air Force

and shall be hereinafter referred to as Service Members.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

Associate Members may at the discretion of the Committee, and subject to the approval of the Members, be admitted to the Club on payment of an Annual Subscription and Entrance Fee. Applicants to be proposed and seconded by two Members of the Club.

Every applicant for membership must sign an application form, and must sign such (if any) declarations of her concurrence with and adherence to the purposes of the Club as shall be required by the Committee. The present name, address, and occupation of each candidate, together with her last service shall be supplied with the application. Every Member shall be supplied on election with a copy of the Rules.

Associate Members shall have the same rights and privileges, and be subject to the same rules and by-laws as other Members, and shall attend General Meetings of the Club, but shall not vote for the election of the Committee, or on matter affecting the Constitution of the Club. They shall be eligible to propose and second members after they have themselves been members for a period of six months.

ENTRANCE FEES.

Service Members shall pay an Entrance Fee of 1s. Associate Members shall pay an Entrance Fee of 10s.

Members living or who have a place of business within a 25-miles radius of the Club will be classified as Town Members.

Members living outside the 25-miles radius and who have no place of business within the 25-miles radius, will be classified as Country Members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Service Members: Town, 15s. Country, 10s.

Associate Members: Town, 26s.; Country, 15s. 6d.

NOTE.—Service members who are also Members of their O.C.A. are entitled to a reduction of 2s. on the above rates, provided that *WHEN REMITTING CLUB SUBSCRIPTION, THEY FORWARD A RECEIPT OR CERTIFIED STATEMENT FROM THEIR O.C.A. SECRETARY* that their subscription for the current year has been paid.

Subscriptions shall be due as soon as the Member is accepted by the Committee, and subsequently in advance on October 1st in each year. Members elected between March 31st and September 30th in any year will be required to pay one-half only of the Annual Subscription.

VISITING MEMBERS.

Any ex-member of the W.R.N.S., O.M.A.A.C., Women's Legion (Motor Transport Section), W.F.C., or W.R.A., already a member of a United Services Club for Women, may use the Club, provided she pays a temporary subscription of 6d. per day and is only visiting the locality, and does not reside there. She will be bound,

while using the Club, by all Rules in the same manner as ordinary Members.

Any ex-members of the aforementioned Services or Corps not a member of any United Services Club for Women or any Associate Member of a United Services Club may use the Club provided she pays a temporary subscription of 1s. per day or 5s. per week.

This rule does not apply to those who live or who have a place of business within a 25-miles radius of the Club.

CLUB HOURS.

The Club shall be open on week-days from 9.0 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.; Sundays from 10.0 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. Residents returning to the Club after this hour will be admitted by the night porter. Arrangements will be made for admitting Members arriving in London before or after the stated hours, providing notification is sent to the Secretary.

The Club shall not be closed on any day unless due notice of necessary closing is given.

The Club may be wholly or partially closed for cleaning or renovation at such time as the Directors think fit.

BEDROOMS.

The charge for Bedrooms will be:

	s.	d.
Single Room per night	5	6
Share of 2-bedded room	4	0
Share of 3-bedded room	3	6

These charges include breakfast, service, light and baths.

Bedrooms may be engaged for a night or for a period up to a fortnight, and if at the expiry of that time the room is not required by any other Member, it may be retained from day to day, on the understanding that the Member so retaining it must be prepared to vacate within 24 hours, provided notice be given to her.

The number of nights for which a room is required must be stated when booking.

Indefinite bookings of rooms cannot be recognised nor verbal bookings accepted.

Bedrooms cancelled will be charged for one night unless 48 hours' notice is given that the room is not required.

A Member not vacating her room before noon on the day of departure must pay for it for the following night.

Use of dressing room for changing for theatre, etc., when available, at the rate of 6d. per half-hour including bath. Bathrooms are not available to non-resident members after 7 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS.

A Member may personally introduce friends as her guests, but no person shall be so introduced more than four times within one month, and no Member may introduce more than two friends at any one time. The visitor and the Member introducing her shall sign their names in a book kept for that purpose. The following shall not be admitted as visitors:—

- Former Members who have been expelled.
- Persons who having been nominated, have been refused membership.

Members must accompany guests introduced by them during the period of their stay in the Club, and no guest shall be permitted to make any payment of any kind whatever, directly or indirectly.

MEALS.

Breakfast (week-days)	8.00 a.m. to 8.45 a.m.
Breakfast (Sundays)	9.00 a.m. prompt
Luncheon (week-days)	12.15 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.
Luncheon (Sundays)	1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.
Tea	4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Dinner	7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.
Supper (Sundays)	7.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Residents will be advised of any change in hours of meals for Bank Holidays.

Special courses or parties can be arranged by notifying the office well in advance.

Any meal served in a bedroom will be charged 6d. extra. Tea can be served in the Drawing Room from 1s. per person.

ON THE SHANGHAI FRONT.

Extracts from a letter from Miss H. M. Hall (late Bristol Branch).

SHANGHAI, February 2nd, 1932.

"What a game this is. I little thought I was coming out to another war! Give me the last one any time. I suppose you are getting terrible reports in the papers at home, and it has been pretty awful, but we are so far away from the actual fighting that we only hear explosions in the distance and sleep to the accompaniment of machine guns—which is the thing I hate above everything else. Since Sunday, however, there has been a lull, and this morning I was brave enough to walk a little distance from home; but I am so fed up with riding all the time, that if there were bombs about I think I should have had to do it. There is a rumour that all is to be quiet until Friday, and by that time evidently the place will be teeming with soldiers. British and American warships are on their way here, also armies of Japanese and Chinese soldiers. We should have enough protection in any case if all the cruisers, etc., get here in time; but at the moment there is a thick fog up the river and all the boats are held up outside.

"It is really pitiful to see the refugees coming in—and there are millions of them. This morning I saw an awful sight—a baby about one year old abandoned by the side of the road. I think it must have been dead and it was covered in smallpox. I couldn't do anything as it would have been fatal to have gone near it, but there is simply no one to see to these things as far as the Chinese are concerned.

"All the streets going down to the town are barricaded with barbed wire, and we have the curfew at 10 o'clock. Letters have not been going out as the Post Office has been shut for days. Yesterday it opened for a few hours, and I am hoping that a few letters may get through.

"All the Britishers are on duty and some of their wives haven't seen them for days. We have a girl and her two children staying with us as they live outside the Settlement, and she didn't hear of or see her husband for three days. However, he rang up on Sunday to say he was home and would come round after he had had a bath, as he had to get back to Headquarters at once. Believe me, she was pleased to see him.

"Coal is the great difficulty as stocks have run out. My sister and I went down to try and get some yesterday, and they wanted \$20 for half a ton, and it is usually \$12 per ton! and we had to be jolly thankful to be able to get any.

"Sunday evening we thought we would cheer ourselves up by having Chinese Chow. We had it in bowls in the approved manner, with chopsticks, and it consisted of rice, macaroni (a special Chinese kind which is very thin and about one yard long), chopped pork, bamboo stalks, long bean salad, green cabbage and sauce. When macaroni is included you have to hold the bowl under your chin and push it in with the chopsticks, and it is quite polite to talk with whole strings of macaroni hanging from your mouth, as it is impossible to get the whole length in at once. You can also make as much noise sucking it in as you like! It all sounds very dirty, doesn't it? but it fits in with the habits of the country and you don't notice it.

"I should think it would be impossible to drop a pin between the people going along the road now. There are crowds of rickshaws absolutely packed with people and household goods—cars with the contents of houses all over them, usually the favourite place for beds is the bonnet; women carrying (I have seen them) two babies on their backs and one in their arms, and the men carrying mattresses, etc. The hire cars and rickshaw coolies are making their fortunes over this. They say you have to go on your knees for a rickshaw these days—thank goodness I don't have to use them."

Extract from a second letter from Miss H. M. Hall, dated 16th March, 1932.

"Now all the trouble is over it is wonderful. You don't realise how depressing it is until it is over. The fires were a sight when Chapei was burning. We used to go on the roof of a nine-storey house and watch them—the sky was crimson and there were terrific flames. On occasions I could see the flash of the guns from my bed, and some nights the bombardments were pretty awful. Plenty of shells landed in the neighbourhood—in fact, the house next but one to ours was hit, but no damage was done. I quite imagined I was in France again, especially one Sunday, when we went over to see the Aerodrome which was bombed—huge shell-holes were everywhere and the whole place blown to atoms. Last Sunday we tried to go over the fighting area to Kiangwang, and got quite near the North Station when we were held up by two Japanese soldiers, who would not let us pass. Had we gone another way round we could have got through.

"We had quite a scare a week ago on Friday, after the fighting had stopped. Terrific explosion were coming over from French town. Needless to say, everyone thought that fighting had started again, and a Chinese told us that the Japanese were beaten and terrific fighting was going on between the Chinese and French. However, two Tommies said that the Chinese were celebrating something and were letting off crackers. Chinese crackers go off just like rifle shots, and unless you have a very practised ear you cannot tell the difference. We were going to see 'The Ghost Train,' and after changing our minds several times we decided to go in, and all the time these explosions were going on and no one seemed to know what it was. On the way home we were stopped by a soldier with a fixed bayonet on one side of the car and a policeman with a revolver the other, and they inspected us and waved us on; and we then had to pass three Sikhs with rifles—tremendous men with turbans and long black beards—and arrived home eventually without further excitements. The next morning we heard what it really was. The Communists, in the hope of stirring up trouble, went round the native city and amongst the refugees, telling them that the Japanese had been beaten, and giving them crackers by the thousand. The Chinese believe anything they are told, so they all went crazy with delight and let off the crackers as fast as they could. The idea was to cause a row so that the soldiers would fire and so cause another war, but fortunately nothing happened, and it all passed off peacefully, but it might have been a very nasty affair."

OBITUARY.

Miss M. W. Gladwin, 11484.

The death occurred at a nursing home in Camden Square, London, on March 31st, of Miss Marie Winifred Gladwin, after many years of illness. Miss Gladwin was Hostel Forewoman at Camp III, Abbeville, and also at St. Pol, serving under Miss Welsford and Miss Ottman. We would express the sympathy of her comrades to her sister.

* * * * *

All W.A.A.C.s who remember Dr. Helen Douglass at Calais will regret to learn that she has recently lost her mother. Those of us who recall hearing Dr. Douglass talk of her mother will realise what this loss means to her.

Mrs. H. M. Robinson, our late General Secretary, has suffered a double loss within the past few weeks. Her father, a noted doctor of Dublin, died recently at a great age. He was a wonderful old man, full of strength of mind and determination up to the very end apparently. The second loss—that of her cousin, Major W. R. Galway, M.C., M.B., D.Ph., who was chief superintendent of the Chemical Defence Research Department, and died of pneumonia at the early age of 52. He had a splendid Army record.

For Dr. Douglass and Mrs. Robinson great sympathy will be felt in their respective losses.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

I read in the February number your "Editorial" asking for information concerning work abroad.

I am writing for this part where I am, in Northern Saskatchewan (I naturally wouldn't speak for other parts when I am not there) but here the unemployment is bad now, school teachers or any woman with business training find it hard to get employment as there are so many applicants for each post.

It is so different to when I first came out here to Canada in 1920. Then women got good salaries and could choose their jobs. That also applies to domestic workers. Now people who, as a rule, would send their boys and girls to High School, have not the money, as in good times, so they keep them at home and then employ less labour. They do the work themselves. I came out to Canada under the Overseas Settlement of British Women Scheme (I think it was called that) and I am always glad I came. I cannot speak too highly of the way we were treated and our "Conductress" was very nice. My husband is farming so we are not looking for work. There is always plenty to do on a farm and prices are low now, but we make a living and pay our way, so we must not grumble these times when there seems to be so much depression everywhere.

I must say how much I enjoyed reading "Johnnie of Q.M.A.A.C." A friend sent it to me. It's a lovely story and it seemed to be war-time when you read it—not 13 years ago. I was never in France, though, but it described the life so well. One never seems to get pals in peacetime like those days. The friend who sent the book to me I write to about once a year, and thought it was so kind of her to send it. I have enjoyed reading the "Diary of a V.A.D." very much. Also all the descriptions of holidays, but as you say someone must write to you if you are going to have anything to publish.

We haven't been on any trips lately, the summer before last we were away for the week-end, or nearly a week I should say, with our car, and it makes a lovely change.

We have three children, the oldest eight, and just at present they are home from school (we live half-a-mile from school). They have mumps, but only slightly. Their tongues are going so fast just now that I hardly know what I'm writing, so you will understand if it sounds very mixed up. I've chosen the morning to write this letter: it should have been evening when the children would be in bed.

From Miss J. K. Anderson, 10 Kenneth Street, Longueville, N.S.W., Australia.

I am enclosing 3s. 6d. subscription for Gazette. Please excuse me sending it in this way. Well, as you know, the exchange rate is still very high. I would have to drop my Gazette for the time being if I hadn't been able to have got this English money. I would miss the Gazette dreadfully if it came to that, I do look forward to its arrival every month. In fact, I devour every word of it from cover to cover. We overseas members have a lot to be thankful for in the way you and your staff dispatch the Gazette every month. If you could only see how much they were appreciated on arrival, I'm sure you would feel repaid for all your hours of work.

This last couple of years I have been going to the club here again. I must say I have enjoyed the meetings. Of course, it makes a difference when you get to know the girls better. I'm afraid that was why I didn't take an interest in it the first few years I was in Australia. Now I wouldn't miss a meeting if I can possibly help it.

Did you have a big turn-out at the London Dinner? I have not heard from anyone about it yet. The Dinner here was a huge success. I've no doubt you will read an account of it in the "Bulletin."

Wishing you a Happy and Prosperous New Year (a bit late).

From Mrs. Daisy Cotterell (Williams, Wkr, Ordnance Depot, Rouen), 798 Dufferin Avenue, London, Ontario, Canada.

As usual, it is only when I miss my Gazette that I realise I am in arrears with my subscriptions. I am enclosing a money order to take care of both the O.C.A. and the Gazette subscription.

A few months ago I had some business dealings with a gentleman named Berry. During the course of a conversation I learned that when attached to some Canadian corps at Boulogne he met and later married a W.A.A.C. attached to the Ordnance Corps, named Elsie Ennis. I asked if she ever had the Gazette, and apparently neither had heard of the O.C.A. Having several copies of the Gazette I gave them to him to take to his wife. He had occasion to return later and, like my own husband, was full of praise for the Gazette. His wife is anxious to be enrolled as a member, also as a subscriber to the Gazette, and would like to have an application form as soon as possible. Her name is now Mrs. R. Berry, and if you send them with my card I will see that she gets them. I have talked to her on the telephone and hope, as soon as I recover from this attack of flu, to meet her personally, as she lives very close to me. It is astonishing how these Waacs crop up, isn't it?

Up to two weeks ago we had a glorious winter, no snow or ice and very little cold weather. The last two weeks have been different—snow, ice, and near zero weather just when we were thinking of Easter bonnets, too! One consolation the sun is getting too high for it to last.

I never have anything of interest to write about, so will close.

From Mrs. L. M. Sharp (2370), Hillside, Lynsted, Sittingbourne.

Many thanks for kindly sending me the Gazette. One member, I see, asks for news of Old Comrades. Here is a little bit: I recently had a letter from the Malay States from a Waac, who, before marriage, was Forewoman Edwards. She has seen my name in the Gazette and very kindly wrote to me. We were at Star Hill Barracks, and Queen Mary Camp, Calais, at the same time.

Where are the other forewomen, I wonder? It is so long ago, I forget their names. One I remember, was "Billy Williams," a cheery little soul, another was Morgan. What a good set the majority of the Waacs were. Never a parcel came from home to the girls in my hut, but something was given to "Sharp." Brave girls—cheerfully denying themselves luxuries in order that they might save money to help their people.

Then, I like to remember our officers—Miss Welsford, who one night saved me from despair by a friendly talk (my husband had been killed on the Somme); Miss Douche, who should have given me "C.B." once for breaking a rule, but being a sport, shut her eyes. I like to remember that I apologised. Then Mrs. Kenyon, a fascinating woman who gave us good advice, whether we wanted it or not! There was a kitchen worker I should like a few minutes with now! I remember she tried to "pinch" my bath water after I had spent all one Sunday afternoon in making it hot. However, my language on that occasion heated the water and made up for my lack of fuel!

I seem to have forgotten many names—Webb, Jones, Matthews, and Huntington, I remember most. I should like to get into touch with the latter.

Those were strange days. We had a hard life, and many of us will carry its scars to our grave. I, for one, had both ear drums go and have been deaf ever since. Had I been a man I should have had a pension. I have to wear an instrument and suffer greatly with my head.

If any Old Comrades ever come this way, ask them to give me a call. They will always be welcome. My very best wishes to you and the rest of the W.A.A.C.s.

From Miss A. May Norval, 116 rue de Bapaume, Arras, Pas-de-Calais, France.

I am not much good at law matters, but I really thought, in the first instance when I received a notice,

that the Association was going to disappear, but I am pleased to know that that it is still going strong. It is very nice to get the Gazette each month and read the news of Old Comrades. I thought of all of you on the night of the Annual Dinner. I am sure you all had a nice time, if the report in the Gazette is anything to go by.

As you see, I am still with the War Graves Commission, and I am hoping to last another year, although I have heard nothing certain; I am still on a temporary basis (which has already lasted for ten years).

The work is practically completed, and there are just two more of the memorials to the "missing" to be completed and unveiled—Thiepval Memorial (on the Somme) and Faubourg d'Amiens (at Arras). The "Thiepval" will be inaugurated on Whit-Monday (May 16th) by the Prince of Wales, as you have no doubt seen by the notice in the Press, but the Faubourg d'Amiens is not yet settled.

Miss Joan Simpson, step-daughter to Dame Florence, has just gone out to Canada where she hopes to stay for some time. Her present address is Queen Mary's Coronation Hostel, Vancouver, British Columbia. Miss Simpson is a member of the ex-Service Club, Buckingham Gate, and has been living recently at Stormont House. It will be remembered that her sister, Vera, is farming in the Orange Free State, South Africa, where Dame Florence visited her a couple of years ago.

THE BRITISH LEGION JOURNAL.

In the opening paragraph of the April number of the British Legion journal, it is stated that the journal is in a "new enlarged and improved form, which is directed to appeal not only to the ranks of the Legion itself, but to the whole ex-Service community—perhaps the largest single community in the world." It certainly is an interesting issue. There are many departures from the old form, and whereas, perhaps, in its previous state, the journal appealed more largely to those of us who had been "over there," this new issue must surely appeal to everyone who is fortunate enough to obtain it. The price is still the same—threepence a copy or 4s. per year.

There are many photographs, those of the appalling Salient looking even more horrible as years go on. An article on Passchendaele by Graham Seton reads like a colossal nightmare. Passchendaele was awful enough to look at when one saw it very shortly after the Armistice, but to see it through Graham Seton's eyes beggars description. And then one remembers that Passchendaele was only part of one section.

On another page we are given a portion of the Diary of a gunner during the Somme offensive of 1916. This proves somewhat lighter fare than that of Passchendaele, but there is plenty of tragedy there, too. With this article is a photograph of Albert Cathedral looking in rather better condition than when we saw it in 1919, we scrambled in through a window, collecting some bits of mosaic as souvenirs and, like most souvenirs, now long lost!

The article on the "Strangest Village in the World" deals with the British Legion village at Aylesford. To this village are sent ex-Service men suffering from tuberculosis, to be treated. The total population of the village is given as 900, of which 230 are hospital patients.

But get this April issue and read about the work carried on at Aylesford for yourselves. It is a splendid work and should make us all the more eager to patronise the British Legion industries.

A contribution by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is a special feature. This consists of six photographs taken by the Prince during his visits to Africa and in South America. He has given a short description with each photograph. There are many more articles and interesting photographs besides those mentioned, as well as the local reports of the many Legion branches. It is a great threepenny-worth.

BIRTHS.

Bancroft.—At St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, on February 28th, 1932, to Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Bancroft (Ruth Lockwood, late Oxford Barracks, Warrington and Chester, a son, Christopher Robert.

Mackechnie.—At the Lady Chancellor Nursing Home, Salisbury, Rhodesia, on the 29th December, 1931, to Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Mackechnie (Louie Elder), a son.

DEATH.

Gladwin.—On March 31st, 1932, at 1 The Terrace, Camden Square, London, N., Marie Winifred Gladwin (F/w, 11484)

ADVERTISEMENTS

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Canvey Island.—To Let, a three-roomed Bungalow, furnished. For full particulars, apply to Miss A. Yetton, 72 Cranmer Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7.

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. 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: Frobsner 0986

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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, Meadowlands, King's Drive, 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 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.