

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

JUNE, 1932.

Vol. XIV., No. 11.

3/6 per annum, post free.

NOTICE.

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

The Twelfth Annual Re-union of the Officers of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, who served with the British Expeditionary Force, will be held on Saturday, October 29th, 1932, at the Hotel Belgravia, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., will preside. Tickets, price 7s. each, will be obtainable from Miss Knowling, Royal Victoria Patriotic School, Wandsworth Common, London, S.W.18. When applying for tickets please state Area in which you last served.

OUR COMMANDANT-IN-CHIEF.

Her Majesty the Queen.

Her Majesty the Queen, Commandant-in-Chief of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, celebrated her birthday on May 26th, and the following telegram was despatched to Her Majesty:—

"Those in all parts of the world who served in Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, send loyal greetings and humble duty to their Commandant-in-Chief."

(Signed) FLORENCE SIMPSON.

In reply a telegram was received from Buckingham Palace:—

"I am commanded by the Queen to express to you and to all ex-members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, Her Majesty's sincere thanks for the kind telegram of good wishes and expression of loyalty on the anniversary of her birthday."

(Signed) PRIVATE SECRETARY.

SHANGHAI CAMP.

Although the Camp has been occupied every week-end since Easter it was really Whitsuntide which opened the season with a flourish. The weather was bad but it in no way affected the spirits and merriment of the eighteen people assembled together. Some of the "Old Timers" were there and they professed themselves to be thoroughly satisfied with all the arrangements.

It seemed to the Chairman, who was also the caterer, that as long as cups of tea were available nothing else mattered! Her memory of camp will certainly be the infinite capacity of members of Q.M.A.A.C. for consuming tea.

An Associate Member of the Ex-Service Women's Club paid a visit on Whit Sunday and was so charmed with everything that she could not understand why there were ever any vacancies at week-ends. This is a testimonial

which may influence any Old Comrade who is considering whether she will come or not.

Don't forget that the fate of the Camp is in the balance Old Comrades!

E. H. HORNIBLOW.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR JUNE.

London.

The Supper Dance held at the First Avenue Hotel proved yet another great social event to add to the store of pleasant memories connected with the Branch. The dancing commenced at 7.30 and Mr. Thomas's Band was in right good form, as were the dancers. The ever-popular fox-trot, danced to one of the most up-to-date tunes, came first, then a one-step, just to show that we can dance the latest as well as the old-fashioned dances. What really pleased most though, was the Valeta, La Rinka, Maxina, and last and certainly not least, the Lancers—all old-fashioned dances but with what memories were they danced. One can recall many old and pleasant memories attached to these dances in our Service days—days when Sergeant Majors were not too high and mighty to spruce themselves up and put in an appearance in the Y.W.C.A. or recreation room of the camp for a lesson, and a certain little sergeant who arrived in felt slippers, held together with string, ready to do anything he was told; but alas! he had no ear for rhythm or music and although everybody pegged hard at it with him he never moved from the spot where he first started, and so we one and all gave him up as a bad job. Nevertheless, he turned up at every affair and made a dart at some unwary W.A.A.C. and got her to the centre of the room before she could recover from her surprise. Then began a series of acrobatic movements which delighted the onlookers, but did not seem to give much enjoyment to his partner. This went on all through our dancing days at camp and Teddy's only achievement was the wearing out of the cherished felt slippers and the energies of his many partners. Well, to get away from reminiscence and get on with the tale is my job here.

To comply with the many requests that the arrangements should be on similar lines as last year, supper was served at nine o'clock. In all, one hundred and thirty-two people sat down in parties which were made up and tables booked beforehand, all merry and bright and ready to do justice to the really excellent meal set before them. As the supper was to be an entirely informal one, no speeches were made and the only toasts were "His Majesty the King" and "Her Majesty the Queen," called for by Miss Edith Thompson, the President of the Branch, and loyally toasted by the members and friends present. After supper, more dancing, and for some a walk round to chat with friends. At one stage when everybody seemed to be everywhere, all talking together, the strains of the "Blue Danube" wafted towards them, and with one accord they

came from every corner in obedience to the magic music, like the children after the "Pied Piper." There must be no more talk of feeling old after that dance, the floor seemed to be full each time the band struck up.

All too soon for some of us the midnight hour approached and it was with many good-nights and many good-byes that we took our departure, each one declaring that it was one of the best nights ever but there, we always say this after each affair of the kind. Our capacity for amusing ourselves must be as great as ever.

A Bachelor Party.

Sez you! But it was, nevertheless, and it was given in honour of a great event, one of our members is about to make a change in her mode of living. In fact, she is getting married to a brother of another member of the Branch, and it is going to be my pleasing duty to attend and see them married at St. Paul's Church, Herne Hill, S.E., on the 11th of June. I hope to give an account of the wedding in the next number of the Gazette.

The idea of a party arose through a general feeling amongst Graham's friends that she ought to have all the good advice she can get with regard to the business. For instance, "hints on how to keep a husband" was one suggestion, although it beats me how a poor bachelor woman can know anything on how to keep him, not having had one herself. Anyway, the idea was a sufficiently good one to make excuse for "throwing" a party for the bride elect and indulging in a little leg-pulling. The party was held at the flat in Barnes and it was rather a tight fit, long before the last guest had arrived, but that made no difference to the fun of the evening. Graham held her ground through all the chaffing she had to put up with, and the advice she received from one and another should make her what every man is supposed to be ever on the look-out for, "the perfect wife." There were hints on how to sew buttons straight and tight, how to make his porridge (if he takes porridge) and many others which had to be heard to be appreciated. To begin with, Graham had to have her cards read to see what the future held for her; we were all interested to hear but she would not tell us. Wise girl. Supper was a great affair. It consisted of sandwiches, cakes, etc., with plenty of tea, as one may imagine when Waacs get together, and any amount of noise. The toasting of the bride took up most of the time, because each member of the party was asked to give a toast in her own way, and to finish up, we all toasted the bridegroom together and sent a message to him through his sister (Bickell) that he was a very lucky fellow indeed. To make the evening an interesting one, we drew the sweepstake horses for the Derby and fished for charms in sand, with a hook on the end of a stick. So far as I remember the bride fished up a lobster and something else in the eating line, so she should go forth with confidence and charms pinned on her apron to tackle the cookery problems she is sure to meet with. At the present moment there reposes in my pocket a little white hen with green wings and a little black cat—my catch. We all wish Graham the very best in her new life and "lang may her lum reek."

London Branch Week-end at Camp.

Will the members who intend to join the week-end party please let me have their bookings as soon as possible so that the arrangements can be completed.

Children's Outing to Shanghai Camp.

The children's outing to camp will be held on Saturday, the 2nd of July. The bus will leave Buckingham Palace Road (opposite St. George's Baths) at 2 o'clock prompt. So far, not enough people have booked to allow for another bus being booked. Members wishing to join the party should write straight to the Honorary Secretary, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, for particulars.

Results of the Competition for Raising Funds.

Miss P. H. Harvey is the winner of the prize presented by Miss Edith Thompson, for the most original way in which 10s. was earned for the funds.

R. S. ANDREWS.

Nottingham.

Owing to members' holidaying, activities have been quiet last month, but the first of June will be a gala night to welcome three new members.

Every Sunday in June is booked for rambles, members meet at Club Room 2.30 p.m. On Saturday June 25th is a flannel dance to commence at 7.30 p.m. at the Club Room. Supper on the lawn is fine. All members are asked to make an effort to be there.

I would ask you please to change the Lister Gate cafe address to 94 Shakespeare Street. It is confusing to those members not having visited the new Club Room. I will write you more details later; owing to a poisoned hand it is difficult to concentrate for long.

Leeds.

PAT SKELLINGTON.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan is to visit Leeds on June 23rd and 24th, and she has expressed a wish to meet all ex-service women possible. If any member knows of any W.R.A.F. or W.R.N.S. in the district, will they please drop a post card to Miss Mair, 33 Victoria Terrace, Bellue Vue Road, Leeds, giving name and address. We are most anxious to have a good number turn up. Details of the Re-union are being sent to all the members of the Leeds Branch of the Q.M.A.A.C., also to Miss Newton, Hon. Secretary to W.R.A.F., Yorkshire Branch, and will take the form of a supper on Thursday, June 23rd. Please come along for this special occasion and bring any ex-service women you know.

We are delighted to record the birth of a son to Mrs. E. Spaul (formerly Phillips, W.L. and W.A.A.C.) on 26th May, 1932. Mrs. Spaul was formerly Council Representative for Leeds Branch. We wish her a safe and speedy recovery.

Ramble. The popular ramble to Plompton Rocks has been postponed to a later date at the request of certain members until August. A ramble near Leeds will be carried out instead.

A. ANNIKIN.

CALGARY.

Ex-Service Women Urged to Join Club.

"With the object of fostering a spirit of camaraderie among the women who served in any capacity under army regulations during the war, whether in France or England, it was decided to form an Ex-Service Women's Club, at a meeting held in the Canadian Legion Memorial Hall, on Tuesday evening.

"The hope was voiced that all ex-Service women would communicate with the executive and intimate their desire to join the organisation. The following members were elected to office: President, Miss Ruby Fowler; vice-president, Miss M. Kearns, and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Doe. It was decided that the Club should join as an active branch of the Canadian Legion and proposals were passed that a picnic be held during the summer and that Armistice Day should be observed by the Club attending the Armistice services in the morning and by holding a dinner and dance during the evening.

"Meetings will be held once a fortnight, alternately at the Canadian Legion Hall and the homes of the members it was decided. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday."

Miss Margaret Kearns, who sends the above paragraph from her local newspaper, says that they have twelve members with which to start the Club and hope to get many more soon.

DAME FLORENCE SIMPSON.

Writing to Headquarters office recently, Dame Florence said that she was staying in Wokingham for the present to be with her mother, who is very ill. All Old Comrades will wish to express their sympathy with Dame Florence in her anxiety and to express the hope that her mother, who is 80, will soon be better.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Miss Ethel E. Bushell, Government House, Hamilton, Bermuda.

Dear Old Comrades,—As I have made a change in my address since I wrote last I feel in honour bound to

write another few lines to the Gazette, and my conscience does prick me when the Editress asks for news of members, so here goes.

I stayed in New York City until January 16th, and after the apartment changed hands I was not so happy there, and one evening I said to the War Veterans' Secretary, "If you do hear of a position you think would suit me let me know." About two weeks after this he called me by 'phone and offered me the position at Government House. I put in an application through the British Consulate in New York City, and it was accepted, rather to my surprise. It was only then I realised it would mean leaving all the nice ex-Service men and women I had met and had such good times with, and it made me feel very sad. Thursday, the 14th of January, was our evening "get together" at Mrs. Rose's (who wrote the account of our re-union dinner). I was able to say a farewell to the members there, and on the following night was the War Veterans' monthly meeting, and I had a wonderful send-off from them. I had been a member for fourteen months, but they made me feel as if I had been a member for fourteen years, and much to my surprise the women members gave me a beautiful fitted dressing-case, which I treasure as one of my most valuable possessions.

I left New York on the "Pan-America," and the London Branch was represented by Blanchard and Jarvie; Lockyear, too, came to see me off, and three members of the War Veterans besides three personal friends, and although I never fell for New York very much, I hated leaving all the members behind.

Anyway, here I am, and I am very glad to be working under the British flag again, especially as the House is staffed by soldiers, whom I have always a sneaking regard for (why sneaking I don't know), and it reminds me of my old Army days, and sometimes, when a little Army order is called out, I can say "before you came up," and "Active service at that." It causes a smile.

I am glad to say this position is much more suitable to me than any I had in the U.S.A. I find work under English conditions and with an English staff and am much happier here.

I missed my January Gazette and asked Jarvis for her's, and she very kindly sent it on to me. To-day I got the March issue and it makes me feel rather homesick to see you all again. I wonder if Mrs. Shulver (Holder-Weedon) remembers me at Officers' Mess? I remember her quite well, and like to hear she is doing well. Also to see that Buckingham is interested in my letters. We are scattered all over the civilised world, I think.

An old Dieppe ex-W.A.A.C. has been staying in Bermuda—Thorpe. I don't know if anyone remembers her in London. I did hope when I came here Miss Ethel Guest would be here, but unfortunately for me I found she went home last September. I hope the London Branch members won't think I have forgotten them, but this, as you can guess, is a busy house, and I don't seem to get too much writing time, but often think of you all. Cheerio.

From Miss A. B. Anderson, Scotch House, 44 Rue De La Paix, Le Touquet, Paris-Plage, France.

I was pleased to have the May Gazette, but what a small one! and I was wondering who got the prize for the 10s. Competition?

In the April issue I noticed an article from Miss May Norval, of Arras, and determined that the first time I was able to include Arras in my lorry-hopping campaigns I would call and see her. I got the opportunity quicker than I anticipated, as one of my clients took us in his car after the Whitsun week-end. We set out about 7.30 a.m. and had a glorious run, having a look at Montreuil "en passant." It was hot—I've never known Arras when it wasn't just grilling. However, we had a look round the market and found things much cheaper than at Le Touquet. The Town Hall is re-built and is nearly a very fine building and rather resembles the Town Hall at Brussels. We had a look inside as well. Wonderful stone staircases, and all panelled in oak, and very fine iron (fer forgé) doors. For those of us who saw Arras just after the war (or during) it is most wonderful to see the

place re-built again. All fine shops, modern and up-to-date cafes, The Dansants, etc.

I called to see Miss Norval and had a pow-wow. Of course, with the cancellation of the War Memorials at Arras on account of President Doumer's death, she said they were very busy, and all arrangements would require to be made for 1st August all over again. We taxied out to see the Memorial Faubourg d'Amiens. It is a magnificent piece of work and rather appals one. The work of carving the names alone all round the Temples, and the aspect of vastness, but it must be seen to be felt. The driver, an Englishman, told us the French had reclaimed all their soldiers, and the bodies had been transferred to private vaults, etc. The cemetery was beautifully laid out and in perfect order. I had a chat with one of the gardeners who seemed terribly disappointed, after all the rush, that the unveiling should have been postponed.

The church has been re-built, and the Cathedral at Arras is "being restored"—in pieces. The scaffolding is a work of art (**French art?**), and workmen seemed to be working on various tiers, stones, etc., being hurled down irrespective of persons below!

I have not been to Arras for a year or two, and I really enjoyed my visit and prowled round. Men and girls whom I had almost forgotten seemed to rise up, and many recollections—happy and otherwise—were re-acted.

I think the medal should go to Miss Norval as a hanger-on. Surely there is not another "temporary" worker in France with her record of service? She is very happy in Arras and her father and mother are there with her.

I was thankful personally Arras was not my permanent abode, and rejoiced to get back to the fresh air of Le Touquet.

Should any members wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of being present at the Unveiling Memorials of Thiepval or Faubourg d'Amiens, Arras, I shall be glad to make arrangements for them, and a visit could be made a one-day tour from Le Touquet—**1st of August the date.**

Things in general have been very quiet this side, and even Paris not a bit like old times. However, things might be worse.

I wonder if there are any other Waacs in France who would like to come and see me at Scotch House, Le Touquet?

From Mrs. Collingwood, 6 Norfolk Place, Durban North, Natal, S. Africa.

I was interested to hear of Mrs. Killin, an ex-Waac, and intend writing her in case she is ever holidaying in Durban. Also Weatherley (a Wimereux Unit 1 girl) is at Umtali and I must see her.

Thank you for sending my letter to the Gazette, I heard from "Little Wattie" about the same time I wrote you.

My second son (John) arrived a strong wee babe on the 19th February, and is making good progress and endearing himself more each day to us all like babies always do.

Durban is still thriving in spite of continuous talk of depression. Everybody can't be hit, but we find money is much tighter and although my husband keeps very busy we never know if the money will be coming along to pay for the busy-ness!

We are properly settled in the new house and love it, especially having so much ground and there are no buildings at all in our immediate neighbourhood, so we have plenty of air!

My mother returned three weeks ago to England, she arrives next Monday at Southampton. We wonder if she will be able to settle in England again after a year out here. Old people love the warmth, don't they?

I am glad the O.C.A. is continuing, it would be a great pity to disband now after all these years.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Miss Lila Dewy, C.B.E., has recently moved, and her new address is 25 Norfolk Crescent, London, W.2. 'Phone, Paddington 1653

Miss C. Greaves, 11 Downing Street, Whitehall, S.W., notes that a **Miss Martin** is mentioned in the March Gazette and wants to know whether this is the Miss Martin who was at the Dunstable Signal Depot in 1916. If so, she would very much like to get in touch with her again.

Miss Ruby A. Start, Aldermoor House, Stoke Aldermoor, Coventry, would be glad to have the address of **Rene Holland**, and also to get news of **Neville**. She says that **Dolly Colston** spent a week-end with her recently and they had a very good time.

Miss Florence Bennett, of Wellington House, Halesowen, near Birmingham, has just heard of the O.C.A. through the London Branch announcement of their reunion supper-dance, in the "Daily Sketch." She wants all particulars of the O.C.A., and these have been sent her by Miss Andrews, who has passed on her application to the Birmingham Branch. Miss Bennett, whose number was 32565, served at Etaples, Camp II., in Miss Campbell's time, and later was stationed in the Calais area. In Birmingham her great friend is a W.A.A.C., who was, she says, one of the first W.A.A.C. clerks to go to France.

Mrs. R. G. Simpkin (Florence May Greensmith, 20998, F/w No. 3 Rest Camp, Folkestone), has returned to her home in Canada after a visit to this country. She went out to Canada in 1919, and her address is now Cedar Harbour Lodge, Stroud, Ontario. Miss Simpkin says she has a fellow feeling with Mrs. Smith, of London, Ontario, who writes that she has never met a W.A.A.C. since her discharge. Mrs. Simpkin will write to Mrs. Smith, if she will let her have her address. Will **Mrs. Neis** get in touch with Mrs. Simpkin? She wants to visit the Toronto Ex-Service Women's Club. Her home is only 56 miles out of Toronto and she visits that city fairly often.

Mrs. Garlick (Worker E. M. Skelly) would like to have news of **Mrs. Balcombe**, who was her officer at the billet in rue de Charrettes, Rouen. Mrs. Garlick lives at 1 Avenue Road, Acton, London, W.3.

Miss Muriel Hughes (Johannesburg, S. Africa) is on a visit to this country, and when seen at the ex-Service Women's Club had just been to see the Trooping of the Colour; she thoroughly enjoyed the splendid spectacle. She reports that the Branch in Johannesburg is very happy and very often meets. Miss Hughes was in Cologne with the Army of Occupation.

Mrs. Moore (Minnie Browne, 10547) is now living at 19 Ernie Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19, and would like to have news from some of those who knew her at Folkestone, Camp 1, Etaples, and later at No. 9 Canteen, "Tipperary Road," Etaples. Mrs. Moore, who has two children, has been a widow for six years now. She is one of four sisters, all of whom joined the W.A.A.C.S., and two of her sisters also went to France.

Will Mrs. A. Kerrage (Minnie Sanderson) please send her address to Mrs. Garrard, 6 Lake Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19. A letter from Miss Eva Pearce awaits her.

Miss Ethel Cutler is living in London again and her present address is 56 Hailey Street, W.1.

The good wishes of all will go to **Mrs. William Crawford** on her marriage. She is better known to some of us as **Gwen Yeend**. Yeend joined up on June 27th, 1917, her number being 1655, and went overseas in the following August as a cook. Since demobilisation Yeend has been living near London. Her marriage took place on May 28th last and her address is now 19 Tillotson Road, Ilford, Essex.

Mrs. Webb (E. Lea, Worker 17811), Keeper's House, Rise Park, near Hull, writes: Perhaps this short note will make an addition to the Gazette. I just wanted to say how interesting the April issue of the Gazette was, as it mentioned quite a few Old Comrades who I met during Active Service. First of all let me say how sorry I was to see the notice of Miss Gladwin's death. I remember her well at Camp 3, Abbeville. I was with **Mrs. E. Shulver** at Weedon Camp and we still write to one another once or twice a year. I wonder if **Miss J. K. Anderson**, who writes from N.S.W., Australia, is Jean Anderson, who was in the Officers' Mess at Mautort. If so, I remember her, too. **Miss Sylvia Corner**, of the A.E.F., is not the Miss Corner who was at Etaples, if I am correct, but her sister, whom I met at Walcot once, in Lincolnshire. May she have a

very pleasant world tour. **Miss Hall's** (late Bristol Branch) letters were very interesting from Shanghai. I was at Bristol early in '17 at the University with 3rd C.C.B. but I cannot recall a Miss Hall. I do wish more Old Comrades would send letters for the Gazette, it is the only way really in which we can learn news of so many of us.

BIRTHS.

Collingwood.—On February 19th, 1932, at 6 Norfolk Place, Durban North, Natal, South Africa, to Mr. and Mrs. Collingwood (Freda Eaton), a second son.

Callow.—At Maromme, West Farm Avenue, Ashstead, Surrey, on February 24th, 1932, to Edward and Kathleen Callow, a son and heir, Nigel André. (Kathleen Hall, Bataille Billet and Camp 4, Rouen).

MARRIAGE.

Crawford—Yeend.—On May 28th, 1932, at Wycliffe Church, Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex, William Crawford to Gwendoline E. Yeend.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Photography.—Try us for perfectly finished high-class work. Films, all the best makes and sizes. Postage paid one or more.—Whyman (Betty Gray, 2513, Etaples), 212 Seaside, Eastbourne.

Numerology.—Your name, your guide for life. Readings 7s. 6d., 5s., and 2s. 6d. Children's readings 3s. 6d. U.S.A. and Canada \$2.00 and \$1.00. Old readings brought up to date 2s. 6d. Send full names (maiden name if married) and date of birth, to Blanche, 121 West 81st Street, New York City, U.S.A.

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: 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.

Walmer, Kent.—Highly recommended. Guest house. Constant hot water. Near Walmer Castle and sea. Quiet situation. Inclusive terms, £3 3s. per week. August, £3 13s. 6d.—Mrs. F. Cowell, "Glenhurst," Granville Road, Walmer, Kent. Phone: Deal 629.