

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

JULY, 1932.

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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.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR JULY.

Manchester.

On June 3rd we held a special General Meeting, for we had two things to settle which concerned the whole of the Club. The first was that our secretary, Miss Aldred, had resigned owing to health and business reasons, and it was therefore necessary to appoint someone to take her place until the end of the year. Miss Mason was proposed, seconded, and unanimously appointed to carry on the good work. This she agreed to do with the help and encouragement of all the members.

The next thing to discuss was our place of meeting. Our present room had never been satisfactory—as a matter of fact we never knew when we were to be allowed to use it, or had to just tuck ourselves away in some other corner of the building. The entrance, too, was very uninviting and we all felt that the Club had suffered badly because of these conditions. It was imperative, therefore, to try and find a pleasant room in which we could all feel at home and which would attract more members than we had been having.

One of the members reported that there was a very nice room not far away which she felt sure would meet our requirements. So, accompanied by the Treasurer, they went to investigate and found that we could engage the room for every Friday and at a very reasonable rent. We had then to find out how soon we could leave our present quarters and we were informed that would be the end of June.

We have therefore engaged our new room which is at Bowdon's Cafe, 64 Oxford Road. It is really a delightful room furnished with basket chairs and small tables and with large windows looking on to one of the main streets. The manageress of the Cafe, too, seems very kindly disposed towards us, so we really feel now that we are going to spend many happy Friday evenings in our new premises.

Just to make a good start we are having a little informal supper party on the opening night, which is July 1st, and

we do hope that everybody who possibly can, will come.

We have lost two of our members—at least for a time—Mrs. Brentwood and Mrs. Frankenburg, who have both gone south. As, however, they have kept their respective homes in Manchester we feel that some day, like the swallows, they will return.

H. FOSTER.

Oxford.

Our summer outing was held on Tuesday, June 28th, a lucky day to have chosen, as it was fine without being too hot. The afternoon was spent at Whipsnade Zoo, a treat which was thoroughly enjoyed by us all. We saw quantities of wild animals, lions, tigers, bears, elephants and many others, all apparently well and happy in their beautiful surroundings. We had great fun watching a baby llama chasing some infuriated ostriches round and round an enormous field. It was enjoying itself hugely. Tea was taken on a grass slope overlooking a most lovely view.

The four little "Waaclets" who came with us were thrilled with all they saw, but their little feet must have ached with so much walking though, as always, they were as good as gold.

Our grateful thanks to Miss Payne, who organised the transport and to her father who lent his car, and to our good friend Mrs. Baines who again helped us with her car. We are always so pleased to have her and her daughter with us on our outings.

M. GRUNDY, Hon Sec.

Ireland.

A meeting of the Irish Branch was held on 21st May at the house of Miss Sylvia Sheridan, who kindly provided us with a very excellent tea which was greatly appreciated, and we thank her very much for her hospitality. The gathering was small but we were very chatty about our time in the Corps, and our various friends of those days. We wish to thank Miss E. C. Finny for her work as Hon. Secretary of the Irish Branch—as she left Dublin to reside in the country she passed on the duties to me—so please, Irish members, note that 1932 subscriptions are due and send along as soon as possible. I hope to have a meeting here at my house in July. Date to be fixed later.

(Mrs.) ANN I. O'MEARA (nee Hutchinson).

Norfolk.

A most enjoyable afternoon and evening was spent on Thursday, June 2nd at "Holly Lodge," Great Yarmouth; our hostess being Mrs. Rumbold. The Misses Newberry and Prothero very kindly took the Norwich members down by car—a kind thought much appreciated. We were delighted to welcome Mrs. McDermott to tea, and to hear all the latest news of "Mac," our member now residing in the Isle of Wight. A most tempting tea was prepared for us, and was much enjoyed by all.

After tea, we strolled around the garden, escorted by our two Waaclets, Barbara and Hugh, who kept us well

interested. On returning indoors our "copper box" came in for its share of attention and fun—after which we were regaled with sandwiches and coffee, before starting on our homeward journey. Many thanks to Mrs. Rumbold from members for a most enjoyable time.

Nothing definite has been arranged at present for July, but members will be notified in due course.

L. W. CHILVERS.

Exeter.

It is quite a long time since I wrote in the Gazette, but lately our meetings have been rather small, and there was very little to write about, though as long as a few turn up, the old originals, we have no intention of missing one meeting. Our June meeting was held, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Bond, at her house, Wych Cottage, Alphington, and it was intended to have tea on the lawn, but the grass was too wet. I am sure we all did justice to the tea indoors. I should like here to express our appreciation to Mrs. Bond for her kindness. We had a most enjoyable afternoon and then made a rush for the 'bus into the city and finished up at the pictures. We all send our best wishes to Miss A. Sanders and wish her every success in her new venture. She has taken a house at 40 Clifton Road, Paignton, and is taking in visitors. If any Old Comrade is thinking of holidaying in South Devon they need not go far to look for rooms. Our next meeting is a trip to Teignmouth, but more about that next time.

M. VICARY.

Edinburgh and East of Scotland.

"Cake and Candy Sale." A cake and candy sale was held on the 14th May in the W.U.S. Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, in aid of the "Local Benevolent Fund."

The sale was opened by Miss Alice Low, O.B.E. Miss Low, who was looking very fit and well, made a very charming speech about the various activities of the O.C.A. and appealed to all present to support the cause and buy to their utmost. Our grateful thanks are given to all members and friends who so kindly gave donations of money and gifts.

The absence of one of our late members (Miss Jean Hawley) was very keenly felt by us all, as she always took such an active part in all our O.C.A. efforts. Mrs. Hawley (Jean's mother) came in and spent all the afternoon with us.

After expenses were paid we cleared the sum of £12 16s. 9d. Not a bad day's work in these hard times! This money is spent in trying to help needy Waacs whose cases don't come under the help of "Headquarters Benevolent Fund."

FLORENCE M. LUSH.

Nottingham.

The Nottingham Club held a most enjoyable evening. The first of this month being our Club night, a special feature of the night's programme was the welcoming of three new members, which we did with song and dance. Afterwards refreshments were served from the Club's kitchen. One of our members arrived home from a holiday in Spain and Italy. So over the refreshments we had a cosy talk of the general customs of those countries as seen by an English woman on holiday, and very interesting it was, working us up to the pitch of wanting to fly off there and then. Anything for a change. So the Secretary immediately called for subscriptions towards the expenses for the week-end at Shanghai: these contributions weekly or monthly will make it less heavy at the last moment. May I report at this point and for the members not having yet heard, that the Nottingham Club have organised a week-end party for September 24th. We have ten members at present. Anyone wishing to join will be more than welcome. The Camp Committee have assured us of a splendid time at camp. Of course, the more the merrier. For full particulars will members not already supplied please get in touch with local Secretary Mrs. Skellington, Club Room, 94 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, who will be delighted to give any particulars required (p.c. will do). Now that our Club room is furnished we have many opportunities to meet. Dances, whist, bridge, and interesting talks, many over different books which have been sent in to the Club library. We

hope all members will take an interest in the Club and visit us at any time. The rooms are always open and refreshments can be served in a few minutes.

Official meeting night first Wednesday in every month.
PAT SKELLINGTON.

ILFORD'S WEEK-END AT SHANGHAI.

June 25th, 1932.

First of all let me say we have never had a happier week-end at the Camp than the one we have just spent. The weather was perfect, the food bountiful and excellent in quality, and the entire management delightful.

Ah, now what can I say about the company! After all, the company is the making of any holiday. However kind the weather, however good the food, to be there alone would be dull to say the least of it. The company was the essence of jollity, behaving always in a manner most decorous. We had not a dull moment the whole time. When the sun went in, thus making the surface of things appear dull, the company seemed more ready than ever for activities. So much so that at the "dull" hour of 3.30 a.m. Sunday, one of the Company—not a "Waac" by the way but a good honest straightforward sort of a W.V.R.—had to get up and go for a row and a walk. Of course, she awakened the whole hut, but we forgave her her "sins" when she returned to the Camp at 7 a.m. and brought each of us a nice cup of tea.

On Saturday evening 10 of us walked to the "Bells of Ouseley," and remained there quite a time trying to attract the attention of the W.V.R.s across the river. At length we ascertained Miss Tasch and "Buttons" were there and they very kindly invited us over, so over we all went and explored their delightful bungalow. On returning to Shanghai we found a delicious hot supper ready—ready, I say—no hanging about. All was soon completely removed from the table. 10 p.m., now into the nice little sitting room (here may I say what a great improvement this is to the Camp) for a round game of cards. Two of our friends retired to bed at 11 p.m. and the rest played on until midnight. Rudely awakened at 3.30 a.m. as aforesaid.

Most appetising breakfast served at 9 a.m. A perfect day again so far as weather and everything else is concerned. Three of our company attended Service at 11 a.m. and were met afterwards on the river bank by the others.

I heard someone remark, "I feel 10 years younger for this week-end." So go to Shanghai; if it makes you younger it may prove to be a kind of "beautifier," though I cannot recommend it as "guaranteed to slim," for I do not think this is at all likely as the feeding is too good and tempting.

We thank those responsible for making our week-end so very bright and happy, and I, for one, raise my voice and say, "Thanks be unto Him who giveth us all things richly to enjoy."

MADGE DRUITT.

SAY.

Many of our Bapaume R.A.S.C. readers will be sorry to hear of the death of Worker Savage 2318. In spite of the years that have come and gone, and the fact that she was married and the mother of three children she still wrote "Dear Ma'am" and finished in the old way.

You remember she was in the telephone hut with Pen and Herbert and a bright spot she was. For several years she had been ill, very ill, with tuberculosis and times were not over-easy but to the end she retained her old spirit. Her last message was, and I pass it on to all her friends, "Tell ma'am I am like a captain on a ship and I am going to stand firm until the ship goes down." A worthy stand for anyone and a wonderful outlook for one who had suffered much.

Winnie Wood (Mrs. Pontet) was with her when she died, and was, as we would all expect, a great comfort to her. In spite of the trying situation Sav enjoyed some reminiscing of the old depot days. She was given a semi-military funeral at Fowey. The Union Jack was draped over the coffin and a party of Royal Engineers acted as bearers. Many flowers covered the grave, but Winnie's Flanders

poppies were slipped down beside her. Those of us who knew her are glad to think it must have given her pleasure. The sympathy of her friends will go out to her husband, who is in very bad health, and to her three little ones who will miss her much, and to her old father-in-law who, in spite of the weight of years, did much to ease her burden.

And so—Sav marches on. M. H. LAIRD.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Mrs. M. Hollerhead, 27 Latvolu Terrace, Paddington, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

I now write to give you my address. By the above you will know my little son and self arrived back in Australia quite safe. We had it rather rough more than once, but all the same we enjoyed ourselves very much. My little boy won two prizes—one for potato race and the other for fancy dress, and he was very pleased about it. I have just bought a little shop at the above address as my hubby is quite unfit to work. While in Sydney I tried to find the Club and was first told one place and then the other, but I could not find them. I have also tried here but up to date have not found them. I quite forgot to ask you the address of the club here when I was in London, so should you be writing to me would you please put the address of the club here in the next Gazette you send out to me and then I will try to look them up. The weather is bon here now, and after the rain we had in England just before we left it makes me glad I am not in England any more.

With best wishes to all ex-Waacs.

From Miss Sybil Johnson, c/o Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2.

This letter should have been written to you months ago, and unless I do it now, am afraid it may again get postponed, there always seem a hundred and one things to do when one first gets home from abroad, but I thought perhaps you might be interested in the work I have been doing in America.

In October, 1930, I went out to America via the West Indies, had a very pleasant time in Port of Spain, but should not like to be there for long. Arrived in New York and went to my sister, who is married and lives just outside New York. I was under the impression I could get sufficient work during the winter to pay my passage home to England in the summer. Unfortunately the depression had just started, and America took it very hard. Nurses were in the bread line in New York, added to which unless one was State registered, which entailed taking at least two special courses and sitting for an exam., it was impossible to obtain any really good post. One only came my way, and that was only endurable for two weeks! I next paid a visit to Boston, to an aunt, and there obtained a post as volunteer in a women's hospital, from there I was telegraphed to go as relief nurse in the Frontier Nursing Service in Kentucky. I had a friend in the Service, so was fortunate to secure the vacancy. The F.N.S. do district nursing in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. We pay all our visits on horseback, and it is a grand, open-air life. The people are not at all well off, in fact very poor; there are no proper roads, just trails over the mountains. I got there just at the beginning of Spring last year, and it was truly wonderful to watch the trees coming to life on the mountain sides.

I was attached to a Mission Hospital, and my main work was midwifery and the babies. Since it started in 1925 the Service has done good work for the mothers, as the maternal mortality was pretty high. I had two horses, started my day at 6 a.m. by feeding my two steeds, and left the grooming and cleaning to a boy, but saddled and was away by 8 a.m. and back in the evening about 5 p.m., having travelled about 16-20 miles; does not sound much, but going is not speedy over mountains and along creeks. I always prayed for a night in bed, but was not always lucky! After a storm it would be impossible to go out for a day as the rivers would rise and be unfordable. The thunder storms during the summer, came up so suddenly and caught one unawares. I disliked intensely being caught in one on the mountain tops.

I left Kentucky a month ago with many regrets, spring

was just coming, and babies are adorable wherever they are! Anyway, I have had a very pleasant trip home, staying in New York, then sailing from Quebec, stopping at Niagara Falls, which are certainly worth a visit, the Horseshoe Falls being particularly fine. Montreal, which is a very pleasant city; Quebec, which is packed full of history, then on to this ship. Sea voyages are not altogether a great joy to me, but this one has been fairly comfortable.

The Gazette has reached me very regularly, and I am always most interested to read it. Another ex-Waac is in the F.N.S., she was a clerk, I think, at Rouen, and now like me, a trained nurse. All good wishes to the O.C.A.

From Mrs. M. Washer (nee Davies), 1034 Highland Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

There are several ex-W.A.A.C.s here in the city and surrounding places. I am gradually getting to know of them.

I am very active in Canadian Legion affairs here and through that I have come in contact with ex-W.A.A.C.s whom I would never have met otherwise. I am going to insert a notice in the local paper here and try and get them all to meet here at my home and then try and get a picture taken and send along for the Gazette.

I came here to Canada in 1921, married a Canadian soldier, an Englishman, of course, and we are very happy and have one boy. I have never been homesick yet, though I have had all kinds of indifferent luck, the worst of which is this tragedy of unemployment. My husband is a native of Brighton and lost the sight of his right eye just before Vimy, and he had considerable difficulty in getting his disability pension. He was in the Royal Canadian Regiment with the Permanent Force. On returning they took him on again but found in 1927 that he was blind in one eye and discharged him. It was only last July that he was awarded his pension. Of course, you will know that conditions here have been just like they have all the world over. Some parts of Canada are much worse than others; here in Windsor things are terrible, there's no prospects that I see. We have had no work for 18 months now and sometimes I feel very discouraged. Fortunately I am able to help the Legion quite a bit and that helps take my mind off other things. However, I am hoping this year will be better for all.

I am glad to see the Motherland is picking up. I do really believe that after all she's better off than other countries in comparison. I hope some day I shall be in a position to visit home. It will always be home to me. I lived in Detroit for quite a time, there things are terrible. I don't think they have ever known such terrible times; my sister lives there with father and mother, but it only takes me an hour to get to them. Just outside of Detroit lives an ex-W.A.A.C., Jean McCullough, who was at Calais, France, with us. We were shopping in Detroit one day and were about to cross the street and who should spot us but Jean McCullough. Believe me we had lots to talk of.

From Miss Gertrude A. Jarvis (Jarvie), 244 East 51st Street, N.Y. City, New York, U.S.A.

I do hope the members will keep their subscriptions going better this year.

Ten Waacs in New York gathered at Mrs. Rose's home in Brooklyn last Thursday and we had quite an enjoyable evening. We are hoping to gather another Waac to the fold at the first opportunity—a Mrs. O'Reilly—who lives in New York.

Miss Bushell sailed for Bermuda last Saturday to take up a post at the Governor-General's establishment.

Business in general is very slack out here, and wages are being cut in all professions. Fortunately I have not had mine reduced, and I sincerely hope I don't as I am saving up my pennies for my trip home in June.

Give my kind regards to Miss Warrior: tell her I received her delightful letter this morning and hope to write to her in the near future; also to all members of the Gazette Com. and London Branch; I hope one day soon to be able to see them all once again.

From Miss M. Kearns, 70, 7th Street, N.E. Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Thanks for your letter and good wishes for our new club. I was pleased to have the Gazettes again and enjoyed reading them, especially the letters from the Vancouver Branch. I read them at our last meeting and all the members agreed that the Vancouver Branch deserve great credit for their work. I notice the Editor complains we don't send any news. Well, possibly most folks who are away from the Old Country think that news from their part of the world would not interest the folks at home. (It is news from all parts of the world that is wanted.—Ed.) But we look for news from home. I am sending a list of our club members' names and the Camps they worked in. They would be very pleased to hear from any who remember them. I hope the Editor will find room to print those names in the Gazette:—

Our President: **Miss Ruby G. Fowler**, Signals, B.E.F.

Vice-President: **Miss M. Kearns**, F/w waitress, Park Hall, Oswestry, Kinnel Park, and Prees Heath.

Mrs. Burley (Florence Keats), W.R.A.F., clerk, Halton Park, Wendover, Bucks.

Mrs. Clark (F/w cook, W.A.A.C.), Caterham and Winchester.

Mrs. Eagar (Muriel Loram), waitress, W.A.A.C., Ballyshannon and Victoria Barracks, Cahir, Ireland.

Mrs. Morrison (Agnes Wheatley), W.R.A.F., St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sandling and Uxbridge.

Mrs. McKenzie (Gwladys Harris), W.R.A.F., clerk, Central Pay Office, R.A.F., Woking.

Mrs. Brown (Margaret McLachlan), W.A.A.C., waitress, Edinburgh, Irvine, and London.

Mrs. Ross (Eileen Boothe), W.A.A.C., Driver, Hastings, and St. Omer.

Miss L. Saffery, W.A.A.C., clerk, Chisellan Camp, Wilts.

Mrs. Stanley, W.A.A.C., waitress, B.E.F.

Mrs. Doe (Dora Flemin), W.A.A.C., clerk, London.

That completes my list, and now we will be looking anxiously for letters—if sent to my address I will deliver them. We have decided on having a picnic on the 26th of June. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Canadian Legion Hall, and the fourth Tuesday at one of the member's houses. Any Old Comrades coming to Calgary will be gladly welcomed. I am hoping to go to Vancouver in September, and if so I will look up some of the B.C. Branch.

Miss Edith Thompson writes:—

"I am going out to Canada towards the end of August and hope to be in New York for a few days about the middle of September. C/o Barclay's Bank, New York City, will find me, and in Canada c/o Miss Galt, 147 Admiral Road, Toronto, after August 26th.

BATTLEFIELD TOURS.

The following letter has been received at Headquarters and is given here in the hope that the information may be of use to any members wishing to make a tour of the battlefields:—

Federation Interalliee Des Anciens Combattants,
15 Rue de Presles, Paris (15^e Arr.).

We desire to direct your attention to the fact that for the past three years the Fidac has possessed an up-to-date travel department, specialising in Battlefield Tours.

Such being the case, we should esteem it a favour if you would make it known to the members of your Association that we are at all times willing to deal with enquiries for either individual or collective battlefield visits and to obtain the lowest possible rates in connection with such movements.

According to our records we do not appear so far to have received from you any applications for such information and as we are convinced certain of your members are from time to time travelling overseas, we trust we

shall be favoured with an opportunity of handling this business in the future.

Thanking you for any personal help you can offer in this connection and assuring you of our hearty collaboration at all times,

Yours faithfully,

VOYAGES FIDAC, Le Directeur.
(Signed) Edward Winsall.

CORRECTION

It is regretted that Miss Davy's name was wrongly printed in the last issue—the paragraph should have read:—

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

DEATH.

Wyatt.—On Sunday, April 12th, 1932, Dorothy Wyatt (Savage, 2318, Wkr., 1st B.M.T. Depot, Rouen), after a long illness patiently borne. Ever remembered by her friend Winnie.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

Paignton, Devon. Comfortable Board-Residence or Apartments. Every convenience. Terms moderate.—Apply Miss A. Sanders, "St. Margaret," 40 Clifton Road, Paignton, S. Devon.