

JANUARY
FEBRUARY } 1941

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE

GENERAL SECRETARY: Mrs. Johnston, Q.M.A.A.C., O.C.A., 82, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2.

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HEADQUARTERS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1940 AND JANUARY 1941.

A Meeting of Council was held on Saturday, 14th December at 5, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, with Chief Controller Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan in the Chair. The following members were present:—Mrs. Eager, Miss Binks, Miss Ireland, Miss Billington (Hon. Treasurer), and Mrs. Johnston, General Secretary. Apologies were received from Miss Davy, Miss Turner and Miss Batty.

The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting was considered and drafted.

The Secretary of Norfolk Branch had written to say that her Branch was not in favour of holding the Annual Dinner this year. This was the general feeling of the Meeting; it was therefore agreed that a Re-union be held immediately after the Annual General Meeting, the price of the tickets to be 1/6 each.

The question of a Benevolent Fund for the Auxiliary Territorial Service was considered. As the O.C.A. is now open to ex-members of the A.T.S. their welfare comes within the interests of Council.

It was agreed that a letter be circulated initiating a Benevolent Fund for personnel of the A.T.S. The subscriptions to this Fund being contributed by all ranks of that Service on a voluntary basis.

Chief Commandant, Lady Apsley, who had lately retired from the A.T.S., had kindly agreed to act as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. In this way no extra work would fall either on the General Secretary or the Hon. Treasurer and no financial expenses would be incurred by the O.C.A.

The date of the next Meeting was fixed for Saturday, 8th February, at 2.30 p.m.

The General Secretary reported the bombing of 5, Chesham Place, but was able to give the good news that all the Records of the O.C.A. had been saved, also the furniture of the office with the exception of one cupboard which stood against a dangerous wall.

Visitors to the New Office.

The General Secretary has had the pleasure of visits from Mrs. O'Meara (Eire Branch), Senior Leader Biltbrough, A.T.S., Miss Grace Shawyer (who is now in Northern Ireland), Miss M. Fraser (who was Hostel Forewoman at the First Army Infantry School, Hardelot Chateau) and Miss Richards, W.R.A.F. They have all admired the beautiful new office at Lancaster Gate. After all it is "ill" bomb which does not do some good!!

THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1, on Saturday, February 22nd, 1941, at 3 p.m. It is hoped that as many members as possible will make a point of being present, so that the meeting may be representative of all branches.

ANNUAL MEETING OF BRANCH SECRETARIES.

The Annual Meeting of Branch Secretaries will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 22nd, 1941, at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate.

ANNUAL REUNION

SATURDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY, 1941.

Ex-Service Women's Club, 5, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1., 4 p.m., to 6 p.m.

In view of the present uncertain times, it has been decided not to hold the Annual Dinner this year. A re-union will be held, however, at the ex-Service Women's Club, 5, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1. immediately after the Annual General Meeting.

Tickets 1/6 each, can be obtained from the General Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A., 82, Lancaster Gate, W.2, or from Branch Secretaries.

Owing to the difficulty of catering, the General Secretary would be glad to receive applications by the 8th February, if possible, and in any case, not later than the 15th February. Please send **Stamped addressed envelope**. One penny stamp will serve for open envelopes for return of ticket.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Miss Billington, the Hon. Treasurer, assisted by Miss Warrior and her helpers, will have a table in the reception room during the Re-union, at which subscriptions for the O.C.A. and the Gazette may be paid.

Will members paying subscriptions there please make a point of writing **after their names and addresses—the amount paid**, i.e. (i) 3s. 6d., if for Gazette only; (ii) 2s. 6d. if only O.C.A.; and (iii) 6s. if for the O.C.A. and Gazette.

In the case of ii and iii please state clearly **the name of the Branch to which you belong.**

Q.M.A.A.C., O.C.A., LONDON BRANCH. HON. SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Old Comrades many changes have taken place since the last General Meeting of this Branch. Many of us are now scattered all over this Island of ours, in pursuit of our daily job, but I think that our Chairman, Miss E. Thompson who has been called to South Africa on important National Service for the duration, must surely have taken the longest trip of us all. We miss her very much and hope that she will be happy in her new work. We look forward with the keenest anticipation to her return for perhaps two very important reasons. Firstly, because we know that when that day arrives, our greatest wish of all will have materialised—"Peace with Victory" will have become an accomplished fact. Secondly, and this a selfish reason perhaps, we know that once again we may be able to call upon Miss Thompson to give us one more of her famous talks from life experience and this one should be the finest and best that we have had from her. We have, however, one great consolation in having for our Vice Chairman, Miss Ireland, and I should like to express to her our very sincere pleasure in having her with us to-day.

We are also sorry to lose the services of our Assist.-Secretary, Miss Roberts, who has been called away from London on duty, we have missed her very much. Miss Robinson, another member of our committee regrets that for the same reason she has not been able to attend meetings.

Our Hon. Treasurer, Miss Hayward will give us the total membership for 1940. This I fear will show a decrease, but this is only a temporary state of affairs due to conditions and will right itself in due course.

Re-unions during the year until the end of August were well maintained, but since then, no re-unions have taken place, as members have found travel and blackout conditions rather difficult to cope with.

Miss Roberts organised a very successful Whist Drive which was held in April, and which resulted in a sum of £1 12s. 0d. being raised for Branch Funds. Prizes were kindly given by:—Mrs. Giles, Franklyn, Eager and Miss Pitt.

In April also the Branch entered upon a new phase in "good works" by appreciating the needs of the "Fighting Services" in adopting the 10th Btn. Middlesex Regt. for the purpose of supporting the 'Comforts Fund,' in particular the wool and knitting section. A letter of appreciation and thanks was received from Lt.-Col. Cook, M.C. on being informed of the Committee's decision. To date nearly 200 garments have been knitted by members and friends, a very excellent result we feel sure that we shall all agree with.

The Canadian Government and Publicity Department gave a very interesting film show in June and at the conclusion, a collection was made on behalf of the 'Comforts Fund' resulting in the sum of £1 being subscribed. Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. Avery, the Director of the Department, and also the operator.

Miss Sanderson and her helpers still maintain their good work with parcels of the most useful kind which are more than ever welcomed in these days of sudden loss and hardship. 185 garments have been provided by and made from this source.

It will be remembered that at the last Annual General Meeting of the Association, a resolution was passed opening the Association to Ex-Service Members of the A.T.S. and we have welcomed to our branch the first Ex-A.T.S. members.

We are sorry that no news has been received from our sub-branch, Ilford.

With great sorrow, we learned of the passing of our dear comrade and friend, Mrs. Senn, on the 12th of August last. On behalf of the Committee and members, a letter of condolence was sent to Miss Harcourt-Brown, sister of Mrs. Senn and well known to a number of us.

Many of our members are in uniform again and on "active service" and still news is being received of other members joining up.

To our old Comrades who have lost their homes through enemy action we offer our sincere sympathy, to mention a few who have come to our notice are our Hon. Treasurer, Miss Hayward, and we are lucky to be getting her report to-day, also Miss Rogers, Wittering.

In conclusion, social events have naturally been curtailed, but it is hoped that with the advent of lighter evenings, re-unions may again be resumed. My thanks to all Members for their good wishes and expressions of pleasure on my taking over the office of Hon. Secretary, which for my part was greatly appreciated. If in any way I have failed you, I ask for your kind indulgence, but I too have had my "Ins and outs" or perhaps the better way to express it would be my "Outs and ins" which have upset to a little extent the ordinary routine of life and things. My thanks also to all and every Member who has contributed in any way by donations, knitting, sewing or otherwise, to make our efforts in all and every direction, successful ones.

LONDON BRANCH REPORT

Christmas greetings were received from our president, Dame Florence as follows:—"To my dear old comrades London Branch, Q.M.A.A.C., O.C.A., Remembrance and all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year." From our Branch Chairman, Miss E. Thompson, now in S.

Africa came a cablegram as follows:—"Cheery Greetings London Branch." The Branch had already cabled Miss Thompson, Greetings and all good wishes, London Branch."

The Hon. Secretary thanks all Old Comrades who sent greetings.

The Annual Meeting of the Branch was held on Saturday, the 18th January, Miss Ireland was in the chair, supported by Committee and about thirty members.

Will members please note that 1941 subscriptions are now due and should be sent to Miss D. Hayward the Hon. Treasurer at "The Priory," Reigate, Surrey, who will also be glad to receive forgotten subscriptions for 1940. There were nearly 80 short for last year and the Branch is feeling the loss of these rather badly. Members are also urged to renew their Gazette Subscriptions, otherwise we shall see this dwindling away and this is the only link that many members have at the present time with many of their Old Comrades and the Association. So do help in this practical manner to keep the flag flying. Through the generosity of a number of Founder Members of the late Shanghai Camping Club, our Branch have benefited by quite a considerable sum. These members have forwarded in some cases their original subscription together with the interest. These donations have been most welcome and the members may be assured that the money thus contributed will be put to good use. Then again, other members have written saying that War Weapons week will receive a little more than would have otherwise been possible.

Comforts Fund. One hundred and twenty-five garments were dispatched to the 10th Btn. Middlesex Regt., making a total of 182 in all. A letter of appreciation and thanks has been received from Major E. Mayhew, who writes "I have received your very splendid contribution to our 'Comforts Fund' . . . by your contribution we are now in a position to give every man a gift on Xmas Day. You will appreciate that we were more than delighted to receive your parcels which have thus brought success to our effort." The Chairman, Mrs. Griffiths, of the Fund, also writes: "Will you on behalf of the Regiment and my Committee thank your Committee, and members very much indeed for the splendid gift of comforts. . . It has made me very happy for now by your generous gift every man in the Regiment will have a woollen gift for Xmas Day." A further donation has been sent by Miss M. Swan for the above fund. Grateful thanks to all who have contributed.

Our next meeting will be on February 22nd, at the A.G.M., and re-union tea afterwards at the club.

Please make a note of the Hon. Secretary's address which is 78, Melrose Avenue, Norbury, London, S.W.16.

B. HAINES (Hon. Sec.)

BENEVOLENT REPORT FOR OCTOBER

Three applications only were received for assistance during October. All were given help as requested.

One grant was made for assistance with spectacles, dentures and maintenance.

One grant for convalescence and assistance in the home during the member's illness.

One grant was given for the fees at a Convalescent Home for a period of seven weeks. Part of the cost was borne by the H.S.A.

There have been very few applications for assistance from the Service Women's Benevolent Fund and none at all have been received for parcels of clothing. This is probably because children have been evacuated from the industrial areas, from whence came most of the requests for clothing. It would seem that either the local authorities or the children's foster parents are meeting the need.

RE SHANGHAI CAMPING CLUB

The Chairman, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Treasurer wish to thank all late members of the above club for the appreciative letters they have received upon the paying out of the Funds—after sale of the above Camp. It will be understood that it has not been possible to reply to them individually.

D. PORTER, W. BINKS, B. HAINES.

EDINBURGH CLUB RE-OPENED

The Women's United Services Club at 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, was formally reopened recently under the auspices of the Y.W.C.A. of Great Britain, for the use of all women in H.M. Forces.

After a short dedication service had been conducted by the Very Rev. Dr. Charles L. Warr, an account of the work which has been organised by the Scottish Division of the Y.W.C.A. for the women of the Forces was given by the Hon. Mrs. Ronald Watson, chairman of the Edinburgh branch of the Y.W.C.A., who presided. "Wherever there has been a need for our services," she said, "we have been able and ready to meet the need."

Already they had opened a large hut for the W.R.N.S. in the East of Scotland, Mrs. Watson stated, and another equally large hut was under construction for the A.T.S. In those places where the number of women had not justified the Y.W.C.A. in building large huts, the Y.W.C.A. had built annexes to their large huts for the use of the Y.W.C.A., who had furnished, equipped and staffed them. They hoped very shortly to organise mobile canteens wherever there was a need for them to serve the women in the scattered units. Many of those women were stationed in lonely and desolate parts of Scotland, cut off from the outside world for weeks, if not months, at a time.

For some time they had felt that there was a need for a real centre in Edinburgh for the women of the Forces. The Committee and members of the Women's United Services Club had offered to put all the resources of their club at the disposal of the Y.W.C.A., charging only a nominal rent, and that proposal had been gladly accepted.

DEDICATION OF LIVES

Formerly handing over the use of the club, of which she is a trustee, Harriet Lady Findlay, D.B.E., stressed the importance of comradeship and co-operation amongst the women of the Services. "Our one desire is to dedicate ourselves to the service of our country," she said, "but let us remember that the dedication is not for the duration of war only. It must be a dedication of our lives, particularly amongst the younger women, to help to solve the many problems that are bound to present themselves when the war is over."

Lady Findlay expressed the belief that the club would bring much happiness and health to girls who were doing magnificent work in the service of their country.

Mrs. Arthur Grenfell, president of the Y.W.C.A. of Great Britain, said it was hoped to continue the splendid tradition of service for which the club had always stood. She recalled that the first Y.W.C.A. hostel was opened in London for those nurses who returned with Florence Nightingale from the Crimean War, and said the Y.W.C.A. were ready again now that another great war had come to them. That club in Edinburgh was one of the 110 military service centres being run by the Y.W.C.A. In addition, they had an equal number of civilian centres, and a great work among munition workers was just beginning.

Other speakers included Lady Maud Baille, Chief A.T.S. Liaison Officer, Scottish Command; Mrs. Frank Dalziel, chairman of the Club Committee; and Miss Scott Moncrieff, organiser of Y.W.C.A. war work in Scotland.

"THE ROUND PEG."

"The world to-day pays homage to the philosopher, the scientist, the doctor, the artist and the statesman, and all these have been the recipients of knighthoods and such honours, but how many honours have been conferred on our cooks? How long could man go without food or what could he accomplish without the inner man being strengthened first? Do you ever see a cook's name among those honoured by their country? The philosopher could not reason soundly on an empty stomach, nor could the scientist concentrate on the 'atom' without first having had a morsel of food. The poet calls us to harmony

with his verse, the painter depicts scenes that delight us, and the play can carry us off into other worlds, and make us marvel at his ability, but the cook stands head and shoulders above them all."

("THAT MEN MAY EAT," by Jean Montgomery. Ex-V.A.D. and Q.M.A.A.C., The Quota Press, Belfast).

I was visiting Dublin University (Trinity College) one day and I thought of the number of students who have lived within its walls, and the many visitors who have been there to admire the buildings and ancient treasures and I wondered how many of them had given a thought to one of the most important of the University's activities, the Catering Department, that with a great deal of care and thought keeps staff and students fit and keen for the main work from commencement to term's end? Jean Montgomery served with the Q.M.A.A.C. in the Great War is now Lady Superintendent at Trinity. On her invitation I have had an opportunity of getting behind the scenes, and it has a most interesting experience. The Dining Hall and Kitchen, being built on reclaimed land, sank, so the present ones although huge and old looking are really a second edition. In the kitchen there is a spit large enough to roast an ox, but at the same time all modern conveniences of gas stove, etc., are in evidence. A collection of copper utensils would warm the heart of any cook, but the "T.C.D." on every lid makes the collection of a delightful souvenir somewhat difficult. The selection of food for the luncheon buffet, run on cafeteria lines, should satisfy any hungry man, twelve dishes, soup and potatoes and a variety of huns, fruits, etc., tea, coffee, milk, all at a more than reasonable charge. It all looked so appetising it is little wonder that large numbers come along daily. (There were 300 on the day of my visit). Unlike "Commons," attendance at luncheon is voluntary, so the numbers present would suggest that the efforts of the Catering Staff are appreciated. Miss Kelly (Ex-Q.M.A.A.C.), who runs the "Co-op" in Trinity assists Miss Montgomery at Luncheon time by taking charge of the Pay Desk. Miss Montgomery's heart was always in cooking and its allied activities, and although fate ordered that her work lay elsewhere she took every opportunity of fitting herself for this work—the opportunity came with results vastly satisfactory to herself, and as time goes on to countless numbers of Trinity Students. Ergo—if you feel you are the square peg in the round hole be of good cheer, maybe, as in the case of Jean Montgomery, opportunity will come knocking—so prepare.

Queen Elizabeth founded Trinity College, Dublin, and now another Queen Elizabeth has sent for a copy of "That Men May Eat" and Her Majesty Queen Mary, the Commandant-in-Chief of the O.C.A., has also accepted a copy.

ANN O'MEARA.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES

Mrs. A. Simmons, nee Mussell, E.C. Sumatra sends remembrances to all the old crowd especially Dorothy Porter.

A. Blackwell, of High Barnet, writes:—I hope the O.C.A. will continue despite the war.

Sen.-Comm. M. L. Chapman says she is very busy in her new job but very happy in it.

Vol. Shearman writes:—"Please give my love to everybody I know and tell them, if my hair is grey I am not too old and feel as happy and young as in the last war. I have a wonderful job and like it very much. I am the C.O.'s Driver.

E. M. Winter sends "All the very best of luck to London Branch and its gallant workers." When her letter was received she was unfortunately ill. We trust that she has by now made a complete recovery.

GAZETTE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Will subscribers kindly note, that in order to save postage, paper, etc., receipts for subscriptions received will be enclosed in the following issue of the Gazette, and not sent separately.

BRANCHES

Adelaide	Mrs. M. Scott, 16 Elizabeth Street, Evandale, Adelaide.		
Birmingham.	Miss E. I. Dipple, 17 Somerset Road, Handsworth.	Offices, Band of Hope League, Martineau Street.	Wednesday 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
Blackpool.	Mrs. K. Fry, 136 Albert Road, Blackpool.		
Bournemouth.	Miss F. E. Lever, A.T.C.L., Craighurst, 7 Church Road, Parkstone, Dorset.		
Bradford.	Mrs. A. Goodman, 2 Tivoli Place, Little Horton, Bradford.		2nd Wednesday.
Brighton.	Mrs. E. C. Jolly, 107 Preston Drive, Brighton, 6.	Aqua Restaurant, Old Steine, Brighton.	2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
Bristol and West of England.	Miss B. Mould, 11 The Tynning, Bath.		Not fixed.
Cheltenham.	Mrs. Mann, Cornerways, Churchdown, Gloucester.		
Exeter.	Mrs. Vicary, Castle House, Powderham, near Exeter.	16 Dix Field, Exeter.	First Thursday of the month, at 3.30 p.m.
Edinburgh and East of Scotland.	Mrs. G. D. Hardy, 51 Lockharton Ave., Edinburgh 11.	Women's United Services Club, 12 Dronsheugh Grdns., Edinburgh	1st Tuesday 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.	251 Renfrew Street, Glasgow.	Every Wednesday, 7.30.
Headquarters.	Mrs. Pratt Barlow, O.B.E., Q.M.A.A.C., O.C.A., 5 Chesham Place, S.W.1.		
Irish Free State.	Mrs. O'Meara, M.B.E., 23 Ailesbury Road, Dublin.		Not fixed.
Leeds.	Miss E. Mair, 27 Virginia Road, Off University Road, Leeds.		5 Park Square, first Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
Liverpool.	Mrs. E. Edwards, 49 Moss Grove, Liverpool 8.		
London.	Miss B. Haines, c/o 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.
Ilford.	Mrs. Taylor, 15 Stanhope Gardens, Ilford, Essex.	Mrs. E. A. Thomas, 94 Whyteville Road, Forest Gate, E.7.	Alternate Tuesdays, at 8 p.m.
Manchester.	Mrs. G. Cardell, Lancaster House, Salford, 7.	Raglan Café, 24 Mosley St., Manchester.	2nd and 4th Thursday, 7 to 10.30 p.m.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Miss C. W. Maunder, 31, Norwood Avenue, Heaton, Newcastle.		Members notified individually.
	Mrs. B. Lester, Gourock, Redewater Road, Fenham.	Interviews at British Legion, N.E. Area Offices, 10 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.	
New South Wales.	Mrs. E. Mills, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.	Ex-Service Women's Club, Victoria Barracks, Paddington, N.S.W., Australia.	
New York.	Mrs. G. Rose. Phone Nevins 8-5250.		
Norfolk.	Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 32 Grove Road, Norwich.		Monthly. Members notified individually.
Northern Ireland.	Sen. Leader N. Hughes, A.T.S., 17 Adelaide Park, Belfast.		Third Wednesday in the month at 8 p.m.
North Staffs.	Mrs. G. H. Clough, 3 Eleanor View, Newcastle.	Nell Gwynne Restaurant, Newcastle.	Second Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m.
Notts.	Mrs. Skellington, 20 Burns Street, Nottingham. Tel. 76614.		First Wednesday in the month, 7 to 9.30 p.m.
Oxford.	Mrs. Jackman, 23 Grays Road, Headington, Oxford.		Members notified individually.
Plymouth.	Mrs. O. Foster, 2 Notte St., Plymouth.		
Cardiff and S. Wales.	Mrs. Diana Foster, 7 The Grove, Runney, Cardiff.	Y.M.C.A., Cardiff.	Second and last Tuesday. at 7.30 p.m.
Shoreham-by-Sea. (in abeyance)		The Café, 5 The Street, Old Shoreham.	2nd Tuesday each month 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.
Tees-side.	Mrs. Fryer, 12 Shildon Street, Darlington, Co. Durham.		
Transvaal.	Mrs. Widdicombe, 8 Gascoigne Street Observatory, Johannesburg, S. Africa.		

Editor Gazette—Mrs. E. E. Garrard, 7 Belvedere Grove, Wimbledon Common, S.W.19. Tel.: Wimbledon 0842.