

SEPTEMBER } 1941
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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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IMPORTANT NOTICE

All contributions for the Gazette should reach the Editor, Q.M.A.A.C., O.C.A. Gazette, 82 Lancaster Gate, London, W.2. **not later than the 21st of the following months:- January, March, May, July, September and November.**

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL HONOURS THE O.C.A.

All members of the Old Comrades Association will be proud and happy to learn that H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Contoller Commandant, A.T.S., has honoured the O.C.A. by joining as a Life member.

Her gracious action will give great pleasure to both Q.M.A.A.C. and to the A.T.S.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT for JULY, AUGUST and SEPTEMBER

A Meeting of Council was held on Thursday, 18th September, with Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan in the Chair. It was held, as usual, at 5 Buckingham Gate, at 6.15 p.m. The following members were present: Miss Davy, Mrs. Powell, Miss Saunders, Miss Haines, Mrs. Eager, 2/Subaltern Bilbrough, Miss Binks, Miss Billington, Hon. Treasurer and Mrs. Johnston, General Secretary. Apologies for absence were received from Miss Ireland, Miss Pratt, Miss Turner and Miss Batty.

The Report of the Treasurer revealed a sad state of affairs. Twelve Branches have NOT yet sent in any Capitation fees, they are BLACKPOOL, BRADFORD, CHELTENHAM, LEEDS, LIVERPOOL, NEWCASTLE, NORTHERN IRELAND, OXFORD, PLYMOUTH, CARDIFF, HASTINGS and the TRANSVAAL.

The Financial year of the O.C.A. closes on the 31st October. This means that, unless the Capitation fees are received before that date, the Branches named cannot be considered as having any Annual members. The strength of a Branch is calculated as the number of Life members added to the number of Annual members who have paid their subscriptions for the current year, i.e., 1941. It would seem that many members do not realize that they

cannot be counted as members of the O.C.A. until the subscription for the year has been paid and the subscriptions are due on the 1st January of each year. It is hoped, therefore, that the Capitation fees will be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, at 82 Lancaster Gate, London, W.2., as soon as possible.

A second sad fact is that the membership of the O.C.A. is lower than last year, despite the fact that 124 members of the A.T.S. have joined the Association, 89 being Annual members and 35 Life members.

The third sad fact is that only 278 Q.M.A.A.C. members are taking the Gazette, which is 53 less than last year and there are also 7 A.T.S. members who subscribe. Every effort is being made to make the Gazette as attractive as possible, both to our Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. subscribers. The Editor would be glad of news and she hopes that members will do all they can to increase the circulation.

Council considered the Report far from encouraging. They understand well the difficulties which have been created by the war. They feel sure, however, that our Q.M.A.A.C. members only need to realize how much it means to the O.C.A. to have a large and faithful membership. Our comradeship is such a great bond that it is hoped that those who have allowed their membership to lapse, through work and other interests, or even through slackness, will now show their loyalty by renewing their subscriptions. In the old-war days when things were most difficult, Q.M.A.A.C. rose most valiantly and efficiently to the occasion. We feel sure that we may count on them again in the present trying times.

The General Secretary reported that, with the authority of the Chairman, she had closed the office from the 1st to 5th September and taken the second part of her holiday. (I suppose this is what is called 'staggering' through your holidays!!—Editor).

Owing to the difficulty of travelling during "black-out" hours, it was decided to hold the Meetings at 2.30 p.m. instead of 6.15. The date of the NEXT MEETING of COUNCIL was therefore fixed for SATURDAY, 20th DECEMBER, 1941, at 2.30 p.m. at 5 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1.

Edinburgh

Miss I. Anderson writes that she has been ill since June and has had another operation in the Royal Infirmary. She has, consequently, been out of touch with the O.C.A. She says in her letter: "Unfortunately I was not able to be present at Miss Low's Meeting but I hear she looked very well and the members who were able to be present enjoyed the Re-union very much. They were pleased to meet Miss Davy who amused them vastly with her experiences in an air raid. We have been mercifully spared much of that but we are ready. Both Miss Low and Miss Davy were delighted with the Club and glad to know how much it is appreciated by the various Services. I hear that Crombie (Melrose) has transferred from V.A.D's to the W.A.A.F. and is stationed in the South of England. Lush is now a V.A.D. and loves it. Miss Finlay and Miss Turnbull have been very busy with visitors and canteen work, but hope for a little respite in October. Lambert, I heard from Miss Low, is fully occupied with W. V. S. work and arranging rest centres in case of a blitz." She hates being unable or allowed to do anything at present and sends greetings.

Brighton

Regarding the O.C.A. it is very hard to do anything just now, as so many of the members are in the Army and out of Brighton. I often hear from some of them, and they come and see me when on leave. Miss Kimber is a Sub. in the A.T.S. in the South of England and seems to like it very well. Mrs. Beckenham is at Hounslow Barracks and has just received her second stripe, I believe she is doing clerical work. Two other members are on the land, and one, Mrs. White, is nursing and is on the high seas. Others are in Worthing, Lancing, Henfield etc., so this is a very scattered Branch. We have been running a small Whist Drive once a month, but I am afraid we shall have to give it up for a while, as the members are very slow at coming. Of course most are doing something, A.R.P., A.F.S. etc. Miss Crowden, one of our members has been in hospital for nearly three months with phlebitis, but I am glad to say she is now a little better. E. C. JOLLY.

Nottingham

With the approach of darker evenings the members of the Nottingham Branch of the United Services O.C.A. have reverted to the afternoon meetings at Heathcote Street. We extend a warm welcome to all Ex-Service Women, especially to those whom destiny has sent wandering far from their home towns. We meet the first Saturday and third Sunday each month. The first of these afternoon meetings was a very special occasion—a 21st birthday party, given to the members by Mr. and Mrs. Peters on behalf of their son George, who unfortunately was unable to be present as he is training in the R.A.F. It was George's express wish to give this party to the Nottingham Old Comrades, a charming gesture which we all appreciated and needless to add, thoroughly enjoyed. Our Chairman, Miss Hassall, with her skilful oration, gave an eloquent toast to which Mr. Peters replied. After drinking to the young man's health and offering our best wishes the party began. Many Londoners will remember this young man as the delightful dark-haired little chappy whose image is portrayed on the illuminated scroll which Queen Mary signed on the occasion of the official opening of the Buckingham Gate Club.

How time flies! It is indeed very sad to think that the children of our Old Comrades have to serve in a war far more ghastly than that in which their parents served.

N. OSLER.

We were very sorry to hear from Mrs. Hardy that **Mrs. N. Malcolm** of Edinburgh Branch died suddenly in September.

Norfolk

Members are still meeting for tea in the city on alternate Tuesdays, but are having tea at Curl's Restaurant, as being a little more convenient, as the dusk evenings draw near. Next date, September 30th.

We have had two interesting letters from Molly Howes—from Uganda this time—where she had taken a temporary post. She was returning to Nairobi in July, rather glad really, as Uganda was proving very trying for rheumatism, from which she is suffering acutely just at present. However, her letters, were as usual, very cheerful and full of news. Mrs. Paston and Miss West sometimes join the Hon. Secretary at a little Whist Drive, and Miss Howson has settled down nicely in her new post, and seems quite happy. Unfortunately she is not able to join us on Tuesdays at present.

Miss Norman has returned to private nursing and is at present at Shokesham, Norfolk, from where she goes on to Melton Constable and later to Boston in Lincolnshire. The Misses Newberry and Prothero are both getting along nicely—and we presume the hens are doing their duty! Members will be notified when next we can fix a meeting. L. W. CHILVERS.

Birmingham

We had a very pleasant club meeting in the evening of August 30th. The next meeting will be in the afternoon of September 27th at Mrs. Katie Pearce's house. The date for the following meeting will be settled then. No doubt the last Saturday in October will be chosen.

News and views were exchanged and news of absent serving members circulated. Marjorie Peers is in the Balloon Barrage now, Mrs. Glover's daughter has joined the W.A.A.F. Bank books were brought out and we bought our Savings Stamps.

I am writing this at the farm of Mrs. Clarke (Etta Laurie) I am on a cycle tour of Suffolk and might extend it as far as Norwich.

Etta's sister Molly (Signals, Abbeville, Calais and Dieppe) is now Commandant of the Women's Volunteer Air Force in South Africa. At the beginning of the war she trained the Johannesburg Signal Corps and then was made Vice-President. Her step-son, Gordon, took part in air battles over Abyssinia and on one occasion he blew up an ammunition train. E.A.R.

North Staffs

There is no special news from this Branch this month. Our members are rather scattered and difficulties of travelling are very great, quite apart from the expense. We hope to have a Whist Drive before long as we have some nice prizes in hand given to us at various times by our friends.

I have been away in the country for the past six weeks and whilst there I met Mrs. Ashworth, who came to the nearest town to meet me. Her husband has been very busy at his new works. She wished to be remembered to all our members and hopes to return to Newcastle after the war is over.

We were all very sorry to hear of Dame Helen's retirement from active work with the A.T.S. Most of us remember her as Chief Controller of Q.M.A.A.C. I hope that she will enjoy life now that she has more leisure.

H. CLOUGH.

London Branch

We were very pleased to welcome to our reunion on the 21st August "Crombie" from Edinburgh, who is now serving in the W.A.A.F. Another visitor to the Club was "Barraclough" who is also serving in the W.A.A.F. Our congratulations to Miss Bilbrough late Secretary London Branch, who has been appointed 2nd Subaltern A.T.S.

On the 4th September we held our last Beetle Drive of the season. This was organised and arranged by Miss L. Saunders supported by the Hon. Secretary and 2nd Sub. Bilbrough, A.T.S. as M.C. There was quite a good gathering, about 44 members and friends in all. Miss Ireland sent her regrets at not being able to be present. Visitors almost outnumbered the members, amongst whom we welcomed Lieut-Colonel E. W. Mayhew, M.C., T.D., Capt. Reid, Capt. Clifford and Lieut. Carmichael of the Middlesex Regt., also Miss Bilbrough brought her Company Commander A.T.S. Another visitor that we were very glad to see was Miss Harcourt Brown. Lt.-Col. Mayhew, before presenting the prizes, thanked all present for their attendance and so contributing to a very enjoyable evening. He expressed the appreciation of the Battalion for the great effort made by the Members in knitting and collecting over 400 garments. Col. Mayhew also warned those present that Lt. Carmichael was holding an auction after the prize giving, and expressed the hope that adequate precautions should be taken to prevent the persuasive powers of Mr. Carmichael leaving them with only a latch key in their pockets, which judging by the report in the Gazette on the occasion of the last Drive, left some Members with no alternative but to walk home. (We should like to mention that the "adequate precautions" suggested by Col. Mayhew caused much amusement and appeared to be not entirely practicable to the majority of those present).

Prizes were won by the following: 1st. Miss D. Hayward, score 327; 2nd. Miss Hatfield, score 303; 3rd. B. V. Caseley, score 301; 4th. Miss Parsons, score 297. Consolation prizes: Mrs. Wilson, score 175 and Lt. Col. E. W. Mayhew, score 199. Mystery prizes: Miss Harvey, score 266 and Miss K. Saunders, score 259.

A vote of thanks was proposed by 2nd Sub. Bilbrough to Col. Mayhew. At this point Lt. Carmichael literally "took over" ably supported by Capt. Clifford. By the kind generosity of Mrs. Eager, who had presented a box of groceries, which included amongst other things, sugar, tea, coffee, tin of milk, cheese, marmalade, tin of plums, chocolates and to settle the whole matter, a seidlitz powder. This was the bait for the evening and bids were fast and furious, one needed to be a good arithmetician to keep pace with it all, but Capt. Clifford who was O.C. of the cash, passed with honours. The final bid came from Mrs. Eager and the record sum of £4 10s. 0½d. was raised for the Battalion Comforts Fund. Mrs. Eager presented the box to Mr. Carmichael who in turn presented it to the members for re-auction. This raised a further 11s. 1d. making in all for the evening, together with donations etc., the grand total of £7 3s. 7d. Our thanks to Lt. Carmichael for all his hard work in connexion with the auction. We have to acknowledge with many thanks prizes given by the following: Miss Brandreth, Mrs. Franklyn and Miss Chambers, these are in addition to previous acknowledgments in last Gazette.

Comforts Fund Report.—Miss Saunders particularly asks knitters to send in all finished garments as soon as possible please, quite a lot appear to be outstanding since her last distribution of wool. Also more knitters are

urgently needed to help our efforts to supply every man of the Battalion with at least one knitted garment by Christmas. Wool can be posted to Members upon written request but postage must be enclosed, otherwise wool is distributed at re-unions. Miss Saunders sends us the following report. "Owing to the success of our Social activities, our financial position has improved considerably. We have a balance of £15 16s. 3d. Many thanks to everyone who helped to achieve this satisfactory result. I am ordering another parcel of wool—double the size of our usual one—so please do all you can to enrol more and more knitters. We want to ensure once again that our adopted Regiment gets one garment for every man by Christmas. Two parcels have been sent this year and with the garments due to come in, there should be sufficient for a third parcel to be sent immediately. Our largest parcel I hope to send just before Christmas. Wouldn't it be marvellous if we could make our contribution up to 1,000 garments by then? Since we started, the garments made total 393, so we have some work to do by Christmas if we want to reach the 1,000 mark—Here's hoping.—L. Saunders."

Re-unions.—Please note the dates of next re-unions are as follows: Saturday, 18th October; Saturday, 15th November; Saturday, 20th December at 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. and NOT as originally arranged for the first Saturday in the month.

Committee Meeting.—The next Committee Meeting has been fixed for Saturday, 22nd November at 2.30 p.m.

Annual Meeting.—The Annual Meeting of London Branch will be held on Saturday, 6th December, 1941, at 3 p.m. prompt, at 5 Buckingham Gate.

B. HAINES, Hon. Secretary.

HELP TO AMERICA

In these days we hear so much of help FROM America that it might even be a good thing if the help given TO America were recalled. A recognition of this is printed below and will be of special interest to those of Q.M.A.A.C. who served with the American Expeditionary Force.

"American Expeditionary Forces,
Transportation Corps,
Headquarters,
21st June, 1919.

Since November, 1918 a detachment of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps has been on duty in the Headquarters of the Director General of Transportation. The cheerful and able manner in which they have performed even the most monotonous of duties has been a constant inspiration to all who have come in contact with them. Far from home, serving with an army not their own, the performance of this unit is remarkable and I feel deserves the highest credit.

As Director General of Transportation I therefore desire to take this opportunity of thanking this unit in particular, and also of stating the high esteem in which Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps will always be held by those of the United States Transportation Corps who have been fortunate enough to have served with them.

F. R. Mc Coy,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.
Director General of Transportation."

The original of this letter may be seen at Headquarters, beautifully transcribed on vellum, complete with seal and red, white and blue ribbons.

Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch

Holidays are now only a pleasant memory for those who were fortunate enough to get them and to find suitable accommodation. Two at least of our members Mrs. Inverarily (née Richardson) and myself went to London, being determined to see our friends, raids or no raids! We were both very fortunate in July, having good weather and no raids. I saw and heard much that was interesting in the four days and came away greatly cheered. I found my friends well and cheerful and determined to stick it, and dear old London and the Club still standing and carrying on. The streets and trains were crowded and everyone was making the most of the long summer evenings. I was very sorry I had not time to call at the office and see Mrs. Johnston who has come through so much this year. All the members have had more or less of a break and look well. With last winter fresh in our minds I fear there will be no evening gatherings but we keep in touch with each other, and meet on an occasional afternoon. We are all sorry our chairman, Mrs. McFarlane, has decided to remove to Dumfriesshire with her young family. For two years she has been separated from them except for visits at weekends and now feels she wants a home where they can be together. We will all miss her but she will keep up her connection with us which is a long one having joined when the O.C.A. was formed. I was sorry not to be able to gather members to meet Miss Davy who kindly offered to come and visit us when staying in Edinburgh. It is very satisfying to be able to stay at the Edinburgh Club although it has been lent to the Y.W. for service women. I spent a night there last week and had a most enjoyable time and had every comfort. Miss Innes arranged for me to meet some Waacs and we sat in the canteen surrounded by girls in uniform hearing the happy laughter and chat just like old times. One has only to look in at the Club to realize that the transfer to the Y.W. has been a good one. Edinburgh was looking its loveliest as Miss Innes and I returned in the moonlight to the Club having visited Miss Fairlie. Visits such as these keep up one's spirits until the grand reunion after the war.

E. M. GILCHRIST.

VISITORS TO THE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

On the 12th August the General Secretary had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. R. Henderson, a new Life member, who lunched with her. On the 14th Mrs. M. Whyte who returned from Canada last year came to the office. She had a very serious operation last Spring but was hoping to take up work again shortly. Another welcome visitor was Miss Hassell, the Chairman of the Nottingham Ex-service Women's Club. The Club is quite small but a very comfortable and happy place, Mrs. Johnston spent a very enjoyable evening with the members at their Annual Dinner, 21st October, 1939, when she travelled from Southport to Nottingham for the occasion. Miss Haines, the Secretary of London Branch, gave the General Secretary the pleasure of her company at lunch, on the 22nd. She admired the brightness and spaciousness of the new office which is, indeed, the most luxurious office yet occupied by any Secretary of the O.C.A. Why do not more members come and admire? They would be very welcome.

Miss Roberts, of Exeter, sent another two parcels of flowers, these are much appreciated and further adorned our delightful Headquarters.

The A.T.S. and O.C.A.

In another place Old Comrades will have heard of the high honour paid to the O.C.A. by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Controller Commandant of the A.T.S., who has joined the Association by becoming a Life member.

We are also pleased to welcome Junior Commander M. V. Partner, who has become a Life member and the following who are Annual members of London Branch: I. R. Barnard, Daphne Bird, M. R. Conway-Cook, Mrs. I. P. Gibbs, M. R. Gardiner, Mrs. F. M. Line, M. A. Oliver, Mrs. C. Holmes, J. M. Rogers, Mrs. M. A. Perkins, P. F. L. Warren, and J. S. Barnard, also Pte. D. O. R. Manning of Hastings.

(The Editor regrets being unable to give the ranks of the above-named members but these were not stated in the list sent for publication).

CORRECTION

Attention has been called to certain inaccuracies in the articles quoted from "The Times" of 9th July, 1941, on page 4 and 5 of the July-August issue of the Gazette

The first of these articles, referring to the A.T.S., states that "Dame Helen was in fact mainly responsible for its formation a year before the war." This does less than justice to the A.T.S. which is not the creation of an individual, but an official body under the Army Council, constituted by Royal Warrant. We suspect that it also does less than justice to Dame Helen whose wide experience of similar bodies would have enabled her to avoid certain pit-falls and who, though a member of the original advisory Council, had no authority of any kind till she went to the War Office in July 1939, when the Service had been in existence for more than nine months.—Editor.

A.A. BATTERY

"The Times" of the 8th September reported that "The first mixed A.A. Battery, of men of the Royal Artillery and women of the A.T.S., is now in action near London." There are probably many other such Batteries, though we have no news of where they are stationed.

One great experiment in the history of the British Army, perhaps the greatest of all time, has been received almost as a matter of course—the absorption of members of the A.T.S. into the Anti-Aircraft Command to take the place of men in handling precision instruments. The first detachment of them have already been in action and in quickness and dexterity were found to be the equals, sometimes the superiors, of men. Great attention is being paid to their physical endurance during the long hours of duty and to their conditions of living.

No one who has spent a night at a lonely emplacement when the guns are thundering or watched the teeming activity of the training camps can doubt the spirit and efficiency of members of the Anti-Aircraft Command, whose achievements already speak so eloquently for themselves. Everything possible is being done to relieve the monotony of days and months of watching for something which in instances may never happen.

The following article from "The Observer" of 13th July, 1941, has been sent to us by a correspondent. We feel sure that our readers, who have not seen it, will be glad to read this appreciation.

DAME HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN—HER GREAT SERVICES

It is with great regret that the A.T.S. view the retirement of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, whom they have been so justly proud to have as their chief.

As Chief Controller of the W.A.A.C. in the last war she was such a conspicuous success in that very difficult task that she was specially selected to be Commandant of the W.R.A.F. in 1918. In this post she showed herself a brilliant organiser with great tact, and was universally respected and liked. She commanded this till it was disbanded in 1919, for which great services she was given a D.B.E.

Her services were then utilised in many important ways. She foresaw the coming of war and formed the Emergency Service, which was to train women as officers should the necessity arise that women would be required again to serve with the Forces.

This was started in 1935, and was officially recognised both by the War Office and the Air Ministry. The Duchess of Gloucester was its president. Without her foresight it is hard to see how it would have been possible to form the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F. in 1939.

The A.T.S. was raised on a Territorial basis with great enthusiasm, and when the war came they stepped in and took over many a man's job quietly and quickly, though no rates of pay even had been settled for them.

She showed amazing powers of sympathy with the women of all ranks—always ready to help and to give help. Her great spirit and example of unselfish work will live in the A.T.S. One wishes her successor all good fortune in her difficult task.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF A.T.S.

The War Office announces that Senior Controller Leslie Whateley has been appointed Deputy Director of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, second in command to Chief Controller Jean Knox.

Mrs. Whateley, who is a granddaughter of the late Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, has a son, Raymond, aged nearly 18, who is about to join the Army in the ranks. Her husband is a squadron leader in the R.A.F. She joined the A.T.S. in 1938 and was appointed a junior officer after completing the officers training course at Chelsea Barracks. The new Deputy Director will relieve Chief Controller Knox of much administrative work, thus enabling the Director to travel and maintain personal touch with all ranks.

2/Subaltern Bilbrough was in Edinburgh a short time ago. **Mrs. Hardy**, the Secretary of Edinburgh Branch, was very kind and invited her to lunch and showed her much hospitality. She was also invited to a Branch Meeting and had the pleasure of meeting Miss Low, Miss Finlay and other Branch members. She seemed a little surprised that so many knew her by name, but who doesn't know Bilbrough? The many years of good work she put in as Secretary of London Branch, her genial personality and her friendliness to all make her a well-known and loved figure. (No double entendre, Bilbrough!) All Old Comrades will congratulate her on getting her Commission and wish her continued success.

Sergt. L. Morley, A.T.S. is very happy to be serving again. She takes the Gazette and is so glad to get news of Old Comrades. She has been for 2 years at the Depot of the Leicestershire Regiment.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES

E. M. Winter of Leytonstone, who served at Rouen, sends news of some Rouenites which is given below. We are glad to hear that Winter herself is having a week's "rest period" and that she is going to spend it with her sister in South Wales. She enjoyed the Beetle Drive, held by London Branch, very much. She had been hoping to arrange a holiday with **Dipple** of Birmingham but unfortunately the latter was not well enough to go. We hope that Dipple is now quite well again.

Mrs. Boggett (Barker of Rouen) who lived at Beckenham, had her home badly bombed last Spring at a time when her husband was ill, unfortunately he caught a good deal of the blast and was, in consequence, ill for some time. They have been evacuated to somewhere in the Lake District but they miss London.

We are indeed sorry to learn that **Mrs. Riseborough** ("Phil" of Cauchoise Billet and St. Pol) is at present in Hospital where she has undergone two severe operations. All her old friends will send her their love, sympathy and best wishes for a complete and speedy recovery.

Winter writes that she has lately met **Eva Norden** and **Mrs. Stone** (Gibbs), both of Cauchoise. Norden is working in the City but is at present living with her mother at Westcliffe. She misses meeting her O.C.A. friends. Gibbs is at Ealing where Winter spent some very pleasant hours with her.

It is very nice to get good news of **Dorothy Hoad**, of Rouen who lives near Torquay. We are pleased to hear that she is in better health and has even been able to help in the "Dig for Victory" campaign. She keeps house for her sister and father.

Winter wishes to send her best wishes to all her friends who have been evacuated, mentioning **Moyes** and **Miss Taylor**. She hopes that it may not be too long before they all meet once again at Oversea, where they have spent so many happy Easters.

Mrs. F. Austin of Kettering has had to leave the A.T.S. as her services were urgently required at home.

Mrs. Cole, (Fluister) is at present evacuated to Coleman's Hatch, her son Peter has had a wonderful time in the Forest which has done him the world of good.

C. Crombie has now joined the W.A.A.F. and the last news gave her address as London.

Mrs. L. F. M. Fryer who has been in the A.T.S. for some time has now got her second stripe. Congratulations Corporal Fryer! She is stationed near Scarborough and is in charge of a platoon which has received the commendation of the Colonel and of her Company Commander.

Mrs. E. F. Bartlett (Butler 1336) writes from Bridport, enclosing her Gazette subscription. She wishes to send greetings through the Gazette to all Old Comrades with whom she served at 1st Base M. T. Depot. She very seldom sees news of any of them, especially **Doris Bell** (nee Jarman) whom she last heard of in Alberta.

Mrs. Ruby G. Mundy (Fowler) writes from Calgary, Alberta, and sends greetings to **Mrs. B. Rutherford** ("Billy" Whan) **Dalton** and **Chitty**, of Etaples and Rouen, "**Bobby**" **Roberts**, **Blodwen Morgan**, also of Etaples and Dannes, **Dorothy Rose**, **Gracie Thorn**, **Dolly Marchant**, **Nelly Deasy** and **Margery Crease**. She heard some years ago that Nelly Deasy had married a Canadian soldier and was living in Winnipeg. Mrs. Mundy is very busy with all sorts of activities and it is hoped to print a long account of these in another part of the Gazette.

Mrs. Nellie James has been evacuated from her home but is very comfortably and happily settled in Harrow. Unfortunately she is much crippled with rheumatism but gets about cheerfully in a self-propelled chair and is able also to give her hostess some help. Her husband can manage to visit her and then makes himself very useful by doing some gardening and mowing the lawn.

Miss Frances Ling. We were very sorry to hear from **Miss Mainland**, who was staying at Oversea, that Miss Ling is seriously ill. All Old Comrades will join in sending her their sincere sympathy and good wishes.

Mrs. Ethel Mills, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Ex-Service Women's Club in New South Wales, writing in June says that their problem is how to get wool for knitting. The Defence Department has placed such huge orders that others have to take what is left. The ways and means of raising cash is varied and on Club nights the members need to be well supplied with sixpences and threepences. All the goods they make are sent home through the Salvation Army. The last time the members were on duty at the Buffet there were a number of British Tommies who had escorted prisoners-of-war to Australia and they were so pleased to see so many women from England.

M. Moyes sent some news of Old Comrades but we were unable to fit it in to our last Gazette. She is at present evacuated with her firm. She had **Mrs. McKay** spending the Sunday with her some time ago. She occasionally hears from some of the Hesdin girls. **Endall** is at Torquay. **Tommy** lives at Taunton and has a daughter who is a nurse, **Craig** lives at Southampton with her mother, **Harris** joined the A.T.S. before the war but resigned and is now working in a Government job at Bath. Her son is in the R.A.F. **Murray** and **Pollock** are still in Glasgow, the latter has a grown-up daughter. **Llewellyn** lives at Teddington and has a boy and a girl. **Jones**, who at one time was the Secretary of Bournemouth Branch, has been managing a N.A.A.F.I. Canteen for the past three years at Chatham.

C. R. Leech called at Headquarters while the General Secretary was on her holiday. We hope however that she will find time to come again as the G.S. was very disappointed at not seeing her.

Mrs. M. Batteham writing from Queensland sends greetings to all Old Comrades and asks news of **Miss Margery White**.

Mrs. Samuel (Elkin, U.A. Calais) is now living in Brockenhurst and writes that her boy is very happy with friends in Canada and is having a marvellous holiday on a Ranch in the Rockies in cowboy costume! She gives the news that **Mrs. Hindley** (Wilkins) is in Kenya and liking it very much.

Old Comrades will be sorry to learn that **Miss I. H. Anderson** has been ill since June and will wish her a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Duncan (Wells, E.G., D.A. Hartlepool and York) writes that she had the pleasure of a chance meeting with Dame Florence when she was visiting her son at Wellington College. She has lately taken a very intensive course of Red Cross training in Home Nursing and First Aid and done a fortnight's practical work at the big Tuberculosis Settlement at Papworth, near Cambridge. One of her duties was to organize and catalogue the library for the men's and women's wards (about 210 beds). She is looking forward to spending part of her son's holidays with him at Babbacombe, after he has finished the strenuous spell of land-work with which he begins the vacation.

Miss Molly Howes writes a long newsy letter from Nairobi. She is sadly crippled with rheumatism which prevents her from undertaking active work but she is very busy with sewing and knitting. We know well, however, that many also serve even if they are unable to serve in any very strenuous work. She has a very small house, with a nice garden, and a friend shares the expenses. She often hears from Mrs. Chilvers, the Secretary of Norfolk Branch, and wishes that she could attend those happy meetings. She sends her sincerest greetings to the O.C.A. and all its members and the best of luck to all.

Mrs. Alice Marwood, known to many as "Gracie" on account of her wonderful Lancashire accent, is at present enjoying a well-earned holiday. She lives in a Home for Old Folk at Walton but despite her three score years and ten she works for Lady Richardson who very kindly gave a delightful party to all the other "Old Dears," (as Marwood calls the other old ladies who live in the Home), at her home in Weybridge. It is quite clear from Marwood's description that both Sir Philip and Lady Richardson gave their visitors a wonderful afternoon. In addition these kind people allow their gardener to give Mrs. Marwood some vegetables each week which are indeed a "God-send" to the old folk in the Home.

Mrs. Rosamund Henderson (Pindar of Harrogate) who joined the O.C.A. as a Life member in July, lunched with the General Secretary. She was a shorthand typist first at A.O.C. Beaumaris and later at H.Q. in Calais. She hopes to meet some of her old friends.

Blanche Bailey, now Pte. B. A. Bailey, 28209, A.T.S. writes from Leicester. She is very busy and happy in her new Service

ACTIVITIES OF THE Ex-SERVICE WOMEN IN CALGARY, CANADA

Our little Club is still "carrying on." Since it started some ten years ago, with eight members. The numbers have fluctuated between 8 and 21 members, and at present we have 12. Some have "passed on," others moved away, and still others have had to give up through ill-health, but many of these still turn up to help us out in any "big" undertaking. None of us are engaged in any active "war work," as Ex-Service Women in this city do not seem to be wanted, most of us being "too old" to compete with the young ones. We are all keenly disappointed that we cannot serve again in any organisation. There are several throughout the Dominion for women from 18-45 years, which are as yet, unrecognised by the Government, but at last since the entry of Russia into the war, the Government has announced its intention of forming a "Women's Army Service Corps" for branches of work similar to that performed by the W.A.A.C.S. in the last war. They will draw the women from these various organisations, as well as from other sources, so now the young ones will get the chance for which they have been waiting, and Good Luck to them! They don't however know the meaning of the word "discipline," but no doubt will "shape up" under Army routine!

Well, I am afraid I have diverged from "our" activities, so I must get back to the point at once.

During the Autumn of last year we collected all kinds of torn and worn woollen articles and had these things re-made at a factory into two very nice blankets for refugees, and nine pairs of socks which we sent to soldiers training in Alberta.

We held a series of Whist Drives and Raffles to raise funds and donated \$20.00 to the Canadian Legion towards a Christmas dinner to single unemployed ex-service men many of whom have been certified as physically unfit for any work but who are not qualified for Government Pension. These received an allowance of \$12.00 a month upon which to live and a dollar doesn't go far in Canada, but I believe this amount has since been raised a little.

Following this we entertained these same men at a New Year's Whist Drive in the Hostel in which they live. Their dining and recreation room is the basement (cellar) of the building!!

By this time we had very little funds left, so we continued our monthly Whist Drives and Raffles, and worked hard to collect funds for the Lord Mayor of London's Air Raid Victims' Fund. We organised a St. Georges' Day Tea, and sold about 250 tickets. We raffled at this Tea a big fruit cake and a smaller cake, both beautifully iced, as well as a very nice hand-embroidered Irish Linen Tea Cloth. We had a "Home Cooking" table to which every member contributed the eatables, and also a "Needlework" Table to which we also "donated" all the articles. This of course gave us a clear profit on all we took, and almost everything was sold. We invited notable ladies in the city to "pour tea" during the three hours that our "Tea" was being held. We also had a teacup reader and musical selections during the afternoon. We cleared \$160.00 and sent it to the Lord Mayor of London, and felt very pleased with our achievements. Everyone worked very hard, and particular praise should go to our President and Vice-President, Mrs. Martindale (V.A.D.) and Mrs. Morrison (W.R.A.F.) respectively, as well as to our Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Curtis (W.R.N.S.), Miss Kearns (W.A.A.C.) who sold more raffle tickets than any other member, Mrs. Stanley and Mrs. Clark (both ex-Waacs) in charge of the Home Cooking and Needlework Tables and to Mrs. Smitheram (W.A.A.C.) in charge of kitchen arrangements. As immediate Past-President I poured tea for the first hour, and then "carried on" with the musical selections for the final two hours.

We are continuing our Whist Drives and Raffles and hope very soon to again entertain the unemployed ex-service men. I almost forgot to mention that at our St. George's Day Tea, we were favoured in having a young evacuee girl from Manchester, England, to make the draw for all the raffles. She is the guest of a lady living a few miles outside Calgary.

Following the "Tea" we despatched a number of packages of chocolate bars and tea to the Women Fire Watchers in London, and have just forwarded 170 pairs of socks to the men of the Merchant Marine and Mine Sweeper Services. We hope to commence our Winter activities by holding a concert to raise funds for further aims.

Perhaps I should mention that we are active members of the Canadian Legion, British Empire Services League, affiliated with the British Legion, and as such are considered as ex-soldiers, and entitled to attend all general meetings of the ex-service men members, with the right to vote on all questions. We run our own Women's Section in our own way, having regard always to the Legion Constitution, and enjoy the same privileges and rulings that govern our men Comrades. We always assist on "Poppy Days," and gather in a goodly collection selling poppies, and we always parade with the men to the Cenotaph, and attend services on Armistice Day.

Last Friday, June 27th, a gigantic Recruiting Parade was held in which between 10,000 and 12,000 men

of the Navy, Army, Air Force, Ex-Service men and women, Civilian Organisations, Scouts and Guides, Voluntary Womens' Auxiliary Services, took part. The rain came down in torrents, drenching everybody, but not damping our spirits, nor that of the crowds that lined the route. The Prime Minister, Hon. Mackenzie King took the salute. We women were proud to march with the men, and personally I would have gone through a lot more than flooded streets and wading through pools, to help my country. Rain poured off, and ruined the hats of most of us, but I thought "This isn't half as bad as the mud and snow we waded through in France!"

I think I have now brought you up to date on our activities, and I feel it is fitting to conclude this "summary of events" by mention of the Earl and Countess of Athlone's visit to Calgary on April 21st and 22nd, just before St. George's Day. His Excellency and Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice, were given a most loyal and enthusiastic reception, and had a very busy time visiting the many Air Training Centres, Army Barracks, Naval Volunteer Reserve Training Centre and the Auxiliary Hospital in the City. They also inspected hundreds of Guides, Scouts and school-children and were everywhere charming.

The Governor-General paid an informal visit to the Legion Hall, where ex-soldiers of the last war gathered to manifest their loyalty. We Ex-Service Women members were the only women allowed to be present, and felt highly honoured, and very proudly wore our medals, as did also our men Comrades.

His Excellency's lack of formality and charm put everyone at ease, and one could hardly realise that one was in the presence of a member of the British Royal Family.

Well, I really think that is all, except to say that we had a happy visit at our meeting in April from Mrs. Buckingham of the Edmonton, Alberta, Club. Some of us had met her before, and were pleased to renew the acquaintance. I have just received my May-June Gazette and see that communications should be mailed to reach you not later than July 21st. I hope this will arrive in time, but usually letters take four weeks to and from England. However, it may be in time for publication in the September-October Gazette.

Best wishes to Old Comrades, sincerely,

RUBY G. MUNDY (née Fowles).

MARRIAGE.—On September 6th, 1941, at St. Michael's Church, Wood Green, N. **Patricia Cleland** (late Signallers, Havre, Wimereux G.H.Q.) to Herbert George Lamb.

DEATH OF MISS I. CROWDY

Members who have served on the Committee of the Service Women's Benevolent Fund will be very sorry to learn of the death of Miss Isabel Crowdy, who took such a real interest in all that concerned the Fund and was never too busy to visit any member needing assistance. Her help will be greatly missed. Miss Crowdy served with the Women's Royal Naval Service in the last war. A Memorial Service was held on the 11th August at the Cheyne Hospital, Cheyne Walk. The Hon. Secretary, S.W.B.F. attended on behalf of the Chairman (who was in Scotland) and members of the Committee.

BRANCHES

MCNo 786

SubCatD338

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 Drove, 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 Drumsheugh 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., 82, Lancaster Gate, W.2.		
Irish Free State.	Mrs. O'Meara, M.B.E., Cove Cottage, Dunmore East, County Waterford.		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.	See Branch Reports for dates of meetings.	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, Gourrock, 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, 26, Victoria Street, Bondi Junction, N.S.W.	
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., Palace Barracks, Holywood, Co. Down.		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. A. E. B. Johnston, 82, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2.

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