

NOVEMBER }
DECEMBER } 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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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.**

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETING

This brings to all my Old Comrades and, may I add, New Comrades, my warmest greetings and good wishes for Christmas and New Year, and a fervent hope and prayer that before we greet each other at the same time next year, Peace and Goodwill may once more reign on earth.

It is my privilege and pleasure to be able to tell you a piece of news of great importance to all members of Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. and to all readers of the Gazette. The Old Comrades Association has been honoured in that Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, Contoller Commandant, A.T.S., has become a Life Member and has graciously consented to be our Honorary President.

It is also with great pleasure that I am able to announce that Chief Contoller Mrs. Knox, Director A.T.S., has become a Life Member and a Vice-President.

I feel sure that I speak on behalf of all my Old Comrades when I say that we deeply appreciate and value this mark of comradeship, and at the same time we warmly welcome in many new Life and Annual members of the A.T.S. who have joined the Old Comrades Association.

It is a great joy to me to think that at our next Reunion we shall have with us not only Old Comrades who served in Q.M.A.A.C., but they and their daughters who are now serving King and Country in the A.T.S., let us look forward to that Reunion.

FLORENCE SIMPSON, President.

Miss Ireland sends Christmas Greetings and sincere good wishes to all Old Comrades, particularly Miss Edith Thompson in South Africa, Hedley in New Zealand and Hodgson in Kenya.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1941

There is very little to report of these two months as no Council Meeting has been held since September.

The date of the next Meeting is SATURDAY, 20th DECEMBER, at 2.30 p.m., at 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1., when the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting will be considered.

The bright spot appeared on the 3rd October when our President, Dame Florence Simpson, came to visit the office and delighted the General Secretary by remaining to lunch.

The Christmas Greeting from the President, printed in another place, includes the good news, which will give much pleasure to all Old Comrades, that Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Contoller Commandant, A.T.S., who is a Life member of the O.C.A., has honoured the Association by graciously becoming the Honorary President and that Chief Contoller Knox, who is also a Life member, has become a Vice-President.

Annual General Meeting. Members may like to be reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the O.C.A. will be held, as is usual on the last Saturday in February. The date is the 28th February, 1942. A Reunion Tea will follow the Meeting: it is hoped that many members will be able to attend.

The Branch Secretaries' Meeting will take place on the same date at the same place, 5 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1., at 2 p.m. before the Annual General Meeting, which will be called for 3 p.m.

More detailed notices of these Meetings will appear in the January-February issue of the Gazette.

BRANCH REPORTS**Birmingham**

As we are not likely to meet again at our old room during the war, I think this address should be omitted from the back of the Gazette, we are meeting the last Saturday in every month at 3 p.m. at the house of a member.

Sometimes only 3 or 4 turn up, but there is always something to talk about, and we enjoy a cheerful afternoon—with a cup of tea and generally a cake.

I thought what a very good Gazette it was last month, I wish more members subscribed to it, it would be very interesting if the single names were always given when Mrs. So-and-so is mentioned, as we often feel it might be someone we knew and do not recognise under their married name.

E. I. DIPPLE.

N.B.—The name under which a member served is always given when possible but many members when writing forget to give their names before marriage so that, unfortunately, they cannot be printed in the Gazette.—Editor.

Bristol and West of England Branch

The summer we all longed for has slipped by very quickly and we, as a Branch, have had only one gathering. We managed a tea-party at Bath on Saturday, 13th September.

Our hoped-for party at Redcliffe Bay did not materialise as the Bungalow is still housing blitzed folk, who have just put in a plea that they shall be allowed to stay there for the winter. Those of you who know it will join me in the hope that they won't get blown out to sea!

Mrs. Skidmore had a great disappointment. She came right in from Winterbourne as far as Bristol and then missed her connection on to Bath, so could not join us. Better luck next time.

Mrs. Weaver was starting on a holiday that day, and I have heard since that she is much better for the change.

I met Miss Cole the other day in Bristol, when I learned that she had been transferred to Shepton Mallet for the summer months and had much enjoyed her job in the country.

Mrs. Clay has moved out to Frampton Cotterell and we missed her very much. I am grateful that we are able to keep together as a Branch, and trust we may do so until we can have a real celebration in the brighter days to come.

North Staffs

There was a meeting of the Branch at the Nell Gwynne Restaurant on Monday, October 20th. Unfortunately our members from a distance were not able to come, but those of us who were there thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Mrs. Smith provided a very good supper in spite of rationing difficulties and we all wished we were twenty years younger so that we could have joined up in the A.T.S.

Mrs. Hulse, from Leek wrote to say she was sorry she could not come. Both her boys are in the Forces—one in the Army and the other in the Air Force. She also had two evacuees, but they have gone home now and she feels quite lonely without them.

I hear from Mrs. Gibbons (Reid, U.A.) that her two sons are on active service, one with the Australian Army and the other with the "Tanks" somewhere in the Middle East.

We hope to have another meeting before Christmas on a Saturday afternoon, not yet decided.

H. CLOUGH.

Liverpool

You will observe from this letter that I have changed my address owing to my home in Moss Grove being badly damaged during the blitz here in May. I need not have to tell how nerve racking it was for all in Liverpool during those eight nights, from early evening until nearly day-break, but we are getting back to normal and can only hope the experience will not be repeated.

Now for Club News. Our Club room, Blue Coat Chambers, was also severely damaged and we could not meet there, but through the generosity of Captain Kidd of the West Lancs. T.A. Association, a room in St. George's Buildings, Lime Street, was provided in which meetings were held on the 1st Friday in the month from April to September, excepting the June meeting immediately after the Blitz. I cannot complain of the attendance as so many members are now in the Forces, but they come along whenever they can and I have every hope they will continue to meet during the season of 1942, when no doubt they will again be able to recall the many experiences they have had during their army service. The club members have done quite a lot of knitting for and have presented them to the troops, the cost of wool being provided from the proceeds of the small whist drives held during the social side of our meetings.

It has been decided not to hold any meetings during the winter months, but hope to resume in the Spring of next year.

E. EDWARDS, Branch Secretary.

Nottingham

During the summer months the members of the East Midland United Services Club enjoyed two outings in to Derbyshire, a county famous for its glorious scenery. One outing was to a little village, Whitstandwell. The first part of the journey was to Ripley by bus, then a walk along the canal bank to Whitstandwell, where justice was done to a very nice dinner which had been previously arranged by our thoughtful organizing General Secretary. After a short rest in the gardens of the hotel, the party walked to Ambergate (another village in a delightful setting) for tea. By this time everyone was tired and voted for a bus ride to Ripley, catching there, the Nottingham bus.

The rendezvous on the second outing was Buxton, a very popular Spa, it has a wonderful hospital for the cure of rheumatic diseases. The building was formerly the Duke of Devonshire's Riding School and was later given to the public. There is a lovely pavilion set in picturesque grounds and some interesting caves. After dinner some members of the party enjoyed a musical programme in the Pavilion whilst the more energetic ones hiked into the countryside. The coach arrived in Buxton just after 10 a.m. and left about 7 p.m. It is a two hours run through the prettiest country from Nottingham to Buxton, and so ended another happy day.

Last month we held our Annual General Meeting which was, as usual, lively and interesting. Letters were read from those who were unfortunately prevented from attending, and one from our President, Mrs. Clough.

After the meeting we wandered round to the George Hotel and had "high tea" instead of the accustomed dinner, to enable our long distance members to travel home at a respectable hour. After tea we spent the early evening in the resident's private lounge.

At our last meeting we were delighted to welcome a new member, Mrs. Lenton.

Don't forget the address—Wartime Wanderers, 14 Heathcote Street, Nottingham.

N. OSLER.

Oxford

We met on Saturday 11th October for matinee at New Theatre to see Richard Tauber in "Blossom Time," a show which all of us very much enjoyed. Afterwards we found a lovely tea laid for us (by kind permission of Miss Carson) at the Y.W.C.A. Services Club. All members greatly appreciated the use of a room where they could chatter to their heart's content and the eats were much enjoyed. Our thanks to Miss Carson and her staff for their kindness.

We were pleased to welcome Mrs. Rendell who is an ex-Waac and is now Recruiting Sergeant in Oxford for A.T.S., also Campbell (Blackdown and R.A.F. Dover in Waac) and also serving again in A.T.S.

We shall have our Annual Meeting on January 1st, 1942.

We had a most enjoyable meeting at the Services Club, Y.W.C.A. on Armistice Day. Nine members attended at the War Memorial with members of the British Legion and civic and university representatives and a beautiful chaplet of poppies, fern and laurel leaves was laid on the memorial from this Branch. My most grateful thanks to the 12 members who by their joint subscriptions paid for the Branch wreath — fewer and fewer outlying members remember to send a sub. and this is the first year we have not had to raid the Branch funds to help pay the cost of the wreath.

Members were very pleased to hear news of Mrs. Smith of Birmingham Branch whom we met once at a meeting between the Branches here; we were surprised though to hear Mrs. Smith has a son nearly 18 because we feel she has been "holding out on us" and we do like news of Waaclets.

I have to send greetings to all Old Comrades who remember "Bristles" Baillie of Dover and Bostall Heath. Her name is now Campbell and she is a Corporal in the local A.T.S. doing a good job of work at Cowley.

Sergeant Mrs. Rendell, who is in the zone Recruiting Office, A.T.S., has gone up for interview for her commission and we wish her the best of luck.

Our next social gathering is on January 1st, 1942—pantomime "Alladin" and tea afterwards at Services Club, and fun and games to follow. All the best to all Old Comrades everywhere from all in Oxford Branch.

G. M. JACKMAN, Hon. Secretary.

Norfolk

Our Branch send Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year to all Old Comrades. Especially would we remember our own distant members in Africa, India and Canada, and thank them for letters received during the past year.

A few of us still meet for tea on alternate Tuesdays and "pass on" news of absent members. We hope to arrange an evening meeting for all early in January and members will be notified by post. The Hon. Secretary had a very pleasant surprise in September. Answering the door bell, one intensely black night, a voice enquired "Does Mrs. Chilvers live here?—is she in?" The voice was immediately recognised as Mrs. Riggs of Birmingham Branch, although the acquaintance was only occasional meetings at the dear old Annual Dinners, through Mrs. Clarke Glenisford. Mrs. Riggs was touring Norfolk and Suffolk on a cycle, and certainly made the most of seeing Norwich during the few hours daylight. Needless to say, a few most enjoyable hours were spent chatting at 32, and looking at some ancient photos and patriotic postcards of the last war. Next

day Riggs travelled onwards to Ipswich, but Norfolk members hope that she will one day pay a return visit to this city, and stay long enough to meet some of them.

Our Branch closes its last report for 1941 with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Johnston, and all our best wishes to her for 1942.

L. W. CHILVERS.

London

Greetings to all Old Comrades for the coming Christmas and may our greatest hope for peace be an established fact during the New Year 1942, is I feel the best wish that I can offer.

We have had very happy re-unions during the last two months and Saturday afternoons have proved to be very popular. Quite a number of Old Comrades whom we have not seen for a long long time, have been able to get along and it has been quite a joy to see them again. To mention just a few, Bobbie Andrews, who brought along her delightful W.A.A.F. niece Miss Betty Andrews, whose acquaintance we were delighted to renew, I think it may be safely said that Miss Betty is "following in Auntie's footsteps" and we shall look forward to seeing her again and especially at one of our combined Services Re-unions in the near future we hope. Pat Willis was another of our long lost ones, we had not seen anything of her since our Shanghai days, I do hope that she was convinced of our sincerity when I told her that we had missed her very much indeed. Then also was Mrs. Kelly née Coddington, who is gradually becoming accustomed to her new state of life. Some of our members do not find that they are able to come along on Saturdays, we are sorry, but we feel sure that they will not begrudge the others who have found Thursday impossible to attend, their "innings" now.

Another Comrade that we were glad to hear from is Mussel now Mrs. Simmons of Sumatra. She writes that she is due for leave next year, but is not sure what prospects there may be. She would welcome letters from her Old Comrades, as sometimes for weeks she does not see another white woman. Knitting is one of her war-time jobs, but she does wish that she could do more and she would like to hear from Wattie. Also Sergt. Giles, A.T.S., sends greetings to her Old Comrades and is sorry that duty prevents her from attending re-union at present.

Comforts Fund. Miss Saunders reports that to date 424 garments have been received and it is hoped that this number will be greatly supplemented before Christmas. Donations to the Fund have been received from Miss Burr and Mrs. Courage and Miss Moyes, our grateful thanks.

Next Re-union will be held on Saturday, 20th December at 2.30 p.m. 1942 re-unions will be held on the third Saturdays in January, February and March.

B. HAINES, Hon. Secretary.

OBITUARY

We announce with regret the deaths of **Miss Margaret Craven Smith** on the 3rd October at Highgate, **Miss Frances Lucy Ling** on the 8th October at her home in Hastings and **Miss Kathleen Melville Taylor** at St. Teresa's Home Hospital at Wimbledon. Miss Taylor had been serving in the A.T.S. until last July, when she became ill.

ARMISTICE DAY, 1941

A wreath in the form of the Badge of Q.M.A.A.C. was laid on the Cenotaph, on behalf of the O.C.A., by Miss Rogers and Miss Haines, Secretary of London Branch. This wreath is made for the O.C.A. by the workers at the British Legion Poppy Factory and is a beautiful piece of work. It is faithfully copied from the Badge in bronze laurel leaves, the A.A.C. in the centre well carved in wood which is also bronzed. The Crown is of smaller bronzed leaves and the background of it is small poppies. At the base of the whole is a large bunch of fine poppies, making a very handsome wreath of about 30 inches in size. The men at the Poppy Factory have happy recollections of the "Waacs" and take a real interest in making the Badge wreath each year.

It is Armistice Day, 1941. For the second time I have been asked to sell poppies to the Household at Buckingham Palace.

Unlike last year all is quiet and peaceful and I am taken to the various departments and meet the various members of the King's Household.

Although I have been told the Royal Family will not be there, I notice a feeling of expectancy in the air like a gentle electric current. My guide turns to me and tells me that the King and Queen are coming. Looking through a window I see the Royal Car arrive. I go on selling my poppies feeling very excited and wondering if I shall really see their Majesties, when a message comes to say they wish to see me.

The Equerry in Waiting receives me and takes me to the Royal Apartment where I shake hands with the King and Queen and make my curtsy, not an easy thing to do when I am holding a tray of poppies. Their Majesties put me at my ease by their kind and easy manner and we chat quite naturally. I am able to tell them about the Ex-Service Women's Club, and when I remark that it is open to all the Women's Services His Majesty remarks, "How splendid, it will now live on."

It is a very thrilling day for me and a memory I shall treasure always.

MURIEL BRANDRETH.

"OVERSEA," ST. LEONARDS ON SEA

In case any Old Comrade may be under the impression that the Holiday House at St. Leonards has been closed in consequence of being in a Defence Area, I should like to say that it has continued to function, but with very few visitors during the last 18 months.

Now that the ban relative to visitors entering the area has been lifted until February 15th, 1942, it is hoped that "Oversea" may provide a rallying place for many during the next few months.

Miss Taylor has already had a few enquiries regarding Christmas, but there is still some vacant accommodation.

I sincerely hope that any Old Comrade desiring a few day's holiday and who has not visited "Oversea" before, will decide to do so, as I feel that I can say with assurance that she will find every comfort at reasonable charges.

I hope too, that our many usual supporters will be able to make another visit.

Any enquiries should be addressed to Miss Taylor "Oversea," 58 West Hill, St. Leonards on Sea. (Tel. No. Hastings 1200).

BLANCHE IRELAND,

General Secretary, Helena Residential Clubs, Ltd.

AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE

Since the issue of our last Gazette we have had the pleasure of welcoming Junior Commander Partner and Subaltern C. R. E. Samuda as Life members of the O.C.A.

In addition there have been a number of Annual members, most of whom have joined London Branch. We are delighted to welcome them also and we hope that as many as possible of our A.T.S. members will come to the Annual General Meeting of the Association on Saturday, 28th February, 1942.

It is much regretted that lack of space prevents their names being printed in this issue.

We acknowledge, with thanks, the following paragraphs which have been culled from "The Times" of the 11th October, 1941, and the 3rd November, 1941.

A.T.S. GIRLS' WORK ON GUN SITE**First Mixed Battery Inspected**

An operational gun site in the London area manned by anti-aircraft gunners and girls of the A.T.S.—the first mixed battery to be formed—was inspected yesterday by Captain Margesson, Secretary of State for War, who was accompanied by Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Pile, G.O.C.-in-C., Anti-Aircraft Command, and other senior officers.

He spent some time in the command post, where all the instrument work during the day's "silent" practice was being deftly carried out by a self-assured young woman in battledress, and at the end of his visit expressed the hope that more women of Britain would come forward to take part in this work of vital national importance.

Here, taken almost for granted, was the first evidence of one of the most far-reaching experiments ever made in the British Army, and from what one saw and heard it is meeting with great success. There are more than 200 women in the camp fully trained and ready to go into action with the men whenever air raids on London are resumed, and many more are being prepared in the various training camps.

They have shown that, short of the actual manning of the heavy guns, they are the equals of men in operating all the intricate apparatus of an anti-aircraft command post—the spotting instruments and devices of radiolocation, the height-finder and predictor, and underground telephones, everything in a delicate nerve centre that sends the shells on their course.

Their camp is directed by A.T.S. officers, and among this first group of full-fledged volunteers are girls from many walks of life, including university and art students, linguists, an actress, a girl who washed feathers for a living, and a housemaid to a royal princess.

After a few moments there seemed nothing unusual about hearing bearings and ranges and so on crisply called out in feminine tones. The experiment has been planned with great care, and naturally the girls do shorter periods of duty than is expected of men. The average age of both sides of the battery is about 20.

SIX RAIDERS DOWN

Scattered Bombing at Night

Despite lone flying tactics and the scattering of attacks over a wide area, six German bombers were destroyed in raids on Britain during Saturday night.

The official statement issued yesterday morning by the Air Ministry and Ministry of Home Security said:

Before midnight on Saturday, 1st November, 1941, enemy aircraft which flew over England and Wales toward the north-west of England dropped bombs at scattered points. Damage was done at Merseyside and a few other places, including two places on the south coast. A small number of casualties has been reported, including some persons killed. Six enemy aircraft were destroyed.

The Polish sergeant pilot of night fighter destroyed two of the German bombers.

London had its first general alert for three months on Saturday night, and although there was some gunfire no bombs were dropped. To the A.T.S. on gun sites in the London area has fallen the distinction of being the first in the country to direct fire against enemy aircraft. They went into action on Saturday night. The latest methods of detection picked up an enemy bomber which was at first outside the range of the guns. Later, as the bomber edged in towards London, the guns opened fire. The guns were manned and fired by men, the fire-control instrument, plotting, and detection devices were controlled by A.T.S.

Since the date of the last publication, it has been announced that one of these A.A. Batteries has brought down an enemy plane.

OVERSEAS REPORTS

Report from the Imperial Ex-Service Womens' Association of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia. Annual Report, Year Ending, 30th June, 1941.

The year ending 30th June, 1941, was quite a busy one for this Association, and in order that Members could get together more, in order especially to obtain wool for knitting for the Red Cross, it was decided that extra to meeting on the second Thursday in each month we should also meet on the fourth. This has proved quite satisfactory, and for the nine months we have been knitting the following garments have been made: 41 pairs socks, 10 pairs long socks, 2 pullovers with sleeves, 2 sleeveless pullovers, 22 scarves, 15 balaclavas, 16 caps, 1 pair gloves and 17 pairs mittens. We are now a Branch of the Red Cross Society affiliated with the National Council of Women, several of our Members being on the Committee of the Council, and £11 8s. in all has been subscribed in donations, subscriptions and paid for badges.

The Annual Dinner was not held this year, owing to the war, but instead members met at the Y.W.C.A. for a social evening together.

To commemorate Armistice Day about a dozen members attended the British Ex-Service Legion's Annual Church Service at St. Paul's Cathedral on the 10th November.

Armistice Day, 25th April, was observed as usual. Our President, Miss Foster, O.B.E., placed a wreath on the Inner Shrine, and then one on the Nurse Cavell Memorial, after which several of us attended the little service there. The afternoon proved rather cold and stormy, but most members either marched to the Shrine or went in the cars so kindly provided.

June 12th, Miss Foster kindly invited us to her home where we were all delighted to hear Miss Flint play the piano—not often we have the chance of hearing such a gifted artiste. This gathering was partly to help to raise £5 for the Y.W.C.A. Appeal which had been launched by Lady Gowrie to send to England. In this effort we were successful. In all we have contributed £10 to this Appeal.

On June 17th we were the guests of our Vice-President, Mrs. Britomarte James at the Centenary Club. For those who were able to be present this was a most happy evening. M. Pierre Mann, Leader of the Free French in Victoria, spoke, and especially for those of us who have lived in France his words were of more than usual interest. We all greatly enjoyed hearing the famous actress, Miss Carrie Moore, and she favoured us with her speciality, "The Merry Widow Waltz." Our only regret was we did not have more items from this charming lady, but time did not permit as others entertained with song and recitation.

I should like to mention the splendid work done by Mrs. A. Smith and Mrs. D. Barrett, the Treasurer and Secretary of our Branch of the Red Cross. They have done wonderfully well. Apart from actual knitting Mrs. Barrett has been instrumental in at least £6 being handed to Red Cross Funds, which amount was collected by a friend in half-pennies. I would also like to make an especial mention of Mrs. Clark for her work in connection with the Red Cross and for her many acts of kindness towards us during the year, and Mrs. Wildy who gave us a very happy evening. There were 23 financial members.

G. M. SMITH, Hon. Secretary.

(Miss Smith served in Q.M.A.A.C. and was at "D" Camp, Le Havre.)

Report from Adelaide

I am sorry to have been so long sending you this year's subscriptions but we all thought it would be better to wait awhile until you got settled again. So I am enclosing list of members including 2 Life members, Miss J. Payne and Miss J. Baker, also a new member, Mrs. Slade, Vicarage, Renmark, S.A.

We have quite a nice little evening every second Wednesday in the month. We knit of course for the troops but mostly we send our goods to the Seamen's Mission. On Anzac Day we had a very nice little re-union five country members attended. We always have lots to talk about when we meet, our thoughts are always with you people at home and we all wish we were home to be able to do our bit. We all think the girls at home are doing wonderful work and of course it is impossible to fully praise our men for what they are doing.

We all hope you will come through safely, and that the end of the war will soon be in sight. Best wishes from all members. Yours truly,

LILLIAN M. SMITH, Secretary.
(Ex-Waac, No. 2067, Abbeville.)

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES

Mrs. E. Kilgour Roberts, who served as Emily Kaye, at Cardiff, Newport, Rouen and Liverpool writes from Sydney where she is a member of the Anzac Fellowship of Women. She has lived in Australia many years but wishes that she was at Home at present as she would give much to be serving again. They are all very busy doing all that they can to help the war effort.

Mrs. A. O'Meara wishes that she had news to send of the Eire Branch but at present there are no meetings. Her husband is busy in England with a war job. Her home ties keep her in Ireland but her heart is with those who are serving over here.

Mrs. Doris Evans, Pilcher-Clayton, No. 2221, of the R.A.O.C., Rouen, writing from Mission City, B.C., sends greetings and best wishes to all Old Comrades for a Happy Christmas and hopes for peace in the coming year. She is a member of the O.C.A. and appreciates the Gazette.

Mrs. H. Hyatt-Shortt sends a letter with news from Jamaica which is printed in another place. She says that her Q.M.A.A.C. uniform was stolen when she was stationed at Alexandria with her husband after the last war. In consequence she was asking for a Q.M.A.A.C. badge and an O.C.A. one as she appears to be the sole representative of the O.C.A. in Jamaica.

Miss Monica Hawkes, a Senior Commander in the A.T.S., supervises the Physical Training for that Corps and spends a great part of her time in inspecting the various Training Centres.

Miss Ireland has been even busier than usual, which is hard to believe as she is the hardest worker known, as the Military have requisitioned the Cooden Beach Hotel and she has been down there sorting things out before packing them in to store. It was a most depressing job and very tiring.

Miss B. Mould, Secretary of Bristol Branch, keeps a kindly eye on the members of her Branch, especially those who are not too strong. She has again kindly arranged about the distribution of coal for an invalid member who suffers from rheumatism.

Miss B. Haines, Secretary of London Branch, has lately received a letter from **Mussel** who is in the Dutch East Indies and who says that she sometimes does not see a white woman for weeks.

Miss Ursula Pudsey, D.A. Scarborough and Holland Park, who, with her sister, had been teaching English in Athens for many years, had to leave her flat at an hour's notice before the entry of the Germans. She was taken with other refugees to Cairo and thence to Bombay. Her friends sympathise deeply with her in the loss of practically all her possessions and livelihood but are thankful to know that she is under British protection and that she has the comfort of her sister's presence.

Mrs. R. T. Brown, Jean Armour in the Corps, now lives in Kent with her husband and daughter, both of whom have war jobs there.

Miss M. Brandreth, so well-known to all members of the Club at Buckingham Gate, has again had the pleasure and honour of selling poppies at Buckingham Palace. An account of this happy occurrence appears in the Gazette. I am sure that all Old Comrades will congratulate her and feel a bit envious too!

Subaltern M. E. G. Bilbrough has, unfortunately been carried off to Shenley Hospital with acute bronchitis but we learn that she has been fortified by the addition of a second PIP. Congratulations for the latter and best wishes for a speedy recovery from the former.

Subaltern C. R. E. Samuda, A.T.S., joined that Service in February 1939, she served as a Warrant Officer until getting her commission in June of this year. We are pleased to welcome her as a Life member and, how thankfully we say it, as a subscriber to the Gazette. She lives in Cheam but is at present stationed in Lancashire; she found Surrey even more delightful when she returned there on leave from the North.

Mrs. C. F. Parker writes from Vancouver in September and says that she served with Q.M.A.A.C. in France, but sad to say does not give the name under which she served. One day she chanced on two others who had served in the same Camp with her. She says it was a "grand reunion." How wonderful it would be for her to attend one of our wonderful Annual Dinners, then she would indeed see a Grand Reunion. Let us hope that she may some day.

Lilian E. Hart joined the A.T.S. in 1938 so was all ready when war was declared. She served overseas in Q.M.A.A.C. but does not mention the stations or the name of the units.

Jean Gray Philip was a member of Q.M.A.A.C. from 1917 to 1920. She then went over to Canada and later returned Home. In February 1940 she joined the A.T.S. and likes her new Service. She has lately become a member of the O.C.A.

NEWS FROM JAMAICA

As it seems that I am still the only member of the O.C.A. in Jamaica and therefore of "The Jamaica Branch," it is not easy for me to give any account of war activities in this Island in the sense in which "War Work" is understood in England.

In fact if one is strictly truthful about it one has to acknowledge that the greater part of the population here of between one and two millions, is not worrying itself about "The War" at all!

And that in spite of considerable propaganda from the local Information Office and the lately installed broadcasting station. Of course most well-to-do people have radios and the people who have none listen to the news emanating from the wireless sets of those who have; but they are no more affected by it than they are by news of the war in China and not nearly as much as they were about Mussolini's conquest of Ethiopia!

To understand this attitude it has to be remembered that 98% of the population of Jamaica are coloured, or negroes and that a large number of them are illiterate, that is to say they cannot read more than few letters of words and have little understanding of a newspaper, even when it is read to them.

Hence, perhaps it is not so surprising to her remarks like the following: "Dat man Hitler do a good ting for de people of Jamaica he make for us to have free banana." This rather startling conclusion was arrived at because England at the beginning of last year arranged to buy all the banana output of Jamaica for the year. But it then transpired that space for bananas could not be allotted on ships to U.K. to any extent being otherwise required. In order not to cause distress in the banana trade the Government of Jamaica was instructed to **give away** the bananas which had to be cut, rather than let them rot on the trees. England at the same time **paid** for the fruit she did not receive. But the credit for this thoughtful gesture went to the wrong quarter!

There is a good deal of activity in the organisation of entertainments to raise money for War Funds. The Red Cross, the Bomber Fund and now an effort to raise money for a Churchill tank.

A certain section of Jamaica society is and has been since the beginning of the war busy with a Navy Club for H.M. Navy when they come into port. There are knitting groups and Cigarette Funds and a Women's Comfort Fund and so on.

Many of us long to be taking a more active part in England but are kept here by the fact that we have young children who are of no help to their country at present and indeed are only an added cause of anxiety, I myself am one of these.

But our thoughts are always with you. They were more than ever so two Sundays ago when we met in the beautiful little Garrison Church near by for the Special Service of Intercession ordered by the King.

If ever there is "a little bit of England" in a strange land it is I think, a Garrison Church and ours is no exception. We had the band of the Colonial Regiment which forms our Garrison. Representatives of H.M. Navy, Air Force and Fleet Air Arm and many of the English and American residents and visitors. And the gaunt 6½ foot Chaplain, who was leaving the station, preached for the last time, and his challenging, vibrant voice rang through the church: "His Majesty the King commands us to join him in prayer."

The words brought England close with her congregations kneeling in their poor, mutilated churches—roofless and scarred, but still serving the purpose for which they were created. A touch of Autumn frost would be in the English air while for us tropical sun blazed through the small-paned windows and the electric fans zoomed in the roof, but for the moment we were one in thought and supplication. God Save England! God Save the King!

HELEN HYATT-SHORTT,

late Asst. Administrator, Q.M.A.A.C., M.I.

News from Mrs. Ruby Fowler, nee Mundy, Canada.

Many thanks for promising to publish in the Sept.-Oct. Gazette my queries about Old Comrades. I expect to receive that Gazette later, but meanwhile am pleased to tell you I have heard from "Billy" Whan (Mrs. Rutherford), whose previous letters did not reach me.

I feel keenly not being able to join up again. The Canadian Women's Auxiliary Corps and the Canadian Women's Auxiliary Air Force are just being formed, and many young women who have been voluntarily training for about 12 months are being enrolled. The age limit is from 21 years to 40 years, with a very high standard of physical fitness, and as I am well over 40, I have been rejected, although since war started I have applied six times for enlistment. I feel it more because there is a crying need for Operators and Instructors in Telegraphy in H.M. Forces, and so few people in Canada understand the European Morse Code. That used in Canada and the States is a different combination of dots and dashes to that used in the Army, Navy and Air Force and England and Europe generally. However, with the other 11 ex-Service women in Calgary I keep busy in some kind of war work. At the present three of us are organising a concert, with the best local professional talent, in aid of the funds being raised to equip Mobile Kitchens for the devastated areas in dear old England, and by England, I mean Great Britain. It means rather a lot of work, and I am Organising Secretary. The other members are all helping by selling as many tickets as possible. The concert is to be held in November, and after the affair I will write an account for the Gazette.

I was very sorry to learn that Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan has had to retire from the A.T.S., on account of age.

There is not much to tell you, Canada is doing good work in munition factories etc., but many of us wish that for a total war, there should be conscription of man and woman power, wealth, and as the child said "in everything." I think it will come soon.

We have hundreds of men training in the Air Force and Calgary is one of the biggest training centres in Canada in the Empire Training Scheme. We have 6 or 7 different Training Schools here, two of them composed solely of men from Great Britain. In the others are men from all over the Commonwealth, and some from the U.S.A.

We all, the ex-Service women that is, enjoyed your letter very much. It was passed round at one of our meetings.

With all good wishes to all Old Comrades.

From Mrs. E. Mills, Sydney, N.S.W.

Since writing you last we discovered that owing to the shortage of shipping space, we have to send goods through the Salvation Army, and so each month our parcel goes to their Headquarters and I feel sure they do very good work in England. Mrs. Chapman is the wife of the Colonel I mentioned in a previous letter, so sorry I forget to mention it, I have known her a long time but only discovered she knew Miss Ireland at one of our dinners when Col. and Mrs. Chapman were guests. They have been to England two or three times since the last war and buried a daughter there, she was fifteen years old.

This is indeed a strange war and I wonder when it will end. My husband spends most of his time travelling, he is in Syria at present. This year has flown, I guess it is because we are so busy, this month we are to have a musical evening and in October our 21st Birthday Party, who would have thought when the Club started we would ever see another war. The dinner this year is to be the same as our last dinner, no guests except husbands and friends of members. We still have our day at the Buffet and for my part I'll be glad to see the summer menus on once more. I think last time we had to peel a whole sack of potatoes, and endless pots of swedes, spinach and pumpkins, not to mention cases of apples to peel and cook. I don't think I like peeling vegetables! However, we all bog in and do everything there is to do. I suppose you have seen it in the press they are enlisting women here to do canteen work, etc., have enough to do at home and help is out of the question these days, there is so much other work offering.

These next three months are my busy time for Club work there is the dinner to arrange and the childrens' party in December we can still find enough children to make a good party. Should my husband ever reach London he is sure to look up the Club Headquarters, he has been associated with it so long, and this year will be the first dinner he has missed in many years.

We are looking forward to Spring and Summer and I hope lots of rain it is badly needed. Anyway we are always sure of a wet-day in January for our picnic, it is quite a joke, for years it has rained on that day of days.

Mrs. Peachey and all members send kind wishes to you all.

MCNo 786

SubCatD333

BRANCHES

Adelaide	Mrs. M. Scott, 16 Elizabeth Street, Evandale, Adelaide.		
Birmingham.	Miss E. I. Dipple, 17 Somerset Road, Handsworth.		
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, 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, 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. 76814.		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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