



THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL ARMY
NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION

GAZETTE

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GAZETTE issued quarterly. Subscription 5s. per annum. Available to members and non-members.

Association Brooch, 2s. 6d. each, available to members only. Quote membership number on order.

THE Q.A.R.A.N.C. ASSOCIATION GAZETTE

Patron :

HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY, *Colonel-in-Chief, Q.A.R.A.N.C.*

Vol. 1 No. 3

JULY, 1950

Editorial

NOT having been an Editor before, it is a bit difficult to know how long to allow for a new publication like this of ours to take hold of its readers. This is the third number and we would modestly like to draw your attention to the fact that this quarter the date of issue bears an obvious relationship to the particular month printed thereon—a distinct achievement. We also think that on our side we are maintaining, if not increasing, the value in material given. You may not agree and you are the final judge. You certainly may have doubts about our modesty, but this is an age of self-advertisement and you surely would not like us to be behind the times.

Seriously, though, we must have more contributions from individual members if the GAZETTE is to become worth while either to you from the point of view of interest or to us, for that matter, from a purely commercial outlook. Contributions in the sense of material for publication is what we are thinking of particularly. We do not need to stress that we are ever ready to welcome as members all who are eligible, and the contributions to our coffers incidental to new memberships would be included in the welcome. If there is anything that you would like to read in the GAZETTE please do see if you cannot send us something similar and set the ball rolling. Send in news of members' engagements, marriages, honours, achievements, anything of interest in work or play. At present we have not space enough to print photos and, of course, they would add to the expense, but we hope to do so in the not-too-far-off future and will gladly receive any for later use.

There is another matter which apparently wants explaining and that is the membership lists which are appearing in each issue. The idea is to give you a series of lists which when completed will cover the whole membership, thus permitting us to keep within a certain paper allowance for each issue. It is extraordinary the correspondence this enforced fractional method has produced, many members having written to ask why their names were not included. We appreciate their eagerness to be publicly known as Association members, but would remind them that the proverb says everything comes to those who wait.

Queen Mary's Birthday

TELEGRAMS of congratulation and loyal greetings were dispatched on the occasion of Her Majesty's 83rd birthday, 26th May, 1950, both from the Q.A. Corps and from the Q.A. Association. Queen Mary is Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps and Patron of the Association.

Gracious acknowledgments and thanks were received. Her Majesty's sustained interest in the developments of the Army Nursing Services throughout the past twenty-four years is a matter of deep satisfaction to past and present members of those Services.

A Link with Scutari

A BEAUTIFUL historical treasure has been acquired by the Corps. It is a four-piece silver Communion set which Florence Nightingale gave to the chapel at Scutari in 1854 for use at soldier services. The chalice measures seven and a half inches in height and the patens are each six and a half inches in width. The inscription on the base of the chalice reads :—

“This Chalice with two Patens and Flagon of silver were given by Miss Florence Nightingale for use at soldier services at Scutari, Asia. A.D. 1854, to Revd. Canon Sabin, late C.F., and by him left for use in Malta to the senior C.E. Chaplain, A.D. 1884.”

The Matron-in-Chief heard that this set was stored away in the safe of Barracca Church at Malta, and she approached the Chaplain-General hoping that it would be possible for the Corps to be given possession of this Crimean relic. He readily assented and made arrangements for it to be brought to this country in the personal care of an officer who delivered it to the D.A.N.S. in the last week of May.

It is to be given to the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Depot and Training Establishment for use at services in the chapel they plan to have there. This will be a wonderful privilege and reverent inspiration to the Corps, the present-day successors to the ladies of the Crimea who nursed those soldiers receiving Communion in Scutari Chapel.

Corps Functions

THE Corps At Home is a peace-time annual function for serving officers and their invited guests. It is regarded by Q.As. as the social event of the year. Several times Her Majesty Queen Mary has honoured the Nursing Service by her presence, giving great joy to the guests and hostesses.

The gathering has never been known to be anything but a success. There is a constant greeting of old friends and inquiries for others, and always the grey and scarlet uniform is there to be seen and admired. Many distinguished civilians and members of the Services are among the guests, with the nursing and medical professions well represented.

It was held this year on 22nd May at the Park Lane Hotel, and Brigadier A. Thomson, Director of Army Nursing Services, received and welcomed the guests, among whom were five of her predecessors, ex-Q.A. Matrons-in-Chief.

A small Q.A. Dinner was held at the hotel the same evening and it was thoroughly enjoyed by those serving and retired regular Q.As. able to attend. Lieut.-Colonel E. E. Watkin, Q.A.R.A.N.C., kept the party cheery and happy after dinner by tirelessly playing accompaniments for their communal songs.

Since the Association has been formed and sponsored reunions for its members, there has been a little confusion in some folks' minds about these various gay events. The At Home and the Dinner are nothing to do with the Association. They are purely domestic concerns of the Corps through their Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers' Club, which is for serving officers only. True, most officers of the Corps are also members of the Association, but members of the Association are far from all being officers of the Corps. If they were, the D.A.N.S. and her Department could have no cause for complaint on the score at least of shortages, though they might not consider all of us suitable for their modern set-up.

News Notes from the Branches

IT would be more correct to say News Notes from THE BRANCH, for that is what the Scottish Branch is at the moment—the one and only. The Secretary writes and says: "A very successful meeting was held in Glasgow on 15th May, when the Branch was formed. Miss C. Roy, Matron-in-Chief, 1936-1940, was elected Chairman, and Miss E. McIntosh, retired Q.A., Secretary. Miss E. Davidson, Q.A. Reserve, agreed to be Treasurer. The several Army Nursing Services were well represented in the five other members elected to the Branch Committee. The Association Administrator, Dame Louisa Wilkinson, was able to attend and thoroughly enjoyed meeting old friends and Scottish members. We began with a list of some seventy members and there has been quite a steady increase in the members in the short time the Branch has been in existence. It is hoped that this will continue. New members are warmly welcomed. We are all anxious to make our Branch a success. The new Committee had their first meeting on 24th June to discuss plans and that very important thing FINANCE, perhaps rather an imposing word to apply to our bank balance AS YET."

Good luck to the Scottish Branch !

T.A.N.S.

THE Territorial Army Nursing Service is being disbanded in the near future. Unless very, very young one rarely thinks of Q.As. without also thinking of the T.A.N.S., and it strikes a note of sadness to announce that an epoch of the history of the latter is finished. It has been a history of proud service which perhaps some T.A.N.S. members will give us in more detail one of these days. This brief article is not the place for it. Let it suffice now to say that the history of the Q.As. could not be written with any justification without that of the T.A.N.S. The T.A.N.S. have since their formation been the comrades in arms of the Q.As. in all times of stress and emergency. In the recent war they were to all practical intents and purposes part of the Q.A.I.M.N.S., though each retained their particular badge and conditions and treasured their own traditions.

Now that the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps has been formed within the structure of the Regular Army, it will require its counterpart within the Territorial Army and the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers (T.A.R.O.). Members of the T.A.N.S. will be glad to know how they stand, for it has been a long period of uncertainty, but naturally nothing could be decided for them until the future conditions for the Regular Nursing Corps were finally settled. Each member is being or has been approached by the Matron-in-Chief's Department at the War Office, setting out the position with the alternatives available to T.A.N.S., divided into three age groups:—

1. For those not yet 45 years of age, the alternatives are to apply for a commission in either Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) or T.A.R.O., or they may resign T.A.N.S. membership, thus terminating their professional connection with the Army Nursing Services.

2. For those over 45 but not yet 50 years of age, the alternatives are to apply for a commission in T.A.R.O. (the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers), or if they so desire they may resign T.A.N.S. membership and terminate their professional connection with the Army.

3. Retirement of those over these age limits is being carried out and notification will appear in the *London Gazette (Supplement)*.

The nearest Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association will supply further information. It will be grand shortly to see the lists of Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) and T.A.R.O.

How glad we are that the Q.A. Association is in being ! For one reason or another, some T.A.N.S. may be obliged to terminate their 'professional connection' with the Army Nursing Service, and that is just where the Association steps forward and throws the gate open wide for continued friendship with our well-tried T.A.N.S. comrades.

Note.—The Editor had hoped to be able to give information about the Q.A.R.A.N.C. (Reserve) also, but this is not yet finally settled. The details will be somewhat different from above as the Q.A. Reserves will form part of the Army Reserve of Officers (Women).

Q.A.R.A.N.C. Sports

It is hoped that with the introduction, with effect from 1st July, 1950, of Other Rank element into the Corps, the Q.A.R.A.N.C. will compete with other Women's Services in all sporting events. At the moment Q.As. are only able to compete as individuals on a very small scale. It is not always possible, owing to the nature of their duties and to numbers being so limited, for officers to be spared from their respective units for the training which is absolutely essential if they are to participate successfully in current sporting events. Each Command has its Corps Sports Representative and it is intended shortly to form a Sports Committee in each District. A senior officer, Lieut.-Colonel E. E. Watkin, has been appointed to represent the Corps at the meetings of the Army (Women's) Central Sports Committee.

Tennis

For a number of years an annual tennis tournament has been held, and in 1933 a cup was presented for this event by Miss M. E. Medforth, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., 1930 to 1934. Sister Annie Osborne, Q.A.I.M.N.S., was the first winner of this trophy, the Medforth Cup, in 1933, and it was again won by her in 1934. She served in the Q.A.I.M.N.S. from April 1920 to January 1945, and was a trainee of St. George's Hospital, London. The present D.D.A.N.S. of FARELF, Colonel G. E. Morgan, was the second holder of the cup, winning it in 1935. Her training school is Prince of Wales Hospital, Tottenham.

This year there were twenty entries, the finals taking place at Tidworth on 27th June. The winner was Lieut. E. C. Weare from Military Hospital, Netley (training school, Bart's), and the runner-up Lieut. J. F. Moore from Military Hospital, Tidworth (training school, St. Thomas's). Each year the winner and runner-up of the Medforth Cup are entered for the Inter-Nursing Services' Lawn Tennis Cup. This is a beautiful cup, standing twelve inches high, presented by the Matrons-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service in 1937, and bearing the badges of these three Services. The Navy was the first winner at Haslar in 1937 and again in 1938. The Army has only won it once, in 1939. Competition began once more after the war years in 1947, when the R.A.F. was the winner and again in 1948. The Navy was the triumphant Service in 1949. This year the Cup was competed for at Chatham on 30th June. The Army did well but their play was not good enough and again the Navy wins. There are several promising players in the Corps and doubtless they will in due course adjust the recorded balance of victories won.

Swimming

This year the Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services, Brigadier A. Thompson, C.B.E., R.R.C., K.H.N.S., gave a cup to be known

as "The Q.A. Cup" for annual competition to be presented to the winner of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Championship two lengths free style race at the R.A.M.C. Annual Swimming Gala.

There were six competitors for the event, held at Aldershot on 20th June, the winner being Lieut. P. I. Browning from the Military Hospital, Catterick Camp (training school, Clutterbridge County General). Lieut. J. S. L. Montgomerie from the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot (training school, Dulwich Hospital) was a close second, and the third was Lieut. A. Matheson from the Connaught Military Hospital, Hindhead (training school, Alfree Hospital, Melbourne, Australia). It was a very popular race and there was great excitement among the Cambridge Hospital supporters when Lieut. Montgomerie almost caught up with the winner.

It is worth recording that in the Southern Command Championships last year three nursing officers competed and between them they won all four Women's Services' events. In other areas and local events the Q.As. proved that they must be counted in the swimming reckoning. Apart from those already mentioned, Capt. B. L. Ratee, Capt. Tadman, Lieut. Hughes and Lieut. Rylsley are all worth watching.

Ski-ing

A more unusual sport but even here the Corps shows promise. Lieut. J. P. Summers from the British Military Hospital, Klagenfurt, Austria (training school, Derbyshire Royal Infirmary) won the Women's Services' Novices Ski Competition at Smeltz, Austria, in March 1950. Eligibility for competitors was confined to those who had not been on skis prior to November, 1949. Lieut. Summers was considered so good that she was asked to go in for the more advanced ski-ing competition, but unfortunately she injured her ankle and was unable to take part.

We are likely to hear more of our Q.A. skier if the exigencies of the Service (is it possible that you have heard that phrase before?) place her where such sport is to be had.

Members' Reunion

DON'T forget the date—Saturday afternoon, 2nd September, 1950, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall, Vincent Square, London, S.W.1. Nearest station:—St. James's Park. Husbands and friends are welcome. There is plenty of room and some chairs this time.

Offers of hospitality from members in the London area for the Friday or Saturday night, or both, will be greatly appreciated for members coming from far afield.

Tickets 8s. 6d. each. Apply before 25th August to Reunion Secretary, Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association, 20 John Islip Street, London, S.W.1. We are looking forward to meeting you and so are your pals of war and peace.

The Old Contemptibles

THE Royal Albert Hall was the scene of the Silver Jubilee Grand Reunion of the Old Contemptibles Association on the evening of 24th June. Some few of our members perhaps belong to this Association too. It would be interesting to know.

The Old Contemptibles Association was founded 25th June, 1925, to revive and maintain the friendships of the old British Army and to guard the interests of its members who served "under the fire of the enemy's mobile artillery" between the dates 5th August, 1914, and 22nd November, 1914, and were awarded the clasp to the 1914 Star.

At the Silver Jubilee Grand Reunion, Queen Mary, looking wonderfully regal, was enthusiastically acclaimed again and again. The warmth and spontaneity of the greeting left no doubt as to the place Her Majesty holds in the hearts of the people. Her presence and sympathetic appreciation of the various items of the programme gave much joy to the Old Contemptibles and their friends—another happy memory.

The programme was a series of portrayals representing the years 1913, 1914, the outbreak of war, Boulogne, the Retreat from Mons, the Advance to Ypres, followed by a parade of Regiments and Corps in full-dress uniforms of 1914 and a parade of Old Contemptibles' Colour-bearers. The President of the Old Contemptibles Association then gave a short address and the evening ended with a Commemoration Service.

The gathering was most inspiring and stirred the emotions of at least those who could take their memory back to the momentous days recalled. Buses and tube trains that night bore many home-going Old Contemptibles with eager, loosened tongues telling their tales of not so very long ago.

Is it not strange that in such a programme there was nothing to indicate that the Army had a well-established Nursing Service of its own at that time? Nurses were portrayed, it is true, but not Q.As. or T.A.N.S. What were they doing then? Proud members of the Q.A. Association would like to know.

Coalition Luncheon

A VERY pleasant custom has grown up in recent years of the Naval, Army and Air Force Matrons-in-Chief combining to annually entertain their predecessors at a luncheon party at the United Nursing Services Club. This year it was held on 23rd May. There were eleven guests: Royal Navy—Miss A. Ralph, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Dame Doris Beale, D.B.E., R.R.C.; Dame Matilda Goodrich, D.B.E., R.R.C. Army—Miss F. M. Hodgins, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss R.

Osborne, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss M. E. Medforth, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Dame Katharine Jones, D.B.E., R.R.C. and bar; Dame Louisa J. Wilkinson, D.B.E., R.R.C. Royal Air Force—Dame Joanna Cruickshank, D.B.E., R.R.C.; Dame Emily Blair, D.B.E., R.R.C.; Dame Kathrine Watt, D.B.E., R.R.C.

Sharing the hostess duties at luncheon, Miss H. W. Cargill, R.R.C., K.H.N.S., Matron-in-Chief, P.M.R.A.F.N.S., welcomed the guests; Miss O. Franklin, C.B.E., R.R.C., K.H.N.S., Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.R.N.N.S., asked the Blessing; and Brigadier A. Thomson, C.B.E., R.R.C., K.H.N.S., Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services, gave a brief summary of the year's events. She spoke of the loss to the Nursing Services of Dame Gladys Taylor on 11th January, 1950, and all present rose and stood silently in memory.

Dame Doris Beale thanked the hostesses on behalf of the guests and said how much they appreciated being kept in touch with their old Services, whose progress they always followed with great personal interest.

Six past Matrons-in-Chief were unable to be present—Miss C. Renwick, R.R.C.; Miss M. L. Hughes, R.R.C. and bar; Miss B. M. Martin, R.R.C., of the Navy; and Dame Ann Beardsmore Smith, D.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss D. M. Martin, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss C. Roy, C.B.E., R.R.C., M.M., of the Army.

Honours

THE following list of Association members included in the New Year and Birthday Honours for 1950 has been sent to us. We are delighted to publish the names, but cannot guarantee that the list is complete. Their fellow-members congratulate them.

C.B.E.	Colonel L. M. Hunnings, R.R.C.
O.B.E.	Lieut.-Colonel A. Rowlands, R.R.C.
M.B.E.	Miss M. M. Meeghan.
B.E.M.	S/Sgt. G. A. Vincent, V.A.D.
R.R.C.	Lieut.-Colonel C. M. Johnson. Lieut.-Colonel F. M. Lowther. Major E. J. Stirling.
A.R.R.C.	Major E. Mackaness. Major G. Mudge. Major M. M. Winny. Capt. A. Flanagan. Lieut. N. M. Kinsella.

Friends, please note:—

The engagement is announced of Member A 1278 Lieut. Dorothy (Jane) Potter, Q.A.R.A.N.C., and Mr. John Edgar Hornsby, whose marriage will take place shortly in Derna, Cyrenaica.

Q.A. Other Ranks

THE responsibility for providing female subordinate staffs for duty with the Army Medical Services has passed from the Women's Royal Army Corps to Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. Our Corps, as you all know, has hitherto consisted entirely of officers, all State Registered Nurses. From now on it is also open to other ranks and offers an attractive career for women other than the qualified nurse.

Other ranks are all classified within certain trades in the Army and the following Army trades have been approved for the new Q.A. Other Rank Section:—

Nursing orderly.	Clerk, R.A.M.C.
Mental nursing orderly.	Clerk orderly (clinical), R.A.M.C.
Radiographer.	Special treatment orderly.
Masseuse (physiotherapist).	Storewoman, technical (R.A.M.C.).
Laboratory assistant (pathology).	Dental operating room assistant.
Chiropodist.	Dental hygienist.

In the first issue of the *GAZETTE* the Nurse Training Scheme of the Corps was briefly explained. This innovation opens up an unusual way of becoming a trained nurse. Q.A. Other Ranks who qualify as State Registered Nurses may be considered for appointment to a commission in the Q.A.R.A.N.C. There will also be a limited number of appointments to commissioned rank for non-nursing duties, and these commissions will be open to those Q.A. personnel in any of the Army trades given above other than nursing who show an aptitude for leadership.

There are plenty of openings in the Corps for the girl who wants to get on. Enlistment promises a particularly interesting and adventurous life for the girl who has the desire to nurse but who feels the strong attraction of Service life. There will be opportunities of going overseas and seeing many countries. The free training and education obtained in the Corps will be very useful in any walk of life afterwards, and a good Service record is always a splendid recommendation.

Enlistment is for an initial engagement of 3, 4 or 5 years with the colours. Age limit for Q.A. Other Ranks is normally 17½-35 years and a certain medical standard is necessary. Further information can be obtained from local Recruiting Officers.

Association members will all be very interested in this new extension of the Corps, and from their own personal experience they will be able to encourage potential applicants. It is good to know that there has been an excellent initial response and, what is more, it does seem that the response is coming from the right type of applicant. Many inquiries are being received not only from girls but also from relatives and parents who feel this may prove a valuable introduction into the world for their daughters.

All those recruited are, of course, eligible to become Association members and will be heartily welcomed.

