



The Gazette



Her Royal Highness
Princess Margaret,
C.I., G.C.V.O.,
Colonel-in-Chief, Queen
Alexandra's Royal
Army Nursing Corps.

Photograph by Courtesy of
Dorothy Wilding.

Journal of
The Queen Alexandra's
Royal Army Nursing Corps Association

HILLIERS LTD.

*Tailors to the Army Nursing Service
since 1940*

OUTDOOR and INDOOR UNIFORMS



*As members of the
BESPOKE TAILORS' GUILD
we give the highest standard of
workmanship throughout, combined
with personal service*



48 MADDOX STREET
NEW BOND ST., W.1

Mayfair 1606

32 HIGH STREET
SALISBURY

Salisbury 2548

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

Vol. 2. No. II

AUGUST, 1955

Renewal Date for Subscriptions the 1st January, 1956

Editorial

Another Re-union has proved how valuable an institution is our Association. Amid the clamour of talk and renewed acquaintances one felt a warmth of real joy, in being a member of such a fellowship.

Everyone will surely welcome the news that serving Matrons-in-Chief will be successive Presidents of the Association. We are proud and pleased to hail Dame Helen Gillespie as the first Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services, to be President of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association. Let us carry out the request of our new President and let each one of us recruit one new member for the Association.

As we go to press three weeks after the Gazette should have been distributed, it is felt that members will wish for an explanation. Material for the August Gazette was handed to the Printers in mid-July, but no proof was received for correction until the sixth of September, owing to printing-staff holidays. We are now preparing the December Gazette in the hopes that we may get it printed before the Christmas Holiday !

Our thanks go out to those who have kept the GAZETTE going, and once again we plead for more articles. The more varied the subjects the better, so that your GAZETTE may live, and may reflect the best in those whom it serves.

A Message from the President, Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association

Brigadier Dame Helen S. Gillespie, D.B.E., R.R.C., Q.H.N.S.

Fellow Members,

As President of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association I send you greetings.

I feel very honoured that by virtue of my being Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services I am the first to hold this appointment.

I hope that the Association will continue to flourish as it has done during the past seven years ; and that more branches for both ex-service and service members will be formed. It is only by strong membership, continued interest in one another and in the Corps that the spirit of the Association will be kept alive.

My best wishes to you all.

HELEN S. GILLESPIE.
L.3

Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association Reunion

Was held on 2nd July at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, and 239 members were present. It was preceded by the Annual General Meeting, at which Lieut.-Colonel Widger was in the chair. Dame Louisa Wilkinson, Administrator, the Committee and many Association members were present. The proposal was made to elect a President for the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association, and it was unanimously agreed that this Office be held by the serving Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services. Dame Helen Gillespie was then duly elected, to the obvious satisfaction of all members. The re-election of Miss D. C. Bridges as Vice-Chairman was also unanimous. Her work for the Association has been greatly valued and everyone is pleased that we shall have her with us for another term of office.

At the Re-union we were all very happy to welcome once again the Dowager Lady Amphill as our Guest of Honour ; her long association with our service makes her presence greatly valued.

L/Cpl. Allison was the fortunate member who received the Challenge Cup this year, having received the highest all round marks for duty and sports. The citation, ready by Lady Amphill told of her willingness to give up her off-duty time in the interests of sports, and to help and encourage others.

Many older members noted with pleasure that several Q.A.R.A.N.C. Other Ranks were amongst those present.

Sheafs of flowers were presented to the Dowager Lady Amphill Dame Helen Gillespie and Dame Louisa Wilkinson.

Two large bowls of flowers in the tea room were exquisitely arranged and much admired.

As usual everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, meeting old friends and talking of old times.

Round the World in Forty Days

However well we know, or do *not* know, our Shakespeare we always, I am sure, remember some words of Puck in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," when he said : "I'll put a girdle round the world in forty minutes"—and with the rapidity of transport as it is to-day, one really wonders how soon even that will be possible. Without claiming to be at all "Puck-like," either in character or stature, I have, in fact, travelled some 26,000 miles and have been around the world in 40 days, which have included spending two

and a half weeks in New Zealand, two and a half weeks in Australia, have conferred with the Syrian nurses during two days in Damascus and the Iranian nurses during three days in Teheran and, incidentally, have spent one day in New York, one day in Beirut and one night in Singapore en route ; and all of this was between Easter Sunday and Whit Sunday !

The journey was initiated by the New Zealand Nurses' Association which, two years ago asked me to attend their Annual Conference for the special reason that this year the Association would be celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary. I was glad to accept because, as Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, one has a dual responsibility—to carry on the work of our Headquarters, which is in London, and also to travel by invitation to countries which are in membership or to countries which are applying for membership whenever our finances permit and money can be allocated in the budget for such travel. When the Australian Nursing Federation heard of the Conference in New Zealand, they arranged a Congress to follow it and to which they invited representatives from ten other Pacific countries. I was, therefore, able to attend both these meetings and also pay brief visits to Damascus and to Teheran on the way back to London. This, I felt, would be helpful to the Syrian and Iranian nurses who had been corresponding with us for some time and asking for help in formulating a Nurse Practice Act to standardize nursing within their countries and also in organising their Nurses' Associations.

On 14th April, I left London at 9 p.m. and, after a short stop at Gander in Newfoundland, the plane came down in New York at 7 a.m. The American Nurses Association knew that I had to spend until midnight in New York before a cross-continental plane took me the next stage of the journey to San Francisco. They generously booked me a hotel room with bed and bath and also arranged a most comprehensive programme for the day which included Conferences with all members of the executive staff of the American Nurses Association, an official lunch, a semi-official dinner and a visit to the Headquarters of the United Nations. I was happy to be able to carry out this programme in full ; and, after a most interesting day, left for the Airport at 10 p.m. After taking off from New York, the next stop was Chicago at 2.30 a.m. and there an American friend, last seen in Tokyo, came to the Airport to meet me and we caught up on the news of the past year over Hot Dogs and coffee. At San Francisco we stayed from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and there I took the opportunity of having a bath. The Ladies' Showers being closed for repairs, this could only be obtained in an annexe to the Barber's Salon ; but one gets used to such things when travelling.

Crossing the Pacific was to me a great adventure and, between San Francisco and Auckland, New Zealand, the plane made three stops for fuelling—at Honolulu, at Canton Island and at Nandi, in the Fiji Islands. Honolulu is populated by dark-skinned Polynesian peoples ; it is green, mountainous and beautiful and grows pine-apples and sugar-cane in profusion. It is the Americans' vacation paradise and, when we landed at 6 p.m., they seemed to be rushing around the Airport in hundreds with festoons of flowers round their necks. It appeared to be the thing to do ! At 3 a.m., in brilliant moonlight, we came down on Canton Island, which is nothing but an 8-mile strip of coral surrounding a lagoon, used by the Americans as an air-base during the war and now maintained jointly by the Americans and British as a Radio base and a landing strip for planes. The population is only approximately 300. I ascertained from an Australian girl, who was serving in a small gift shop in the little Airport, that there was a hospital with two beds staffed by one Filipino doctor and one American nurse. I asked what they treated and she said they had, at the present time, several cases of dysentery and were also expecting several white babies. I wondered how they would fit into the two beds ! I sent my visiting card to the American nurse, gave her greetings from her colleagues in New York, told her where I was going and offered her the resources of the International Council of Nurses should she need them. We spent a delectable hour on Canton Island, sipping iced pineapple juice ; I registered it as a most suitable place for honeymoon couples—not so good in the day-time, I learned, for the sun blazes down on glaring white coral and the three or four palm trees, which have been encouraged to take root, provide no shade.

By the time we reached Nandi, we were truly in the tropics and, as we walked from the Airport through some gardens to the hotel where we breakfasted, one was conscious of exotic flowering shrubs and trees, and brilliantly coloured tropical flowers, butterflies and birds—and this, remember, was only two-and-a-half days' distant from London.

A 6-hour flight from Nandi brought us to Auckland where we came down exactly on time and according to schedule at 4.30 p.m. This seemed fantastic after travelling some 13,000 miles during which we had put back the clock 10 hours. But, here, I must explain a change of date for, although we left London on Thursday, 14th April, and travelled for only three days, it was actually Monday, 18th April, when we arrived in New Zealand because somewhere in the Pacific, one crosses what is known as the " international date line " and, theoretically, pushes the clock on twenty-four hours. Perhaps you can work that out for yourselves ! After a two-hour stop in Auckland, where I was given a wonderful welcome, I flew



Everybody likes independence

It will be nice to find you can afford to retire when *you* choose—and not *when* someone else says you must. Everyone likes independence; and that is where the *Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses* can help—is helping every day.

The Fund offers you exceptional advantages—the choice of a pension or cash sum; the right to claim back your contributions with interest *at any time you choose* before the policy matures; saving of income tax on your policy payments; and immediate annuities at very favourable rates for those who have retired or are about to retire. *The R.N.P.F.N. has no agents or shareholders—the members of its Council receive no fees.* Through the Fund therefore you get the largest possible benefits at the lowest possible cost.

Founded 1887 • Assets exceed £13,000,000

ROYAL NATIONAL PENSION FUND FOR NURSES

Patron : Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

For full particulars of policies related to your personal needs, write (giving date of birth) to:—

THE R.N.P.F.N., 15 BUCKINGHAM ST., LONDON, W.C.2.

TEL: TRAFALGAR 6785

on to Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand, arriving there at 10 p.m., three days after leaving London—and, for the time being, that was the end of the journey.

The first sight of New Zealand reminds one of home, for it is curiously like both England and Scotland, although, with its population of two million as against our fifty million and the fact that industrialisation has not yet affected the countryside, it is strangely unspoiled. One is struck by the bush-covered hills in the North Island, in places looking like impenetrable forests; and the snow-covered peaks of the South Island, interspersed with acres of sheep-grazing pasture-land and, everywhere, the wooden, one-storied houses with brightly coloured roofs of corrugated iron, mostly painted red, blue or green.

Wellington, itself, is a picturesque and somewhat rambling city and, seen from the top of the mountain which overlooks it, it appears almost surrounded by the bluest of blue seas. I soon learned, however, that one does *not* admire the yellow gorse which covers the mountainsides for this, together with the blackberry, is a most devastating weed which spreads like bracken and is fatal to good pasture-land.

The day after I arrived, I attended an all-day Conference of Directors of Nursing Service in Hospitals, and Directors of Nursing Schools, so I was quickly initiated into those matters and problems which are their chief concern at the present time. These sounded vaguely familiar—shortage, wastage, daily visiting (or not) of children in Hospital; should nurses take blood pressures and give intravenous injections if ordered to by doctors—and many other matters. I was greatly impressed throughout this Conference by the determination not to allow the human aspects of nursing to be lost or to be overshadowed by the modern drugs and more highly specialised technical treatments of to-day.

The Fiftieth Anniversary Conference, for which I had come, began the next day and lasted through three days and was attended by representatives from all over New Zealand; there were 125 participants in all. The papers which were presented and the discussions which took place dealt with many subjects of current professional interest. The Conference was generally voted a success and I admired the excellent arrangements and the good spirit which prevailed.

During the week I recorded two Broadcasts—one a short unrehearsed interview and the other a straight thirteen minutes' talk on "Nursing round the World," for which I was able to prepare a draft. I also gave two Addresses during the Conference itself. For ten days after the Conference I travelled around the country, sometimes by plane, sometimes by car, addressing Regional Meetings (to attend which some nurses had travelled over a

hundred miles), seeing the Public Health nurses at work and visiting hospitals and other institutions. I heard many intimate details of the visit of the Queen and the Duke and, at times, seemed to be following the route they took.

You will doubtless have heard of Rotorua, the largest thermal-spring area in the world, where there are hot mud pools and springs of boiling water rising to the surface all over the place. A heavy steam hangs over the area and the smell of sulphur is almost suffocating, although the inhabitants appear quite unaffected. It is an uncanny place, of volcanic origin and I, personally, would not like to live there. You will also have heard of the Waitomo Caves of limestone formation, where glow-worms are present in such numbers that it is as though the roof was lit by a million sparkling diamonds. There are many other interesting things I could tell you about New Zealand. I went to one of the meeting places of the Maori people, descendants of the original inhabitants of New Zealand when the first settlers landed there not much more than one hundred years' ago. The Maoris are a fine race, who can now be educated and trained to the duties of citizenship, even though there are some still living who remember the bad days of cannibalism. At the meeting place, I was given a sumptuous meal including fried whitebait caught in the nearby not-too-clean-looking river. This was a special delicacy for my benefit but, secretly, I was congratulating myself on being well up-to-date with my typhoid inoculations.

I visited a Forestry Research Institute and learned about the trees which are indigenous to New Zealand and the great care with which they are now being protected ; also I heard of the trees which are being introduced from other continents, the various tree-pests which have been introduced with the trees, and the fact that other pests now have to be introduced to destroy them !

I visited several Children's Health Camps, where children between the ages of 5 and 12, who are under-nourished or are from "problem families," can spend two or three months in ideal conditions for the benefit of their health.

It was with some sadness that I had to leave New Zealand on 5th May, for the time had seemed so short and had passed so quickly and I had experienced such kindness and friendliness from all whom I met.

The flight from Christchurch in the South Island of New Zealand, to Melbourne, Australia, takes approximately 7 hours. It is also useful to remember that it takes from 4 to 5 days by sea though I have met persons who are apt to think that to travel to New Zealand from Australia is like crossing from England to the Isle of Wight ; in actual fact, it is more like travelling from England to the U.S.A.

A wonderful welcome awaited me in Melbourne, and in my hotel bedroom I found beautiful flowers from the Victoria Branch of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association. The day following my arrival was taken up with Press Conferences, a Broadcast recording and an evening Reception. On Sunday, 8th May, a Florence Nightingale service was held in the Independent Church in the morning. Nurses in uniform attended from all the Melbourne Training Schools and a nurses' choir provided the singing. In the evening a special Congress Service was held in St. Paul's Cathedral, conducted by the Dean who also preached the sermon. At this Service, I was asked to read the First Lesson—a Chapter of Isaiah. It was something of an ordeal for it was a huge Cathedral, packed to capacity with nurses and I can only hope I pitched my voice in such a way that it could be heard at the back and not too much heard at the front! With no previous rehearsals, one felt quite anxious.

The Congress began on Monday morning, 8th May, and it was a proud day for Australian nurses when the Governor-General, Sir William Slim, consented to open it. Unfortunately, Lady Slim was ill and was unable to accompany him. He gave a very fine opening address and, one of the things I remember he said, was that it had taken him two years to get around and to try to know Australia and he had broken three aeroplane engines in doing so! He also begged us not to wake our patients at 6 a.m. and said that he had suffered personally from this when a patient himself. I had to follow the Governor-General with a half-hour Address, for which I took as title some words of Miss Goodrich—“Nursing—A World-wide Social Activity.”

The Congress lasted from Monday, 8th May, to Friday, 13th May, and many aspects of nursing were covered, some by formal papers, one by debate and one by a panel discussion. These subjects included Public Health nursing, domiciliary nursing, bedside care, should there be University Schools, the need for research, etc. I gave the closing Address on 13th May on a saying of Florence Nightingale's, “It is the duty of nurses to teach people how to live”; after which, we had a most riotous Sherry Party, followed by singing and dancing; this was *not* due to the sherry—we just went thoroughly Australian!

The next day, my last in the State of Victoria, the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association, together with the Victorian College of Nursing, were joint hostesses for a wonderful day in the country. About twenty of us drove sixty miles in cars to the nearest mountains, the Dandenongs, and there, in a beautiful forest, we had what the Australians call a “Chop Picnic.” This is just as it sounds and consists of cooking chops over open fires and making tea in billy-cans. Some of us went walking deep into the forest and were rewarded by



LOOK YOUR SMARTEST

Prices are sensible at Bernard Weatherill — officially appointed tailors to Q.A.R.A.N.C. — and over 50½ years' experience of military tailoring ensures perfect cut and styling.

★ *A Bernard Weatherill tailored ward dress made to your measure at a sensible price.*



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY
THE QUEEN
RIDING CLOTHES OUTFITTERS
& LIVERY TAILORS

Bernard Weatherill Ltd

MILITARY TAILORS AND COMPLETE OUTFITTERS

55, Conduit Street, Regent Street, London, W.1.

(2 Minutes from Oxford Circus)

seeing and hearing that typical Australian bird, the Lyre bird, which is about the size of a pheasant, has a brightly-coloured tail which it puts up like a peacock and dances as it sings! In its singing it copies the songs of all the other birds of the forest.

On Monday, 15th May, I flew to Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, a distance of over a thousand miles, for meetings with the nurses and for professional visits. In Melbourne, the weather had been turning cold with the approach of winter; in Brisbane, it was tropical, in fact, being so near the equator, the temperature varies little all the year round. After two days in Brisbane, I flew to Sydney, capital of New South Wales, where a somewhat similar programme had been arranged. Here, again, I was given evidence of the friendliness of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association, for the New South Wales Branch had some wonderful flowers (orchids!) to greet me in my hotel bedroom. Like so many other hot places, the people of Queensland take life gently and seem unhurried; in Sydney, on the contrary, one experiences something of the feeling of a rushing American city and there they were experiencing some of the coldest weather for fifty years with snow (almost unheard of) on the nearby hills. In Sydney, I heard of the Flying Doctor Service which brings relief to people in the Continent's vast interior and who are isolated from hospitals and, indeed, from their nearest neighbours. I also saw my first kaola bear, which is now being protected in animal reserves and sanctuaries. These endearing animals live entirely in trees and their life seems to consist, when awake, in lazily chewing the succulent leaves of the eucalyptus.

On my last day in Sydney (which was also my last in Australia) I visited the Sydney Hospital to attend the Nurses' Graduation Ceremony to present the graduating group with their certificates and give an Address. This I considered a real privilege, for the Hospital is the oldest in Australia and Miss Osborne of the Nightingale School was sent by Florence Nightingale to help found the Training School for Nurses.

And, so, there remains only to tell you of my homeward journey. On Sunday, 19th May, I flew through the night across the Continent to Darwin, where it was hot; to Djarkarta in Indonesia, where it was very hot; to Singapore in Malaya, where it was sweltering and where we stayed a night. Then, on to Calcutta, where the monsoon had broken and rain was falling in a tropical downpour; to Karachi, where the temperature during the day had been 114° but where, when we arrived in the evening, it was cooling off; and then a further two thousand mile flight to Beirut, which I reached at 4 a.m. on Sunday, 2nd May. That was a blessed day of rest, except that we took a picnic and went to see one of the oldest Crusader Castles in existence. Then, on Monday,

I went by road to Damascus. How thrilling it is to find oneself in the Street called Straight, where St. Paul stayed with Ananias and to be on the very road where he had his vision. Two days of animated discussions with a group of Syrian nurses (all of which had to be translated into French or Arabic, for Syria is a bilingual country) and then I returned to Beirut in order to fly to Teheran. This, also, is a truly Eastern city with the desert encroaching to the very doors of the houses or, perhaps, truer to say, the city gradually encroaching into the desert. More discussions, this time translated into Farsee, the local language ; and visits to the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education as well as to local Training Schools and Hospitals.

And, so, the last lap of this round-the-world journey. On 28th May, I flew from Teheran to Beirut and left there again at 4 a.m. on 29th May, Whit-Sunday ; and, as I was awakened at dawn that morning by the Muezzins calling the faithful Moslems to prayer, it was difficult to realise that before the day was over, I would be turning the key of my own front door in Chelsea.

This was a thrilling, but also an arduous and expensive journey ; and some assessment, therefore, has to be made as to the value, firstly for the nurses visited, and then for the International Council of Nurses which provided the funds. I truly believe that a closer contact with our Headquarters by means of a personal visit has helped Australian and New Zealand nurses to realise that they are not alone in their problems and, although they sometimes suffer from a sense of geographical isolation, nevertheless, they can and do, play an important part in world affairs. The nurses of Iran and Syria have begun to realise that a profession organised is a profession more truly equipped for service ; and that nurses, as individuals, can never accomplish what an organised professional association can accomplish on their behalf. The International Council of Nurses, which for 56 years has linked the nurses of the world together in a federation of friendship should, as a result of this visit have an increased awareness of the particular interests and problems of their members and would-be members in the countries of the Far East and Middle East. For myself, it has truly meant a deepening of understanding and a sense of humility and gratitude as one learns to appreciate some of the difficulties that our colleagues are experiencing in so many parts of the world and the courage and integrity with which they face them.

I would like to close this account of my journey by quoting some words of a Lebanese poet ; these words are appropriate not only for ourselves but also to life as one found it in some of the countries of the Far East and Middle East :

“ And I say that life is indeed darkness save when there is knowledge ;
And all knowledge is vain save when there is work ;
And all work is empty save when there is love ;
And when you work with love, you bind yourself to one another
and to God.”

D. C. BRIDGES
L/106

A Visit to Yugoslavia

I had a very enjoyable holiday in Yugoslavia last summer. A friend and I went in June, spending almost three weeks there, and had nice sunny weather. We travelled in a party of twenty-five, and took a courier, who was supposed to know the country and make all arrangements, but by the time we disembarked at Ostende we discovered he, like ourselves, was making his first trip ! We were a jolly crowd, and included several ex-service men and their wives. At Ostende we boarded the Taurin express for Trieste, changing at Villach, a little before Trieste, and travelled to Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. Train meals are very expensive, dinner 17/-, breakfast 8/6, and as we had been warned of this, most of us took our own food.

We left Ljubljana the next morning by train, for Rijeka, to board the boat and sail down the Dalmatian coast.

I ought to mention the grand and beautiful scenery we saw from the express, passing through Brussels, Cologne, Munich and Salzburg. Third-class on the train was excellent, but it is advisable to travel first-class on the boats, as they are very crowded. We dropped some of our party at Optiza and Rab, but we stayed a night on board, getting off at Split, about half-way down the coast, staying four days there. The scenery along the coast is magnificent, with little townlets nestling at the foot of towering hills. There is little cultivation to be seen, as the soil is not arable, just pathetic little squares of green, so high up that we wondered how the owners ever climbed up to tend them.

Meals on the boat were good and much cheaper than the train.

We stayed at a very comfortable hotel at Split, which is a large industrial town, with a beautiful harbour. It contains the remains of the Emperor Diocletian's palace, built circa 305 A.D., not much remains now except beautiful pillars and arches of what formed the Peristyle or centre of the palace.

I visited the hospital, nicely placed on the outskirts of Split, built just before the last war, and almost its first occupants being Germans and Italians. There were separate blocks for general, infectious, and children's nursing, all clean and well arranged, the children's block being particularly attractive. Neither of the two

doctors, who kindly took me round, spoke English, so we talked in German and Italian, which will take you everywhere in Yugoslavia.

We took another boat to Dubrovnik (formerly Ragusa), perhaps the most popular place in Yugoslavia. It is most attractive, full of interesting and architecturally beautiful buildings, in wonderful preservation. Once it was a republic, and the stone city walls built around the town stand intact, in the midst of olive, palm, and cypress trees. There is a tradition that Richard Coeur-de-Lion built a church here in 1192, as a thank offering for his escape from shipwreck off the coast, and the present Baroque Cathedral was built on its ruins.

Yugoslavia imports very little from abroad, and the shops only contain local manufactures. Tea and coffee cost over £4 a lb. Good modern schools are being built, and English and French are taught in them. Taxation is very light, and food and housing are cheap. The people are delightful, with perfect manners, and much dignity. I was struck by the physique of the young men, most of them average 6 ft. and over, straight and slim, they would be perfect torch bearers in the Olympic Games.

They welcome English visitors, and I shall hope to re-visit Yugoslavia.

C. L. A. ROBINSON.
A/MIL/24

An Easter Weekend in Denmark

Easter week-end appeared to me to be a good opportunity to visit the neighbouring country of Denmark. With two friends, therefore, I booked a sleeper on the night train from Hamburg so that no precious day-time should be wasted in journeying there. At 11 p.m. we boarded the train for Copenhagen.

I awoke about 6.30 a.m., just as the ferry boat with our train aboard, was docking at the island of Zealand. By the time we had dressed the train was running through clean looking suburbs of the large city of Copenhagen.

At the station money was changed for us into krone and ore at a kiosk and we then went to the Danish Tourist Association. They were very busy with visitors wanting accommodation. The hotels were all full but we were given the address of a private house, a flat it turned out to be. Up eighty stairs we climbed, to be greeted smilingly at the top, by an old Danish woman. She took us into an old-fashioned but spotlessly clean room. After a wash and brush-up we departed to see the city. It is built partly on the east coast of Zealand and partly on the northern end of Amager, the narrow non-tidal stream between the two, forming a natural

harbour visited by ships of many nations. About 1,200,000 people live in Greater Copenhagen, this is a quarter of the entire population of Denmark.

There were many big modern shops filled with merchandise of all kinds. Prices were reasonable. People in the streets were smartly dressed in good clothes. Everywhere we found people spoke English and were friendly and helpful.

A bus was to leave the next morning for an all-day tour of the north of Zealand, so we booked seats. After a breakfast of coffee and rolls we boarded the bus which was chiefly occupied by American tourists ; but there were also two S.A.A.F.A. sisters from Munster : and drove into the country. We had with us an English speaking guide who stopped the bus several times to allow camera enthusiasts amongst us to record the highlights of the trip.

The countryside was rather flat but well wooded with silver birch, beech and oak trees. There were many lakes and waterways. Roads were good and houses and people looked prosperous. In one village we saw two storks' nests, one of which was occupied by a disgruntled looking bird, who as the icy wind ruffled her feathers, was obviously wishing she had not yet left her native Africa.

Although Danish butter is famous, we saw no cows. Apparently they were still indoors awaiting the warmer weather. Many of the farms were long whitewashed buildings of one storey, reminding one strongly of Ireland.

A large white building, guarded by a sentry wearing a busby and marching with his rifle in his folded arms, was we were informed the Royal summer residence.

At Hillerød we stopped to explore the imposing castle of Frederiksborg, built by King Christian IV. It was badly damaged by fire in 1857 ; but later, chiefly due to the generosity of a brewer millionaire, was reconstructed and is now used as a museum. In the forecourt was a beautiful fountain, a replica of one captured by the Swedes during a battle and still to be seen in Sweden. However, our guide added, the Danes had their revenge by carrying off a Swedish church spire as their spoils of war !

Just outside Helsingør we stopped for lunch at an hotel, and what a lunch ! The tables groaned with the wonderful Danish fare to which we all did full justice. Slimming diets were forgotten.

We were now on the shores of the Kattegat and in full sight of the Swedish coast which here approaches Denmark very closely, so closely, in fact, that King Frederik II, who was also King of Scandinavia, built two castles, one in Sweden and the other Kronsburg—which Shakespeare used as his setting for Hamlet—in Denmark, in order to force shipping passing through the narrow strait between

them, to pay toll. The old cannon used to enforce this, are still there, and are used, to this day, to salute the King when he passes there by sea. This old castle was also very interesting and imposing, its chapel most lovely.

Next day we took a bus tour round the city itself, in spite of the inclement weather. Much of the outskirts are occupied by huge blocks of modern flats, the university, and the hospitals, where, for the equivalent of 1/6 daily, the patients receive treatment and accommodation. They are under the Municipal Government. We were told that this year Denmark had been able to close two of her sanatoria, so far has progress been made with the control of Tuberculosis. Large factories for the manufacture of penicillin and serums were pointed out, also the porcelain works and other local productive centres.

We visited the vast meat and fish markets and saw the King's palace and the old buildings of Christianbørg Castle, now the Danish Houses of Parliament.

Near the docks, still in use, were the three hundred old yellow cottages, built like a quaint little village, by King Christian IV for sailors and dockers.

On a boulder in shallow water on the seafront, was the exquisite little statue of "The Little Mermaid." I am sure it showed her just as Hans Anderson would have wished. There were many lovely statues ; but there is one more I must mention, and that is the Gefun Fountain with the Valkenyi driving her four sons, whom she had turned into massive bulls, to plough Zealand from Sweden for their inheritance. It is alive with power.

On one of the three slight hills upon which Copenhagen is built, stands the modern Gruntvegs church to the building of which every Dane contributed. Outside I thought it ugly ; but inside, its white brick Gothic arches were so lofty and pure, it quite took my breath away. No stained glass, no colour, only the daffodils on the altar : and the model ships hanging as they do in all Danish churches, for the comfort of the wives, so many of whom have sailor husbands.

Back beneath the shadows of Bishop Absolam's statue—he it was who in 1167 founded the city—we left our bus and as the many lights and neon signs blazed on the wet pavements, we caught the night train back to Hamburg.

WINIFRED G. I. HOBBS,
(A1345).

Donations Received

For Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association Funds,
January - June 1955

1ST JANUARY

	£	s.	d.
St. George's Church, Cyprus	1	1	0
St. Michael's Church, Cyprus	1	3	0
St. Martin's Church, Cyprus	6	14	3
Collection—Westminster Abbey Service (Received 1954—paid into Bank 1955)	46	18	10
Chaplain-General's Fund	3	0	0
1st Battn. Sherwood Foresters	5	0	0
Royal Chapel—Q.A. Service—Netley	4	0	0
Chapel Fund—Netley	6	0	0
New South Wales Branch (£15 16s. 3d.) (Sterling)	12	9	11
Church and Ward collections, Cambridge and Louise Margaret Hospitals	9	17	9
Q.A. Day Services, British Military Hospital, Klagenfurt	3	11	6
Tidworth Branch	2	8	4
Church Services, British Military Hospital, Nairobi ...	5	0	0
Berka Garrison Church	5	0	0

Gift to Association Benevolent

In addition to the gifts to the Benevolent Fund already listed, we have received £10 from the Members of the Malta Branch.

This is the first in response to the Hon. Friends' Secretary's circular letter, and we are very grateful to the Members for raising this generous contribution so quickly.

Branch News

N.S.W. Australia

Last evening, the 18th May, I was one of a very happy group of Australian Trained Nurses who attended a buffet dinner at the "Pickwick Club, Sydney," to welcome a most distinguished guest, Miss Daisy Bridges, C.B.E., R.R.C., Vice-Chairman of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association, the Executive Secretary of the I.C.N., who is on a whirlwind tour of many countries.

Many of we Q.A.R.A.N.C. members renewed old associations with her, and nurses who had served in the Middle East during World War II with Miss Bridges, were delighted to welcome her to our shores.

After this very happy informal dinner party, we adjourned to the B.M.A. Hall where our guest of honour was greeted by some hundred more nurses and nursing students, who joined us in an hour's most delightful (I would not say lecture) but friendly chat on the "Relationship in Nursing," which was received with great acclamation by all.

Unfortunately, Miss Bridges' stay in Sydney was too short to enable us to entertain her as the guest of Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association N.S.W. Branch, and it was with deep regret that we wished her bon voyage on her journey via Syria home to London.

HILDA F. STINSON.

(A/3096 N.S.W. Aust.).

Victoria Branch, Melbourne, Australia

The Branch Annual Meeting, and also the Annual Dinner, was held at the Nurses' Memorial Centre, 431, St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, on the eve of ANZAC Day, 22nd April, 1955. Approximately 28 members were present. An excellent dinner was provided. Many acquaintances were renewed and old days discussed.

The highlight of the evening was the great interest taken in the visit of Miss D. C. Bridges, C.B.E., R.R.C., to the 1st Australian Nursing Congress which was held in Melbourne in May, 1955. The Congress lasted one week, was attended by nurses from all parts of Australia, and was extremely interesting. Miss Bridges spoke on both the first and last days. All members of our Branch were delighted to have her in our country especially as she was a Principal Matron (Territorial) in the last war, 1939-1945.

We were pleased that she was able to spare the time to join us in a Billy Tea and Chop Picnic held in a neighbouring beauty spot. In this some members of the Council of the Royal Victorian Council of Nursing joined us.

M. L. HALLOWES (4.6.55).

(L.50)

Chester Branch

The second Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association Meeting was held at Chester Military Hospital on 5th March, in the Red Cross Room. About forty members were present from Liverpool, North Wales and Manchester area, and also one visitor from Lincoln, Mrs. Gladys Marshall—a member of the London Branch.

After the business a talk was given by Lt.-Col. Wakeham on "Training in the Army," which was very interesting, even to me, who after several years of army life, did not know in detail, the Training of Other Ranks, who since World War II are able to obtain their S.R.N. in the Army. The weather was really kind, considering such a snowy week previously.

An excellent tea was served, price 1/6. At no other place in Chester, could such a tea be had for so little.

It gave me great pleasure to see Lt.-Col. Mellor, who was the first Assistant Matron I met at No. 11 General Hospital, Lincoln, on being called up.

It was a greater surprise to see Major C. T. de Rouffignac. She waved farewell to me at Mombassa on my way home to England—meeting her first at No. 47 General Nairobi, 1944. It was a greater pleasure to see her name and her photo in the "Nursing Mirror" after her visit to the Palace, to receive the A.R.R.C.

Present also was Lt. Gibson, one of the first five Other Ranks to obtain their final certificate at the State Examination of the General Nursing Council.

We all hope the Chester Branch will continue to grow in numbers.

A very hearty welcome to all Q.A.R.A.N.C. who are not Association members to join without delay.

ISABELLA INGLIS (Mrs.),
A/Chester 28.

Corps Day in Japan

1955 Q.A. Celebration Day dawned bright and lovely in Japan, and there was excitement in the air for the staff of the British Commonwealth General Hospital, Kure, for it was to be a festive day of combined celebration, with a wedding in the morning and an evening party for Q.A. Day.

Ornamented iced cakes had been made for both events. The wedding cake a magnificent three tiers, and the Q.A. cake, in its setting of coloured icing in the Q.A. colours, with the Q.A. badge very much in evidence, and tall red candles on either side.

The happy bride was Lieut. E. S. Barr, and the bridegroom Capt. H. W. Gray, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

The wedding ceremony, held in the Garrison Church, was carried out in the true traditional style. The tall and elegant bride looking exquisite in a long trained white satin dress with veil, and floral crown and bouquet, the bridesmaid, Lieut. M. Longden, very beautiful in a scarlet ensemble, which made a spectacular contrast to the bride's white array, and the bridegroom resplendent in uniform, with his regimental guard of honour in attendance. Major A. V. Fenton, Deputy Matron, excelled herself in the decorations of the church with white carnations, and the finishing touches of the bridal car.

The bride was given away by the Commanding Officer, Colonel J. W. A. McIver, and the Matron, Lieut.-Colonel E. M. Gaunt, was the hostess at the hundred guest reception in the Q.A.R.A.N.C.

Officers' Mess. The Mess decoration was noted in particular for its artistic Japanese arrangement of flowers, being a lovely example of the famous art of floral arrangement in Japan.

The Cocktail Party followed later in the day, and most of the wedding guests were invited to make it an equally enjoyable evening. Brigadier P. F. Palmer was asked to make a speech, and the Q.A. cake was cut by Lieut.-Colonel E. M. Gaunt, in the glow from the red candles, and handed round to the guests. The party ended for many with dancing at the Officers' Club.

E. M. GAUNT.

Millbank

(L.141)

Recent Activities

Tuesday, 3rd May, 1955. At the monthly meeting, held at 121, St. George's Square, Miss Joan Carpenter, C.B.E., a Member of the City of London Branch, British Legion, Women's Section, gave an interesting Talk on the Aims and Work of the British Legion. This Meeting was well attended and ended with lots of chatter over coffee and sandwiches.

Wednesday, 8th June. A party of 30 Members and friends booked seats to see "Separate Tables" at St. James's Theatre. It was an excellent show enjoyed by all.

H. HAMBLIN,
Hon. Secretary.

(L.136)

Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich

The Medforth Cup Tennis Tournament took place on Wednesday, 6th July, at the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers' Mess. It is many years since this event was witnessed here.

Competitors came from Southern, Eastern, Northern, Western and Scottish Commands, two days before to play off the eliminating rounds.

Captain K. M. Knowles, Colchester, Lieut. P. L. Sykes, Catterick, Lieut. S. M. Jenkins, Connaught, and Pte. P. Harrington, Woolwich, reached the semi-finals. These were played off on the afternoon of the 6th, Captain Knowles and Lieut. Sykes reaching the final.

The final was played later in the day and, after a fairly even game, Lieut. Sykes beat her opponent and became the proud holder of the Medforth Cup for 1955.

Captain B. Turner, Q.A.R.A.N.C. arranged all the games, ably assisted by our colleagues in the R.A.M.C., Major R. C. Hunter, Major R. Webb and W.O.1 G. H. Fellowes, R.A.M.C. other ranks acted as ball boys. They obviously appreciated the change in work.

The guests began to arrive by 2 p.m. and were received by the Matron, Major M. E. Holmes, R.R.C. Among the guests present were Lieut.-General Sir Frederick Harris, K.B.E., C.B., M.C.,

Q.H.S., D.G.A.M.S., Major-General W. A. D. Drummond, C.B.E., D.D.G.A.M.S. and Mrs. Drummond, Brigadier Dame Helen S. Gillespie, D.B.E., R.R.C., Q.H.N.S., D.A.N.S. and Matron-in-Chief, and Dame Louisa J. Wilkinson, Administrator Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association. We were disappointed Miss Medforth was not present.

The weather was glorious. The sun shone consistently and a light breeze kept the temperature at a pleasant level. I understand the weather clerk has always been kindly disposed to us on the Cup day and this year he certainly excelled himself. The gay summer frocks and pretty hats combined with chairs and tables on the lawn created quite a garden party atmosphere.

Tea, supervised by N.A.A.F.I. was served in the Mess and in a marquee in the garden. Strawberries and cream proved to be as popular as ever.

After tea the guests took their seats on the lawn to watch the final game played. What a pity it is that someone has to be the loser.

Mrs. Drummond introduced by Brigadier Dame Helen Gillespie, very kindly presented the Cup and replica to the winner, and a powder compact to the runner-up. Mrs. Drummond then accepted a bouquet presented to her by Cpl. E. Robinson, Q.A.R.A.N.C.

To round off a truly perfect day, drinks were served and guests, competitors and members of the Mess got together to talk over the events of the day, talk over old times, and in many cases to express regret that in all probability they would not be in England to enjoy a similar day next year.

We, in Woolwich all agreed it had been a lovely day and sincerely hoped the guests enjoyed it too.

Further news is that Cpl. S. L. Drain, Q.A.R.A.N.C. has been Mentioned in Despatches for her service in Malaya. Congratulations to her.

G. B. POWELL (L.196).

South of Scotland

Outing to Culzean Castle

Twenty-four members of the South of Scotland Branch of Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association had a very pleasant outing Saturday, 28th May.

We were extremely lucky in having a brilliant sunny day and enjoyed a coach tour to Culzean Castle. This castle is situated on high cliffs on the Ayrshire coast, and is surrounded by beautiful wooded country.

Culzean Castle for several generations was the home of the Kennedy family (Marquises of Ailsa) and was presented by fifth

Marquis to the National Trust for Scotland, by whom it is now supported.

This castle dates from the last quarter of the 18th century, and had as its architect the great Scottish architect, Robt. Adam. The castle has recently been redecorated, the old Adam ceilings have been restored.

A top flat of this castle was presented to General Eisenhower as a permanent residence for him and his friends in appreciation of his services during the war years.

The furnishings of the Castle are beautiful and interesting and the gardens and grounds are kept in perfect order.

The members had a picnic tea in the grounds of the Castle and on their way back had a very enjoyable dinner in an hotel in Ayr.

The day was voted by all a great success.

LOUISA M. HARLEY,
A/22 *Hon. Secretary,*
South of Scotland Branch.

Iserlohn, B.A.O.R.4

Iserlohn is a picturesque market town in the Sauerland of Western Germany. Unfortunately the weather follows the true meaning of the word "Sauerland," which, I believe, when translated is "The Valley of Rain."

There are, however, to compensate this many places of historical interest, not only in the town but in the district near by. Including the Mohne See and Sopersee, now with re-built dams after complete demolition by "The Dam Busters" during World War II.

The British Military Hospital, situated about one kilometre from Iserlohn, is a converted barracks which once housed troops of the famous Panzer Regiment.

The hospital has 450 beds dealing with general nursing, pediatrics and maternity. The staff consists of not only R.A.M.C. and Q.A.R.A.N.C., but of Medical Officers, Nursing Sisters and Orderlies of the Royal Canadian Medical Corps.

The detachment of Nursing Sisters under the Command of their Matron, Captain H. Sloan, R.C.A.M.C., share a pleasant mess, overlooking the beautiful Seilersee. Beyond this lake are pine-covered hills, which from a distance at this time of the year, look like a patch-work quilt of every shade of green.

In January of this year a Q.A.R.A.N.C. Branch Association was formed here. Our Other Ranks are enthusiastic members and attended the inaugural meeting held on 31st. Lieut.-Colonel M. Luxton, R.R.C., presided. 18 Serving Officers and Other Ranks and 3 Civilian members were present.

After the motion had been passed, that a Branch of the

Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association should be formed in Iserlohn, a Committee and Entertainments Committee were elected. The meeting closed after suggestions and ideas for social activities had been discussed.

The first social activity was held in February in the form of a Whist Drive. The weather that particular evening was greatly against us, nevertheless there was a good attendance and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves.

We have also had a profitable raffle.

These activities have made our Branch self supporting for the time being.

No doubt in the near future we will have further social activities and views of interest to write about in this Branch of the Association.

P. D. DOWNING (L.473).

Q.A.R.A.N.C. Day in Iserlohn

Twenty-seventh of March was one of the coldest days we had experienced during 1955 in Iserlohn. Nevertheless, with hearts warmer than our hands and feet, Matron Major E. Horrocks, R. R. C. ; Deputy Matron Major E. Longworth and 30 Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers and Other Ranks were present at the Interdenominational Service held in the Garrison Church to commemorate Q.A.R.A.N.C. Day. There was also a good attendance of Nursing Sisters and Other Ranks of the Royal Canadian Medical Corps, who work alongside us in the B.M.H.

An impressive service was conducted by Rev. G. Johnson (C. of E.) and Rev. A. R. H. Rothwell (Free Church). The lessons were read by Lieut. N. Isard, Q.A.R.A.N.C. and Cpl. M. I. Sankey, Q.A.R.A.N.C.

After the service a sherry party was held in the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers' Mess.

The Q.A.R.A.N.C. Other Ranks voted to have a dinner at the Hotel Seilersee in preference to a dance as last year. This we had the following week. Major E. Longworth and Captain P. Downing acted as our hostesses. The dinner was one of the best examples of German cooking. We all enjoyed an extremely pleasant evening.

W. L. BLACKMORE,
B.A.O.R./Iser/2.

British Military Hospital, Dhekelia

A ceremony of great interest in the Army, and in particular to the Q.A.R.A.N.C., took place on Thursday, 26th May, in the new cantonment which is being built in Cyprus.

The foundation stone of the British Military Hospital was laid by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Robert Armitage, K.C.M.G., M.B.E.

A large gathering of civilian and military guests was present. Colonel F. M. Smith, R.R.C., A.D.A.N.S., M.E.L.F. and Colonel E. J. Pryn, A.D.M.S., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., representing the D.M.S., who was in the U.K., were amongst the senior officers presented to His Excellency by the District Commander, Brigadier A. G. H. Ricketts, C.B.E., D.S.O.

This hospital will be the first Military Hospital to be built since 1937. The building will be six storeys high ; this does not include the basement and top floor which will hold storage tanks and mechanism for lifts, etc. The hospital will provide accommodation for 258 beds and all the departments such as Operating Theatre, X-Ray and Pathology. The cost will be approximately three-quarters of a million pounds, an interesting point being that, of this vast sum of money, the biggest proportion will be spent on modern equipment and fittings.

In addition to the hospital, messes for the R.A.M.C. and Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers and Sgts. will be built, also accommodation for Other Ranks and a Field Ambulance.

Models of the buildings were on view. The model of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers' Mess is in the current exhibition of the Royal Academy, London.

B. M. FITZPATRICK.
(L.173)

Letters to the Editor

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION,
Wooburn House, Wooburn Green,
High Wycombe, Bucks.

Ref. CM 24/11/2/1.

1st July, 1955.

Dear Sir,

The Imperial War Graves Commission feel that members of your Association may be interested in their series of books of photographs of war cemeteries and memorials entitled "Their Name Liveth." The first volume of the series was published in 1954. They have now published Part I of Volume II. This Part contains nearly 30 pictures, mainly of the cemeteries in Normandy and of the Bayeux Memorial, together with a few photographs of the 1914-1918 war cemeteries in Northern France.

The book, which is attractively bound in a strong paper cover, is introduced in a Foreword by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester, K.G., President of the Commission.

Captain Cyril Falls, the eminent military historian, has written a special article on the war cemeteries in Normandy and Northern France for this book, which also contains historical and descriptive notes on the cemeteries illustrated.

It is the Commission's intention to produce two further Parts of Volume II covering the cemeteries in Northern France, Belgium and Holland, and probably some in Germany.

Part I of Volume II of "Their Name Liveth," can be obtained from the Imperial War Graves Commission, Wooburn House, Wooburn Green, High Wycombe, Bucks, price 5s. post free.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. C. SILLAR,
For Secretary.

No. 23rd Scottish General Hospital, 1939-1945.

"It has been the custom of the 23rd Scottish General Hospital Sisters to hold an Annual Reunion in Edinburgh. But this year, for the first time, an extension of that meeting was celebrated by those of the Unit who are now living South of the Border and near to London.

"Beoty's Restaurant, Kensington, served dinner to ten Sisters on the 28th May, 1955, over which Miss Allan, the Assistant Matron for the four years of Active Service, presided, and afterwards at Miss Allan's flat at Kensington Close, W.8.

The evening was an outstanding success and may now become an Annual event to which we can look forward."

CATHERINE W. CAMPBELL,
A. 2598 T.A.N.S.

Letter written after the Floods

62, Queen Street,
Rutherford, N.S.W.
17th April, 1955.

Dear Miss Clark,

Thank you for your letter received yesterday enclosing copy of letter received by you from H.Q. in London, also my letter to you written during the flood which you asked my permission to send to England and which I said I would revise. I find on re-reading it, I shall have to repeat myself to some extent as it contains most of the facts which concerned us. Now I shall add incidents of which we have heard since we have been able to move about more freely amongst people and places affected by the flood waters. For some time we were completely isolated from the city proper and from East Maitland.

I wish to state here how much I appreciate your offer of assistance and those of H.Q. London.

Fortunately we are on a hill well out of flood reach. Normally we cannot see the river, but during the worst couple of days, we could, from our front verandah, see the breaks in the banks, the water flowing through submerging many houses and we could not rest for the roar of the water. From a paddock in front of our home and for miles around was just a sheet of water, most of it racing like mad.

I went to the Hospital on emergency work and my husband cooked and did what he could for the refugee people we housed.

The hospital is situated further down the hill and looks down upon a very well constructed Long Bridge built of concrete through a beautiful avenue of poplar trees. Normally no water flows beneath it, the land is cultivated and divided into farms while a little higher up was residential area, with two houses near the bridge itself. The river overflowed and broke its banks in many places, in addition a big levee three miles further upstream burst and a veritable wall of water raced down on to the residential area with such terrifying suddenness that many people were trapped in their houses. The water rose rapidly and came down in a roaring torrent past the Hospital over the bridge, taking everything before it, people sitting on the roofs of their houses until they smashed against the bridge or poplar trees, some were washed away and drowned. One little lass, eight months pregnant, was on an inner spring mattress and floated at a tremendous speed until she landed on an island. Her husband clung to a log—both were saved. I cannot understand yet how there were so few drowned, eleven in all. Watching, it looked as though nothing could save them. There were eighteen houses washed away from one street alone and many others are beyond repair, most of the ceilings and walls and windows out.

We had no Doctors on this side of the flood except the Residents at the Hospital. They were all trapped in their two-storey houses, or sitting on the roofs of their houses. One Doctor got all his fowls up with them as well as their children. Doctor Solling, our senior man, had a 30 ft. hole washed in his tennis court, which was filled with cars from a garage up the street. I heard from an onlooker that it was a weird experience seeing the cars back out of the garage, turn around and go floating down the streets of their own accord. One new Customline disappeared completely and hasn't been found. I guess it is out to sea 20 miles from Maitland.

Doctor Solling has a large white house which I believe appeared several times in the flood pictures ; he has three surgeries, waiting room, offices and flat on the ground floor. The water burst open

the main entrance door allowing logs and all sorts of rubbish in to wash around the rooms smashing up furniture and cupboards, tables and chairs, and chased his instruments around. They had 7 ft. of water, dirty muddy rushing water in their ground floor. It washed away almost all of the garden and undermined one corner of the building. When the water began to subside Dr. Solling went to inspect the damage, he fell down a hole in the footpath, 6 to 7 ft. deep. They got him out but his knee was injured. When he was able to get this side of the flood he came here and was with us for two weeks as our phone was one of the few functioning and was connected to the hospital.

The hospital was full of aged and rescued people ; families were separated for days, it was pathetic to see the worry of relatives and their joy when missing members of families turned up. I was very upset when I saw two beautiful farm horses trapped with no way of escape. They disappeared and as far as I know were never found.

A few incidents I would like to record. A lad about 18 years' old, very keen on music, bought a second-hand piano for a small sum reduced because of his keenness ; had only had it a couple of weeks and was determined to save it from his mother's home. He managed to get it out with some other furniture to dry land, then went back with a friend to try to save more. He was caught in the torrents but escaped by floating on a wireless aerial pole to the before mentioned bridge. When he reached safety he looked around for his friend and saw him shooting the rapids on a log with his fox terrier on his back.

Further down the river a two-storey farm house had water up to the second floor. Four cows came swimming in and started up the stairs the farmer assisted them up and they lived in one of the upstairs rooms until the water subsided.

My step-daughter-in-law saw near her place 12 miles up river a house suddenly surrounded by water, full of the owner's possessions. They got the wife and young children out but before the men could escape the house was washed away. They climbed on to the roof and very soon the house broke up. An Army Duck rushed out just in time to smash through paddocks and over fences, chased the men down the madly racing river. They rescued three whilst the fourth who could not swim caught in an eddy which was whirling him round in the one position supported only by a kapok pillow on which he retained a vice like grip. Before they could get to him he started off down the river again and arrived after many hours on a roof of a house in Maitland—people already on the roof helped him. He had come 13 miles, and on admission to Hospital next day could not be separated from his life-saving pillow which was still locked under his arm.

The destruction of the Long Bridge cut us off from the city other than by boat for a week. We are able to get through now over a hastily built detour causeway. Maitland was a dreadful sight when we first saw it; houses in the middle of the streets; blank spaces where others had been washed away completely. All you have heard over the air and through the papers does not exaggerate one bit.

You couldn't believe it unless you saw it. I personally believe Maitland will move itself, people could not face up to it again and, although the shopkeepers are repairing and re-stocking, most people are frantically getting whatever they can together on higher ground. I have no doubt they will try and control the river which would take years. Meantime every drop of rain makes people feel sick. I had a cable from London from a lass Ex-Q.A.I.M.N.S. who was in France and India with me during the war, whilst the flood was at its worst. She had seen the pictures of the flood on television and was concerned on my behalf. In addition I had several air-mail letters. It was a bright spot for me over those awful days.

Yours sincerely,
MATTIE PROCTOR (nee WARD),
A (Aust. N.S.W.) 3255.

The United Services Club Ltd.

34, Cavendish Square, London. W.1.

Those eligible for membership include—Past and present members of Q.A.R.A.N.C. (Officers only).

Annual Subscription for the Nursing Profession :

Town Members, £3 13s 6d. ; Country Members, £3 3s. od. ;
Overseas Members, £1 1s. od. *Entrance Fee* for all members,
£1 1s. od.

Room Charges per night :

Single Room, 9/6 and 10/6 ; Guests, 10/6 and 11/6. If booked
for one night only, 1/6 extra.

Male guests may be entertained in the public rooms of the Club.

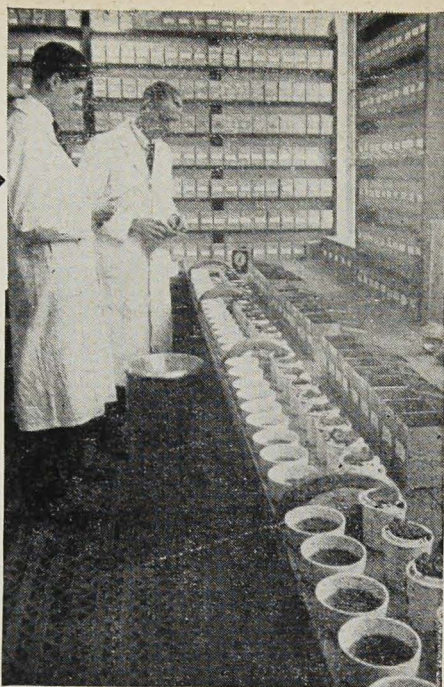
Meal Charges :

Breakfast, 2/- ; Lunch, 3/- ; Tea, 2/- ; Dinner, 3/-.

Those interested should write to the Club for the complete
booklet of rules, charges and application forms.

from Tea

to Tobacco



A cigarette and a cup of tea—two of the minor pleasures of life, but such as few would be without. This is as true of the members of Her Majesty's Forces as of most of us.

As the official caterers to Her Majesty's Forces, Naafi has the task of ensuring that a cup of tea and a cigarette are always readily available.

So it is that Naafi serves more than 154,000,000 cups of tea a year and is one of the biggest buyers of tobacco in the United Kingdom. Behind the scenes, the vast network of Naafi's buying, testing, sampling and distributing organisations deliver blended teas and tobaccos and cartons of cigarettes wherever Servicemen and their families may be.

To see that Servicemen and women enjoy to the full their tea and tobacco is but one of the many and varied duties of . . .

... this many sided

NAAFI

The official canteen organisation for H. M. Forces, Imperial Court, Kennington, London, S.E. 11

Obituaries

PAGE.—We deeply regret to announce the death of Lieut.-Colonel Maude Browne Page, R.R.C., late Q.A.R.A.N.C., on 13th June, 1955.

Lieut.-Colonel Page received her nursing training at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, from 1917-1921. She joined the Q.A.I.M.N.S. in January, 1924, and served until her retirement in March, 1950. During this time Lieut.-Colonel Page served in Egypt, India, Iraq, Palestine, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. She became a member of the Royal Red Cross 1st Class on 1st January, 1945.

Also on 15th May, 1955, of Miss Winifred WAITE, A.R.R.C., late Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service/Reserve.

Miss Waite received her nursing training at the Croydon Infirmary from 1910-1913. She served in Q.A.I.M.N.S./R. from 1916 to 1919 and from 1927 to 1949. During this time she served in U.K., Palestine and Egypt.

And of Miss Dora E. FLYMM, Q.A.I.M.N.S. on 1st July, suddenly at Hinchley.

Births

STEPHENS—On 13th June, 1955, at the European Hospital, Kampala, Uganda, to Mary (nee "Milly" Millingham), ex-Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S., wife of Major F. D. Stephens of Kenya, a daughter, Mary Jane, sister for Ann.

Honours and Awards

Birthday Honours List

M.B.E.—Major A. Flanagan. R.R.C.—Major E. C. Long. A.R.R.C.—Major G. E. Jones, Major M. M. Morris, Major C. O'Neill, Captain A. Jones.

Mentioned in Despatches

Lieut. J. G. Dyer, Q.A.R.A.N.C.

Q/1001067 Cpl. S. C. Drain, Q.A.R.A.N.C.

We offer our congratulations to Miss M. A. Thomas, S.R.N., S.C.M., appointed Matron of Hill House Hospital, Minster, Ramsgate. She served during the War with the Q.A.I.M.N.S./R.

It is with pleasure we read that two Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers, Colonel C. M. Johnson, R.R.C., and Major G. M. Clark, have

been admitted to the Grade of Officer (Sister), of the Grand Priory in the British Realm, of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

We offer our congratulations and good wishes to Miss Theodora Turner, A.R.R.C., S.R.N., S.C.M., on her appointment as Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital and Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School.

She served with the Queen Alexander Imperial Nursing Service/R. for six years, and takes up her new appointment in the autumn.

Appointments

Lieut.-Colonel G. M. Luxton, A.R.R.C. to Military Hospital, Gibraltar, April, 1955.

Colonel C. M. Johnson, R.R.C., to A.D.A.N.S., Southern Command, on 6th June, 1955.

Lieut.-Colonel D. E. Richards, A.R.R.C., to Military Hospital, Catterick, on 23rd June, 1955.

Promotions,

OFFICERS

Major to Lieut.-Colonel.

Major M. F. Mallett.

Captain to Major.

February—Capt. N. Marson (1st), Capt. M. M. Heaney (8th), Capt. M. M. Morris (8th), Capt. J. Monteath (12th).

March—Capt. M. Fort (1st), Capt. D. Gray (11th), Capt. F. M. Bowring (15th).

May—Capt. M. R. Fougere (3rd).

June—Capt. A. A. Williams (7th), Capt. T. L. Jeffreys-Edwards (7th), Capt. A. M. McCormick (4th).

Lieutenant to Captain.

January—Lieut. M. Stephens (3rd), Lieut. J. Melvin (15th), Lieut. F. M. Mitchell (21st).

February—Lieut. M. O'Malley (9th).

March—Lieut. I. Chesters (19th), Lieut. M. Peel (30th).

May—Lieut. E. Mills (3rd), Lieut. I. Neal (9th), Lieut. M. E. Conlon (17th), Lieut. J. R. Mist (17th).

Resignations and Retirements

April, 1955—Lieut.-Colonel D. O. Wakeham. Major N. M. Kinsella. Capts. K. M. McGeary (*née* Dinan), A. M. Tully, D. W. McDonald. Lieuts. T. M. Scott (*née* Eaton), D. Gorton (*née* Heap), F. C. Sellick (*née* Dowling). M. R. Baldwin (*née* Williams), E. J. Watkins (*née* Paterson), M. I. Purdy (*née* Monkley), E. M. Barton (*née* Molloy), K. Kilgallen (*née* Clough), P. M. Semple (*née* Watkinson), M. E. McEachren, A. A. Coomber (*née* Main), L. H. Sim (*née* Southern), M. M. Turquand (*née* Paddon), N. C. Heyworth, M. J. Liston, J. M. Lyons, A. Porter, T. I. Wears, M. I. Latham, B. Jones, M. Ayles.

May, 1955—Capt. A. C. Gillespie. Lieuts. E. S. Gray (*née* Barr), I. M. Rayner, W. Myers, P. L. Trotter, E. M. Mansfield, V. G. Chadwell, G. Johnstone, J. Kitchen, I. E. Willisroft, C. J. Barnes, M. L. Keane, J. C. Wilcox, A. M. Jones, J. M. Barnes, M. E. Betts-Gray, J. R. Harding.

June, 1955—Major D. I. L. Morris. Capts. H. N. Riley (*née* Stewart), I. G. Duncan, K. C. Redfearn. Lieuts. M. D. White (*née* Vaughan), D. M. Smith

The Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps
Association

GAZETTE

Prices for binding your copies of the Gazette
in Red Cloth with lettering in gilt,

on application to

COURTENAY PRESS LTD.

CASTLE STREET, BRIGHTON

Telephone : Brighton 23982



**Queen
Anne
Scotch
Whisky**

ASK FOR IT AT N.A.A.F.I.

HILL THOMSON & CO. LTD. EDINBURGH Est. 1793

Under Royal Patronage

**W. A.
DOLLIMORE**

*Military Tailor
Outfitter and
Medal Specialist*

**14 Lynchford Road
Farnborough, Hants**

Telephone : Farnborough 303

(née Dobson), P. R. Trezise (née Hills), A. E. Linn (née Holladay), D. J. Prescott (née Finlay), M. Worthington (née Heads), B. Clifton, J. M. Haken, M. M. Shanahan, M. T. McLoughlin, M. Sutherland, M. J. Esplin, M. A. Winfield.

Award of Q.A.R.A.N.C. Prize 1955

The Q.A.R.A.N.C. Prize, consisting of a parchment certificate and savings certificates to the value of £10 (ten pounds), has been awarded to Q/1000371 Pte. E. M. Radford (Nursing Orderly Class I) for the best written examination in any Class I qualification for the year 1954.

Q.A.R.A.N.C. Other Rank granted Short Service Commission

Sgt. F. E. McLaurin—1st June, 1955.

Q.A.R.A.N.C. ex Other Rank granted Short Service Commission

Ex-Cpl. B. Terry—1st June, 1955.

Marriages

Lieut. T. M. Eaton to Dr. W. C. Scott on 19th March, 1955, at Barkingside, Essex.

Lieut. D. Heap to E. Gorton, Esq., on 19th March, 1955, at Lancaster.

Lieut. A. A. Main to W. D. Coomber, Esq., on 19th March, 1955, at

Lieut. M. M. Paddon to C. P. Turquand, Esq., on 22nd March, 1955, at Famagusta, Cyprus.

Lieut. M. I. Monkley to Capt. P. L. Purdy, Essex Regt., on 25th March, 1955, at Hong Kong.

Lieut. E. S. Barr to Capt. H. W. Gray, R.A.S.C., on 26th March, 1955, at Kure.

Lieut. E. J. Paterson to Capt. J. F. Watkins, R.A.M.C., on 30th March, 1955, at Glasgow.

Lieut. E. M. Molloy to W. M. Barton, Esq., on 9th April, 1955, at Stoke-on-Trent.

Lieut. L. H. Southern to I. K. Sim, Esq., on 9th April, 1955, at Broughton-in-Furness.

Lieut. K. Clough to J. P. Kilgallon, Esq., on 11th April, 1955, at Chorley, Lancs.

Capt. K. M. Dinan to Lieut. D. Geary, R.A.S.C., on 12th April, 1955, at Moascar.

Lieut. P. M. Watkinson to W. J. P. Semple, Esq., on 16th April, 1955, at Sheffield.

Lieut. M. D. F. Vaughan to Lieut. P. A. White, R.C.H.A., on 7th May, 1955, at Iserlohn (Germany).

Lieut. M. Heads to Flt.-Lieut. P. M. Worthington, R.A.F., on 14th May, 1955, at Glasgow.

Lieut. D. M. Dobson to Capt. D. W. Smith, R.A., on 20th May, 1955, at Kuala Lumpur.

Capt. H. N. Stewart to Major C. E. Riley, P.L.O., on 21st May, 1955, at Fayid.

Lieut. P. R. Hills to G. C. Trezise, Esq., on 4th June, 1955, at Billington, Beds.

Lieut. D. J. Findlay to Lieut. H. Prescott, R.A.S.C., on 4th June, 1955, at Kluang.

Lieut. A. E. Holladay to Lieut. J. D. K. Linn, M.C., R.A., on 4th June, 1955, at Fayid.

Personal

Lady wishing to lessen expenses, chores and perhaps loneliness, can share pleasant, easily run home, Sussex, with two others, early sixties.

Must be actively domesticated, and as one of family, not as guest. Some pieces own furniture, if desired, not essential. Box No. 16.