



THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL ARMY  
NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION

# GAZETTE

Vol. 1 No. 8

November, 1951

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

*Patron:*

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

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Vol. 1. No. 8

NOVEMBER, 1951

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## *Editorial*

THE CURRENT GAZETTE completes the second year of this particular venture on the part of the Association, whose fourth birthday falls next month.

The aim when we first started was to establish an Association which would be a background to the Army Nursing Services, a rallying point, a sure help in times of trouble to past and present members of those Services. The GAZETTE was to be a mouthpiece for the Association members, one way of contact. Both Association and GAZETTE are in being. We wonder sometimes if they are really established in the sense of being widely used, wanted and actively supported. Enthusiastic and generous help by individuals and small groups is very gratefully acknowledged, for without that the effort could not have been maintained, but signs of a more general support would be indicative of interest in Association development. Even complaints are welcomed in one sense, for it does show some interest and general and branch secretaries gladly investigate their cause. There have been several lately on non-receipt of GAZETTE, and the cause too often has been because a change of address has not been notified or subscription has not been received. Are New Year resolutions entirely outdated? After all, Christmas Day and New Year's Day will have come and gone before the next GAZETTE is published, so the connection is not too vague.

It may be early to send you the Season's Greetings, but there will not be another opportunity. To the many members we cannot hope to contact personally at that time, we send warmest wishes for a very happy Christmas and New Year, and may they bring Peace and Plenty.

It is we know the earnest prayer of all members of the Association that Christmas and the New Year may see our King, His Majesty George VI, restored to health and strength.

## *Important Notice*

The Editor of the GAZETTE has found it necessary to resign, and the Central Committee would be glad to hear from anyone willing to take on or assist with the work.

It is not essential for the purpose to be in or near London, as much of the material is collected up in the Association Head-quarter Office and can be forwarded by post. Attendance at occasional meetings dealing with editorial or other GAZETTE matters would be necessary, possibly once or twice a year.

There are four issues in the year, and the typing, etc., in connection with them is done in the Association office. There would be no difficulty in that respect.

Responses should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association, 20 John Islip Street, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

## *News from the Branches*

### *Scottish Branch*

The following comes from Miss E. McIntosh, the Secretary :

In spite of holidays, the Glasgow members have continued their monthly tea-parties which those attending have enjoyed, and it is hoped to continue them on a more generous scale during the winter. The membership list increases slowly. It is disappointing, however, that there are so many outstanding subscriptions for 1951, and even a few for 1950. Come along, Scotswomen, don't let the Branch down.

Will Association members serving or visiting in Scotland who would like to attend Branch functions please get in touch with me (address, see p. 24) or contact Miss A. G. Murrie, 43 Morningside Park, Edinburgh, 10 (Tel. : 51768).

### *East African Branch*

The Chairman and Secretary have sent accounts of the Branch activities, which we summarize below :

The Inaugural Meeting was well attended in Nairobi on the 14th June. The Committee was elected. Mrs. Elsa Gross (*née* Phillipowsky) undertook the onerous task of Secretary. Mrs. M. E. Daly (*née* Daly) is the Treasurer. Lieut.-Colonel N. P. de B. Bampton is the Chairman, and Mrs. M. C. Courtenay-Bishop (*née* M. C. Doyle) Vice-Chairman. The Committee moved fast and got down right away to arranging a

reunion Cocktail Party for 26th July, enlisting Public Relations to help in advertising the event through the local Press and broadcasts. There were many ups and downs before the great night arrived, but the function at the New Stanley Hotel, Nairobi, was a huge success. Quite a number of husbands accompanied their wives, there being between fifty and sixty guests present, all soon joining in the usual buzz and din which pervades Q.A. reunions. Apparently everyone enjoyed themselves and hoped for a repeat in the not-too-distant future.

The Corps flag was displayed prominently and much pleasure was given by a delightful message from the G.O.C., Lieut.-General Sir Arthur Dowler, which Lieut.-Colonel Bampton read to the assembly. It is a tribute to all of you and we quote it in full :

"To you and to all officers of the Q.A.R.A.N.C., gathered together for your first reunion, I send my very best wishes, in which I know my wife would wish to join.

"Anybody who knows anything about soldiering knows also that the Q.A.R.A.N.C. have it in their power to contribute more towards morale than any other corps. I have never, in any part of the world, in peace or in war, known your Corps fail to live up to that standard, steadfastly, gallantly and quite magnificently.

"In two wars and two alleged peaces, I personally owe the Q.A.I.M.N.S. and Q.A.R.A.N.C. a very sincere debt of gratitude, and I shall always regard the title of ' Sister ' the finest tribute that can be given to any woman."

The following names, in addition to those already mentioned, were given in the accounts we received : Captain J. O. M. Marchante, Lieut. M. J. Sullivan (in the new No. 1 Corps dress—the first Q.A. to wear it in East Africa), Captain M. K. Winston, Mrs. C. M. M. Giles (*née* Murray), Miss Dot Angus, Miss Marjorie Gill, Miss Ruth Hatfield, Captain M. H. Godwin (Sister Tutor), Mrs. C. A. Everard (*née* Le Brocque), Mrs. M. O. M. Duncan (*née* Langridge), Major G. S. Ray.

The Branch had thirty-six members at that date, but expects to be nearer the fifty mark in their next report. Well done, East Africa, and good luck !

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## Congratulations

THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be mentioned, in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Malaya during the period 1st January to 30th June, 1951.

Captain M. P. A. Albrect, A.R.R.C.  
Captain H. C. Thayer.  
Lieut. M. P. A. Revell.

# *A Veteran Looks Back*

ONE OF our oldest members (A1582) sends these reminiscences of nursing in the Army sixty years and more ago. They are especially for our Corps GAZETTE and for Army Nurses past and present. We are very proud to publish them.

## *The Nile Campaign (Battle of Toski)*

In the summer of 1889 a Superintendent Sister and I, with an Egyptian coolie servant, found ourselves on a hospital ship, *Alexandria*, from Cairo bound for Assouan—First Cataract.

The Nile, being low, was against stream and it took nine days to reach Assouan. The nursing sisters didn't go farther, as there were Dervishes about. The heat was terrific. We had at one time to be working in a temperature of 116°.

When we reached Assouan our quarters consisted of a mud hut, with a hole in the side for a window and another hole for a door. A blanket hung over this. The Egyptian servant slept on the doorstep outside at nights. They do that for anyone they like to prevent any wild beasts from entering.

Sanitary conditions were beyond expression. They were just NIL. One night, I had been in bed and was wakened by something—crunch, crunch. I looked out of the window-hole and, to my horror, I thought I saw wolves. If ever I prayed to God to keep me in safety I did then. The crunching noise was made by the animals eating the live chickens that were in a crate outside the hut. These had been meant for later consumption by the sisters. I lay down on my plank bed when all was quiet, but the crunching began again. The animals had come back and finished the chickens and just left the feathers. Of course, there were no wolves in the desert. They must have been foxes.

After the Battle of Toski we returned to Cairo. The journey then took five days instead of nine as on the outward journey.

## *Meeting with Miss Florence Nightingale*

After general service I was stationed at home in Dublin in 1894, and there I met a sister who knew Miss Nightingale very well. She kindly gave me an introduction to Miss Nightingale, who invited me to see her in London and have tea with her. She was then living at 11 South Street, Park Lane, and was confined to bed—a large high bed—but looked very nice. She had all her papers and business things about her.

After a friendly tea and chat Miss Nightingale pulled me over the bed, the bed being large and high and I quite short, kissed me and gave me a lovely bouquet of flowers and inquired if she would call a conveyance for me, but I assured her I should manage all right. Afterwards she sent me a book on surgery which, unfortunately, is no longer in my possession.



By courtesy of the "Bournemouth Daily Echo"

### *Queen Victoria*

In 1897 I saw Queen Victoria on her Diamond Jubilee and was invited to have luncheon at Windsor Castle, and there I met four nuns who had worked with Florence Nightingale in the Crimea, and the five of us had a lovely luncheon. Queen Victoria was not present as she was very frail.

After luncheon we were each interviewed separately by the Queen in her own private apartment. She was exceedingly kind, but I could see she was not too strong. Lady Lytton was the lady-in-waiting who introduced each of us.

Just outside the Queen's apartment was a very large glass casket, which the Queen wished us to see, and in it was either a Bible or a Testament—I forget which—open at chapter 3, St. John's Gospel, 16th verse, which she liked her visitors to read. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The Bible had been sent to Queen Victoria by General Gordon's sister, after her brother's assassination.

(Signed) LOUISA WATSON TULLOH (A1582)  
*who had over 31 happy years in the Service.*

Miss L. Watson Tulloh was born 30th April, 1860. She joined the Army Nursing Service as a sister at Netley in September, 1887, was posted to Egypt, 1888, for war service, went up the Nile in 1889 with Field Frontier Hospital for Battle of Toski, summer 1889.

Awarded Royal Red Cross (1st Class) and Mentioned in Despatches ; Egyptian Medal, decorated by Queen Victoria ; posted to Cairo and Alexandria till 1899 ; posted to South Africa, 1900-1902, and No. 10 General Hospital, Bloemfontein ; Mentioned in Despatches by Lord Roberts ; awarded Associate Sister of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Decorated by King Edward VII, posted to Hong Kong, 1909-1912 ; was Matron of first unit of Q.A.I.M.N.S. to nurse troops in China.

In 1914-1919 she was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded Bar to Royal Red Cross and created Sister of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Decorated by King George V and retired in 1919 after 31 years' continuous service.

Miss Tulloh lives in Bournemouth, and the Bournemouth Branch of the South African War Veterans' Association, of which she is a member, is very proud of her wonderful record of military service. She herself, now nearly 92 years old, delights in her membership of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association.

Since these reminiscences were sent to us another landmark stands out for Miss Tulloh. In 1894 she had tea with Florence Nightingale and received a bouquet from her. On Thursday, 27th September last, she entertained Anna Neagle, who with her husband, Mr. Herbert Wilcox, came specially to see and talk to Miss Tulloh at St. Faith's Nursing Home, Boscombe, and to bring her a beautiful bouquet of roses and gladioli. Miss Tulloh, in return, gave Anna Neagle a Victorian posy of yellow rosebuds and talked of pioneer military nursing. "A wonderful old lady—it was a very great privilege to meet her," the screen's Lady of the Lamp said. (A photograph of this occasion is given.)

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## *A Message to Members*

MAY I remind you of our Friends Scheme, formed to extend a friendly hand to old, sick and lonely members.

To make this scheme efficient we need the assistance of active members who are willing to visit these ladies, as we feel that only by personal contact can our object be achieved. If you can help in this way I shall be very grateful if you will send me your name and address and the area in which you can visit.

ELIZABETH H. MILLS (A1693)  
*Friends Secretary.*



# Sports Notes

## *Canal Zone*

In August mention was made of some of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. taking part in sporting events. Further details have come to hand: Major A. M. Hey, Captains I. G. Mitchell and C. B. McKerron were in the Army Women's Tennis team, and Pte. E. Whitehouse was a member of the successful Army Women's Swimming team which beat the W.R.A.F. Captain B. M. Gordon was in the Army Women's Cricket team.

It is hoped to raise a complete Q.A.R.A.N.C. team to play against the W.R.A.C. in netball for the coming season.

## *Eastern Command*

Pte. E. M. Radford, from Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, having obtained fourth place in free-style 50 metres and second place in the Inter-District Relay at the District Swimming Championships, was entered for the Army Swimming Championships, 1951.

## *Southern Command*

This year for the first time Q.A.R.A.N.C. officers and other ranks have competed together against the W.R.A.C. in the Command Swimming Trials. They have acquitted themselves with zeal and determination, and their efforts were crowned with success. There were four events in which women competed, and the results were most commendable, Captain B. J. Rattee, holder of the Q.A. Swimming Cup, being first in the 100 yards free style; Pte. A. M. Rowcroft second in 100 yards breast stroke, second in running dives, second in 100 yards back stroke; Pte. V. Leighton first in 100 yards breast stroke. In the inter-unit Medley Relay Race the Depot won the event by a narrow margin from the 10th H.A.A., W.R.A.C.

## *Army Swimming Championships, 1951*

In the women's event held at Aldershot, 27th-30th August, Pte. A. M. Rowcroft, Southern Command, took third place in the 66 $\frac{2}{3}$  yards back stroke.

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Q.A.R.A.N.C. hope that another year with more training and facilities, the efforts and successes made this year will be increased and that more Q.A.R.A.N.C. detachments will join the other Women's Services in all forms of competitive sport.

# Korean Comments

EXTRACTS FROM letters home from a member's stepson, a young officer serving in Korea with 1st Commonwealth Division.

8th August, 1951.—We moved up from Puson just after I had written to you last, that was great fun. The move took about a week altogether, and the number of our vehicles which broke down on these ghastly Korean roads was fantastic. During the move I was always on the "recce" party, which was grand; it meant that not being in a convoy we could travel much faster and we always moved a day before the rest of the party. We have now been a couple of weeks in this final position, twenty-odd miles north of Seoul. The camp is in the hills and there are only two roads—a crazy switchback road up from M.S.R. and an even worse road forward to the brigade. The first thing they did on arrival was to have a three-day scheme which was abandoned after two days, as the Staff could not cope.

Then there was a ceremonial parade—no kidding—a whole Engineer Squadron was employed in making the parade ground, and we even had to polish our boots—after this we really settled down to hard work. We are the only cable troops in the Signal Regt., but lines are used far more than wireless, so you can imagine what it was like. Line after line went out, that was work enough, maintaining the lines was even worse. Everything that can happen to a line does happen in this country. A few days ago I was so tired, through being out on the lines all the time, that I fell asleep driving my jeep and hit a 10-ton American lorry—got off without a scratch, but you should have seen my jeep!

Then I actually got a couple of nights' rest, and it looked as if things would settle down at last. What a hope! Four nights ago I was up until 5 a.m. on a faulty line. Next night we had a flood while I was out on a fault. I bogged one vehicle getting back and had to walk up the hill two miles through a river, which was what the road had become; then I tried to get down in another vehicle to get the first one out, and that got bogged as well. When I eventually got back to my camp the tent was down, the camp was three feet deep in water, and next morning the camp was a lake except in places where it was a foaming river, most of the tents were down and the vehicles out of action, and both exits to the camp had been washed away. To add to my troubles, I was duty signal officer next night—that is the body who stays up in the signal office all night to ensure that there is no delay in traffic. Yesterday and last night I at last had a bit of rest. It did not last long. This morning I had to go out with a party laying a line fourteen miles long over the mountains on foot. Boy, did that exercise take it out of me? But it is not quite finished yet, and I have to go out and finish it tomorrow.

14th August, 1951.—I am now duty signal officer again, so am seizing the chance of writing to you while I have time. You will have seen

from my last letter how busy I was up till that time, and life has been considerably more fun, but not less hectic since then. I will try and tell you some of what has happened.

A few days ago it was decided that a line laid across the mountains, far from villages and camps, roads and paddy fields, would be just about fault-free. The job of laying that line was naturally given to me. For three days we climbed up and down these great mountains, but when we reached our destination the thing would not work until we had spent another day repairing seven faults on it. All the same it was great fun, in spite of the bodies lying about the hills from previous battles. Once a corporal gaily tugged at a piece of American cable near the route—and found it tied to the pin of a grenade ten feet away! Once we got lost in the mountains at night in a storm, scared stiff of being shot-up by Chinese guerrillas or trigger-happy Yanks. One day we left our arms behind to be able to climb better. Suddenly, we heard hell break loose behind us, and what with machine-gun fire and screams—we did not wait but, like good linesmen, carried on laying in the opposite direction. Later that morning we missed one of our Korean porters who had been carrying cable for us. A few hours later we met up with the O.C. and a troop of chaps so heavily armed they could hardly walk. They had come out to retrieve our bodies following the news by the missing porter that we had all been ambushed and slain in the mountains. The other day, after the Koreans had cut out several lengths of the line to use as clothes lines, I took an interpreter and visited each house along the route in turn. At each step we painted a gory picture of what would happen to the villagers, their houses and their womenfolk if our cables were cut again, whilst I occasionally added weight to the interpreter's words by discharging my pistol into the air (the only thing I could be sure of hitting). The Koreans were quite entertained by our little act; the only people who were impressed were three young Korean girls who, when I fired my pistol, promptly fell on their knees and implored me not to kill them. I felt quite a bully. That night the line went out again! However, the line has been in for over twenty-four hours now, longer than any line we have laid in this country yet. Now we have run short of poles. You will never guess who has been given the job of cutting down trees and bringing them down from the mountains. Old Clod—again.

I have also been made unit Education Officer, but who I educate, and how, I am not at all sure. C—— thinks it the greatest joke that the appointment of Education Officer has been given to the "dimpest clot in the unit." Every morning I look in my mirror for signs of the nervous breakdown which will get me repatriated to England, but I am depressed to find that I look fitter and more weather-beaten every day.

*2nd September.*—Life as usual has been moving pretty fast for me here, though I have not been so busy as when I last wrote you all, which must be nearly two weeks ago. I think I told you that my

O.C. was doing a job taking lines across the Imjin river ; it was pretty difficult and quite exciting, not so much because of the enemy, although the Imjin is north of our Komson line of defence. We have a number of outposts north of the river, and that part of "no man's land" is virtually held by us by reason of our vigorous patrolling and by the hills south of the river being part of the Komson line. The difficulties were caused by the river, 300 yards wide, 14 feet deep, and with an extremely strong and swift current—in fact, it is only just navigable by the ferry, and impossible to swim (so the R.Es. on the ferry said). But they could not keep me out of it for long, and the last lines were left for me to put across. For two days we worked with nothing more exciting than our own guns firing salvos over our heads. The third day we were rewarded by some excitement at last.

We were wading out into the river with our cable when the two leading men got swept away by the current ; one of them, of course, was your son. My linesmen still tells the story of how 2/Lieut. —, as he was swept down the river, would every now and then pause in his striving to reach the bank in order to settle his beret more firmly on his head, but actually there came a moment of panic when, after minutes that seemed hours, I found I was down river 440 yards and yet still no closer to the bank—moreover, I was fully dressed even to my boots and was very near exhaustion. However, I eventually made the opposite bank only half a mile down from where I started, and I emerged from the water still dressed as an officer should be, though somewhat damp. After that I chased the other drowning man down the river in great anxiety, as he was howling mournfully for help and kept on disappearing for long periods under the water. In the end he also made the bank about a mile or so from where we were swept off, and I found that the reason for his disturbing antics in disappearing from view, was that he had kept diving down to try and get his boots off !

For the last week my talents have been employed as a woodcutter, and I have been in charge of a project for cutting down hundreds of fir-trees as telegraph poles. As a result of this my hands are now covered with blisters, my shoulders with bruises from carrying tree trunks, and there is a large bump on my head where it came into sharp contact with a falling tree. To help me I had a Korean civil labour platoon with two Korean full lieutenants and a sergeant, and it gave me great pleasure to supply my seniors with axes and make them work as well—much against their principles and inclinations.

*18th September.*—About ten days ago I had to put four lines across the river at a different place than before, just north of the 38th Parallel. Previously we had taken a week to put four lines over the river, but this was an emergency and we were given a day to do it in. We did it, and it was quite an exciting day into the bargain ; the artillery were firing over our heads throughout the operation, and at one stage a squadron of fighters came over to strafe and rocket something on the other side of the hill ahead of us. Finally, as we were finishing the

job, a section of infantry mortars came up to the south bank and also joined in the battle, so I guess something was happening pretty close, but it was a pretty one-sided affair as the Communists have very little in the way of artillery.

That same evening the Australian Regiment crossed the river into "no man's land" and the battle really started. Later that night they were joined by the K.S.L.I., and next day the K.O.S.B. also crossed.

Next day, also, one whole troop moved up to start on the lines to our present Div. H.Q., just south of the river. The move up was great fun. Anybody who saw the show and discipline of the regiment's move up from Puson would have been a little startled by the Cable Troop's idea of a convoy. The O.C. kept in the lead simply by virtue of having the fastest jeep and being unhampered by a trailer. Everywhere else in the convoy 15-cwt. line trucks skidded past lumbering 3-ton stores trucks and were passed themselves by jeeps with trailers lurching along behind.

Two days after our move up the rest of the Division moved up, and also a second brigade is across the river. As you can well imagine, the last ten days have been a nightmare of laying lines and faulting them when they went out, but now things seem fairly static again.

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## Book Review

PETER LOVEGROVE's history of the Royal Army Medical Corps and entitled "Not Least in the Crusade" deserves close reading by all ranks of the Nursing Service. Within eighty-one pages and three appendices he has written an enthralling account of medical organization from the Roman Medicus Ordinarius to the formation of the Corps as it is now, and very appropriately finishes with the speech given by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of her visit to the Depot and Training Establishment at Crookham for the Golden Jubilee celebrations in June, 1948.

Peter Lovegrove writes vividly, clearly and effectively, and I was so absorbed in the story that I did not put the book down until I had finished it.

The book is well printed by Gale & Polden, price cloth 5s., paper 1s. 6d., and the photographs are exceedingly good. It is an ideal book to take with one on a train journey.

ANNE HUMPAGE (L354).

# Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.)

THE Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) is the reconstituted Territorial Army Nursing Service, the change in title following on the formation of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps as a corps of the Regular Army.

The Colonel-in-Chief of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) is Her Majesty Queen Mary. Responsibility for organization, administration and training is vested in the Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services, War Office, under the control of the Director-General, Army Medical Services.

The Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) is formed for the purpose of maintaining an establishment of fully trained nursing officers who are prepared to undertake full military service at home or overseas in time of national emergency. During peace, nursing officers will be posted to and train with particular medical units, but in war they will be available for posting to medical units according to the requirements of the Service. Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Associations are responsible for the recruitment of nursing officers for the Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.).

A minimum of eight days' annual training is obligatory. This will be by attendance at the annual training of the unit when practicable, otherwise officers will be detailed for attendance at a hospital or other selected institution. There may also be voluntary annual training consisting of attendance at the unit training periods, when officers will be encouraged to play an active part in the training of the unit nursing orderlies. In addition, officers will, if possible, attend a basic or appropriate course of instruction at the Depot Q.A.R.A.N.C. or other training establishment.

Officers recommended for promotion to higher ranks will be expected to undergo periodical training in military nursing administration at large military hospitals and/or Command Headquarters. These courses may be counted as alternative to annual training, where it has not been possible for an officer to attend the camp. A Depot course would include some drill and touch on such subjects as uniform, comparative ranks, officer and mess procedure, military hospital organization (general and in the field), diets, forms, etc., nursing orderly training, military law, Q. organization and R.E. services, other ranks' welfare, pay, clothing, kit inspections.

Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) other ranks are also to be employed in limited substitution of R.A.M.C./R.A.D.C. (T.A.) other ranks in general hospitals and casualty clearing stations in the Territorial Army. They will be posted within vacancies to and remain during unembodied service with the unit of their choice while serving in the Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) They will be required to undergo the same obligatory annual training as male other ranks in the Territorial Army, following briefly the outline of the pattern of training of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. other ranks.

Dear Member, I am appealing to you to assist me by paying your Annual Subscriptions to the Association and Gazette as early as possible. Many members still owe

for 1950 & 1951. May I suggest that it would save you and us a great deal of trouble, & the Association much expense, if you were to write to your bank authorising them to pay the amounts (7/6) to us on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year.

If this is not possible, would you consider sending us your subscriptions for both membership & Gazette for several years in advance.

I would like to report a completely paid-up membership list at the next Annual General Meeting in March. Do please help me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Humphreys  
Membership Secretary.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1951.

# News From Here And There

## *Catterick Camp*

An outstanding feature of the Catterick Fair, 1951, was the performance of a pageant, "The Gentle Sex," by officers and other ranks of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and the Women's Royal Army Corps stationed at Catterick.

The pageant illustrated the part played by women in the Army from the time of Boadicea to the present day and followed their progress from the insignificance of camp followers to that of commissioned officers of the Women's Services recognized as an integral part of the modern Army.

It was performed in an open arena with a small stage lit by arc lights, the players appearing in turn and passing across the arena to take their place on the stage, whilst the relevant history was read by an unseen officer of the W.R.A.C. with a loudspeaker.

The Q.A.R.A.N.C. officers and other ranks were indeed proud to be able to portray the notable part played by women in nursing the sick and wounded and the gradual development of their present Corps from the little band of nurses taken out to Scutari by Florence Nightingale in 1854. Much time and thought was taken in collecting uniforms from past and present members of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. and Q.A.R.A.N.C., and the red cape and white apron certainly lent colour to the rather sombre grey and khaki of the other players.

The part of Florence Nightingale was played by L./Cpl. I. E. Short, a very dignified performance of the Lady of the Lamp, followed by her three nurses, Pte. J. A. Bell, Pte. L. M. Scott and Pte. L. Chambers, walking sedately along, with red nightingales over their arms, dressed in blue with white aprons and mob caps and chatelains—a neat contrast to the rather gaudy camp followers, with their bundles of washing, who had preceded them across the arena.

Next came the first sisters of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, formed in 1902 from the Army Nursing Service of 1881. Lieut. A. Trimble looked very attractive wearing the original bonnet of Dame Sidney Browne, of grey straw with velvet trimming; a long grey dress and red cape completed the outdoor uniform of those days; whilst Lieut. A. Roberts, in grey cotton dress and apron almost to the ground, represented the sister working in the wards. Lieut. M. Holt made a gay figure as a sister of the Boer War, complete with straw boater, white apron, red cape and red and white parasol. The latter proved most useful in keeping off the familiar rain of Catterick rather than the imagined sun of a South African sky!

The period 1919 to 1939 must have brought back many memories to older members of the Service amongst the audience: the grey and scarlet costume with white shirt-blouse and grey felt hat worn by Lieut. E. Kilduff, and the neat indoor uniform with white collar,



cuffs and apron worn by Lieut. D. C. H. Andrews. The grey satin Mess kit, with scarlet cape and organdie cap worn by Lieut. M. Rogerson added a distinctive note to this little group of "ladies of the Q.A.I.M.N.S.", whilst the white tropical uniform with red epaulets, worn by Captain D. M. Marshall, served as a reminder that of the six hundred and twenty sisters then on the strength, a large number were serving overseas, especially in India.

The last period, from 1939 to the present day, which saw so many significant changes in the Nursing Service, if not so colourful, at least showed that the sisters had proved themselves worthy to be accepted as officers of the British Army and to serve with the Army under the arduous conditions of war and the rigours of tropical climates. Gone was the white apron, no longer a practical proposition, and nursing officers donned khaki battledress or uniform more suited to the theatre of war in which they served. Lieut. M. A. Culshaw, in khaki battledress and slacks, boots and tin hat, represented the nursing officer in the casualty clearing stations and field hospitals. Captain C. Lynch wore the grey dress and red cape of base hospitals and home, and Lieut. M. Dixon the khaki shirt and bush jacket of the tropics. Finally, Lieut. H. Saich, wearing the new No. 1 Dress of grey and scarlet, accompanied by Pte. J. S. McLoughlin in the smart indoor uniform of pale grey dress with brass buttons and small white cap of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. other ranks, marched across the arena to the tune of the Q.A. march, "Grey and Scarlet."

The Q.A. flag, lent by the Commandant of the Depot, was flown from a mast on the stage—the first time it had been unfurled in Catterick—and so was completed the story of the Q.A.R.A.N.C., now a recognized Corps complete with officers and other ranks under their Colonel-in-Chief, H.M. Queen Mary.

Interspersed with the part played by the gentle sex in the Nursing Service was that of the part they played in the other Women's Services: the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry of 1907, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps of 1914, and the Auxiliary Territorial Service of 1938, were all ably portrayed by officers and other ranks of the W.R.A.C.

The 1939-51 period illustrated very well the magnificent part played by the A.T.S. in all arms of the Service—as ambulance drivers, cooks, clerks, signallers, anti-aircraft squads and in many other capacities. The first R.A.M.C. women doctors were not forgotten, nor the V.A.Ds. of the British Red Cross Society and St. John, who gave such valuable help in military hospitals during the War.

The pageant ended with a march past of all the performers led by Boadicea in her chariot, with a squad of Q.A.R.A.N.C. and W.R.A.C. other ranks bringing up the rear, followed by their officers in grey and scarlet and bottle-green respectively, whilst a military band played in the distance.

So ended a most memorable occasion, marred only by a down-pour of rain, which however did not dampen the enthusiasm of the

players who, true to the discipline of their Corps, continued under adverse conditions though many of the spectators sought refuge under the dripping awnings of the surrounding tents.

EVELINE M. C. ROWSTON (L221).

#### *Field of Remembrance*

Arrangements were made for the Army Nursing Service plot on the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. These included the laying of wreath crosses bearing the badges of Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve and T.A.N.S., the Association's tribute to those who gave their lives, also one in memory of the V.A.Ds., and a group of representative Association members attended the service on 7th November and afterwards placed individual crosses in token of remembrance of their friends who once served with them or, for the young Q.A. of today, her homage was in honour of those who gave all in carrying out the ideals of the great Corps to which she now proudly belongs.

#### *Association Christmas Cards*

Insufficient inquiries were received to make the suggestion of having Association Christmas Cards a practical one. Applicants were informed that the proposal could not be carried out.

#### *Army Sisters Memorial Fund*

The Secretary of the above Fund gives the information that the script of the Memorial Book, written by Ian Hay, has now been handed to the publishing agent. This book, which is the story of the Army Nursing Service, has been written to commemorate the sisters who gave their lives during World War II. Further details later.

#### *Gazette Cover Design*

There has been very little response to the request for designs for the GAZETTE cover so far. It has been agreed that up to five guineas will be offered in prizes to those whose designs are accepted wholly or in part.

#### *Stars of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Depot*

After considerable hard work and many evenings spent in rehearsing, members of the R.A.M.C. Dramatic Society, Crookham, aided by members of the Q.A.R.A.N.C., Hindhead, produced a revue, "Get Hold of It." Two performances were given, one at Crookham and one at Hindhead.

The show was ably devised and produced by Sergt. Gerry Kemp and L./Cpl. David Kelsey, R.A.M.C., and was accompanied by the R.A.M.C. band, under its director, Captain L. D. Brown, at the Crookham performance.

It opened with a lively chorus, called "Vitality," by "the boys and girls" (so called on the programme!).

The R.A.M.C. produced most of the items, but the Q.As. received

overwhelming applause each time they appeared, and made a great success of their numbers, particularly "Three Little Girls are We" (apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan) and a song about the Q.A. Depot—several of our sergeants did not escape without the odd caustic remark. L./Cpl. MacDonald, dressed as a hula-girl, caused much laughter by several times running across the stage, pursued by a caveman armed with grass shears. A mock Orderly Room was appreciated by all ranks.

The Q.As. looked charming and produced some sweet though rather weak voices. They had made a lot of their own costumes, which were a great credit to them.

Thanks are due to Captain Howells and the Entertainment Officer, R.A.M.C., who had the bright idea of the combined show.

The Q.A.R.A.N.C. members of the cast were: Sergt. G. Bailey, L./Cpl. M. MacDonald, Ptes. R. S. O'Brien, T. P. Tindale, P. Comer, M. A. Arnison, M. M. M. Roberts, I. R. Barwick and I. Rosser.

### *Johore, Malaya*

I can truly say with the psalmist, "the lines have fallen to me in pleasant places." I am very much enjoying Malaya—even under the present difficult situation due to bandits. This is a small hospital, 150 beds, but work comes in spasms when bandit casualties roll in, and what narrow escapes some of our troops have. One lad recently had one bullet enter his head at the back, groove the mastoid bone without breaking it and come out through the ear. He also had a second bullet enter his neck/shoulder and go down to the end of the scapula—resting over the heart, but not touching it. We were able to extract this and give it to him as a souvenir!

Just this last Sunday we had two casualties brought in—one, a British officer in the Gurkha Regiment, had a bullet go through his head at the back, from ear to ear, and do little damage; the other, a Gurkha other rank, had a bullet wound in the top of his head fracturing his skull, but not damaging the brain below.

We are in real bandit country, and most days planes come over and bomb the jungle around. As we are on a hill, we get quite a good view. The planes love to fly low over the hospital, and the Gurkha up-patients go out on the verandas to cheer them.

A 7 p.m. curfew is a blight on evening parties, and the Clubhouse is usually deserted shortly after 6.30 p.m. The town is definitely pro-bandit, but all this adds to the interest of life. The train (we have only one a day now, and it *is* a day train, no night travelling these times) is derailed at least once a week—usually oftener—so our mail is a bit uncertain.

We have just acquired a game of Canasta and hope to have several evenings of games.

My small amah presented me with a baby goldfish in a pickle jar of water this morning. It is quite fun to watch it swimming around

between a water fern. The jar stands on my desk, so that I can get the benefit of the flash of colour as the fish twists and turns in the water.

Another interest here is making a garden. Most of the plants are in pots to protect them from snails and caterpillars, and we get quite thrilled when a carnation or rose-bud opens, and even more so when a moonflower is in bloom for its one night of beauty. Another fascinating flower to watch is the Malayan Rose of Sharon, which is a cross between a hibiscus and a hollyhock. This bloom is pure white in the morning and as the day wears on it turns a soft pink and ends up a deep rose. The next day the flower withers, but a stem from a tree pushed into the ground will sprout on its own and will be flowering in a few weeks.

GRACE M. HOGG (LII3).

### *Royal College of Nursing*

We hear from the Secretary of the R.C.N. Educational Fund that Q.A.R.A.N.C. took a leading part in the work relevant to the presentation of the film première, "The Lady of the Lamp," in Malta, Hong Kong, and Singapore. In those three places the combined sum made was about £3,000—a gratifying result, which must be highly pleasing to those who gave such active help. The amount realized from the Commonwealth film première is in the region of £22,000, a substantial single contribution towards the target of half a million pounds for which the profession owes thanks to the well-known producer, Herbert Willcox, and his wife, Anna Neagle.

### *B.A.O.R.*

A fresh chapter has been added to the history of the British Army of the Rhine with the arrival in Germany in September of twenty-five other ranks, Q.A.R.A.N.C., all of whom are posted to the British Military Hospital, Iserlohn. These are the first Q.A. other ranks to go to the continent of Europe. Another draft is expected in Hamburg before the end of the year.

The interest the arrival aroused was clearly demonstrated when the whole party paraded that afternoon with the men of the R.A.M.C., whom they have come to join. The D.M.S. in B.A.O.R. welcomed the party, commending their smart turn-out and bearing on parade. One interested spectator was the Chief Nurse to the U.S.A. Army (European Command). They have no other ranks in their Nursing Corps.

The girls themselves seemed favourably impressed with their new life. They have all seen some service in military hospitals in England. The majority of them are very young; four are Scots, two Welsh, and the rest English. All are determined to make a success of their new career, through which they can, like the R.A.M.C. men, become State Registered Nurses.

# Promotions

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captain :

F. M. McDonnell, 8th July, 1951.

M. R. Fougere, 18th July, 1951.

B. James, 10th August, 1951.

The undermentioned Lieut.-Colonel to be Colonel :

C. M. Johnson, 19th August, 1951.

Other Ranks' promotions were as follows :

Pte. E. Woods to be Lance-Corporal, 5th September, 1951.

Pte. S. Rudd to be Lance-Corporal, 11th September, 1951.

Pte. M. Macdonald to be Lance-Corporal, 11th September, 1951.

Pte. P. Sutton to be Corporal, 11th September, 1951.

L./Cpl. B. Scott to be Corporal, 12th September, 1951.

L./Cpl. M. Cameron to be Corporal, 12th September, 1951.

Pte. P. Martin to be Lance-Corporal, 12th September, 1951.

L./Cpl. I. Short to be Corporal, 14th September, 1951.

It is regretted that we have no information *re* Other Ranks prior to September.

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## Examinations, May, 1951

(Continued from Gazette No. 7)

*Nursing Orderly, Class I.*—Cpl. M. Carey (Distinguished) and Cpl. B. Terry.

*Nursing Orderly, Class II.*—Cpl. J. McGrory, L./Cpl. P. Gibson, L./Cpl. A. L. Edwards, Ptes. L. Edgar, M. Foster, M. J. Lester, E. K. Gallant, G. H. Houston, I. Mallin, D. M. Whittingham.

*Nursing Orderly, Class III.*—L./Cpls. A. Dudley, B. Spreckley, E. Ingram; Ptes. J. Carrott, P. Malin, F. McLaurin, P. Scholey, J. Stallan, F. Sykes, J. M. Brant, J. M. Hills, A. Sacki, H. C. Pole, J. Makin, I. Brown, P. Quirke, J. Bell, D. Griffiths, L. Wilkinson, M. Lowrie, I. S. Powis, R. Redpath, M. Landale-Wilson, K. E. Pugh, A. J. Lawson, M. G. Marett, E. Newton, D. Sidaway, O. Stocker, E. Thomas, J. S. Arnold, A. Catherall, N. V. Berry, M. Scott, E. Goodson, M. J. Martin, J. Bingham-Hall, O. L. Childs, P. Sime, A. Bryan, B. Taylor, M. Cassar, D. M. O'Brennan, J. D. C. Pusey, M. B. J. Chynoweth, V. M. Montgomery and E. Brown.

*Passed Corporal's Course.*—Cpl. R. Gibson and L./Cpl. C. H. Houston.

## *Postings From and Reversions to Home Establishment, July to September, 1951*

(We offer apologies for dates given in heading of this item in No. 7 GAZETTE, which should have been April to June, 1951.)

### *To B.A.O.R.*

Major M. E. Lewis  
Captain W. Delany  
Captain J. M. S. Wilson  
Captain J. C. Clarke  
Captain C. W. A. Fawcett  
Lieut. J. Allott  
Lieut. D. I. M. Clifton  
Lieut. M. A. Butler  
Lieut. B. P. Wash  
Lieut. L. I. Lane  
Lieut. G. A. Foster  
Lieut. J. C. Ryder  
Lieut. E. Swinburne  
Lieut. W. Murray  
Lieut. C. M. Bayman  
Lieut. J. Reid  
Lieut. L. Christie  
Lieut. E. Evans  
Lieut. H. M. K. Fyffe  
Lieut. M. B. Uttley  
Lieut. I. F. Mackie  
Lieut. Layzell  
Lieut. M. E. Kidder  
Lieut. E. M. Longden

### *To West Africa*

Lieut. M. T. Anthony

### *To BETFOR*

Major M. H. Bettany  
Major D. W. Douglass  
Lieut. J. M. Blyther  
Lieut. G. Garnsworth  
Lieut. T. Brennan

### *To FARELF*

Lieut.-Colonel E. M. E. Dawe  
Captain A. M. Tully  
Captain J. C. Cross  
Captain M. R. Fougere  
Captain B. Mungouan  
Captain E. Donohue  
Lieut. P. M. Cheffings  
Lieut. F. Hyde  
Lieut. M. E. Blanchard  
Lieut. H. O'Dibiggye  
Lieut. C. E. L. Jones  
Lieut. M. H. Tyrer  
Lieut. C. G. Hampton  
Lieut. J. Smith  
Lieut. M. M. Adair

Lieut. M. H. Payne  
Lieut. R. E. Ruark  
Lieut. L. M. Pert  
Lieut. E. M. Sharp  
Lieut. M. M. De Merindol  
Lieut. J. A. Smart

### *To B.T.A.*

Major B. L. Ferrier  
Major D. I. L. Morris  
Lieut. J. M. Brooks  
Lieut. S. N. Cowling  
Lieut. D. Woods (838)  
Lieut. M. E. Pattenden

### *To M.E.L.F.*

Major E. M. Gaunt  
Major P. E. Wilkins  
Lieut. M. J. C. Hartgill  
Lieut. C. S. Nolan  
Lieut. M. Sheridan  
Lieut. M. M. Joy  
Lieut. J. M. Cairns  
Lieut. B. T. Small.

### *To Jamaica*

Lieut. B. Wood

### *From M.E.L.F.*

Lieut.-Colonel G. Cocking  
Captain C. P. Maudsley  
Captain M. A. Gara  
Captain B. C. Wharton  
Captain T. L. Jefferys-Edwards  
Lieut. D. I. M. Corbyn

### *From East Africa*

Captain E. J. Tooby  
Captain S. Rhys-Jones

### *From FARELF*

Major J. Brennan  
Captain E. A. Bassett  
Captain N. M. Kinsella  
Captain M. Simpson  
Captain A. Laursen  
Captain I. Corp  
Captain L. Crewe  
Captain D. David  
Lieut. M. P. A. Revell  
Lieut. E. Kerr  
Lieut. E. Christian  
Lieut. D. Hill

*From West Africa*

Lieut. F. R. M. Browning

*From BETFOR*

Major M. E. Mellor

OTHER RANKS

*To B.A.O.R.*

Cpl. J. McGrory

Cpl. M. Carey

Pte. A. Armstrong

Pte. E. Burdett

Pte. K. Berry

Pte. D. Brown

Pte. E. Bell

Pte. C. Baker

Pte. M. Carter

Pte. J. Egglestone

Pte. E. Ewen

Pte. R. Forshaw

Pte. I. Godwin

Pte. D. Gawne

Pte. M. Guy

Pte. J. Godden

Pte. J. Joynes

Pte. A. Moss

Pte. E. Plummer

Pte. N. Quinn

Pte. F. Rees

Pte. D. Sideway

Pte. E. Scott

Pte. S. Stannard

Pte. I. Smith

*T.O.S. from M.E.L.F. (Depot)*

Pte. P. Davies

Pte. A. Williams

It is regretted that we have no information *re* Other Ranks prior to September.

## Nuffield Club

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Accommodation cannot be booked in advance unless the officer is already a member, but any officer serving overseas may write to the Club asking for a reservation if they state they will become a member on arrival.

## Retirements and Resignations

Captain M. A. M. Saunders (*née* Cross), 21st June, 1951.

Captain N. E. Davenport, 29th June, 1951.

Lieut.-Colonel A. Rowlands and Captain U. M. Watson (*née* Cox)  
30th June, 1951.

Major E. R. Buckley, 3rd August, 1951.

Colonel E. E. Watkin, 19th August, 1951.

Lieut.-Colonel F. M. Lowther, 26th August, 1951.

Captain K. S. Morris, 5th September, 1951.

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## Finale For "Confused Male"

Your reply, dear lambs, filled us with glee,  
We roused you like a Bumble Bee,  
You've hummed and droned and almost stung,  
And from our lips a reply you've wrung.

A rose whatever name we say  
Is just as sweet and fair and gay,  
With this in mind we rightly claim  
We'll still be "Nurse" to those in pain.

You've got your majors taped all right,  
And with this strata we won't fight,  
We'll flatter them with women's guile  
And salute your Brass Hats with a smile.

Eve used the apple as a bait,  
And Adam fell—you know his fate!  
We used our rank instead of fruit,  
It seems with Eve's good aim we shoot.

And so to end on lively note—  
And stop this nonsense—we all vote  
Your arms will still be our defence  
And ours, we hope, your recompense.

MARY J. SCANNELL (L359)



# Friends, Please Note

## Marriages

- SCOTT-PETTMAN.—On 10th August, in West Africa, Mr. K. B. Scott to Mary E. Pettman (Q.A. Reserve), A2030.
- BELL-MEDD.—On 18th August, Mr. P. O. Bell to Norah Hunter Medd (Q.A. Reserve), A472.
- HOLROYD TAYLER-DAVIES.—On 30th August, at Eastbourne, Major H. L. Holroyd Tayler to Betty Davies, Lieutenant, Q.A.R.A.N.C., A1413.
- BROCK-JOSLIN.—On 1st September, Mr. G. Brock to L./Cpl. S. Joslin, Q.A.R.A.N.C. A2143.
- CAWOOD-NELLIST.—On 3rd September, Cpl. D. Cawood (R.A.M.C.), to Sergt. D. E. Nellist, Q.A.R.A.N.C. A2394.
- ROBSON-DUNN.—On 8th September, Mr. W. Robson to L./Cpl. F. Dunn, Q.A.R.A.N.C., A1996.
- BATEMAN-SCHOLT.—On 8th September, in London, Mr. Ian Bateman to Miss Elain H. Scholt, Lieutenant, Q.A.R.A.N.C., A771.
- GRIMMER-KAY.—On 15th September, Mr. N. Grimmer to Pte. H. Kay, Q.A.R.A.N.C.
- DOWLER-SCOTT.—On 22nd September, Mr. R. M. Dowler to Cpl. B. Scott, Q.A.R.A.N.C., A2403.
- PARKHOUSE-McMULLEN PEARSON.—On 6th October, at Keymer, Sussex, Lieut. J. W. Parkhouse to C. G. McMullen-Pearson, Lieutenant, Q.A.R.A.N.C., L239.
- VANN-STARLING.—On 6th October at Chatham, Capt. J. N. P. Vann, R.E., to Alma M. Starling, Lieut., Q.A.R.A.N.C., A1990.

## Deaths

We regretfully announce the following deaths :

- COLLINS, Pte. N. (Q.A.R.A.N.C.), at the Military Hospital, Moascar, on 10th August.
- MATTHEWS, Miss O. (Q.A. Reserve), at the Central Middlesex County Hospital, on 16th August, 1951.
- CARPENTER, Miss F. A. (Q.A. Reserve), at the Royal Free Hospital, on 8th September, 1951.
- JOHN, Lieut. Sybil (Q.A.R.A.N.C.), at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Millbank, on 21st September.
- NEVILLE, Miss Mary E. (Q.A.I.M.N.S.), on 21st September, 1951.
- McGREGOR, Mrs. E. N., *née* Trawford (Q.A. Reserve), in Iraq, recently.
- SIMMONDS, Miss Rose (Q.A. Reserve) at the London Hospital on 12th October, 1951.

A friend writes : "The news of the death of Lieut. Sybil John was received with great sadness by those who knew her. Mingled with this sadness, however, was a degree of happiness in that her sufferings

were now over—for she had suffered in these last few months of her short life—yet had shown to the world a quality of courage and faith which was the admiration and envy of all who came in contact with her.

“ ‘Johnny,’ as she was affectionately known, had in her short career in the Corps succeeded in making a niche all her own. She was the spirit of brightness and encouragement personified—the person has left us, the spirit will remain.”

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