



# The Gazette



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Nursing Services.*

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## EDITORIAL

THIS is Volume 3, No. 1, of the GAZETTE, and that in itself is something of a triumph. It certainly has not been easy during the seven years since we started, to maintain the flow of material for publication in the twenty-eight numbers comprising Volumes 1 and 2, and there have been countless other obstacles to surmount. The main point is, those obstacles have been surmounted, it is true leaving a chain of casualties strewn along the way, but here we are, facing Volume 3 full of vigour and hope.

We have a new Editor, new publishers, a revised badge design on the cover. Naturally we desire your co-operation, in fact nothing can be done without it. You know what you would like to see in the GAZETTE. Help us to produce it. We think the type of article is not varied enough. You also know what has not pleased you in the GAZETTE in the past. Help us to improve both production and distribution, and here most of you need to be very honest with yourselves. Not all the blame lies with us!

The past is past and we look forward to the future. There are to be three GAZETTE issues in the year: March, July and November. This decision was taken rather than increase the subscription which remains as before. For the convenience of members advance sums against subscriptions may be paid if wished, but there is now no guarantee of a static subscription from one year to the next. The membership subscription includes the GAZETTE. No one may be accepted otherwise, as a member, unless application is made through the "Shared GAZETTE Scheme" for non-earning members in special circumstances.

This eighth year of the GAZETTE is the start of the second cycle of life for it. Do let us all pull together this year and make a real success of our journal.

Talking of the GAZETTE staying the course reminds one of our Administrator. She too has stayed the course. Through fair weather

and foul she has been at the helm of the Association since its inception in 1949, Editor on many occasions, or in fact anything that turned up—general factotum, guide, philosopher and friend. Our gratitude to her is sincere and we wish to record it here at the beginning of what we hope is a fresh and ever more successful phase.

### THE 300th ANNIVERSARY OF THE STANDING ARMY

THE Royal Hospital, Chelsea, was floodlit and so even the approach to it took on the form of a great welcome. It was a wonderful occasion, a dinner given by the Army in honour of Her Majesty The Queen, and celebrating the Standing Army's 300th Anniversary.

Accompanied by our Colonel Commandant, Brigadier Dame Helen S. Gillespie, and the Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps, Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, both of whom were resplendent in evening dress, miniatures and decorations, we arrived in a large staff car at the North Entrance to the Evans Ward where we were received by a Sergeant W.R.A.C., who conducted us to the vestry, which had been given over to the three of us as our Powder Room, quite an innovation I gather! As this was the very first occasion our Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers' Mess Dress was worn, every item just had to be perfection, so with augulettes adjusted on scarlet satin jacket, buttons in line, seams of scarlet satin cummerbund in line with side seams of black satin skirt, I sallied forth, feeling extremely proud of my uniform and the great honour of being a member of such a distinguished company representing all regiments of the Army and the Commonwealth, in the presence of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth II and many members of the Royal Family.

We were escorted to the Council Chambers where so many high-ranking Army officers were assembled, all wearing their Mess dress, scarlet predominating, but many tartan kilts also. Eight former Secretaries of State for War were present, the Minister of Defence, the First Sea Lord, the Secretary for Air and many past and present senior members of the Civil Service in evening dress, all mustering many Orders, Decorations and Medals.

Pre-dinner drinks were brought round and between greetings of old friends one tried to take in all the splendour of this beautiful panelled room, rich with portraits of many previous Governors and benefactors of this ancient hospital. The Band of the Royal Artillery played in the wide passage-way outside the Council Chambers during this period.

About 8.15 p.m. we were all ushered along the Evans Ward, Colonnade and Vestibule to the Great Hall. This was the royal route so the grand old men, the Chelsea Pensioners, were proudly standing there as alert and upright as they must have done years ago, and still very much "The Soldiers of the Queen."

There were also huge floral arrangements carried out in yellow, gold and bronze alternating with some of the magnificent centre pieces of Regimental silver loaned for this special occasion.

On the top steps leading down to the Chapel were the State Trumpeters ready to herald Her Majesty's arrival at the Colonnade and the band of the Scots Guards were in the vestibule outside the Great Hall.

We took our appointed places at the dining tables and on the fanfare being sounded we faced inwards towards the centre of the room. The two Queen's Ghurka Orderly Officers came round, one each side of the entrance, and slow-marched up to take their places behind the top table. Within a few moments in a profound silence Her Majesty the Queen entered the Great Hall, wearing a beautiful gold and silver brocade dress, a glittering figure shimmering with diamonds and wearing the blue riband of the Order of the Garter, and escorted by Mr. Hare, the Secretary of State for War. After a few seconds Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother entered, looking as radiant as ever, attended by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer. Then our Colonel-in-Chief Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret appeared, escorted by Field Marshal Lord Ironside, and she looked across and gave a special smile of recognition and, I would say, approbation, for the appearance of our new Mess dress. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Princess Royal and the Duchess of Kent all followed, each attended by a Field Marshal.

When all were assembled, the Chaplain General moved out to the centre and said Grace. The company were then seated, the bright lights faded out, and the Great Hall was aglow with the lights of myriads of white candles burning in the magnificent silver candelabra, loaned for the occasion by the Regimental Messes throughout the United Kingdom. On the tables were many other beautiful silver centre-pieces, cups, statuettes, etc., regimental treasures going back to the beginning of the nineteenth century. We were able to lend from the Corps for the occasion one centre-piece, a silver cup with Flying Angel on top, presented to our Depot by the R.A.M.C., and a silver cigarette box engraved Q.A.R.A.N.C., the property of the Headquarter Mess.

After an excellent dinner, supplied and served by our renowned N.A.A.F.I., the Queen's health was drunk, and then Mr. John Hare, the Secretary of State for War, made a speech and much to our delight at the commencement made a reference to two Corps in which Her Majesty has special interest, *viz.*, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and the Women's Royal Army Corps.

Her Majesty graciously replied and gave an inspiring address, ending with a quotation from Sir John Fortescue: "The British Army will be remembered best, not for its surpassing valour and endurance, not for its countless deeds of daring and its invincible stubbornness in battle but for its lenience in conquest and its

gentleness in domination." "I take great pride in the Army," the Queen said, "and in these words which I know to be as true now as when they were written." Her Majesty then asked the assembled company to rise and drink to the health of the Army.

The Royal Procession left the Great Hall for the State Dining Room where the presentations were to be made, and the guests returned to the Council Chambers.

A most beautiful floral arrangement of orchids and pink roses from "The Army of the Commonwealth" formed a wonderful background for our Queen in the State Dining Room.

The Colonel Commandant of our Corps and I had the honour of being presented to our Colonel-in-Chief, who expressed her great pleasure at seeing the new Mess kit worn in public for the first time and to quote her own words "it really is grand."

When Her Majesty the Queen was about to leave, most of the 175 guests spontaneously went outside and lined the drive to bid farewell and to show our loyalty and affection to our Royal guests in the truly British manner, and we were well rewarded by the warmth of the smiles and waves we received in return.

The last banquet of this kind was held in 1852, so the privilege and memory of this memorable occasion is one which will indeed last a life time.

C. MONICA JOHNSON, L.515.

## FROM HERE AND THERE

### **A.M.D.4 War Office**

A Christmas Card bearing the Corps ribbon and Christmas Greetings was sent to Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, Colonel-in-Chief Q.A.R.A.N.C., with the hand-painted picture enclosed of a Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S., 1902, similar to that used for the Corps card. Her Royal Highness desired her sincere thanks to be conveyed to all ranks with every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

### **Lest We Forget**

November 11th, 1956. Somewhere in Africa a small contingent of ex-Servicemen and women paraded at the war memorial, and after the final notes of the Last Post had echoed across the veldt, wreaths were laid by representative bodies. A beautiful wreath of red and white flowers with the Corps colours was given pride of place for the Q.A.R.A.N.C.

N. P. DE BAMPTON, L.8.

### **B.M.H. Benghazi**

Very little has happened over the past few weeks due of course to a certain Colonel—his name cannot be mentioned.

He caused leave to be cancelled and many social activities were curtailed. Even so, this gentleman has not killed the Christmas



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spirit which is building up all around. As usual prizes are given for the best decorated wards, so competition is keen.

Entertainment for the patients is well under way. Major Coppack is producing two short plays, ably supported by Unit talent. Darts and various competitions are being organised by the Welfare department. Carols will be sung by hospital staff only this year, the Garrison Church is unable to help us.

Miss Ruby Murray visits Benghazi over the Christmas period, and we hope she will visit the wards.

Major P. M. Moran recently joined the Unit from Malta, Capt. C. Shaw and Capt. J. P. Parker from Cyprus, Capt. E. O. Caley and Lieut. D. M. Walsh from U.K.

Lieut. M. Turner, ex-Q.A.R.A.N.C., stayed in the Mess for a couple of weeks before her marriage to Capt. Peter Kruger, R.A.M.C., on September 18th. In spite of the sticky heat the bride managed to look cool and most attractive.

An inter-Unit quiz is held weekly and broadcast by F.B.S. The Q.A.R.A.N.C. team, consisting of Capt. Shaw, Lieut. Goodey, Pte. Tallis and Pte. Sutherland, made a good fight before being beaten by R.E.M.E.

Radio Tombola, which takes place every Saturday evening, is most popular. Proceeds are distributed among the various charities. In December £25 was donated to the Benghazi Branch of the Q.A. Association. This has already been forwarded to H.Q.

The Q.A.R.A.N.C. hockey team was challenged by the R.A.M.C. The Q.A.'s beat the R.A.M.C. 2-1.

The hospital has been honoured by a visit from Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador in Libya, who later had tea in the Officers' Mess. Mrs. Graham, wife of the Ambassador, visited the hospital next day, toured the wards and later visited the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Other Ranks billets.

Now the cooler weather is here Scottish dancing comes into its own again.

Fencing is one of the latest attractions, a club has been formed three miles from the Hospital.

Now that leave has been resumed all is well in Benghazi.

G. B. POWELL, L.196.

### **Corps Cocktail Party**

Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, Colonel-in-Chief Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, graciously consented to attend a Cocktail Party given by Brigadier C. M. Johnson, R.R.C., Q.H.N.S., Director of Army Nursing Services, and serving officers of the Corps, on October 30th, 1956.

The party was held in the Great Hall and Council Chamber of the Royal College of Surgeons, by kind permission of the President.

Some 250 guests were present and included Dame Helen S. Gillespie, D.B.E., R.R.C., Colonel Commandant, Q.A.R.A.N.C.,



and Sir Harry Platt, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Lieut. B. Terry, B.E.M., had the honour of presenting Her Royal Highness with a bouquet of scarlet carnations tied with a large bow in the Corps colours.

Miss E. P. McWilliam, Chairman of the Association, was one of the guests who had the honour of being presented to the Princess Margaret.

### **B.M.H. Nairobi**

On a clear, crisp Sunday morning in late October, members of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. and the R.A.M.C., together with other Army personnel, eagerly awaited the arrival of Her Royal Highness, the Princess Margaret, who, whilst making a grand tour of Mauritius, Zanzibar and East Africa, had so graciously consented to visit the Military Hospital and inspect the Q.A.R.A.N.C.

Amid brilliant sunshine, tempered by a cooling breeze, military families and administrative staff thronged the enclosures, mingling with their African counterparts, and important Army personnel with their families jostled one another for a favourable position in the grandstands.

In the foreground were the patients and young children from Families Ward, who eagerly clutched their flags, although many seemed in awe and a trifle apprehensive of such an occasion.

Beyond these enclosures, representatives of the world and local press waited impatiently in the stands, correcting and adjusting, and checking up on last minute details. To the side of the main Medical Ward the officers and other ranks of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. slowly filed into place, some a little nervous, but all very proud to be "viewed" on this occasion.

Towards the approach of mid-day, a hush of expectancy fell upon the waiting crowd, nervous chatter which rippled through the people, stopped as quickly as it had begun. Then the Royal car, with its pennant fluttering in the breeze, was seen approaching the hospital entrance. Here Her Royal Highness and retinue were greeted by the Matron, Lt.-Col. M. A. J. Condon, R.R.C., who conducted the Princess along the route lined by B.O.R's and A.O.R's of the unit; towards the African ward "Mara," where the nursing officer, Capt. B. Morgan, was presented. Her Royal Highness laughed and chatted to the patients, and was most interested in their general welfare and well-being. The patients replied to her questions, although many seemed in awe at seeing the beautiful white Princess so close at hand.

After a few moments the Princess left the ward, and returned along the route towards B.O.R's Medical Ward, where she alighted and faced a battery of press cameramen and amateur photographers. Here she paused and turned to smile at the children before entering the ward, which had been beautifully decorated for the occasion.



A FINAL INFORMAL WORD TO THE Q.A.R.A.N.C.

Major M. Murphy, Nursing Officer i/c of the ward, was presented and Princess Margaret talked to the patients. Meanwhile outside, all ranks of the Q.A.R.A.N.C., and representatives of the Association awaited the inspection which was to follow the visit to the ward. As Her Royal Highness emerged, once more she paused standing unruffled and with serene calm to receive the ovation from the excited crowds and once again the battery of cameras.

As the Princess walked down our ranks, she shook hands and exchanged little pleasantries with everyone. At her own request we all gathered around Her Royal Highness for an informal chat and turned what would have been a very formal ceremony into a delightful occasion.

As Her Royal Highness with her retinue left the Hospital and drove away along the route the crowds gave really hearty cheers; the children waved their flags and jumped about in excitement, their previous consternation and awe forgotten in the thrill of this great occasion.

As the car slowly withdrew, the flags which had hung limply and scarcely moved against their stands, shook themselves and unfurled in a gentle breeze as if to salute a beautiful and very happy Princess.

ELIZABETH ANNE KEATS.

## Editor

Please try and send GAZETTE news in time for it still to be of interest to members.

There is another matter—that of producing pictures. Unfortunately there is not always space for those sent in, and worse still, the number used has to be strictly limited on grounds of economy.

## Congratulations

To the following whose names appeared in the New Year Honours List:—

*R.R.C.*: Lt.-Col. G. M. Luxton (L.11), Major M. I. Newbury (L.244).

*A.R.R.C.*: Major V. A. M. M. Morgan (L.479).

*K.B.E.*: Lt.-Gen. W. A. D. Drummond, C.B., C.B.E., Q.H.S.,

F.R.C.S., D.L.O.

*M.B.E.*: Major H. J. Kirkwood (L.362).

## NO. 2 C.C.S. IN ACTION

The "Suez Crisis" started in July, 1956, and in August Reservists of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. were called forward, with serving officers, to help form various emergency medical units. These were Nos. 2 and 6 Casualty Clearing Stations, Nos. 4 and 5 General Hospitals, and, later, No. 40 General Hospital.

The reservists reported to the Depot on August 9th. They had come from all branches of the nursing profession and all parts of the British Isles. Initial documentation, medical examination and immunisation were completed. The serving officers reported on August 13th from various Military Hospitals in Great Britain and Germany. In spite of the enormous amount of extra work inflicted on them, the Depot staff gave us a kindly welcome and much helpful advice.

On the first evening there was a great reunion of friends and acquaintances, and much time was spent in comparing experiences. The following day the lists of officers appointed to each unit were published. We of No. 2 C.C.S. discovered that our Matron was Major E. F. Porritt, and her deputy Major K. M. Knowles. There were twenty-two Q.A.R.A.N.C. officers in all. Of these, three were regulars, nine held Short Service Commissions, seven were recalled from the Regular Army Reserve of Officers, and three were from the Army Emergency Reserve.

The next day we met our Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. F. J. W. Hooper, T.D., R.A.M.C., who gave us an outline of life in a C.C.S. We were reminded of the emergencies of war, and other factors of active service. The next few days were spent between the notice board—looking for the latest news; the Q.M. stores—drawing our tropical kit, and various offices—filling in forms.

Several reserve officers were posted for temporary duties to Military Hospitals so that they could renew their acquaintance

with Army ways. The remainder travelled daily to Mytchett to give nursing lectures to the R.A.M.C.

The days went by without any news of our departure for the Middle East. Then on August 29th we were warned for movement. The officers on temporary duties elsewhere were called back at once, and the equipment for Active Service was issued. Rising at 3 a.m. on the dark, wet morning of September 2nd, and after a very early breakfast, we were waved off by the Field Officer, the Holding and Drafting Officer and the baggage party, leaving the Depot in a very comfortable coach. This took us to London airport where a welcome cup of hot tea was served. The baggage was weighed and, after a rest, we boarded a Bristol Britannia turbo-prop air liner bound for Cyprus!

The journey was very comfortable indeed and seemed like a luxury tour. Food boxes, hot and cold drinks were provided by the stewards, and twenty cigarettes only cost a shilling! Each place of interest that we were due to pass over was announced in advance, so that our interest was kept alive throughout the flight. At first it was impossible to see anything but clouds. However, there was one last glimpse of England and the Channel. The plane crossed the French coast and after Paris the weather cleared. By the time the French Alps were reached the tiny villages nestling in the green foot hills could clearly be seen, and the view of Mont Blanc was wonderful. Our route then continued over Genoa, Turin, Rome, Naples, Capri, Corsica, Sicily, Crete—and so to Cyprus. On the way Mounts Vesuvius and Stromboli could be seen, with smoke curling from their craters. The Mediterranean looked as blue as the pictures in the travel brochures.

The plane touched down at Nicosia airport in the afternoon. Before alighting much amusement was caused by an airport official who came on board, shut the door firmly and proceeded to spray everyone and everything with some form of disinfectant. After flying at a great height it seemed exceedingly hot on first stepping out of the plane. Passing through the customs and exchanging our money we then travelled in a well guarded 'bus over dusty, bumpy roads to the B.M.H. Nicosia.

In the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers' Mess it was very nice to meet again the advance party of No. 5 General Hospital, who were due to join the rest of their unit at Limassol, and also the permanent staff. After forty-eight hours we were all posted to the B.M.H. Nicosia on temporary duties. The hospital was extremely busy, particularly with casualties from terrorist activities and accidents. During our stay in Nicosia the officers managed to see a good deal of the island. Although several were once very near to a bomb incident, a good deal of swimming and sun-bathing was enjoyed.

On November 5th we left B.M.H. Nicosia for Limassol, ready to move off to Egypt when our services were required. On November 23rd Major Porritt and eleven other officers left Akrotiri airfield

in a Valetta aircraft bound for Port Said leaving the remainder of our party at No. 5 General Hospital.

After a very warm welcome at El Gamil airport we were taken to our new quarters. These were on the top floor of the Lady Strangford British Hospital. This building faced the sea and was just across the road from the school which had been selected for the C.C.S. The Hospital had been badly damaged. At first it looked very draughty and unsafe, but within a short space of time the officers had settled themselves down in reasonable comfort. The ground floor was occupied by No. 4 Field Hygiene Section who very kindly acted as escorts for us when going on duty, as no one was allowed outside the gates unguarded. It was not practicable for us to have a Mess of our own and so we shared the R.A.M.C. Officers' Mess in the C.C.S.

In the evening we again met our Commanding Officer and the rest of the unit, and were then shown round the wards and departments of the hospital. The large classrooms were admirably suited for use as wards, and we were very impressed by the layout—and even more so by the fact that there were vases of flowers in every ward. The operating theatre had been set up in a large white-tiled room, and the O.T.T.1 Sgt. Runeckles had made a very good job of it within the space available. The facilities were not exactly comparable with those of a modern theatre; nevertheless a great deal of good work was done there.

We had by now learned the story of the R.A.M.C. personnel of the unit. They had stayed at Mytchett until October 31st and then been flown at very short notice to Malta. Here they had embarked in the aircraft carrier H.M.S. *Thesus*, and on November 3rd sailed for Port Said. The surgical team, with Major D. J. Cowan (Surgeon) and Capt. P. W. Thompson (Anaesthetist), had set up an operating theatre on board the ship and had worked there continuously for eighteen hours dealing with casualties evacuated to them by helicopter. The rest of the C.C.S. had gone ashore on November 6th and had settled into the Casino Palace Hotel. On November 7th the surgical team had come ashore and continued their work in an improvised operating theatre set up in the bar of the hotel. Some days later the entire unit had moved to the school building and No. 2 C.C.S. was ready to function as a full working hospital.

During our eighteen days' stay in Port Said everyone was extremely charming and helpful, and, from the highest in rank to the lowest, they did all that they could to help us.

The withdrawal of Anglo-French troops from Egypt commenced, and on December 8th the R.A.M.C. Advance Party left Port Said en route for England in H.M.S. *Thesus*. The 2. C.C.S. closed temporarily, then re-opened with a few beds as an emergency measure. Our own future became a matter of speculation. Finally it was announced that our services would be required on board H.M.T. *Asturias*, en route for Cyprus with British national evacuees. On

December 11th we drove to the quay at Port Said and there awaited the evacuees' arrival. They came, in a never-ending stream. The stretcher cases were accommodated in the Casino Palace Hotel (which had been taken over by the British at the beginning of the campaign) whilst awaiting transfer by landing craft to the ship.

It was a damp, cold, gusty morning, and the scene was pathetic, not to be forgotten in a hurry. The aged and infirm who had perhaps lived a lifetime in Egypt, leaving loved ones behind, the anxious mothers with babies and older children, whose husbands had to remain in Port Said and elsewhere, the bundles of possessions and pieces of furniture, all that could be taken away in a hurry. The troops were wonderful, guiding the old to seats, and stalwart Military Policemen sheepishly, but rather proudly, carrying the babies, comforting children with sweets out of their own pockets.

The embarkation was carried out smoothly and efficiently. The Sisters helped with the ferry service of patients from shore to ship, some having already gone on board to receive them. There were several different nationalities, but the language difficulty was overcome with gestures, signs, interpreters and the combined linguistic efforts of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. officers, acquired during various overseas tours.

The ship sailed in the evening, and our journey was smooth and uneventful. We worked in the hospital and helped to care for the sick. The next morning disembarkation was carried out at Larnaca—those that needed special care being taken to the Civilian Hospital, and the rest taken ashore to await further transport to their many and varied destinations.

Several days were spent off the coast of Cyprus, then on December 17th the H.T. *Asturias* returned to Egyptian waters, anchoring a few miles off-shore. On December 19th the ship moved into Port Said harbour, and we were transferred to the *Dunera*, for the final journey to England. Although the ship was not due to sail for a few days, there was a great deal of interest to observe in harbour life. The anchorage was between a French troopship and *The New Australia*, which moved out the day before us, her place being taken by H.M.S. *Tyne*, the Allied Headquarters. The statue of Ferdinand de Lesseps surveyed the scene with calm dignity, his outstretched hand holding the White Ensign and French Tricolor, which had been placed there the previous night by an adventuresome party from H.M.S. *Tyne*. The positioning of these flags was a feat of great skill and daring, effected by one Able-Seaman Constable, R.N., at no little personal risk to himself. At 5 p.m. on December 22nd, we had a very good view of the final ceremony on the quarter deck of H.M.S. *Tyne*. The Allied Commander-in-Chief, Lieut. General Sir Hugh Stockwell, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., presented the Insignia of 2 Corps to General Beaufre of the French Forces—Deputy Commander Allied Forces. Later the Royal Scots and West Yorkshire Regiments were played aboard

H.T. *Dunera* by the Scottish pipers and drums, and at 8 p.m. we had the distinction of being the last troopship to leave Port Said. H.M.S. *Tyne* gave us a great farewell, with the Royal Marines Band playing and the ships' company singing. On H.T. *Dunera* the pipes and drums of the Royal Scots Regiment played us out.

Most of the R.A.M.C. Personnel of 2 C.C.S. had boarded other ships for England, but we had the theatre team and 15 Field Ambulance on board, in the event of casualties being inflicted. The final re-embarkation was, however, completed with great precision according to plan, and without casualties, although it was accompanied by a continuous fusillade of "Red Tracer" which emerged from the Arab quarters, fortunately landing wide of the mark. Bursts of light machine gun fire were heard sporadically, indicating that the United Nations Emergency Forces were having some difficulty in enforcing the curfew on this very important day.

On the voyage home we were all very grieved to hear the ultimate news of the death of Lieut. Moorhouse, West Yorkshire Regiment, who had been captured by members of the Egyptian underground movement, on December 11th, subsequent to his having effected some very important arrests. Following the report on the day of our departure, that he had been seen alive and well by a United Nations Officer, we were all aware of the anguish caused to his relatives by this devastating reversal.

Christmas and the New Year were spent at sea. The ship stopped at Algiers and went alongside for water, but shore leave was not allowed. The town looked its usual magnificent self spread long the hillside. In the evening the shimmering lights appeared beautiful after the partial blackout of Port Said.

We disembarked on January 2nd, 1957, at Southampton. The reservists returned to the depot for demobilisation, and the Serving Officers proceeded on leave, prior to further service in Military Hospitals.

E. W. HEWSON, L.555.

### NOTICES

**Holidays.**—Write to The Good Companions Travel Guild (London); Director, Rev. W. Gwynn-Jones, T.D., B.Sc., Assoc.M.C.T., 11 Donnington Road, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex. Telephone: WORDsworth 2024.

**Queen Mary's House Fund.**—The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27th, 1957, in Room 242, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, W.1, at 2.30 p.m.

**Annual General Meeting Association** will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel at 2.30 p.m., SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH, 1957, PRIOR TO THE REUNION. Members wishing to attend please notify us when making application for Reunion tickets and Agenda can be sent.

The most important business of the meeting will be the election of a Vice-Chairman and three members to fill vacancies on the Central Committee (Managing Trustees of the Association).

**NOMINATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN AND THREE MEMBERS AND SHOULD BE SENT IN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. ALL NOMINATIONS OR RE-NOMINATIONS SENT IN BY MEMBERS MUST STATE THAT THE MEMBER NOMINATED HAS AGREED TO STAND.**

**Reunion.**—Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH, 1957. Tickets 12s. 6d. for members and friends ineligible for membership, 15s. for other non-members.

Apply quoting membership number: Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association (Reunion), 20 John Islip Street, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

A member living within easy reach of Headquarters office is wanted in June to undertake some of the work in connection with organising this function, such as sending out tickets, replying to correspondence, attending to arrangement of flowers and other details on the 29th. Two mornings/afternoons weekly sufficient.

**Subscriptions.**—With effect from January 1st, 1957, advance payments made in respect of subscriptions are only accepted AGAINST future annual dues. No guarantee can be given that subscription will remain at level of current year.

Your attention is drawn to *Soldier*, the British Army Magazine, 9d. monthly, 10s. 6d. a year, obtainable from the British Army News Unit, 433 Holloway Road, London, N.7. Regular features of *Soldier* are military topics, cartoons, readers' questions answered and views aired, book reviews, films shown overseas, full colour pin-up.

### THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Many of you probably know very little about the Army Benevolent Fund and will be interested in this brief account of its role. We have every reason to be grateful for its existence for the funds in which we are more particularly interested, the Association Benevolent Funds and Queen Mary's House Fund have received very considerable assistance from the Army Benevolent Fund, 20 Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1.

The need of ex-service personnel in adverse circumstances is as acute as ever. Unhappily, as the cost of living rises, it is they who feel the pinch most severely.

It may surprise you to learn that the Army Benevolent Fund was created as recently as 1944. Prior to that the whole load fell on the shoulders of the Corps and Regimental Associations, and kindred Service Organisations. To-day, without a central benevolent fund to apply bulk grants where they are most needed, these Associations and Service Charities would be quite unable to meet all the needs



of individual cases of distress. When the second world war was approaching its end the Army Council, finding at their disposal a considerable sum available from N.A.A.F.I. profits, decided to form a Trust, so as to give substantial financial backing to all the Associations and Charities connected with the welfare of ex-servicemen. When the fund was launched appeals were made and further monies were subscribed by patriotic citizens who were keenly alive to the debt they owed the Army. The Army Council realised that the problem of absorption into civil life of some three million men would produce—in spite of the Welfare State—a load on the Corps and Regimental Associations which they could not be expected to carry alone. So the Army Benevolent Fund came into being and filled an essential need.

For although many organisations were in existence which had been dealing with similar problems for some time, they had never before been faced with such huge numbers of potential cases all with a financial aspect. They were experts in investigation and handling but could not be expected to carry the whole of this financial load. It was not the nature of the problem but its magnitude which daunted.

With the creation of a central fund—the Army Benevolent Fund—these organisations had somewhere to turn when their own resources proved inadequate to the need. The A.B.F. can make the proud claim that, in the few years of its existence, it has saved Corps and Regimental Associations from turning down countless individual appeals for help. The Fund has been able to make substantial grants with complete impartiality, carefully weighing up the claims of each charity when it has asked for help.

The A.B.F. has already paid out more than £3,500,000. If the Corps and Regimental Associations and the Service Organisations are to continue to support the needy soldier and his dependants, the A.B.F. must continue to support them financially. A considerable capital sum is being expended annually on grants to the Corps and Regimental Associations and other service organisations—whereas only a very small proportion of that amount is being received by the Fund to replace the capital loss. It is interesting to note that in many countries the welfare of the ex-serviceman is a State commitment. It is not so in this country. We must therefore rely upon those who feel they owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women who fought and still fight in the land forces of the Queen all over the world.

## ROME

In a previous issue I tried to give a description of the unveiling of the Casino Memorial and my visit to the Monastery. I now hope that my impressions of the actual journey and my stay in Rome will be of some interest to you.

To begin at the very beginning, the whole family was up at the

crack of dawn. I had made elaborate preparations the previous evening to ensure that I should wake in good time, such as providing several alarm clocks, in case one did not function, and asking the telephone exchange to ring me as an extra precaution. None of these were necessary, as the children, being excited, woke early without any help. I heard afterwards that our neighbours were horrified, thinking that movement at such an unearthly hour must have meant illness in the family, but on hearing shrieks of laughter, came to the conclusion that their anxiety and intention to help were quite superfluous, and that it was someone's birthday. The efforts of my three daughters to assist made me despair of ever catching the train, so it was with feelings of great relief that I found myself departing from the local station at the time intended.

Waterloo Air Terminal, even at this early hour, was a hive of industry, and the formalities of weighing luggage and obtaining flight tickets were soon over. It was not difficult to recognise the other members of our party, as even in mufti Generals and Brigadiers seem to wear the stamp of their profession in spite of looking rather like the White Knight, with their assortment of bundles and packages containing their regalia for the occasion. As the coach drove through London I noticed that the sleeping streets were packed with cars parked nose to tail, looking as if they were not moved from one week-end to the next. Now I know why even though I arrive in London early, I can never find a place to park. We passed Ashford Hospital, and I wondered if our Chairman was still asleep. At Blackbushe Aerodrome we had coffee and biscuits in the restaurant, and after having our passports stamped we were ushered into an inner lounge to await our departure. There was one amusing incident. One member of our party, obviously at a loss without his Adjutant, arrived in the lounge without having had his passport checked. The Officer-in-Charge, finding that the numbers did not tally, asked for the "gentleman concerned to report at once," whereupon the traveller in question produced his documents only to be greeted by a roar of laughter and the words: "Sir, I am sure this is the first time in the history of the Armed Forces that a General has been ordered to report to an ex-Flying Officer." Soon we were airborne and as we crossed the coast of France the sun was shining brilliantly. Breakfast was served as we flew over Paris. Mont Blanc, with its cap of snow, was clearly seen in the distance, against a background of an intensely blue sky.

As we flew over the Isle of Elba, a dark brown rock rising out of the sea, I wondered what Napoleon would have thought, not only of our present mode of transport, but also of our general tactics in a war. We were soon flying over some of the most magnificent mountain scenery I have ever seen, and in no time at all we were preparing to land at Nice for lunch. Nice airport being situated at the waters edge, gave us the impression that we were about to land on the sea, and I could only hope that in some miracu-

lous way, the plane had developed floats in transit. But the final approach brought us over terra firma and we landed safely. Lunch was served in typical Mediterranean sunshine, and it was difficult to believe that only a few hours before we were at London in mist and rain. An hour-and-a-half later we landed at Ciampino Airport, near Rome. This airport is not yet completed, and one had to be careful not to trip over planks or fall into pot-holes. A chalk mark on our luggage was the only effort required to get us through the Customs. We then drove in coaches to our hotels in Rome. As we approached the city, the streets seemed to be alive with "poppa-bikes." Several times I saw one of those bikes, with father driving, behind him a child frantically clutching his waist, and behind the child mother, nursing the dog and holding aloft a sunshade. There appears to be no speed limit in Rome, and I felt that a foreigner had very little chance of crossing the streets in safety. I was later to learn that because of the high accident rate it was practically impossible to obtain insurance cover on any vehicle. As we tore madly up a road, our driver singing at the top of his voice, and tooting loudly with his horn, a young man with his girl friend on the pillion drove out of a side road. It was only by braking violently and rearing his bike on its back wheel like a bucking broncho, thereby depositing his girl friend in the middle of the road, that he avoided crashing into our coach. Our driver stopped so suddenly that we were all pitched forward, but before we could collect our wits, he had vaulted over the driving seat and was out in the street boxing the young man's ears. The ensuing gesticulations and hullabaloo were beyond description, to say nothing of the honking of horns in front and behind, as our driver had elected to stop on the crown of the road, so that no one could pass either way. It all ended as suddenly as it had started, and once more we were on our way.

When I went to my hotel bedroom I was relieved to find that I and my luggage had arrived at the same place. The coach incident had delayed us, so we had very little time to bath and change before attending a reception at the British Embassy, given by the Heads of the Commonwealth Missions in Italy. The Villa Walkonski, the residence of the Ambassador, has some of the most beautiful semi-tropical gardens to be seen in Rome. The hall and reception rooms are covered with pale mushroom-coloured carpets, the curtains are the thickest and palest blue velvet I have ever seen, and on the walls are many exquisite paintings. The reception itself made me feel I had wandered into Aladdin's cave, surrounded as we were by every type of uniform. Many guests were in Eastern robes with turbans flashing every imaginable kind of jewel. Back in the hotel we had dinner, after which we were escorted on a trip round Rome. I was surprised to find the markets and shops still open even at a late hour. Most of the squares are full of bubbling fountains, which I felt was appropriate in a city where the temperature at night on the last day of September was nearly 90 degrees.

To guarantee my return to this most fascinating city I followed the tradition of throwing a coin into the fountain. I drank coffee at a pavement cafe at an hour when an English city would be wrapped in sleep. I thought it wiser not to look at the clock on my return to the hotel—but I did at least get into bed before I was called at 5.30 a.m. We had a long and hot day before us, and as I stood on the balcony of my bedroom, which was covered with bright blue and pink flowers, I found it hard to believe that twenty-four hours' previously I had been standing on the platform of a suburban station on a dark and misty English morning. After breakfast we were each handed a carrier bag containing a packed lunch and a bottle of wine. Rome was still asleep as we drove out towards Casino, but the villages were waking up as we passed the vineyards, and women, with flat baskets piled high with grapes, on their heads, were making their way towards the presses. The road wound up and down the mountain sides so that at one time we were down in the depths of a fertile valley, the next high up on the mountain in the clouds.

After we had left the Monastery (of which I wrote in the previous issue) we visited the rebuilt town of Casino for refreshment. It was very hot and I longed for a glass of water or a cup of tea instead of the warm Italian wine which we were given. On our way back we passed through several villages which were holding fiestas. We also saw several young girls in long white frocks and veils walking to their Confirmation, with their relatives walking slowly behind in single file.

As we approached Rome our driver burst into song, accompanying himself with toots on the horn. The small trains which run along the side of the road were full to overflowing with Italians, and, seeing that our coach was filled with men in British uniforms, they started singing war-time British songs. We arrived back at the hotel in time for dinner, after which we went on a further tour of Rome, including the Vatican and the Coliseum. The railway station, which I think must be one of the most wonderful in the world, was built by Mussolini. For some reason, which I do not profess to understand, such ultra-modern buildings standing side by side with those built centuries ago, do not look incongruous.

The following morning we were back at the airport and on the plane, and in no time at all at Nice for lunch. As we crossed the Channel we ran into fog and everything seemed bleak and cold, but we were safely landed by radar, and were soon on our way back to London. The fog was thick as we crawled back to Waterloo Air Terminal. As I sat in my local train on the last stage of the journey home I found it difficult to believe that I had travelled so far and seen so much in so short a time.

Rome now holds the same attraction for me as Fairyland did when I was young—but I know that unlike the Fairyland which vanished as I grew older, this city will continue to keep for me the attraction I felt for it the few hours I was there.

E. H. MILLS, L.478.

## Q.A.R.A.N.C. MARRIAGES

### OFFICERS

- Leahy, Lieut. L., to Lieut. J. Wood, South Staffs., on 1st September, 1956, at Kyrenia, Cyprus.
- Hartley, Capt. E. S., to Capt. W. H. Davidson, K.O.S.B., on 1st September, 1956, at Singapore, Malaya.
- Hulburd, Lieut. M. P. M., to Lieut. J. M. Ireland, Essex Regt., on 8th September, 1956, at Hereford, Herefordshire.
- Smith, Lieut. B., to Capt. A. C. L. Gibson, R.A.D.C., on 25th September, 1956, at Gibraltar.
- Haywood, Lieut. W., to Doctor N. D. Walsh, M.R.C.P., L.R.C.P., on 29th September, 1956, at Wandsworth, London.
- Wren, Capt. E. W., to F/O. W. H. W. Norton, R.A.F., on 6th October, 1956, at Chelsea, London.
- Whyte, Lieut. A. E., to Lieut. R. G. Bellam, R.E., on 6th October, 1956, at Hanover, B.A.O.R.
- Mackay, Lieut. M. P. N., to E. T. Sheppard, Esq., Mercantile Marine, on 16th October, 1956, at Netley, Hants.
- Warlow, Lieut. B., to P. Perryman, Esq., on 20th October, 1956, at Hawarden, Chester.
- Jones, Lieut. M. A., to W. G. James, Esq., on 20th October, 1956, at Llanerfyl, Montgomeryshire.
- Parr, Lieut. J. M., to F/O. A. C. Curry, R.A.F., on 13th October, 1956, at Wilmslow, Cheshire.
- Kitson, Capt. B., to Capt. I. A. R. Watson, R.A.M.C., on 27th October, 1956, at Richmond, Yorkshire.
- Walpole, Lieut. P. M., to D. R. Denning, Esq., on 27th October, 1956, at Mayfield, Sussex.
- Ralph, Lieut. A. K., to Lieut. D. H. D. Lamond, South Staffs. Regiment., on 27th October, 1956, at Southampton, Hants.
- Parker, Lieut. J. H. J., to Capt. L. N. Barron, Worcester Regiment, on 27th October, 1956, at Kuduna, Nigeria.
- Carr, Lieut. D. F., to Lieut. G. A. Cox, Royal Signals, on 17th November, 1956, at Aberdeen, Scotland.
- Mitchell, Lieut. A. S. L., to Lieut. R. C. Campbell, R.A.M.C., on 1st December 1956, at Hamburg, Germany.
- Parry, Lieut. G., to F/Lt. D. H. Moreland, R.A.F., on 1st December, 1956, at Llangefni, Anglesey.
- Atkinson, Lieut. E. P., to F/Lt. J. E. Fordham, R.A.F., on 1st December, 1956, at Newquay, Cornwall.

### OTHER RANKS

- Williams, Cpl. R. E., to Mr. B. P. S. Pollard, on 22nd September, 1956.
- Webster, Pte. I. G., to Mr. G. W. Temperton, on 1st October, 1956.
- Young, Pte. D., to Mr. L. Morley, on 29th September, 1956.
- Weatherburn, Pte. A., to Mr. A. Woodward, on 15th September, 1956.
- Davis, Pte. J. M., to Cpl. T. C. Welling, on 6th October, 1956.
- Collier, Pte. W. C., to L/Cpl. A. G. Crowhurst, on 6th October, 1956.
- Kettle, Pte. M. A., to Cpl. T. H. Perry, on 28th September, 1956.
- Lowe, Pte. B. M., to Cpl. D. Walsh, on 13th October, 1956.
- Walsh, Cpl. S. M., to A/Cpl. P. V. Vickers, on 20th October, 1956.
- Hoare, Pte. D. M., to Tpr. D. B. Wood, on 13th October, 1956.
- Bowkett, Cpl. A. M., to Mr. E. G. Magnuson, on 10th November, 1956.
- Nelson, Pte. G. M., to L/Bomb. E. Johns, on 3rd November, 1956.
- Alexander, Pte. J. D., to Gnr. P. J. Gourley, on 5th November, 1956.
- Ellis, Pte. P. A., to Sgt. J. A. N. Arcizewski, on 3rd November, 1956.
- Poole, Pte. B. N., to Mr. D. Thomas, on 10th November, 1956.
- Dunsmuir, Pte. M. D., to Mr. E. J. S. Baxter, on 1st November, 1956.

**Bradley**, Pte. J., to Mr. W. G. Brown, on 17th November, 1956.  
**Sidney**, Cpl. P. A., to Lt. T. S. Forsyth, on 21st November, 1956.  
**Bowers**, Pte. P. A., to Sgt. K. Charnock, on 14th November, 1956.  
**McKie**, Cpl. M., to L/Cpl. Legallez, on 17th November, 1956.  
**Pogson**, Pte. J., to Mr. W. F. Rogers, on 24th November, 1956.  
**McQueen**, Pte. E., to Sgt. D. White, on 8th December, 1956.

**Wilkinson**, Mrs. Harry (*nee* Miss Nora McDonald, Aus./N.S.W./A.27), married in Sydney, October, 1956, to Mr. Harry Wilkinson, O.B.E. (Col. Retd.).

**Clark**, Lt.-Col. Grace M., Q.A.R.A.N.C., to William George Peasley, I.S.O., M.B.E., Comptroller of Customs, Mauritius, on 22nd December, 1956, at St. Columba's Church, Phoenix, Mauritius.

## DEATHS

**Williams**.—On 6th November, 1956, at Newport, Isle-of-Wight, Miss E. Williams, late T.A.N.S., 1915-17.

**Gray**.—On 6th November, 1956, Miss M. E. Gray, R.R.C., Q.A.M.N.S. (India), aged 89 years, at St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

**Humphrey**.—On 10th September, 1956, Miss Edith Humphrey, Q.A.I.M.N.S. (R.). Served in the first world war.

**Naish**.—Recently, result of car accident, Miss Emily Naish, Q.A.I.M.N.S., 1914-18, aged 75.

**Caulfield**.—On 27th December, 1956, at Horstead, Norfolk, Miss G. Caulfield, R.R.C., Q.A.I.M.N.S.

**Cole**.—On 25th December, 1956, Florence E. Cole, at Hereford. Q.A.I.M.N.S.(R.), both wars. For many years Sister Martha at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1.

**Withers**.—On 30th December, 1956, at Midhurst, Mrs. Rose Marguerita Withers, R.R.C., late Q.A.I.M.N.S.

**Pender**.—On 13th August, 1956, Miss Catherine Pender. Served in 1914-1918 war.

**Webster**.—*Nee* Joan Whitten, of Posenby, New Zealand, President New Zealand Branch. Died December, 1956.

## OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death, in December, 1956, of Mrs. Webster (*nee* Joan Whitten-Harris).

She served with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in the first world war, and in 1922 went to reside in New Zealand, where she continued nursing at the Elleslie Auxilliary Military Hospital.

Her social and public work was extensive.

She was President of the New Zealand Branch of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association. Warm tribute has been paid to her by the Chairman of the New Zealand Branch.

To her relatives and friends we extend our sincere sympathy.

## PROMOTIONS

### Lieutenant-Colonel to Colonel

November: Lieutenant-Colonel I. B. Hazlett (10th).

### Major to Lieutenant-Colonel

October: Major E. M. Walsh, A.R.R.C. (14th).

November: Major M. E. Holmes, R.R.C. (5th); Major E. V. Wallace (10th).

### Captain to Major

October: Captain L. A. Baker (31st).  
November: Captain A. O'Garra, A.R.R.C. (6th); Captain E. M. Coppack (18th); Captain M. Hughes (29th).

### Lieutenant to Captain

October: Lieutenant B. Foreman (8th), Lieutenant E. M. Bryans (8th), Lieutenant J. M. Egerton (8th), Lieutenant B. Shepherd (8th), Lieutenant B. E. Bell (8th), Lieutenant B. J. Waring (13th), Lieutenant C. P. Mills (21st), Lieutenant W. Myers (23rd), Lieutenant D. E. Beale (24th).  
November: Lieutenant D. M. LeMarquand (12th), Lieutenant J. M. Elliott (12th), Lieutenant J. B. Patterson (12th), Lieutenant D. E. Liddington (22nd), Lieutenant W. J. Gilroy (28th).

### Private to Corporal

Williams, Pte. R. E., w.e.f. 25th June, 1956.  
Wilkinson, Pte. P., w.e.f. 25th June, 1956.  
Gee, Pte. P. J., w.e.f. 25th June, 1956.  
Browning, Pte. M. I., w.e.f. 4th August, 1956.  
Stannard, Pte. D. L., w.e.f. 15th February, 1956.  
Mason, Pte. E., w.e.f. 4th August, 1956.  
Bray, Pte. K. L., w.e.f. 19th July, 1956.  
Jaffrey, Pte. K. T., w.e.f. 19th July, 1956.

### Corporal to Sergeant

Lewis, Cpl. L., w.e.f. 1st October, 1956.

## RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

October: Major E. G. B. Butterworth, Lieutenant M. M. Clark, Major J. C. Condon.  
November: Major H. W. Slater, A.R.R.C., Lieut.-Colonel E. F. W. M. Jolly, R.R.C., Lieut.-Colonel G. M. Clark, Colonel E. G. M. Reynolds, M.B.E., R.R.C.  
December: Lieutenant A. E. Black, Lieutenant D. V. Hoyland, Lieutenant J. A. Mackenzie.

## APPOINTMENTS

Scruton, Lieut.-Colonel I. I., R.R.C., to B.M.H., Hanover, as Matron, 17th November, 1956.

## Q.A.R.A.N.C. POSTINGS OVERSEAS

### To F.A.R.E.L.F., 4th December, 1956

Pte. M. E. Ball	Pte. E. A. Folkard	Pte. H. Rouse
Pte. E. C. Butcher	Pte. M. V. Hall	Pte. M. Pearson
Pte. E. D. Biller	Cpl. G. N. Robinson	

### To B.A.O.R., 20th October, 1956

Cpl. B. Townson	Pte. K. M. Hopkins	Cpl. S. M. Sambrooks
Pte. M. G. Hoyle	Pte. P. M. Peters	Pte. L. V. Mann
Pte. D. Gregory	Pte. M. Robertson	

### To B.A.O.R., 8th November, 1956

Cpl. P. D. Smith

### To M.E.L.F., 23rd November, 1956

Pte. J. A. Levins	Pte. M. A. Dickinson	Pte. M. A. Simpson
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To Malta, 25th November, 1956

Pte. E. L. M. Ellis

Pte. B. Gospel

Pte. A. Williams

Pte. V. Melton

Pte. E. Williams

To Cyprus, 10th December, 1956

Pte. M. P. Brady

Pte. M. Sprake

To Cyprus, 14th December, 1956

Pte. P. J. Anson

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

### Kinrara

I was posted to B.M.H. Kinrara in the middle of November. On my arrival two questions were asked almost immediately: was I a member of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association, and did I know there was to be a bazaar and garden fete to be held on December 5th. My answers were "yes" and "no" respectively, but I was soon to learn. The hospital seemed to be alive with an activity of a rather different nature. Nursing and welfare officers, ably abetted by some wives, most of whom are ex-Q.A.R.A.N.C., were scurrying to and fro collecting clothes, books and umpteen varieties of odds and ends required for the stalls. People visiting the hospital were cajoled and persuaded to buy raffle tickets for varying articles, which included a doll complete with wardrobe, coathangers and trousseau, all of which were hand made and had obviously taken a good deal of time and patience. Eventually one of the offices took on the appearance of a jumble sale and contained a motley assortment of articles—really lovely, hand-made silk stoles, smocks and rompers in various sizes and styles for the toddlers, a wide selection of gaily covered coathangers and some very attractive calenders. All of these things were actually made by members in their spare time, but the amount of time and thought expended were well rewarded.

At last the great day arrived and everyone who could be spared was at the Galloway Club in Kuala Lumpur busy arranging their merchandise on stalls, the latter decorated with gaily coloured parachutes. A Nursing Officer, assisted by a Chinese carpenter had the task of the actual erection of the stalls, and I feel that this, if only because of language difficulties, would have been well worth watching!

The opening ceremony was ably performed by Mrs. Harding-Newman, the wife of the Garrison Commander. After this business began in earnest. Nursing and Welfare Officers vied with Other Ranks in plying their wares which ranged from shoes and clothes, books and calenders, sweets and ginger, and, of course, the inexhaustible raffle tickets to bottles at a dollar a pick! The bottle stall sold out completely in the space of twenty minutes—bottles contained almost anything except poison, from spirits to shampoo. Such was the luck of the draw that I chose a bottle of mixed spice which I promptly returned for resale.

It was the usual unit half-holiday so the bazaar was well supported. People arriving had difficulty in tearing themselves away



from the skirl of the pipes of the Gurkha Signals Band which were an added and unusual attraction. Then it was a case of "on with the motley." The din in the hall itself had to be heard to be believed. After good hearted bargaining people were revived by tea and soft drinks which were served non-stop throughout the afternoon. One barrow which did a roaring trade was the "hot dog" stand, run by a Q.A. Other Rank, ably assisted by a R.A.M.C. Theatre N.C.O. Such were their selling powers that in the space of less than three hours fifteen pounds of sausages were consumed by hungry shoppers and saleswomen. The flower and potted plant stall was ablaze with colour, and looked very well stocked until one spotted the tiny labels bearing the name of the new owner.

Harrassed mothers were able to rest their weary legs by taking the children to the Puppet Show, which was well supported. I fancy that most of the adults had as much fun from this as the children!

By six o'clock most of the stalls were being packed up, not from lack of energy but from lack of stock. Everyone trooped back to the hospital very tired, but contented, feeling that something had been achieved. In spite of the fact that this is a fairly small unit from the Corps point of view, we were astounded and delighted to learn that we had made a profit of \$1,500, in sterling approximately £175, which will help to swell the Association funds.

J. CROSS, A/SING./34.

### **The Hong Kong Branch**

The Hong Kong branch sends greetings to all ex-members. Those who were here at the inauguration of the Branch in 1954 will be pleased to know that in spite of frequent comings and goings our membership has risen to an average of forty. It would be nice to have even more civilian members and their closer association with the organisation of branch activities would be particularly welcome.

At the Annual General Meeting for 1956 it was decided that a Sale of Work should be held in the autumn to raise money for the Benevolent Fund. Our members must have worked hard through the hot, sticky days of the Colony's summer to produce all the varied gifts which poured in to the committee. With the permission of the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. O'Sullivan, R.A.M.C., and the excellent local organisation of Matron, Major A. H. Nichol, Q.A.R.A.N.C., the event was held at the B.M.H., Bowen Road, on October 26th. The great variety of first class handwork was tastefully displayed in the Red Cross Department, willing assistants were in place and at 3 p.m. the doors were thrown open to our many generous friends. Teas were served in a flower-decked out-patient department and this was a most popular rendezvous where members and friends met and exchanged news. Ex-members names were mentioned frequently and news was particularly sought of all those recalled to the Corps since the present emergency. Madam Olga,

"Queen of the Gypsies," was so much in demand that she later devoted another day, spending a solid eight hours, peering into the future of many of the hospital's residents. We are most grateful to Major Hilson for the sum raised by her sustained effort. Many members had worked hard at selling raffle tickets and the culminating excitement of the afternoon was the drawing of the lucky tickets from the revolving drum.

As a result of these combined activities a grand total of £115 was raised. A cheque for £100 has been sent to Headquarters Benevolent Fund, which we hope will swell the total available for distribution at Christmas, and so help to bring a little cheer to those less fortunate than ourselves.

R. A. DOBBS, A./WOOL./17.

### Millbank

The Branch met on Thursday, November 1st, 1956 for the Raffle Draw and a General Social Evening.

The meeting was held in the Red Cross Department of Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital, as 121 St. George's Square was in the hands of the decorators.

In welcoming the members, Lt.-Col. E. W. R. Warner said how very pleased she was to see so many of the Branch present and she hoped that the good attendance would continue for the future meetings. Lt.-Col. Warner then introduced the guest of the evening, Miss E. P. McWilliam, Chairman of the Association, and the process of drawing the winning tickets began. The following were lucky:—

Mr. McElvoy, cigarette lighter; Lieut. Dancer, bridge set; Mr. Robinson, bottle of whisky; Miss R. Horley, bottle of sherry; Dr. Wilson, box of confectionery; Lt.-Col. E. F. W. Jolly, box of cosmetics; S./Sgt. Bridger, box of fancy soap; G. Dalton, 100 cigarettes; Major R. V. Hepburn, book token; V. Derham, nylon stockings; A. J. Snell, gift voucher; Miss Lewis, bath soap.

A very enjoyable evening ended with tea and home-made cakes. As a result of the raffle £30 was sent to H.Q. Benevolent Fund and £10 to Mrs. E. H. Mills for the Friends' Benevolent Christmas Parcels.

Twenty-two members met at 121 St. George's Square, on Thursday, January 10th, 1957, for the Quiz.

Mrs. J. M. Jarrett, of the City of London Branch, British Legion, very kindly conducted the Quiz, while Mrs. Winstanley assisted by keeping the score. There were two teams of four members each. Team "A" being Serving Members and consisted of Major D. E. Price, Lieut. B. Terry, Lieut. M. E. Emery and S./Sgt. D. Donald. Team "B" represented the ex-servive members and consisted of Miss M. D. Sutton, Miss C. L. A. Robinson, Miss E. J. Coleman and Miss Austin.

It was a very exciting and interesting match and almost ended with a photo-finish, team "A" eventually winning by  $\frac{3}{4}$  marks.

It was nice to see so many members and to be able to welcome new ones. The next meeting will be in March and the date will be arranged later, as it is the Annual General Meeting.

HILDA HAMBLIN, L.136.

## THE UNION JACK SERVICES CLUB

BY ADMIRAL SIR WILLIAM JAMES, G.C.B.

*President, The Union Jack Services Clubs*

July 1st, 1957, is the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Union Jack Club by King Edward VII, as a National Memorial to soldiers and sailors who had lost their lives on active service. His Majesty accepted the Club on behalf of the Navy and Army and entrusted it to the two fighting services to be their London Club.

Since that day the doors of the Club have never been closed and, to-day, the Club is also the London Club of the Royal Air Force, and of members for the Commonwealth and Colonial Forces visiting this country.

The Club buildings have also been greatly expanded and now include an Annexe which provides 210 extra beds, a Families Club and a Women's Services Club.

That the Clubs are fulfilling the hopes of the founders is evident from last year's annual report which showed that during the year 324,163 beds were provided and 630,959 meals were served in the three Clubs. To these impressive figures may be added as further evidence, the 9,000,000 beds that have been provided in the Union Jack Club alone since the Club was opened.

So, in this anniversary year, men and women of the fighting forces can look back with a feeling of gratitude to those who founded the original Union Jack Club, and with pride and satisfaction to the steady progress and the developments that have culminated in the three Clubs as they now know them.

This too, is a time when the present members will be interested in the history of the Clubs, when they will wish to know something about those who initiated the project, how the funds were raised, when each new expansion took place and how each new major development was financed.

It was a Miss Ethel McCaul, R.R.C., who conceived the idea of a London Club for the men of the fighting forces. That was in 1902 when 200,000 soldiers and sailors were passing through Waterloo annually, most of them strangers to London and many of them arriving at Waterloo too late to continue their journey until next day.

The available accommodation in the vicinity of the station was meagre and of a low standard; on and close to the site now occupied by the Union Jack Club were no less than eight public houses.

Many young servicemen were wiser and poorer when they eventually reached their homes.

Miss Ethel McCaul, when nursing in Field Hospitals in South Africa, had heard first-hand accounts of these mean streets from her patients and she returned to England after the war fired with determination to remedy the sorry state of affairs. Her enthusiasm soon bore good fruit. At a great gathering at the Mansion House, on February 25th, 1903, the Lord Mayor launched a scheme to build a Club and so good was the response to his appeal for funds that the Foundation Stone was laid by the Prince of Wales (afterwards King George V) on July 1st, 1904.

One of the pioneers who so skilfully shaped a great future for the Club was Mr. J. R. Hayward, M.V.O., M.B.E., who was for many years Comptroller and is now a member of the Council.

Within a few weeks of the opening of the Club it was evident that the 208 bedrooms fell far short of the demand for sleeping accommodation and three years later 147 further bedrooms were made available. Twelve years later 188 more bedrooms and 102 dormitory beds were added and in 1928, through the munificence of Sir Heath Harrison, Bt., a "Heath Harrison Wing" was completed, bringing the total accommodation to 800 beds.

The latest extension of bedroom accommodation was completed in 1940 when the Nuffield Trust for the Forces generously provided funds to build the Holmes Terrace Annexe, with 210 beds to replace a building which had been rented to meet the enormous demand which had followed the rapid expansion of the fighting services after the outbreak of war.

Throughout the war more than 1,100 beds were occupied every night. Walking round the corridors of the bedroom floors is like walking down the corridors of history, for on every door is a brass plate commemorating a serviceman who died on active service, a ship that was lost, or a regiment that suffered heavy casualties.

Though the resources of the Club were fully extended during the first world war, the peak years in the Club's history were the years of the second world war. Of that period the Secretary of State for War said: "The Club carried on its work under the shadow of death from German bombs but like other institutions over which the Union Jack presides, it has survived and will survive. From my flat in London I have looked out on most mornings of the past five years and have always been encouraged to see it still standing, four square to a great deal besides all the winds that blow, and during that five years, it has provided lodgings for more than a million servicemen and some three million meals."

It was fortunate that the Union Jack Families Club (originally the Union Jack Hostel) was completed before the first world war, because the number of servicemen's families in transit increases considerably in war time. The funds for building the Club were donated by the South African Garrison Institutes.

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# **NAAFI**

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The original building soon proved too small for its purpose but it was not until 1940 that through the generosity of the Nuffield Trust a wing was added. Even with this addition it is not always possible to meet all requests for accommodation. Last year, 61,573 beds were booked for men, women and children.

When, in 1949, the W.R.N.S., Q.A.R.A.N.C., W.R.A.C. and the W.R.A.F., became an integral part of the Armed Services, the Club accepted the responsibility of providing a residential Club for them. Fortunately, a site adjoining the Families Club was available and on November 5th, 1951, the Princess Royal unveiled a tablet commemorating the foundation of "The Union Jack Women's Services Club." The new Club was officially opened on October 30th, 1952, by H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester and since that date an average of 10,000 servicewomen have been accommodated each year.

During the second world war, the buildings were damaged by bombs but all renovation and repair work was in abeyance throughout the war. By the end of the war, the time had in any case come to modernise the Clubs and improve the amenities. To this end a public appeal was launched at the Mansion House in 1945, and the good response to the appeal enabled the Council and Committee to embark on a six-year programme of work which when completed, would bring the Clubs up to high standard, and one in keeping with the Club's tradition. That programme has been completed.

Throughout its history, the policy had been to keep the prices charged within the purse of the lowest paid serviceman and servicewoman, and it has been possible to adhere to this policy because capital expenditure has largely been met by subscriptions, grants and funds bequeathed in memory of those who have died on active service and in gratitude to those who have preserved the country from its enemies. But the cost of maintenance is always rising and the current revenue falls short of what is required to keep the Clubs up-to-date in all respects. For this reason, an appeal for additional funds is being launched within the services in this Jubilee Year and the Council and Committee hope that all men and women of the fighting forces will welcome the opportunity of supporting their London Clubs. 1s. a head for every man and woman would go far towards establishing financial stability and make possible further improvements.

In conclusion, it may be of interest to explain how the Clubs are conducted. In all the main Service establishments and Units, there is a member of the Club, who is selected by the Commanding Officer to represent the Clubs and keep in touch with members. There are 175 of these Representative Members in the United Kingdom and a proportion, nominated by Commanding Officers, become the elected Members of the General Committee. This Committee is the vital link between the Members of the Clubs and the Council.

The Members of the Council, who serve in an honorary capacity, are elected or re-elected at the annual General Meeting, which is attended by all the Representative Members. The men and women of the fighting forces—the Members of the Clubs—are thus directly represented at all meetings by their own chosen representatives.

“You’re getting very bent, old chap,” said a prosperous business man to his farmer friend.

“Why don’t you stand up straight like me?”

“Well,” replied the old man, “d’ye see yon field of corn?”  
“I do,” answered the city man, “Why?” “Well, you’ll notice that the full heads hang down, but the empty ones stand straight up!”



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