

The Museum Collection

No.9

World War One Ambulances



“For King and Country”

With a foreword by
Brother Mervyn Payne, R.O.H.
Grand Primo 1934

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Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, Grand Lodge of England

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Preface

This edition of the Museum Collections deals with that portion of our history commonly known as “World War One” and the part the R.A.O.B. played in the relief to our men who had ‘joined the Colours’ and in particular to the supply of ambulances and drivers for the war effort.

Acknowledgements are extended to Bro. Bob Philpott, R.O.H., Grand Chamberlain (GLE) 1978 for his expertise in the building up of a web page from which some of the text and graphics has been copied.

Also to the Grand Secretary Bro. Stuart Steele, R.O.H. for the important part he played in supplying much needed information when all seemed to have dried up and the book stood still.

Brother Stan Stirman, the R.A.O.B., G.L.E. Museum Curator has, as usual, played a very big part in the building up of the “missing bits”. His expertise and knowledge has been invaluable in the production of this book.

To all those who have helped, in whatever way, I say thank you for your time and effort, so freely given.

*Mick Walker R.O.H.
Grand Registrar 1984
May 2004*



FOREWORD

by Bro. Mervyn Payne, R.O.H.



When the 1914/18 war descended upon us I doubt if Grand Lodge can be blamed for failing to take an all out National view of what the Order might accomplish if the whole of its efforts were co-ordinated but as it was the delegates adopted a middle course which, all things considered, was very effective in many respects.

It is clear from the sequence of business in October 31st, 1914, the first meeting of Grand Lodge after the declaration of war on August 4th, 1914, that the full implications, as far as it might affect our Order had not really been appreciated.

First item, and again perhaps not an unnatural one, was to report at some length the death of the Grand Registrar, Bro. W. Good Storey, together with details as to the arrangements to convey the body of our brother from the place of death to his home at Scarborough, the particulars given including the fact that the coffin was "of oak with solid brass furnishings". This was done on the instructions of the Grand Primo and his action was confirmed: Grand Lodge agreed to pay any expenditure involved and instructed the three chief officers to attend the funeral.

Then we have the report of the Benevolent Board with a vote of condolence and with grants in three categories of a grand total of £20 15s. 0d. plus Imperial Fund Grants (of which more anon) of £40 19s. 0d. Proceeding, we find reported the current work of the Grand Knights Chapter the most important item of which was their just demand for remuneration at 10/6 per diem., and it is only as part of the report of the Grand Secretary, which follows these earlier items, that we find a mention of the fact we were at war. Even the Grand Secretary did not mention the fact or use the word "War", but assured Grand Lodge that although we were going through a crisis they need

not be unduly depressed; he outlined the difficulties as (a) the earlier closing of public houses, (b) the depression in business and (c) the large number of brethren who had joined the colours in spite of which we were still progressing.

It was in the last active item on the agenda, number thirteen for the information of the superstitious; that the Grand Primo, (pictured right) Bro. John Wilson, really got to grips with the subject which must have been on the mind of every delegate present on that occasion.



He referred to the calamity of the present war which we deplored but in which we were in the right. He looked forward to greater scope for our Order after the war and a broadening of our philanthropic principles. He had called the Executive together to consider certain correspondence and as a result had issued a circular to the Minor Lodges.

We have no copy of this circular but it apparently advocated a centralised effort although he made it clear that he had no objection to lodges or G.A's working in other directions if they so desired, and so long as good accrued to the fund. He suggested the same system (the ½d. registration) that was now so successful for the Orphanage. He had no wish to dictate but wanted to make it possible to give to others than members of the Order in this national crises.

He also urged that they devote the balance of the Special Disaster Fund (collected for the mining disaster at Senghenydd) to the Prince of Wales Fund. This balance, not needed by the Senghenydd sufferers, had by resolution of Grand Lodge been put to reserve for use in any subsequent national disaster and he thought this was such an event.

He also indicated that all members joining the colours should be maintained in compliance without payment of registration fee.

This latter proposal was immediately taken up by the delegates and carried unanimously.

There was a sharp division of opinion as to whether war relief should be a local or central effort, Bro. J. Gardner of Cardiff even suggesting that “a central fund would be too big a thing and likely to lead to the disintegration of the Order unless they were very careful”, and after other speakers had expressed similar views, the amendment “that funds be collected and distributed locally” was carried, probably by a very large majority as no figures are given.

The Grand Primo then returned to his idea of a Grand Lodge effort and moved “that Grand Lodge purchase one or more ambulances and present them to the country through The Times and that the Special Disaster Fund be used for this purpose”.

This was duly seconded by the Deputy Grand Primo but the proposal to use the Disaster Fund brought opposition from all quarters, six speakers in a row condemning it. Bro. T. Boden moved an amendment “that we present a Red Cross ambulance and do so without touching the balance of the Disaster Fund”.

The Grand Secretary intervened at this point and “requested the Grand Lodge to allow the executive to purchase the car if the necessary money was forthcoming before the next Grand Lodge” and although, up to this point G.L. had not even indicated that they would accept such a scheme, the delegates agreed. An excellent example of “swimming ‘em out to sea”.

The Grand Primo then came back with his third speech in favour of the Disaster Fund being used and on a vote being taken the Boden amendment was defeated by 25 votes to 15 and the use of the Special Disaster Fund was approved.

I would very naturally prefer to be recording that they threw their whole resources into the scheme without touching this fund which almost paid the cost of the first ambulance, but before getting too critical let us remember that at this same meeting, and after 17 years of struggle since the London split, they had just found enough spare cash in the kitty to make their very first investment; £1,000 in the Derwent Valley Water Board, a financial landmark of tremendous importance to the leadership of that day and bringing a “Banner” prestige to Grand Lodge of England devastating to those people who were unfortunate enough to be members of other banners.

Of their sincerity there could be no doubt, for starting almost on the day of the declaration of war right until the end, inspired by precept and example in successive leaders, units of the R.A.O.B. identified themselves with every single local and national effort in the communities where they existed.

Our principal effort or perhaps it might be more accurate to say our most spectacular effort was in the provision of ambulance cars.

Whether by skilful selection or by sheer good fortune Bro. John Wilson had selected one of the few things about which no one was in doubt; a proposal that touched as with a magic wand a basic and fundamental part of our faith; a faith that lived, survived and prospered even in our worst moments of vanity or self seeking or personal ambitions or wrangling or jockeying for position, "to defend the weak and to render assistance to those of the brotherhood in difficulty or need" and in those days for all banners and creeds an ambulance was the living and visual embodiment of these ideals and politics and prejudices and preferences went tumbling down before a realisation of the need for brotherhood to save a nation.

The report given at the January 1915 meeting of Grand Lodge would seem to indicate that, as usual with our members, the scheme was slow in gathering momentum for only 203 subscriptions had been received and 1,000 lodges had not shown an interest. In spite of this and with the help of the Disaster Fund an ambulance had been purchased and presented to the War office and we had a balance of £90 toward the second vehicle.

Bro. George Pearce of Cheltenham was the driver of this first car and as a mark of recognition he had been given the rank of Sergeant.

The starting point was Cheltenham for the sufficient reason that it was built there by Messrs. West of the High Street Garage. His Worship the Mayor gave it an official send off. Before going into active service the car was taken to Bath where the Civic authority again showed an interest and then on to Bristol where the brethren had gathered to see the first of the many units that were yet to be presented. The cost of the ambulance complete was £418 7s. 6d.

The Civic "send off" quickly became the pattern of our scheme and as the idea took root and the public became interested it was found that not only had it become associated with "The Buffaloes" to our great credit, but the official speeches on these occasions took the line of part of the recruitment campaigns which were so vital prior to the Act bringing in conscription. Scenes of great enthusiasm were noted at places widely spaced all over Britain and almost every car, in the early days, went on a tour "showing the flag" and helping to build up moral and faith in the National cause.

April 1915 and the Grand Secretary was able to report a total subscription of £830. A new and unexpected item was the opening of lodges in the war zone. Bro. "Tiny" White, Grand Registrar, had opened the "8th Division War Lodge" No.2028 and this was followed by Bro. Sergeant Major (newly promoted) Geo. Pearce who opened the "Yellow Plume" No.2037 and a further application by Bro. I. Freeman was in hand to open the "Seventh Division War Lodge" in the Welsh Horse.

July 1915 and the record shows that Ambulance No.1 had been in action at Ypres and the second car had been seen in several provinces. The driver selected for car No.2 was Bro. Nicholls of Maesteg, Glam.

October and the third car was in the hands of the War Office and the driver selected on this occasion was the son of the Grand Secretary, young Willie Rose, who was afterwards initiated in a lodge established by Wally Jones, "The Sir Francis Earley" lodge, inside the ambulance itself. Bro. Wally Jones of Newcastle, was the assistant driver. The Order was progressing in spite of all the restrictions.

The psychological reaction of the general public to our most effective "War Effort" as we toured our successive gifts of ambulances with the Military authority, to meetings throughout the Country on recruitment campaigns, was remarkable.

It is recorded that one car went into no less than 34 towns and from being a strictly "non U" organisation we became almost overnight a prominent, I had almost said dominant, Order of a character which made it a most desirable unit of the British way of life. A prime factor in this excellent change in our reputation was the fervour with which we took part in the scores

of local efforts, not as individuals but as lodges, and it was for this reason that our image was projected, not as a type which up to then we had always been but as a serious Order.

Another tremendous help to this trend of thought was the magnificent showing made by some of our provinces, who, in addition to taking a full part in local community activities and in R.A.O.B. national schemes, of their own volition and with their own funds, made valuable contributions to the "war effort". Some even purchasing and presenting ambulances from their own resources.

Altogether, by October 1918, the national effort had provided 18 ambulances for service at home and overseas.

Another Grand Lodge of England War effort which touched the heart strings and purse strings of our members was the appeal sent out on behalf of St. Dunstan's and for which over £10,000 was subscribed. The collection of this gift must have been a record for speed and deep sincerity.

Looking back over the records of the period, noting the great energy with which we approached National problems and with which we pursued them and the reaction of the public to this, I am convinced that, even more than our Orphanage scheme, the combined and completely detached and massive work our units put into the tasks which presented themselves to the citizens of those days, were responsible for our emergence to present day status.

In fact, our collective effort directed to the National well being plus the movements in our benevolent work which stemmed from this period, i.e., The War Memorial Annuity and Convalescent Schemes, have established us finally as an accepted and acceptable unit in the social life of Britain. One thing only must be made clear; the place we occupy today in the public consciousness, is not reserved to G.L.E. who played a major part in the development, but is shared by every banner extant irrespective of size or importance, for to the general public, who have always assessed movements and not sections, we are "The Buffaloes" the "R.A.O.B." and good or ill in any section has been, and as far as I am able to see, always will be, reflected on the Order as a whole and not on the labels we still carry to identify our sectional membership.

Maybe the vested interests which still block the way to unity will ponder on this fact and begin to travel together toward the only objective which can make us really great.

The following account, written by Bro. S. E. Harding of his experiences as one of our Ambulance Drivers in the 1914/18 war is of absorbing interest.



S. E. Harding

It was about 1909 when the Grand Secretary, Bro. W. H. Rose, R.O.H., and his family came to live at No.11 Grange Crescent, Cheltenham.

Young Willie Rose and myself were great friends, and I used to visit No.11 very often. During these visits I noticed the letters R.A.O.B. on lots of things, but this conveyed nothing to me.

Young Will was in the cycle business and we both owned racing bikes. On one occasion we decided to ride to Weston Super Mare for the week end, and we were given a letter to give to the Host of the Bristol Hotel, opposite the Locking Road railway station, again I noticed the R.A.O.B. on the windows.

We were well looked after for food and accommodation and at the end of the stay we were informed there was nothing to pay. On our return we told W.H. that they had refused our money, but he only smiled.

At the outbreak of war, young Will and myself were medically rejected for Army service, and I was therefore very surprised when sometime later, I was informed that young Willie had joined the Order and the Army, and in the space of a few weeks was posted overseas with one of the R.A.O.B. Ambulances.

For some time past, W.H. had been a member of the Cheltenham Bowling Club, and one day after watching play on the Green, W.H. said he would like a chat with me. He asked if I was still keen to join the Army, and if so would I drive one of the Ambulances and become a member of the Order, because they had an arrangement with the War Office that all the Gift Ambulances should be driven by Members of the Order. My answer was "Yes".

The Grand Secretary introduced me into the Order, and I was accepted by the King George V Lodge. My application to join the Mechanical Transport had now been accepted, and I was instructed to report to Grove Park, London.

Upon arrival, I was informed that my Ambulance was not yet available, and I was to report each morning to the Testing Sergeant. We used to go out in a five ton lorry and a batch of drivers for testing, and I really enjoyed this job, and could have stayed on this for the duration of the war, but I was on a special mission.

After several days, I was instructed to report to Kempton Park and collect my Ambulance. There she was parked by the Racecourse with hundreds of other vehicles. It was a 12/16 Sunbeam, specially made for the job, and a beauty.

It was the No.8 gift from the Order to the War Office, and presented by the Province of Nottingham.

The following day I was instructed to proceed to Avonmouth for embarkation to France, but upon my application, I was allowed three days leave and permission to proceed via Cheltenham. When I reported to the Grand Secretary in Cheltenham, he was delighted. We first had photographs taken by the local Echo, and then the car was placed in the glass window of a garage in the main street for all and sundry to see.

My journey from Avonmouth to Rouen was to be made in the Huntsland, this was a huge vessel which had been taken from the Germans, and when she came in you had to look up in the air to see the deck, but when loaded, I had to walk down a plank.

The load consisted of guns, shells, lorries, and all kinds of war equipment, including railway engines.

Troops did not embark on this type of vessel normally, but owing to our arrangement, Buff drivers were left with their cars.

The sergeant in charge of unloading at Rouen detailed me to drive a lorry up to the Base. I pointed out that I had a letter for Captain White, and I would wait for my car to come off. The following morning I was put on fatigue duty and became

unpopular with the sergeant when I requested an interview with Captain White. This officer read the letter from the Grand Secretary, and I was very well received and returned to my car.

Replacements for destroyed ambulances were very frequent, and within a few days I was up at the front line, attached to the 8th Field Ambulance, Third Division.

My Ambulance was the first of this type they had seen, and the writing on both sides attracted a lot of attention. We were soon in the thick of it, Ypres, The Somme, Arras, Cambrai and a lot of other "hot" places. All this time my Ambulance was my home, and lots of members would recognize the markings and introduce themselves to me.

The Grand Secretary never lost touch with me, and some of my letters to him were in the green Journal.

In reply to a question from W.H. to name anything I required. I suggested a small portable gramophone, this was purchased at Dale Fort in the Promenade, and proved a blessing to us. When this was printed in the Journal, I received some records and other things in short supply such as socks, chocolate, etc., from the Nottingham Province, and I began to think that I had joined an Order that was really worth while.

On our second visit to Ypres I met George Pearce Junior who was driving No.9 Gloucestershire Ambulance, his father, Bro. G. Pearce of the Royal Duke of York Lodge had gone out with the original No.1, young George still retains and values the Cup his father won for the best Ambulance in the Division.

It was also at Ypres that I caught up with young Willie Rose, what a reunion that was. The good news was that he had been granted a Travelling Dispensation, and the opening of the Sir Francis Earley Lodge in his Ambulance, was a red letter day. I have since been in this Lodge which is now a permanent Lodge in Gateshead.

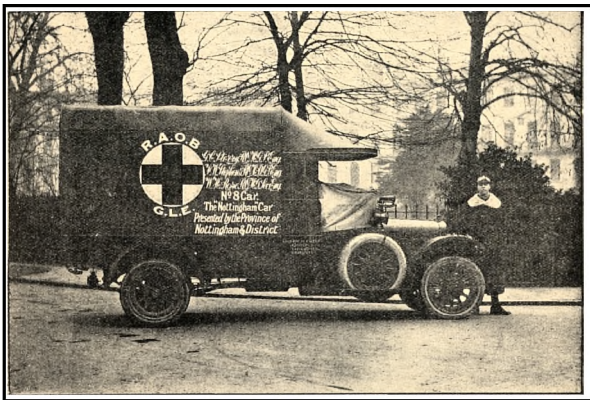
All this time No.8 had been doing grand work under the worst possible conditions. It was regarded as a break from front line duty to be sent back to the forward repair shops, but this only happened to me once when a near blast removed the canvas

covering, on that occasion they wanted to paint out the lettering, but again I won.

Our best effort was made on the Arras front when our front line was being pushed back. The "strafe" started at 3.30 a.m., and most of our ambulances were put out of action, but not No.8. For several days and nights we kept at it, bringing our loads of wounded to the Dressing Station, and back again.

My Sergeant offered me a spare driver while I had a rest, but the offer was declined. I was indeed glad when it cooled off for a bit, but what a mess No.8 was in, (and the driver) shrapnel holes all over the body, radiator damaged in several places and leaking, and the chassis cracked, this later meant workshop for two days to fit plates to repair the chassis.

Shortly after I was taken before the C.O. (I thought I was on the mat), and informed that a good job of work had been done, and an Honour had been awarded.



At the end of the War, it was agreed that any of our Gift Ambulances that were still serviceable could be returned, but the old No.8 did not come into this class, she had taken a real hiding, and was a sorry mess but had done a grand job.

I was sorry to leave her, she had found me many friends because of the R.A.O.B. lettering.

I know that it was a condition between the Order and the War Office that these Gift Ambulances should serve on Active Service overseas. If it was the intention to use these ambulances to help save the wounded and alleviate their suffering, I can assure the Officials of the Order who were responsible, and the Nottingham Province in particular, that this was achieved.

S. E. Harding, M.M.



R.A.O.B., G.L.E. Ambulances World War One

During the early years of WWI a great number of cars were donated by individuals for the war effort to be fitted with ambulance bodies. Many wealthy families sometimes included their chauffeurs as well, the men then having to join the army. Some donors had ambulance bodies fitted with no consultation with the authorities, which resulted in horrendous problems, because repairs and servicing were very difficult with no standard models. Eventually the British Red Cross laid down a specification for bodies and some form of standardisation was achieved which made it possible for ambulance bodies to be ordered direct from the manufacturers. Financial donations for ambulances were received from various organisations and businesses like Breweries, Trade Unions, Charitable Groups, Hunts, Worshipful Companies, and the Silver Thimble Fund.

Manufacturers of ambulances included Rolls-Royce, Daimler, Albion, Morris, Vulcan, Austin, Sunbeam-Rover, Wolseley, Siddeley-Deasy, Renault, Buick, Crossley, Vauxhall, Argyll, Sunbeam, Lanchester, Ford Model T, Fiat and Star.

With the outbreak of War in August at its meeting in October, the Grand Lodge of England accepted that a Roll of Honour be printed in the G.L. Report, giving the names of its members who had joined the Colours. The idea of purchasing Motor Ambulances also arose, being mooted by the Grand Primo, Grand Secretary and the South West Surrey Province. To assist in the purchase of such vehicles the voluntary ½d donation was introduced. Various Flower Days were held around the country (titled "Scarlet Pimpernel Days"). The "Scarlet Pimpernel" brought into prominence by Baroness Orczy as the Emblem of Succour was adopted by Bro. John W. Gaze, R.O.H. He purchased the materials for the little flower designed badges, which were then assembled by crippled girls living in and around Nottingham. This idea and his donating of the required materials raised large sums for the Ambulance Fund. Picture to the right shows Brother John William Bower Gaze, R.O.H., Grand Primo (Eng.), 1919,



President Harrogate Convention, Grand Treasurer 1922 - 1936 of the Nottingham Province.

To mark their appreciation of the work carried out by Bro. Gaze, K.O.M., in connection with the fund raising scheme he had introduced in respect of the R.A.O.B. Ambulance Cars. He was presented with a lovely gold jewel by the Grand Lodge in 1916.

It was accepted by the Grand Lodge that each Ambulance Car to be donated would be marked with the initials of the Order on both sides of the vehicle. The name of the current Grand Primo, Deputy Grand Primo and the Grand Secretary.

Also to be included the Car Number and the Province hosting the Grand Lodge meetings.

Cars Number 1, 2, and 3, were presented during 1915, when meetings were held at Nottingham. Cars Number 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, during 1916 with meetings being held at Cardiff. Cars 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, during 1918 with Cardiff still hosting the Grand Lodge meetings.

At the 1915 Swansea Convention held on the 2nd August, the Grand Primo announced that 50,000 members of the Order had joined the colours, which included such notable figures as the Grand Primo (Eng.) 1913, Bro. Jack T. Davies, R.O.H., of the Abertillery Province.



The first Motor Ambulance (the last word in such vehicles) had been purchased through the War Office at a cost of £418 7s. 6d. The War office followed the example of the R.A.O.B. in acquiring fifty up-to-date cars of the same pattern from the Sunbeam Motor Company.

The picture above shows Ambulance Car No.1, with its driver Bro. George Pearce, R.O.H., who accompanied the Car at its civic receptions at Cheltenham and Bath. Car No.1, with Brother Pearce, R.O.H., was sent to France in January, and was one of the first better cars sent to the front line, and one of the very few that had not been into the workshops. It received its baptism

under fire at Ypres and had been called upon to missions of mercy at Estaires and Neuve Chapelle.

Brother Pearce later received the Military Medal and the D.S.M. A picture post card was produced by Grand Lodge office of Car No.1, and its driver and over 100,000 were sold which greatly assisted the fund raising efforts.

During 1915 the R.A.O.B bought its second Car. This vehicle went to France in May. The Grand Primo (Eng.) Brother Francis Early, R.O.H., President Swansea Convention, Manchester Province, together with its driver Brother Cyril C. W. Nicholls, C.P., Maesteg District Primo Lodge, toured the country for propaganda purposes, to show members of the Order what was being done and to promote purchase of further ambulances.

Bro. Earley, pictured right, informed the members of Grand Lodge he had been received by 34 Lord Mayors, Mayors and Chairmen of various town Councils. It had been a busy period indeed. By the time they reached London to present the Car at the War Office, he was quite used to the "Big Society" life style, and admitted it had been a very busy period in time.

The Grand Secretary Brother William Henry Rose, R.O.H., also wrote a small booklet entitled, "Eleven hundred miles in Our Ambulance" which covered the various places that the Ambulance Car, the Grand Primo and its driver had visited on its tour. The publication had very good sales and contributed to obtaining car No.3.

It was during this year that Grand Lodge accepted the ruling. "That members of the Order who joined the colours would have their attendances counted, just as if they had been present". When this decision was announced, such was met with rapturous applause by all assembled.

At the 1915 Convention held in the Albert Hall, Swansea, Brother Rose R.O.H., the Grand Secretary was pleased to announce to the delegates assembled. "That our Minor Lodges in South Africa had started collecting for our Ambulance Fund".



One evening at this Convention, Sir Robert Mond was initiated a member of the Order, and made a donation of £50 towards the Ambulance Fund. During two days a further £160 was collected from the delegates who attended.

In 1916 Grand Lodge were able to report that three Ambulance Cars had been purchased and sent to France at a cost of £1,460. Sales of the ambulance booklet were in excess of 5,000 copies.

Cars Number 2, and 3, were also sent to Ypres, again the drivers were members of the Order. The driver of Car No.3, Bro. Owens, C.P. was a member of the Whitley Bay Lodge 1188, and was later replaced by the son of the Grand Secretary. There was so much enthusiasm to help King and Country and to be a driver, the Grand Council had to recommend appointments from the many nominations received as to the drivers required.

One of the first G.L.E. Minor Lodges opened in France, was called the Purcell Barnes Lodge, such was named after the Colonel of the Regiment which was based at Rouen. The founders were Bros. Wm. Rees, C.P., Sir Wm. J. Lewis lodge 327, Merthyr; A. W. Whitehead, Volunteer Lodge 834, Lancashire, Cheshire and Isle of Man; H. Waterhouse, Royal Borough of Kensington Lodge 2008 (London), G.L.E. Ltd; and A. O. Henderson, United Service Lodge 515, S.W. Surrey.

Lodge secretary was Bro. John H. Fisher Mechanist Staff Sergeant with the A.S.C., M.T., 1st Base Depot, Rouen.

The picture to the right shows Car No.2 taken in Egypt after almost two years service. Its driver Cyril Nicholls, C.P., had also served in France and Salonika. He was able to confirm that the vehicle was running as good as new. In July 1916 Bro. Nicholls was recovering from a wound he had received. At this time he and the Car were stationed at Motor Ambulance Base Ras-el-Sin, Alexandria.



Car No.1, had originally been supplied in white livery, by 1916 it had been changed to green. Also like many of the other

Motor Ambulances at the front line had its body canvas covered with wire netting to help deflect shrapnel.



The picture on the left shows Car No.3, taken in France. Bro. Willie Rose was the driver. Standing (left) Brother Wally P. Jones, C.P., Sir Robert Jones Lodge, Northumberland & N.E. Durham Province. The army sergeant on the right is unknown.

It was in Car No.3, in 1916, that members of the Order stationed in France, opened a Lodge called the "Sir Francis Earley". Brother Wally Jones, C.P., from Blyth was the first Worthy Primo. Brother Willie Rose, Junr., being the first initiate into a Minor Lodge held under such conditions.

Lodge meetings were held in the ambulance as no other meeting place was available. If you can imagine twenty men crammed into the back of such a vehicle, you have to understand what these members went through in their love of the Order.

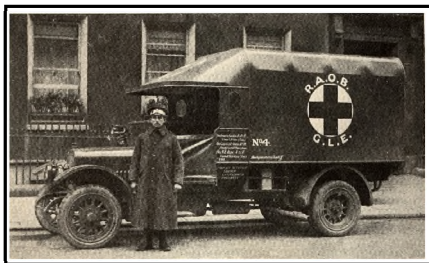


The left hand picture shows Car No.3, in France. Leaning on the mudguard is Brother Wally Jones, C.P., driver of Car No.4, and Bro. Willie Rose Junr., standing behind. During a visit to the French Battlefields in 1916 by the King of the Belgians, he came across one of our Ambulance Cars. He enquired as to the meaning of the R.A.O.B.

After being informed, he expressed the wish that Lodges of the Order be opened in his country. Also that he be afforded an invitation to become a member of such a wonderful organisation.

We are fully aware that Minor Lodges were opened within Belgium, however, if the King was ever initiated is something that we have been unable to confirm.

On the right is Car No.4, with its driver Bro. Wally P. Jones, C.P., taken in front of 5, Princes Buildings, Bath. This brother was to write numerous letter home from the front, as to the places he and the Car were stationed. His many interesting letters were reproduced in the G.L. Journals of the day, they provided a very graphic log of events during the war years. They also proved how well used and operational were the Ambulance Cars provided by the R.A.O.B.



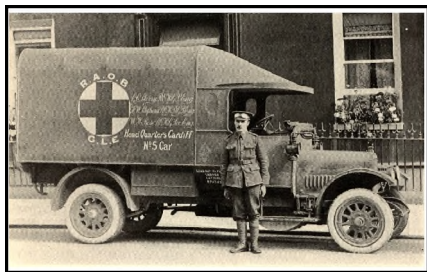
At the April meeting 1916 of Grand Lodge at the Queens Hotel, Cardiff, the first item of business, was to pass a vote of condolence to the Grand Primo (Eng.) Brother Storry, R.O.H., and his family, on the great loss sustained by the death of their eldest son, who had been killed in action.



It was also announced that Brother Jack T. Davies R.O.H., Grand Primo (Eng.) 1913, Abertillery Province, pictured left, was lying very ill at Malta. He had Asiatic fever and pneumonia. It can be confirmed that Brother Davies recovered and was laid to rest in 1928.

The right hand Picture reading left to right, are Ambulance Cars No.4, No.5, and No.6, taken outside "York House", Bath in 1916. The Brother standing by Car No.6, is Archibald W. West, K.O.M., Grand Alderman of Juniper (Eng.) 1910, Bath Province.





Pictured on the left is Car No.5, with its driver Bro. C. G. Drew C.P. member of the Royal Forest of Dean Province.



The picture above shows ambulance Cars No's 5, 6, and 7, being presented at Hull on the 14th June. These three cars having been purchased by the Hull Province.

Pictured right is Brother George Cecil Storry R.O.H., Grand Primo (Eng.) 1916, Hull Province, who officially handed over the three Ambulance Cars to the War Office on behalf of the Grand Lodge of England. He was supported by many leading members of the R.A.O.B., these were accepted by Major General Ferrier, C.P., on behalf of the War Office. Also present were the Lord Mayor of Hull, the Bishop of Hull and many thousands of the local citizens. The Ambulance Cars were handed over, amidst great applause and cheering by those assembled.





Pictured on the left are some of the Ambulance Cars manned by men of the Royal Army Medical Corps. They are picking up wounded soldiers on the French Battlefields, about thirty miles from Le Treport,

during a lull in the fighting. It is reported that the Ambulance Car third left, was one supplied by the R.A.O.B. and possibly Car No.6, or 7,. The driver of Car No. 6, was Bro. Williams and No.7, Bro. Wright of the Hull Province.

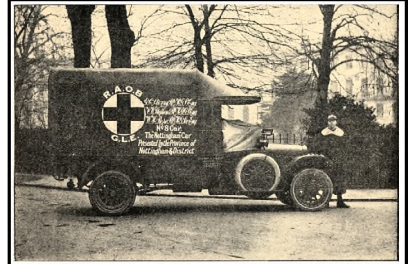
Printed on the reverse of this photograph are the words ***“These are King’s soldiers and our comrades who have fought and suffered. The best we can give them is their due”.***

At the July meeting of Grand Lodge the Grand Secretary Bro. Rose, confirmed that the Grand Lodge of England had presented eight Ambulance Cars on behalf of the R.A.O.B to the War Office at a cost of around £4,000. The last being the Nottingham Car at a cost of £472 7s. 2d. Bro. John A. Kettle K.O.M., Leeds Province felt that there should be an interchange of visits throughout the country to our wounded brethren who were located in the various hospitals, the Grand Secretary keeping each province in touch with any member that may be lying in hospital.

The Grand Secretary accompanied by Bro. Lionel M. Jacobs, K.O.M., Grand Primo (Eng) 1911, Plymouth Province, were asked to attend London to make a presentation of an Ambulance Jewel. It eventually resulted in having to locate the hospital, where the recipient Bro. A. E. Wright, C.P. has been taken on becoming very ill that day. Brother Wright, who lived in Brixton, soon recovered and was able to return to his duties at the War Office in London.

(No visible evidence of one of the aforementioned jewels is to hand, however, two others in respect of the War years are contained within this book). ******(See page 32 of this publication)******

During 1916, Cars were being purchased by various Governing Authorities or Provincial Grand Lodges as they were titled at that time. Funding to purchase the Ambulance Cars again came mainly through the organising of “Scarlet Pimpernel Days”.



The pictures above show Car No.8, purchased by the Nottingham Province. The Car was en route from Kempton Park to France and was driven by Bro. E. Harding. This picture was taken at the R.A.O.B. G.L.E. Headquarters at Cheltenham.

The picture on the right is of Car No.9, about 1½ miles outside of Coventry, purchased by the Gloucestershire District Primo Lodge. During the year 1916, this Primo Lodge was granted Province status.



The Grand Secretary Bro. Rose confirmed that the idea of County Ambulance Cars was admirable. The R.A.O.B. in conjunction with the War Office were hoping to attach such Cars to the same County Regiments serving abroad.



Pictured on the left is an Ambulance Car outside the Headquarters of the Worcester District Primo Lodge and also home to the Victoria Lodge No.489.

The Car, Number unknown, could have been the one possibly purchased by the neighbouring Province of Gloucestershire.

It is parked outside the Saracens Head Hotel, Tything, Worcester. The Landlord of the establishment, Brother William Roberts, K.O.M.,

was an ardent Buff, having been the District Primo President of Worcestershire in 1901.

He was a member of the Worcester "Scarlet Pimpernel Flower Day Committee" which included such brothers as Geo. Spinner, C.P., Wm. H. Pawley, K.O.M., P.G.Sec., W. H. Austin, and W. C. Morris, K.O.M.

This picture shows an Ambulance Car, again Number unknown, parked outside the Imperial Hotel, which was situated in Stoke-on-Trent, or one of the six Towns that now make up that city. The Imperial Hotel being the headquarters of The Staffordshire Regiments Association and a number of R.A.O.B. Lodges under the control of The North Staffordshire Province.



The vehicle may have been purchased by that Province, or was on a propaganda tour from the Nottingham Province.

In one of his letter to the Grand Secretary dated 1916. Bro. Wally P. Jones, C.P., confirmed that the weather had been awful. It had rained for many days. With the constant shelling water collecting in the craters created, together with the movement of troops and equipment churning up the ground, such had turned the battlefields areas into a quagmire. Driving a Motor Ambulance was very difficult under such conditions.

Often vehicles became stuck in the mud operating between the front lines and the Field Hospitals. The picture on the right shows soldiers (British Tommies), assisting an Ambulance Car that had become stuck in such conditions.



The picture on the right shows the P.G.P. of the Nottingham Province making presentation of Ambulance Car No.11 to Colonel E. C. Thring, accompanied by Major E. F. Holden who represented the War Office and the Army.



He stated that the Car under notice cost £575, has accommodation for four stretcher cases and two attendants.

The presentation took place on Nottingham Forest in 1916 and was witnessed by over 5000 people.

The driver standing to the left of the vehicle is Brother S. E. Harding of Gloucester District Primo Lodge. This was the second Ambulance Car presented by the Nottingham Province.

The Grand Secretary announced at the meeting held October of 1916, that at least 250,000 members of the Order had joined the Colours, serving in the Army, Navy and Auxiliary Forces.

At this meeting it was resolved that the Grand Lodge provide by voluntary effort an amount sufficient to endow one or more beds in the Union Jack Club, London, for Naval and Military Brethren.

It was also in October 1916 the first issue of the Buffalo Quarterly Journal was produced, the Grand Secretary commented, having looked through such I found it to be very interesting. Contained within this issue were pictures of some of the Ambulance Cars.

The Grand Lodge had by this time presented eleven Ambulance Cars, four others have been afforded for home service, the total in the region of £6,600.

Application had been received from our brethren abroad to open a new Lodge, viz., at the headquarters of the 2nd Gn. Bn. Kings Liverpool Regiment, now stationed in Imbros, an island in the Mediterranean.

Pictured right Bro. Frank W. Stephens R.O.H., Grand Primo (Eng) 1917, Walsall and South Staffordshire Province.



At the January meeting of Grand Lodge the idea of perpetuating the memory of fallen Buffaloes in the Great War first arose. The same business came up again at the April meeting. It was moved Bro. Sidney C. Bennett, seconded Bro. T. W. Boden, R.O.H., Grand Primo (Eng) 1906, Blackpool and Poulton-le-Fylde Province, that a fund be inaugurated. Ideas to be sought from the Order on how best the money be raised to establish and formulate the scheme.

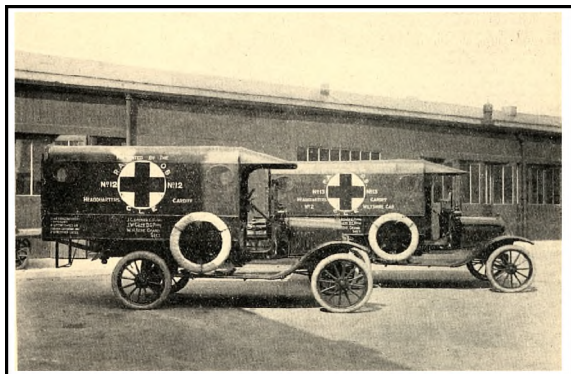
This business arose once more at the July meeting. It was accepted that a scheme be established in memory of fallen members. Such to take the form of annuities to aged members of the Order and their wives. The title accepted being the War Memorial Annuity Scheme. By the October meeting the Grand Secretary Bro. Rose said that funds to the Annuity scheme stood at £877 5s. 6d. This statement was greeted with great applause.

It was also unanimously agreed at the October meeting that all conscientious objectors should be expelled from the Order.

The picture to the right shows Brother John Gardner, R.O.H. Grand Primo (Eng.) 1918, Cardiff Province. He had been a tireless worker for the Order over many years, alas in the spring of 1920 he passed away.



At the January meeting of Grand Lodge Rules were submitted in respect of the War Memorial Annuity Scheme and following a few adjustments, were agreed.



Pictured left are two Ambulance Cars presented at Swindon on the 17th August 1918. Bro. Major T. G. Wright made the presentation on behalf of the Order, and were accepted by Major-General T. G. P. Calley, C.B.M.V.O, on behalf of the War Office.

Car No. 12, is on the left and Car No. 13, on the right. This vehicle was purchased by the Wiltshire Province.

At the Grand Lodge meeting held October 1918 in Cardiff, Brother John Gardner R.O.H., Grand Primo (Eng.) confirmed that Motor Ambulance Car No.18, had been presented to the War Office at Salisbury in the summer of that year. Presentation having been made by members of the Salisbury Plain Province.

Pictured right is Car No. 11, with its driver Bro. William H. Rose Jnr. This picture was taken somewhere in Germany near the end of the conflict.

Bro. Rose had been stationed in France, Belgium and Germany since 1916. The vehicle had also been used in the three countries

since 1916, which proved how reliable and sturdy the Sunbeam Ambulance Cars had been over that period of time.



By 1919 Ambulance cars were to be found within Africa and India as well as on the great battlefield of Europe. In the early 1900's the following G.L.E. Lodges were operating in Egypt and India: Abercrombie Military, 777; Gipsy Villa, Mustopha Pacha, Alexandria; Pharos, 1055., Rue Nebi, Danial, Alexandria; United Services 1432., Abassia; W. T. Perkins. Military Hospital, Cairo; Brunswick Star, 1210, (2nd East Yorkshire Regiment), Masonic Hall, Kamptee.

It can be confirmed that Ambulance Car No. 2, was stationed in Egypt in 1916. I am not certain when such vehicles were first deployed in India, or if any R.A.O.B. Cars were used in the country. However, pictured right



are a number of Motor Ambulance Cars passing through the Khyber Pass in 1919.

During the Great War years 1914 - 1918, membership of the R.A.O.B., G.L.E. had shown great resolve in their efforts to raise the funds to acquire so many vehicles, when you consider, the depression in business, and the large number of members who had joined the Colours.

A total of eighteen Ambulance Cars were officially handed to the War Office by the Grand Lodge of England. Presentations had been made at various locations. A number of the Ambulance Cars had been purchased by Provinces, most of the funds required having been raised by holding "Scarlet Pimpernel Days" and a great deal of hard work by the members of those Provinces.

As it appears no official list is available to confirm which Provinces donated all the individual Cars, we can only list those we are aware of. Nottingham (Cars No. 8 and No.11); Gloucestershire (Car No. 9); Wiltshire (Car No.13 and another Car No. unknown) and Hull (Car No. unknown).

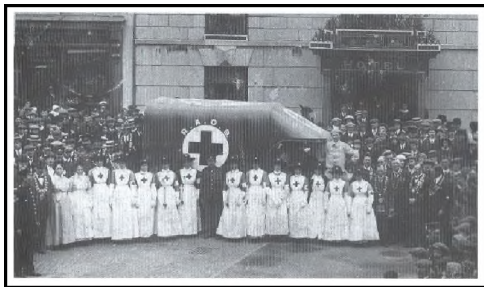
Perhaps such facts may be found, or someone in the future who reads this article may provide the answer.

We are able to confirm, that together with the official Motor Ambulance Cars that were presented by the Grand Lodge of England on behalf of the R.A.O.B., further vehicles were presented by Provinces.



The left hand picture, is of an Ambulance Car presented by the Bristol & District R.A.O.B. to the British Red Cross Society, City & County of Bristol Branch.

The picture below, was taken outside the Boot Hotel, Victoria Square, Aberdare. In 1916 the Aberdare Province had not been formed and came under the control of Merthyr. The Ambulance and Voluntary Aid Detachment of nurses were intended to deal with the reception of wounded soldiers, who were to be accommodated at 'The Trap Surgery', before the opening of the Aberdare General Hospital.



At the rear of the Ambulance is a member of the Order wearing a Provincial Grand Lodge sash in a Diamond pattern. He is standing behind the nurses and in front of the man wearing a Boater. What Province did he represent? as Merthyr Provincial Grand Lodge sashes were a plain dark blue design.

It seems ironic, that the official reception and presentation is being made where a replica of the Whitehall Cenotaph was erected in 1923 by the Town Council, as a mark of respect to those servicemen who lost their lives in the Great War.



The left hand picture shows one of the Lancashire, Cheshire and Isle of Man Ambulance Cars.

This particular one had been presented in 1916 for Home Service and had been manufactured by the Vulcan Motor Company.

Pictured right are two Ambulance Cars presented to the Red Cross by the Lancashire, Cheshire and Isle of Man Province in 1916.

These cars had been purchased and presented through the efforts of a

Committee titled, the Southport R.A.O.B. Motor Ambulance Corps.



Both were produced by Vulcan and presented in 1916. Some of the members within the picture, were notable figures within the Province. Such as the P.G. Secretary Bro. W. B. Rawson, R.O.H., Vice-President and founder of the Corps. Bro. F. Kitson, K.O.M.; Bro. E. Stafford, C.P., President; Bro. A. D. Messenger, K.O.M. Hon. Treasurer; and Bro. T. Sawyer, the Hon Secretary.

As all are aware the death toll during the Great War was horrific. The wounded were counted in tens of thousands. During the heavy artillery bombardments that took place wounded soldier would have to lie where they fell, until stretcher bearers were able to collect them. In many cases horse drawn Ambulance Carts were used to take them back to



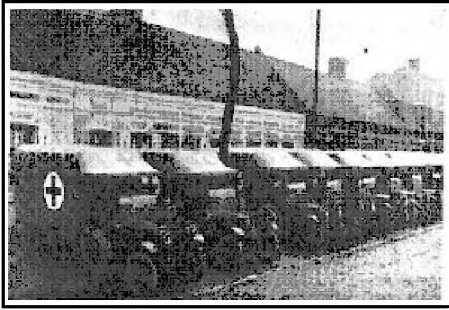
the casualty clearing stations and in some cases to advanced dressing stations. The picture to the left shows conditions very close to the front line with casualties awaiting collection.



Picture left shows a casualty clearing station, where a road was still able to be negotiated. From these positions very close to the fighting they were then moved back to advance dressing stations. These were normally in cellars of ruined buildings or under corrugated iron sheets. The sheets would be covered with soil to offer a little more protection from artillery shelling. There, members of the R.A.M.C. would carry out initial medical care such as cleaning and bandaging wounds, feeding and ensuring some little rest was gained. Such stations were on or near to a road, to allow Motor Ambulances to collect and convey them back to Field Ambulance Headquarters or main dressing stations. Certainly many

members of the Order were recovered from the battle fields in Ambulance Cars that bore the name of the R.A.O.B., G.L.E. to places of safety beyond the range of the heavy guns.

The main dressing stations or Field Ambulance Headquarters



would be well behind the front line well clear of any enemy shelling. There proper medical attention could be provided with army surgeons and doctors attending to the more seriously wounded. Nurses to provide care and to dress wounds etc. The picture left shows one of the main dressing stations located

in France. After a short as possible stay the wounded would be transferred to hospitals near railheads. At these hospitals following a period of rest, soldiers would be checked to see if they were able to be returned to their units to continue fighting, or for transporting by rail to hospitals near to the French coast where they would await Hospital Ships to take them back to Great Britain.

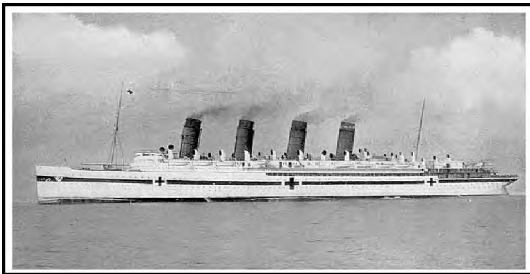
For those soldiers who were seriously injured, possibly having lost limbs, suffering gun shot and shrapnel wounds. Those suffering from the affects of gas attacks such as Mustard Gas, or severally shelled shocked, would have to be returned to Great Britain.



Hospital Ships were used to convey them from France. 'The Blighty Wounds' as they were affectionately called, were placed onto such ships at Bourlogne or Calais to cross the channel to English Ports. The picture to the left shows

wounded being stretchered aboard one of the Hospital Ships.

Many of the ocean going Cruise Liners, were converted into Troop Ships and Hospital Ships. Taking soldiers to Europe and bringing the casualties back to Great Britain. Such ships were supplied by Cunard, White Star and other Companies. Pictured on the right is the Liner Mauritania in Hospital Ship colours, which housed up to 2,000 beds. In May 1915 a sister ship of the Cunard Line the Lusitania was sunk in the Irish sea by a German submarine, when taking passengers across the Atlantic to America on a regular crossing.



On arrival at Dover or Southampton, wounded soldiers would be transferred to Ambulance Trains, such were capable of conveying 200 stretcher cases and many walking wounded to hospitals around the country. There were in the region of two dozen such trains deployed for these duties. The majority of the Railway Company's of the day provided such trains. Pictured on the left was one owned by The G.W.R.

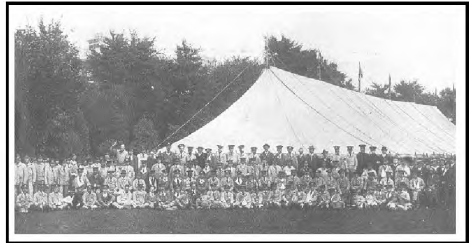


Pictured on the right shows stretcher cases being transferred from an Ambulance Train to await further transportation to their designated hospitals.



Many Province throughout the British Isles organised dinners and parties, to welcome the invalided home to these shores as a mark of appreciation, for their courage in the line of duty. A great deal of work was undertaken in organising the events. Due to the large numbers to be entertained in some cases up to 1,000 wounded soldiers. Tents were erected and large halls used for such purposes. Such would be decorated with flags and buntings.

The picture to the left below shows wounded troops being entertained by the Bath Provincial Grand Lodge. The right hand picture was taken in the grounds of a local Park within the Bristol Province.



For those members of the Order who had served in Europe and were now recovering from wounds and trauma, it was a time to resume their Buffing. As many of the hospitals and camps were located near towns and cities, it was no problem



to find a local Lodge.

The picture on the left shows Officers and members of the Pride of Manchester Lodge 1392, Manchester Province, who were recovering at the Heaton Park Hospital Camp.

The picture on the right shows two R.A.O.B. Jewels connected with WWI. The right hand one is to Commemorate the Allies Victory 1919 and produced by L. Simpson of London. The other for Services Rendered in the Great War 1914-1919 and produced by Fattorini of Bradford.



There may well have been other Ambulance Cars purchased and presented by Provinces that we have no record of at this moment in time. However, anything that may come to light in the future will be added to a further book.

The efforts of the R.A.O.B, G.L.E. in the First World War years in respect of providing Ambulances is not the end of the story - However, that may be another article, another time.

Apologies are made for the quality of some of the images contained within the article. However, please consider the age and condition of those that have been reproduced.

* * *

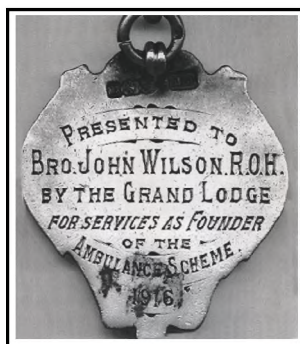
The Soldier.

A poem written by Rupert Brooke a serving soldier WWI.

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Since beginning this book, many articles and pictures have been loaned or sent to the author and I am very grateful to the donors of the said items. Another very important picture which has come my way is the only Ambulance Jewel ever made for a founder, this was presented to Bro. John Wilson in 1916 as founder of the Ambulance Scheme whilst he was Grand Primo during 1914.



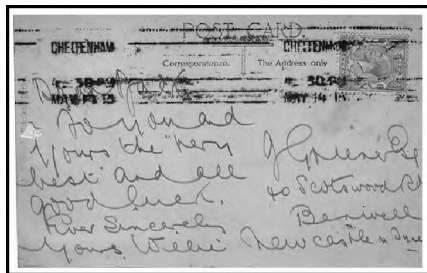
This Jewel is displayed with pride and can be seen in the R.A.O.B., G.L.E. Museum at Grove House Harrogate, the front and rear views are pictured above.

The following pictures are late items that have been received and show some of the many photographic picture postcards that were on sale, all proceeds went to the various ambulance



funds. These first two show Number 2 car being displayed outside what is believed to be the George Hotel, Cheltenham.

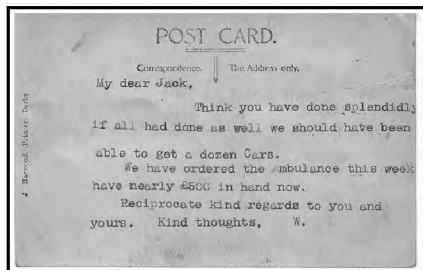
Pictured below are the front and back of a postcard showing Bro. Sgt. George Pearce and Car number 1, the postcard is



addressed to Jack Greensley of Newcastle under Lyne and is written thus "Dear Jack, Wishing you and yours the very best and all good luck, Ever Sincerely" and is signed "Yours Willie", the post mark is Cheltenham and one wonders if it was signed and sent by Billy Rose.

These postcards show Cyril Nicholls in uniform standing very proudly with Car number 2.

The typewritten text states "My dear Jack (presumably to the same person), Think you have done splendidly, if all had done

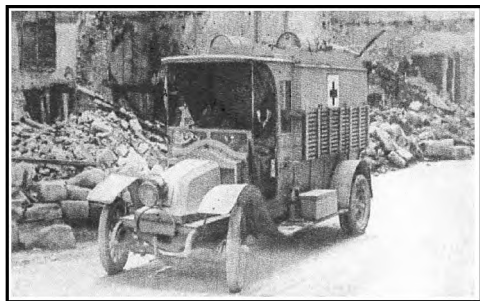


as well we should have been able to get a dozen Cars. We have ordered the ambulance this week, have nearly £500 in hand now. Reciprocate kind regards to you and yours. Kind thoughts W". It is assumed that this card was

also sent by 'Willie'.

Pictured right is the number 10 Wiltshire Car on display at Marlborough on Saturday 18th August 1917.





Pictured left is a typical example of a motor ambulance built and supplied by the French during this period. This type of design bore no relation to the British Sunbeam motors that were so robust and successful for our own troops.

The picture on the right shows one of the early Horse Drawn Ambulances which were in use at the beginning of the war. This particular one is a British ambulance in action at Helles, Gallipoli during 1915.



Bro. Willie Rose, M.M.



By necessity the picture story must finish here as the illustrations that are in our possession have come to an end.

There must be many thousands of postcards, memorabilia and booklets out there in the big wide buffalo world, if any of these are forthcoming it might make another book or a sequel to this story, who knows, it could become a best seller.

We finish this part of the story with a poem (opposite) written in 1917 by Brother John W. White, C.P., City Secretary Shamrock

Lodge, Northumberland and North East Durham Provincial Grand Lodge and dedicated to the drivers of the R.A.O.B G.L.E. Ambulance Cars whose bravery earned many of them the Military Medal and other awards including the Distinguished Service Medal.



1917

The bursting of shells, the boom of the guns,
The moans of the wounded in pain,
Are filling the air as onward he runs,
Over that terrible plain;
He's flying to save the soldiers who've fell,
Stricken by bullet, by shrapnel and shell —
What though the murderous fire is hell,
His energy will never wane.

Into the midst of the carnage he goes,
Into the furious fire,
Looking for friends in the teeth of his foes,
For the wounded assistance require.
See how he is helping as brother away,
Helping him out of the thick of the fray,
Where enemies grapple to kill and to slay !
His courage we all must admire.

Saving the heroes who've fallen in fight,
Tending the wounded and weak,
Searching the field from morning till night,
While the murderous guns do speak;
Haggard with pain are the faces he'll scan,
The ordeal is awful, yet he is a man,
Though blood runs as red as the cross on his van,
He knows it's his duty to seek.

We honour the brave who are shedding their blood,
We honour the heroes who save,
Who carry the wounded from out of the flood,
And snatch them away from the grave.
Your glory will live when we have decayed —
The saviours of heroes who went undismayed,
Where thousand were shattered and mangled and slayed,
Your deeds, they are noble and good.

Jottings and Letters

Extracted from the Journals of 1916 - 1917

Pictured below are the type of letter cards issued by the War Office during
World War One

WW1 ACTIVE SERVICE POSTCARD

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the postcard will be destroyed.

I am quite well.

I have been admitted into hospital
 { *sick* } *and am going on well.*
 { *wounded* } *and hope to be discharged soon.*

I am being sent down to the base.

I have received your { *letter dated* _____
 { *telegram* " _____
 { *parcel* " _____

Letter follows at first opportunity.

I have received no letter from you
 { *late* }
 { *for a long time.*

Signature }
 only }

Date _____

WW1 'HORRIBLE TRUTH' POSTCARD

I am still alive (just).

I am scared { *a bit.*
 { *a lot.*
 { *please send me a clean pair of underpants.*

I have been { *blown up* & *buried in a shell hole.*
 { *shot* " "
 { *bayoneted* " "
 { *gassed* " "

I am missing in action because { *my body has not been found.*
 { *I have been blown to bits.*

I have been badly wounded and can no longer { *see.*
 { *walk.*
 { *speak.*
 { *think.*

I have been awarded a medal for being very { *brave*
 { *stupid.*
 { *dead.*

Signature }
 only }

Date _____

* * *

Bro. Lionel Jacobs, R.O.H., and the Grand Secretary had the pleasure, on behalf of the Grand Lodge, of presenting the Ambulance jewel to Bro. A. E. Wright, C.P., the Grand Secretary meeting Bro. Lionel in London on his way through for his holiday. Unfortunately, Bro. Wright had been taken very ill and was in hospital. We, however, found him out, and the presentation was made by Bro. Jacobs in the ward of the infirmary, pinning the jewel upon his breast while he was lying in bed. He was very visibly affected, and expressed his thanks to the Grand Lodge for their kindness to him. We are pleased to report that Bro. Wright has now recovered, and we have received from him the following letter:

13, Chantrey Road,
Brixton, S.W.
26th September, 1916.

Dear Bro. Rose,

I much regret not having written to you before, but I waited until I left the hospital so that I could write in a more cheery tone. I am pleased to inform you that I am fit once again and have resumed my work at the War Office.

I have to thank you and Bro. Lionel Jacobs for your kindly visit to me during my illness and for what you did to cheer me up at the time. Will you please convey to the Grand Lodge officers my due appreciation of their very generous gift of a jewel, for what I have done on behalf of the

ambulances. You hardly have need of my assurance that what I have done has been done in the best Buffalo spirit. I shall treasure the jewel as a token of the esteem of the Grand Lodge of England, and also as a memento of a pleasing series of incidents in connection with the ambulances. It is extremely nice to read the various accounts of the behaviour of certain of our ambulances at the various fronts, and (from my technical point of view) quite a feather in the cap of the G.L.E. in having, in the first place, chosen quite the best make of car.

With fraternal greetings,

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

A. E. Wright, C.P.

* * *

Bro. Lionel Jacobs and the Grand Secretary upon the same day attended at the War Office and paid in our record cheque, £944 14s. 4d., receipt and acknowledgment for which is as follows :

War Office,

London, SW.

4th August, 1916.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your cheque for £944 14s. 4d., which was left by you at the War Office yesterday, in payment of Nos. 6 and 7 "Sunbeam" Motor Ambulances presented to the War Department by the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, Grand Lodge of England.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. Holbrook, Captain

(for Director of Supplies and Transport).

* * *

We are opening still another Lodge in France, the "Purcell Barnes". The founders are Bros. Wm. Rees, C.P., of the Sir Wm. J. Lewis Lodge, Merthyr (founder of the Colonel Lewis and Plymouth Lodges) ; A. W. Whitehead, Volunteer Lodge, Lancashire, Cheshire, and Isle of Man; H. Waterhouse, Royal Borough of Kensington Lodge, London; and A. O. Henderson, United Service Lodge, S.W. Surrey. The Secretary is Bro. Sergt. Fisher, A.S.C., M.T., 1st Base Depot, Rouen. Write a post card and wish the new Lodge "Good luck". We understand the colonel of the regiment, Purcell Barnes, after whom the Lodge is named, is a member and will attend upon the opening night.

* * *

Reference to the letters in the Report from Bro. W. Jones, C.P., will show the opening of the Sir Francis Earley Lodge. No accommodation could be found, but, not to be outdone, they decided to open in one of the Buffalo ambulances. Several were initiated, including the driver of the third car, Pte. Willie Rose, son of the Grand Secretary. This is surely a unique record.

* * *

We have to thank our Pontypridd brethren for a further cheque received of £200, this being handed to us on Saturday by Bro. E. R. Rogers, K.O.M., on behalf of the fund for the Cardiff and district car.

* * *

We understand another large cheque is expected. It is impossible to thank our brethren sufficiently for all they have done on behalf of our ambulances.

* * *

The following letters are from Bro. "Wally" Jones C.P., who is driving our No. 4 Car. We are always pleased to hear from our brother drivers. There can be no question that our ambulances have been of great service to our wounded "Tommies". One of the wounded here had been brought away in a R.A.O.B. car, and he spoke highly of its comfort and speed.

* * *

"Somewhere in France"

6th August, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

Just a line to you now that I have got settled down a bit after one of the roughest times of my life, and one that I shall ever remember. Well now, I should like to tell you of some things that happened. I was with my ambulance, No.1, at hospital, when rumours went round that we were shifting to another part of France to take part in a great baffle.

So later things came true, as we moved and left for another part, say fifty miles; then we stopped for one day, leaving for another part, and our division leaving also, marching by stages in the broiling sun, and which showed the pluck of our men out here, of whom I am proud of every one. Then we left again for another place, and after a week of travelling we finally arrived at a village near the firing line, which we could see and hear all that was going on, and some sights that could only be described as marvellous. Now we rested for a few days, then into action went our division, and also the ambulances with them, on the greatest advance ever known, and within twenty four hours of Hell we had the Boches on the run; and, my God, the sights were awful! The "boys" fighting like demons, and all

one could see was dead and dying, and I am pleased to say that the good "No.4" did the work that our brothers wished it to do and succoured the wounded under a rain of shell, and came to no harm.

Now this went on for fifteen days and nights, and we never had a wash or our clothes off all the while. I am pleased to say that we captured all the places which we set out to do, and at a great cost. The Germans that lived through the British artillery fire will never forget it as long as they live; for I got a German in my car, and he told me that the British artillery was terrible, and was pleased he was a prisoner. But we lost a lot of men, and they lost thousands to our hundreds. You, no doubt, will have read of the Big Advance with pride, and I must give a word of praise to the doctors for their splendid work, also the different ministers of the churches for their work, as they helped to bandage the wounded and put them in the ambulances. After this was over we received the congratulations of the General in Command for the splendid way we got the wounded away.

Well, I have endeavoured to give you a true description of the work done out here. Now I am at another part of France and waiting for further orders. I am pleased also to mention that I had a brother to see me while getting my car loaded up near the lines, and he was delighted to see the Buff car in the "Big Do" and No.3 car was with me then; he is Primo Owen, of Whitley Bay Lodge, Northumberland, and is well so far, although one does not know how long for, but hope for the best.

Well, I must say the cars behaved splendid, as we had to go over ground that was ploughed up by gun fire and houses

blown down on the roads, and things shifted roughly to let us pass. You can imagine the state of the roads, and yet we carried on and succeeded in getting all away safe. I am delighted with No.4 car, and I know that my chum is also pleased with No.3; so you can all be assured that the cars have upheld the good name of the R.A.O.B.

Now I must close this letter in sending my best respects to all brethren of the Order, and should the cars be wanted again both car and driver are ready. So allow me to remain,

Yours truly and fraternally,

W. P. Jones

P.S. - I have been informed that you are to visit Newcastle to raise my friend Bro. Jas. A. Morris, and Bro. Robert Duncan, to the Fourth Degree, on August 30th. Well, if so, I should be obliged if you would let them know the news, as I cannot send letters to all, and they would appreciate it very much as they would like to hear all from me. Willie is resting about fifty miles from me, but is tip top. I left him four days ago but we will meet again shortly. Hoping Mrs. Rose is keeping well. Give my kind regards to all at home. Now I must close as I am very busy.
W. P. J.

* * *

Le Treport, France.

22nd August, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have seen Nos.6 and 7 Cars clearing wounded, and at a place thirty miles from here. Both cars going well. No.6 Car driven by Pte. Williams, No.7 by Bro. Wright. Went with car for ride. I am here on leave until tomorrow. Letter following

W. P. Jones.

* * *

“Somewhere in France”

18th September, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

I again take the pleasure of writing you to let you know that I am still alive and kicking, although very busy, as I am again in the thick of the Big Advance which is taking place; and I can tell you that it is no joke as this is holy slaughter here, and I pray that this lot may soon end. When one sees thousands of men butchered as they are here it is then one realises the seriousness of war, and this thing has gone on since the 1st September. Sometimes I think that it is getting to be a trade to go in and kill and wound as many as you can and then come out for a rest, and then in again.

Well, I went on the first big advance on another part of the line, and after our division had done the work they had to do we came out for a rest. Then we moved to another part of the Line, and, in conjunction with the French, we started on the greatest advance of all. On September 1st the guns opened out, and I should think the whole of France shook under the roar of the guns; then over went the “boys”, and I shall never forget the sights two hours after when the wounded commenced to come in, The only thing I can describe to you is coming away from a great football match, only the poor souls were wounded, some walking with the assistance of those slightly wounded, others on stretchers, and Germans leading one another in, some carrying our chaps. And this thing is still going on now and we have 100 ambulances running back and forward, even into the villages which we have won from the Germans the last few days, which are blown to pieces and now only a wilderness.

Well, I should think they have gone back some two to three miles, and all you can see

is dead and more dead wherever you go. The sights are awful, and still this thing goes on, night and day. I have not had a nights sleep for sixteen days, and wash, well I am keeping the dirt on to keep me warm - for the simple reason that I cannot get it off. Now the No.1 is just the car for this work, and the only one in my ambulances that has gone through this lot without an accident so far. My chum, Willie Rose, has been less fortunate - no fault of his but will be on the go again tomorrow He is some lad and does well here. We still stick together.

Well, it may interest the brothers to know that No.7 Car is here standing by, as it is in the Cavalry Division. I was talking to the driver yesterday; he is a fine chap. I also saw No.6 down country, but where he has gone I don't know. They are two fine cars and a credit to the Order. Also I have seen the division that our friend and Bro. George Pearce is in, but I have never come across the car yet. I don't know if he is still with the 2nd I.C., but I may meet him some, day as this is a small world after all - one meets friends even in the firing line.

I am writing this two kilometres from the front line of trenches while waiting for my load of wounded - 11.15 p.m., no lights here.

Well, I think you will have got some very good news in the English papers as we have the Germans guessing now, and you may hear of more good results before long.

Well, I have not had the luck to get the Lodge opened yet as ever since I got your letter I have been with my division in the line and there is no time for Lodges, but I hope to get going when we come out for a well earned rest. So I hope to "make" the boys that are wishful to become members.

I have endeavoured to give you an idea of this job out here which is taking place so that you will see the work of our cars, and I

must now draw to a close, as writing letters under these conditions is not pleasant. Send my best respects to all the brothers, and allow me to remain,

Yours truly and fraternally,

W. P. Jones.

* * *

"Somewhere in France"

16th October 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

Once again I take the pleasure of writing you to let you know that I am still keeping well and going ahead with the good No.4, which is just tip top and one that has been in the thick of it out here and has had a full three months on the "push", and is still as good as the day I got it.

Now, it will perhaps be news to the brothers, especially to the brothers from Hull, to know that while on the last big advance I had the pleasure of seeing the No.7 Car up the line while I was returning with my load. Well, it was a hot shop, but nothing can live in front of our boys; and as you will have read with pride of the glorious victories, it is unnecessary for me to say anything on that point, as one must be careful not to commit oneself; but I think I am within bounds in saying that your cars have done the work and carried out the wishes of all the members for which they were given, and I am sure that if the same work is asked to be done again I think it will and soon, then the Nos.3 and 4 Cars will do the work and never grumble.

Since coming out of action we have been transferred to another ambulance, which I find quite all right and now settled with, but again on the war path after a few days out. But it is all for the good of the boys when they need us. You will observe the "two Macs" are still together, Nos. 3 and 4, and

what one does the other follows; so We get along quite well.

Now allow me to thank you for Grand Lodge Report, and I am pleased to see the good work done by the members of Hull, also all other Provinces, on behalf of ambulances, which are a godsend; and when the truth is told about the cars, that is the time the brothers will be proud of the work done on behalf of the Ambulance Fund.

I send my kind regards to our "chief", also my old friend J. Wilson, R.O.H. So will conclude with also sending my kind regards to all brothers of the Order, and remain,
Yours truly and fraternally,

W. P. Jones.

P.S. - Please note change of address : Pte. W. P. Jones, 130957, M.T., A.S.C., 59th Field Ambulance, 59th Division, B.E.F.

* * *

"Somewhere in the Mud"

21st October 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

I once again take pleasure in sending you a few lines to let you know that all goes well with me out here; also No.4 going great guns. I sent a letter a few days ago, along with my chum Willie Rose, letting you know all the news up to then; but as we shift from one part of the line to another many changes take place of interest to the brothers, so I write to let you know of one in particular.

Having arrived at a village near the lines, we came across No.5 Car and Primo Drew, so my chum and I had a long chat with Bro. Tucker and Primo Drew, and the chat came to they would like to have a meeting. So, liking one myself, we arranged for one, and there being no convenient house or cafe,

the commanding officer placed a car at our disposal to hold a meeting. It was arranged that Primo Drew should come down from the firing line if not busy, but sorry to say our good Primo was unable to get to meeting, as things are hot here; but, along with good Bro. George and Bro. Tucker, we had a meeting and initiated three. The other drivers were all on duty up the line, so I had the pleasure of initiating my dear pal W. Rose and two from my ambulances, and one from Primo Drew's ambulance; but if things only quieten down we have seven who wish to become brothers of the Order.

So we have managed to get the Lodge going under the title of our old chief, Sir Francis Earley, for whom we hold the highest respect and if nothing comes in our way we shall make a good Lodge of the "Sir Francis Earley", but things are so uncertain out here as every one is working at high pressure.

Well, the Order has done well in sending such good drivers on the cars as I have had the pleasure of seeing all three cars from Hull, and the boys are in the right place, where cars are needed most. But we are up to the neck in mud as we have had some awful weather of late, raining day and night and very cold; but the cars go on in the good work.

Now, I think I have exhausted my news this time, so must draw to a close, with kind regards to all the brothers of the Order.

I remain,

Yours truly and fraternally

W. P. Jones

* * *

The following is the application for opening our new War Lodge, from the Secretary, Bro. Sergt. John H. Fisher: 1st Base, M.T. Depot, Rouen, France.

5th September, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

Firstly, I wish to make myself known to you, and no doubt your son, who was here under me, has mentioned my name to you. Probably you have seen my photograph taken with Nos.3 and 4 Cars, which were here.

Now to business. At last I am sending you the application form, duly filled up, together with the minutes of an informal meeting held in my office. As a result of this meeting, I was appointed secretary (pro tem.) and instructed to forward this application, at the same time soliciting the approval of Grand Lodge. The name "Purcell Barnes" is that of our Colonel, who has granted us the necessary permission; and, by the way, the Colonel is also "one of us", and promised to attend on opening night. We shall propose to start with about thirty members, and as this base alone is 2000 strong, we have every confidence in prospects of a very strong Lodge. Altogether, there are about 100,000 troops here, so you can guess the permanent staff is fairly large. Therefore, should this Lodge be granted, it will not only be a boon to those of us who are members of the Order in this depot, but will bring us into closer touch with members in other depots.

Thus I commend this application to you for earnest consideration, and await your instructions, at your earliest convenience. I am,

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

(Bro.) John H. Fisher

Mechanist Staff Sergt., A.S.C.

* * *

We are always pleased to hear from Bro. George Pearce, R.O.H. (driver of No.1 Car). We are also pleased to report that his good

wife has recovered from her recent serious illness.

* * *

"Somewhere in France"

30th August, 1916

Dear Will,

I received the Quarterly Report quite safely, also photo of the three Hull cars, for which please accept my very best thanks. The Order is doing simply grand, and the ambulances are a standing testimony to the principles of the Order and spirit of its members. One has reason to be proud of their membership of such a body. Who could have foreseen such a position at the commencement of the "Reformation", for it is there from where it dates and from which we must be judged.

Please kindly remember me to all old friends and "pals". You will, I know, be pleased to hear the car is still going splendidly. We have just had her engine overhauled and she is as good as ever she was. You wouldn't recognise us if you happened to meet her; instead of being white, she is "service green", and is completely covered over with wire netting to stop, if possible, some of the shrapnel that flies about out here for some reason or other, a nasty habit it seems to have, propelled probably by hate and jealousy.

Well, how does the news of the last two months suit you all? Getting a bit of our own back now, more to follow, to be continued in our next (month). I rather fancy their number's up. Poor old Fritz is very sad over it all and their heart is not where it used to be; in fact, a little more and it will fall out!

Well, Will, you will be pleased to hear I am keeping in the very best of health and temper, although, to be a bit candid I am getting just a little bit home sick. Suppose

one must make up their mind for more frost, snow, and mud, especially the latter. Well, suppose we must stick it, and make the best of things. We all grumble a bit, but we “carry on” just the same. Glad you enjoyed your holiday. I’ve postponed my Blackpool visit; old *Bill* won’t have it.

Don’t forget to remember me to all at the “Duke of York, 702”. Best of health and luck. Keep smiling - we shan’t be long.
Sincerely and fraternally yours,
Geo. Pearce, R.O.H.

* * *

“Somewhere in France”

“Still on the Top”

23rd September, 1916

Dear Bro. Rose,

I received your post card quite safely, and was delighted to hear every one quite well. Am grateful for their good wishes. Pleased to say am in perfect health myself and as fit as the proverbial fiddle. I expect the news you are receiving from this front lately is greatly to your liking. Everything appears to be going very well here. I am well up amongst it and having the time of my life. Sleep (when you can) between three or four shell boxes (empty, of course), on a stretcher, with your waterproof sheet over and not under you; fine thing to keep the rain off you, also keeps the firework display from troubling you too much.

By the way, I have a little yarn to tell you, against myself. Some five or six weeks back I was in one of the large (?) towns in the North of France, resting, and found a place where the beer wasn’t too bad, and, swanky like, showed my photo in regalia with apron on to the fair Hebes of forty or forty five who presided over the “*liquor de malt*” department. She was very anxious to know what it all meant. Between her bad English

and my worse French we made a mess of it; but on my visit the next evening she had “ready eyed” an interpreter, and to see him laugh when I explained what it all meant would have done you good. Evidently the Buffalo’s head on the apron had taken her fancy, and she imagined it was a trophy of mine — she took me for a toreador. Needless to say, I fell very flat after that and once more became an ordinary soldier, doing his bit.

Well, Will, I suppose you are all getting very tired of it. It certainly is lasting longer than I thought it could. Still, everything comes to an end and the war will some day, the sooner the quicker, and I assure you I shan’t be sorry. It’s now eight months since I was home, and goodness only knows when the next time will come. I’m getting a bit home sick. Still, “keep smiling”, everything comes to those that wait.

Remember me to the “Royal Duke of York” and to all old pals, also to any Lodge you may visit. Old Kaiser Bill has dished me out of my Blackpool visit, and he’s doing his best to postpone my dip in the Rhine. Still, it’s got to come. I’ve had the pleasure of a wash in the Somme and wanted it. I haven’t seen the old “20th” the last four or five weeks, so don’t know if they are still meeting; I expect not. I live in hopes of seeing them soon.

Well, good bye and good luck. Kind remembrances to all old pals. Keep the home fires burning - we shan’t be long.
Sincerely and fraternally yours,
George Pearce (The Treador)

* * *

The following letters are from our driver of the No.5 Car, Bro. C. G. Drew, C.P., of the Royal Forest of Dean. Upon a recent visit to the “Forest” the brethren spoke in high

terms of our brother and the work he had accomplished since his initiation.

* * *

Pte. C. G Drew, 194158,
Hut 3, M.T., A.S.C.,
Rest Camp,
Avonmouth.

3rd August, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

Just a few lines thanking you for post card received this morning. Pleased to say that I am quite well and getting on all right. I came down with the three R.A.O.B. cars last Friday. There are two of us Buffs; the one man that came to Hull, his name is Wright. I am very pleased with the cars for they are fine. Pleased to say I have met several brothers one W.P. at Kempton Park; and as we were coming to Bath we decided to have our photo taken, and just as we were having it done I met with the Past Grand Primo of England, also the man that took our photo was a brother. We had a very good time, every one treating us very kindly. We are expecting to go to France any time now. Very funny thing, I picked out the car at Kempton Park, No.5, which is the car that you say was for me, and drove her down; had a splendid trip. I had twenty four hours off Tuesday and went home and went to Lodge, and had a good night. All very pleased to hear about the cars. If you get a "Gloucestershire" car it would do a lot of good for the R.A.O.B. in the "Forest" if they could be run through the different places where there are Lodges.

When I get the other side I will write and let you know how we are getting on. Please excuse pencil, as I cannot get out tonight to get ink to write. Thanking you for the kindness you have shown to me.

I remain, fraternally yours,

C. G. Drew,

Driver, No.5 Car.

Pte. C. G Drew 194158,
26th M.A.C., M.T., A.S.C.,
B.E.F., France.

24th August, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

Just a few lines to let you know I am still alive and getting on quite well, and pleased to say the car is running splendid. I don't know how the other two cars are, as I left them back down the line. I have met several brothers this last week and two of them are W.P.'s. They are all very pleased to see a Buff car with a Buff driver. I hope Gloucestershire will be successful in getting a car. Have had a letter from home telling me they are having a "day" at Ruardean this week.

I hope things are going on all right in England at the different Lodges. Am stationed at this address, so your letters would find me any time. I had a letter from Bro. Dr. Miles last week. If I come across any of the other cars I will let you know how they are running. Of course, the roads are not like our English roads.

If you should see any of my friends from the "Forest" kindly remember me to them. Kindly excuse more this time. With kind regards,

I remain, yours truly,

C. G. Drew.

* * *

"Always welcome!" is the expression used in connection with the letters from our No.2 driver, Bro. C. Nicholls. The car is in Egypt and doing good service This car has been round England, through France and Flanders, on to Salonika, and is now in Egypt and as good as ever: a splendid tribute to the "Sunbeam", and shows the advisability of buying good cars and not wasting our money on rubbish.

* * *

Motor Ambulance Base,
Ras-el Sin,
Alexandria.

27th July, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am now taking the opportunity to write you a few lines. In the first place, I may mention that I am writing this in hospital; have been here with a poisoned wound of foot; but pleased to say I am quite all right now. What I worry over is our car. So far it's all right, but I have been told it is not looked after the way it should be. That is what one of my pals said to me when he came to see me. I should be mad if anything did happen to the dear old car after I looked after it to the best I can do.

Well, things out here are quite all right. I have not seen Mr. Gamage for some time now. I have been attached to one of the hospitals here with the car. I shall be out of hospital very shortly now. I often wish I was still in France doing my bit at the firing line. We did some real good work there. Let's hope I shall find the car in good working order, like I left it. Of course, it's quite all right so far; but if they are going to run it anyhow it won't last.

Remember me to all at home. Best of wishes kind regards to all,
Sincerely yours,
Cyril C. W. Nicholls.

* * *

7th August, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am now taking the opportunity to write you a few lines. In the first place, I may say I am quite all right, and also the R.A.O.B. car, and that's everything.

I went and visited Bro. Gamage, and he wishes me to remember him to you. As regards the Lodge, Bro. Gamage cannot possibly open it through the war, and the

brothers cannot always get off for the night and so many of the old members have left the town. It's a great pity but it's no fault of Bro. Gamage's. Yet I cannot see why a Lodge should not open in the future it's a big town, plenty of English people here. He told me there are a lot of brothers in the internment camp and they were really the ones who used to keep the Lodge going, but that drops there.

Well, I often wonder how you are all getting on. Remember me to all, not forgetting Willie in France. Tell him to remember me to Sergeant White, 13th Field Ambulance. Best of wishes

Sincerely yours,

Cyril Nicholls

* * *

10th August, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am now taking the opportunity to write you a few lines. In the first place, I may say I am quite all right and going on fine. The car at present is under repair, but will be on the road in a day or two, and I shall be jolly pleased too. I had a letter from home and they informed me of the beautiful jewel the Grand Lodge presented father with, father is delighted with it.

Well, things in general are about the same. Meet a good many members on my runs every day about Alexandria.

I shall send photo so that you can really see how we are getting on. After the war, I shall try, and give you a report of the work I have done, etc.

Remember me to all brothers. With the best of wishes to all.

Sincerely yours,

S. T. B.

Cyril Nicholls

* * *

24th September 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

Delighted to receive your letter and Grand Lodge Report. What a fine photo of car in Report! Suppose the "Sunbeam" are turning out some fine cars now. I don't see Bro. Gamage often now, but the Lodge has not opened for some time owing to the war, also the Military Lodge.

It's a fine evening spent reading the Report. So pleased to see we are doing good work for the King and country. It's surprising the people I have met in different places and they are pleased to see the good work we are doing. Suppose the other cars are in France.

I may say car and myself are in good condition and going on jolly fine. Fine roads here for motoring, so different to what we have been used to. Father is more than delighted with the jewel presented to him for his work re the Ambulance Fund.

Well, I hope to go through this war with our car all right. Only one driver to a car here, and much better I think.

Don't forget to remember me to every brother through Grand Lodge. Would be pleased to have a line any time Best of wishes to all at home.

Sincerely yours,

Cyril Nicholls

* * *

The following letters are from the War Office. We can assure our members that the Army Council are very grateful to the Order for the gifts made; and on the occasion of the visit of Bro. Lionel Jacobs, the Acting Director of Supplies and Transport, Staff Capt. Holbrook (brother to the V.C.), and whose father is, we understand, a brother of our Portsmouth Lodge desired to thank

the whole of our members who had contributed to such a splendid cause.

* * *

War Office,
London, S.W.

8th August 1916

Sir,

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the three "Sunbeam" Motor Ambulances, Chassis Nos. 11253, 11234, 11259, which have been so kindly presented by the brethren of your Order to the War Department for service with the British Armies in France, I am directed to inform you that these three ambulances were despatched overseas on the 6th inst.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. H. Bruce,

Staff Captain (for Director of Supplies and Transport).

* * *

War Office, London, S.W.

28th August, 1916

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst., with regard to this Department requiring a Motor Ambulance in fulfilment of a generous gift by your Order of an eighth vehicle, and am to inform you that the provision of the vehicle has been arranged, and that instructions have been issued for the inscription shown on the print forwarded with your letter under reply to be painted on the ambulance.

I am to say that as soon as the vehicle has been delivered you will be notified of

the fact with a view to a definite date being stated by you as to when the vehicle should be sent to Nottingham for inspection by your Nottingham brethren before it is put into military service.

I am to add that an application will be made to you in due course for a cheque for an amount covering the supply of the vehicle, and, further, that a copy of a photograph will be forwarded to you as soon as possible, together with a letter expressing the thanks of the Army Council for the generous gift of the vehicle.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. T. Sunderland Lieut.

(for Director of Supplies and Transport).

War Office, London, S.W.

* * *

5th October, 1916

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to express their warmest thanks for the generous gift by the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes of No.8 Motor Ambulance which in this case, has been presented by the members of your Society in the Province of Nottingham and District.

I am to say that this ambulance will materially assist in the alleviation of the suffering of the sick and wounded in the Field.

I am to forward herewith a photograph of the ambulance presented.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. Whittle

* * *

War Office, London, S.W.

11th October, 1916

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst., and the cheque forwarded therewith for the amount of £472 7s. 2d. in payment of No.8 "Sunbeam" Motor Ambulance which has been generously presented to this Department by the members of your Society in the Province of Nottingham and District.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. T. Sunderland,

D.A.D.T.

(for Director of Supplies and Transport).

* * *

The following letters are in connection with "Flower Days" and may be a guide to those contemplating having a "Day".

* * *

Woodbine Villa,

Stanford Road,

Lydney, Glos.

5th October, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am pleased to inform you that I think we shall be able to beat Cheltenham in our collections on behalf of the Ambulance Car for "Gloucestershire". Of course, it's been rather uphill work, owing to bad times, caused by this most dreadful war affecting different trades; but, nevertheless, every one of the workers seemed to put their whole soul into our "Scarlet Pimpernel Day"; that you will see by the amount collected.

Bro. Kerwood started the work by bringing one of the little blooms to Lodge, and in L.H. offering it up by auction for sale, and it was knocked down for 10s.; and not

being satisfied, he offered five more blooms for sale, to be delivered on the Thursday, he having come to Lodge with the one only. The six blooms realised 20s.

Bro. Captain Charles Bathurst sent us a cheque for £4 4s. 0d., but I forget if he received one at all. Two of the young lady collectors, finding that they had not collected 20s, they were sixpence or ninepence short, took up their boxes and trays, and were not long before they came back satisfied.

Ruardean run short of flowers after I had sent them a great many more than they ordered. Of course, they studied the North Star, and off they went to the "man about town", Bro. T. Miles, and he, being the man of the moment, sent them in the garden to pick what blooms they could find; whilst his good wife started to make substitutes for the scarlet pimpernel, and a messenger was sent to find the District Secretary, Lydney.

And Lydbrook, which is not a fully fledged Lodge yet, had a parade led by the Trafalgar Band, and did a roaring trade.

I forgot to tell you that we had some of the wounded soldiers from the Red Cross hospital collecting in Lydney: and Bro. Kerwood and Bro. J. O'Brien took two up to Cinderford on the Friday, and Bro. Bullock, jnr., and myself took four up on the Saturday. We are pleased to tell you the cheque will amount to about £140, clear.

I remain,

Yours fraternally,

G. S. Johnstone

* * *

CHELTENHAM

"SCARLET PIMPERNEL DAY"

Magnificent weather, an enthusiastic body of lady workers, a strong committee

of influential local brethren, and a noble cause, combined to make the "flower day" a gratifying success, to which might be added a direct stimulus to local Buffaloesism.

The result was a cheque to the amount of £132 17s. 6d. for the Ambulance Fund. Appreciative help was given at the depot by Mrs. W. H. Rose and Bro. Harman, C.P., whilst Bro. John Evans rendered valuable service in securing the help of lady friends to take charge of the various districts.

The balance sheet was submitted to a recent committee meeting, and adopted as highly satisfactory; and all who had helped to bring about the success of the effort were heartily thanked for their services. The Grand Secretary Bro. W. H. Rose kindly acted as Hon. Treasurer.

At the weekly session of the King George V Lodge, on Friday, 29th September the sitting Primo, Bro. W. T. Leonard, was the recipient of a beautiful clock, suitably inscribed, and subscribed for by members of the Scarlet Pimpernel Committee in recognition of his services as organising secretary for the "flower day". The presentation was made by Bro. R. E. Steel, C.P., and in acknowledging the gift Bro. Leonard said the gift of appreciation by the brethren would be a lasting reminder of what the Order had done locally to help in alleviating the suffering of our wounded soldiers.

The Forest of Dean District have added a splendid effort to the desire to present a "Gloucestershire" car by raising £150, whilst the Sir William Rose Lodge, Tewkesbury, has rendered exceptionally useful help by forwarding £37 to the fund, and Ross on Wye, he understood, £56 to the fund. It is hoped the Gloucester brethren will shortly complete the scheme by arranging a "flower

day” to provide the remaining necessary funds to enable us to purchase a car for Gloucestershire.

* * *

R.A.O.B. FETE

TO PROVIDE MOTOR AMBULANCE

Held under delightful weather conditions, the R.A.O.B. fete on the Ynysangharad Grounds, Pontypridd, on Thursday and Saturday last, September in aid of the R.A.O.B. South Wales Motor Ambulance Fund, proved an unqualified success. No effort had been spared to make the function attractive. There was an elaborate programme and the grounds were effectively decorated with the flags of the Allies and a profusion of bunting. In the evening on both days the carriage drive and bandstand were illuminated with a great array of multi coloured electric lamps.

The committee were fortunate in securing (by kind permission of Lieut. Colonel W. Marwood Elton) the magnificent band of the 3rd Welsh Regiment (conducted with consummate ability, by Mr. K. S. Glover, L.R.A.M.), which delighted, by its accomplished performance, the large crowd that assembled both on Thursday and Saturday. The musical programme on Thursday evening, and again on Saturday, was given an added attraction by the magnificent rendering of Madame Williams Penn of the new patriotic song, “Come and Strike a Blow for Dear Old England”, the words and music of which were composed by Mr. F. J. Harries, Pontypridd. The music was specially scored for the band by Mr. Glover, and the piece was first played over by the band, which afterwards accompanied Madame Williams Penn. Both performances were vociferously applauded.

In the unavoidable absence of Mrs. W. J. Davies (wife of the chairman of the Pontypridd Urban District Council), Mrs. J. W. Davison kindly consented to formally open the proceedings on Thursday. She was preceded by Mr. J. W. Davison, whose active interest in the ambulance movement is well known to Pontypridd people. Mr. Davison, who was well received, said he was gratified to find that the R.A.O.B. had already presented the War Office with eleven motor ambulances at a cost of about £5,000. Eleven of these cars had taken part in the recent Great Push, (Applause). The car that recently visited Pontypridd was now doing good service in Egypt, after having been at Salonika and in France. (Hear, hear.) There were half a million members of the Order serving with the forces, and it had distributed £50,000 in relief to the families of these members. (Hear, hear.) The Order was continually growing and Lodges had been formed in the firing line. There were thousands of motor ambulances in use at the present time, and the R.A.O.B. had not been backward in doing their “little bit”. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, Mr. Davison expressed his admiration for the energy of the committee and its capable secretary, Mr. E. R. Rogers, in organising the two days’ fete. He wished them every success in their efforts.

Mrs. Davison, who was accorded an ovation, delivered a neat little speech in formally opening the function. She said it was an entirely new experience for her, but as she and her husband were keenly interested in ambulance work and in helping the wounded she was very pleased to accede to the invitation to perform the opening ceremony. She hoped the fete would prove a huge success, and

incidentally wished those present not to forget the flower stall, over which she was presiding.

Councillor H. T. Richards moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Davison, paying a high tribute to Mr. J. W. Davison's work in the course of the ambulance movement. Mr. Irfon Griffiths (Provincial Bank) seconded, and the vote was heartily accorded.

The baby show proved a great attraction. There was a very gratifying entry in the five classes. A charge was made for admission and each member of the public was given a card on which to record one vote in each class, the infants securing the largest number of votes being declared the winners.

The prize cup for the baby securing the largest number of votes was secured by a bouncing boy, Sidney V. Coop, whose parents reside at 26, Old Park Terrace, Treforest. He also won the prize in the class for infants under three months old. In the class for babies under six months the first prize went to the child of P.C. Edwards, Hopkinstown. The prize for the best twins in the show was carried off by the children of Mrs. Dwyer, Oxford Street, Treforest. The prizes were formally presented by Mrs. Holliday.

The flowers, fruit, and "Scarlet Pimpernel" stalls were presided over by Mrs. J. W. Davison and a number of St. John Ambulance nurses. Miss Taylor read all sorts and conditions of hands in the palmistry tent. Mr. W. Fudge and Mr. Rees James did a roaring business with their "Bombing the Kaiser show".

The first prize in the "tilting the bucket" competition was won by Mr. Fred Packer, with Mr. G. Griffiths second. The latter also

secured the prize in the pillow fighting competition.

On Saturday there were some new features in the programme. The ambulance competitions attracted a great deal of attention. The judges were Dr. J. Wilson Williams, Pontypridd, and Dr. Thomas, Taffs Well. In the open competition, Bedlinog No.1 Team (Captain H. Griffiths) secured first prize with 45 marks; second, Ynyshir (Captain S. Atkins). In the No.2 competition (for teams whose members have never won a first prize) the results were: 1, Tylorstown (Captain W. J. Davies), 45 marks; 2, Merthyr Tydfil (Captain Gilbert Lloyd), 34 marks. Ladies' home nursing and bandaging competition: 1, Hopkinstown (Captain Mrs. Evans); 2, Penarth (Captain Mrs. M. Gerhold). Tug of war: 1, Cwmparc; 2, Royal Defence Corps, Ynysangharad Grounds.

The presentations were made by Mr. J. W. Davison.

In the shooting competitions Mr. S. Timothy, Pentre, showed remarkable form, securing first prize in all three competitions with 98, 98, and 95 respectively. Mr. T. Foster tied with him in the V.T.C. competition, but on the second count Mr. S. Timothy was the winner, the scores being 91 - 90.

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"SCARLET PIMPERNEL" AMBULANCE

On Nottingham forest today the Mayor of Nottingham is formally handing over to the War Office a motor ambulance purchased by the local members of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes as a result of Scarlet Pimpernel Day collections.

Sunday Chronicle, October 1st, 1916.

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*MOTOR AMBULANCE.
NOTTINGHAM G.L.E. BUFFALOES
GIFT TO WAR OFFICE.*

The motor ambulance purchased by the Nottingham and District Province of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (Grand Lodge of England), at a cost of about £500, was presented to the War Office at a parade of the Notts. Volunteer Regiment on the Forest Recreation ground yesterday, (October 2nd). This is the eighth car presented to the War Office by the Order, and in addition three have been provided for the use of the Red Cross Society. It is the intention of the Order that each Province, including those abroad, shall, present a motor ambulance to the War Office; and in the event of further cars not being required, the money will still be raised and devoted to various charitable purposes connected with the war. The requisite sum to defray the cost of the Nottingham Province's car was raised by voluntary contributions and through the agency of the "Scarlet Pimpernel Day" held in the City and District.

In addition to three battalions of volunteers, with the regimental band, members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade paraded, and there was a representative gathering of members of the R.A.O.B. in full regalia.

At the invitation of Mr. S. Hunt, R.O.H. (Secretary of the Nottingham Province), the Sheriff (Councillor J. Clarkson) made the presentation of the car. He apologised for the absence of the Mayor, who had taken such a keen interest in the provision of ambulance cars, explaining that Mr. Small was away from home. Mr. Clarkson observed that the fact that eleven cars had been presented by the Order spoke volumes

for the sympathy the "Buffaloes" felt for the wounded soldiers, and he warmly congratulated the Nottingham Province on the successful result of its effort.

Major E. F. Holden, accepting the car on behalf of the War Office, said it was such practical acts of sympathy as that which proved to the men on active service that they were not forgotten by their friends at home.

In addition to the Sheriff there were present at the interesting ceremony Mrs. Clarkson, Ald. S. Cook, Councillors H. Spray, A. B. Gibson and H. G. Ford, Major Holden, Bros. G. Garton, R.O.H., W. Foster, K.O.M., J. W. Gaze, K.O.M., W. Bradley, P.G.P. (Mansfield), and H. Gandy, K.O.M. (Hucknall), while several thousand people assembled on the slopes of the Forest.

Nottingham Guardian.

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R.A.O.B. MOTOR AMBULANCE.

The motor ambulance which has been subscribed for by the Nottingham and District Province of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes made a tour of the district on Saturday, and on its arrival at Hucknall was accorded a warm reception. Included in a large company of spectators were Mr. W. J. Calladine, chairman of the District Council, and other members, the Baden Powell (Hucknall) Lodge of the R.A.O.B., and others interested in war charities. Mr. Calladine offered a town's welcome, and related that his daughter (who is with a concert party in France) had written home stating that within an hour of leaving the boat she saw a wounded Hucknall lad brought into the hospital, and possibly the car before them might be the means of saving the life of a local warrior. The war was not

ended yet, and they had a long way to go. On Sunday morning, on Nottingham Forest, the ambulance was formally handed over to the War Office, among the Officials Present being Mr. H. Gandy, of Hucknall.

Beeston Gazette, 7th September, 1916.

* * *

BUFFALOES' MOTOR AMBULANCE AT BEESTON.

There was a large gathering met in the Beeston Square on Saturday last to give a hearty welcome and send off to the eighth fully equipped motor ambulance car, which had been purchased as a result of "Scarlet Pimpernel" Flower Days, in Beeston and Nottingham. The car, which was the very best that could be obtained, was built to the War Office requirements, at a cost of about £500, and will be known as the R.A.O.B. Nottingham and District Ambulance Car. The Scarlet Pimpernel flowers, which were designed by Bro. J. W. Gaze, K.O.M., of Beeston, who was lately presented with a beautiful gold jewel at Cardiff by the Grand Lodge of England, have already secured an immense popularity all over the country, and it is interesting to note that upwards of £3,000 has been raised by the sale of these flowers for Red Cross motor ambulance cars for the front.

The Vicar of Beeston (the Rev. W. P. Cole-Sheane) spoke in high praise of the work the R.A.O.B. were doing, and he hoped that the car would have the best of good fortune and fulfil its mission of mercy, proving a blessing to many a poor wounded soldier. Councillor W. Thums said that he and the Council were only too pleased to be identified in the interesting ceremony, and acknowledged the great work the Buffaloes were doing for the Empire.

Mr. S. Widdowson, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Vicar and to representatives of Beeston Council for their attendance, said it must be gratifying to the people of Beeston to know that one here in their midst had been the chief worker in this noble cause. He knew the great amount of work Mr. J. W. Gaze had done to secure these ambulance cars with his pretty little flower, and he was one of those few who did much good and said little about it.

Bro. S. Hunt, R.O.H., P.G. Secretary, Notts., gave a brief outline of the work of the Order, showing that the R.A.O.B. were always ready to take their part in the philanthropic work of the country.

Amongst those present representing the Order of Buffaloes were Bros. J. W. Gaze, K.O.M., Master of Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge of England; A. Taylor, P.G.P. of Nottingham; W. H. Spencer, R.O.H., G. Garton, R.O.H., H. Gandy, K.O.M., H. Meakin, K.O.M., W. Bower, K.O.M., L. Saunders, K.O.M., H. B. Astle, E. Golder, C. Beales, L. Broughton, O. Titcombe E. Beaumont, J. Shaw, and many representatives of the three Beeston Lodges in full regalia

Beeston Gazette and Echo, 7th September, 1916.

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MOTOR AMBULANCE AT SOMERCOTES.

We must congratulate the members of the R.A.O.B. on the success of their effort in raising funds for another motor ambulance wagon. The Nottinghamshire one was on view in the recreation ground on Saturday. It was accompanied by members of the Somercotes and district Lodges, and was received by the members of the Alfreton Urban District Council. Mr. Carter Pegg, Mr.

Benstall, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Loverock each said a few words about the object and uses of the ambulance, and congratulated the members of the Buffalo Lodges in sending a fully equipped wagon for the use of our brave wounded in the various theatres of war. The Riddings Band accompanied the ambulance wagon all round the district, so that every one knew when it was coming, and were thus able to have a good look at it.

Alfreton and Belper Journal, 7th September, 1916.

* * *

*LETTERS FROM OUR SOLDIER
BROTHERS ABROAD.*

22nd November, 1916.

My dear Bro. Rose,

It seems ages since I wrote you last, but really it is only about a month; but you must excuse me, for really we have been very busy lately and not too much time for letters. Now, however, we have a little time to ourselves; we have already discarded the mud and made ourselves a little more presentable. The old "No. 1" looks as if she had taken a new lease of her life, she must be like Tennyson's "Brook". I know you will all be delighted to hear how well she still runs, as good as ever, I am real proud of her. A lot of my chums chaff me with being married to her. Well, let them chaff, I can stand it. I suppose she is pulling about half a ton less now she is cleaned. I thought once I knew all about mud, but, by golly, I didn't! If there's any you know with a similar idea, send them out for a practical lesson; they'll have their eyes opened a wee bit, and possibly leave sadder, as well as wiser, men.

Well, and how is everybody? I scarcely ever get any news from the boys, except, of course, dear old Jack Smith (of Bath), he's

about the only one that thinks of me. But there, don't think I'm grumbling. I've no doubt they have plenty now to think about, what with increased prices, "standard" bread, etc.

It's a long, long way to Tipperary, still, I hope we have got half way now. Our boys are doing great things under the most adverse circumstances, and they all deserve medals as big as frying pans. I suppose the news of the new advance did cheer you all up a little. They are doing out here what appears like the impossible. They are not human beings, they are tip top machines. If any one had told me, before the war, that men (or horses) could, or would, have stood the conditions they labour under, I should have been a sceptic and a first class one at that. But with it all they are as cheerful as its possible to be and they'll worry right through yet. Kaiser Bill will learn the quick step back to Germany ere its finished with, very likely the double trot.

Now, will you thank all of the Executive and the Grand Lodge for recommending my boy to drive the "Gloucestershire" Car.

Of course, I'm in raptures about it, nothing has pleased me better since I came out here (nearly two years now), I do hope and trust he gets on well with it, but I know he will. I've written him two or three times and given him advice, if he follows it he'll be all right. Thank God, he's following in his father's footsteps; he must be a "Buff" now.

I am afraid I have taken up a lot of your busy time, and also have expended the news which we are allowed to give; but before closing I should like to ask you to wish all old "pals" a most happy Christmastide and a prosperous New Year, with a cessation of hostilities early in it, of course, with a complete victory for us, and a happy

reunion all round. Expect to spend mine out here again, hope it won't be "bully beef" though.

Now, I must conclude. Best of health and good luck, Billy boy. I'm longing to see you again and to grip your old hand Give my kind regards to all, and accept the best of wishes yourself.

Ever your old Friend,

George Pearce

Bro. George Pearce's address : 032331 Sergt Major Geo. Pearce, 4th Cavalry Field Ambulance, 4th Cavalry Brigade 2nd Cavalry Division, B.E.F.

He would be delighted to have a line.

* * *

4th Cavalry Field Ambulance,
4th Cavalry Brigade,
2nd Cavalry Division,
B.E.F.

7th January, 1917

Dear Bro. Rose, just a few lines to let you know I am well. I have been rather poorly for a week or so, up to two days ago, but am feeling all right again now; hope I shall continue so. Just give my kind regards to all at Grand Lodge and wish them a very happy New Year. May it see the consummation of all our hopes and for which we are all fighting.

I have not yet received the cigarettes you mentioned in your last; probably may do so in a day or so. Everything here well, car running as well as ever. There are only four left in our division of the original lot, and ours is one.

Remember me kindly to all the Lodges you may visit. Best of luck and health to you all.

Ever yours fraternally,

George Pearce, R.O.H

26th M.A.C., M.T., A.S.C.,

B.E.F., France.

8th December, 1916.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Just a few lines in answer to your Report, which I received safely, and very pleased to read such a good account of the different Lodges, also of the new car. Well, I have not very much news, only that I am quite well, also that the car is still running quite well. I have not seen anything of your son for about a month, but I have met several brothers from all parts of England, and one from South Africa.

I received a letter from the brothers of the Clayton Lodge and was very pleased to hear of the various brothers about to receive their higher degree, and hope they will have a good time. I met a sergeant major the other day belonging to the Order, and he was telling me he had thirty five brothers belonging to the Order with him, quite a nice little Lodge. I was telling him to get permission to hold a Lodge; it would be a fine thing in the part where he is.

I think this is all this time.

With kind regards,

Yours truly,

C. G. Drew.

(Driver, 5th Car).

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26th M.A.C., M.T., A.S.C.,
B.E.F., France.

19th January, 1917.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Just a few lines to thank you for the nice card, which I received safely, also cigarettes. I have written to Bro. Shelton to thank him for sending them. We are three Brothers with the 26th M.A.C., one is a fitter and the other a corporal, so we parted the cigarettes between us.

Well, I expect you will be surprised to hear

that I am going back to base with my car with a cracked chassis. She was running splendid till this happened, but the roads out here are enough to break anything. I will write again and let you know how I get on. I am expecting to go at any hour. I met Bro. Wallace Jones last week; he is quite well and car running all right. He is back from the base doing M.A.C. work.

I think this is all this time. Wishing you and all the brothers a happy New Year, and hoping this war will soon be over,

Yours fraternally,

C. G. Drew, C.P.

(Driver 5th Car).

* * *

“Somewhere in France”

16th November, 1916.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Many thanks for your welcome letter, just received, and delighted with photos of Car 8 and Orphanage children's photo.

I am sorry to let you know that I have met with a mishap to “No.4” and am now in workshop for a while, so Lodge is at a standstill for a wee bittie. Also Willie is again transferred to another ambulance section, but I cannot tell you where until I get word from him. This change took place while I was away. I will let you know more in next letter.

Will you let me have Lt. T. White's address, as I am at a base and would like to drop him a line as soon as you can.

Hoping to hear from you in return,

Yours in haste,

W. P. Jones

(Driver, No. 4 Car).

* * *

“Somewhere on Top”

10th December, 1916.

Dear Sir and Brothers,

I again take pleasure in writing you a few lines, to let you know that I am still in the land of the living and keeping in fine trim after a well earned rest, and will be on the road in a short while with the good “No.4”, quite a new ambulance again, as it has been overhauled and is now being painted, so will be on the war path once more, doing the good work of field ambulance bearing.

Now I hope to come across our other cars and help them, as I should like nothing better than a Buff convoy, we have plenty out here for that.

Well, I am to thank the P.G. Secretary for the Grand Lodge Report, and I am delighted to see in it the good work done by our brothers throughout the Country for the Ambulance Fund, and hope that their endeavours will be crowned with success. Also I am pleased to read in it of Bro. Sergt. Fisher applying for a Lodge to be opened at Rouen, as he is a splendid chap and one that greets the buff drivers with the best of spirit and looks after their welfare while there, and I have sent him a letter wishing him every success in his application; and I also sent a letter of congratulation to our Bro. T. White. He also is a “nut” and one of the best.

Now, I am pleased to say that I have had the “Sir Francis Earley” going while being here and have initiated a few more members into the Order and have had some meetings after, and they are delighted at being members. You will quite understand the difficulties in running a Lodge out here, as there are so many things and so much work that one cannot run one like at home; but with all these things I always find a way to

get going and keep the old flag flying. I don't know where any of our cars are, but I may find them soon.

Now, I wish to send to all of the brothers of the Order my fraternal greetings for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and hope that we may all meet on the next under more pleasant conditions than this. So will draw to a close, and allow me to remain,

Yours truly and fraternally,

Wallace P. Jones.

* * *

“Somewhere in France”

27th December, 1916

Dear Sir and Brothers,

I again take pleasure in writing just a few lines to let you know that all is well with me and the good “No.4” which is again in the thick of it after being overhauled. I am pleased to say that it is as good now as when she came out of the “Sunbeam” works. The weather and the roads will try the best car ever made; but the car is always there when wanted.

Now, you will see that I am with another ambulance and at another part of the line, but I have never come across any of the other cars, and as for my pal Willie, I don't know where he is; so you see we shift around a lot and get what you would call mixed up, just like the Bosche is now. Well, we are having some very wet weather, also cold, but I suppose we will have to stick it until the end, which will come in the Spring, and no mistake.

Well, I hope you in England had a good time at Christmas and the same at New Year, and hope that the next one will be brighter than this. I have had a few meetings at my last place “Somewhere in France”, as usual, and we had a nice time. Quite brings back

old times when I can attend a Lodge, makes one content. Where I am now there is a member, and between us I hope to soon have the Sir Francis Earley Lodge going for a while; but you see the Germans sometimes get vexed and won't let me have a meeting, but with all his temper I still get going.

Well, I received the card and Christmas greeting, and thank you very much, and wish you the same as you would wish yourselves. Any letters you wish to send, which are always acceptable, will find me at this address: Pte. W. P. Jones, I30957, A.S.C., M.T., No.6 M.A.C., B.E.F. France. You see I have to put my address in the centre of my letters, now this is my permanent address.

The boys here are quite all right and all very happy.

Please give my kind regards to our Chief, also Bro. Wilson and the whole of the brothers, and accept the same for yourself, and allow me to remain,

Yours truly and fraternally,

W. P. Jones, C.P.

* * *

“Somewhere in France”

30th December, 1916.

Dear Sir and Brothers,

Just a few lines to let you know that I received the Emblems and Parchments, and thank you for them. Hope that I may soon need a few more when settled down to my new lot.

Well, I wish to let you know that I am on the war path again and the good “No.4” going on well. The weather out here is something awful, as we have some very rough weather and plenty of rain; but with all these drawbacks we still get through our work. I am pleased to let you know that I came across my old pal, W. Rose, after two

months, and I am delighted to see him looking so well. He is still doing plenty of work with No.3 Car, which is going well. We met under very strange conditions, "Nuff said".

Well, I suppose you will have got over the holidays, and I hope you enjoyed yourselves over a little "S.T.B." I had my lot, too, but not what I like best. I have not come across any of our other cars for some time. I think they must be stuck in the mud "somewhere in France" and cannot get about, or I should see them; but I may come across them some day, and then we can discuss the doings of the cars, and I think we shall have a good account to report of the doings of the "Buff" cars.

I also came across a brother who came out with Bro. Nicholls, and he was surprised to hear that No.2 Car was in Egypt. They call him Rose and he belongs to Wales, and his father has a Lodge at his house. He is also keeping well and was delighted to see No.4 Car.

I have nothing of importance to send, but hope that I may have in my next letter. You may convey my best wishes to all the brothers and wish them the best of good wishes for a prosperous New Year. Allow me to remain,

Yours truly and fraternally

W. P. Jones

* * *

1st November, 1916.

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am now taking the opportunity of writing you a few lines. In the first place, I have not received a letter from you for quite a month or more, so don't forget to write more often in future. Pleased to say I am quite all right and going on capital; also my good old car.

Still doing hospital work at Alexandria. I see from the letter I had from father that Bro. John Wilson will visit Tondur. How I should like to see him in fact, all of you but how far off is that day. They do say everything comes to him who waits. Suppose one must be thankful to be in existence these days.

There appears to be no prospect of opening a Lodge in this part. How are everybody? just the same, I hope. Remember me to all. Tell them I am still alive. Would be pleased to hear from any brother of our Order.

Best of wishes.

Sincerely yours

Cyril Nicholls

* * *

8th November, 1916.

Dear Sir and Brother,

At last I have received a letter from you. Many thanks for same. Delighted to receive the Postcard of the cars. They look jolly fine, quite up to date in the patterns on card. We are coming up now, twelve already given. Nothing like progress in such good work. Sorry to hear of Willie. Suppose by now he will have fully recovered, at least let's hope so.

I am still doing well. My duties are at present at the hospital, running all day, hardly get any time to keep the good old car clean; but it's all to help to win the war. I varnished the car about a week ago and it looked jolly fine. Of course, the Government did not supply the varnish, I bought it myself.

I come in contact with quite a lot of the Red Cross. They are doing good work out here with the wounded and sick. They have their cars and they take the poor fellows for

“joy rides”, and they do enjoy themselves.

Well, many thanks for letter. No wonder I didn't get your letters with “68th F.A., Egypt”, that was the Salonika address. Many thanks for kind wishes. Best of wishes to all at home, and remember me to all brothers.

Yours fraternally,

Cyril Nicholls

* * *

No. 2 Car, Egypt.

10th December, 1916.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Received Grand Lodge Report and delighted to have same. See we are still doing good work. I suppose we shall have a motor ambulance convoy shortly. Nothing like it. I like the new “Sunbeams”, they are better finished. I may say I am still alive and doing fairly well. Pleased to say car quite all right, still going tip top. I am running every day, so you can see I have to look after my “sweetheart”.

The work out here differs to France or Salonika, mostly officers here and sisters there, and sick and wounded. I don't mind the wounded or sick, but I don't care much for officers but suppose it's all for the end of the war.

By the way, it's almost Christmas time, and I wish you all a happy and merry Christmas and New Year, and let's hope I shall see the next one in England. I am getting a bit home sick. What say you?

Well, don't forget to remember me to brothers all, tell them my “sweetheart” is still running. Best of wishes to all at home.

Sincerely yours,

Cyril Nicholls

* * *

17th December, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am taking the opportunity of writing you a few lines. In the first place, I received your Report, but have not had a letter for some time. I may say I am quite all right, keeping fit, also the car. It is pleasing to hear we are still doing good work on behalf of the wounded soldiers; one cannot do enough for them.

I often wonder when shall the time come to see you all. Suppose, under the present difficulties, one must be thankful to be alive. I firmly believe the present Government will see the war to a victorious end. I wish the Germans knew we meant business, they may give in then. I was going to say “wait and see”, but it's a little out of date.

Shall I talk about Egypt? But I cannot say much, you see we are not allowed to tell you everything. Beautiful weather here now, not very hot just at present. I think that's about all I can tell you. I did go to an organ recital held at the Church of Scotland, enjoyed it immensely.

Well, I think it's high time I should remember the brothers of our noble Order. I should very much like you to wish them all a happy New Year, through Grand Lodge, on my behalf. With the best of wishes to all at home,

Sincerely yours,

Cyril Nicholls

* * *

Egypt.

28th December, 1916

Dear Sir and Brother,

Pleased to receive the Grand Lodge Reports and to see you are doing good work at home. At present I am taking the engine down, in fact, it's finished and a good job

made of it. Judging by the remarks the bearings are absolutely perfect, so that's the main point. Also I bought some varnish so look out for a brand new car. Intend having photograph taken to show all the brothers.

Write this time, please. Best of wishes.
Cyril Nicholls

* * *

Dear Sir and Brother,

You have, no doubt, heard from Bro. W. P. Jones of the opening of the Sir Francis Earley Lodge, "somewhere France". On the night of opening I was appointed City Secretary, but time would not permit the report being written the same night, so it was left until next day. On that day Bro. Jones had to leave us with his car and took with him all the Lodge books and accounts, and so I asked him to let you have a full report, which, no doubt, he has done by now. It gave me great pleasure to be able to take part in the opening, and I thought we were to have many pleasant evenings with the new Lodge, which would have fast grown could we have remained together; but fate said no, as on the following day Bro. Jones left us; but even then I still had the pleasure of driving one of the Order's cars, as I was mate to your son. Even that pleasure was not to be mine long, for a few days after Bro. Jones leaving us your son was sent with his car to another ambulance and I was left behind, so that now I can only hope that some future date I may have the luck to get one of the other cars.

Bro. Jones and myself tried a long time to get the Lodge opened here, and it was jolly hard luck that we should only be able to have the one meeting. But that is the way of things out here, one never knows from

one minute to another what is going to happen. I am pleased to have been on and seen the work of the two cars given by the Order, so that if it is my luck to get home after the war and I attend some Lodge meetings I shall be able to tell of the good work they did. I have readdressed all letters that have arrived here for your son, and I hope you have heard good news from him.

Now I must close. With best wishes to all brothers of the order and to yourself.

Yours sincerely

H. George
M.T. Section
France.

* * *

War Office,
London, S.W.
13th December, 1916
Sir,

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the eighth Motor Ambulance which has been so kindly presented by the brethren of your Order to the War Department for service with the British Forces in France, I am directed to inform you that this ambulance proceeded overseas on the 11th inst.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

W. J. H. Bruce,
D.A.D.T.
(for Director of Supplies and Transport).

* * *

Dear Brethren
8th January, 1917.

It is with great pleasure that I write these few lines, to thank you for the tobacco and cigarettes and kind wishes, which

appreciate greatly, as it shows us out here that even though a great many of our brethren are out here they are not forgotten by those at home; and certainly wish Ye Sid Valley Lodge every success possible for the New Year, and hope that before long we shall all be able to be together once again. Thanking you all once again for your kindness.

I am, your sincere Brother,
(Lce. Corpl.) R. Hall.

* * *

133rd M.G Coy.,
B.E.F France

To Brethren, Ye Sid Valley Lodge,

I, having censored this letter, have only just discovered that Lance Corporal Hall is a Buff. I am awfully pleased to know this as he was in my section on the Somme, where, on my recommendation, he received the Military Medal, which has been presented to him. His actions on this particular occasion brought out all the principles of Buffs, in that under very heavy shell fire he did excellent work in assisting men to safety who had been wounded and were buried in a dug out, etc. I have only known him up to the present as a "good soldier and a man", and now that I know that he is one of the brethren you may rest assured that I appreciate him all the more, and tomorrow I will make his acquaintance as a Buff.

I will now close, wishing the Lodge every success in the present year.

I remain, yours fraternally,
Douglas G. Webster 2nd Lt.
Usk Lodge, No. 1218,
Brecon, South Wales.

* * *

King's Arms Hotel,
Westcourt Street,
Old Brompton, Chatham,
21st December, 1916.

Dear Sir and Brother,

The Royal Engineers Lodge, No. 2170,
tenders Christmas Greetings to the Grand Lodge, and proffers sentiments for the continued success of the Order in the New Year.

C. Aplin,
City Secretary.

* * *

*MORE LETTERS FROM OUR SOLDIER
BROTHERS ABROAD.*

The Yellow Plume Lodge, No.2037.
Headquarters: 20th Hussars, B.E.F.,
"Somewhere in France"
22nd March, 1917.

To Bro. W. H. Rose,
Grand Secretary, G.L.E.
Dear Sir and Brother,

No doubt you will think I am dead, for not writing you for so long, but wish you to know that all brothers and myself are very much alive since my last letter, although we are very much annoyed at not being able to hold a meeting since last August. Therefore the reason of my not writing is explained.

I must thank you very much indeed for the QUARTERLY JOURNAL and official Reports, which, although we are unable to hold a meeting, keep us so strong and firmly in touch with our worthy brothers and the Brotherhood in general. I can tell you how much these books are appreciated, when I get more brothers ask for them than I can let have before the next one arrives.

Please accept the hearty wishes from all brothers of the Yellow Plume Lodge, and convey same to the Grand Lodge. Still hoping to be home soon.

Faithfully and fraternally yours,

C. F. Keatley,

Hon. Secretary.

* * *

A.S.C., M.T.,

"Somewhere in France"

Dear Dad,

Thank you for your letter of the 6th inst. Glad to hear you and family are all quite well. What kind of weather are you having? It is simply shocking here, freezing, raining, and snowing alternately. The roads are simply awful; it is nearly impossible to get through the mud in some places, and when you get stuck in the middle of the road it takes six horses to pull the car out. When you are getting to a bad bit of road, it is a case of rushing it full out in first gear, and the bangs and the crashes, you think the car is smashed to atoms so you can realise a little what the cars have to go through. Of course, this is only near the firing line.

Has G. Pearce started for France yet? I thought he was going to have a "Rover" ambulance, but I see it is a "Sunbeam" he is driving. Well, I think he is lucky to have got it, for a "Rover" will not beat a "Sunbeam".

I have not seen either Wallace Jones or E. Harding since I last wrote you, but I live in hopes of meeting one of them again. I have never had the good fortune to drop across Sergt. Major George Pearce yet, but you never know where you are moving to next, so I may drop across him yet. Will you tell Nicholls, when you write, that I am not with the 13th F.A. now; but I saw Sergt. Wright a

little while ago, and I told him that Nicholls of the R.A.O.B. car wished to be remembered to him.

It is very hard driving at night, for the lights we get on the cars are not much good. A C.A.V. lighting set is the thing, but the Army do not issue them; but I think they are allowed to send them from England to be fitted to the cars. I was pleased to hear that Staff Sergt. Fisher had managed to open a Lodge at the base. I only wish I could get down there again to have a look round, for I had a decent time while I was waiting for this car.

Well, I think that I have told you all that is possible, but will write you again in a day or so. Good bye and take care of yourself.

From your loving Son

Will

* * *

238th Coy., R.E.,

B.E.F., France.

2nd March, 1917.

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have to apologise for omitting to acknowledge and thank you for the first copy of the QUARTERLY JOURNAL and Report, which has been followed a day or so since by No.2. Needless to say, they are much appreciated and prove of great interest to us out here, not only to see the rapid growth of Buffaloes at home in spite of adverse circumstances, but to read of the rush to overseas or active service Lodges, the progress of which has been reported to me from time to time by my old friend and brother, Jimmy Gibbs, the Metropolitan D.G. Secretary, who is now with the colours.

The news of especial interest to me is, of course, the splendid growth of the Royal

Engineers Lodge, and I sincerely hope we shall all be spared to meet again at Chatham, where I should like to be received as a visiting brother and member.

Perhaps it would interest you to know that I was originally enrolled under the Grand Executive Banner at Caterham Valley, Kent, in 1907; but being a commercial traveller and at home very rarely, I am afraid I was more of an ornamental than active member of the Brotherhood, until I finally returned to London to live, and, owing to Bro. Gibbs, again became an active member by seceding from my original Lodge and Banner and becoming a member of the Crown Lodge in the Metropolitan District, and eventually also an active member of the Hogarth Lodge under Bro. George Terry, K.O.M., whom I should like to congratulate, through the medium of the JOURNAL, on his being raised to the Third Degree.

I hope that *aprez le guerre* I shall be able to again take up the good work and rise to the coveted height which all good brothers aspire to.

This letters appears to contain nothing else but capital "I's", but, as one is strictly limited to the personal side in one's correspondence, plus the fact that you are aware of the progress of affairs out here before any news could reach you from us, I hope you forgive my prosiness if one may use such a word and believe me when I tell you we are watching the untiring work and progress of those who are doing their bit at home, equally with us out here.

Again thanking you for your kindly thought. Believe me to be,
Very truly and fraternally yours,
C. F. Webb Sear,
Q.M.S., R.E.

* * *

358 Camp, 3 Repair Shop,
No.6 Mess, M.T., A.S.C.,
B.E.F., France.

28th February, 1917.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Just a few lines to thank you for the JOURNAL, also copy of the letter you sent to my old address. I have not yet received the original letter. You will see by my address that I am still at the base, as they have not begun my car yet; so shall be here for a few weeks yet. I have applied for a special leave to get home to put my business in order, but cannot say if I shall get it.

There are three of us together belonging to the Order, so we all read the JOURNAL and were very pleased with the good report of all the Lodges, as it cheers us up when we see such a good report to know that our Lodges are not going behind at home. I have enclosed one of my photographs for the Lodge; will you kindly see they get it, with my best wishes to all the brothers?

I will let you know if I get my leave, as I should like a chat with you on various things. I have not seen anything of your son or Bro. Wally Jones since I came down the line. Please excuse more this time. With best wishes to all the brethren, I remain,
Yours truly,

C. G. Drew (194158),
(Driver No.5 Car).

P.S. I was very pleased to hear of the good night on behalf of Bro. Dr. Miles at Clayton Lodge, and to see the way all the brothers of the "Forest" rallied round to give one of the best a jolly good night - C. G. D.

* * *

"Somewhere in France"

22nd February, 1917.

Dear Bro. Rose,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still keeping well, and hoping you are the

same at home. I saw Willie a few days ago and he is keeping top hole. I had to bid him good bye, as I have left the place he was at and have joined another division and left his part now. I sent you a pound note on and hope you received the same.

Please note the change of address : Pte. W. P. Jones 130957, A.S.C., M.T., 2nd Field Ambulance, 63rd Division, R.N.D., B.E.F., France, where all letters should be sent. So you see I am travelling about with the good No.4 Car, which is doing good work and is a proper mud lark, as we are nothing else but up to the knees in mud out here; but the car gets there when wanted.

I have no further news to send. Holding a meeting is out of the question just now. "Nuff said". So I must close, with kind regards to all the boys, and tell them we keep on smiling. I still remain,
Yours truly and fraternally,
W. P. Jones
(Driver No. 4 Car).

* * *

M.T., A.S.C., No.6 M.A.C.,
B.E.F., France.
9th February, 1917.

Dear Sir and Brother,

I once again take pleasure in sending you a few lines, to let you know that all goes well out here with our boys, and still keeping the Boches guessing and giving them a good beating, which you would see the last few days. I can tell you that we are very busy and getting very little sleep. What with the severe frost and the cold winds, and the guns going night and day, I hope you think we are having a good time; but the time is not far distant when you will get some glorious news.

Now, with all the difficulties we have to contend with, I have still had the pleasure of again having the Sir Francis Earley Lodge opened and initiating four new members, and I also had the pleasure of the company of Bro. Willie Rose, the No.3 driver, and a Primo, Sergt. A. Morgan, and the Staff Sergeant of same ambulance that Bro. Rose is in, and a most pleasant evening we had. So you see that I still get going in spite of the Germans. I also wish to let you know that I have had the pleasure of seeing No.8 Car and driver, and he is going on well. The car is a beauty and one to be proud of, as it is "playing the devil" with all cars here; but one cannot expect anything else with the awful frosts.

I am pleased also to hear that the Lodges are all going well under the liquor restrictions now going on in England; but the time will come again when we can go at it in the old style after a glorious victory, which will come soon now.

I again send my kind regards to all the brothers. Hoping to meet you some day, when we can talk things over with a little "Juniper". Oh, for a drop now! Allow me to remain,
Yours truly and fraternally,
W. P. Jones.

* * *

M.T., A.S.C.
Dear Dad,

I received a letter yesterday from Mother. Glad to know everybody is all right. Will drop a line in a day or two to Mother and let her know all the news, all that it is possible for me to state, anyway. I suppose that Bro. W. P. Jones has written you and said that

we were together for a short time in the same village; he left the day before yesterday, to join another division, but will not be certain, for he did not know himself. Do not write until you hear from him first, for the letters may get lost or be returned to you.

I also had the good fortune to see E. Harding for three days running, he was bringing sick men to the hospital. One night we were all together, Jones, Harding, and myself, for about an hour, and a very pleasant one it was. We also had a meeting in a cafe and made three new members.

The last two days the weather has changed. Instead of a hard frost we are getting a constant downpour of rain, which makes the roads very bad; they are not very grand at the best of times, but they are simply shocking now. My car is going remarkably well, and considering all the rough work it has had to do it seems surprising that it is still on the road. I am very lucky as regards trouble, have a spring go now and again, that is all; never touched the engine since I have had the car, and it is running as well as ever.

How is No.2 Car going on, still as well as ever, I suppose? Remember me to Nicholls when you write.

This is about the sixth time I have started this letter - am writing it while I wait anywhere for patients so you must excuse the condition it is in. Well, good bye for the present I cannot write any more now, for it is too dark. Give my love to all at home, and allow me to remain,

Your loving Son,
Will

* * *

358 COY., 3 Repair Shop,
M.T., A.S.C., No.6 Mess,
B.E.F., France.

3rd February, 1917.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Just a few lines to let you know I am quite well, also my new address, for the present. I don't expect to be here very long and will write again when I get moved.

I have met several brothers here and it is the wish of them all to get permission to open a Lodge here, as they are chiefly P.B. men and not likely to be moved; also one brother who has lost his parchment and emblem. I have enclosed his address, so perhaps you will kindly advise him what is best to do in the matter. He has given the name of his Lodge, also his home address and the year he joined.

I have not seen anything of your son lately. Please remember me to him when next you write him. I have enclosed you one of my photographs, and wish you and Mrs. Rose and family happy New Year, trusting this war will soon be over.

Kindly remember me to any of the Forest of Dean brothers. I saw Bro. Wallace Jones about three weeks ago, he was quite well then. I think this is all this time. I remain,
Fraternally yours,

C. G. Drew.

* * *

British Expeditionary Force, France.

29th January, 1917.

Dear Primo Harman,

Just a couple of lines to try and thank you for the very nice present which came along quite safe on Saturday last. I'm sure it was very kind of the members to think of

me, and I very greatly appreciate the kindness. I oftentimes wonder how the old Lodge is running, in fact the whole cause. I have occasionally seen in the local papers the result of your great efforts in various ways to help "Tommy" and when one thinks, of the great number of beautiful ambulances that have been presented through the work of members of our Order, well, it makes one glow with pride to be a member of such a Brotherhood. When I say "glow", don't think I'm affected with the heat, as we've not seen the ground for a couple of weeks, for the snow and the frost has been very severe for some days now and it's most bitter; but I can assure you it's quite remarkable what good spirits most every Tommy is in, despite the circumstances. I expect they are all buoyed up with the thoughts of that great and glorious day, which is not very far off, when the final whistle blows on this wretched business; and, please God, may it be soon.

Well, dear brother Secretary, I trust you and all the members are well. I myself am up to "the fanlight" in good health and spirits, pleased to say, and looking forward to the time when I can be in attendance again. How I should like to be, in my favourite corner of the Lodge room tonight, just having, a sniff at that old fire!

Well, in thanking you once again for the box of cigarettes, I'll now say good night, with heaps of good luck to you all. With all fraternal greetings, I am,

Yours truly,

(Sergt.) Frank T. Lawrence, C.P.

(late Sec., D.P.L.).

* * *

M.T., A.S.C., No.6 Me.A.C.,
B.E.F., France.

24th January, 1917.

Dear Sir and Brother,

I again take pleasure in writing you a few lines, to let you know that all is going well out here and the "No.4" is again on the war path, and the driver keeping top hole, which I am pleased to be able to say, as we are having some awful weather, which will try the best car made; but I suppose we will have to keep going ahead and not let our enemy, the Bosche, have any rest, as we keep him guessing every time.

I suppose I must tell you my old chum, W. Rose of No.3 Car, is only about 300 yards from me, so we get together at nights and have our little chat when times permit, and he is also very busy, as usual; so you see we cannot be divided although with different ambulances.

Well, I rounded up No.7 Car and driver and sent a message over, so I had Bro. Drew over seeing me, and I told him to write and let you know how things are going with him and car. He promised to do so, but between us he has had a near shave, a shell generally lifts big stuff, and some went through the top of his car. Some cars, the Buffs'. Yesterday I saw No.8, but he got past before I could stop him. I will round him up some of these days and give him a kind word to write you.

Now I must tell you that we are going to open the Lodge again out here, and there is a lieutenant who is wishful to join our Order, so in a few days we will get going, and hope to have a good Lodge. I have not sent a letter to Swansea re cigarettes as I have not got them as yet, neither have the Nos.3 and 7 drivers, so you will quite understand.

The chaps I am with are quite all right to be with and we get on very well together, and hope to convert them into our Order before long. Well, I hope that the brothers of Grand Lodge are going strong and that our new Chief is top hole also. Remember me to our good Bro. Storry and Bro. Earley, not forgetting Bro. J. Wilson, and tell him I would like to hear from him. Now I must close as time is limited here. Kind regards to all.

I remain,

Yours truly and fraternally,

Wallace P Jones.

* * *

14, Grove Street, Newbridge,
Near Newport,
Mon.

1st February, 1917.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Re the letter which I handed to you on Saturday last at Grand Lodge. I wish to explain why the letter was sent from France.

On the 2nd January last a son of a Primo of the Order came home from France on a few days' leave. He told his father (Bro. A. W. Holder, C.P.) that he was going to become a Buff. Before he went back he was proposed in the North Celynén Lodge, No. 1703, and was initiated. After he was initiated he told us that in the company of fifty that he was in there were forty eight of them Buffs. He was one of the two that were not. He had tried to get the other to join with him, but he could not get him to. So he told him that if he should live to come home he would become a Buff, so that he could join in with the forty eight who were enjoying themselves together whenever they could get a chance, and try and be as good a Buff as his father.

The letter, as you will please note, is not written by the brother, Robert Holder, but by one of the company. Why I handed it to you was that I thought you might like to put it in Grand Lodge JOURNAL.

Sorry I could not stop longer in Grand Lodge, the reason was I have a long way to go to get home, and being now seventy four, I wanted to get home as early as I could.

Very pleased to see in the paper of your honours; hope you will live long to enjoy them. Although I have had close on thirty years as a Buff, I should like to live to have another thirty years.

Hoping you will excuse my long letter,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

Thomas Evans, K.O.M., K.G.H.,

P.P.G.P. of Monmouthshire.

P.S. May I tell you that at my age, seventy four, I am the honorary City Secretary of two Lodges, viz., Tynewydd, No. 398, and North Celynén, No. 1703, which was reopened in December last.

(We hope our brother will be spared for many years to continue his good work. G. Sec.)

* * *

14th January, 1917.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Received your letter of the 27th inst., and jolly pleased to have same and to know that the brothers of Worcester are still in the land of the living. I may say I am in capital health and going on fine. I spent an enjoyable Christmas under the trying circumstances, and I hope to have the pleasure of having the next one in dear old England and to renew my visit to Worcester, where my happy association shall never be forgotten.

There appears to be nothing of importance out here, same thing almost every day. One thing, we get good weather, hardly any rain, so we have a lot to be thankful for. I got the Report every three months and pleased to get same. I see we are still doing excellent work on behalf of the Ambulance Fund.

There's one thing I should like you to do, and that is, kindly remember me to all my friends. There are many I know that I should like to write to, but after that great day we had, I hardly remember the addresses of them all.

Well, I must dry up now. Best of wishes to all brothers, and please write by return.

Sincerely yours,
Cyril C. W. Nicholls,
(Driver No. 2 Car).

* * *

Dear Sir and Brother,
15th January, 1917.

Your p.c. to hand and many thanks for Christmas wishes. I also sent you Christmas card, hope you received it. I hear that Mr. Gamage intends opening a Lodge at Alexandria. There appears to be plenty of members in the district, so I am sure he will have an excellent meeting. I have only just received a letter from the Worcester brothers, and they are still going strong.

I am sending you photograph of car. Sorry to say it's not a good one; better luck next time. Will write you long letter at first opportunity. Many thanks for wishes. Kindly remember me to all.

Sincerely yours,
Cyril C. W. Nicholls,

* * *

6th February, 1917.

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am now taking the opportunity of writing you a few lines. In the first place, let me say car and myself tip top. The grand old "sweetheart" of mine still goes beautifully, and the condition good considering what she's been through.

Well, last night I went to the Pharos Lodge, Alexandria, and spent a most enjoyable evening amongst the brothers. We had twenty four present and made three new members, and I really think it will be a strong Lodge in time. Knight Gamage is a grand Buff. There are a few old civilian members who still attend and they are rather keen on moving the Lodge to a much larger and more up to date place. Also, I may say Bro. Gamage thinks it would be better for everybody. For my own part, I honestly think we could make a most excellent Lodge at a more up to date place.

I had a chat with all the brothers. They are delighted to think I am the driver to our noble Order, and they all want the photograph of my car, so please send some on at the first opportunity you get, I know you don't get many. Pleased to say I got affiliated to the Pharos Lodge, sounds mystic, does it not? So you can see the brothers out in the Near East are doing something towards keeping the Buffalo flag flying. Anything you could send in the way of interesting Buffalo matters, do so.

So far as I can see, the Abercrombie Lodge seems to be at a standstill. Bro. Gamage said he wrote you several times regarding the matter.

The bugle is blowing to fall in for letters, so I shall go and see if I am lucky..... Yes, I am lucky. Just received a letter from you, written by Archie. Yes, Archie, I should like to be at Cheltenham at the present moment, breaking speed limits with my "sweetheart".

What would I give to get home. Many thanks for photograph of car, looks jolly fine. The latest "Sunbeam" one very pretty. All I had done to my car was encouraging, the condition was absolutely great; bearings in tip top order.

Well, I must now dry up. Many thanks for letter. Kind regards to all at home and don't forget Willie in France. Also tell all brothers I am still alive. With the best of wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Cyril Charles Warrender Nicholls.

* * *

From Bro. George Pearce, R.O.H., No.1 Car
M.T., A.S.C.,
France.

26th March, 1917

My dear Will,

A line to let you know that "All's well". I'm feeling in tip top condition and very fit.

I suppose you are all buying newspapers just now, greedily reading all the war news. I hope it pleases you. Another dozen pushes like that and we shall be there, or thereabouts. I begin to get visions of seeing the war over early next year. I, for one, shall not be sorry to see it finished, I can tell you. There is lots I could say, but, of course, for military reasons, cannot. However, one can say this, that everything this way seems to be going well. It's easy to call a retreat "a retirement to better positions", but it doesn't make it so by any means. However, your papers tell you as much as I may, so it's no use labouring the subject.

Now, how is everybody? Keeping well, I hope. Your letter a little back did me good; was delighted to receive it, and am only sorry I haven't answered before; but letter writing lately has been a luxury, and one has had quite enough to occupy their time

without it. Patience, however, is a virtue, and I know that you possess it, so please forgive.

You will be pleased to hear that the old No.1 Car is running as well as ever, and last week it was in the workshop for inspection only, and the heads expressed themselves as delighted with her. She has stood the time out here better than either of the other ambulances on the division, so no other testimony is necessary.

Now, Will, I must close; time to be at it again. Best of health and luck, old boy. Remember me to all.

Ever yours,

(Sergt. Major) Geo. Pearce, R.O.H.

* * *

M.T., A.S.C.,

8th Field Ambulance, B.E.F., France.

Dear Grand Secretary,

1st April, 1917.

If this and other letters of mine should appear somewhat disjointed and insufficient, I would ask you to overlook these deficiencies; firstly, because I do not shine as a letter writer, and secondly, because since we are kept so busy I am only able to get odd half hours as spare time. Consequently, I am only able to write my letters a page at a time. Every one here seems greatly interested in the car and I have had numerous visitors from the Order.

One and all have asked me for a memento, so I was able to supply them from my stock of post cards. All the other cars of this unit are also "Sunbeams" but there is only one other twin wheel amongst them and that one is much older, which leaves me the best car in the unit.

I am very pleased to say I have met Wally Jones and Willie Rose with Nos.2 and 3

Cars, and they were pleased to run up against me. I would like very much to be able to give you a detailed account of my wanderings, but, as you will understand, I am greatly restricted. The car is in splendid working order, for not only do I myself take a pride in keeping it, not free from mud but in first class trim, but every week I go to the divisional workshop for a good overhauling and testing.

I think I have told you in a general way all that I am at liberty to tell. Hoping you and all your family are in the best of health, I am,
Yours sincerely,

S. E. Harding

(Driver No. 8 "Nottingham" Car).

* * *

M.T., A.S.C.,
2nd Field Ambulance,
Royal Naval Division,
B.E.F., France.

4th April 1917

Dear Sir and Brother,

I again take pleasure in sending you a few lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the living and keeping strong, and the good "No.4" going top hole. I suppose you will think that I have forgotten to write you, seeing that I have not sent a letter for some time; but the fact is, I have been so busy that writing has been out of the question for time.

You will see by the papers how we have advanced and the important points taken. It has all been hard work, but the boys were up to it and did the work well, which gave the ambulances a great lot to do; and what with the awful weather and the ploughing up of the roads, well, it is wonderful how the cars got through their work; but they stood the test and now we reap the harvest. After the "do" we came out of action, and

orders went round that we had to get ready to leave on a ten days' journey. So off we started, and I have eventually landed at another part of France and, thank God! a good deal quieter than where I left, after being there for ten months in hell.

On my journey I rested for a few hours and came to an Inn and wishing for a "wet" I went to get one. While there two brothers came and inquired for the Buff car driver and they turned out to be Bro. Sergt. J. Little and Bro. R.Q.M.S. Bancroft, of the Virginian Lodge, Bradford; they were delighted to see the good Buff car. So we had a short chat on Buffaloism and I can assure you I was delighted to meet them. Both are keeping well and wish to be kindly remembered to all at home.

I don't know when this awful job will end, as one gets sick of the sights and wishes for a finish; but I suppose it will have to go on until the Fiends of Hell are wiped out. When one sees the awful plight of the poor people that have been in captivity, then is the time one's blood boils and one wishes pull them limb from limb and give no mercy. I think I have told you all I can; but allow me to congratulate our worthy Grand Secretary on having the Freedom the City of London conferred on him; it shows that the Buffs are something to be proud of. I have not had the pleasure seeing my old pal, W. Rose, as I left him some time ago, but I met his officer and asked him how he was keeping, and was informed he was well. Got JOURNAL and Report, and they are just grand. Now I must close in sending my best regards to all the brothers. Allow me to remain,

Yours truly and fraternally,

W. P. Jones

* * *

Egypt.

20th March, 1917

Dear Sir and Brother,

Received your Report and collecting card re our Bro. Storry, and delighted to say it will have my full support, also the brothers of the Pharos Lodge. I am delighted with the good work our noble Order is doing in connection with this war. Almost every Lodge at the present moment are doing all they can for our poor wounded soldiers; whether brothers or not, we help all; and what better object could any man have than to do what the R.A.O.B. is doing?

My car at present is in the workshop, but it will be out tomorrow, fit and ready for the road. I have often thought what would you do with the cars after the war. See we intend to make the number thirteen, not unlucky I hope.

Let me take the opportunity of thanking all the brothers for their most welcome letters. Am always happy to receive news from out brothers. Best of wishes to all.

Yours sincerely

Cyril Nicholls

Driver No.2 Car

* * *

Still doing it,

"Somewhere in France"

17th April, 1917

Dear Bro. Rose,

A line to let you know "All's Well" on the Western front; but there, the papers tell you that, so it's no news to you. Still, it's worth repeating. What? My word, we are going some, just now. One can commence at last to see the silver lining, promised so long. I almost begin to fancy having Christmas at home this year. Wouldn't it be glorious?

The prisoners we get now are not half the men they used to be; is a sign of the times? Let's hope so.

We have had a very rough time of it lately, with plenty of work to do, as no doubt you

can tell by the papers. Our boys have done fine work under the most wretched climatic conditions and if it hadn't been for that, goodness only knows what would have happened. We shall be there yet. The road and the mud is simply awful. We have had no end of broken, springs, etc.

The good old No.1 is going strong and has managed to steer clear of mishaps. She's a marvel and no mistake. I have the same lad with her that came out with me, and I fancy he thinks as much of her as I do. Of course he's a Buff. (he was initiated when we opened the Yellow Plume Lodge) perhaps that has something to do with it. I have had three offers to leave the column on promotion but won't leave her. I feel I am doing right although it's against myself. I hope to see it through "as a Buff", with their first car. Certainly I am as fit now as when I came out, nearly two and a half years ago, and by the time you receive this I shall be on the eve of my fifty first winter (can't say summer yet, for we had snow again today).

How is everybody at home? I often lay thinking of you all, when it's impossible to sleep, and wondering when I shall see you all again. Give my kind regards to all.

I am having that bath in the Rhine yet, and before long, if they don't chuck it up, soon. Poor Fritz must have sore heels for we tread on them pretty often and jolly hard at that. How he, must love us!

Well, Will, I must bring this to a close. More work to do; it's like "plum and apple" always with us. Remember me to the "Royal Duke of York" and any other Lodge you may visit. Am longing to see you all again and hope it won't long now. Cheer-oh! Keep them burning a bit longer.

Yours as ever

George Pearce, R.O.H.

Driver No.1 Car

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*R.A.O.B. AMBULANCE CAR
PRESENTED TO THE WAR OFFICE
CEREMONY AT CHELTENHAM DRILL HALL*

Sir James. T. Agg-Gardner, M.P. on behalf of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, on Monday morning, at the Cheltenham Territorial's Drill Hall, formally made the presentation to the War Office of the fine motor ambulance car subscribed by the Order in Gloucestershire, and towards which went the proceeds, of the "Scarlet Pimpernel Day" in Cheltenham last summer. The Mayor of Cheltenham (Mr. T. Rees Jones) presided at the presentation ceremony, supported by the Mayoress, Sir James Agg-Gardner, Rev. H. A. Wilson (rector) Major Holland, R.A.M.C., and many "brother Buffs" the, majority in regalia, these including Bros. W. H. Rose R.O.H. (Grand Secretary, England), R. E. Steel and W. T. Leonard (chairman and secretary respectively of the "Scarlet Pimpernel Day"), John H. Evans, H. J. Harman, F. Bastin-Chaplin, Sergt. Hanson, T. H. Packer, A. Dodwell, A. Mills, R. Dence, Sergt. Brown, T. Andrews, R. Winning, A. Holman, H. Bowd, W. Cook, D.P.P., Gloucestershire, etc. The ceremony was witnessed by quite a large gathering of friends of the R.A.O.B. and several military officers were present in the company, these including Colonel H.T. Gilling, Major Hobling, Lieut. Bowd, Colonel J. C. Griffith, etc. The motor ambulance was in the centre of the hall. It bears the initials of the Order round the red cross on both sides, and in large letters also on the sides "No.9 Car the Gloucestershire Car, presented by the district of Gloucestershire; G. C. Storry, R.O.H., G.P.(Eng.), F. W. Stephens, R.O.H., D.G.P.(Eng.), W.H. Rose, G Sec. (Eng.)". The directions painted on the car are: "Load not to exceed one driver, one attendant, and eight patients".

The Mayor, in opening, said the car was not given by Cheltenham but by the County of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham having, however, a share in its provision. It cost £500, and Cheltenham through "Scarlet Pimpernel Day" raised about £140, thus showing her interest in the alleviation of suffering, an interest manifested in the town again so effectively that during the past few weeks £1,226 had been collected on behalf of the Red Cross. Introducing the Grand Secretary of the Order (Bro. W. H. Rose), the Mayor remarked that that gentleman was a resident in Cheltenham, and that in recognition of the great services rendered by the Order during the war Bro. Rose recently had the honour conferred on him of being made a freeman of the city of London. (Applause).

Bro. Rose having heartily thanked subscribers to the fund, said Gloucestershire had responded nobly to the efforts the Order was endeavouring to make. This was the ninth motor Ambulance, car presented to the War Office and the twelfth presented by the Order, as three cars for the Red Cross were presented direct to the Earl of Derby, who was president of the Red Cross Society, for service at the front. They together represented a matter of nearly £6,000 and this had been collected mainly in pence. That was a fitting time to heartily thank those ladies who took part in Scarlet Pimpernel Day, and from whose efforts especially they had derived the sum for the purchase of the car. The Order had received many commendations from the War Office and Army Council direct, and he was sure the work they had been doing had been recognised by the powers that be. Mr. Rose mentioned that since the beginning of the war the R.A.O.B. Lodges and members had subscribed £300,000 for the Prince of Wales Fund, and nearly £2,000,000 to the War

Loan. He also instanced as another important work of the Order the carrying on of the R.A.O.B. Orphanage, in which were 100 orphans, the children of deceased brethren. For this splendid institution nearly £3,000 a year was collected by each brother entering a Lodge meeting paying a halfpenny. In conclusion, he thanked Cheltenham and the county for the manner in which the fund for the "Gloucestershire" car had been raised and stated that probably within a fortnight it would be at the front in France.

Sir James Agg-Gardner, M.P., said he deemed it a high honour to be associated in the presentation of so valuable and useful a gift to the War Office from the Gloucestershire members of the R.A.O.B. He was told that the first car presented was driven by one of their Cheltenham townsmen, Mr. George Pearce, and that it was in contemplation that this, the latest gift of the, Order should be driven by his son. In that hereditary connection they might recognise the part Cheltenham played in that glorious work. (Applause). The resources of the Government had been strained to the utmost to provide transport to take the wounded from the battlefields to the hospitals, and he was sure the valuable assistance provided by that benevolent order would be appreciated not only by the War Office, but by the Army Council itself. Sir James then, in the name of the Order asked Major W. A. L. Holland R.A.M.C. (senior medical officer in charge of the troops Cheltenham) to receive the car on behalf of the War Office remarking that he was glad Major Holland was thus associated with the present for he had done good work in Cheltenham in connection with the recruiting department, and was no stranger to them. In doing so, he expressed the hope that the car would be a source of

comfort and relief to many of their heroes at the front. (Applause).

Major Holland, in accepting the car, which he termed a magnificent gift, on behalf of the War Office, congratulated the subscribers and the Order on their generosity, their patriotism, and the success crowning their endeavours. When the medical history of the war came to be written he was certain it would be said that, by no country, the history of the world had the wounded been looked after so well as by the British in the present war, or with such magnificent results. No factor in the organisation of the medical service had been more important than the valuable assistance of motor ambulances, and by their use it was no uncommon thing for a soldier wounded on the French front to be in England in shortly over twenty four hours, for the cars could go close up to the firing line and rapidly evacuate to the railway heads. Let them not relax their efforts in this good cause for there was a strenuous time to come; there would be more heavy casualty lists, and they could not have too many. There was nothing more helpful to the man in the front line than to know that if hit there was a motor ambulance close behind the lines waiting to take them on their journey back to "Blighty". Having accepted the car on behalf of the War Office he would hand it over to Sir James Agg-Gardner, in order that it might be sent on tour round the county to show the subscribers the result of their efforts. (Applause).

Sir James having expressed his pleasure at the arrangements suggested by Major Holland and that the car had been named after the county, said he was sure it would be gratifying to the feelings of the inhabitants of the county to see it; and hoped that the Views of Major Holland as

to the need of still more motor ambulances would be circulated, and result in still more being forthcoming.

The Rector of Cheltenham having been invited to invoke blessing of God on the car; first expressed his pleasure in being associated with a society which was doing such a splendid work as the R.A.O.B. He thought they could rest assured that Almighty God would accept and bless the car, and that He would make use of its ministry and work in healing and alleviating the pains of our suffering soldiers. He then pronounced the dedication prayers.

In conclusion, the Chairman and Sir James Agg-Gardner were thanked for their services by Bro. Cook, D.P.P., and Rev Dr. Frankland, and the National Anthem was sung

The Echo

19th Feb. 1917

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No.9 MOTOR AMBULANCE CAR AT CIRENCESTER

The No.9 "Gloucestershire" Motor Ambulance Car; presented by funds raised by Gloucestershire Lodges of the R.A.O.B., passed through Cirencester, this morning in the course of its journey for delivery to the military authorities. Bro. Frank Stephens, R.O.H., Grand Primo of England, accompanied the car, and local members of the Order turned out in strong force to give it a welcome.

Bro. Sidney Bridges, W.P. of the Corinium Lodge, introduced Bro. Stephens to Mr. E. J. Burge, chairman of the Cirencester Urban District Council, who, on behalf, of the town, extended a cordial welcome to the car and its passengers, incidentally remarking that his conception of Buffaloism had recently undergone an entire change since he understood that conviviality was not their

main object. He understood that the car before them was the ninth to be presented by the Order to the War Office, and that in addition three had previously been presented to the British Red Cross Society.

Bro. Stephens, in thanking Mr. Burge and the assembled members for their welcome, said the first principle of the Order was philanthropy, and he could conceive of no better form of philanthropy than that they should seek as far possible to succour the soldiers broken in their battles. He had been informed by a competent authority that each car such as that meant the saving of some 500 lives, for in many cases early attention was the means of saving life. Wounded members of the Order had written to him, saying they had the "pleasure" of being conveyed in one of the R.A.O. B. cars, and his own younger son had told him that No.8 of the series was attached to his own section. In conclusion, he invited inspection of the interior of the car, which was absolutely the last word in ambulance Cars and was fitted with every known improvement suggested by the War Office.

A vote of thanks having been accorded to Mr. Burge for his attendance on the proposition of Bro. H. Fletcher, W.P., Cotswold Lodge, seconded by Bro. S. Bridges, the company proceeded to inspect the car, which is built to accommodate eight sitting or four stretcher cases, with attendants. After a short stay the car proceeded to its destination.

It is interesting to note that the driver attached to this car is the son of Bro. Pearce, of Cheltenham, the driver of the first Buffalo car.

Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard,

24th Feb., 1917.

* * *

R.A.O.B. GIFT TO THE NATION

MOTOR AMBULANCE INSPECTED AT SALISBURY

An up to date ambulance motor car, subscribed for by the R.A.O.B. in Gloucestershire, and presented to the nation, was inspected at Salisbury yesterday by the Mayor (Mr. J. Macklin) and Surgeon General Birrell, of the Southern Command, Headquarters Staff. Supporting the Mayor, in addition to Surgeon General Birrell, were the Grand Primo of the R.A.O.B. (Bro. F. Stephens, of Aldridge, Staffordshire), the Deputy Mayor (Mr. F. Sutton), and. Bro. H. Barber, K.O.M.

A section of the Wilts V.A.D., under Assistant Commandant C. H. Harris, gave an interesting demonstration of loading and unloading the ambulance, four "cases" being dealt with in a manner which showed in a marked degree the efficiency of the men.

It was originally arranged for the inspection to be made in the Market Square, but owing to the inclement weather the proceedings took place in the Market House. The arrangements were made by the two local Lodges of the Order the "City of New Sarum" and "Goodfellowship". A collection was made for wounded and disabled soldiers.

The Mayor explained the object of the gathering, and said he was sure they would agree with him when he said that the R.A.O.B. in Gloucestershire had been very energetic in subscribing enough money to give such a useful present to the nation. He hoped it would be an incentive for the people of Salisbury and Wiltshire to try and get up a fund for the same purpose. They had many calls upon them, but they ought to feel proud and pleased to do anything they could for their soldiers at the front. They had on the platform the Grand Primo of the Order of Buffaloes, Mr. F. Stephens, and he was pleased to give him a very hearty

welcome to Salisbury. They had also Surgeon General Birrell, who had been good enough to spare some of his time to inspect the ambulance, and members of the V.A.D., under Assistant Commandant Harris, had attended to give a demonstration. Although they were not at the front, he was sure they would say, after witnessing the demonstration, that they were doing as useful work at home. He again thanked the R.A.O.B. for their kind gift to the nation. (Applause).

MILITARY APPRECIATION

Surgeon General Birrell said that Sir Henry Sclater, the Commander in Chief, Southern Command, had asked him to come there in his stead, and to express thanks to the R.A.O.B. in the county of Gloucester for that splendid ambulance wagon, which they had given to the country. It was one of the very best he had ever seen. It carried four lying down cases inside, there were improvements in the way of tyres, and altogether it was quite up to date. It represented a marvellous advance on the old horse ambulance wagons they used to have, although he dared say they could still see a few of those about on Salisbury Plain. They had advanced very much since those days, and the result was greater comfort in the carrying of their wounded. They thanked the county of Gloucester for the gift, and he hoped that Wiltshire and other counties would follow the example that had been set. (Applause).

THE GRAND PRIMOS APPEAL

The Grand Primo (Bro. F. Stephens) said he represented an Order which, had for its main object philanthropy. They knew that philanthropy in its humblest sense was doing good for their fellow men. He could conceive of no greater good which man could do than making an effort to save the lives of men who were fighting their battles

on the battlefields of Europe and in other parts of the world. They were told on very good authority that an up to date motor ambulance, one which would do its work expeditiously, and well, was the means of saving at the very least 500 lives. That was the ninth car for overseas which their Order had presented, in addition to three other cars which were at present working in the North of England for the Red Cross Society. It had all been done by voluntary effort, there had been nothing in the way of levy or subscription, or anything of that kind. The whole thing had been done by the pennies and halfpennies, aided by several larger amounts, and great credit was due to the small towns and villages of Gloucestershire in collecting nearly, £500 to provide a motor ambulance of this description. He held it out to the people of Wiltshire, who were much more intimately connected with the military, to make a similar effort and provide a tenth car, to be called the "Wiltshire" car. Although they could not all go to the front, they could do the very next best thing in giving succour to those brave soldiers who, were unfortunate enough to be wounded. He would urge them to real effort. In providing these cars the Society had not lost one single bit of its efficiency in other work. They had put into them the very latest ideas with regard to motor ambulances. They were, in fact, ordered by the War Office, and made to their specification, and all the Order had had to do had been to pay for them. The speaker also mentioned that a quarter of a million members of the R.A.O.B. were serving in the forces, and two thousand were engaged in the occupation of mine sweeping. In conclusion, he said the car they saw there was going overseas next week. (Applause).

A WILTSHIRE CAR WANTED

Bro. H. Barber also spoke, and referring

to the provision of a further car, said that failing their ability to raise enough money from Salisbury alone for the purpose they would contribute towards the fund for a "Wiltshire" car, which was being started at Swindon. The speaker also proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor, Surgeon General Birrell, and the members of the V.A.D.

Mr. F. Sutton, in seconding, said this was not a new thing for Salisbury. A few months ago certain sections of the community in Salisbury presented a car for Red Cross work. Whatever the city had done in the past it would endeavour to do in the future, and if a fund was started Salisbury would not be behind. (Applause).

The resolution was heartily carried and briefly acknowledged.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Mayor entertained the men of the V.A.D. and the Buffs to tea at the Council Chamber.

In the evening there was a Lodge meeting at the "Bell and Crown", presided over by the Grand Primo, who gave an excellent address on the higher aims of philanthropy, and urged the importance of a high moral tone.

Captain Miller also made a speech, which was much appreciated.

Bros. A. J. Crombie and F. Jay were raised to the Second Degree of Membership, and Bro. G. A. Beagarie, C.P., raised to the third Degree. The Mayor was initiated a member of the Lodge, and appointed treasurer for the fund which is being raised for another ambulance car.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal
24th Feb., 1917.

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R.A.O.B. CAR AT TEWKESBURY.

The No. 9 R.A.O.B. motor ambulance car was on view in Tewkesbury on Tuesday, and at noon members of the Order and

others met in the Town Hall. The car was subscribed for by the members of the Order in Gloucestershire, towards which the proceeds of the "Scarlet Pimpernel" day held in Tewkesbury last summer were given.

The Mayor (Ald. H. Bishop) said he was pleased to have the honour to inspect the car, and hoped it would be very beneficial in its work.

Bro J. E. Hooper, C.P., City Secretary of the local Lodge, said it was the ninth car presented by the Order to the War Office, in addition to three others presented to the Red Cross and cost about £500. On behalf of the Order, he thanked the Mayoress (Mrs. Bishop), Mrs. Hone, and the many other ladies for their work on the local "Scarlet Pimpernel Day", when £18 was taken and which was made up to £35 by the Tewkesbury Lodge, this amount comparing favourably with the effort in other parts of the county.

Bro. T. Andrews, K.O.M. secretary of the Cheltenham Lodge, gave statistics of the work the Order had effected in connection with the war.

Pioneer Sergt. Hanson, R.O.H., spoke of the beneficial work of the Order, while Alderman A. Baker touched on the aims and objects of Buffaloes as demonstrated by the car outside the hall. The Order not only promoted good fellowship, but existed to help its members in times of sickness and distress.

Tewkesbury Times.

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THE ARMY COUNCILS APPRECIATION

War Office, London, S.W.

21st March 1917

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to ask you to be good enough to convey to all

concerned their warm thanks for the generous gift by the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, Grand Lodge of England (Gloucestershire District), of a fully equipped War Department type "Sunbeam" Motor Ambulance.

I am to say that the Ambulance, a photograph of which is enclosed, will materially assist in the alleviation of the suffering of the sick and wounded in the field.

I am Sir,

Your obedient Servant

W. Whittle

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FINALLY

There are many more letters of interest that are contained in these early Journals but owing to the shortage of space in this particular book it is impossible to list them all.

The letters that have been included in this section are those that have been copied from some of the pages contained in Journal number 1 and Journal number 2 which date from 1916 - 1917 and are the earliest known Official Journals of the R.A.O.B., G.L.E.

Perhaps as time permits the full list of "letters from the front" and the way the monies were raised to purchase Ambulances, in fact anything to do with the World War One Ambulances will be published.

"Another time, another place, another book"

MJW

