

# SAGA MAGAZINE

Mrs R Cameron  
Dales Hall  
Castlemorton  
Malvern  
WR13 6LQ

22 May, 2007

Dear Mrs Cameron

We have received your advertisement for the Reunions section of Saga Magazine which will be published as soon as possible.

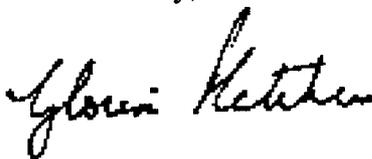
If you have any queries regarding your advertisement please quote the reference number below which is for locating purposes only.

Your reference number is **8060**

Current Advert Reads: -

UNRRA 1944/5: any information about the Mission in Greece, maybe at Phaleron near Athens, under John/Joseph (Whittingham) Kent, later working from the London office.  
Contact: Cameron, Daleshall, Castlemorton, Malvern WR13 6LQ. (**August 2007 issue**)

Yours sincerely,



Gloria Fletcher (Mrs)  
SAGA Publishing Reunions

SAGA PUBLISHING LTD.

The Saga Pavilion, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE

Subscriptions Tel: 01303 771525/6 Fax: 01303 771830. Accounts Tel: 01303 771563/1545 Fax: 01303 776699. Editorial Tel: 01303 771523 Fax: 01303 776699

Registered Office: The Saga Building, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE. Registration No. 2152564. Registered in England. A subsidiary of Saga Group Limited.

[www.saga.co.uk/publishing](http://www.saga.co.uk/publishing)

SP0906

Cameron  
Daleshall  
Castle Marston  
Malvern WR13. 6LQ.

July 31/07

Sir/Madam -

Your letter in the August edition of The SAGA Magazine caught my interest - hence this, I expect, a very helpful reply - but here goes anyway.

I did my National Service 1946-49, one year of which was being stationed in Phaleron, at the RAC Depot, in what had previously been the Athens Race course (Hippodromio). This was at the Junction of the main road out of Athens and the sea - the coast road to the right led to Piraeus, & the coast road to the left to Aliko(?) - on this road was the British Military Hospital - and further along was ~~where~~ the main airport <sup>later</sup> was, ~~also~~ I don't think it was there during my time.

In Athens itself based in Tameion Building (Ex Tameion H.Q.) was a "British Mission" but apart from an occasional meeting, I didn't visit very often - diagonally across was a large NAAFI, staffed by lonely British ladies (WRVS) possibly wives of some of the British officers based there - I don't think these snippets are of much help

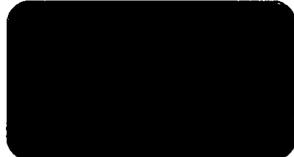
--- but it's the first time since I left Phaleron (ΦΑΛΗΡΟΝ - if I remember correctly) that I have seen or heard that name mentioned - and I was suddenly transported back to my time there - 60 years ago?!?!

I haven't been back, because I can't stand the heat, then or now - but if one day they do "return trips in one day" I may be interested -!!!!

I trust someone else may be more helpful than me, and I wish you luck in your quest.

Sincerely  
Bernata Greenberg.

ps I am originally from North Lincolnshire, we only moved down to Oxford some 2 years ago - because our daughter & her family who live here - wanted us all to be closer (geographically that is)



Dear Rosemary Cameron,

Thankyou for your letter, but I am sorry that I cannot help with the photographs. As far as I know U.N.R.R.A. was an umbrella organisation for the groups who were helping civilians who were refugees from the war, or who had been badly affected by it. The two that I knew of were the Friends Ambulance Unit and International Voluntary Service for Peace (now I.V.S.) I do not think that it was part of the Services but it was necessary for the members of the units to wear uniform. My husband was in Egypt and Greece and I think that work done in Germany just after the end of the war also came under U.N.R.R.A.

I have a book called Volunteers for Peace, published by I.V.S. but there is only one brief and not very flattering reference to U.N.R.R.A. I once borrowed a book published by F.A.U. and they might have others. Their address used to be Friends House, Euston Road, London.

Just last week there was an obituary in the Guardian for one of the I.V.S. members who had died aged 90.

Sorry that I cannot be of more help.

Yours sincerely,

*Klausen Suthren*

*P.S. I have just remembered mention  
of the Red Cross in Egypt.*

**DALES HALL, CASTLEMORTON, MALVERN, WR13 6LQ**

Tel/Fax: 01684540387

16 Valley Drive,  
Padham,  
Burnley,  
Lancs BB12 8SF

Dear Mrs Suthren,

Thank you for your letter and your memories of UNRRA in Greece.

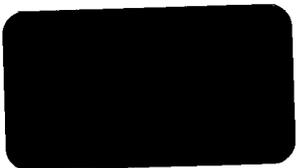
From letters written at the time (1944/5) it seems my father was involved in setting up the mission at Phaleron, near Athens and possibly others in the area. He would probably have been involved in the organization of supply and distribution of food and other goods as he did similar work for the NAAFI in 1942/3. His letter of 1945 suggests he was expecting to oversee similar projects from HQ at Portland Place. His name was John Whittington Kent but I have no details about rank or division etc.

This is all I know about the project and I am curious to know just what the purpose of UNRRA was and how and where it went about achieving it.

I enclose a couple of photographs in case you might pick out any familiar faces.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Cameron.



October 29<sup>th</sup>. 2007.

Dear Mr. Cameron,

I was interested to see your enquiry in Saga magazine though I do not know whether I can help very much. My husband, the late John Suthren, was in the I.V.S.P. team working under UNRRA first in Egypt then in Greece. I think that he was based at an hotel in Athens and was a member of the Water Purification Unit but did a lot of other transport. Sometimes he drove up to the other IVSP base at Volos. I think that Willi Begert was in charge there.

I met members of the team at various times and would remember names. I am still in touch with Stan Holland of the FAU Unit and was in touch with John Roper of IVSP until a couple of years ago. There are a few papers in a box upstairs.

I remember Derek Edwards of the London office of IVSP and I remember that John went to the London office of UNRRA the day after he came home in August 1945. He wrote to me very regularly when he was away so I might remember little things.

Yours sincerely,

*Maureen Suthren*

Nov 21/07

Dear Rosemary Cameron.

Many thanks for your letter & enclosures of Nov 8<sup>th</sup>

You seemed unsure as to what UNRRA stood for (or perhaps I misread you) nevertheless the initials stood for: -

United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation - unsure if the letter A - possibly Australia - and you are right that is precisely what your father did - help with feeding & rehabilitating the Greek population, who together with the Dutch were mostly starving at the end of the war - their work & efforts were greatly needed & appreciated.

I was in Phaleron a little while after your father - and I met some Americans doing the same sort of relief work - sadly I did not meet your father.

When I was in Phaleron, the Civil War was taking place - so a bit hairy - of course it must have hindered all the relief work - but it still went on.

Sorry I can't tell you no more.

Best wishes.

Bernadette Greenberg

PS. if you want to chat about this, I am usually home most evenings after 8.00 pm

2 August 2007

To Cameron

Having seen your ad in the SAGA magazine I write to tell you I was in UNRRA Greece mission from August 1945 until October 1946. I spent six months in HQ Athens & six months in the region based on the island of Chios.

It is interesting to see that your address is Malvern as I lived there in 1942-44 working as a shorthand-typist at TRE in the College.

When I applied to join UNRRA in 1945 I wanted to go to Italy but was sent to Greece - I would not have missed the experience for anything!

If you would like to know more I will be pleased to help

Joan F. Goult.

27. NOV. 2007

Dear Mr Cameron,

Thank you for your letter of 8/11/07.  
 I am sorry to be so long replying.  
 I sorted out my old diaries and souvenirs  
 of 1945/6 and memories came flooding  
 back of a very interesting experience in  
 the UNRRA Mission to Greece. (I was 25)

It is a coincidence that your father  
 was involved in distribution and the NAAFI  
 because I was seconded to the Commissariat  
 (spelling?) office in Athens when I arrived  
 there in September 1945. I was secretary  
 to the Commissariat officer, a Major Schwyn,  
 and had to do with hotels, supplies and  
 the NAAFI. I think your father might  
 have left as the name does not ring a bell.  
 I only went to Phaleron once, with a corporal  
 in charge of the NAAFI ship. I remember two  
 men on the Steer there, one was Harry  
 and I think the other was "Pete" who did  
 look rather like your father in the photo.

I enclose a booklet which explains all about UNRRA. In Athens we were a mixture of nationalities; mainly Americans (who had all the best jobs & accommodation!) & British. Many were ex-servicemen, as were the two men in Stores, I think they were sergeants and Peter was very much a sergeant-major type.

In April 1946 I changed jobs and went to the Aegean Island of Chios, which was an extraordinary experience, as secretary to the Regional-Medical office, covering the islands Lesbos (Mytilini), Samos, & Karia etc. We travelled to the islands in various kinds of boats. If you have ever read "Captain Correll's Mandolin" it gives a picture of what island life was like <sup>then</sup> although Cephalonia is on the Italian side of Greece while Chios is on the Turkish side & the Turkish influence was (then) obvious.

I am now 83 and I expect there are not many of us left now!

Hope I have been of some help.

Sincerely,  
Joan Grant.

P.S.

I should add that the  
Grace Mission closed at  
the end of 1946. I left at  
the end of October that year.

W.S.