

MSTR CPY



THE LIONESS



JULY—AUGUST

1950

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All contributions for the next GAZETTE should reach the Editor not later than **15th September, 1950**. Contributions should be sent to **Colonel J. M. Cowper, Women's Royal Army Corps, Headquarters A.A. Command, Stanmore, Middlesex**, and please note that they should be addressed personally in order to ensure that they are not mislaid or held up in Central Registry. Changes of address of branch secretaries and orders for the GAZETTE should go to the General Secretary of the Association at the Duke of York's Headquarters. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**

BRANCH SECRETARIES

For lack of space we are omitting the List of Branch Secretaries in this issue. The following amendments should, however, be made to the list published in the May-June issue:—

Active Service.—Delete all reference.

Exeter and District.—Delete all detail and substitute "Miss E. M. Powell, 89a Heavitree Road, Exeter, from whom particulars of meetings can be obtained."

York.—Delete "Mrs. A. G. Calvert, Flat 4, Fulford Park, Fulford, York" and substitute "Miss G. Blanchard, Lodge Farm, Fulford, Yorks."

BADGES

The badge of the Association, the design of which you can see on the cover of this GAZETTE, can be obtained, price 1s. 6d., from the General Secretary.

BRANCH STANDARDS

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The Lioness

INCORPORATING THE Q.M.A.A.C. AND A.T.S. COMRADES
ASSOCIATION GAZETTE

General Secretary: W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's Headquarters,
King's Road, London, S.W.3.

Telephone: SLOane 4245

Editor: Col. J. M. Cowper, W.R.A.C., H.Q. A.A. Command, Stanmore, Middlesex

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JULY—AUGUST, 1950

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[By gracious permission of Her Majesty

H.M. Queen Mary, Commandant-in-Chief, Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps,
taken shortly before her 83rd birthday.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO H.M. QUEEN MARY

ON the occasion of the 83rd anniversary of the birth of H.M. Queen Mary, Commandant-in-Chief of the Q.M.A.A.C., a message of greeting was sent by our President, and the following is a copy of her letter and Her Majesty's gracious reply.

3 PRINCE OF WALES' TERRACE,
DEAL, KENT.

24 May, 1950

DEAR LADY CYNTHIA COLVILLE,

Will you kindly convey to Her Majesty Queen Mary on behalf of the members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades' Association the expression of our humble duty and loyal good wishes and greetings on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday on Friday, 26th May. Owing to my absence in Africa I have missed the last two Reunions at the Albert Hall, but I am told that this Annual Meeting continues to be a festival which is greatly looked forward to and at which Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal was greeted with the greatest enthusiasm. Our Comrades' Association is in the course of becoming the Regimental Association of the Women's Royal Army Corps, as in 1941 we became the Regimental Association of the A.T.S. So the links in the chain of comradeship are being forged in ever stronger measure.

Yours sincerely,
FLORENCE SIMPSON

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE,
S.W.1.

May 27, 1950.

DEAR DAME FLORENCE,

Queen Mary bids me thank you, and all those you represent, for your good wishes and congratulations on this 83rd birthday.

Her Majesty is so glad to know of the success of the reunions and hear of the spirit of comradeship which is fostered and encouraged by the Regimental Association. It is very wonderful for the Queen to feel to be the centre of so much good will and Her Majesty is deeply touched by it.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET AMPHILL.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS

THE adoption of the Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Comrades Association as the Regimental Association of the Women's Royal Army Corps, viewed by some with concern, is to others a matter of satisfaction. The story of women serving with the Army has been one of steady progress from 1917 to the present day. We all know that the A.T.S. would never have had such a start in 1938 had it not been for the pioneer work of Q.M.A.A.C. The formation of a regular corps was only made possible by the record of the A.T.S. It is a matter of pride to many members of both Corps that their work has had such signal recognition that H.M. The King was advised to keep a woman's corps in being in the

Regular Army and that he was graciously pleased to authorize its formation.

Regimental Associations have several functions. One is to provide opportunities for those who have belonged to a Corps to get together and thus keep alive the spirit of comradeship which we all value so much. Another function is for old comrades to help one another in adversity. But these functions alone are not enough and, if the spirit of comradeship is to live on, a Regimental Association must walk forward and make sure that it provides opportunities for all ranks of the Corps, past and present, to help to build for the future. The younger members of a family should derive strength from the example, traditions and experience of their elders. In just the same way we serving members of a Corps require the blessing of our predecessors since we are all members of the same family.

Under the reorganization the essential character of the existing Branches will remain unchanged. Members of these Branches will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping, not only to keep alive the spirit of the past, but also to carry that spirit into the future by handing on their traditions to their successors on the Active List.

MARY TYRWHITT,

Brigadier,

Director, Women's Royal Army Corps.

THE W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION

THE following letters have been exchanged between your Council and the War Office:—

CA/4/3.

22.3.50.

MY DEAR DIRECTOR,

This is to convey to you the formal announcement that, at an Annual General Meeting of this Association, on the afternoon of Saturday, 18th March, 1950, the fifteen Council resolutions shown on the attached paper were carried by a large majority.

The coming into force of these resolutions depends on the recognition of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and the Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association as the Regimental Association of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

In four or five weeks' time the Council of the Comrades Association will be meeting under the old rules. It would be a very great advantage if the formal invitation could reach us before that time. The Council would then be in a position to authorize the immediate coming into force of the new resolutions which, as you know, provide for a change of name, a change in the constitution of the Council and a change in the subscription of other ranks serving with the Colours.

We look forward to a long and happy association between those who have served and those who are still serving.

Yours very sincerely,

LESLIE WHATELEY,

Chairman of Council,

Q.M.A.A.C. & A.T.S. Comrades Association.

1/2/D.W.R.A.C.

3.5.50.

DEAR DAME REGINA,

I am replying to your letter CA/4/3 dated 22nd March 50.

In view of the fact that the fifteen Council Resolutions were passed by the

Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 18th March, 1950, I have much pleasure in informing you that official recognition is hereby given to Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association as the Regimental Association of the Women's Royal Army Corps and that therefore consequently it is in order for the Association to be redesignated "The Women's Royal Army Corps Association."

I would like to record the pleasure which is felt within the Corps that old associations are to be continued in this way.

With regard to the question of the President, Dame Florence Simpson, Should Council decide to invite Dame Florence to continue in the office of President I have ascertained that *in her case only* the Army Council would be prepared to make an exception to King's Regulations, 1940, para. 1635 (a), on condition that on Dame Florence Simpson's retirement her successor will come within the provisions of King's Regulations in that she will be a commissioned officer on the active or retired list.

Yours very sincerely,

MARY TYRWITT.

On receipt of the War Office official recognition of the Association as the Regimental Association of the Women's Royal Army Corps, your Council met on 22nd May and authorized the immediate adoption of the fifteen council resolutions passed at the Annual General Meeting. Council also placed on record its appreciation of the action of D.W.R.A.C. in applying for permission to waive King's Regulations in favour of Dame Florence Simpson. King's Regulations lay down that Presidents and Treasurers of Regimental Associations shall be commissioned officers of the Corps on the Active or Retired List. Dame Florence held high rank but, unhappily, at a time when the King's Commission was denied to women. It is indeed good to know that, even in these bureaucratic times, officialdom can set aside regulations and can continue to allow us to run our own affairs in our own way. We are therefore the Regimental Association of a Corps of Regular Army, yet we retain our own entity, under our own President who has served us so faithfully and for so long.

On 12th July your Council met again, this time in its new form. It was thought that you might like to know who these officers are, now that the reorganization is through. Representatives have not yet been elected for Southern or A.A. Areas. Here is the list.

Major-General H.R.H. The Princess Royal (*Hon. President*).

Dame Florence Simpson, D.B.E. (*President*).

COUNCIL

Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E. (*Chairman*).

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E. (*Vice-Chairman*) (also a Council Vice-President).

Dame Leslie Whateley, D.B.E. (*Council Vice-President*).

Mrs. Fraser-Tytler, C.B.E. (*Council Vice-President*).

Miss B. Ireland, M.B.E. (*Council Vice-President*).

Miss H. Webb, M.B.E. (*Hon. Treasurer*).

Brigadier Dame Mary J. C. Tyrwhitt, D.B.E., A.D.C., D.W.R.A.C.

Lieut.-Colonel A. C. D. Hind, M.B.E., A.D.W.R.A.C., A.G. 19.

Lieut.-Colonel M. K. R. Colvin, O.B.E., Commandant W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

Lieut.-Colonel M. H. Boydell, Commandant, W.R.A.C. T.C.

Lieut.-Colonel E. E. Michell, Second-in-command Medical Services and W.R.A.C. Records.

W/5795 W.O.I M. Ashworth, Nominee of D.W.R.A.C.

W/19723 S/Sgt. E. Golightly, Nominee of D.W.R.A.C.

Mrs. A. E. Johnston, M.B.E., Rep. Service Women's Benevolent Fund.

Miss K. Acland, O.B.E., Rep. A.T.S. Benevolent Fund.
 Mrs. I. O. Hollis, Rep. W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.
 Miss B. Harvie-Anderson, Rep. Scottish Area.
 The Viscountess Swinton, Rep. Northern Area.
 Mrs. Smith, Rep. Northern Area.
 Mrs. Saxon, Rep. Western Area.
 Mrs. V. Rumbold, Rep. Eastern Area.
 Mrs. Giles, Rep. Eastern Area.
 Mrs. Pratt-Barlow, O.B.E., Rep. H.Q. Area.
 Miss N. Slee, J.P., Rep. H.Q. Area.
 Major N. Cadden, W.R.A.C., Rep. Northern Ireland Area.
 Miss J. Reynders, Co-opted member.

Colonel J. M. Cowper, D.D.W.R.A.C., A.A. Command, *Editor*, THE LIONESS.
 Mrs. D. Cormack, *Assistant Treasurer*.

AREA CHAIRMEN

Officially, since 22nd May, 1940, the Area Chairmen have been the senior W.R.A.C. Officers in each area and D.W.R.A.C. is shortly acquainting them officially of their new responsibilities, particularly in relation to unit branches. From the end of July the names and addresses of these officers are as under :—
 Southern Area: Colonel E. S. Macfie, H.Q., Southern Command, Salisbury.
 Eastern Area: Colonel E. I. W. Hobkirk, H.Q., Eastern Command, Hounslow.
 A.A. Area: Colonel J. M. Cowper, H.Q., A.A. Command, Stanmore.
 Western Area: Lieut.-Colonel M. K. Crewe-Read, H.Q., Western Command, Chester.

Northern Area: Lieut.-Colonel M. Railton, H.Q., Northern Command, York.
 Scottish Area: Lieut.-Colonel R. Wells, H.Q., Scottish Command, Edinburgh.
 Northern Ireland District: Lieut.-Colonel E. W. Gibson, M.B.E., H.Q., Northern Ireland District, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

EDITORIAL

THE die is now cast and the reorganization has taken place. Already, since becoming Editor, I have met members of the Association of all ages and estates and with every point of view. I have heard expressed misgivings by some, condemnation by others, hopes and fears by yet others. Only one thing seems to be common to us all and that is a desire for greater knowledge of why these changes were proposed at all, what they mean, and how they will affect each one of us. Some of us feel that Council forced the resolutions through the Annual General Meeting and that, by so doing, they sold the Association to a new and upstart Corps. Those of us who think like this fear that from henceforth we shall cease to run our own show and the War Office will do it for us; that, in fact, the end of democracy has come and a rule of dictatorship has begun.

Let us examine the facts. The first suggestion that the formation of a corps of women in the Regular Army might affect the Association was at the Annual General Meeting in 1948 when a resolution to admit them as members was withdrawn. This was done because it became clear that the time was not ripe and there had been too little consideration of the implications. During the ensuing year some proposals were put forward by D.A.T.S., as she was then, but your officers were not satisfied that your interests were being sufficiently considered. By the Annual General Meeting of 1949 it was clear that the Association desired to admit members of the then newly formed Corps, but when the resolution was proposed it was expressly stated that this did not mean that the Association would automatically become the Regimental Association of the Women's Royal Army Corps. Since then there has been much correspondence between your own elected representatives and the Director, Women's

Royal Army Corps. Council members saw the original draft and, in one area at least, it was discussed at an area meeting of branch representatives in January. Branches were circularized as soon as the final draft resolutions were agreed by Council in early February. They came up for discussion at the Annual General Meeting and, being passed by a large majority, have been constitutionally adopted.

What everyone is asking is, what does it mean? The first thing to realize is that the rules have not been re-written. Our own rules stand except where they have been amended by one or other of the fifteen resolutions. The organization of branches remains unaltered. We find that there is a great fear of regimentation, but not only is there no desire to introduce any form of regimentation but there is no power to do so. You still have your representatives on the Council as before and you still have your right to vote at the Annual General Meeting. The Council is responsible to the Annual General Meeting, and all committees and officers, including the Editor, are responsible to Council and take their instructions from it.

The big change is the automatic membership of other ranks serving with the Colours and the duty which devolves upon serving officers to support the Association in every way and ensure the success of unit branches. Although the serving member pays a lower subscription, the capitation fee paid to headquarters on behalf of each member is the same as for all other members. Branch expenses will not be so big and THE LIONESS will be bought by units for recreation rooms and messes and not taken by individuals. The chairman of an area committee will in future be a serving officer. This is because she, and she alone, can ensure that unit branches are properly constituted and T.A. personnel informed of their eligibility to join. Apart from that her function is to take the chair at intervals, but on the Comrades' side it is likely to be her ex-service Vice-Chairman who will be the more active. Unit branches will be represented at area meetings, but they will be in the minority in every area but one, A.A. Command, which has no Comrades branches. On the Council Active Service members cease to have special representation as their branches will have been brought into line with the others at Area level. On the other hand, some serving officers are *ex-officio* members of Council. The Commandants of the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction and the W.R.A.C. Training Centre are members because they can do more than anyone else to explain the Association to the Corps. The Director is naturally a member, and her A.D.W.R.A.C. (A.G.19) and the senior W.R.A.C. officer at the Records Office are also included to keep the Council in touch with the Corps.

We have also been asked to explain the position of the serving member. All ranks may join as life members at any time. Officers are expected to join in the normal way, as are officers of all other Corps expected to join and support their regimental associations. Other ranks, while serving, join on special terms. Their subscriptions are automatically paid through the unit on whose posted strength they happen to be on 1st January every year. There is nothing to prevent their going to a local branch meeting and, in fact, the production of a unit certificate of payment of subscription should secure them the privilege of attending. They will, however, only have power to vote at their unit meetings. On discharge they continue to be members until 31st December following and should be notified of the branch nearest to their homes.

In those places, and there are many of them, where Comrades branches and unit branches will exist side by side there are endless possibilities of co-operation. Girls living in barracks can meet their older comrades and may be invited to share the luxury of a home. Some Comrades would welcome an invitation to visit the unit and see what the peace-time army is like.

All this helps to achieve the first and foremost object of a Corps Association. By cementing the bond of comradeship between those who have served and those who are serving, by providing the opportunity for mutual help, we shall

carry into the future the traditions made by Q.M.A.A.C. and the A.T.S. and provide our successors with every encouragement to give their best to their country in these uncertain times. In this way those of us who served in Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. can feel that our service was not limited to war, or the time we spent in uniform. It goes on now by the provision of help to our successors.

The W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund

The decision of the High Court to limit the activities of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund to members of the A.T.S. created a critical situation, for there was no fund to which members of the W.R.A.C. could turn for help unless they had previously served in the A.T.S. Council therefore invited the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund to assist by appointing two representatives to serve on a small *ad hoc* committee so as to try to achieve such co-operation as would ensure economic administration between that Fund and the one proposed for the W.R.A.C. This committee consisted of our Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Dame Regina Evans and Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, the Director, Women's Royal Army Corps, and Miss Acland and General Sir Bernard Paget, representing the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund. They have already met and the fund which has now been started for the W.R.A.C. is indebted to them for their help and advice in the initial stages.

The W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund has now been opened and stands at present at £210. The committee which will administer it, under the chairmanship of the D.D.W.R.A.C. (War Office), will consist of three ex-service and two serving members. The fund will be separated from all other funds but will remain an integral part of the Association. It will be registered as a War Charity and the United Services Trustees are to be asked to draw up the deed.

Although the fund is to be separate, the liaison committee is to remain in being and it is hoped by this means to keep the closest co-operation between the two funds. When this committee was appointed the Council placed on record, on the proposition of D.W.R.A.C., their gratitude and appreciation, not only of the work which has been done and is still going on for the A.T.S., but also for the efforts which have been made to get legal sanction to extend the work to the W.R.A.C. In the circumstances everything possible is being done to set up machinery which will be of value to us both. Miss Acland already represents the A.T.S. Fund on our Council and we hope that, by the time this is published, Mrs. Hollis will have accepted an invitation to represent your Council on the Committee of the A.T.S. Fund.

All members of the W.R.A.C. will be interested to know that the Forces Help Society came to the rescue in the interim period and offered to assist those cases of hardship in the W.R.A.C. which were ineligible for grants from the A.T.S. Benevolent fund. We would all like to join with the Director in the thanks which she has already expressed on our behalf.

The General Secretary

Mrs. Greenwell is already well known to most members as she has been acting General Secretary for a considerable time. We are sure that everyone will be pleased to hear that she has now been promoted to substantive rank and is no longer "Acting." In confirming her appointment Council placed on record its indebtedness to her for carrying on so long in an acting capacity. To that the Editor would like to add her personal thanks, but we think we should all try to co-operate in reducing her work to the minimum where THE LIONESS is concerned. All communications regarding the contents of the Journal (*i.e.*, articles, reports, advertisements, notices, etc.) should go direct to the Editor. On the other hand, all questions of membership, changes of branch secretaries, orders for the Journal, etc., should go to the General Secretary. Failure to send things to the right place means not only additional work for all concerned

but extra cost in postage to the Association. Units please note that they should send reports direct and NOT "through the usual channels."

Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps.

It has been suggested that the Q.M.A.A.C. is taking a back seat in this Journal. If that is so it is for lack of news to publish. Quite by accident, we heard of Mrs. Giles' adventures which are published elsewhere in this number. We know that Comrades have settled all over the world and their experiences would be of interest to us all. There is no limit to the subjects which could be discussed and no ban on any article so long as the Editor is not held responsible for the views of her correspondents. Reminiscences of both wars, particularly where the experience was unusual, are of double value in providing memories for those who were there and inspiration to those whose job it is to carry on the traditions we made. Will readers please therefore let us know where they are and what they are doing or have done?

London Gazette

The initials and surname of Major B. A. D. Tansley Witt were wrongly given in the March-April issue of the GAZETTE. This time the fault was not ours, for the *London Gazette* itself was wrong. Nevertheless we apologize.

In this number the extracts from the *London Gazette* have had to be altered again in order to save space. They are divided into three parts. Part A consists of normal casualties which affect people whose seniority has already been published. Part B consists of a list of extracts affecting seniority already published consequent upon a recent amendment to the Pay Warrant. The effect of this amendment is that the most advantageous of the following five rules will be applied in assessing seniority as Lieutenant, with the proviso that there can be no seniority earlier than the 21st birthday.

- (a) After two years' reckonable service.
- (b) On 1st Jan. 1948 if on that date war substantive rank of Subaltern was held.
- (c) After twelve months' commissioned service if the date of the emergency commission falls between 1 Apr. 1948 and 30th Jun. 1948 (both dates inclusive).
- (d) After eighteen months' commissioned service if the date of the emergency commission falls between 1st Jul. 1948 and 30th Sep. 1948 (both dates inclusive).
- (e) W.e.f. the date of grant of substantive rank of Subaltern whilst serving on an emergency commission.

Seniority in the ranks of Captain and Major will now be due after six thirteen years' reckonable service and will not now be restricted by the back stops to seniority on 1st Aug. 1938 and 1st Jul. 1946. This means that eventually the seniority of nearly every officer will be altered and to save space these are being tabulated. A long explanatory letter has just been sent out by the War Office and serving officers will be notified of the underlying principles in due course. Part C is a further list of casualties corrected up to 30th Jun. 1950.

Our Royal Appointments

In future issues of the Army List H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth will be shown as an Honorary Brigadier and H.R.H. The Princess Royal as a Major-General following the publication of Special Army Order 33/50, but, in accordance with the wishes of H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Princess Royal, the designation of their appointments as Commandant-in-Chief and Controller Commandant of the W.R.A.C. will remain unchanged. The correct description in its abbreviated form for H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth is: H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, Lady of the Garter, C.I.

These points should be noted by all members of the Association and serving officers who may be concerned in arranging programmes for visits.

CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS

IN May and June, 1944, the roads and coastal waters of southern England were thronged with an almost incredible variety of vehicles and shipping, carrying the men and the weapons of the armies which liberated Europe. In June and July, 1950, single boats and vehicles are passing over these same routes, having as passengers members of the Guide Movement, carrying, in relay, a Message of Goodwill to their sister Brownies, Guides and Rangers in Canada.

In this summer of 1950 Great Britain has the honour of being Hostess Country for the 13th World Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. The Conference is being held at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, and attended by two delegates and two visitors from each of the twenty-three countries which are full members of the World Association and visitors from the five Tenderfoot Countries where Guiding is not yet sufficiently established to qualify for full membership. The first of these biennial Conferences was held in 1920 in the same surroundings. Once again, Lady Baden-Powell, the World Chief Guide, is taking a prominent part in the Conference, which first met to collect news of the rapid growth of the Guide Movement in other countries and will, this year, take as its theme "This Changing World."

On Saturday, 29th July, H.R.H. the Princess Margaret, the Sea Ranger Commodore of Great Britain, will be present at a great Camp Fire in Oxford. In this ceremony every member of the movement in the United Kingdom will have her part as Messages of Goodwill are presented to each delegation to take back to the Guides in their own country. The Messages will have started from thirteen points in Scotland, Wales and Ulster and from fifteen places in England. By varied routes, each representing one means of transport—pack pony, canal, railway, air, the old coach roads and the Pilgrim's Way—these Messages will arrive in Oxford in time for presentation at the Camp Fire. Each is written on a parchment paper scroll, decorated with the emblems and flags of the country of origin and that to which it is to be given.

The Canadian delegation will receive their Message from the Guide Counties of the Isle of Wight, Hampshire, Berkshire and Oxford. It is hoped that this token of goodwill from the girls of these four counties will remind many Canadians of the friendships they made, particularly with the children, as they trained in England and moved to the embarkation points in 1944. Many service men and women—both past and present—are giving their help to the children who planned the route and who will carry the Message along it. Facts, which to the adults are memories of the recent past, seem to the younger children exciting revelations of local history.

The message to Canada will begin its journey at Carisbrooke Castle at a Rally of the Isle of Wight Guides. Passing round the island's coast roads, which saw so many rehearsals for landing-craft and Dukws, over the site where "Pluto" left our shores and by the radar station at Niton, it will leave from Wootton Creek to be handed to Hampshire on 22nd July. Guide Patrol Leaders from all over the county, gathered at the R.N. Recreation Ground in Portsmouth, will see the Message, and Brownies will carry it down to the Harbour, across which it will be conveyed by Sea Rangers to the Hardway at Gosport. A fresh relay of Guides, transported in a Naval ambulance, given by the Guide Association in 1940, then takes the Message to Portsdown Church. An army lorry picks up the next group and, driving past S.H.A.E.F. Control Centre, Denmead and Hambledon, comes to Droxford station. Here for several days before D Day stood coaches from one of the royal trains, and on the platform where a little group of Guides will stand, walked Churchill, Smuts, Mackenzie King

and other famous leaders. By train to Alton, thence carried through the night by Land Rangers, the Message will reach Winchester on the Sunday morning, and on by lorry and motor-cycle to the Berkshire border. Exhibited for one day in Newbury and another in Abingdon, carried by corgi, lorry, cycle and bus through parts of Berkshire where extensive military training, and particularly that of paratroops and glider establishments, took place, the Message will be handed to the Oxfordshire Guides on 29th July.

A Log Book recording its journey and the history of the route by which it came will accompany the scroll, so that Canadian Guides will receive not only friendly greetings from their English sisters, but also pictures and records of the days when the men and women of both nations worked together to liberate Europe and lay the foundations of a new freedom and the world fellowship to which the Scout and Guide Movements have made so great a contribution.

JOAN HALL.

AN OLD SOLDIER TAKES A LOOK

The following extracts are from a letter written by an ex-Q.M.A.A.C. life member of the Association who visited the Northern Command Camp:

"... I must say how very much I enjoyed visiting the camp and really found the 'ironing room' most intriguing. The beds appeared to have much more spring in them than our old 'biscuit' mattresses. But, oh! how my heart bumped when I saw the cute little paper curtains—exact replicas of the ones made by the girls of my company in 1917. I could have thoroughly enjoyed staying with the girls for a few days. Nevertheless, I am very appreciative of the chance to have seen the Modern Army in camp—and send grateful thanks to ALL who, by their unstinted efforts, made the visit so very enjoyable to an ex-Q.M.A.A.C."



[By courtesy of *The Yorkshire Evening News*]

Miss Tunnington (Ex-Q.M.A.A.C.) tests the springs of a modern army bed.

TERRITORIAL ACTIVITIES

Eastern Command Netball Tournament

THIS tournament was held on 29th April at Headquarters, Eastern Command, for all W.R.A.C. (T.A.) units in the command. Tremendous enthusiasm was shown by the Terriers; in fact, 303 (Kent) Battalion had chosen its team from amongst seven within the Battalion, and 301 (Eastern Command) Battalion had had its trials at Command Headquarters some weeks beforehand. Seven teams competed and it had been hoped to divide them into two sections, playing each as an American tournament on the hard tennis courts, and the winners of A and B sections playing each other. Unfortunately, it was a very wet day and play had to take place indoors on one court only. The order of play had therefore to be rearranged as a knock-out tournament if the tournament was to finish in time. The draw and the results were as follows:—

326 (City of London) Bn. W.R.A.C. (T.A.)	...326	}	326	}	326	
304 (Eastern Command) Bn. W.R.A.C. (T.A.)	...(24—3)					
327 (County of London) B. W.R.A.C. (T.A.)	...327	}	(10—2)			
302 (Eastern Command) Bn. W.R.A.C. (T.A.)	...(10—4)					
301 (Eastern Command) Bn. W.R.A.C. (T.A.)	...303	}	303			
303 (Kent) Bn. W.R.A.C. (T.A.)	...(7—3)					
54 W.R.A.C. Signal Squadron (T.A.)	Bye	(5—1)		9—3		

The competitors much appreciated the presence of the Army Commander, Lieut.-General Sir Gerald W. R. Templar, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., and Lady Templar, of the Chief of Staff, Major-General E. M. Bastyan, C.B., C.B.E., as well as of a number of W.R.A.C. officers from the War Office. In addition, the teams were much heartened by the support of officers and members of their units. Lady Templar very kindly presented the cup to the captain of 326 Battalion and a medallion to each member of her team. She also presented a smaller cup to 303 Battalion, the runners-up. The tournament was so successful that it is hoped to arrange others at some future date.

305 (West Riding) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

Squads from York, Harrogate, Sheffield, Leeds and Bradford competed in an Inter-Company Drill Competition at York. The judges were Lieut.-Colonel D. H. I. Wilson, A.D.W.R.A.C., Catterick District, and R.S.Ms. Nix from Catterick and Moore of the E. Yorkshire Regiment. The last named was the R.S.M. who attended the first annual camp held by Northern Command at Rolston in 1949. The competition lasted all day and was won by "C" Company, Leeds, with only one ex-service member of the squad and the instructor, S/Sgt. Cockerham, who had always served as a technical Ordnance N.C.O. The squad had a very close fight with "B" Company, Bradford, but winning in the end by 1½ points gained on turn-out.

An Inter-Company Netball match was played at Harrogate between "A" and "B" Companies. "A" Company won. The game was followed by a very nice meal prepared and served in the Drill Hall by the Harrogate Platoon.

The Drivers' Platoon of "C" Company, Leeds, are going out regularly in convoy with the R.A.S.C. on Sundays, and they have also had a week-end camp at Farnley Park on 13th and 14th May. They are very proud of the fact that, at the last examination results, three women gained higher marks than the men. Two women who, eighteen months ago, were recruits with no driving experience have now been passed as being capable of instructing drivers at the annual camp.

The officers of the Battalion have formed their own Mess in York and they opened it on Saturday, 13th May, with a cocktail party.

Four cooks of "C" Company are attending twice weekly at St. James' Hospital, where they are receiving first-class instruction in cookery from highly qualified chefs. Our cooks get plenty of practice, for many requests are received from local T.A. units for the loan of cooks to assist at regimental dinners and week-end camps.

The Battalion Recruiting Cup was won by "E" Company in Sheffield, who were formed on 11th April, 1949, and have now enlisted 135 women. Newly formed units are also doing well. The platoon of "D" Company at Huddersfield has only just started, but it had 15 recruits before holding a social evening on 24th May to which new recruits were attracted. They had a beetle drive and dancing and ran their own buffet.

309 (Northern Command) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

Our first week-end camp was held from 28th to 30th April, 1950, at Zetland Camp, Marske. We had a smattering of ex-service women amongst us, but for a large proportion of the girls it was their first taste of Army life. The camp itself was situated just outside Marske and was set a good way back from the sea, which was nevertheless just visible across the fields. We consisted of two companies, "A" Company from Middlesbrough, which also brought platoons from Redcar and Scarborough, and "B" Company, all of whom came from Hull. Our total strength was 7 officers, 8 warrant officers and sergeants, and 55 other ranks. Middlesbrough and Redcar were the first to arrive, and by late Friday night we had only a handful from these two platoons still to come.

Everyone was most enthusiastic—so much so, in fact, that the 0630 hours "Reveille" on Saturday morning had to be completely dispensed with as the whole camp was a hive of industry by 0530 hours—beds were barracked, huts cleaned and everybody looking for work long before breakfast time! This terrific keenness persisted throughout the week-end and there was never any lack of volunteers—instead we had many more than we required. In fact, on Saturday night when one volunteer was wanted for cookhouse duty, we were obliged to accept three!

During the course of Saturday afternoon we were joined by the contingents from Scarborough and Hull—the latter having had a particularly long and tiring journey, the monotony of which was relieved considerably when the truck caught fire! However, there was no damage done, and they eventually arrived in time for tea, and were soon in the swing of things. The Middlesbrough and Redcar girls put their knowledge of local entertainments to such effective use that in the evening there was hardly a soul left in camp.

Sunday was a very eventful day, and began with an inspection of accommodation by Major Tortise, our Commanding Officer. This was followed by Church parade, and all the recruits, some of whom were wearing uniform for the first time, looked extremely smart as they marched out of camp.

Lunch-time brought an added honour, and we were very pleased to welcome Colonel J. M. Cowper, D.D.W.R.A.C., Northern Command, who had foregone her "day of rest" in order to travel over and visit us and see at first hand how we were progressing. During her few hours' stay she inspected the cookhouse and camp, and even found time to watch part of the Netball Tournament, which was won by the Scarborough Platoon.

One of the events of the day was the celebration of C.Q.M.S. Peary's birthday. She served in the 1914-1918 war, throughout the 1939-1945 war, and was one of the original members of "A" Company, 309 Battalion. She has therefore the distinction of having belonged to the Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. She is seen in the photograph on the next page with three other members of her mess and her birthday cake.

In view of the long journey ahead of them, "B" Company left us just before tea, and then began the task of returning all bedding and stores to the Barrack Warden. It meant a good deal of hard work, but once again volunteers were



[By courtesy of the Middlesbrough Evening Gazette]

Sgt. Daines, C.Q.M.S. Peary, C.S.M. Young and Sgt. Collins with C.Q.M.S. Peary's birthday cake, at the weekend camp at Marske.

well to the fore. Eventually at 1900 hours Scarborough had to leave as they too had a long journey to face, and finally, all the work finished, the remainder left for home and by 2000 hours the evacuation was complete.

Northern Command Annual Camp

Three battalions of W.R.A.C. (T.A.) in Northern Command have just handed over their accommodation to three others. They have completed their annual camp at Farnley Park, near Otley. The camp is hatted and divided into three, each complete with its own lines, officers' and sergeants' mess, cookhouse and dining hall, etc. One camp has been allotted to one battalion, two smaller ones share another, while the third is occupied by a Camp H.Q. staff, including the D.D.W.R.A.C. and all the W.R.A.C. staff at Command and District level. The first three battalions to occupy the camp were 305 (West Riding) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) and 307 and 308 Battalions, both from North Midland District. The three battalions from Northumbrian District (306, 309 and 318) followed. Half of each day is spent on technical training for drivers, R.A.O.C. tradeswomen, and clerks for wings have been set up for this purpose. Cooks and administrative personnel do most of their training by the practical application of their skill. As far as the cooks are concerned this is carried out under the instruction of a Specialist Messing Officer and two Supervising Travelling Instructors. A woman Medical Officer is in medical charge of the camp and also trains the medical orderlies. Our Controller Commandant, Major-General H.R.H. The Princess Royal, came to visit the camp and welcome the first three battalions in. She is to visit again on the last day and give away the inter-battalion sports cup. The Director, Women's Royal Army Corps, Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, D.B.E., A.D.C., stayed in the camp while the battalions changed over. Besides the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief,

Northern Command, the Chief of Staff, District Commanders and other notabilities of the Command, the camp has been visited by Major-General G. A. N. Swiney, Commandant, Chilwell M.T. Organization, who has been actively concerned with the provision of the R.A.O.C. Training.

Some trades have only just started recruiting and they have been so few in number that no adequate training could be laid on for them in camp. These have mostly gone to a technical establishment for one week and attended their battalion camp for the other.

It is being a hectic month. There have been so many social events, sports and so much work that the time has flown.

An important part of the programme is the open day on the middle Sunday. All ranks may ask their friends to the camp that day. There is a church parade with a band and a march past. In the afternoon the band plays, officers and sergeants entertain their friends in their messes, and the rank and file can provide their families with a meal in the N.A.A.F.I. Amongst our visitors on the first Sunday was an ex-member of the Q.M.A.A.C., some of whose impressions are recorded on another page. Last year the camp was tented. Although a great many enjoy the huts more there is a large proportion who regret the tents. All the same the camp has been voted a great success and many who give up their only holiday say they wouldn't change it for another.

Southern Command Annual Camp

About 350 Territorial Army members of the W.R.A.C. in Southern Command were in camp at Braunton, North Devon, from 10th to 23rd June.

They came from the following units:—

310 Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) of Blighmont Barracks, Millbrook, Southampton, commanded by Major The Countess of Brecknock. 311 Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) of Sherford Camp, Taunton, commanded by Major V. E. Wellesley, O.B.E. 312 Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) of Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, commanded by Major W. J. de P. Applegate. 313 Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) of Higher Barracks, Exeter, commanded by Major W. J. Sydney-Turner.

Primary object of the camp was to foster regimental training as a Corps. The training, in charge of Major D. A. C. Fowler, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command, was divided into two parts: (a) Regimental training as a Corps; (b) Technical training in the jobs the volunteers would do in the event of mobilization.

The units of the four battalions are scattered widely throughout Southern Command and annual camp is the only occasion on which they all serve together as a Corps. The Director of the W.R.A.C., Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, D.B.E., A.D.C. visited the camp on 23rd June and took the salute at a ceremonial parade at 11 a.m. At this the band of the W.R.A.C. played. The G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, Lieut.-General Sir Ouvry Roberts, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.A. also visited the camp.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

BIRMINGHAM

OUR meeting on 26th June was held at the home of our Chairman, Mrs. Weddell, who was kind enough to invite us again to an evening garden party. The time passed quickly with competitions and games, lots of chatting and plenty of varied refreshments, not forgetting drinks and strawberries and ice-cream to complete the evening. Everybody enjoyed themselves and we do thank Mrs. Weddell for going to so much trouble to make the evening such a success.

There will be no meetings in July and August, but we hope to open next season on 11th September.

BOURNEMOUTH

We have had another very enjoyable meeting with members of Southampton Branch who invited us to a picnic supper at Brockenhurst in the New Forest on 7th June.

BRADFORD

The members who attended the Albert Hall Rally in March think the arrangements this year were very good and the best so far. On 26th June, our meeting night, we had a good attendance, the best we have had for some time. We attended the "Somme" Parade on 2nd July and there was a good turn out. Some of our A.T.S. girls are taking up visiting each hospital where there are ex-service women and we are doing some good work amongst us. We are all looking forward to going to Harewood on 19th August.

CHELMSFORD

During May we held a Bring-and-Buy Sale which realized £1 10s. 5d. for Branch funds. At our June meeting members present arranged an impromptu darts contest, and in July one of our members kindly invited us to her home. This outing was greatly enjoyed by all as the weather kept fine, and we were able to explore the garden and have supper out of doors. Our hostess won our usual monthly raffle, and we are indebted to her for the success of a very jolly evening.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND (Q.M.A.A.C.)

The Q.M.A.A.C. have had outings on two successive Saturdays recently. The first was on 27th May with the United Services Club for Women on an all day bus run to the Scott country. We visited Melrose Abbey, where the heart of Robert the Bruce was said to be buried, Dryburgh Abbey, where Earl Haig and his wife are buried near the tomb of Sir Walter Scott; also Abbotsford, where we saw through Sir Walter's private rooms and inspected his many historical relics, including articles which had belonged to Bonnie Prince Charlie, Mary Queen of Scots, Rob Roy, Napoleon Buonaparte, etc. The lovely Border countryside was looking its best with all the varying shades of green at their freshest, with the winding Tweed to be seen at every turning.

Mrs. Parker of Folkestone (who was with us during some of the recent war years along with her husband Jock, of whose death we were all sorry to hear) accompanied us on this occasion, and we were pleased that she was able to do so during the fortnight she spent here recuperating after her great loss.

The following Saturday, 3rd June, was one of the high-lights in the long life of the Q.M.A.A.C. Club, when for the second time Mrs. McFarlane, our Chairwoman, invited us to visit her at her lovely home in the country near Dumfries. We hired a twenty-seater bus and fourteen old comrades set off in ideal weather. Several members were unable to come owing to illness and duty, and we were all particularly sorry that our treasurer, Minnie Pettigrew, could not join us owing to the sudden and unexpected death of her husband ten days earlier. In a letter of thanks for flowers sent by her old comrades, she expressed the hope that her troubles would not cast a gloom over our outing.

Our route lay through most beautiful and varied scenery of woods and hills and open moors to Dumfries, where we circled the Burns Monument with its expressive portrayal of his fine eyes and face. We had time for a short stop at Dumfries, where under the guidance of Miss McLelland, our fount of knowledge, some of us visited the Burns Mausoleum in St. Michael's Kirkyard where Robbie, his wife Jean Armour, and his son are buried.

Then on a few more miles to Mrs. McFarlane's grey granite-built house in its lovely setting of hills and woods, where we had a warm welcome from Mr.

and Mrs. McFarlane and their daughter Marjorie. After a most sumptuous luncheon, served by and under the direction of acting butler Mr. McFarlane, with what seemed a dozen different varieties of delicious and beautifully decorated dessert dishes, all prepared by Marjorie, Mr. McFarlane showed us round the walled garden and grounds, and then we sat in the sunshine and talked till tea-time, when we had another lovely meal with an endless variety of home-made scones and cakes, after which we had to say our farewells and express our warm thanks for a very lovely day.

Old Comrades who knew Jean Scott (Signals) in Etaples and Calais in 1918, and who has been in Australia since 1928, will wish her every happiness in her marriage, on 8th July in Sydney, to an old friend from Scotland.

Our next club meeting will not be until the first meeting in September.

HARTLEPOOLS

Although the attendance at meetings still remains rather low, those that are attending feel it well worth the effort to come along.

We had a most enjoyable cinematograph show at one of our meetings, shown by our Chairman, Major V. M. McRobert, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), of Princess Elizabeth's wedding. Another film was of a tour round Paris and Switzerland. Six members, including the Secretary, enjoyed a very pleasant evening at the second birthday celebrations of the Tees Side Branch.

Three of our serving T.A. members reported having had a good time at their unit's Annual Camp at Tonfanau, North Wales. Those who are able to attend the Rally at Harewood are looking forward to seeing and maybe talking to H.R.H. The Princess Royal, also to the pleasure of renewing old acquaintances.

ISLE OF WIGHT

We held our fourth Annual Reunion Dinner on Wednesday, 28th June, at which Mrs. Hollis was our guest of honour. We were joined this year by Portsmouth Branch as the two branches have decided in future to make the dinner a combined Reunion every year. This makes it much more fun as we are able to talk over our active service days, and in doing so we usually find that we have met or served with the other in those now far off days. We spent a pleasant evening; yarns were told by the score, and those very familiar words, "Do you remember?" could be heard on every side.

LONDON

We held a Beetle Drive on 18th May which was quite good fun, and on 6th July we held a successful Bring-and-Buy Sale which has helped our funds to the tune of £4 odd. Thank you, Members, for your support.

Our Lecturers on 21st September and 16th November will be respectively Mrs. Jackson and Miss McNeil.

Tickets for the London Branch Dinner, to be held on 21st October at St. Ermins Hotel, are now available, price 15s. These can be obtained from Mrs. N. I. Giles at our meetings, or from her at her home address, 4 Arlington Drive, Carshalton, Surrey. Will Members applying by post please include a stamped addressed envelope.

NORTH STAFFS

We were very fortunate with the weather for our June meeting as we fixed to meet at the Westlands Sports Grounds and have a few rounds of putting. This was very enjoyable and caused amusement to players and spectators. To draw the evening to a close Mrs. Ashworth kindly invited us to her home for supper.

As July is a holiday month only a few members were able to attend our meeting. We were sorry to hear that Miss Cade was in hospital again. It was suggested that members might visit her. Both the Chairman and the Secretary found her

comfortable when they visited her recently. Plans had been made for a trip to Trentham, but as it was a cold evening it was decided to stay indoors instead. Nevertheless we had an enjoyable evening at the Nell Gwynne Cafe. Games were played and a prize given. As usual, we enjoyed a lovely supper.

OXFORD

Our Annual Outing was on Sunday, 7th May, and this year we made a tour of the Wye Valley, with lunch arranged at Symonds Yat. The weather was rather unkind to us, with pouring rain and mist hanging over the valley, blotting out most of the wonderful scenery, but in spite of this most people enjoyed the day out.

Our June meeting was in the form of a garden party held at the home of our President, Mrs. John Thomson. About twenty members were present, and we all thank our hostess for a very pleasant evening. On Thursday, 8th June, a party of members and friends visited the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court. This proved to be a very successful evening, and one which many said they would like to become an annual outing.

SUNDERLAND

In May our Chairman, Mrs. Shaw, organized an evening mystery trip by bus. This caused great excitement amongst members and wild guesses were made as to our destination. A sing-song was started by the bus driver which gave us all an appetite for supper. This was laid on in Stockton and after a long chin-wag we proceeded homewards. In June we held a small Whist Drive. Several members of Seaham British Legion Ladies' Branch spent the evening with us, and a male member of Seaham British Legion, Mr. Shaw, kindly acted as M.C. and presented the prizes which were given by members. In July Mrs. Burnip, a representative of Durham Area British Legion, gave an interesting talk on "Superstition and Folk Lore."

New faces are as good as a tonic to us. Welcome to all Comrades when in Sunderland. Our meetings are held in the Drill Hall, Livingstone Road, Sunderland, on the first and third Wednesday in every month. No meetings in August.

BIRTHS

ISAACS.—To ex-Pte. Margery Isaacs in Jamaica on 14th February—a daughter.

JONES.—To ex-L/Cpl. Doreen Jones in Nassau on 4th March—a daughter.

MILLET.—To Mrs. Barbara Millet (*née* Mitchell of M.E.F. Signals), present address Whakatane, New Zealand, in March—a daughter.

SMILLIE.—To Mrs. A. L. (Laurie) Smillie (*née* Sub. Megan Jones), at present living at The Knoll, Hetton-le-Hole, Co. Durham, on 10th April—a daughter. (Lesley Elizabeth).

MARRIAGES

COXON—ROBSON.—The marriage between Joyce Irving Robson (*née* Steel) (ex-Cpl. A.T.S.) and Norman Coxon, took place quietly in Sunderland on 18th April, 1950. Her address is now 48 Barnard Street, Sunderland.

SHAW—HALLIDAY.—The marriage between Maria Elizabeth Halliday (ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and ex-Sergt. A.T.S.) and John Shaw took place quietly in St. John's Church, Seaham, on 1st January, 1948. Her address is now 13 Stavordale Street, Dawdon.

WENTWORTH REEVE—WAGSTAFF.—The marriage of Mrs. Marjorie Frances Wagstaff, C.B.E. (ex-Controller A.T.S.) and Major-General John Talbot Wentworth Reeve, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., took place at Westminster Cathedral on 5th July. Their address is Barton Mere, near Bury St. Edmunds.

DEATHS

CORNER.—Margaret Corner (ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S.) at Exeter on 7th June.

EMERY.—May Emery (formerly W/253204 L/Cpl. Storewoman R.A.O.C.).

(Obituaries on page 21).

NEWS FROM THE COMMANDS

SCOTLAND

THE W.R.A.C. in Scotland was featured in the Ideal Homes Exhibition, at Waverley Market, Edinburgh, in a display of model dolls clothed in every type of working and walking out dress. Made by members of the 10th Battalion W.R.A.C., the models which were exhibited on the Military Recruiting Stand attracted a great deal of public interest and received the commendation of the G.O.C.-in-C., Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon H. A. MacMillan. The exhibition was opened on 13th April by Sir Hector McNeil, ex-Lord Provost of Glasgow, and much of the success of the military display may be attributed to the hard work and enthusiasm of the members of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

In their recent efforts to reach the Charities Week target figure of £15,000, Edinburgh University students who enlisted the help of Headquarters Scottish Command, received the whole-hearted co-operation of the Army when demonstrations of physical training and precision drill were performed on the Castle Esplanade especially for their benefit. Further evidence of our willingness to help their cause was shown in the enthusiasm of the W.R.A.C. who invaded offices throughout the headquarters demanding "immunity" contributions. Their hard work was, however, wasted when students in every kind of garb scaled the dangerous crags and precipitous slopes of the Castle, intent on a kidnapping scheme. Storming the battlements, brandishing claymores and playing bagpipes, the unruly crowd kidnapped our Camp Commandant in his own office and escorted him down to Princes Street as a prisoner. He was only released after handing over a ransom in the form of a cheque representing the contributions made by the headquarters staff.

CHILWELL

Our Annual Sports on 17th May were very successful; five people qualified for Northern Command Sports, competing in the 100 yards, 220 yards, Long Jump and High Jump. Unfortunately the High Jumpers, although qualifying for the Army Championships, were unable to compete owing to their catching the common complaint at the moment in Chilwell—sprained ankles. However, this disappointment was made up by Ptes. Bolus, Forbes, Parry and Potts winning the relay at the Northern Command Athletic Championships, and Pte. Forbes coming second in the 220 yards and 100 yards. Pte. Forbes went on to the Army Athletic Championships and came fourth in the 220 yards. As she is a young recruit we feel that Lieut. Williamson and Capt. Pridmore will have a good rival next year.

Other sporting successes include L/Cpl. Griffin, Pte. Berry, Pte. Poyser and Pte. Stewart getting into the Northern Command Cricket Team.

Our "Open to the Public Day" was a great success on 18th June, and we were pleased to see the ex-A.T.S. who visited us. It was a record day as there were 22,000 visitors in the Depot.

The much talked about Annual Administrative Inspection took place on 4th July, in spite of inclement weather. The rain kept away and everything went off very well.

THE W.R.A.C. TRAINING CENTRE

The bright yellow coach seemed to join in the merriment of the passengers. As it neared London, its tyres beat out a rhythm easily recognizable as "Roy-al Tourn-a-ment, Roy-al Tourn-a-ment . . ."

Twenty-five happy people, representing many departments of the W.R.A.C. Training Centre, Guildford, eagerly watched the miles jump back across the windows. As the party drew up outside Earl's Court, hats, collars and ties were straightened before their owners joined the in-going crowd. Out of the bus

and into the arena and, within minutes, all were seated with programmes in their hands.

Cheers went up as the show started with a P.T. display by the women's services: cheers loudest from the Guildford party, particularly since one of the participants was a woman from our unit. The colour, pageantry and splendour gave rise to a tension which could be felt throughout the show.

The various competitive events created much ado, the side with fewest supporters invariably getting the benefit of throaty Training Centre cheers. The boys from the Gordon School provoked much laughter, and, incidentally, much applause since it was obviously a matter of skill being both horse and rider. The skirts, representing the horses' trappings, must have proved very difficult running garb. We were enlivened by the sight of the W.R.A.F. Band in full dress. They were almost perfect, cool and apparently at ease; the Drum Major, modestly oozing with confidence, throwing her mace high in the air with no betrayal of "nerves."

Event followed event. The horses, the gun-teams, the Royal Marine Commandos scaling impossible cliffs, the parachutes, the comic horse and all the other splendid elements of Britain's might passed before our eyes. Not a few of us were made to feel very proud of the Service of which we are a part, and we felt humble as individuals.

NEWS OF COMRADES

(Where no addresses are given, letters will be forwarded from H.Q. Office)

Mrs. Giles (ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and a member of Council) decided that the only real holiday is one taken abroad, but she had not the necessary £100 nor could she persuade her husband to consider it necessary. So she has taken a job in the London Passenger Transport Board Canteens. She says the work is just like the army except that she gets paid an extra 4s. to work on shifts. We hope that the £100 will soon be saved up and Mrs. Giles will get her well-deserved holiday.

Mrs. Elise Berriman (ex Sub. Berriman of Derby C.O.D. Group) has moved to Southern California, where she and her husband are the happy possessors of a ranch almost "south of the border."

The *W.R.A.C. Newsletter* from Jamaica is full of news of Comrades who have served in the Caribbean Areas. **Ex-C.S.M. Jenkinson** is on the administrative staff of St. Christopher's Nursery Training College in Kent. She plans to go to Switzerland for her holidays in July and, with **ex-W.O.II Armitage**, is planning to migrate to Australia. Many ex-members of the company have reported births. **Ex-C.S.M. Eleanor** (*nee Etherington*) has a family of two; **Ex-Sergt. Overton** is the proud mother of a baby girl, Anne Shirley; **ex-Cpl. Wilkins**, **ex-Ptes. Steadman** and **Long** are also in the fashion, while **ex-Pte. Grace Knowles** has two boys and a girl. **Zoe Cumberbach** has a son of whom she is very proud, and **ex-Pte. Rosie Pyfrom**, who has two children, went to Jamaica for a few days' holiday in March. Another field in which ex-members of the Caribbean companies seem to excel is nursing. At the Archway Hospital, London, **ex-Ptes. Couria**, **Bunting** and **Waite** are all doing well. **Waite** will be taking her final exam. very soon and we wish her every success. **Ex-Pte. Peart**, who is also nursing in England, came third in her examination class of twelve members, most of whom had over a year or a year and a half experience. She was three marks behind the second and seven marks behind the first. Three ex-members of the company now in England, **Grant**, **Couria** and **Morgan**, had a delightful supper party with the brother of **ex-Cpl. Wright**. **Ex-Pte. Vera Johnson** of Ordnance returned to Nassau in March from New York, where she had completed a three-year course in interior decorating and dressmaking.

While in the States she met **ex-Pte. Olive Cooke**, now the proud mother of a

daughter, and **ex-Cpl. Foreman**, whom she says is looking well. **Lieut.-Colonel Allerton** is now a regular officer and is hoping to organize a reunion of ex-members of the company who are now in England. It would appear that members of the Association could do quite a lot to make these comrades from one of our more distant companies enjoy their stay in England.

Trixie Heaney of Abbeville Camp III, 1917 to 1919, and of Wimbledon, Surrey, in 1919, says that she is one of those members of the Association who never seem to be able to attend a meeting. But she did find time to pop into London Branch at their reunion on 15th June, and, having heard our appeal for news of Comrades, she writes to give an account of herself. She wants to know what, where and how some of the girls from Camp III Abbeville are progressing. Two years ago she had a wonderful holiday in Canada. As she could not get a berth in a boat she went by air and just loved the thrill, going in twenty-six hours from London to Ontario. She now resides permanently in London at 79 Cheyne Court, Chelsea, S.W.3, and so hopes to join in the first and third Thursdays at No. 52.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS IN JAMAICA

DEAR EDITOR,

As I am always interested in reading news of other companies and branches in our GAZETTE, I thought that your readers might be interested to hear something about the W.R.A.C. Company in Jamaica. This Company, the 5th Independent Company, W.R.A.C., consists of locally enlisted personnel from the West Indies, two U.K. Officers, S/Sergt. F. A. Pittman, Admin. N.C.O., and myself.

The girls are employed on clerical duties in H.Q., Caribbean Area, and offices of the various Services, and also as Nursing Orderlies in the Military Hospital. Recreational training afternoons are held once a week during which softball, tennis, rounders and badminton are played.

Recently the Company visited one of the sugar estates and were taken round the factory, where we were most interested to see the whole process of sugar manufacture from the gathering of the cane until the sugar was put into sacks for export. On the way back to Kingston we also called in at one of the large rum stores, where we were all invited to sample the rum which, I might mention, was extremely good and appreciated by all !

Both S/Sergt. Pittman and I have been serving in Jamaica for a year now and are enjoying our service in this island. It did not take us long to acquire a taste for the local fruits and vegetables, but we have not yet managed to tackle *the dish* of Jamaica, "Salt Fish and Ackee."

Cpl. Ruby Riley of the Company Office served in England during the war, and no doubt the many friends she made will be glad to hear that she is still serving and enjoying life.

I am enclosing a photograph of the Company on Drill Parade and also a copy of our W.R.A.C. Newsletter. This is written and produced by the girls themselves and will give you a good idea of the keen interest they all take in its compilation, and in the activities of the garrison.

With best wishes from Jamaica,

Yours sincerely,

A. M. WEIGHTMAN, S.Q.M.S.

(Member of York Branch).

(We are hoping to include the photograph in a later issue and hope that S.Q.M.S. Weightman will continue to send us the Newsletter so that extracts may be published in THE LIONESS when space permits.—ED.)

OBITUARY

MAY EMERY

It was with very deep regret that we learned of the passing of Miss May Emery. She served with the A.T.S. from February, 1943 to April, 1946 at "F" Company, Breedon Group, 78 O.S.D. Queensborough, Syston, Leics., and unfortunately had a long illness which she bore cheerfully. She will be missed by us all.

MARGARET CORNER

Miss Margaret Corner, who served in the Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., died in Exeter on 7th June, after a long illness most gallantly borne. Although partially crippled for several years her unfailing pluck enabled her to carry on and to take the keenest interest in all activities of the Service.

SPORT

RESULTS OF WOMEN'S INTER-SERVICE MATCHES, 1949-1950

ROYAL NAVY v. ARMY v. ROYAL AIR FORCE

GAME or SPORT					SCORE		RESULT
Athletics	...	...	...	...	Army 61 points	...	1st
					R.A.F. 48 points	...	2nd
					R.N. 41 points	...	3rd
Badminton	...	...	...	...	R.A.F. 16 matches	...	1st
					Army 8 matches	...	2nd
					R.N. 3 matches	...	3rd
Cricket	...	...	...	...	Army v. R.A.F.	...	Lost
					Army v. R.N.	...	Won
					R.A.F. v. R.N.	...	Won
Fencing							
Royal Tournament, 1949, Individual					Army 7 wins 1 defeat	...	1st
Championships					...	...	2nd
					Army 6 wins 2 defeats	...	2nd
					Army 4 wins 4 defeats	...	3rd
N.B.—The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force were unplaced as no Bar-							
rage was fought off.							
Royal Tournament, 1949, Team					Army 23 points	...	1st
Championships					...	...	2nd
					R.N. 16 points	...	2nd
					R.A.F. 6 points	...	3rd
Inter-Service Triangular Match					...	...	1st
					R.A.F. 13 wins	...	1st
					R.N. 9 wins	...	2nd
					Army 5 wins	...	3rd
Hockey	...	...	...	...	Army v. R.A.F.	...	Won 1-0
					Army v. R.N.	...	Draw 2-2
					R.N. v. R.A.F.	...	Draw 1-1
Rifle Shooting	...	...	...	...	R.N. 1570 points	...	1st
					R.A.F. 1555 points	...	2nd
					Army 1543 points	...	3rd
Squash Rackets	...	...	...	...	R.N. 7 matches	...	1st
					R.A.F. 6 matches	...	2nd
					Army 2 matches	...	3rd
Swimming	...	...	...	...	R.N. 63 points	...	1st
					R.A.F. 43	...	2nd
					Army 27 points	...	3rd

Tennis	...	...	...	...	R.A.F. 8 matches	...	1st	
					Army 5 matches	...	2nd	
					R.N. 2 matches	...	3rd	
Golf	...	...	...	...	Army 10 matches	...	1st	Tied
					R.N. 8½ matches	...	2nd	
					R.A.F. 8½ matches	...	2nd	

Northern Command (Women's) Hockey Tour in Germany

At about 7.45 p.m. on 25th April, 1950, a small body of women in uniform could have been seen surrounded by hockey sticks and luggage on the rather dismal platform approach to Liverpool Street Station. The Northern Command (Women's) Hockey Team were off on a tour to B.A.O.R. The team were a little apprehensive of the weather, as gales had raged for two days, but apart from a crying baby and the ever-present "*Tannoy*" the crossing was uneventful and they disembarked in good order, changed their money and entrained for Bad Oyenhausen.

A Reception Committee was waiting at Bad Oyenhausen Station and the Press insisted on taking photographs, which it was hoped would not show the travel-stained and rather untidy appearance of the team, who had found it a little difficult to clean shoes and buttons in a very crowded cabin at 5.30 in the morning. The first evening was spent in Minden, where "The Barber of Seville" was presented by an Italian Opera Company and Colonel Toft honoured us with her company.

The first match was to have been played on the Stadium ground but, owing to the rain, had to be transferred to the R.A.F. Station hard ground at Bad Eilsen. The B.A.O.R. W.R.A.C. team were fast and steady and, after being drenched by a shower of sleet, Northern Command lost the match and also had the misfortune of losing Major Bell, who had to retire from the game with a torn muscle which kept her out of the rest of the matches.

In the evening the team were entertained by the B.A.O.R. team to dinner at the N.A.A.F.I. in the Kurhaus.

On Friday morning a little exploring was undertaken, nylons being the objective; then the team left for Buckeburg, where they were shown round the Schloss Schaumburg-Lippe. This has a magnificent ballroom in pink marble with a painted ceiling and a fine, though very ornate, State room. The W.R.A.F. entertained the visitors to lunch and then the two teams went on to the Airfield where the match was to take place. The W.R.A.F. team was too strong for Northern Command, containing as it did Flight Officer Salter and Sgt. Williams, old opponents of the W.R.A.C. on the hockey field, and the W.R.A.F. won after a good game.

A cocktail party took place in the evening in Major Gracie's flat, and many of the team went on to the 21 Club afterwards.

Saturday was a lovely day and the team were driven out to Herford for a match against the C.C.G. This took place to the accompaniment of a running commentary on the Football Cup Final, but Northern Command could not emulate the Arsenal and they were again beaten, but remained undismayed and very cheerful. There was an All Ranks' Dance in the evening.

On Sunday some members of the team attended the service in the Garrison Church, which is a fine example of what can be done with a Nissen hut when imagination is brought into play.

There was an invitation to visit the Secretary of the B.A.O.R. Sports Committee and his wife at their flat at twelve o'clock, and the final match at Bad Eilsen against the Combined Services (Women's) team took place in the afternoon. The touch-line was crowded with high ranking spectators, reinforced by members of the Army Hockey Team, and the weather was glorious. In spite of the magnificent work in goal by Captain McDermott and valiant efforts by the others, Northern Command were again beaten.

A visit to the W.R.A.C. Sergeants' Mess in the evening brought the round of social engagements to an end. On Monday there was a rush to make final purchases in the morning, and the team gathered in the station at 12.40 to say good-bye, reluctantly, to their hostesses.

The team owes a debt of thanks to all those who made the tour possible, to the Northern Command Sports Board for contributing towards the cost, to those who had raised the extra money in the D.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command's Sports Fund, to Colonel Toft, Major Gracie and Captain Munro, to Flight Officer Salter and her band of helpers, to the male officers who so willingly umpired and came to watch the games when they were not umpiring. The tour will long be remembered by the players who took part in it.

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

Charge for three lines, 1s., each additional line 6d. For non-members of the Comrades Association the charge is 1s. 6d. for three lines and 9d. for each additional line. Prices for whole or half-page advertisements on application. Please pay bills promptly. We cannot afford to present them more than once. When replying to Box Numbers please address the outside envelope to the Editor, Colonel J. M. Cowper, W.R.A.C. Headquarters, A.A. Command, Stanmore, Middlesex.

Accounts, duplicating, typing. Account books of schools, hotels, clubs, property, etc., kept and written up for income tax or audit. Duplicating and typing also undertaken. Miss P. Morris, 1, Elmwood Crescent, Kingsbury, London, N.W.9.

Bexhill-on-Sea. Small hotel (run by two ex-A.T.S. W.Os.), set in spacious grounds, secluded yet within easy reach of sea (12 mins.) also Hastings and Eastbourne; on main London-Bexhill road. Comrades specially welcomed. Write for brochure. Mrs. I. R. Barnard, Thorne Hotel, Ninfeld Road, Bexhill-on-Sea. Tel.: Ninfeld 212.

When in Edinburgh, stay at the Women's Services Club, 12, Drumsheugh Gardens. Telephone: Edinburgh 20877.

Accommodation in London. Ennismore House, 39 Ennismore Gardens, S.W.7. Kensington 0345. Furnished Service Flatlets, single rooms 4 gns., doubles 8 gns. per week. Short visits or permanent accommodation. Central heating, constant hot water, divan beds. Now owned and run by Miss C. Manton and Miss R. Firebrace, ex-A.T.S. officers.

Horticultural Training. Applications can be considered for one or two trainees at Linden House, Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops, Epsom Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. Intending applicants are advised to apply in the first place to Headquarters, 122 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3. It can then be arranged for them to spend a few days at the Hostel in order that they may test out their suitability for this work. If successful, applications would be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, but full instructions can be given on inquiry. Training is for a period of twelve months.

Part-time work, salary and unfurnished service cottage for not more than three people. Domestic work and unskilled gardening or driving. 3 bedrooms, 2 sitting. Elsan. Electric light. Garage. On bus route. Mrs. Boyes, Rew Manor, Dorchester (4 miles), Dorset.

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For Sale. A.T.S. Officer's Service Dress. Height 5ft. 6 in. Bust 34 in. Waist 26 in. Hips 38 in. Good condition. £2. Box No. 21/50.

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LONDON GAZETTE

- A. *The following are extracts from the "London Gazette" up to and including 30 June, 1950, referring to casualties already published:—*

HONOURS AND AWARDS, 8 JUN. 1950

The King has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of the Celebration of His Majesty's Birthday, to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

To be Ordinary Officers of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Lieut.-Colonel Margaret Irene Montague Hewitt (196040), Women's Royal Army Corps (T.A.).

To be Ordinary Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Major (temporary) Vivienne Kathleen Clinton Robinson (223169), Women's Royal Army Corps.

The King has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of the Celebration of His Majesty's Birthday, to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to the undermentioned:—

No. W/214494 Sergeant Elizabeth Pauline Byrne, Women's Royal Army Corps.

No. W/103425 Corporal Margaret Dicks, Women's Royal Army Corps.

No. W/324063 Sergeant Catherine Bannerman Polson, Women's Royal Army Corps.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

5 May 50

Capt. H. M. Warden (244958) to be Maj. 19th Apr. 1950 with seniority 1st July 1946.

9 May 50

Capt. D. A. C. Fowler (192886) to be Maj. 7th May 1950.

19 May 50

Capt. J. Godolphin (192834) to be Maj. 18th May 1950.

23 May 50

Sub. E. Bodkin (297818) to be J.Comd. 1st Feb. 1949 with seniority 15th Jan. 1948.

30 May 50

Capt. S. M. Howe (252201) to be Maj. 15th May 1950 with seniority 26th July 1947.

23 Jun 50

Capt. M. M. K. Marsh (192476) to be Maj. 24th June 1950 with seniority 22nd Mar. 1942.

Lieut. A. T. Alexander (192403) to be Capt. 24th June 1950 with seniority 19th Aug. 1941.

- B. *Owing to a change in the system of awarding ante-dates to the grant of regular commissions, the following amendments to seniority have been published (see note in the Editorial).*

Name	Number	Rank	Seniority	Gazette
S. E. Bowden	375508	J. Comd.	2 Nov 46	30 May 50
M. M. Bishop	223042	"	13 Dec 46	30 May 50
K. Cooper	230545	"	17 Dec 46	30 May 50
R. Stride	221974	"	18 Dec 46	30 May 50
D. Smith	216984	"	22 Dec 46	30 May 50
B. S. Finlay	244866	"	3 Mar 47	9 Jun 50
P. L. Squirrell (now McCandlish)	196673	"	14 Jun 47	30 May 50
C. M. McLeod	287106	"	3 Aug 47	30 May 50
G. M. Pucknell (now Brehault)	238915	"	15 Sep 47	30 May 50
C. M. Mould	196638	"	8 Sep 47	30 May 50
A. M. H. Byers	223044	"	10 Oct 47	30 May 50
M. H. Downes Powell	221353	"	10 Oct 47	30 May 50
B. H. Clarke	236935	"	11 Oct 47	30 May 50
H. M. McPherson	244889	"	25 Mar 48	30 May 50
E. F. Stewart	309790	"	29 Apr 48	30 May 50
M. E. B. Ratcliffe	238864	"	11 Apr 48	30 May 50
M. O'Gram	238891	"	9 May 48	27 Jun 50

C. *The following is a list of officers granted regular commissions, not previously published, and promoted to Lieut. or above with seniority 31 Dec 48 or before.*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Seniority</i>	<i>Gazette</i>
<i>Captains</i>			
E. Duncan	356513	9 Oct 48	27 Jun 50
M. B. Latham	294138	24 Nov 48	27 Jan 50
M. E. Roe	301026	18 Dec 48	16 Aug 49
M. J. Howarth	371082	14 Jan 49	28 Mar 50
D. R. M. Wolf	274515	2 Feb 49	16 Aug 49
M. G. Wilton	287066	16 Feb 49	17 Feb 50
M. A. Reeve	241665	9 Mar 49	16 Aug 49
J. E. Rodway	366197	11 Mar 49	16 Aug 49
J. T. Crooke	363403	26 Mar 49	28 Feb 50
B. Underwood	316312	5 Apr 49	28 Mar 50
K. M. Foggitt	309722	13 Apr 49	9 Sep 49
J. Franklin	270272	14 Apr 49	12 Jul 49
E. J. Bowles	325236	30 Apr 49	28 Mar 50
E. J. Nolan	345795	19 Jun 49	9 Sep 49
D. M. W. Haward	322117	22 Jun 49	12 Jul 49
S. H. Cooke	338281	23 Jul 49	24 Mar 50
S. M. Close	218484	23 Jul 48	30 May 50
D. B. Parsons	297940	1 Oct 49	28 Oct 49
S. W. Whitworth	342952	1 Oct 49	25 Oct 49
M. L. Holmes	333583	31 Aug 49	30 May 50
V. I. Fisher	336580	13 Dec 49	20 Dec 49
J. Wilson	359197	2 Aug 50	28 Mar 50
E. Scott	211388	14 Jul 49	9 Jun 50
M. U. Walker	350192	30 Apr 50	5 May 50
M. I. Hopewell	305443	20 Jun 50	23 Jun 50
<i>Lieutenants</i>			
M. M. Power, A.R.R.C.	209057	5 Jun 42	15 Nov 49
R. Ruston	384271	24 Mar 43	6 Sep 49
J. B. Macdowell	252256	28 Dec 44	29 Nov 49
E. J. Thomas	384273	16 Feb 46	20 Dec 49
L. M. Strong	305546	27 Mar 46	7 Feb 50
B. A. Wilson	342973	5 Apr 46	4 Oct 49
N. J. Comyn	270288	10 Jul 46	27 Jun 50
G. E. M. Edwards	378448	21 Sep 46	12 Aug 49
K. E. Goad	309728	6 Oct 46	28 Jun 49
M. Mathews	378462	27 Nov 46	6 Sep 49
C. D. Ellis	363344	29 Apr 47	26 Jul 49
J. Tappin	388890	12 Jun 47	26 Jul 49
L. G. Ellis	378433	7 Jul 47	6 Sep 49
M. Morley	366842	24 Aug 47	17 Jan 50
A. D. S. Williamson	375525	28 Sep 47	26 Jul 49
J. Cato-Symonds	363359	26 Nov 47	21 Feb 50
P. M. Boner	399677	29 Dec 47	12 Jun 50
H. Broad	386461	27 Jan 48	12 Aug 49
J. G. D. Donaldson	380492	16 Apr 48	8 Jul 49
F. M. Cook	388894	16 Jun 48	7 Feb 50
A. V. Fisher	384279	10 Jul 48	12 Aug 49
B. Ley	388898	18 Sep 48	23 May 50
J. U. E. A. Fleming	386462	29 Nov 48	8 Jul 49
A. S. W. Russell	399683	17 Dec 48	10 Mar 50

A.T.S. BADGE BROOCHES

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