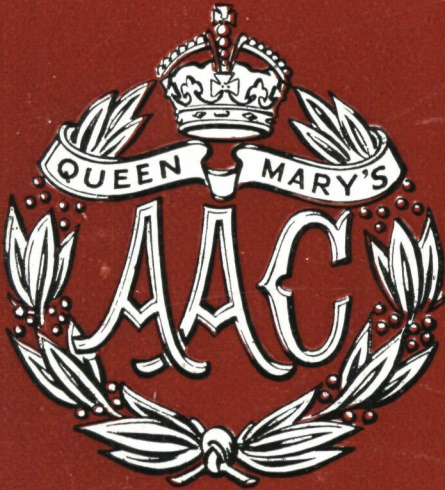


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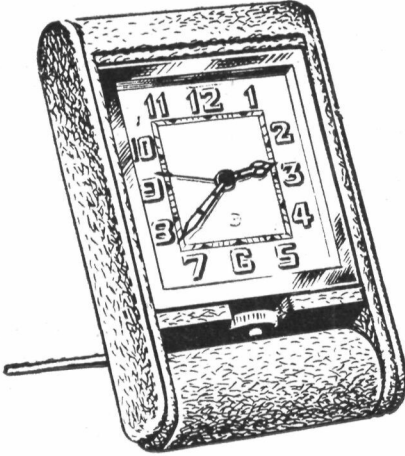
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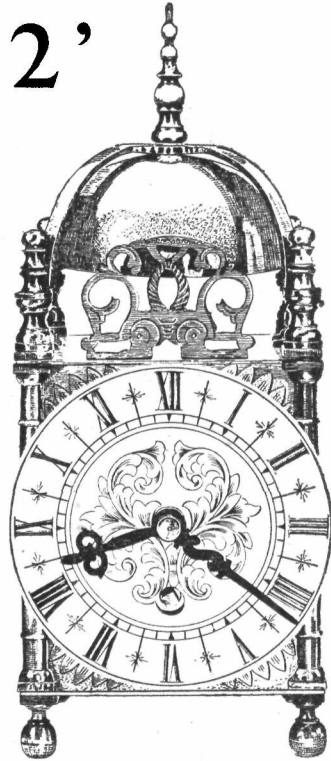
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Her Majesty The Queen

The following gracious message from Her Majesty The Queen was received by the Secretary of State for War on February 12:

"I wish, on succeeding to the Throne, to address a message to all ranks of my Armies, thanking them for the notable services which they rendered to my Beloved Father during his reign and assuring them of my confidence in their loyalty and efficiency."

"My own service in the Auxiliary Territorial Service and my personal association with individual regiments of United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces have given me some experience of the varied and onerous tasks which they are called upon to discharge. Devotion to duty, a good-humoured acceptance of hardship when necessary, and an undefeatable endurance in adversity are characteristics of the military forces which have brought us victory in war and security in peace. I know that I can rely upon them to respond to any call upon their allegiance with the same competence and enthusiasm with which they served my Father. I shall always take a close personal interest in all that concerns their welfare and efficiency."

"ELIZABETH R."

Constitutionally The Sovereign is debarred from holding appointments under the Crown and, in pursuance of the usual custom, The Queen relinquished the colonelcy of various regiments and her honorary rank in the W.R.A.C. On this occasion Her Majesty graciously addressed a message to the Corps which was published as an Army Order in the following words:

"The Secretary of State for War has it in command from The Queen to convey to all ranks of the Women's Royal Army Corps that Her Majesty regrets that circumstances have made it necessary on her Accession to the Throne for her to relinquish the rank of Honorary Brigadier which she held, and thus sever the direct link which she retained with the Corps. Her Majesty will continue to watch with pride and interest the future of the Corps in which she served during the war."



[Courtesy : Bristol Evening World]

The first occasion since her accession on which Her Majesty has had an opportunity of showing her interest was at Dorchester on July 3 when she was visiting the Depot, The Dorset Regiment, and 311 (Southern Command) Battalion were lining the grass verge. Her Majesty deviated from her programme to speak to Major K. L'E. Heppard, C.O. of the Battalion and D.A.D.W.R.A.C. South Western District, and to Capt. R. Hardinge-Francis, Cpl. D. Parkes and L/Cpl. K. M. Bascombe, all of the T.A. The Queen's gracious interest will always be remembered by those who were present and is a source of pride to all who have served or are serving in Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. or W.R.A.C.



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXV

August 1952

No. 3

Contributions should reach the Editor, Col. J. M. Cowper, T.D., Women's Royal Army Corps, The War Office (A.G.16), Stanmore, Middlesex, as early as possible and NOT later than the 6th of the month preceding issue.

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Editorial

For some time past finance has loomed large in this column, but now we have shelved much of our responsibility in this matter, as Council has approved the appointment of a business manager, and we are glad to report that Lt.-Col. J. Berry has accepted this arduous appointment. But before we leave the subject we must say thank you to those individuals and units who have come to the rescue during the last year. 17 Independent Company deserves a special mention. With a total strength of only 50, they had some difficulty in deciding how they could produce the maximum result. Then they hit on the idea of a jumble sale. This was held on May 1 and the funds were materially assisted by the presentation of a puppy by Col. Walters, the local O.C. Troops. It was with great excitement that they counted their takings at the end of the day to find that they had made £15. A cheque for that amount has been received and, in our opinion, averaging over 6s. a head all ranks, it is the best effort made yet. Who can beat this?

Only one entry has been received for the Short Story competition announced in April. Your executive committee have decided to accept entries up to February 1. Conditions will be republished in November.

Queen Mary's Birthday

The following message was sent to Queen Mary on our behalf on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday:

Dear Madam,

Will you kindly convey to Her Majesty Queen Mary, on behalf of all the members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association (incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades' Association), the expression of their humble duty and loyal greetings on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday on May 26.

Yours very truly,

May 17.

FLORENCE SIMPSON.

The following reply was received:

Dear Dame Florence,

Queen Mary commands me to thank you and, through you, the members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association for the expression of good wishes on the birthday today. Her Majesty is much touched by your kind thought and I am to thank you *very* warmly.

Yours sincerely,

May 26.

MARGARET AMPHILL.

Helena United Services Holiday House

"OVERSEA," 58 WEST HILL, ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA

Comrades who have been in the habit of spending Christmas at the Holiday House will be sorry to hear that the House is to be closed from the end of October, 1952, until the middle of March, 1953. A loss has been incurred each year owing to lack of visitors during the winter months. Rather than lose the Holiday House altogether, it seems wise to make this experiment and it is hoped that, by a curtailment of expenditure during the winter, any further loss may be avoided.

There is not, of course, any difficulty in filling the accommodation during the summer months but, to those who want the Holiday House to continue, I can only say, please support it in October, March, April and May.

BLANCHE IRELAND.

W.R.A.C. Regimental Dinner

The Regimental Dinner will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, on Thursday, October 2, 1952. Anyone who has served as an officer, either regular or short service, in the W.R.A.C. is eligible to attend. Further particulars and tickets may be obtained from the Secretary, Major M. M. Gibson, W.R.A.C., H.Q. 63 A.A. Brigade, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1.

Annual General Meeting 1952

MINUTES

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, March 15, 1952, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3, by kind permission of the County of London Territorial Army and Auxiliary Forces Association. In the absence of the President the chair was taken at 3 p.m. by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan as senior Vice-President.

1. MINUTES. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 17, 1951, having appeared in the May-June issue of *The Lioness*, were taken as read and signed as correct.

2. APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were received from Dame Florence Simpson, D.B.E., Dame Leslie Whateley, D.B.E., and Mrs. A. E. B. Johnston, M.B.E.

3. BUSINESS ARISING. There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. *Chairman of Council*: Only one nomination having been received, Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E., was declared to be elected. *Council Vice-Presidents*: Five nominations having been received for the four Council Vice-Presidentships, a paper ballot was taken and Dame Leslie Whateley, D.B.E., Miss B. Ireland, M.B.E., Mrs. Russell Simpson and Mrs. R. King, O.B.E., were elected.

5. REPORT OF COUNCIL. Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E., as Chairman of Council, gave the report for 1951. This was adopted and is printed at the end of these minutes.

6. REPORT OF HON. TREASURER. In presenting the balance sheet the Hon. Treasurer stated that the actual income, i.e. each out of members' subscription, payable to Headquarters, just about covered expenses but there was no surplus. From the balance sheet it would be seen that a loan of £200 had been made to cover the loss on the 1951 Reunion and also a loan of £600 to *The Lioness*. This £800 had had to come out of capital, not income, and we could not go on doing this. On the other hand expenses were increasing and the only answer was to increase membership and obtain a wider circulation of *The Lioness*. If we could do this we should have enough to pay our way. The Treasurer asked all members to do all they could to see that subscriptions were renewed and to draw in ex-Service members. If any Branches would like to send a donation it would be gratefully received.

The Lioness was about the only magazine which had not increased in price: members paid only 5d. for each copy which cost 11d. to produce. The Hon. Treasurer further stated that she would like to thank the Assistant Treasurer for all her valuable help and added her personal thanks to the General Secretary for dealing with the office work between her own visits.

The Hon. Treasurer then moved the adoption of the accounts for 1950-51, which was carried.

7. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

(A) *A.T.S. Benevolent Fund*—Miss Acland.

In presenting the report Miss Acland called attention to the much closer liaison achieved with

the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. The Sub-Committee of both Funds met most amicably to consider cases.

The total amount of help granted in the past year had been £14,388. There had been a marked increase recently; general distress, including illness, was still the greatest cause for applications. It was encouraging to know that the help given had been the means of brightening the future of recipients.

The Employment Bureau was one of the most satisfactory departments as it was a means of helping people to help themselves. Mrs. McFie had a happy knack of fitting the right people into the right jobs and they had been able to help women of the more advanced age groups to obtain suitable positions.

(B) *W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund*—Col. M. Railton.

Col. Railton stated that this was a very young fund, having been formed in July, 1950, but had made a promising start. An amount of £1,000 had been received from the Army Benevolent Fund, H.R.H. The Princess Royal had made a donation of £100, contributions had been received from units and individuals.

The financial side showed a balance in hand of over £200. The number of cases was small as, although the fund was available for Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C., as long as the S.W.B.F. and the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund lasted, it dealt only with W.R.A.C. £150 had been expended in assistance in the last year.

The administration of the fund was entirely voluntary. Mrs. Greenwell had given help far beyond the requirement of her office. The auditors had forgone their fee. Col. Railton appealed to all members to do everything possible to increase the Fund.

(C) *The Lioness*—Col. J. M. Cowper.

The Editor, Col. J. M. Cowper, reported that the circulation of *The Lioness* had gone forward steadily since the beginning of 1951, but not fast enough, and if it did not improve there would be serious financial trouble.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, Col. J. Berry expressed willingness to take on the Chairmanship of the Committee for the financial side of the magazine. She could not put this side in order unless the circulation grew. Col. Cowper stated that her own concern was what went into the magazine and, for the last year, she had been trying to find out what the members wanted. A large number of letters had already been published and conclusions could be drawn as follow:

(i) There was a very great need for news of comrades which is not in the columns of *The Lioness*.

(ii) There was, in quite a number of quarters a desire to have space in *The Lioness* allocated to certain subjects.

(iii) There should be a competition for short stories, or some other idea to stimulate circulation.

With regard to (i) there was no news of comrades that had been received and not published. She would herself like to complain of the modesty of correspondents. She wanted very much more news of this type.

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— and all because my nails weren't! It was a madly smart party, and I was the only one with plain-Jane hands. I felt dowdy—and my hands looked naked! Then and there I became a convert to Cutex Nail Polish.



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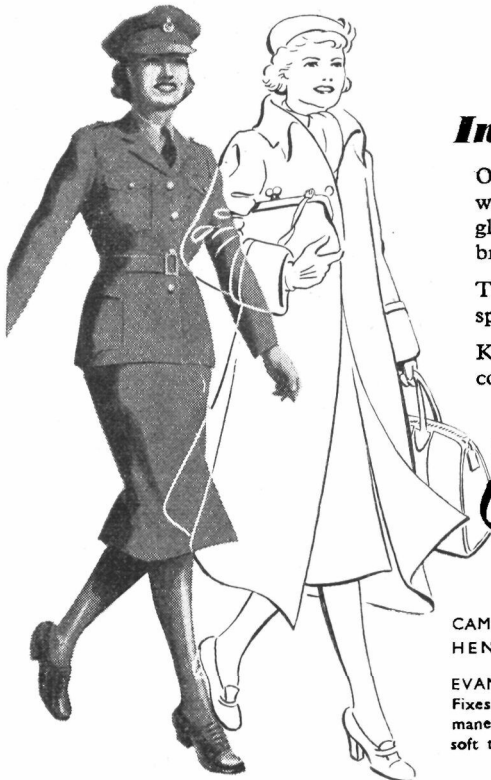
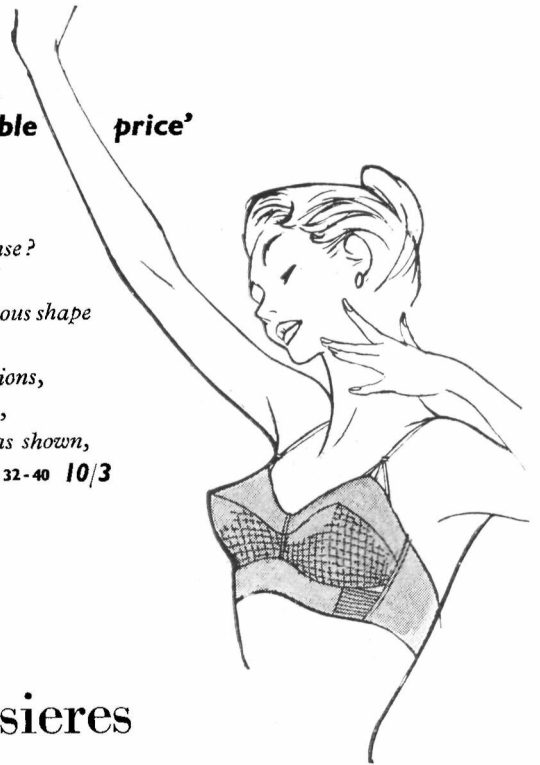
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With regard to (ii) there was a demand for allocation of space under certain headings but one of the big troubles here was that a minority of the members belonged to only one Corps, the majority having belonged to two.

With regard to (iii) it had been decided that a competition should take the form of a short story of not more than 500 words. No prize would be given unless at least 20 entries were received, so that we could be sure of getting our money back.

There were no questions on this report.

8. COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. The Chairman asked the meeting to accept two resolutions on grounds of urgency. This was agreed and Dame Regina Evans then moved:

(1) That the office of Patron of the Association should be created and should be filled should the occasion arise.

(2) Amendment to Rule 2 (Objects): *Delete (b) and substitute* "To relieve suffering or distress caused by war to those who served in Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Auxiliary Territorial Service, or any subsequent corps of women who served with or in the Army on the combatant side."

Delete (c) and substitute "To help members in need," with the verbal amendment that, should legal authority require us to make certain slight alterations to the wording, but not the meaning, the Chairman of Council was empowered to make such change.

Both these resolutions were CARRIED.

(a) That *The Lioness* be issued every three months instead of every two months. CARRIED by 87 votes to 66.

(b) That the price of *The Lioness* sold to all members who do not pay full subscription be 9d. a copy. CARRIED.

(c) That the Reunion be held in alternate years and that, in the intermediate years, an Area Reunion be encouraged. CARRIED.

(d) That the rule requiring the Vice-Chairman of Council to be the Chairman of the Executive Committee be cancelled, and that the Council be free to appoint the Chairman of the Executive Committee or leave the appointment to that committee. CARRIED.

9. BRANCH RESOLUTIONS

(a) That a duplicated slip be prepared at Headquarters for distribution to all Branch Secretaries who, in turn, will send a copy to members who have allowed their subscriptions to lapse for, say, two, three or four years. The position of *The Lioness* and membership of the W.R.A.C. Association generally to be stated and a strong appeal made to lapsed members to rejoin. (Newbury Branch.) CARRIED.

(b) That the Branches of the Association should in turn provide contributions to contain details of the respective Branches' recent activities and such written articles or photographs as individual members may wish to contribute, provided that no more than two pages of any one issue of *The Lioness* be devoted to this purpose. (Bath Branch.) LOST.

(c) That this Branch is seriously concerned by

the rising cost of production of *The Lioness* and urges the Council to endeavour to produce a simpler journal at a reduced cost (London Branch.) WITHDRAWN.

(d) That Council Meetings should be held on a Saturday rather than during the week owing to the difficulty of provincial members getting to London during the week. LOST.

The Chairman explained to the A.G.M. that the Council had the power to meet on Saturdays should that suit the members. She asked the meeting if they desired them to meet on Saturdays whether it suited them or not.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. A member of London Branch asked why, when she sent a contribution to *The Lioness*, it was not published in the form in which it was sent but had been altered and added to. The Editor, Col. J. M. Cowper, replied that she had already made an apology on this matter but added that the contribution referred to had been in the April 1951 issue and the complaint had only reached her five or six days prior to the meeting. She could not now say why the contribution had been changed. It might have been that two contributions had been received on the same subject and merged together.

Mrs. M. Lees, ex-A.T.S. and herself blind, spoke on behalf of disabled ex-Service women. She considered that they should be better represented at exhibitions, etc. At a recent exhibition in London which had been opened by The Queen Mother no reference had been made to work exhibited by ex-Service women. Mrs. Lees suggested that at such exhibitions there should be a stall supported and staffed by disabled ex-Service women, showing their work. She would be willing to show copies of *The Lioness*, to have a collection box, and to see that the work was looked after. The Chairman said that everything possible would be done.

A member emphasised the right of ex-Service women to be full members of the British Legion.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The date of the next meeting was left to the Council.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 4.35 p.m.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The lamented death of His Majesty King George VI has been deeply felt in common with all his subjects, by the Association between whom and the Royal House exists a very close link in the person of H.R.H. The Princess Royal. Letters of condolence were sent to Her Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty The Queen Mother, Her Majesty Queen Mary and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on your behalf, but they can never adequately express the personal affection felt for these royal personages, especially our much-beloved President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

The past year had been one of consolidation and growth of the Association. Our membership stands at 9,011, an increase on last year. Although this sounds satisfactory there is still room for much improvement, especially among the ex-Service women of the last war. Over a quarter million women served during the years 1939-1945 so our

potential membership is but poorly represented by our actual number. Your Council would urge every member present to become a recruiting officer for the Association, whose work requires not only human sympathy and understanding but also financial support.

During the year one new ex-Service and several unit branches had been formed. We congratulate the Service on their interest but we feel that there is leeway to be made up by the ex-Service community. I hope in the coming year that more activity will be shown by those who are no longer in the Service.

Last year's Reunion, which was held as usual in the Albert Hall, was smaller than in other years but, nevertheless, was very enjoyable. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal presided and Gen. Sir John Crocker was the guest speaker. Dame Leslie Whateley made the appeal for the Benevolent Funds which reached the total of £192 14s. 6d. 46 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. gave a display and drill was demonstrated by 327 (City of London) W.R.A.C./T.A.

In former years the Chairman of Council had reported on the activities of the Benevolent Funds. It has been decided that in the future this report should be made by the Chairman of the Benevolent Fund. It only remains therefore to mention its activities very briefly. It is a great pleasure to report the close liaison which had been concluded during the past year with the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund. The Grants Committee have amalgamated with the W.R.A.C. Grants Committee so as to carry out an agreed policy of relief. Col. Railton will be reporting on behalf of the W.R.A.C. and Miss Acland on behalf of the A.T.S.

The Lioness, like all printed matter in the present time, is a matter of great concern to your Council. Taking praise and blame and trying to strike a balance, the scales certainly register satisfaction by the majority for the new magazine. It should be stated here that the additional expense of production is entirely due to the rising costs of the present day and are in no way due to any particular person. Your Council has recently appointed a small business committee to deal with the finances of *The Lioness* and to spare the Editor from much additional work. Our thanks are due to Col. Cowper for her enthusiasm and energy which has built up so interesting a publication.

Exhibits continue to come in steadily to the Regimental Museum. Q.M.A.A.C. uniforms are still urgently needed and the response to the appeal for formation signs has been disappointing. There are still not enough for display. The main function of the Museum is instructional. All recruits are taken on a conducted tour of the Museum. This is found to be of great value in teaching them about Corps history and the Association. The Museum is included in the programme of all W.R.A.C./T.A. week-end courses and University Cadet Training. In addition approximately 50 outside visitors have been through the Museum during the past year. The Museum is open to visitors at any time on application to the Orderly Room.

The wreath on the Cenotaph was laid by the

Secretary of the Isle of Wight Branch, accompanied by members of London Branch. For the first time this year a cross was planted on the Field of Remembrance by Miss Davis, a member of Q.M.A.A.C., accompanied by a member of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C.

Dame Regina thanked all Branch Secretaries for the work they had done in the past, were doing, and would be expected to do in the future. She also thanked the General Secretary for the valuable help she had given at all times.

Reunions

GRAND REUNION, ALBERT HALL

By Mrs. Stevenson, Chairman of the Reunion Committee

The Annual Reunion was held at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, March 15, 1952. It was a great sadness to all present that, for the first time, H.R.H. The Princess Royal was unable to attend. The evening's proceedings began with music from the Women's Royal Army Corps Band. There followed an exhibition of foot drill in quick time and slow time by a squad from the W.R.A.C. Depot. Between the files as they counter-marched came women wearing uniforms, first of an officer and worker of Q.M.A.A.C. followed by an officer and volunteer of the A.T.S. and, finally, W.R.A.C. of the present day. This was especially interesting to all those "in the know" who realised that the Q.M.A.A.C. uniform was worn by a serving member of the W.R.A.C. who also served in Q.M.A.A.C. and the A.T.S. At the end of the demonstration the squad formed a Guard of Honour for the platform party as they crossed the arena to the stage.

The Chair was taken by the Chairman of Council, Dame Regina Evans, who read the messages received from H.M. Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, H.M. Queen Mary, and H.R.H. The Princess Royal, in answer to loyal messages sent by the Association on the occasion of the Reunion. The Secretary of State for War followed, speaking very kindly of those who are no longer serving, of those still serving and indeed of those to come who are assured of a very warm welcome! The Director gave us a graphic story of her visit to the Middle and Far East, and a good account of W.R.A.C. Units serving so far away. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan added a few appropriate words and ended by calling for three cheers for The Queen, which was led by R.S.M. Ashworth, who also thanked the speakers.

During her speech Dame Helen appealed for donations for the three Benevolent Funds and during the performance of the W.R.A.C. Drum and Bugle Band of 583 (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), a collection was taken which resulted in nearly £100 being divided between the Service Women's Benevolent Fund, the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund and the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. At the conclusion of a very excellent performance by the Drum and Bugle Band, the real business of the evening began.

The attendance was rather smaller than in previous years, but this had an advantage in that it was easier to move about in the arena and in the



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buffets and one heard on all sides that those who were present were able to see and meet many friends.

For the first time programmes were available at the Reunion. They contained, in addition to the programme of the evening's entertainment, photographs of H.M. The Queen, H.M. Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, Commandant-in-Chief of the A.T.S., H.M. Queen Mary, Commandant-in-Chief of Q.M.A.A.C., and H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Controller Commandant of both the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. and Hon. President of the Association. A few copies of this programme were unsold and will gladly be forwarded on receipt of stamped addressed envelope and 6d.

NORTHERN AREA REUNION, TEMPLE NEWSAM, LEEDS

On Sunday, June 15, Northern Area held its 1952 Reunion at Temple Newsam, Leeds.

Apart from the Scottish Reunion which is held for the benefit of our Scottish friends who cannot travel to the Albert Hall, I think Northern Area is the only one to have an annual reunion of this nature. In past years we have been to Roundhay Park, Leeds; to York to meet Dame Helen; to Harewood at the invitation of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal; and, last year, to Masham at the invitation of The Lady Swinton. This year it was decided to visit Temple Newsam on the outskirts of Leeds, and the setting of this lovely house was ideal for our meeting. We have always been fortunate in our weather and, although it had been very poor on the previous day, our luck held again.

We met in the courtyard of the house and Lt.-Cols. C. W. Hull and V. K. Stead, with members of Leeds Branch, were waiting for us. After a few details about the house from Col. Stead who, incidentally, did all the organisation of this meeting, we went inside, going round in 'small groups of friends so that we could take as long as we wished in viewing the various rooms filled with beautiful furniture, china and works of art of all descriptions.

The Museum is in the care of Leeds Corporation who should be complimented on the care they take of it. Every piece of furniture shone with polish; every floor gleamed and it was noted that, where the walls had been colour-washed, even the chains holding the pictures had been coloured to match so that the line of colour was unbroken. Several of the largest rooms are hung with damask and some of the needlework chairs were magnificent, especially in the Gallery.

After we had viewed the house at our leisure we met for tea at 4.15 p.m. in the modern restaurant run by Leeds Corporation. Here the meal was laid on small tables for four and we sat down to enjoy cold beef and salad, followed by bread and butter, jam and cakes. After we had all satisfied the inner man Col. Hull made a short speech saying how pleased she was to see so many at the reunion.

The branches represented were: Bradford (9), Leeds (23), 3 Battalion (23), Chesterfield (6), Sheffield (7), Tees-side (8) and York (17). York had their president, Miss Masters, with them and the 3 Battalion contingent included the C.O., Adjutant and R.S.M.

After tea we wandered round the grounds, taking a view of Henry Moore's "Reclining Figure," which was the subject of much discussion, and having conversation with members from other branches. It was regretted that the Northern Area Secretary, Major M. E. Tortise, was unable to be present but her T.A. duties had priority. Then the time came for us to make our various ways towards home and the annual reunion was over once more.

L. GARRETT
(Member, Bradford Branch).

The Princess Royal in N.I.D.

On Sunday, June 22, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal honoured Northern Ireland District by attending church parade at the headquarters. The troops were drawn from all Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. units in the district, both Regular and Territorial. The parade was commanded by the Chief Signal Officer, and Lt.-Col. J. G. Grierson led the 400 women. Major H. M. Plant brought the women of 51 A.A. Brigade back from camp in England to attend the parade and the rehearsal on Saturday. After the service The Princess was entertained in the H.Q. Officers' Mess where officers on parade were presented to her.

The following day the N.I.D. Signal Squadron was inspected. The day started with a march past, then coffee in Sandes Home, followed by an inspection of the W.R.A.C. quarters and a visit to the Signal office and the switchboard. Both Corps were deeply sensible of the interest shown by Her Royal Highness in her dual capacity of Colonel-in-Chief Royal Signals and Controller Commandant W.R.A.C.



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BRITISH LEGION, 49 PALL MALL, S.W.1

307 (Northern Command) Battalion

At the end of May we had a new idea for concentrating our platoons, scattered as they are over three counties. We went to Butlin's Holiday Camp at Skegness, where we were accommodated in chalets and fed at separate tables in one of the campers' restaurants. It was about 1730 hours before everybody arrived on the Saturday, so little could be done beyond the C.O.'s opening address and pay parade, which was very popular! The rest of the evening was spent in sampling the varied entertainments of the camp. On Sunday the order of the day was drill, church parade, a march past at which the salute was taken by Col. T. E. Pearman, C.B.E., Camp Controller, and lectures on various Corps subjects. The Battalion marched well before the curious eyes of several hundred spectators and everybody enjoyed the week-end as well as benefiting from some really good concentrated training. The official programme ended at 1600 hours on the Sunday, when everyone went for a tour of the camp in the miniature railway. Then came tea and dispersal at 1700 hours.

301 (Eastern Command) Battalion

We had a most exciting day on Saturday, May 3, for our netball team had been training for weeks for the Eastern Command Territorial Inter-Battalion Netball Tournament. At last the day dawned and, looking very smart in cream shirts, black shorts, red sash and badge on their pockets, and white shoes, they had their first game against 303 Battalion. With cheers of delight they won by 8 goals to nil, having obviously benefited from their frequent practices and hard work. They were again successful but, in the next round, they came up against the holders of the Cup. With each round their game improved as they gained confidence and, once again, much encouraged by enthusiastic supporters, they brought it off. This time it can be said that the supporters were more exhausted than the players! Then came the final match. By now their faces were the same colour as their socks, but they made a beaming picture for the photographer when, a little later, they held the Cup and medals. And so until next year—who knows!

4 A.A. Group Column, R.A.S.C.

We have had a very momentous year, starting with a visit from D.W.R.A.C. at our Annual Camp at Cark and then providing the Guard of Honour for Their Royal Highnesses The Princess Elizabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh when they returned from Canada on November 17, 1951. The men formed a Guard of Honour facing the Town Hall, and the women stood lining the edge of the pavement with their backs to the Town Hall, shoulder to shoulder on either side of the doorway and facing the men. This was a never-to-be-forgotten day.

Camp this year is to be at Pocklington, near York. The number of "Z" Reservists will be less, but, on the other hand, the number of National Servicemen will be greater, so that there will again be about one woman to ten men. There are vacancies in all ranks, a captain and a subaltern in Liverpool, a subaltern in West Bromwich and cooks,

News From The Territorial Army



Winners of 4 A.A. Group W.R.A.C./T.A. Drill Competition on April 6 for the second year running:
606 (M) H.A.A. Regt. R.A. T.A.

[Courtesy: The Daily Mail]



[Courtesy: Eastman Photos Centres]

Major The Viscount Leverhulme, T.D., Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, speaking to Sgt.-Major Gilby, W.R.A.C./T.A., at the opening of the 23rd Medium Workshops, R.E.M.E./T.A., at Crewe on April 19.

clerks, drivers, storewomen and orderlies in both places. Our main purpose is to train drivers for ambulances and staff cars and many of our women have now changed their civilian employment so that they can drive all day. Ex-A.T.S. are particularly welcomed, but, if you cannot join, tell your friends about us. If we want the country to be strong, we can help no better than by swelling the ranks of the T.A.

Cheshire Units

The Cheshire T. and A.F. Association are justly proud of their W.R.A.C./T.A., particularly when they can quote a family connection. S.M. Gilby in the photograph is the daughter of Major C. R. Gilby, Commanding Officer of the 6th Cheshire A.C.F. Regiment, R.E.M.E., and the photograph appeared in the *Liverpool Evening Express*, to whom we are indebted for the loan of the block, although the copyright belongs to Eastman's Photos Centres, to whom we have acknowledged our debt.

The other photograph shows the winners of the 4 A.A. Group drill competition and we hear from Cheshire that one of their units, 493 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A./T.A., from Birkenhead, were the runners-up. Sgt. Patricia Revill won the highest marks for command of a squad and they actually won the highest marks for drill, only losing points for a few minor faults in dress. They carried back to their drill hall the runners-up trophy, which was a framed water-colour painted by Lt.-Cmdr. Peter Scott, M.B.E., D.S.C., R.N.V.R.

311 (Southern Command) Battalion, T.A.

Camp this year has had its main emphasis on training for the job and has meant splitting companies and not meeting as a battalion. In May the drivers of Nos. 1 and 3 Gloster Platoons acquitted themselves so well that one male instructor wrote to the *Daily Mirror* in defence of women drivers! "A" Company and No. 2 Gloster Platoon worked in the various departments of the D. and M. School of the R.A.C. Centre, Bovington, where they carried out their various tasks to the complete satisfaction of the Commandant and the Pay Clerks of No. 1 Somerset Platoon completed their training by successfully passing their trade tests during their tour of duty with the Pay Office at Devizes. 56 Signal Squadron have still to go with 63 L. of C. Signal Regiment and we shall hear more of them.

Births

BAIN.—On March 27 to Mary (ex-Sgt. Whitehall), wife of Sgt. C. T. Bain, R.A.O.C., a son (Deryck).

CANTELLO.—On March 28 to Joyce (ex-Pte. Crank), wife of G. R. Cantello, a daughter (Linsey Elizabeth). Present address: 3 Portland Place, Bath, Somerset.

GOUGH.—On March 19 to Diana (ex-J. Comd. D. M. Percival), wife of R. C. Gough, a second daughter (Hilary Diana). Present address: Westbrook Cottage, Nock Hill, Epsom Downs, Surrey.

MCASSEY.—On October 27, 1951, to Helen (ex-W/81818 Sgt. Cross), wife of Sgt. T. McAssey, a second daughter (Diana Margaret).

YOUNG.—On March 9 to Ruth (ex-J. Comd. K. R. Blachford), wife of E. F. Young, a daughter, Ann Ruth. Present address: 100 Stannington Crescent, Totton, Hants.

Marriages

KRASNO—GOODALL.—On February 16 at Christchurch, Reading, Ilia Krasno to Gwendoline Rose Goodall (ex-C.S.M., A.T.S.). Present address: 33 Northcourt Avenue, Reading.

Deaths

CARTER.—On March 15, in hospital at Cardiff, Mrs. Carter, Chairman of the Cardiff Branch.

CHAPMAN.—On April 19, suddenly, Meredith Chapman, a member of the A.T.S. (M.E.) Officers' Association.

CHASE.—On May 2, Miss L. M. Chase, M.B.E., ex-Unit Administrator, Q.M.A.A.C.

GRESHAM.—On May 6, after a short illness, in Kettering Hospital, W/140245 L/Cpl. P. M. Gresham.

SIMPSON.—On January 15, 1951, at Cootamundra, Australia, Amy (nee Turner), Q.M.A.A.C. and Women's Legion, Calais and Vendome.

TRAIN.—On June 15 in Beverley Hospital, Yorkshire, suddenly whilst on leave, W/9916 Sgt. Ethel Jane Train, aged 56 years.

The W.R.A.C. Overseas

The Queen's Birthday Parade—Caribbeans
(Contributed by Sgt. C. M. Richards, a locally enlisted Jamaican N.C.O.)

The place is the Caribbean Area which has for its flash a sea horse. The time is the morning of June 5, 1952. The sun is up and already throngs of people have assembled and are edging their way to the fringe of the polo ground in Up Park Camp. Down in the town of Kingston the shops are closed and all business has stopped. The day is a public holiday. This year there seem to be more people than ever for the birthday of the young Queen has fired the imagination of all.

The setting is one of natural beauty and splendour. To the south, on our left, there is the Caribbean Sea, and seven miles out on a narrow strip of land lie the remnants of the historical town of Port Royal. As this strip touches the mainland the land begins to rise; fringed with feathery palms it gradually slopes until in the north we have the Blue Mountains. They rise in series and at their peak are 7,000 feet above sea level. Some distance between, on a serpentine road, Newcastle, the change-of-air station, glints in the morning sun.

Our gaze slowly travels back to rest on the scene before us. The crowds have grown. The seats in the pavilion have been taken up and among the spectators may be seen people of note and interest. All classes have come to pay homage to our Queen.

Before the spectators, in colourful array, wearing their uniform of scarlet, cream and black with white gaiters, stand the Jamaica Military Band. The Royal Welch Fusiliers Band, in immaculate white, have also taken their places. Now we have the long ranks of officers and men of the Royal Welch Fusiliers with "Billy" the goat on one side and, on the other, the Jamaica Battalion and Jamaica Constabulary. The officers commanding are mounted. The men face the flags, and behind the flags, in two spaced lines, stand the members of the 5th Independent Company W.R.A.C., who are the keepers of the ground. No sound or movement from the lines as the Governor, His Excellency Sir Hugh Foot, arrives, and the ceremony begins.

The Royal Salute is given and then the Governor, with the Brigadier and escort, inspects the troops while the bands play softly. All Companies are inspected and now the March Past begins, led by the goat, with the A/Tk. Carriers bringing up the rear. The keepers of the ground stand at attention. Homage is paid to Her Majesty and God Save the Queen is the prayer of all.

Now awards are made and medals distributed. Many of the recipients are the heroes and heroines of the August hurricane and, as their deeds are told, we once again think of that night.

The parade is now over but the picture will remain in our memories. The sea, the mountains, and the plain on which the long lines of men stand motionless as Her Majesty's Standard flutters beneath the tropical sun, the strains of "God Save Our Gracious Queen" still ringing in our ears.

Round the Commands

3RD BATTALION

We ventured on to new ground recently and submitted an entry for the Northern Command Drama Festival. The District finals were held in April and the winning Group now goes forward to the Command Festival. We did not succeed in achieving this honour, but we did gain second place, and we felt that we did not do too badly, considering that the winning performance was presented by the Cary Theatre Group and we were only eight marks behind.

Our choice was "The Six Wives of Calais," by L. du Garde Peach, and we knew we should have to put in some hard work to compete with other entrants. Nobody minded this, of course, and we were more than rewarded by our success. Lt. Margaret Hopkin gave a notable performance and we were greatly encouraged to be told by the adjudicator that the standard of acting throughout was, in all cases, considerably above amateur standards. Within 48 hours of the show we were asked by higher authority if we would please consider a Christmas performance. We certainly will!

Fourth Passing-Out Parade—Officer Cadets

The fourth Passing-Out Parade of Regular Officer Cadets took place at Huron Camp on St. George's Day in pouring rain. The salute was taken by the Adjutant-General, Gen. Sir John T. Crocker, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who congratulated the cadets on their steadiness on parade in very difficult conditions. For the first time both the Sash of Honour and the Certificate of Merit were won by the same person, Senior Under-Officer J. P. Castles. Twenty Officer Cadets passed out, among whom comrades will be interested to hear was Miss E. M. Chitty, daughter of Controller A. T. Chitty, O.B.E.

Reunion Notices

A charge of 3d. a line is made for these notices.

London Branch Dinner

This will be held at the Service Women's Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, S.W.1, on Saturday, October 18. Accommodation is limited to sixty members. Tickets 10s. Application to be made to Mrs. Giles, 4 Arlington Drive, Carshalton, Surrey, on or after September 4, but before October 4. Please enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Lancaster Training Centre

Members of the Lancaster Training Centre Tea and Dinner Club are reminded that the next dinner will be held in London on Saturday, September 27. Notices will be despatched to each member at the end of August. Please see that your 1s. subscription is paid and your correct address (if changed) is notified to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. Grundy, M.B.E., Little Charlwood, Charlwood, Surrey. Anyone else who served with any of the Training Units in Lancaster may join by sending 1s. to the above address.

To All Ex-Service Members

At the very interesting secretaries' meeting held prior to the Annual General Meeting in March, as the reports were read one heard: "It is the older ones who do all the work, are the most faithful, and keep the branches together, etc., etc."

We, the older ones, swelled with pride at this tribute, but I am sure that the younger ones, as they grow older, will do as we have done. Again one heard, here and there, in the reports: "My members think that the Association is now too military, too much uniform, too much Service news in *The Lioness*, etc., etc."

We, the older ones, feel proud that for over 30 years we were an ex-Service Association, but I believe many members do not realise that it is still very much ex-Service even though it is also the Regimental Association of the Women's Royal Army Corps. More and more of the new corps are becoming ex-Service, chiefly through marriage, for it appears that the Corps is better than any marriage bureau, but we hope they will remain faithful to the Association.

My chief reason for writing this is to urge ex-Service Branches to send a member to the Area Meetings. My personal opinion is that the secretary is the most suitable, but, of course, that is up to the Branch. I can only speak for the Eastern Area which I represent. We meet, at most, three times a year. The Service Branches send their members, and unless the ex-Service Branches do the same it must, without any effort on their part, become all Service.

Surely it would be better, instead of the little annual grouse, to send up your ideas, suggestions, grouses, etc., to be discussed at the Area Meeting where, if the matter cannot be settled, the Area representative can be asked to take it up at the Council Meeting. I believe that, in this way, the Association would become more closely bound together. That famous quotation is so very true: "United we stand, divided we fall."

We understand that the question of expense is very real, but the meetings are held in the afternoons so that everyone can get home the same night. I try to look on it as a special outing, something from which I am going to get a lot of pleasure and for which, if necessary, I must save up. It is so very much worth while.

Some Branches could, perhaps, help a little towards the fare, but do please, even if your member can attend only one of the three meetings, send up all your ideas. We want to know of anything which you think will help the Association, the Area, the Branch, or an individual member. We are there to help to keep alive that wonderful comradeship which only those who have served can understand. The Service people are bound together by their Corps; the ex-Service only by the Association and that vital link, *The Lioness*. Many meet only rarely. That is why the Annual Reunion is so precious. Once again one hears: "But the Albert Hall is all Corps." Please, ex-Service, it will be *all* Corps if *you* do not turn up. It is in your hands.

VICTORIA RUMBOLD.

3383 W.A.A.C., Calais and Vendroux.

News of Comrades

Our Honorary Vice-President, **Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan**, has brought to us, and incidentally to herself, further distinction. She is the first Honorary Vice-President of the R.A.F. Association, as well as being a member of their Council and chairman of several of their committees. On her retirement after three years as Vice-President she was elected to honorary office by acclamation at their Annual Conference. **Mrs. Anne Brooke**, ex-Corporal A.T.S., who went to Tasmania a short time ago, gave birth to a son on April 21. While she was in hospital **Mrs. McGee**, also ex-A.T.S., looked after her husband and three boys. As Mrs. Brooke says: "She proved herself a real comrade as she already had a family of her own to look after. Trust an ex-A.T.S. to take it all in her stride." **Mrs. K. Baker-Carr** (ex-J. Comd. K. B. Stillwell) has recently married and gone with her husband to the Far East. She expects to be there for three years. **Mrs. Olive Austin**, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., who went to Canada four years ago, has just built her own bungalow and moved in last October. She says Canada is a wonderful country, but at times she wishes she could just jump on a bus and come home! **Mrs. Blanche R. Grant**, living in Canada, would like to hear from any old comrades. She was with the 52nd A.A. Company in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and was known as "Bobby" Robertson. Her address is 43 Lewis Street, Victoria, B.C. She states that in the March-April issue the names mentioned should read **Molly "Archer" Bellingham** and **Christine Knaggs**. **Miss H. J. Harris** has responded to our appeal for news from Australia, having sailed from this country last February. She served for three years on Salisbury Plain, short periods in Oxford and Devonshire, and finally in London with the War Office Signals. She and her father took six weeks over their voyage, calling at Algiers, Malta, Port Said (where they were refused fresh water), Aden, Ceylon, Fremantle and Melbourne. Finding a job took eight weeks owing to the fact that the restriction of imports in the U.K. coincided with their departure from England. However, she now has quite a good post as a share clerk in the centre of Sydney and they have moved into the Raymond Guest House, Neutral Bay, N.S.W. It is run by English people, is only 20 minutes from the city centre by bus, tram or ferry, and has a beautiful position high up overlooking the harbour. All the ships which come into Sydney pass their windows. First impressions of Australia are that it is a strange mixture of the old and the new. In some of the older suburbs of Sydney numbers of houses are not connected to the sewer and yet they have electric lawn cutters, washing machines, refrigerators, water heaters and ranges in greater number and variety than in England. The roads on the whole are very bad, full of pot-holes when they are made up, and often in the outer suburbs not made up at all. The climate in the winter is pleasant, but the summer very hot. **Miss B. R. Coad** writes to say that she and her sister, both of them ex-Sergeants in the A.T.S., spent a most enjoyable day at Rich-

mond Park Camp, Kingston, when 313 (Devon and Cornwall) Battalion (T.A.) were there for their annual camp. They were the guests of **Lt. M. E. Hart**, W.R.A.C./T.A. (ex-W.O.II, A.T.S.). As usual, she tells me little of her news or that of her sister, except that her present address is Flat "G," 156 Sussex Gardens, London, W.2, and Lt. Hart's is Wyndleshire, Coverack, Helston, Cornwall. They would be glad to hear from any of their comrades.

Ex-S.M. I. Lee writes from 15 Moorfield Avenue, Upper Armley, Leeds 12, in response to the appeal from Mrs. W. M. Elkins in our last issue. As S/Sgt. Grose, Mrs. Lee was on the Admin. staff of No. 8 and No. 16 Civilian Resettlement Units. Before that she was four and a half years in A.A. Command, serving with R.H.Q.s of 172 and 149 (M.) H.A.A. Regiments, R.A. When so many mixed regiments were disbanded in 1944 the personnel was split up and many went to No. 8 C.R.U. with S/Sgt. Grose. They were sad to leave A.A. Command behind them, but when they found they had another worthwhile job they went into it heart and soul. In 1947 the wedding at Hereford of Sgt. Lee and S.M. Grose was almost a C.R.U. reunion. Since then Mrs. Lee has had a complete breakdown in health, finishing up with an operation a few months ago. At the time of writing she was still under medical care and rest was the order of the day. She was hoping to be her old self again shortly and she certainly has our good wishes. She is in touch with a number of ex-members of the staff of No. 8 C.R.U. and will willingly pass on her news to Mrs. Elkins if she will write. In the meantime, others who are not now in touch with her might like to cheer up the convalescent. We have also heard again from **Mrs. Winifred Elkins** calling **Marjorie Humphreys**, of Chilwell. She asks: "Did you serve at North Mimms and Gresford, 1948?" If so, she would love to hear from you again if you will write to her at Trevorian Farm, St. Bunyan, Penzance.

Mrs. Stocker's letter in our last issue has had the delightful result of bringing us more news of comrades who served at Impasse du Nord, Rouen, in the First World War. **Mrs. Crompton** (nee Kendall) writes from Omega Cottage, 34A Chesham Street, Sydenham, London, S.E.26. She tells us nothing of herself, but says that "**Goody Two Shoes**" (**Miss B. Davidson**) is now in Australia at 186A Grange Road, Hinders Park, Adelaide, South Australia, and is in touch with "**Tiny**" **Burnett**, **Molly Charteris**, "**Chub**" **Watson**, **Brockie** and several others who are also in Australia. She would love a letter from any one of the crowd who has time to write. Mrs. Crompton also forwarded a letter from **Hilda Hartley** (now Mrs. Brown) who was enquiring from 22 Shilling Street, Lavenham, Suffolk, what had become of everyone. She has two boys still at home and she had her daughter, son-in-law and grandson staying with her for Christmas. She finds Lavenham very quiet in the winter and would, we are sure, also enjoy a letter.

Our new members delight us, especially if they are of the pioneers of women's services.

Mrs. Stockwell (nee England) has just joined our Association and is a member of the Birmingham Branch. She was one of the very early arrivals at 3rd Echelon, Rouen, and was thrilled to see news of Patterson (now Mrs. Stocker) in our last issue. Her present address is 9 Rectory Road, Solihull, Warwickshire, and she would dearly love to hear from other people with whom she served at Impasse du Nord. She is sure they will remember her as "Blighty."

Mrs. Dickens (ex-C. Comd., A.T.S.) writes again, this time to tell us of her departure, as an Army wife, for Hong Kong. She was delighted recently when 311 Battalion (T.A.) visited the camp in which her husband was responsible for the arrangements and she was able to have some interesting chats with the present generation of our sisterhood. Her three-year-old son was thrilled with the "lady soldiers." Now she hopes to meet other members of the Association in Hong Kong. We know *The Lioness* reaches the W.R.A.C. Company there, so we rely on them to seek out Major E. T. Dickens, of the R.A.S.C., and his wife and make them welcome.

As a contrast, we have heard from **Mrs. Molony** (ex-S. Comd. Sheldon), who, with her husband, is just returning home from East Africa. She has met a surprising number of ex-A.T.S. in Nairobi, including one member of her pre-war company (2nd Hants M.T.), whom she encountered on a tiny ship at the little port of Mwanza on the southern shore of Lake Victoria. She describes Africa as a wonderful country in which she and her husband have made the most of their leaves, visiting Northern and Southern Rhodesia, including the Victoria Falls, also Uganda and the Belgian Congo. She has climbed Mount Kenya to a height of 16,000 ft., where one meets snow and glacier, but she admits to being beaten by Capt. Jo Wilkinson, who reached the top of Kilimanjaro and whose story we have been trying to find room to publish for a long time. Col. and Mrs. Molony were fortunate in attending a garden party for the Queen, one of her last appearances as the Princess Elizabeth. Everyone was thrilled with her visit and all agreed how perfectly charming and delightful she was. The Africans called her "Kinki George's Toto"! They have since seen the Royal lodge, which is quite small but extremely attractive and in a beautiful setting. The news of the late King's death was received with the most amazing sense of depression and sympathy for his daughter, who became Queen while in the country.

A less pleasant communication was received from **Mrs. Ruby G. Munday** (nee Fowler, Q.M.A.A.C. 1546), who, writing from Calgary Alta in Canada, is resigning her membership of the Association. She feels that *The Lioness* is of no further interest to her and is justifiably annoyed because her last letter was ignored. Apparently it was written three years ago and there is no evidence to be found that it was ever received. If any old comrade of Mrs. Munday would write to her at Steg, 940 2nd Avenue, N.W. Calgary Alta, we would be very grateful.

Faithful as usual, **Mrs. Armstrong** writes from Honolulu, where she has been spending a wonderful

TV Make-up Man Discovers Way To Whiten Teeth

by Carol Burgess

Have you noticed the teeth of your favourite TV star lately? No? Well, look again. I've been talking to a leading TV make-up man, and he tells me the problem of whitening teeth is



solved at last. It was nearly 20 years ago that rougeryl, a crimson pigment, was discovered, but TV has really made it come of age—the stars are using it to get their teeth really snowy white.

Robert Gordon-Moore, the discoverer of rougeryl, used it in his "Cosmetic Toothpaste," but at that time he had not foreseen its use in the TV studio. Gordon-Moore's Cosmetic Toothpaste has been used in Hollywood for many years, and English actresses and models are also regular users. In the last two or three years, an ever-increasing number of smart women not on the stage have discovered it, and my make-up-man-informant tells me he lists it as a must for his own wife!

Gordon-Moore's Cosmetic Toothpaste has a really incredible effect on the teeth: it removes the most obstinate stains and actually makes them three to five shades whiter. The rougeryl polishes the enamel to a gleaming shine in the same way that jewellers' rouge polishes gold. Then—and this is the reason it is called "cosmetic toothpaste"—it "rose-tints" the gums such a pretty, healthy, rosy pink to match milady's lipstick. This gives the teeth a "setting" and makes them look even whiter still by contrast—just as pink nail polish makes the hands look whiter.

I predict a tremendous future for rougeryl, and, as Gordon-Moore's is the only toothpaste at this time containing this magic ingredient, I put it as the number one toothpaste within three months from now. Two dentists I spoke to endorsed my opinion and told me they recommend it to their patients.

I first changed to it six months ago and I certainly wouldn't go back to any other toothpaste now. Try a tube yourself; I'll stake my professional reputation on your liking it. If your teeth are yellow or off-colour, or, especially if you smoke, you'll be as enthusiastic a disciple as I am.—C.B.

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holiday. It passed, alas, all too quickly, and now, we understand, she is back in Victoria, B.C. The English visit is not yet, but we hope it has not been indefinitely postponed.

News from Branches

CARDIFF

Within the last few days we have managed to rent a central meeting place for our meetings, so instead of gathering at the British Legion Headquarters on the second Thursday in each month we shall, from July 24, meet at 35 Windsor Place in the upstairs room on every fourth Thursday. We have always had to move our meetings from the British Legion to private houses when the Poppy time arrives and we believe that we are consequently losing members. We are sorry to say that we have also lost our President, Miss Stanley, O.B.E., as she has moved to Bath. We are very sorry to lose her and we shall certainly miss our feasts up at her house. We were invited to a farewell party and had 27 members there, including old girls. After presenting Miss Stanley with a cigarette lighter with her initials on, we were invited to partake of refreshments and, indeed, we all did full justice to them. On our departure Miss Stanley presented us with a sprig of rosemary for remembrance. We have invited Miss Oxenham to step into the breach and hope that she will be able to do so.

IPSWICH AND SUFFOLK

Members of this Branch awoke from their winter slumbers on Saturday, June 21, and set forth to spend the afternoon with The Lady Blanche Cobbold. Transported in members' cars through delightful countryside, we arrived at Glemham Hall. Lady Blanche was waiting to greet us and take us for a walk round the lovely gardens, then indoors for tea. During this there was, of course, heard the inevitable "Do you remember?" After tea Lady Blanche took us round the Hall, part of which is Elizabethan and part Queen Anne period. We went upstairs, downstairs and even on the roof, so it can well be imagined that every moment was packed with interest. Our thanks to Lady Blanche were voiced by Mrs. P. E. N. Barlee, and we set out for home at 6.45 p.m., tired but so happy and very conscious of the tonic effect of time spent with comrades.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT

We are glad to be able to report that, although our membership was considerably reduced during 1951, there has been a steady increase this year which we hope will continue. At our annual general meeting in February Miss Irene Smith, who has done so much to build up the branch, did not stand for re-election as secretary. We all want to express our thanks to her for all that she has done and, indeed, is still doing as she is now our chairman. Miss Clucas continues as treasurer, and our new secretary is Miss Audrey Hayward. In March we entertained 30 men from the Ministry of Pensions Hospital at Childwall. Some members contributed to the refreshments, while others

arranged the entertainment, and all agreed that they had a most enjoyable time. The April meeting was devoted to a social evening held, by kind permission of the C.O., in a local T.A. barracks. May saw us with a successful whist drive, and now we have closed for the summer, meeting next in September.

LONDON

Since our last report we have had a social in March, which was quite successful, and on April 3 we spent a very amusing evening playing Bedlam. We would have been pleased to have seen more members turn up for this, so that we could have had more tables. On April 17 we had a visit from the Croydon Ladies' Choir. They sang some delightful songs and gave us an entertaining evening. We very much hope that we shall have the pleasure of hearing them again. On May 1 we raised £5 for our funds at a "Bring and Buy" sale, but here again the attendance was not quite as good as we should like to see it.

This reminds us that the Branch has again made itself responsible for a stall at the SERVICEWOMEN'S CLUB SALE OF WORK on November 22. At the last one we were top. Let us retain that position. Donations (articles or cash) should be sent to Miss Druitt or to Miss H. M. Harvey, addressed c/o Servicewomen's Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, London, S.W.1, by November 20, marked clearly "Sale of Work."

We would also draw your attention to the Branch Dinner on October 18, of which a notice appears on another page.

MIDDLE EAST GROUP, LONDON

Although we have not reported in *The Lioness* for some time, we have still continued to increase our membership and news has come in regularly since the last issue of our "News Sheet" in September, 1951. The Annual Reunion will take place at the Service Women's Club, London, on Saturday, October 25, 1952. A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. of the Middle East Service will be welcome. Further details will be announced later.

All ranks of ex-A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. who have served in the Middle East are welcome as members of the Middle East Association. Subscription, 2s. 6d. per annum. Application forms are obtainable from the Secretary, Miss C. B. Healey, Shermanbury Grange, Shermanbury, Nr. Horsham, Sussex.

NORFOLK

Will members of Norfolk Branch please note that meetings still take place on the first Wednesday of every month, but at THE AILWYN HALL, 11 THORPE ROAD, NORWICH, and not in the lounge, Comrades' Club, as heretofore.

SHEFFIELD

Members of this Branch continue to meet at the Foresters' Hall, Trippet Lane, Sheffield 1, on the first and third Thursdays of each month, if other outings have not been arranged, and our committee continues in office for another year having been re-elected *en bloc* at the A.G.M.

So far this year we have had a Panto party, our

Annual Dinner at the Bull's Head, Castleton, where we spent a very pleasant evening, a very interesting visit to Messrs. Gunstone's Bakery, two theatre parties to the local Lyceum Theatre to see "Kiss me Kate" and the "Gay Dog." After one meeting we had a Beetle Drive. By the time these notes appear we shall have concluded our summer meetings by a visit to the Express Dairy and a coach trip to the caves at Castleton. On the way there we shall call at our Chairman's home at Bamford for refreshments and shall have our supper at the same hotel in Castleton where we enjoyed our annual dinner.

After the holiday break we start again at the Foresters' Hall on September 4, when we hope to be busy collecting and sorting goods for our Jumble Sale there on Friday, September 19. Will all members please get busy collecting everything possible for this sale.

SOUTHAMPTON

Since last going to press we have held our second Annual Dinner, when we were fortunate to have the company of some of the members of Salisbury Branch. Since then we have had a small Whist Drive, a Bring and Buy Sale, and, last month, we entertained members from Salisbury and Bournemouth Branches to a Social Evening, which we hope we shall be able to repeat in the near future.

On June 16 we were fortunate to be able to get a pass to visit the Ocean Terminal Building at Southampton, which is the largest of its kind in the world. We all enjoyed the visit and were also lucky enough to watch the arrival of the *Queen Mary* from New York and see her being brought into position by the small but powerful tugs. Another interesting visit was to the Solent Flour Mills.

SOUTHERN IRELAND

Our meetings are held on the fourth Thursday in each month at Hatch Hall (rear of Court Laundry), Harcourt Street, Dublin. The hon. secretary, Miss Edith Kaye, 17 Killeen Road, Rathmines, Dublin, invites anybody interested to get in touch with her.

TULSE HILL

With great regret we have decided to apply for permission to close down the Tulse Hill and District Branch. It was formed over two years ago, mainly by serving members of three Territorial Army units. We hoped to be joined by ex-Service members living too far out on the south-eastern side of London to be able to attend meetings of the London Branch, and many attempts have been made to bring our activities to their notice. Unfortunately, in spite of all our efforts, we have not succeeded in recruiting a single new member and we now feel that the time has come to give up the attempt and transfer our membership to a larger and more active branch. We hope that anyone else who may try to form a branch in south-east London will meet with better success.

WORTHING

During the weekend of June 14-15 the Band of the Women's Royal Army Corps paid its first visit to Worthing's bandstand. Among a very

enthusiastic audience on the Sunday evening were the members of our branch of the Association. We greatly enjoyed the evening and were delighted when a special selection of tunes was played at our request. The smart green uniforms made us sigh with envy and, as one Q.M.A.A.C. member remarked, one got the feeling of the continuity of the Service as we compared the different styles of dress from the First War onwards. We watched the Bandswomen pile into their coach and thought of the many journeys we had made in very different vehicles, but in much the same manner, piling in with bag and baggage. As we waved them away the same thought was in all our minds: Do come again!

W.R.A.C. DEPOT

By the time this issue of *The Lioness* is published one proud record will have been established on behalf of the W.R.A.C. Over a thousand new recruits will have joined the Association during their basic training since the scheme started in October, 1951. Approximately 75 per cent. of each intake join the Association before they leave the Depot and it is up to their units to encourage them to rejoin wherever they may be stationed in January, 1953. If only we could raise the sales of *The Lioness* to correspond it should help us to get on to a better financial footing. Now that it costs 9d. for serving personnel, however, it has a powerful rival in *Soldier* and we feel very strongly that the present standard must be maintained if it is to hold its own.

Rifle Shooting

The Women's Inter-Service Rifle Match was held in the R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth, on Monday, March 17. Owing to the distance involved, the Army team was accommodated in the Duchess of Kent's Barracks the night prior to the match and all members of the team much enjoyed the hospitality of the Navy. We were, unfortunately, bottom, as usual, but this time by only one point. The score was: Royal Navy, 1,545 points; Royal Air Force, 1,523 points; Army, 1,522 points.

We send our best congratulations to Major G. E. M. Saunders-Davies, who scored 198 in the Army .22 competition. Two men scored a possible of 200 points each and three dropped one point, each scoring 199. Then came those scoring 198, and we are indeed proud of our representative who was amongst them.

Sport

NETBALL

The Netball Association was very much disappointed that H.R.H. The Princess Royal was unable to be present at the finals of the Inter-Unit Tournament when "B" Company, 12th Battalion, won the cup for the second year running. The Director kindly presented the cup and medals and we very much hope that Her Royal Highness will be able to be there next year. The Army team lost its one civilian match against the London Business Houses, and both matches in the inter-Service, although the score hardly gave credit to the Army, who fought to the end.

Obituaries

MRS. CARTER

Mrs. Pucknell writes: "Mrs. Carter was a very good chairman and we shall miss her. In World War I she was a Wren, when, I believe, she met her husband, and in 1938 we joined up together. Mrs. Carter was presented with a Good Service Certificate in Western Command Orders on June 11, 1942, and on April 12, 1944, she was discharged with the rank of sergeant. She had been our chairman for the last two years, helping us all to keep the meetings together, and she never missed one herself. She was always ready to help others and saw many an A.T.S. over a rough road or helped her out of a little 'bit of trouble.' She went to hospital only last November and we all feel her loss."

MEREDITH CHAPMAN

Lt.-Col. M. H. Pine writes: "To those of us who knew her well and worked with her for so long the news of the sudden death of Meredith Chapman came as a great shock. Meredith was a tower of strength, friendly, loyal and co-operative always. She was one of the 'pioneers' of the Middle East and did yeoman service in the starting of the A.T.S. Depot at Sarafand. She was one of the little band of British staff who recruited and trained Palestinian women for the A.T.S. in 1941-42 and as Quartermaster of the Depot did more than her share in putting the A.T.S. on the map in Palestine. To me, as Commandant of the Depot, she was a loyal and hard-working colleague, without whom my task would have been so much more difficult than it was. She was a staunch supporter in every way."

"Later, as a staff officer at G.H.Q., Middle East, she did good work in the Q.M.G.'s Branch for some considerable time."

"Meredith was a good example of loyalty to the Service and her friends therein. She always had time for them, as so many of us will remember, and was always in evidence at reunions and the like. She was a very 'human' person."

"Our sympathy goes to her mother, who has lost her only daughter, as we have lost a valued friend and colleague."

MISS L. M. CHASE, M.B.E.

Mrs. O. K. King writes: "Miss Chase was one of the first to go to France in W.A.A.C. She ran the British Officers' Club in Boulogne, which was visited by King George V and the Prince of Wales when they were in the area."

MRS. E. F. ELDRÉD, M.B.E.

Mrs. King writes: "I read in the *Telegraph* yesterday of the death of Mrs. E. F. Eldred, M.B.E., ex-Unit Administrator of Q.M.A.A.C. She served in the Havre and Boulogne areas and her death took place in Blantyre, Nyasaland."

L/CPL. P. M. GRESHAM

Miss Olive Shreeve writes: "Phyllis Gresham joined the Service in March, 1942, training at Glen Parva Barracks, Wigston. She was then posted to 'Q' Company, Leicester, from whence she was posted to Hammersmith on the formation of the A.T.S. section of 21 Army Group, with whom she

served in France, Belgium and Germany. She was an officers' mess cook most of the time and was a wonderful girl, always happy and cheerful under all conditions. She was a member of the Company in Leicester when I was posted to it and we became real friends when she was working under me. Her death has come as a real shock, as it was only eight weeks ago that she was taken ill and it was then discovered that she was suffering from an incurable disease from which she has since died."

SGT. ETHEL JANE TRAIN

These lines were written by Cpl. V. P. Lovell, who served under Sgt. Train in the cookhouse, and they have been forwarded for publication at the request of the cooks and orderlies of the Regiment in which she served.

Thirteen long years of service
Through times both good and ill
Till at last the Master called her
And she answered to His will.
E'er the dawn had shed its glory
Far and wide throughout the land,
Angels, hov'ring gently o'er her,
Then took her by the hand
And led her to God's Kingdom,
To His home beyond the skies,
While her loved ones sadly gather
Where her earthly body lies.

She has gained the Life Eternal
And her years of strife are o'er.
Faithfully and long she served us,
She has fought and fights no more,
With a smile she faced life's battles,
With a cheery word she won.
Now her Captain's called her homeward
Can we believe that she has gone?
But her presence will go with us
Through our daily work each day;
We shall almost hear her calling
In the same old cheerful way.

Sergeant Train, we here salute you,
Honour you among the brave;
Through a life of cheerful service
Till at last that life you gave,
Striving for the sake of others,
Doing all just for the best.
Now the battle's won you've left us,
Gone to your eternal rest.
We here left will still endeavour
For your sake to carry on,
Till some day we'll meet in Jordan,
When we too the fight have won.

Contributions to "The Lioness"

Please note that the Editor is glad to receive as early as possible contributions for the next issue. Anything received after October 7 cannot be included. Contributions should be addressed personally to the Editor, Col. J. M. Cowper, T.D., Women's Royal Army Corps, The War Office (A.G. 16), Stanmore, Middlesex, so as to ensure that they are not mislaid or held up in the Central Registry.

Funeral

SGT. E. J. TRAIN

Sgt. Ethel Train was laid to rest on June 16, the funeral service being held in Elloughton Parish Church, nr. Brough, Yorkshire; 46 (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., was represented by Capt. Donaldson, W.R.A.C., 2/Lt. Bolt, R.A., and Cpl. V. P. Lovell, W.R.A.C. Amongst the many floral tributes were those from the cooks, orderlies, other ranks' cookhouse, civilian staff, officers' mess, sergeants' mess, sergeants' mess staff of the Regiment. There were also contributions from the Regiment itself, 117 Battery, 124 Battery and 126 Battery, the R.A.S.C. Bakery staff and 43 Company, R.A.S.C. Individual tributes included two from Major A. Fowler and Capt. Donaldson, both of the W.R.A.C. element of the Regiment.

A Memorial Service was held in the Regimental lines on the same day as the funeral. The unit Padre conducted the service at which all ranks were represented and he paid tribute to Sgt. Train's long service and devotion to duty. We at Hobbs Barracks mourn the passing of a loyal friend and comrade. She devoted her life to the service of her country and corps and never tired of giving a helping hand to the many women with whom she came in contact. This Regimental Branch of the W.R.A.C. Association mourns the loss of its oldest and longest serving member.

Corps Diaries

W.R.A.C. Diaries for 1953 are in process of publication. They will be in the same form as other Regimental Diaries published by the Army Sport Control Board, but the cover will be green and have the W.R.A.C. crest embossed in gold. A certain amount of historical data will be included. Prices are as follow: Imitation leather without pencil 3s. 6d., with pencil 4s. od. Leather wallers, 18s. 6d. Serving personnel will apply through their own units. Ex-service women, after November 1, to the War Office (W.R.A.C.1), Whitehall, S.W.1, enclosing the cost plus 3d. postage.

Personal

The charge for announcements in this column is 2s. for three lines for members, 6d. for each additional line: for non-members is 3s. for three lines, 9d. for each additional line. Box numbers 6d.

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

Clacton-on-Sea.—All comrades, ex-comrades and friends are welcome at Trelawne, 31 Lancaster Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea. Every attention, combined with good food. For particulars, write as above or phone Clacton 979.

Wanted.—Officer's khaki service dress. Height 5 ft. 9 in., bust 38 in., waist 32 in., hips 42 in. Reply Miss Barbara Dalzell, Twenty-One, Tweskard Park, Belfast.

For Sale.—Officer's khaki greatcoat, service dress and cap. To fit height 5 ft. 10 in., bust 38 in., hips 40 in., waist 28 in. Excellent condition. Box No. 10/52.

For Sale.—Officer's service dress (less collar dogs) and spare skirt, £6. Greatcoat worn only a few times, £8. All in very good condition. Bust 36 in., waist 27 in., hips 37 in., height 5 ft. 5 in. Apply Mrs. Holness, Rock Cottage, East Mount, Malton, York.

A.T.S. Officer's Uniform for sale, greatcoat, service dress, hats, etc. Height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 34 in., waist 26 in., hips 36 in. Box No. 11/52.

For Sale.—Lady's riding breeches (by Alkit). Best quality cavalry twill, hardly worn. Fit lady 5 ft. 2-4 in. in height, slim build. Cost 12 gns. What offers? Apply S.Q.M.S. Reeves, 5 A.A. Group, Cloverlands, Kimberley, Notts.

Band Instruments for sale, in good condition. 1 bass drum, 1 pr. bass drum sticks, 1 bass drum carriage, 1 bass drum apron, 3 side drums, 3 prs. side drum sticks, 3 side drum carriages, 3 side drum aprons, 6 bugles with cords. Present value £75 15s. 1d. Write Box No. 9/52.

For Sale.—Two service dresses and a greatcoat (W.R.A.C., khaki). Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 34 in., waist 27 in., hips 38 in. All in good condition. £8 the lot, or £3 each singly. Apply Adjutant, 14 Battalion W.R.A.C., H.Q. B.A.O.R., B.A.O.R. 1.

London for Holidays.—*En route* for Piccadilly, theatres, Windsor Castle, etc. Members welcomed in guest house at reduced terms of 12s. 6d. bed/breakfast. Golsby, 49 Holland Road, Kensington, W.14.

For Sale.—Khaki service dress. Perfect condition. Fit height 5 ft. 3 in. Hand-made Sam Browne. Offers. Box No. 12/52.

£4 Service Dress.—Tunic, skirt and Sam Browne in good condition. Fit slim 5 ft. 3 in. Box No. 13/52.

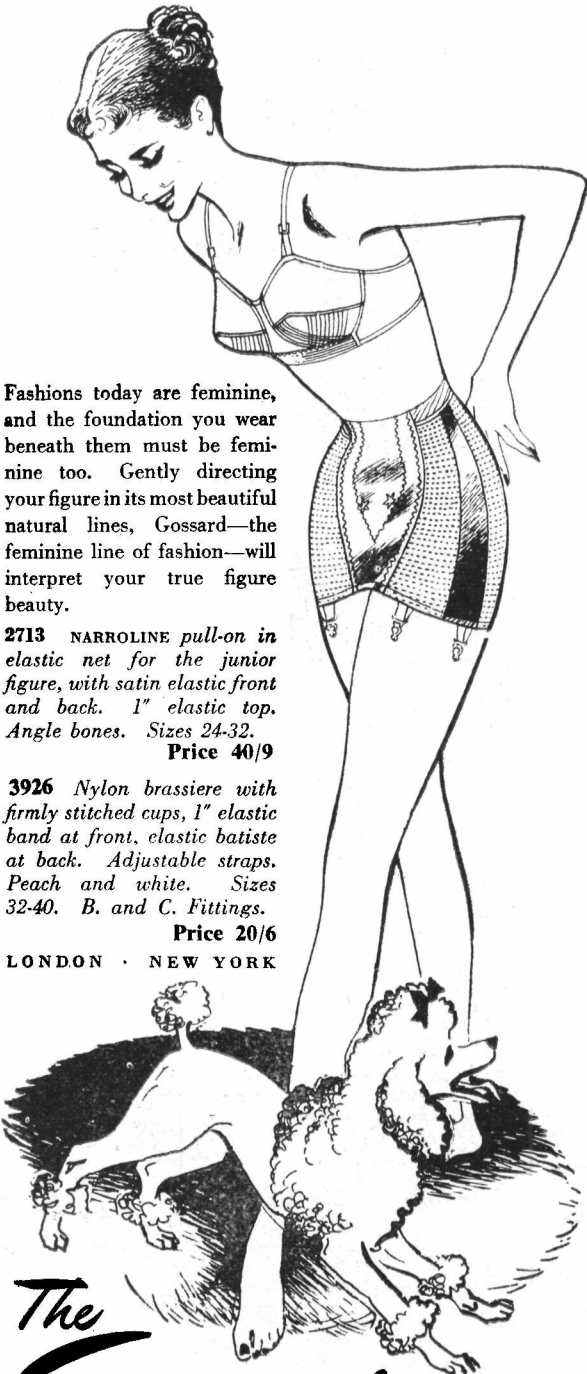
For Sale.—A.T.S. greatcoat, 5 ft. woman, £5. Two B.D. blouses, £1. One skirt, 10s. Apply Miss Chesney, c/o Miss Cheyne, 27 Tudor Court South, Wembley, Middlesex.

Officer's Service Dress for sale. Bust measurement 36 in., waist 27 in., hips 38 in., height 5 ft. 3 in. Well tailored, good condition. Also Sam Browne belt, beret, service cap and sling bag, all in excellent condition. £5 5s. for Service Dress. Apply Miss Aymer, 25 Evelyn Mansions, Carlisle Place, S.W.1.

For Sale.—Officer's greatcoat, condition as new. Height 5 ft. 5 in., bust 38 in., hips 42 in. Apply Mrs. Griffith, Hillcroft, Moorside Avenue, Harrogate Road, Ripon, Yorkshire.

For Sale.—Officer's greatcoat, service dress, slacks, etc. Height 5 ft. 5 in., bust 38 in., hips 40 in., waist 30 in. Apply Miss Gammon, 42 Beaufort Mansions, Beaufort Street, S.W.3.

For Sale.—Service greatcoat, £3. Size, bust 40 in., length 44 in., hips 42 in., waist 32 in. Service tunic and skirt, £2 10s. Size bust 34 in., hips 40 in., waist 30 in., length of skirt 27 in. Sam Browne belt (Tom Hill), £3. Shirts, etc., 5s. each. Phone Gipsy Hill 0274 (Mrs. Gumbel). Address: 14 Carson Road, S.E.21.



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