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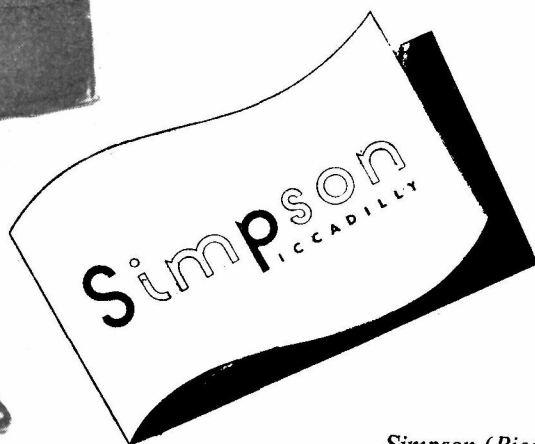
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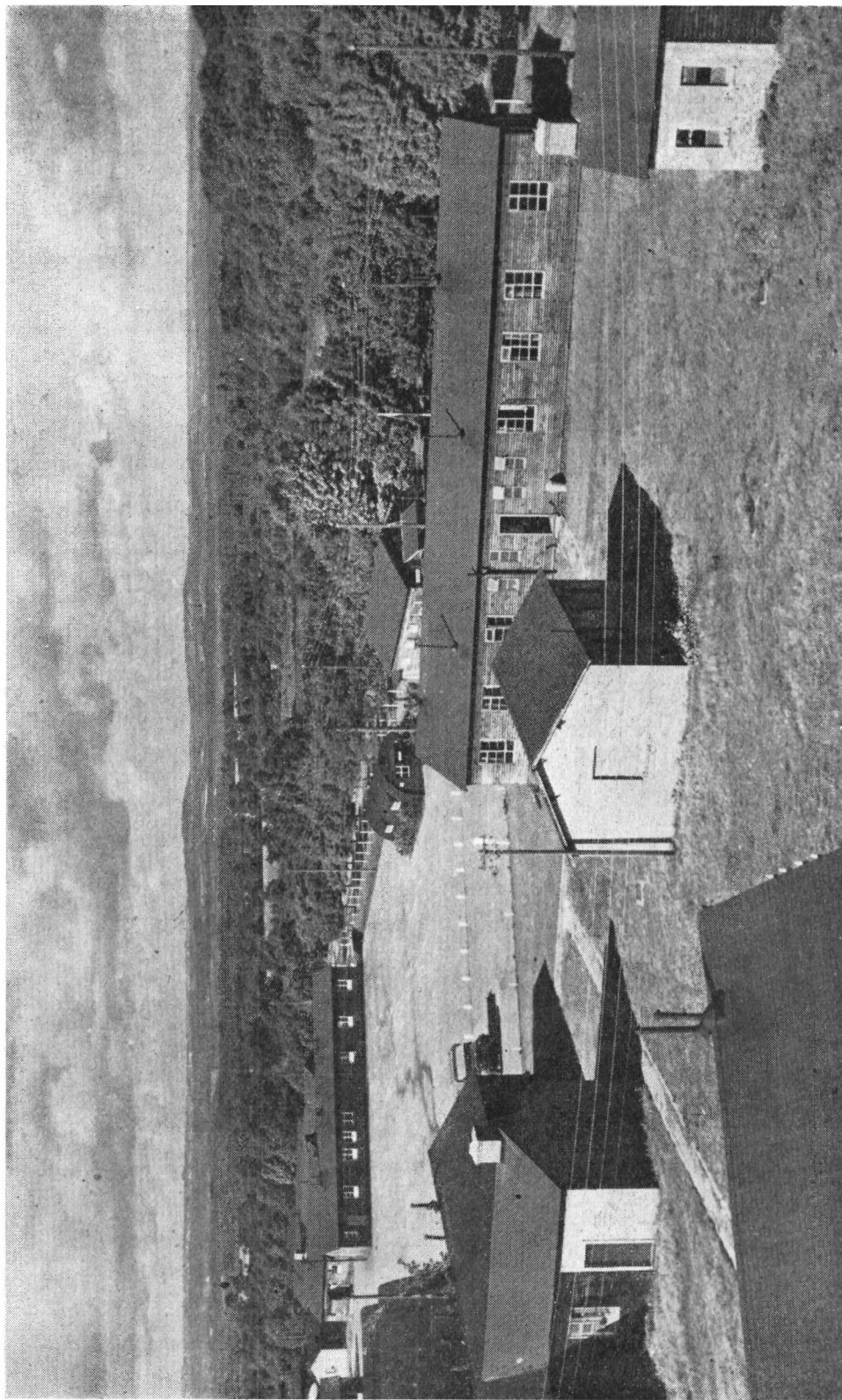


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THE LIONESS

Vol. XXV

January-February 1952

No. 1

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

This number is dedicated to the Reunion and the Annual General Meeting. For the convenience of readers we have printed the agenda of the A.G.M. and the programme for the Reunion on the centre four pages, which can be torn out. In the pious hope that you will all do your utmost to increase the circulation, we are also printing on these pages applications to join the Association. If every member of the Association would take the centre four pages to the Albert Hall Reunion and pass them on to a non-member to fill up the application form we should go a long way to paying our expenses. There is to be a stall in the hall where non-members can join and extra copies of *The Lioness* can be bought. Roll up and help!

We are deeply indebted to those of our readers who have written with suggestions for *The Lioness* and are publishing extracts from some letters again in this issue. It is, however, becoming clear that some of the trouble is a deep distrust we appear to have of each other. One letter, which, on account of its length, we have not published, refers to serving W.R.A.C. as the sheep "while the goats rushed out, into matrimony in most cases. . . . Now the goats read of the sheeps' promotions and decorations and feel that they have simply nothing to write about which would interest

the sheep." This may be the reason for the difficulty in getting news of ex-Service comrades but it seems to us to be a pity. We are one body of women who are serving or who have served in His Majesty's Army. Those of us who were able to apply for, and obtain, regular commissions or engagements were privileged to carry into peace the A.T.S. tradition of service. Many of us proudly wear the Territorial Efficiency Decoration or Medal which shows us to have been amongst the first 20,000 to join the A.T.S. We enjoy hearing of our friends and we look forward, when we retire, to finding ex-Service friends in any part of the world in which we may settle.

It is also clear from many letters that there are some, for one reason or another no longer serving, who are interested to read of the activities of the Regulars and Territorials of today and this point of view cannot be more aptly expressed than by Miss Drutt in the letter we publish in this issue. To sum up, we all want news of each other, whether past or present, so send it along. Ex-Service news has precedence and, if you send it, will be included.

The Depot is rightly proud of its record where the Association is concerned and all members will be glad to know to what use the Museum is put in inspiring today's recruits with the traditions of our predecessors. They issue a challenge to all other units. Is there any other who can claim:

- (a) That all officers are full members of the Association and take *The Lioness*.
- (b) That 206 out of a Permanent Staff of 215 have paid their subscription for 1952. Some of the delinquents are away from the unit and they hope to have 100 per cent. membership before the end of January.
- (c) Seventy-five per cent. of the recruits paid a voluntary subscription in the last quarter of 1951 (serving personnel cannot carry on their subscription like old comrades).
- (d) Eighty copies of the December *Lioness* were sold and they hope to make the bulk order 120 in future.

We know the Depot has great advantages but we feel that they have every right to be proud of their achievement and would like to know of other units' activities to publicise the Association and its work.

We now hear that the writer of the article, "A Cantonese Tapestry," was Sgt. Rolls, who is at present Orderly Room Sergeant at "B" Company, 7th Battalion (Bicester). We are very glad to be able now to make proper acknowledgment to the author.

Correspondence

I am very broad-shouldered and can easily take a "severe rep.," even when it comes from the guest at our dinner, but I am not altogether ready to blame the brandy liqueur chocolates for my remark *re our* having joined the *W.R.A.C. Association*—the title tells us that, otherwise it surely would have been *Q.M.A.A.C. Incp. W.R.A.C.* Had I used the dictionary meaning of "Incorporate," viz., "united in one body," I presume I should not have been rebuked. May I quote from my own report at the Annual General Meeting of London Branch:

"I know quite well the 'W.A.A.C.' came before the 'A.T.S.' and the 'A.T.S.' before the 'W.R.A.C.' and that *they* joined *us* and that *we* did not join *them*, etc. (I almost get tired of hearing it) and I like much better to remember Sir Francis Drake's words, when he said: 'It is not in beginning a thing but in the continuing that lieth the true glory'."

MADGE DRUITT,

Chairman, London Branch.

December 17.

I thank you for my copy of *The Lioness*, which I received today, and have read with interest your editorial and the report of the London Branch dinner. I must confess that I quite agree with the Chairman, Miss M. Druitt (with whom I had the pleasure to serve during the last war), that we have "joined the W.R.A.C. Association."

I, and no doubt many others, was under the impression that I had joined an "Old Comrades' Association" which should have been kept as such, the present serving members of the W.R.A.C. having really nothing in common with the Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., and neither have the ex-members of these Corps much interest in the activities of the W.R.A.C., of which *The Lioness* is full. To my mind the Associations should be quite separate. The same applies to the "reunion." Why call it this when the hall is packed with serving members, who do *not* require a reunion, and the ex-Service people, for whom the chance of re-joining their old comrades this was surely intended, cannot find room to move, let alone find their old comrades?

I, personally, find very little to interest me, and must confess that but for the fact that I have paid a life subscription for membership and Gazette I should have resigned some time ago.

A. PEMBROKE, Ex-W.O.II, A.T.S.

Pitsea.

December 17.

Dear Editor,

Please accept my congratulations on the excellence of the Magazine. Your work as editor must be very considerable, but I consider that you must feel very justly proud of your *Lioness*. As an ex-A.T.S. Junior Commander I find it fills me with renewed admiration for the pioneer work of the members of our much honoured Q.M.A.A.C. Secondly, it keeps me in touch with many of my

old associates. (Even the mention of a name can bring a flood of memories.) At the same time it gives prominence to the activities of the W.R.A.C. for whose virility and strength we ought to be justly proud and in whose support we should each endeavour to be a willing ambassadress.

To end on a lighter note—its cover, photographs and advertisements "catch the eye." As a matron of a preparatory school for boys I find that it is beginning to compete with the "Bugle" as bed-time literature.

Yours sincerely,

DOROTHY M. TUCKER.

Burnham-on-Sea.

January 9, 1952.

Dear Editor,

May I appeal through *The Lioness* to pre-war and war-time members of the County of London Unit, A.T.S., and its sub-units to help us collect material from which we can compile an illustrated record of this Unit's activities and outstanding exploits of its members from its formation in September, 1938, until its reconstitution in T.A. form in May, 1948.

We have already been given a few most interesting photographs and newspaper cuttings, but there must be many others which would throw light on the very wide range of duties undertaken by the Unit.

In addition I would welcome authentic stories of County of London Sub-Unit activities and of individual member's experiences while serving with these Sub-Units and which might help to build up our Unit "history."

We also propose to include lists of pre-war officers and other ranks of the County of London A.T.S. who—

- (a) Received honours and awards and/or were mentioned in despatches;
- (b) Reached the rank of Lieut.-Colonel and above or W.O.I and W.O.II during the war;
- (c) Held senior or other important appointments in the A.T.S. and other Women's Services.

I would be most grateful for suitable contributions which would add to our present store of knowledge. They should be sent to me at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

M. D. THORNE, Lt.-Col.

327 (County of London) Battalion,

W.R.A.C. (T.A.),

Duke of York's Headquarters.

December 31, 1951.

The W.R.A.C. Staff College

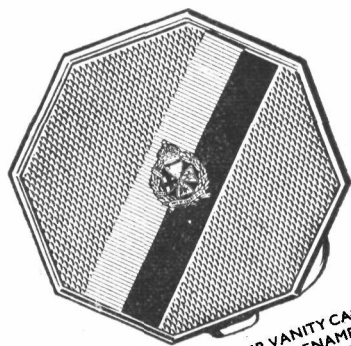
The following officers have been selected to attend No. 2 Course at the W.R.A.C. Staff College, Frimley Park, which assembled on January 17, 1952:

T/Lt.-Col. R. D. Allerton, Capt. M. E. Clarke, Capt. C. A. Cooke, Capt. M. W. Hickson, T/Major M. N. Jamieson, Major P. M. Lipscomb, Capt. S. C. Puckle, M.B.E., Capt. R. B. L. Puxley, Capt. J. L. Rankin, Major I. M. Smith, Capt. S. W. Whitworth, T/Lt.-Col. D. H. I. Wilston.

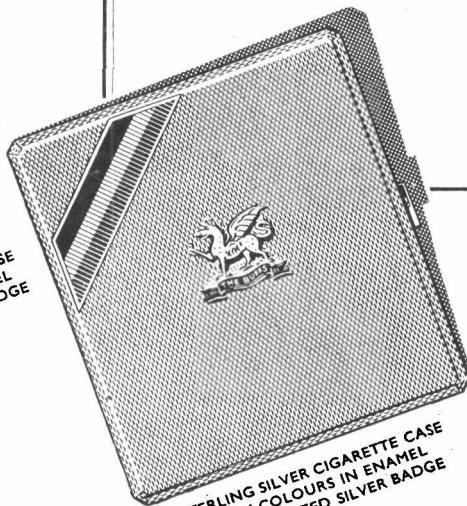
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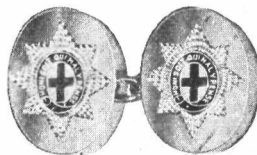
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Berlin Airlift

BY CAPT. J. RANKIN, W.R.A.C.

On June 24, 1948, the surface blockade by the Russians of the Western Sectors of Berlin was imposed. From that date the only way in which passengers or freight could be transported from the Western Sectors of Berlin to the non-Russian zones of Germany was by air. The problem was the supply by air of food, fuel, medical supplies and everything required to maintain life for the occupation troops and over two million Berliners.

At about 0800 hours on June 28 the first aircraft, carrying food, landed at Gatow Airfield in the British Sector of Berlin. From then on a constant stream of aircraft flew to and from the city, the British and American Air Forces combining in one organisation under one commander. The name given to this operation was "Carter Paterson"!

There were two airfields to handle this traffic, Tempelhof, the Berlin airport in the American Sector, and Gatow, in the British Sector, formerly a training unit for the Luftwaffe. Later, Tegel, in the French Sector, was also used. The size of the airlift necessitated the expansion of the airfields, and Gatow was expanded and two parallel runways and a vast tarmac unloading space built, reinforced to stand the constant landing and take-off of aircraft 24 hours a day. The time limit for unloading aircraft was 50 minutes, and during the unloading period pilots and crews waited in the Y.M.C.A. canteen, where they were served with hot drinks and doughnuts.

Food flown in was dehydrated, frozen, or tinned, although later in the lift a certain amount of fresh fruit, vegetables and meat were being flown in. Fuel and raw materials of all descriptions also came to Berlin by air, and on the return journey the R.A.F. flew out sick children in need of recuperation and equipment manufactured in the Berlin factories.

One of the curiosities of the blockade was the fact that the Russians supplied the electricity for Gatow airfield because it happened to be on the border of the Russian zone, and, reciprocally, the electricity for one of the Russian fighter stations was supplied from the British Sector.

During the blockade my job in Berlin was as messing officer for H.Q. British troops Berlin. This involved the supply of rations to troops and W.R.A.C. of Headquarters, married families, and voluntary organisations such as the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Church of Scotland, Red Cross, etc., and also the feeding of the Germans employed by Headquarters. My staff were mostly German, with a supervising British element.

Two nights a week we worked at the Y.M.C.A. canteen at the airfield, serving hot drinks and doughnuts to air crews and ground staff. I was constantly amazed by the clockwork regularity of the whole operation. Planes landed, were unloaded and reloaded, and off again on the return journey with incredible speed. We, on the receiving end, were naturally more than a little concerned about the constancy of supply, but the steady stream of

aircraft droned across the sky from June 28, 1948, until May 12, 1949.

The Berlin blockade was aimed psychologically as much as physically. The blockaders hoped that the West Berliners would be cast into despair by the seeming impossibility of the task of keeping up the air supply and nobody, in the early days, would have blamed them for assuming that the airlift would be unable to keep up the supply for an indefinite period. There was also the inducement put forward by the Russians that any West Berliner could, at any time he chose and without changing employment or address, register for his full ration in the Russian Sector of the city. In spite of the fact that the Allies put no obstacle in the way and the rations of the Western Sectors were of necessity cut to a bare minimum during the blockade, few chose to register in the Russian Sector. In spite of all strain the "Luftbrücke"—the Airbridge, as the Germans called it—stood firm.

There are many stories of the airlift, such as the one of the Dakota which, in the early days, was accidentally loaded with a York load—more than twice the load it should have carried. On landing at Gatow the pilot remarked casually: "She landed a bit heavy, you know!"

"London Gazette"

HONOURS AND AWARDS (NEW YEAR HONOURS)

M.B.E. Capt. Mabel Jones, W.O.I Margaret Ashworth.
B.E.M. W.O.II (Acting) Miriam Spokes, S/Sgt. Jessie Stewart,
Sgts. Dorothy Briant and Lucy Emily Verrall.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

To Major, with seniority shown:

Cpts. M. E. Snowden (December 4, 1951) and J. E. Henderson (December 24, 1951).

To Lieutenant, with seniority shown:

2/Lts. J. Sharcott (September 22, 1949), K. N. Weaver (April 26, 1951), and N. E. Smith (October 26, 1951).

Relinquishments:

Capt. D. E. M. S. Langdon and Lt. P. M. Brown.

Short Service Commissions

To Captain, with seniority shown:

Lts. N. G. Dallas (November 30, 1951), A. M. Drummond (November 30, 1951), K. D. Slade (November 30, 1951), and M. E. MacLagan (December 5, 1951).

Relinquishments:

Cpts. E. E. Steer, M. Little, L. J. Williamson, F. E. Wade, P. F. Thomas, and M. Russell; Lts. J. E. Bee, N. M. Jones, E. H. Minnett, M. Palmer, J. Henderson, and B. P. Baker.

The following is the final list of officers who have been granted Short Service Commissions and promoted to Lieutenant on the dates shown:

D. V. Templeton (January 2, 1944), O. W. Watt (July 28, 1944), M. Burt (March 1, 1945), E. Burgoyne (October 28, 1945), E. A. Hine (August 22, 1946), E. Parker (August 22, 1946), J. M. Johnston (September 28, 1946), E. G. Pritchard-Davies (September 28, 1946), L. E. Kenefick (September 28, 1946), M. A. Williams (September 28, 1946), J. M. Allen (November 3, 1946), E. S. Cowper (December 15, 1946), N. E. Jones (December 15, 1946), D. Richardson (December 15, 1946), I. B. Watt (December 15, 1946), P. M. Baldwin (December 15, 1946), M. F. Townsend (December 15, 1946), E. J. P. Varney (December 15, 1946), E. M. Catherall (January 20, 1947), G. B. Mills (January 20, 1947), G. J. C. Champion (March 15, 1947), K. M. Hahn (March 15, 1947), P. M. Cutting (April 18, 1947), M. L. Murkin (April 18, 1947), W. M. Sun (April 18, 1947), M. Matless (July 10, 1947), J. H. Parke (July 10, 1947), E. B. Foster (October 12, 1947), A. L. Turnbull (October 12, 1947), B. M. W. Bass (October 12, 1947), L. Warren (January 5, 1948), R. Bowden (January 5, 1948), M. Leetham (March 26, 1948), M. G. Campbell (March 26, 1948), C. M. Harris (March 26, 1948), G. E. Simmonds (June 19, 1948), E. Wiggan (September 10, 1948), K. W. Byrne (September 18, 1948), K. J. O'Keefe (September 18, 1948), J. D. M. Ravenscroft (December 18, 1948), L. T. Janvrin (February 16, 1949), C. A. Dean (April 14, 1949), I. C. Balham (June 17, 1949), G. M. Burbidge (December 26, 1949), J. Buncher (September 7, 1950), M. Anderson (January 9, 1951).

Second Lieutenants:

J. B. Pont (August 10, 1950), G. B. Partridge (August 10, 1950).

News of Comrades

We hear from **ex-J. Comd. Desirée Hancock** that she has a very happy life with her husband and two naughty children. They have just bought a house in Moreton-in-the-Marsh, in Gloucestershire, and have been busy furnishing. About once a fortnight she goes to a race meeting, where she sees various ex-senior officers laying the odds; among them **ex-C. Comd. Daphne James**, who has just gone abroad to see as much as possible of Abyssinia and Kenya. She also sends us news of many members of her wartime units with whom she has kept in touch. **Ex-Sub. Judy Ballard** is on the point of emigrating to Kenya with her husband and two very small boys after spending the post-war years in Germany. **Ex-Sub. Doreen Mitchell** (afterwards J. Comd. Whitehead) and her husband are dairy farming in Somerset, where she runs the local Pony Club and the Women's Branch of the British Legion and works very hard on the farm. **Ex-Sub. Dorothy Scott** was until recently matron at St. Peter's School, Seaford, where, no doubt, the boys had a wonderful time. **Ex-C.S.M. West** is on the staff of the Union Jack Families' Club off Waterloo Road, just behind Waterloo Station, and would love to see any of "her girls." **Ex-Sgt. Sellence** (Mrs. Halliday) lives at Balham and is a part-time inspector at the Triang Toy Factory. **Ex-Sgt. Thorpe** took a job as a housekeeper and married her employer. **Ex-L/Cpl. Huskisson** emigrated to Rhodesia and married Mr. William Earle of the B.S.A. Police. In Winchester may be found the following ex-members of the A.T.S. Company which served the Rifle Depot: **Ex-Pte. Mary Cranford**, **Ex-L/Cpl. Hannah Bradbury**, **Cpl. Iris Smith**. They are all happily married with children and very busy, their time in the Service being forgotten like a dream. Other Winchester people are **Ex C. Comd. Muntz**, now a buyer in a London store; **Ex-J. Comd. Julian Petherick**, now the Hon. Mrs. Ashley Cooper and the mother of three little girls; **Ex-J. Comd. Pam Bryans**, now married to Lt.-Col. Maurice Johnson of the 60th Rifles and mother of a boy and two girls; **Ex-S. Comd. Lawson**, mother of one little girl; **Ex-S. Comd. Barbara Fair**, Secretary to the Winchester Branch of the Conservative Association and shortly to marry Brigadier-General Thackery; **Ex-J. Comd. im Therm**, now married to the M.P. for Kidderminster and a mother. News of "B" Company at Chislehurst is more scanty. **Ex-Sub. Archer Hamblan** is now married to Major Waller, R.A., and has a daughter. **Ex-Sub. Chapple** is on the staff of Vogue and is now Mrs. Ross. **Miss Marsh Phillips**, the Chaplain's Assistant, does voluntary work in Bermondsey. We are indeed grateful to Mrs. Hancock for this bulletin but apologise in advance for inaccuracies of names. Mrs. Hancock's writing is not easy to read!

Mrs. N. Best (*nee* Tadman) has gone out to Northern Rhodesia to join her husband. She says the country is quite wonderful but accommodation is difficult. It is such a change to be able to go into a shop and buy as many nylons as you want

and be able to drive a new car straight out of the showroom.

Mrs. Anne Brooke has arrived in Tasmania. She has now settled on the outskirts of Hobart, with wonderful views from all her windows of mountains and a bay. All her neighbours are U.K. immigrants, including two A.T.S., **ex-R.S.M. Mrs. Kaye Cameron** and **Mrs. May McGhee** of London Records Office. She says they have impromptu Association meetings almost daily over morning coffee.

The W.R.A.C. Overseas

B.A.O.R.

Christmas is always a festive season away from home when the spirit of goodwill seems to abound. Apart from the normal unit activities and invitations from other units we gave some help to children's parties and tried to do what we could for the Displaced Persons. In spite of, or perhaps because of, the lack of a white Christmas it was a very happy time. In fact the whole month was highly successful. Our hockey team visited the U.K. and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our first administrative inspection went off without a hitch. We have had a number of new arrivals to welcome and among them are Major J. E. Henderson and Capt. R. Stride who, having completed the first course at the W.R.A.C. Staff College, have come to take up staff appointments in Rhine Army Headquarters.

W.R.A.C. in Egypt Today

The only drop in morale occurred when an incorrect report in the English papers stated that all W.R.A.C. were being evacuated!

Everyone is in high spirits and it is work as normal—and then some more. Battalion H.Q. is proud that no requests for help have had to be refused so far, although the Commanding Officer and Adjutant are doubtful whether they can divide anyone into more than three people.

In addition to increased pressure in everyone's own work, the canteens in W.R.A.C. camps have been taken over and run very successfully. Rosters ensure that everybody helps with the domestic chores and much latent ability is apparent in the kitchen (especially with a tin opener).

211th Transit Camp and Seaview (Port Fouad) have been extremely busy dealing with the stream of families. Reinforcements from among our numbers have been provided to help the staffs there.

The nightly "C.B." has been enlivened by internal entertainments: beetle drives, whist drives, table tennis and gramophone recitals.

No one quite knows who may appear in our camp any day to be accommodated and we get many surprises, but our hospitality is unbounded, provided everyone takes their turn at the washing up!

In Moascar in their off-duty hours W.R.A.C. personnel went and served in the grocery shop while the N.A.A.F.I. girls were on strike.

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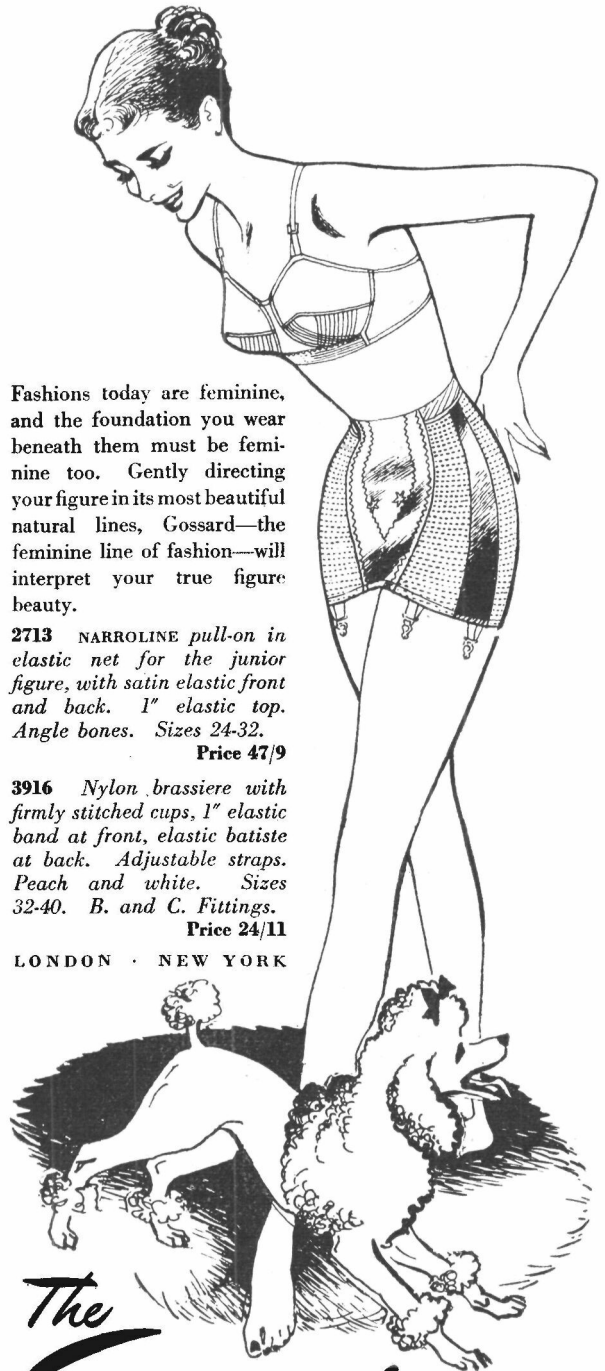
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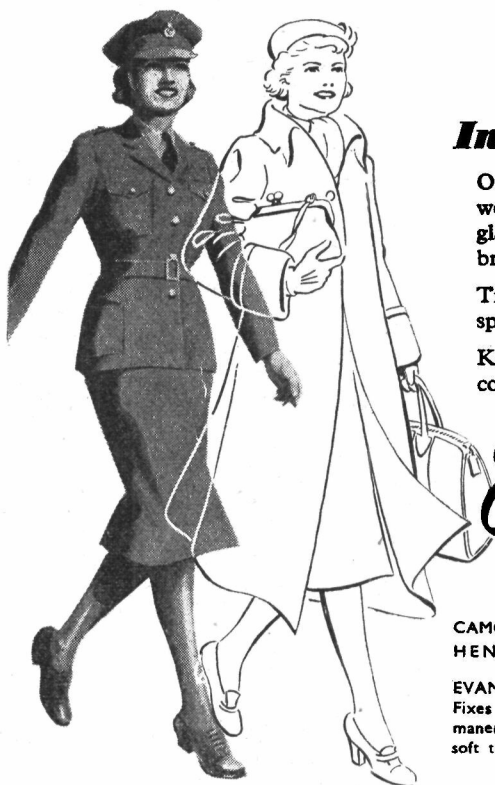
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Reunion Weekend

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, 1952, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Agenda

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 17, 1951, and circulated in the May-June, 1951 issue of *The Lioness*.
2. Apologies.
3. Business arising from the Minutes.
4. Election of Officers.
Nominations received:
Chairman of Council:
Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E.
Council Vice-Presidents:
Dame Leslie Whateley, D.B.E.
Miss B. Ireland, M.B.E.
The Viscountess Swinton.
Mrs. Russell Simpson.
Mrs. R. King, O.B.E.
5. Report of Council.
6. Report of the Hon. Treasurer.
7. Report of Committees.
8. Resolutions by Council:
 - (a) That "*The Lioness*" be issued every three months instead of every two months.
 - (b) That the price of "*The Lioness*," sold to all members who do not pay the full subscription, be 9d. a copy.
 - (c) That the Grand Reunion be held in alternate years and that in the intermediate years an Area Reunion be encouraged.
 - (d) That the rule requiring the Vice-Chairman of the 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 to leave the appointment to that Committee.
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 subscription 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.)
 - (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.)
10. Other Business (if any).

PHYLLIS GREENWELL,
General Secretary.

Grand Reunion

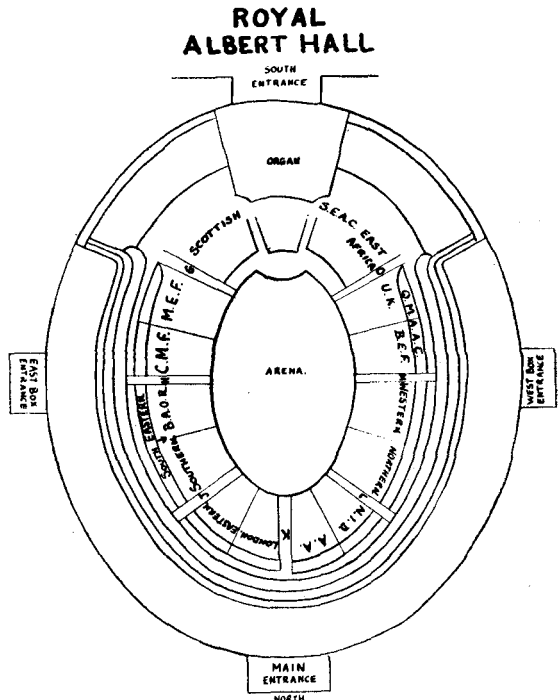
SATURDAY, MARCH 15, AT 7 P.M.

AT THE

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Major-General H.R.H. The Princess Royal
has consented to preside

We told you in the last issue that this would be the best reunion ever. IT WILL BE. It has been agreed that, for this year only, as an experiment, our men shall have a chance to share our enjoyment, and husbands and boy friends are cordially invited to attend. We have distinguished speakers and plenty of time for gossiping. We only need *you* to apply for your tickets early and we are all set to go!



Apply for tickets to the Reunion Secretary, the W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, S.W.3. Price 4s. each. State whether for Service women or for guests.

HOW TO GET THERE. Nearest Underground Stations—South Kensington on the Metropolitan, Inner Circle and Piccadilly Lines, or Knightsbridge on the Piccadilly Line. Buses 9, 52 and 73 pass the door.

GENERAL FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT OCTOBER 31, 1951

1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960	
£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.
GENERAL FUND																					
CAPITAL ACCOUNT:																					
Balance as at November 1, 1950		2,642		.. .. .		2,405		3		4		.. .. .		2,405		3		4		.. .. .	
Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income for the Year		237		.. .. .		597		7		2		.. .. .		1,807		16		2		.. .. .	
2,405		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .	
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND:																					
Membership Life Subscriptions carried forward		1,831		.. .. .		1,853		15		6		.. .. .		1,853		15		6		.. .. .	
Gazette Life Subscriptions carried forward		1,396		.. .. .		1,386		5		6		.. .. .		1,386		5		6		.. .. .	
3,227		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .	
HARDSHIP FUND:																					
Balance as at November 1, 1950		88		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .	
CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS:		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .	
Membership Subscriptions paid in advance		64		.. .. .		139		19		6		.. .. .		139		19		6		.. .. .	
Gazette Subscriptions paid in advance		97		.. .. .		143		17		6		.. .. .		143		17		6		.. .. .	
Expenses, etc., accrued		272		.. .. .		464		16		0		.. .. .		464		16		0		.. .. .	
433		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .	
REUNION ACCOUNT:																					
Sundry Creditors:		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .		.. .. .	
The W.R.A.C. Association		5		.. .. .		200		0		0		.. .. .		200		0		0		.. .. .	
Audit and Accountancy		.. .. .		.. .. .		5		5		0		.. .. .		5		5		0		.. .. .	
.. .. .																					
REUNION CAPITAL ACCOUNT:																					
Balance at October 31, 1950		1																			
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure		8																			
9																					
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We have examined the above Balance Sheet of The Women's Royal Army Corps Association incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association with the books and vouchers of the Association and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the affairs of the Association as at October 31, 1951, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us.

L. M. HARRIS & CO.,
68 COLEMAN STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

Chartered Accountants.

Passed by Council—REGINA EVANS, *January 10, 1952.*
December 9, 1951.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1951

1950	£	GENERAL FUND	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To BRANCHES:				
Capitation Fees for Life and Four-Year Members ..	91			
Capitation Fees for Annual Subscriptions ..	<u>253</u>			
	344			
I				
	<u>345</u>			
" GAZETTE:				
Annual Subscriptions ..	311			
Proportion of Four-Yearly Subscriptions ..	144			
Proportion of Life Membership Subscriptions ..	93			
Donations ..	<u>—</u>			
	548			
Advertising Revenue ..	60			
	<u>608</u>			
Less:				
733 Printing, Postage, etc. .. £1,380 3 10				
11 Editor's Salary .. — — —				
	<u>744</u>			
	136			
" ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE EXPENSES:				
Salaries and Travelling ..	317			
Printing and Stationery ..	32			
Postages ..	25			
Telephone ..	18			
Sundries ..	<u>5</u>			
	397			
" MISCELLANEOUS:				
Accountancy and Audit ..	24			
Amount written off Stock of Badges ..	41			
Depreciation of Furniture ..	<u>3</u>			
	68			
	<u>£946</u>			

	£	s.	d.
To Rent of Royal Albert Hall	187	10	0
" Entertainments, Flagstaffs, Decorations, etc.	217	0	0
" Catering	55	16	6
" Organiser's Salary, Expenses and Travelling .. .	62	0	0
" Printing, Postage, etc.	13	8	4
" Advertising	13	1	1
" Accountancy and Audit	70	1	1
" Balance of Income over Expenditure	—	5	0
Total	695	11	2

1950	REUNION FUND			f	s.	d.
182	To Rent of Royal Albert Hall	..	..	187	10	0
206	" Entertainments, Flagstaffs, Decorations, etc.	..	..	217	0	0
37	" Catering	..	..	55	16	6
60	" Organiser's Salary, Expenses and Travelling	..	..	62	0	0
12	" Printing, Postage, etc.	..	..	13	8	4
49	" Advertising	..	..	70	1	1
55	" Accountancy and Audit	..	..	5	5	0
68	" Balance of Income over Expenditure	..	..	—	—	—
				£611	0	11

BENEFOLLENT FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 27, 1950, TO OCTOBER 31, 1951

	July 27, 1956, to Oct. 31,	Nov. 1, 1956, to Oct. 31,
To Grants	£ 5 0 0	£ 8 8 0
" Donations	— — —	40 10 0
" Legal and Professional Expenses	— — —	17 16 0
" Postages, etc.	— — —	1 10 0
" Sundry Expenses	— 4 0	1 11 0
" Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Periods	330 10 9	1,849 7 6
	£335 14 9	£2,211 4 6

	To Grants	.. .. .	£ s. d.	July 27, 1956, to Oct. 31,	Nov. 1, 1956, to Oct. 31,
" Donations	.. .. .	.. .. .	— — —	5 0 0	40 10 0
" Legal and Professional Expenses	.. .. .	.. .. .	— — —	— — —	17 18 0
" Postages, etc.,	.. .. .	.. .. .	— — —	— — —	1 10 0
" Sundry Expenses	.. .. .	.. .. .	— — —	— — —	1 11 0
" Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Periods	.. .. .	.. .. .	330 10 9	1,849 7 6	— — —
			£335 14 9	£2,011 4 6	

BALANCE SHEET — OCTOBER 31, 1951

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
GENERAL FUND:						
Balance, November 1, 1950	..	..	..	330	10	9
Add: Excess of Income for the Year	..	..	..	1,849	7	6
				2,179	18	3
SUNDRY CREDITOR—Postages, etc.	..	..	..	2	11	0
				£2,182	9	3

	\$	s.	d.	\$	s.	d.
GENERAL FUND:						
Balance, November 1, 1950 .. .	..	..	..	330	10	9
Add: Excess of Income for the Year .. .	..	..	..	1,849	7	6
				2,179	18	3
SUNDRY CREDITOR—Postages, etc. ..	..	..	..	2	11	0
				\$2,182	9	3

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts and in our opinion they are properly drawn up to present a true and correct view of the affairs of the Fund for October 31, 1951, and of the Income and Expenditure for the period ended on that date. The United Services Trustee has certified that on October 31, 1951, the above investment was held for the Fund.

L. M. HARRIS & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.
68 COLEMAN STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.

Passed by Council—M. RAILTON, Colonel.

L. M. HARRIS & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion

Friday, March 14, at 7 p.m.

at

The Duke of York's Headquarters

(For members of Q.M.A.A.C. only)

Members of Q.M.A.A.C., do not forget that you have your own reunion the night before the Grand Reunion. Assembly is at 7 to 7.45 for supper at 8 p.m. in the T.A. Mess. So come along and meet your old friends. Tickets, price 4s. each, can be obtained from the Reunion Secretary, The W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, S.W.3. You can apply for tickets for both reunions at the same time, but *please* state which ticket you want.

I wish to renew my subscription to the W.R.A.C. Association as a:

Life (£5)

4-Year (£1) member and enclose £ : :

Annual (5/-)

Date Signature

Full name

Address

Alteration to present particulars (if any)

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

Are you a Member of the Association ?

(Please complete in Block Letters)

Full Christian names and surname

Address for Correspondence

Permanent address (if different)

Married or single

Surname when serving (if different)

Next of kin:

(a) Name

(b) Relationship

(c) Address

Corps Army No.

Last rank held (present rank if still serving)

Army trade or employment

Date of enrolment (or enlistment)

Date of release (or discharge)

Overseas service from to

Theatre of war (or overseas Command)

Decorations, Mentions in Despatches

If no longer serving, ground for retirement or discharge

I wish to join the W.R.A.C. Association as a Life (£5)

4-Year (£1) member and enclose £ : :

Annual (5/-)

Date Signature

All these subscriptions include *The Lioness*.

Do you know that in 1921 the ex-members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps formed an Association for their mutual benefit?

Do you know that the original members of this Association opened their membership to ex-members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1940, only one year after the A.T.S. was called up?

Do you know that the members of the Association once more opened its membership to the new Service when the Women's Royal Army Corps was formed; indeed before it was formed the first resolution was proposed?

Do you realise that we have in the Association an opportunity of showing to the world the great bond of friendliness that exists between those who served together? We want to meet and, where necessary, to help one another. Our comradeship gives pleasure in good times; it affords help and comfort in days of illness and hardship, it is waiting if our work takes us to a new town. The Association exists to keep those who have served in touch with one another and to deal as a representative body with the things that an individual cannot handle alone. It publishes *The Lioness*, organ of the Association and journal of the Women's Royal Army Corps; it can arrange for help in cases of hardship from its own fund or other Service benevolent funds. We should all join, not only for our own sakes, but also for those less fortunate than ourselves to whom our organisation can be of benefit.

At the top of this column we produce a form of renewal of subscription, lest this should fall into the hands of anyone who has inadvertently omitted to pay. On the other side we publish a form of application for anyone who is not a member. Please fill it up and send it off at once to:

The General Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association,

Duke of York's Headquarters,

King's Road, London, S.W.3.

Births

DAVIES. On November 30, 1951, at "The Firs," Nottingham, to Peter and Sheila (*nee* Wylde, W/94867), a son, Gareth Christopher. Home address: 69 Colwick Road, Nottingham.

MACCULLOCH. On October 31, 1951, to Jennie (ex-Capt. Chappell), wife of the Rev. N. J. H. MacCulloch, T.D.; R.A.Ch.D.—a son (Diarmaid Ninian John). Present address: "Sherborne," Baldwins Hill, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Deaths

MARSHALL. Miss E. M. K. Marshall, Treasurer of the Canterbury Branch, died at her home in Boughton, Kent, on November 5, 1951.

PRATT-BARLOW. On January 12, at her home in Banbury, Mrs. L. M. K. Pratt-Barlow, O.B.E., after a period of ill-health.

News from Branches

AYR

Our Annual General Meeting was held in October when our office bearers for the ensuing year were elected. The retiring president, Mrs. Neilson, kindly presented a handsome tea trolley to the new president, Mrs. Lunn, for the use of the Branch at our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month in the T.A. Rooms.

At the Scottish Reunion in October our Branch was well represented. Our members travelled by special coach, staying overnight in Edinburgh. We were very pleased to have the company of Glasgow members who joined our coach party. It was grand meeting old friends again and we have many happy memories of our enjoyable weekend.

As usual our Basket Whist Drive in November proved a great success, and, as the prizes were all kindly donated, we were able to add considerably to our funds.

One of the highlights of our year's programme was the annual Christmas party given by our members to the resident children of a local special school. A visit from Santa added to the enjoyment of their evening out and a great time was had by all. Later, the Branch members presented a table lamp to Mrs. Neilson in appreciation of the willing assistance given by her since the Branch's inception.

On January 2 we held our Reunion Dinner and party in Gartferry Hotel, and we were delighted to welcome approximately 20 members from Glasgow Branch, more especially when it was such a treacherous night of snow and ice.

The Ayr Branch wishes all comrades wherever they may be a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

BELFAST

We hear from Belfast that they meet on the first and third Fridays in each month at the Presbyterian Women's Union in Howard Street and that their Secretary now is Miss M. Wilson, 13 Cliftonville Parade.

BRIGHTON

We are now meeting at 7.30 p.m. on the third Monday of every month instead of the third Thursday, but at the same place (R.N.O.C.A. Headquarters, Kings Road Arches—down right-hand slope opposite Old Ship Hotel), and will be glad to see any new members.

We had a "Bring and Buy Sale" at our November meeting, which was very well attended, considering that it was a cold, wet night. One guinea from the proceeds was sent in response to an appeal from the Y.W.C.A., and the remainder was added to Branch funds, which will be used to pay in part for our annual dinner to be held in January. We are also hoping to arrange a pantomime party.

ILFORD

I am sure the many friends of Mrs. A. Thomas (*nee* Oakman) will be sorry to hear that she passed away very peacefully after much suffering on Monday, December 10. Mrs. Thomas, lovingly known to the Branch as "Tommy," had an operation two years ago; she thought she was getting better, but we her friends could see her going downhill. She was very brave and took to her bed only ten days before she died. Miss Leech and I were with her when the end came. Owing to the fog I was the only one who was able to attend her funeral. Our sympathies go to her husband and two boys who will miss her.

R. PARKER.

LONDON

We held our Annual General Meeting on December 6, 1951, and as usual under the capable chairmanship of Miss Thompson; this went off smoothly and successfully. On December 20 we had our Christmas party, starting with carols and games, and followed by a few skits on old songs designed to bring out some "hidden talent." In view of the lack of offers to push the performers on the London stage, we presume the talent was too well "hidden"! However, the entertainers thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and hope that the audience did likewise. Refreshments were supplied by members and our "Nippies" again dealt with these under the direction of Mrs. E. Richards, and after more singing, games and competitions the evening ended with a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Giles for her untiring efforts to make the party a success.

Programmes for this year are now being printed, and will be distributed early in the year. Any Branch members not in receipt of one by the end of February should contact Mrs. Giles at the Club when we meet, or at 4 Arlington Drive, Carshalton, Surrey. We hope you will continue to support meetings throughout the year and so help to make the various activities planned a great success.

NORFOLK

The New Year's meeting on January 2 was well attended. The raffle was a great success and made £5 11s. 6d. clear profit, so we are again sure of the rent of our room for the year. The Branch thanks

TYLER'S



Private Hire Service

You may book your requirements
at our office opposite the G.P.O.

THE CAMP CENTRE

or Telephone

CATTERICK CAMP 2225 (2 lines)

Grams: ATAXI, Catterick Camp



Maintain your
service to

King and Country
in civilian life

Join the British Legion



*The Legion co-operates with your regi-
mental association and speaks for all
ex-service men and women*

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

all members for their support and for the gift of prizes, many and varied.

It was decided to have a tea and theatre party as soon as the theatre pantomime season was over. Suggestions from absent and distant members will be appreciated.

Members please note. Subscriptions for 1952 were due as from January 1.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

The Annual General Meeting was held on December 3, 1951. After the Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report, both of which were satisfactory, it was decided to hold the Annual Dinner on Monday, January 7, 1952. Christmas greetings were sent to Mrs. Haliburton, who is still at Standon Hall Orthopaedic Hospital, and to Miss Cade and Miss Hudson of Leek, who are both on the sick list.

As attendance at monthly meetings is not very good we decided to cut the meetings to four a year and ask members to make a special effort to come.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Smith for the use of the room for the meetings and for all her kindness during the past year.

A very good response has been received for the Annual Dinner. Nearly all the members hope to be present.

READING

On December 14, 1951, we held our Reunion Dinner at the Oasis Café, Reading. We were very pleased to welcome a new member, but at the same time very disappointed that one of our members was prevented from getting in from the country owing to the fog. Altogether there were ten of us, and we had a very enjoyable evening.

Suggestions were made with regard to meetings in 1952. Many members expressed a wish to visit Windsor Castle in the spring, and it is hoped that this will be arranged.

We send our best wishes to all our members, and hope that those who have not been able to meet in 1951 will be able to do so this year.

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

News from here includes an extract from the *Vancouver Sun* of December 11, 1951, under the heading: "Ex-Service Women in Victoria launch drive for Branches." The notice reads: "Comrades Association of Victoria is launching a drive to form branches made up of ex-Service women of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service throughout Canada. Enrolment Forms will be forwarded with particulars on application. Letters must contain stamped addressed envelopes and should be posted to the Honorary Organiser, Mrs. E. F. Armstrong, W.R.A.C., 1863 Oak Bay Avenue, Victoria. Members will receive an Army Gazette entitled *The Lioness*."

The attention of H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth was attracted to a notice of this campaign as she motored through the streets of Victoria and Mrs. Armstrong received the following gracious message, dated November 30, 1951, from the Comptroller

of Her Royal Highness's Household, Clarence House: "Her Royal Highness desires me to wish every success to your organisation of the old British Service girls."

Another proud citizen of Victoria when Princess Elizabeth visited the city was Mrs. Stoutley, erstwhile instructor at Camberley during Her Royal Highness's training in the A.T.S. She was presented in the Empress lobby at the provincial Government luncheon and we have received a newspaper photograph showing her chatting with the royal couple. Unfortunately, it is not sufficiently clear for reproduction.

Rifle Shooting

Eastern Command .22 Competition

With some trepidation and with full realisation that the numbers of the Service were already well below strength, an Inter-Unit Competition was organised at Headquarters, Eastern Command, Hounslow, on November 19, 1951. Much to the joy of the organisers eight teams entered their names, including one from 1st A.A. Group.

The day came, and the first team to arrive radiated efficiency from their shiny cap straps to their polished shoes and neatly sewn clips, the girls from the Experimental Establishment, Shoeburyness, complete with their coach, Wing Comdr. Cresswell, and their enthusiastic officer, Capt. Power. Shortly afterwards the two teams from the W.R.A.C. Depot arrived, resplendent in new green berets, holding their beautiful new rifles. Then—through the barrack gates came a small resolute team of women, led by a Lance-Corporal clutching a rifle almost as big as herself, borrowed, it is believed, from a friendly officer. No coach, no telescope came with this band, but tremendous enthusiasm and an enormous amount of grit. Need we ever despair when we have spirit like this in the Service!

The competition began on time and proceeded apace under the direction of the Camp R.S.M., W.O.I Kay of the Grenadier Guards. Scores from 30 to 96 were recorded, and when the last detail was ready to fire it became known that only three points separated the leading teams. Eventually the team from Shoeburyness wrested the trophy from the W.R.A.C. Depot "A" Team by 13 points, and the medal for the highest score went to Sgt. Wilkie of the W.R.A.C. Depot.

The D.D.W.R.A.C. Eastern Command, Col. E. I. W. Hobkirk, C.B.E., W.R.A.C., presented the prizes, and told the teams how pleased she was to see them. She emphasised the value of rifle shooting as a form of character training which taught self-control and self-reliance more than any other sport. Col. Hobkirk thanked the numerous soldiers who had done so much to train and encourage the girls, and said how pleased she was to see them with the teams. She also thanked the Camp staff of the Headquarters for all their help which had made the match possible.

Tired, but full of new enthusiasm, the teams dispersed to their Units. Certainly it was worth the effort.

Obituaries

LUCY MARJORIE KATHLEEN PRATT-BARLOW

Lucy Marjorie Kathleen Fraser was born on January 5, 1881, the second daughter of an officer in the Scots Guards. She married Edward Pratt-Barlow in 1907 and travelled with him to East Africa. On the outbreak of the First World War she was back in England and was one of the first, before Land Girls were invented, to act as a farm labourer. Later she worked for the Royal Flying Corps as a civilian subordinate, and in 1917 went to France as an Administrator (Captain) in Q.M.A.A.C. She was posted to St. Omer, then to G.H.Q., where she was awarded the M.B.E., and finally to Etaples as Deputy Controller. Towards the end of 1918 she was transferred to the W.R.A.F. and was the first woman to wear the badges of a Group Captain. She was a member of the Council of Emergency Service and, on the formation of the A.T.S. in September, 1938, though well over the authorised age, became Deputy Commandant and, later, Commandant of the School of Instruction for Officers at the Duke of York's Headquarters. On mobilisation, after a short period at the War Office she took charge of the Eastern Command Reception Depot where the original Officer Cadet Wing was located. She retired under the age rule in 1941 with the rank of Chief Commander (Lieutenant-Colonel). She was a most capable officer with that true military instinct which combines friendliness with discipline and an unflinching interest in the well-being as well as the discipline of her troops. Between the wars she did much for the development of the Comrades' Association, being always ready to help in the office and to be available when needed as Acting General Secretary. Till her death she was secretary of the Headquarters Branch, the members of which are scattered all over the world. Her loss will be deeply felt by her many friends in Q.M.A.A.C., the A.T.S., and the Comrades' Association. Our deepest sympathy goes to Dame Helen, who has lost not only a sister but a companion who has served with her for many years.

EVELYN MARY KELLY MARSHALL

Members of the Canterbury Branch will learn with deep sorrow of the death of their Treasurer, Miss Marshall, who died at her home in Boughton, Kent, on November 5, 1951. Miss Marshall was Treasurer since the foundation of the branch and did a tremendous amount to keep the branch active.

In 1938 Miss Marshall joined the 40th Kent Company, A.T.S. (Local Service), and, in spite of many other ties of an exacting nature, she never spared herself and through her cheerful spirit was always an inspiration to everyone with whom she came in contact. She became Sergeants' Mess Secretary at the I.T.C. in Canterbury (The Buffs) and after her release from the Service continued the work at the request of the Commanding Officer.

Since the war Miss Marshall has done a great deal of public work and she will be sadly missed by her many friends.

N.H.C.-L.

Adventure in Her Blood

We have recently heard from Mrs. Counsell (*nee* Smith) whose adventures during and between two wars make a story of which we should all be proud. She served in France in 1917 as No. 64 Worker L. Smith and, after her discharge in 1919, she travelled widely in the Middle East and South America. Then she settled in France, having married, and was there at the outbreak of the Second World War. In spite of having made arrangements to be warned if the British were to be evacuated, it was not until some time after the capitulation of France that Mrs. Counsell and her husband realised that the British firms in Marseilles had closed down and that they had left their departure until too late.

One of their French neighbours took pity on them and offered to drive them to Marseilles, wearing himself a special armlet which appeared to have the most miraculous effect upon the French police who waved them on in every town and village through which they passed.

On arrival at Marseilles they booked a room at a hotel close to the quay. The British Consulate was deserted; the American Consulate, though open, was surrounded by many American nationals and the staff had already more than enough to do; the Cable and Wireless station was more hopeful. The British had been evacuated but some of the French staff were there, one of whom knew the Counsell family. He called a taxi and they searched every quay along those 15 miles of docks, but there was not a boat to be seen.

For four days the search went on. German and Italian planes raided the city. Amateur attempts were made to sift the British subjects from the rest of the population. A signal was sent to the Admiralty at Gibraltar, but there seemed to be a constantly diminishing hope of rescue. The Counsells decided to go home, but their only hope of doing this was to get their French neighbour to come and fetch them. They got in touch with him and were all set to be picked up on the Monday, the sixth day in Marseilles, when they found a ship.

It was shortly after luncheon on the Sunday that Mrs. Counsell's husband told her to collect their belongings and wait for him in a near-by café. At 5 o'clock he returned with a piece of paper on which was written an address and "6 p.m." At the rendezvous were some 500 others. At about 7 o'clock they all followed a guide to what appeared to be the smallest ship ever seen. They clambered up the gangway; their passports were scrutinised, and they each claimed about two feet of space on the deck or in the hold, according to their luck. Two hours later the ship sailed.

The next morning it was possible to take stock. Everyone was stiff and sore from the cramped positions in which they had spent the night and all were covered in coal dust. They learned that the ship had been unloading coal in an African port when it had been signalled to dash to Marseilles and take on board as many British subjects as

possible. The crew of 35, all ranks, gave up their cabins and bunks to the old, the sick and the children. As many as eight slept in a cabin and about 16 in the mess room, not five yards square. The rest slept on the iron decks or in the hold. There were all classes, professional, retired, some who had left French wives behind or children whom they had not been able to get back from school.

Conditions in the ship were bad. There had been no time to take on extra stores and the water supply was inadequate. Most people had brought provisions for two or three days. They formed a working committee to clean up the ship. One man was appointed to dole out the water at the rate of one pint a day to anyone who could provide a receipt. Empty bottles or tins were at a premium and there was often a fight for one. In spite of the fact that the one pint had to do both washing and thirst, most men managed to shave. After three days most of the food had gone and they could only tighten their belts and hope the ship's crew could spare them some food. They did what they could and one day there would be a few loaves and tins of bully, another a little meat and vegetables to make into a stew. What little there was had to be divided up and, at the end of a week, Mrs. Counsell says they were a dirty, hungry-looking lot.

On the way to Gibraltar the ship was torpedoed and Mrs. Counsell saw the torpedo before it struck the ship. Fortunately there was not much damage, but they all knew what a narrow escape they had had. There were only 35 lifebelts on board and two small boats. Very few could have been saved. As it was they hugged the Spanish coast until they reached Gibraltar where the whole town turned out to make them welcome. Each one of them was allowed to change French money into one English pound and, with it, they bought fruit, biscuits, food that would keep, and sea soap. They had no need for money to satisfy their immediate needs for all cafés and restaurants displayed a notice: "British evacuees welcome, Free refreshments." Although they stayed in the Straits four days they were only allowed to go ashore on one other. The ship was taking on provisions, hammocks and mattresses. During their stay they saw a plane shot down and four battleships steam out of the harbour with the *Ark Royal*, on route for the Battle of Oran. They went on, in convoy, their sleeping quarters now being hammocks in the hold. On the ninth morning a P. and O. liner joined the convoy, having been signalled to change course and take on board 200 of the refugees. The transhipment was wonderfully organised and they were soon in comfortable surroundings, escorted and protected, on their way to England. The organisation of meals with so large a number on board was wonderfully done. Four days later the convoy reached England safely.

On her return to England Mrs. Counsell turned her energies to the instruction of alien women in the art of cooking and housekeeping in the British way. Later she joined the W.A.A.F. and was soon a sergeant serving with Balloon Command. Then

THE LIONESS



*Naafi service for Officer Cadets
at the W.R.A.C. School of
Instruction, Liphook, Surrey.*



*Restaurant of the Naafi permanent club
for Ratings and Other Ranks, Chatham.*



In the early days of Naafi, it was generally recognised that a woman's place was in the home. Many changes have occurred since then. Women have gained equality with men. They travel the world over. And they share with men the honour of serving their country. Naafi has progressed too, never forgetting its original object — to be at your service wherever you may be. Naafi canteens cater for the daily needs of the Services and Naafi clubs provide recreational facilities, games rooms, reading and writing rooms, cafeterias and other amenities for your pleasure and relaxation.

*Please inform your friends
that Naafi needs more female staff for Canteens. Applications to Staff Manager, Naafi, Esher, Surrey.*

NAAFI

THE OFFICIAL CANTEEN ORGANISATION FOR H.M. FORCES

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**She put
it in
writing**



Hayes
Middlesex

Dear Sir,

There is no need for me to use any fancy words in praising Gordon-Moore's Cosmetic Toothpaste, but I feel that I must say "thank you" for putting such a really wonderful toothpaste on the market.

To keep my teeth always white and pearly, Gordon-Moore's is a definite "MUST."

I have used it for over a year now, and I can truthfully say that it is the most marvellous paste that exists, and that nothing can compare with it for keeping your teeth in a really beautiful condition.

Thanking you again so very much,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) MISS *Pamela Jordan*

This unsolicited letter is one among hundreds we receive regularly in praise of Gordon-Moore's Cosmetic Toothpaste. This crimson toothpaste "rose-tints" the gums to match any lipstick, making teeth look whiter by contrast. It contains rougeryl, a costly red pigment which polishes the teeth like jewellers' rouge polishes gold. Just try one tube, and friends will notice the difference immediately.

GORDON-MOORE'S
Cosmetic **TOOTH PASTE**

*Just what you want
for off-duty hours...*



in Don Maid 3-ply Fingering, or Don Maid 3-ply Soft Knitting, this Classic Twin-set is just what you want for leisure wear. In sizes 32" and 34". Ask for Don Maid Leaflet No. 222 at your local wool shop, or send 7½d. in stamps to "Don Maid," Donisthorpe & Co. Ltd., Friars Mills, Leicester.

DON MAID
KNITTING WOOLS

"Above all"

★ Look for DON MAID on the label

she went to the Y.M.C.A. and worked in a canteen with the R.A.F. of Fighter Command, and later at the C.O.D. at Donnington. Now she writes from 4 Cross Path, Radlett, Herts., where she describes herself as spending her old age. We doubt if anything will really quench her indomitable spirit and would not be surprised to hear that she had once more started on her globe-trotting.

Round the Commands

CHILWELL

Christmas festivities have been numerous and included an All Ranks Dance for the whole garrison followed by the All Ranks Christmas Dinner—R.A.O.C., R.E.M.E. and W.R.A.C. The officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers of the garrison proved to be quite efficient waiters and waitresses! Maj.-Gen. M. Lea-Cox, the Garrison Commander, arrived with his senior officers and proposed the toast and offered his good wishes to the assembled gathering.

In November we entertained two sporting events of note, the finals of the inter-Command Netball Tournament when Eastern Command were the winners with Northern Command in second place, and the Northern Command Hockey Trials which were followed by a match against the Sherwood Ladies who won by four goals to one.

During our regimental training weekend we held a very successful dance, as a result of which we sent some money to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund in addition to increasing our P.R.I. We also took part in the Garrison Service and parades on November 11, when General Lea-Cox took the salute.

Although we have said goodbye to a number of women over the last few weeks, so many have been posted in that our strength is steadily increasing. We welcome all newcomers, especially Miss A. B. Jones who has very recently arrived from Officer Cadet School. Our good wishes go to Sgt. Carter and Ptes. Chapman, Johnson, Lillie, Skirving, Sullivan and Strettle, among the newly-weds. A special good wish and God-speed to Sgt. Carter, now Mrs. O'Connell, and we hope she will enjoy her stay in Burma.

DONNINGTON

Christmas activities in 2 (Indep.) Company last year included something rather special as the W.R.A.C. Staff Band visited the Unit on December 16. They played in the Garrison Church and then led the Company in the March Past which followed. There was a touch of navy blue and white on parade in addition to the khaki and green of our own contingent, for we were joined by the 60 (Newport) Detachment, B.R.C.S. The salute was taken by Brigadier E. G. Brown, C.B.E., who was supported on the saluting base by Lt.-Col. A. C. D. Hind, M.B.E., A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command. On Sunday evening the Band gave an excellent concert in the Garrison Cinema, and it was with genuine regret that the next morning we said goodbye to our visitors. We should like to record how much the Band has raised our prestige in the Garrison, and how proud we felt of it.

Another happy event last Christmas was the wedding of Miss J. B. Pont, who came to us from the first course of regular cadets at the Officer Cadet School. She was married on December 21 to Capt. A. Forward, R.A.S.C. (T.A.).

The Sergeants made history by holding a 19th Century Ball. It is true that some of the costumes lacked 19th century authenticity, but the result was both colourful and diverting.

12TH BATTALION

During November and December we have been busy with preparations for Christmas. These included the making of toys, needlework, and a dressing of a doll for the Y.W.C.A. Christmas Fair. There were just over a hundred articles from all the different Companies.

There was also a Sale of Work held at Woolwich in aid of the rebuilding of the bombed Garrison Church. "C" Company, Woolwich, had a stall and this consisted of toys, embroidery, knitting, etc., all made by members of the Company and a raffle of a doll. The amount raised by this stall was over £20.

In order to collect funds for our Association, "B" Company, Kingston, organised a jumble sale in the N.A.A.F.I. Many and varied were the articles on sale; clothing, shoes, hats, jewellery, books and also interesting competitions brought the total amount to £7 7s.

On November 14, 1951, the W.R.A.C. Band gave a concert in the N.A.A.F.I. at Richmond Park Camp. This was an evening enjoyed by the whole company. The highlight of the evening was a performance on the pipe and drum by two members of the Band in full Highland dress. We are hoping they will pay us another visit in the near future.

"B" Company were very sorry to say goodbye to Capt. E. J. Nolan, their Company Commander for two years, on posting to Jamaica, and we all wish her good luck in her new appointment. We would like to welcome Capt. O. Watt to this Battalion and we hope she will enjoy being with us.

On the disbandment of "D" Company, Hounslow, we are very sorry to lose Capt. Holmes and 2/Lt. Robinson. We would like to welcome Lt. Richardson to No. 4 Platoon, "B" Company, at Hounslow.

Depot Notes

The Depot will be "At Home" on The Princess Royal's Day, Friday, April 25, 1952, from 2.30 to 6.30 p.m.

The programme will include a tour of the Camp, including the Museum, the reception and kitting of a recruit intake, displays of drill and P.T., a band concert, and side shows in aid of the Benevolent Fund.

All members of the Association are cordially invited to attend.

Badges

The badge of the Association, the design of which you can see on the title page of this issue, can be obtained, price 2s., from the General Secretary.

Army Championship Hunter Trials

An Onlooker's Account

The trials took place in October, 1951, on the Garth Course at Stanlake Park, Twyford, near Reading, under the auspices of the Army Saddle Club Association. The weather and setting were ideal for the occasion. It was a lovely golden autumn day—blue sky overhead and dry under foot—and the tree-dotted parkland was looking its best in the sunshine.

The event we had come so many miles to see was not until 2 p.m. so we walked around the course to look at the fences—to assess to the best of our ability what the sole woman entrant (who was also a member of the W.R.A.C.) would have to face in common with the hundred other entrants in the Army Individual Championship. The course was certainly not for the faint-hearted. The 13 fences were all fair hunting obstacles and included such jumps as a post and rails with a ditch on take-off, brush fences with open ditches, a five-barred gate and a water jump—all very formidable to non-horsewomen like ourselves.

We intended to watch the entries for the Inter-Hunt Teams and the 14th/20th Hussars Challenge Cup, but "our" horse had arrived in her box and we had to inspect and admire her. Then it was lunch-time and afterwards the horsewoman among us had to dress. A very trim figure she presented in breeches and boots that gleamed brown like chestnuts, Service jacket and cap, gloves and cane. She mounted, warmed up her mare over a schooling fence and rode away to the starting point.

We scarcely had time to take up a strategic position on the course before Flight 6 of Event I Class "B" Army Individual 8th Hussars Challenge Cup was announced—"Major D. Bell, R.A.S.C., on Jane Brown and Major S. M. Howe, Women's Royal Army Corps, on April Showers."

They were off. A little trouble at the first fence and then over the second and third and away—cap flying off in the wind—to the formidable fourth with its ditch "take-off." "She's over—No—Yes"—and then—out of sight. After what seemed a very long time to the rather agitated, excited and imaginative onlookers, she came into view again. "April Showers" was jumping carefully and well—she cleared the next three fences easily but "pecked" on landing at the water jump and Major Howe came off. She was up and on again in no time and over the last fence before a final uphill run to the finish. She had done what quite a number had failed to do that afternoon—she had completed the course! This was one ambition realised, but I understand Major Howe had yet another. She hopes to see other horsewomen of the W.R.A.C. taking part in the Individual and Team events of the Army Championship Hunter Trials in 1952. W.R.A.C. has been written in the Records of the Army Hunter Trials for the first time in 1951 and we look forward to the time when W.R.A.C. entries prove to be the rule rather than the exception.

News from the Territorial Army 313 (Devon and Cornwall) Battalion

Women from Truro, Bodmin, Falmouth, Camborne, Dartmouth and Exeter gathered to take part in the traditional Remembrance Day Service and Parade in Exeter. As a contrast from our last gathering of mists and storms on Dartmoor, which was described in our last notes, we now found ourselves in a luxurious, centrally-heated Sandhurst block at Topsham Barracks, the Depot of the Devonshire Regiment. After the Service in Exeter Cathedral, which was packed to the door on this occasion, Major Godolphin laid a wreath on behalf of all ranks of the Battalion on the City War Memorial. Then the parade moved off to the County Memorial where another short service was held. The Battalion was also represented, as on previous occasions, at the British Legion Festival of Remembrance and, this year for the first time, the C.O. and Adjutant were also invited to the Mayor's reception in the Guildhall after the Sunday service.

Christmas brought the old year to a close and now, in the New Year, we are resolved to double our numbers, and if there are any readers of *The Lioness* who will help us to do that we should be very grateful for their assistance.

Forthcoming Events

- February 15—Netball. Northern Command Inter-Unit Finals, at York.
- February 21—Sheffield Branch. Annual Dinner, Bull's Head, Castleton.
- February 25—Badminton. Inter-Services Women's Championships, Wimbledon.
- March 14—Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion, Duke of York's Headquarters.
- March 15—Annual General Meeting, Duke of York's Headquarters.
- March 15—Grand Reunion, Royal Albert Hall.
- March 30—Birmingham. Church Parade.
- April 23—Passing-out Parade—Officer Cadets.
- April 25—The Princess Royal's Day.
- April 25—Depot At Home.

Princess Royal's Day

Major-General H. R. H. The Princess Royal has graciously consented to allow the Corps to celebrate her birthday as their Corps Day, and so that it shall be perpetually remembered as such, April 25 is henceforward to be known as The Princess Royal's Day.

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 March 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.

Personal

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. Telephone: Ninfield 212.

Wanted.—Officer's khaki service dress and greatcoat. Height 5 ft. 5 in., bust 35 in., waist 28 in., hips 38 in. Reply in first instance Box No. 1/52.

For Sale.—Officer's uniform. Ex-A.T.S. service dress, greatcoat, cap, Sam Browne, all in good condition. £10 the lot or sold separately. Measurements: Bust 36 in., hips 39 in., height 5 ft. 7 in. Apply Mrs. J. W. Beckley, "Lynton," Foley Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey.

For Sale.—Officer's greatcoat £3; battledress with two skirts 30s., in good condition. Height 5 ft. 2 in., bust 32 in., hips 36 in. Apply Mrs. E. T. Chapple, c/o Major E. T. Chapple, H.Q. 11th Armoured Division, B.A.O.R. 15.

Wanted.—W.R.A.C. officer's greatcoat and two bush shirts. Height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 38 to 40 in., hips 44 in. Apply Box No. 2/52.

For Sale.—Pye Battery Portable Wireless. Good condition. Excellent tone. £10 or nearest offer. Box No. 4/52.

A Branch Secretary in Berkshire (single, 36, fond of dancing, indoor and outdoor games) is faced with spending the summer holidays alone. Would anyone care to join her? Preferably a holiday camp—week or fortnight—any date. Box No. 3/52.

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.

For Sale.—To fit height 5 ft. 4½ in., bust 34 in., waist 26 in., hips 38 in. now too small for owner; Model afternoon dresses in excellent condition, two in patterned silk, also one in brown taffeta and velvet, and one in black crepe. £2—£3 each. Also officer's greatcoat £3, Jodhpurs and hacking jacket £5. Box No. 5/52.

Officer's Greatcoat (by Alexandre), £4 10s. Battledress, 25s. 34 b., 37 h. Hat. Beret. Excellent condition. 40 Rivington Road, Hale, Cheshire.

Funeral

MRS. PRATT-BARLOW

On Thursday, January 17, Mrs. Pratt-Barlow was cremated at Golders Green. The service was simple but lovely. Among those present were Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, representatives of the Association (including the Chairman of Council and the General Secretary) and a representative of the Director, Women's Royal Army Corps.

Branch Standards

Benjamin Edgington, 29 Queen Elizabeth Street, Tower Bridge, London, S.E.1, can supply the Association standard, 4 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft., for four guineas. They also provide a two-section polished pole with brass spearhead, gold cords and tassels, leather carrying straps and holster, and waterproof pole cover for a further £4 18s.



*Women of the Provost Companies (T.A.) being instructed in Unarmed Combat
(see account of Annual Camp in the last issue).*

L A T E N E W S

Probably because of the holidays a certain amount of material came in late and, rather than hold it over, we are including it here.

Round the Commands

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since we last went to press, we have been very busy indeed with inspections, parades, and then, of course, the Christmas and New Year festivities.

Perhaps the highlight of the past three months, however, was the dance run by the W.R.A.C. members of the Unit in aid of funds for the W.R.A.C. Association.

The Committee was secretly more than a little frightened as it was not easy to run successful dances in Aldershot, there being so many other entertainments to catch the eye and rob the pocket. However, everyone rallied magnificently, and the girls canvassed tickets madly, while the male members of the Regiment did valiant work in decorating the hall. Our fears proved groundless, as fifteen minutes before the dance was due to commence the hall was full—of men! We are convinced that that night we could have filled the Albert Hall to its topmost balcony. We were very pleased to welcome members of local W.R.A.C. Units, and also parties from the Training Centre and W.R.A.C. Staff College—and still we were short of women! Our thanks go to all who worked so hard to achieve such a successful evening.

At the end of November another event took place in which we, the W.R.A.C. members of the Unit, took especial pride. On the day of the Regiment's annual inspection we attended a ceremonial parade at which S/Sgt. Anne Hoar was presented with the British Empire Medal by Maj.-Gen. H. C. Phipps, C.B., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding 2 A.A. Group.

The medal was awarded for S/Sgt. Hoar's services in the Middle East, where, owing to the shortage of W.R.A.C. officers, she was left in sole charge of a large telephone exchange at Moascar for fifteen months. During this time, she managed to keep the lines of communication open, despite innumerable difficulties and incidents. Staff assures us that in spite of the many trials she went through at Moascar, none was as bad as marching out in front of the parade one November morning to receive her medal. Our best congratulations on a well-deserved award.

We have now all returned from "festive leave" and have settled down to another New Year, during which we hope our Unit Branch of the Association will go from strength to strength.

W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund

A number of applications are being received for layettes and much difficulty is being experienced in getting them, particularly as the Forces Help Society have run out. Will anyone help with baby clothes? Even odd articles would help. Contributions should be sent to the Secretary of the Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3.

News from Branches

BIRMINGHAM

Our meeting on January 8 took the form of a social in honour of Miss Dipple, who has retired after 21 years as Branch Secretary. Miss Fisher, one of our oldest members, presented Miss Dipple with an electric blanket as a token of appreciation from fellow-members of all the good work she has done during this period. She has been a very hard-working secretary and sets a high example to her successor.

Refreshments were provided by members of the Branch and the table was loaded with cakes, mince-pies, trifles, etc., which made it look like an overflow from Christmas.

The evening concluded with a beetle drive which proved very exciting and the ever-welcome chat with old friends and comrades, making the whole a very enjoyable meeting for the fifty members present.

SALISBURY

On the whole, we have had a very successful year, and have been pleased to welcome several new members.

Our annual dinner was held at the Cathedral Hotel on December 12 last and a good time was had by all! We were especially delighted to have nine members of the Southampton Branch with us on that date.

For the future, we meet as normal on the last Friday of each month, at 7.30 p.m., in the Lecture Room of the Drill Hall, Wilton Road, Salisbury, and a varied programme has been arranged. We shall be most pleased to see any new members (and their friends) at our meetings.

Full particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 7 St. Andrew's Road, Salisbury.

News of Comrades

Mrs. Davies (ex-C.S.M. Smith of Officers' Accounts Pay Group) writes to say that she is stationed with her R.A.S.C. husband in a very isolated village in Germany and, although not completely cut off from army life, she looks forward to the arrival of *The Lioness* as her only source of news concerning the service. If any of her old comrades see this notice we feel that they should remedy this position. Her address is: c/o W.O.I.D. J. Davies, R.A.S.C., H.Q., 33 Armoured Brigade, B.A.O.R.16.

Our energetic organiser of the Victoria, Vancouver Island, Branch, **Mrs. E. F. Armstrong**, has had to store all her goods again as she has had her home sold over her head. Her address is therefore: c/o Royal Bank of Canada, Government Street, Victoria, B.C., Canada.

A.T.S. Badge Brooches

Gilt badge brooches, at 2s. 6d. each, are still obtainable from the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, 73 Elizabeth Street, S.W.1, to which proceeds of sale are credited.

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Sizes **8½", 9", 9½", 10", 10½" and 11"**

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(SECTION IV - GENERAL: sub-para. 7)

7. Brushes

Brushes for the cleaning of the Naafi may be obtained from Cpl. Cheeseman (Ben Wyvis) at 0815 hrs.

Brushes for room cleaning may be obtained from Sgt. Somake (Highland S.6) between 0830-0900 hrs. (0800 - 0830 on Mondays and Tuesdays).

8. Leave

Instructors

- a) It will be understood that leave is a privilege, and is subject to a sufficient number of instructors being available for current requirements.
- b) 48-hr. leave will be taken from Friday (a.d.) to Sunday night, in order that two training weeks will not be affected.
- c) Application for leave will be made in writing to the Chief Instructor; when permission has been granted, dates of departure and return will be entered in the Leave Book in the Clerks' Office.
- d) Instructors proceeding on leave will arrange for the lectures or classes for which they are responsible to be taken by a substitute, and will notify the Clerks' Office of this arrangement. Substitutes will see that they are familiar with the arrangements of syndicates.
- e) Similarly, instructors proceeding on leave will find a substitute to be responsible for the cleaning of the class-room allotted, and notify the Clerks' Office.

Trainees

Trainees wishing to proceed on compassionate leave must first obtain permission from the Chief Instructor.