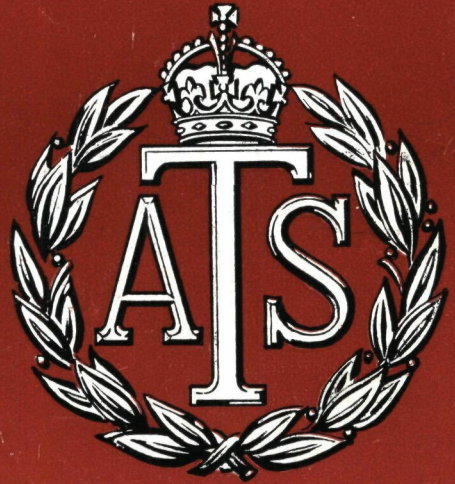
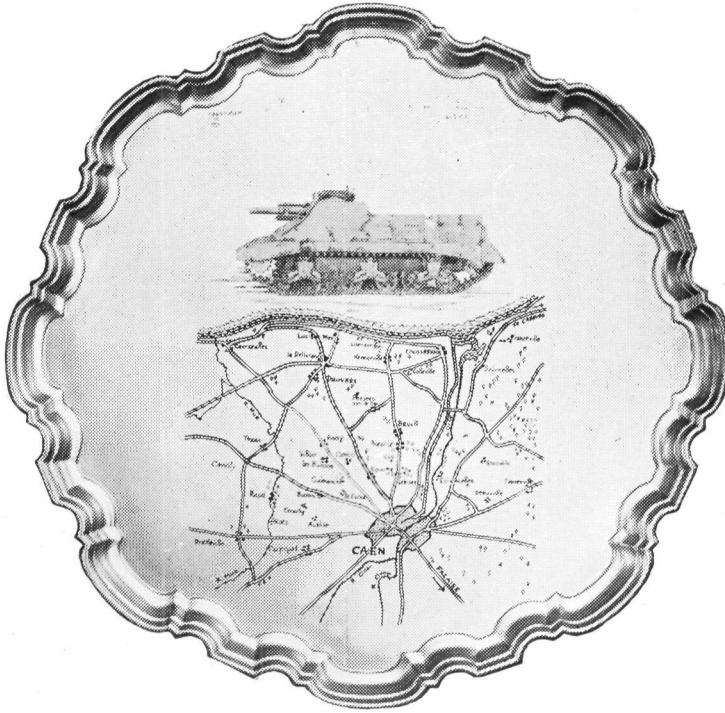


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THE LIONESS





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[Courtesy: The Bulletin

The T.A. training season is in full swing, preparatory to Annual Camp. Some members of "B" Company, 311 (Southern Command) Battalion (T.A.), en route for weekend exercise.



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXV

March-April 1952 -

No. 2

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.

Death of His Majesty King George

It was with the very deepest regret that members of the Association learnt of the sudden death of the King. Although suffering greatly during the last months of his reign, His Majesty continually showed to his subjects an example of cheerful self-sacrifice which has been an inspiration to us all. To the Queen, who holds an Honorary Commission in the Women's Royal Army Corps, the chairman of council sent a message of sympathy on our behalf to which she received the following gracious reply:

"I am commanded by The Queen to express to you and to all those on whose behalf you wrote her sincere thanks for your kind message of sympathy in her great loss. Her Majesty greatly appreciates their thought of her and her family at this time."

To Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Commandant-in-Chief of the Women's Royal Army Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service messages were sent on behalf of the Association and the Corps. To the first the following reply was received:

"I am commanded by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to thank you and all those for whom you speak for your most kind message. The thoughts and sympathy which surround her have greatly strengthened Her Majesty."

To the Corps Her Majesty wrote:

"I am sincerely grateful for your message, please assure all those for whom you speak that I deeply value their kindness and sympathy."

ELIZABETH R.,
Commandant-in-Chief."

To Queen Mary, Commandant-in-Chief of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, the chairman of council sent a message on behalf of the Association and received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Private Secretary:

"Queen Mary thanks you most sincerely for kind message of sympathy."

To The Princess Royal the Association expressed our deepest sympathy to our Honorary President and we received the following message in which the superscription and conclusion are written in Her Royal Highness's own hand:

"My dear Dame Regina,

I am very grateful for the message of sympathy you have sent me on behalf of my Women's Royal Army Corps Association. Please convey my sin-

cere thanks. I am so touched by the many messages of thought and kindness I have received in this time of sorrow.

Yours sincerely,

MARY."

To the Corps also Her Royal Highness, as Controller Commandant, sent a message superscribed and signed in the same way:

"Dear Colonel Railton,

Please convey to All Ranks Women's Royal Army Corps my very grateful thanks for the letter of sympathy sent by you on their behalf, in the absence of the Director. I am very much touched by the very many tributes to The King that I have received, all of them expressing loyal and devoted appreciation of his life and work. This has been a great consolation to me and to the Members of my Family at this time of sorrow.

Yours sincerely,

MARY,
Controller Commandant."

There never was a Regiment or Corps more honoured than ourselves with whom mother, wife, sister and daughter of the Sovereign were intimately connected. The whole country mourns the death of a much loved monarch whose sterling qualities earned for him the affectionate loyalty and the profoundest respect of the humblest of his subjects. But to us who owe a special loyalty to so many of his family his death meant also the loss of husband, father, son or brother to the four Royal Ladies whom we are proud to acknowledge at our head. We felt a personal loss and no letters sent on our behalf could express the depth of our sympathy. Actions speak louder than words and, in memory of His late Majesty, we can do no better than to dedicate ourselves to the service of his daughter, our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, as she, indeed, has dedicated herself to the service of her peoples.

Princess Royal's Day

As Princess Royal's Day this year falls within the period of official mourning for His late Majesty King George VI it will not be possible to celebrate it as it was intended and the open day at the Depot is therefore cancelled. The first occasion on which the Corps Day will be celebrated will therefore fall in coronation year and it is hoped that all members of the Association will join with those serving to make April 25, 1953, memorable for us all.

God Save the Queen

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Editorial

We publish in this issue the last of the correspondence on *The Lioness* and what it has in it and what it leaves out. As so few members are able to get to the Annual General Meeting we feel that we should like to say here, shortly, what is being said there, to give you some idea of what we are trying to do to meet your wishes. In the first place we must repeat that no news of comrades has ever been refused and that everything received goes in. If more is needed we must therefore find some way of improving the news received. The appointment of a number of "reporters" will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting, and members will be asked to volunteer. There can, however, never be too many and we would also welcome offers of help through the post. The second point is that it is often difficult to extract news from the letters we do receive. Too often they say that they agree that more news of friends would be nice, particularly of a certain unit or a list of names, but after reading the whole letter we have little idea what the writer herself is doing, apart from living at a certain address. Please, when you write, remember that those from whom you want to hear would probably be glad to hear about you! We get a fairly constant flow from Canada but we know there are many comrades in Australia, but never a word. The same applies to South Africa, which reminds us—it is sometime since we had news of our President. The further you are away the more we would like one of you to make yourself responsible for seeing that news is sent home.

The other suggestion that has constantly been made is that each corps should have allotted to it a certain amount of space and, indeed, fierce arguments have gone about the amount each of us has been given. Such arguments are difficult for two main reasons. A number of members have served

in two corps, in fact most of us, and a certain number have served in all three. Under what heading would we put their news? Have they now got to choose or, having read our own corner would we then have to read all the others to try to glean news? In that case, surely we are better as we are. The second thing is the different needs of the different sections in different issues. Coals of fire were heaped upon our head after the last summer issue in which the bulk of the T.A. camps were recorded. Incidentally a large number of the T.A. have a double claim upon our space for the ex-A.T.S. are comrades as well as having joined the T.A., and much news of comrades appears in "News from the Territorial Army." In the winter T.A. news dies down but "News from Branches," which is almost non-existent in the summer, flows in in the autumn and crowds out everything else in the November-December issue. We would welcome suggestions as to how this difficulty can be overcome and many more letters from readers, but we think the time has come to cease publication and use the space for more profitable discussions.

Births

DINSDALE.—On February 10, 1952, to Roger and Betty (*nee* Ayrton, ex-Cpl., 331 Mixed H.A.A. Bty., R.A.)—a daughter (Jane Lesley). Home address: 234 Burley Road, Leeds, 4.

GAGE.—On February 29, 1952, to Phyllis (ex-W/270302 Sgt. Brice), wife of Ronald E. Gage, a son, Alan William. Home address High Street, High Littleton, Nr. Bristol.

Marriages

GUMBEL—GLYN.—On December 22 at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, Walter Gumbel to Muriel Glyn (ex-J. Comd., A.T.S.). Present address: Vincent House, Pembroke Square, London, W.2.

WOOLHAM—WILLIAMS.—On October 20 at St. John's Church, Menston, Yorkshire, Horace Woolham to Joan Williams (ex-C.S.M., A.T.S.). Present address: Heber's Ghyll, Holmgrove, Burley-in-Wharfedale.

Deaths

BAKER.—A. A. Baker (Bake), Signaller, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., Henriville Camp, Boulogne, 1917-19. Passed away on March 2, 1952.

FINLAY.—On January 24, 1952, at Edinburgh, May Anderson Finlay, M.B.E., of Rosebank, Tighnabruach.

MAIN.—On February 11, suddenly, at Smallfield Hospital, Katherine Elizabeth Main, daughter of the late John Main, Procurator-Fiscal of Linlithgowshire.

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.

He was prejudiced —

so I was clever!



Bill had a 'thing' about coloured nails, so to please him I never used Nail Polish. But my hands didn't please me! So I determined to bring colour into Bill's life—gradually! I started with Natural Cutex Polish, and congratulated myself when he said how nice my nails looked! Then I tried him with a rosier shade—LOOK PINK. He liked it! Soon I won him over to the gayer shades. Since each toned with my clothes, he took it like a lamb.

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It's no disgrace to perspire. Every normal, healthy person does to some degree. There are no exceptions. Perspiration evaporates quickly from most parts of the body. But not from the under-arm. So it goes stale. It soils and spoils your clothes. It leaves that tell-tale odour you may not notice, *but others certainly will.*

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| IN JARS | • Checks perspiration safely. |
| 1/6 | • Stops odour instantly. |
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A Prayer for a Queen

Lord of the trees and rolling fields of green,
Whose peace and sanctity can bring
Tranquillity alike to commoner and king;
Look down and bless our young and gracious Queen.

Lord of the cities and winding waterways,
By industry from tiny hamlets grown,
Whose proud allegiance to the throne
Unquestioning her peoples give, as in bygone days.

Lord of the modern age and busy crowded hour,
We thank Thee for the King whose reign
Raised duty to its highest plane
And with the human touch tempered sovereign power.

Lord of realm and commonwealth, grant us to prove,
In time of peace and when foes press hard,
Our loyalty and our deep regard
To those committed to a people's care and love.

Lord of our glorious past and future unforeseen,
May the dawning reign by peace be blest.
We, by Thy grace and strength possessed,
In word and deed enjoin God Save Our Queen.

E.A.M.L.

Reunion Weekend

The Lioness was ready for press before The Weekend and we have here only room to say that, as promised, it was the best ever. There were fewer entertainments and shorter speeches and what there was of them was better. There were, unfortunately, fewer people, but for those who were there it meant more room to meet and see one's friends. The Annual General Meeting also went off well and two resolutions were passed which affected *The Lioness*. One was that it is, in future, to be published only four times a year and will come out in February, May, August and November, so the next number will be in August, contributions for which to be received by July 6. The other is that the cost of the magazine is to be increased to 9d. for all members who do not pay the full subscription. The revised prices are published under "W.R.A.C. Association," but units are particularly asked to note that *The Lioness* will in future cost them 3s. for four copies, instead of 2s. 6d. for six.

News of Comrades

Ex-J. Comd. Muriel Glyn, whose marriage to Mr. Walter Gumbel is announced in another column, tells us that a reception was held after her wedding at her brother's house in Cadogan Place. Many comrades were present. She has married a barrister and is herself continuing her practice at the Bar in her maiden name. She is also continuing to lecture on law and local government.

Mrs. L. M. Elkins (ex-S.Q.M.S. Jewell) writes

from "Hill Crest," Maurys Lane, Wellon, Romsey, Hants, and says that ever since she became a civilian she has meant to send us her news. Recent news has brought back many memories, particularly of waiting at Ismailia for transfer to take her party to Nairobi. Since being demobbed Mrs. Elkins has not only married but has given birth to three daughters and two sons and we hear that there are still more to come. Two of the daughters are twins and all five children are under five years old. No wonder she has found it difficult to find time to write! She has, however, kept up her correspondence with a number of old friends and still hears from **ex-S.Q.M.S. Conway**, also serving in Nairobi; of **Nan Cox** (now Mrs. Webb), who has a son just over a year old. **Barbara Thomas** had a son last October, but we do not know her married name. If she is a member of the Association perhaps she will let us know. **Ex-S.Q.M.S. Carroll**, after a spell in Germany, is now back in Dar es Salaam at the Secretariat, having a wonderful time. She quite often gets news of **ex-J. Comd. Cooper. Jenny Wakefield** (ex-P.S.S.) is the leading light in her local British Legion (W.S.) in Sussex. She is Standard Bearer and Secretary. **Lorna Bulmer** (also ex-P.S.S.) has spent a long time in a sanatorium, but has always kept her sense of humour and cheerful spirit and now seems more or less fit again. **Vi Partlett** (Mrs. N. Richards) of H.Q., E.C.D., at Dunstable (and Sandhurst) is patiently waiting for her husband to be a civilian again. He is in Lagos, while she waits with her four-year-old daughter at Dawlish.

Mrs. E. B. McLaren (nee Bessie Pattison), cook, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., 1917-18, would like to hear from old friends who took a cookery course at Craiglockart School, Edinburgh, in August 1917. Her present address is 2584 Arbutus Road, Victoria, B.C., Canada. Mrs. McLaren is a new member of the Association and we send her a special message of welcome across the ocean. **Mrs. Armstrong** has also written from Victoria, B.C., delighted that Mrs. McLaren has joined their circle. We are disappointed to hear that Mrs. Armstrong will not, after all, be able to be with us in the Albert Hall. She hopes to come soon and we look forward to her visit. We reported the meeting of Her Majesty, when The Princess Elizabeth, with her ex-A.T.S. driver-instructor, **Mrs. W. Steele**. Mrs. Steele is a niece of the Mayor of Victoria. She travelled to England to enroll and with **Kay Yeo** (now Mrs. F. Brick, of Parksville) drove ambulances in London in the blitz. They later transferred to the Canadian W.A.C. and drove staff cars. The minor reunions in Victoria are growing. On February 18 a new member joined them, an Army chum of **Mrs. Dorothy Webb** who, as Charlton, was W.A.A.C. No. 953. She is anxious to know if Miss Ireland remembers her at the Connaught Club. She now lives in Fish Street, Sidney, Vancouver Island, and is organist at her church in Sidney. Her chum is songster at Christ Church Cathedral (Anglican) choir. Mrs. Armstrong's letters are not always easy to decipher, but we are reasonably sure, after continual re-readings, that we have not been told the chum's name. Perhaps the omission could be rectified?

The meeting on February 18 took place at **Mrs. Blanche Grant's** home at 43 Lewis Street, Victoria, B.C. Known as Bobbie in Glasgow and Edinburgh, Mrs. Grant would like to hear from **Mollie Billington** and **Knaggs**. Indeed, all of them in British Columbia want letters from home. Another member, **Mrs. Holt**, of 612 Battery, has offered her home for the meeting on March 3. **Miss A. J. L. Mevinson** has joined as a life member. She lives at 1675 Laurier Avenue, Vancouver 9, but her home is at Duncan on Vancouver Island. She served in the A.T.S. from 1941 to 1950 at Bicester, Aldershot and in the Middle East. **Mrs. H. Richards** (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.) also lives in Vancouver at 2165 West 14th Avenue. She served in Boulogne from May 1917 to July 1918.

Mrs. Pucknell, of Cardiff Branch, writes to say that one of their members, **Mrs. Bellfield**, is over here from Canada. She was standard bearer for the British Legion in Canada and toured the States in that capacity.

Miss Newstead (ex-W.O.II, of "C" Company, A.T.S., Bradford, and now a Sgt., W.R.A.C./T.A.) writes to say that she has kept in touch with some 80-odd members of her war-time Company. She can give up-to-date addresses of all those mentioned in her letters and she has sent us copies of the bulletins since 1950. It is difficult to extract the news from these letters which sometimes give little idea of what a person is doing beyond the mention of her name. The most frequent items appear to be the arrival of young, who swell the numbers at their reunions which appear to be, to some extent, family affairs. In 1950 **Gladys Walker** and **Win Dinsdale** both brought daughters and **Audrey Howarth** her fiancée. In 1951 **Jean Forshaw** was accompanied by her husband and son Richard, who soon attached himself to young Diane Dinsdale. There is also news of **Mrs. Norris**, **Miss Stirk**, **Miss Williams**, **Joan Stringer**, **Betty Tron**, **Amy Pearson**, **Kitty Kebden**, **Margaret Hollings**, **Vera Wilson**, **Marjorie Hackett**, **Elsie Foulds**, **Ethel Jones**, **Ethel Allsop**, **Margaret Helm**, **Paddy Watson** and many others. Miss Newstead still wants to increase the numbers, so if any readers are in touch with members of this company, perhaps they will write to her at Cotswold House, Pitchcombe, nr. Stroud, Glos. We hope that she will relay this news to us.

Mrs. Sponge (Jenny Jarrett, ex-Q.M.A.A.C.) of 32 Kent Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, would like to hear from old comrades from Regents Park M.T. and Handel Street, Bloomsbury, 1918-19, particularly **Gladys Muddimen** of Kenilworth.

Ex-Sgt. G. A. Beatteay (A.T.S.) has settled down in Canada with her husband and two children. Her address is 578 Havelock Street, West St. John, N.B., Canada, and she would be delighted to hear news of girls she served with at Brighton, Aldershot, Guildford Training Centre and Greenford C.O.D. She would also like to thank ex-C.S.M. **Edna Wiggins**, Abingdon, Berks., for keeping her supplied with news of old acquaintances. She takes an active part in the Canadian Legion B.E.S.L. and is

President of the Fundy Branch for 1952. She also had the honour of being in the Legion Guard of Honour for H.M. The Queen when, as Princess Elizabeth, she visited St. John, New Brunswick, in 1951.

We have received the most charming letter from **Nora E. Mitchell** giving us news of "**Taffy**" **Lyddon**, ex-Q.M.A.A.C. Apart from the facts that our correspondent is ex-Q.M.A.A.C., served as a signaller at Etaples, now lives at 9 The Highlands, Rickmansworth, and is very complimentary about *The Lioness*, she gives us no news of herself. May we know more please? "**Taffy**" **Lyddon**, however, we learn more about. She is now Mrs. Smith, Golden Lion Hotel, Castle Street, Abertillery, Monmouthshire. She has just been presented with the British Legion's Gold Badge in recognition of 30 years' service and the organisation of 15 Poppy Days. We understand that she looks good for at least 15 more and must have been one of those at whom Dame Helen was looking when she suggested that some of her older comrades must have stretched their age a bit on joining up. Mrs. Smith came this year to the Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion, having never heard of the Association, but after seeing a Press notice. She travelled all the way from Wales, hoping to find some old comrades and, in spite of not doing so, is reported to have thoroughly enjoyed herself. Any member who can give us news of Mrs. Smith's comrades is earnestly requested to write. She served at Shoreham-by-Sea, was attached to the 53rd Welsh Regiment, and married one of them.



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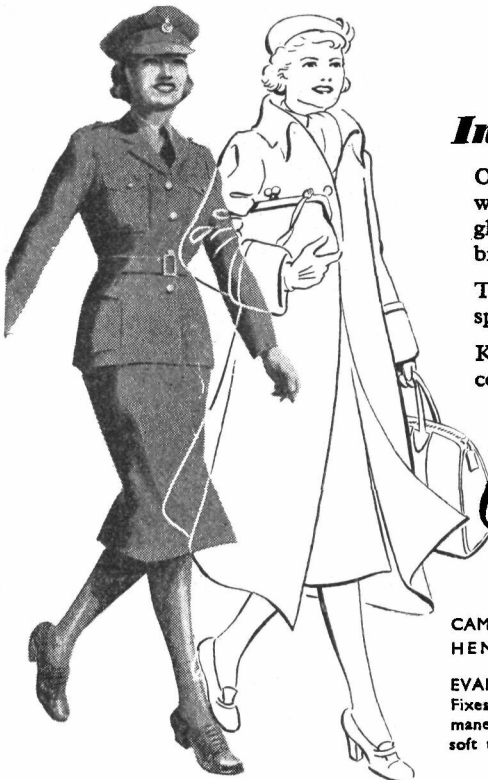
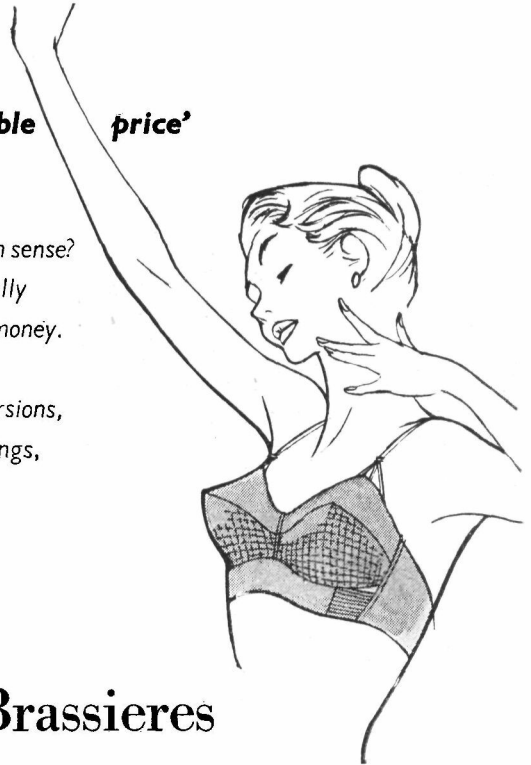
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News from Branches

BOURNEMOUTH

Nineteen members met for supper at Kelly's Restaurant on January 25. This was the largest gathering we have had for some time and we were very pleased to renew friendships with several who used to come to Branch meetings in earlier days. We hope to have another supper party towards the end of March.

BRADFORD

We are very anxious to place on record our delight and pleasure in the visit accorded to us by the Director, W.R.A.C. Brigadier Coulshed had tea with the members who were all present without exception. She said that it was giving her great pleasure, too, particularly as it was her birthday. She captivated us all with her charm and, if only the clock's pendulum could have swung backwards for a bit, her "wearing of the green" would have proved a great recruiting bait. November 11 was a busy day for our members, many of whom were taking part in the civic and Legion Remembrance Day parade and also in the march of the units at the Remembrance festival when our standard was carried. The local W.R.A.C./T.A. girls gave a most interesting tableau of service women through the ages and were accorded a very good reception. Brigadier Coulshed was the chief guest and she gave a very interesting address. We all felt that, in her, the young women of the W.R.A.C. have a very fine champion.

We held our annual meeting and re-elected our officers. We are fortunate in having as our chairman Miss Gummersall, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., and seventy-six years old, but still young in heart. We can always be sure of some amusing anecdote of her service days, most of which were spent in France. Our new secretary, Mrs. Suttle, will be well known to many ex-A.T.S. who served in A.A. Command and in Mixed Signal Regiments, and our re-elected treasurer, Miss M. Mitchell, is a well-known A.T.S. driver. Mrs. Harrison, our retiring secretary, had the misfortune to fracture both her forearms about Christmas time, but is now making good progress.

A party of 28 of us had a very pleasant outing, which we hope will be the forerunner of many more. We visited the first house of the local repertory theatre and, although the play had not been vetted, it proved quite good entertainment. We finished the evening with fish and chips.

Our next meeting is to be a "Bring and Buy" sale and, in May, we are looking forward to being hostesses to the Northern Area conference which is being held in Bradford.

BRISTOL

At the annual general meeting held in December the officers were elected for the coming year. Mrs. Cann is taking the place of Mrs. Histed as Welfare Officer, known and loved by many ex-service people in this district, who has had to resign for domestic reasons. Miss Cann was also appointed as our first standard bearer. During the past few months members of the branch and some local

T.A. units have collected sufficient money to buy a standard and a standard bearer's equipment and we hope to hold a service of dedication later in the year.

We should like to wish one of our members, Miss Hilda Harris, every good wish for her future life in Australia. She has been one of our members for many years, at one time holding the office of treasurer.

In the past year we have held many interesting meetings, including whist drives, "beetle" drives, talks, "Bring and Buy" sales and a visit to our president's home at Winterbourne. The most outstanding event was the annual branch dinner, where over 30 members were present. It was held at Legion House and our guest of honour was the matron of the local babies' home where we have adopted a small boy.

CARDIFF

We had a "Bring and Buy" sale on October 11 at Miss Irwin's house, who provided us with an excellent cup of tea and refreshments. Our "Bring and Buy" brought in £3 5s. and a raffle 15s. 6d. Our general meeting was held on November 8 and all the officers were re-elected. Our chairman, Mrs. Carter, was unfortunately unable to be present as she was undergoing an operation. She is still very ill and she has our best wishes for a speedy recovery. On January 10, Miss Stanley invited us to her residence, the one place which we know we all want to visit. In nearly every suitable alcove and on every table are bowls of bulbs. They are all out and a very nice spread was made for us all. We had a competition and then it was time to come home, much too soon for lots of us.

We held our annual dinner on February 19, which consisted of turkey, potatoes, cauliflower and peas, then trifle, cakes and biscuit, coffee or tea. Some of us had to finish at the trifle from sheer lack of room! Photographs were taken. It was very nice to see nearly all the members joining in "square dancing" and it helped to shake the dinner down! Miss Stanley was able to come to the dinner, but had to leave early.

CHESTERFIELD

Attendances at our meetings have been very small during the winter months. We therefore decided at our January meeting that, in future, meetings should be held quarterly on Saturday afternoons in order to help the country members, some of whom have considerable distances to travel. The first of these meetings was held on Saturday, February 9, when, after completion of business, tea was taken at the Victoria Cafe, Chesterfield, followed by a visit to the Civic Theatre. All members present expressed their approval of the change of plan and a similar programme has been arranged for Saturday, April 26. Mrs. Hopkinson, 13 Mound Round, Baythorpe, Chesterfield, has kindly lent her house for the meeting at 2.30 or 3 p.m., which will be followed by tea and theatre. Will all members intending to be present notify the secretary, Miss E. M. Cleary, 543 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield, so that she may make the necessary bookings.

EDINBURGH

Although we have not got ourselves into print recently this does not mean that we are lying dormant. Far from it, we are just in the middle of a varied and interesting programme. In November we had a very successful whist drive ; December saw our second children's party and, early in the New Year, we had a theatre night. On February 2 we held our fourth successive annual dinner. As most of these functions were confined to members or prospective members we are getting to know each other quite well.

We are happy to report that Miss Alice Low, our ex-President, is able to have a short walk on the good days provided that she obeys doctor's orders and remains on the level. She maintains her intense interest in all matters pertaining to the branch.

We are always very pleased to welcome new members. How we wish that all those ladies who promise to join would come along on the first Tuesday of each month and judge for themselves whether membership is worth while! We were particularly glad to introduce ex-Sgt. Peggy Davidson to branch members. Peggy was serving in Norway when the war finished and is the proud possessor of a King Haakon VII Liberation Medal. Unfortunately, not long after her return to civvy street, she contracted a very severe illness and spent many weary months in bed. Her pluck and

determination to overcome her disability and lead a normal life are a shining example to all blessed with good health, and we feel sure that all her ex-comrades up and down the country will wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

GLASGOW (A.T.S. AND W.R.A.C.)

We have had a full and interesting year. The highlight is always our summer outing to visit Ayr Branch and this year the weather was perfect. Our bus run to the beautiful Culzean Castle was undertaken in glorious sunshine. The castle is interesting architecturally and historically, while the spacious, well-laid-out grounds are a joy to behold. One day we went for a ramble from Croftfoot to Carmunnock and back again, staying for tea at Carmunnock. In spite of our increasing interest in outdoors we have not forgotten the social round. We have had many enjoyable evenings, including one when the Q.M.A.A.C. joined us in a game of military whist. Ayr Branch also joined us in seeing the colourful and witty play, "And so to Bed." Some members were thereafter much influenced by the writings of Samuel Pepys.

In October, 20 excited children came from the orphanage to our Hallowe'en party. With paper hats and penny whistles we made right merry, ducking for apples, blind man's buff, and so on, the little ones being most appreciative and we were



Glasgow Branch Children's Party

[Courtesy : The Bulletin]

sorry when we had to part. The children were not content to be entertained, but entertained us with songs and recitations. In the same month some of us went to the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh for the Scottish reunion. A fine building, only surpassed by the excellence of the company, who were greatly honoured by the presence of H.R.H. The Princess Royal.

In November a visit from the Q.M.A.A.C. Branch gave us much pleasure and we hope they will come again soon. Our annual Christmas party took place in December with games and dancing and much jollity. On January 2 we went to Ayr by coach, it being a fine frost and the road most treacherous, to attend the reunion dinner and party given by the Ayr Branch. We dined well and enjoyed a most happy evening, and so late home. On January 23 we feasted the Scottish poet Burns on haggis, neeps and Cannocks, danced the good Scots country dances and sang the auld Scots songs. In February we had our general meeting, election of office bearers and committee and so to talk of future plans.

HARTLEPOOLS

Our annual general meeting was held on November 7, 1951, Miss Sievwright, our president, taking the chair. Officers for the year were elected. The Tees-side Branch included our Branch in their hospitality when they held their Christmas party on December 6 and this party was very much enjoyed by those of our members who were able to go. Thank you very much, Tees-side.

Our reunion dinner was held on December 12 at the Seaton Hotel, Seaton Carew, after which we had a sing-song in a lounge put at our disposal. We had a very successful evening, despite the bitter cold weather and the narrow escapes of members who experienced skids on the icy roads to and from the hotel.

On January 9 we were at home to the Sunderland Branch and had a very happy evening. The Branch thanks members for the lovely refreshments they provided. We are sorry that our Comrades from Tees-side were unable to join us on this occasion.

Several of our members attended the parade and service organised by the Corporation of West Hartlepool in commemoration of His late Majesty King George VI.

We continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Armoury, Ward Street, West Hartlepool. We are indeed indebted to Lt.-Col. S. D. Roberts, T.D., R.A.(T.A.), and the members of 426 (M.) Coast Regiment, R.A.(T.A.), W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess for their kindness in allowing us to use their Mess for our meetings.

ILFORD

A whist drive was held at Miss Druitt's house on Saturday, March 1, in aid of Branch funds. Owing to the amount of illness, we only had five tables. We all enjoyed a very happy evening and were delighted to have Miss Brown with us, assistant secretary of the London Branch. We are looking forward to the W.A.A.C. reunion of the

14th. Will all friends please note that our secretary, Miss Parker, has changed her address to 194 Wellesley Road, Ilford, Essex.

LONDON

We started off in 1952, with a whist drive on January 17, which was well attended and very enjoyable. In February we devoted an evening to "open discussion on given subjects" and spent quite an interesting time discussing should women receive equal pay with men, and should the school-leaving age be raised, among other and lighter subjects. Programme cards should have been received by now and would members please note that the entertainment at the piano on September 18 will be provided by Mr. Finlay Dunn, whom we very much enjoyed last year. The lecture on October 16 will be given by Miss E. Thompson. On May 1 we hold our "Bring and Buy," so please bear these dates in mind and come along to support your Branch.

MANCHESTER

At our annual general meeting in January all officers were re-elected with the exception of our treasurer, Miss Marjorie Johnson, who resigned owing to her forthcoming marriage in March. All our Branch thanked her for her good services and wished her much happiness in her marriage. Miss E. R. Scanlan very kindly took over the duties of treasurer. Dances are being arranged in connection with our old friends of the ex-Paratroop Regiment. Our Branch was asked to take part in the parade and memorial service for His late Majesty King George VI. Two A.T.S. and two Q.M.A.A.C. members occupied the four seats allocated to us in Manchester Cathedral. It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death of Miss N. Anderson, certainly the oldest of our members. Please visit us if you come to Manchester. Comrades are always welcome.

NEWCASTLE

We have had steady progress at our meetings during 1951, the programme throughout the year taking the form of lectures, a "Bring and Buy" sale, whist and "beetle" drives. An evening of special interest was spent visiting a local newspaper office. In June we were very happy to be able to attend the northern reunion at the home of Lady Swinton at Masham. It was a beautiful day and we broke our journey for a picnic lunch by the wayside. Our annual Christmas party was a great success, gifts were exchanged and refreshments received.

In October eight of our members attended the Scottish reunion at Edinburgh. We were very happy to be with our Scottish friends and also to meet others who, up to that time, had been only names to us. We spent the night in Edinburgh, travelling home the following day with many happy memories and lots to tell the members who had been unable to accompany us.

Towards the end of last year a Combined Services Association was formed by the R.A.F. Association in the district and includes representatives

of the various regimental associations in the district. Our aim is to get together to help each other through the medium of dances, socials, etc., with a view to increasing the membership of the various organisations. We are now organising a dance to raise money for the Poor Children's Holiday Association.

Our activities this year began with a visit to the pantomime, 15 of our members spending a very happy evening together. We are continuing to run whist drives and concerts at the Dunston Hill Hospital for ex-servicemen, the members of this Branch providing the prizes and refreshments. The ladies play whist with the men who are able to get up and play for those who are confined to bed. 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.

PRESTON

Thirty-six members and friends attended the annual dinner and social evening of the above branch on Thursday, January 31, at 7 p.m., at the Stanley Street Drill Hall. This year we decided to cater for ourselves as we now meet in a comfortable warm room with kitchenette, kindly lent to us on the last Thursday in each month by the T.A. Various members made themselves responsible for the food, whilst others got together cutlery, crockery, tablecloths, serviettes, etc. Six members were able to get to the room for 4 p.m. and prepare the tables and the food. They also laid out the prizes that had been given by members and friends for the games which were to follow the dinner. In addition, there was a doll, filled with very small inexpensive gifts, and it later transpired that there were enough of them for every member and friend to have one. At 7 p.m. our guests and other members arrived and dinner was served almost at once. Mrs. Bucklee, our president, welcomed the guests and expressed our gratitude to the T.A. for so kindly allowing us the use of their room. After a most enjoyable dinner the tables were cleared and, while a few members cleared away, Mrs. Bucklee kept our guests entertained with games. A Pyrex dish, kindly given by the secretary's bother, was raffled by his daughter who was a guest. This realised £1 11s. for our funds. Our treasurer placed herself at the disposal of those members who wished to renew their subscriptions, while the secretary distributed the programme for the coming year. The evening came to a close at 10.15 p.m. and we all thought it had been well worth the trouble of catering for ourselves.

SOUTHEND

Although we have not reported for some time in the gazette, we have not been idle. Last May our representatives attended a civic service. We received an invitation from the Chelmsford Branch to attend a social but, owing to the fact that members are widely scattered and transport was impracticable, the invitation had to be declined with thanks. In July we went for an outing to Cambridge, then across Suffolk to Fletford Mills, where we had tea. This was a most enjoyable day. In September our representatives attended the Battle of Britain parade. In November we had our "Bring and Buy" sale, which was not as well supported as usual. Also

during that month we again laid a wreath at the war memorial. It has been decided that, if meetings are not sufficiently well attended, they will be held only every other month. Members will be notified by post.

SOUTHERN IRELAND

Lady Carew presented the lucky winners of prizes at our Beetle Drive on January 31. We still meet on the fourth Thursday in each month in rear of the Court Laundry, 58a Harcourt Street, Dublin. Our Annual Dinner is provisionally fixed for March 22 and we hope every member will make an effort to be present, as it is usually a most enjoyable evening.

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

It will be some time before there is a properly organised Branch here with officers and a committee but a number of Comrades have joined the growing organisation. News of many of them will be found in "News of Comrades."

WIMBLEDON

Nothing spectacular has been happening to us lately. We have the usual faithful few at meetings and, much as we value their support, it would be nice to see some of the other members occasionally as well! Subscriptions are somewhat slow in coming in, but two lapsed members have returned to the fold, one from far-off Lagos, in Nigeria, so we cannot be too despondent. We also have one or two prospective new members whom we hope to be able to welcome shortly.

The Branch has joined the Wimbledon Community Association and hopes now to be in the swim with the many other local organisations, including ex-service, who are members. Plans are afoot for our usual visit to the Royal Tournament in June and, possibly, to Whipsnade later in the year, when we hope husbands and families will also join us and make a really enjoyable outing. During a short service organised by the Wimbledon and Merton Branch of the British Legion, held at the same time as the Windsor service, a poppy wreath was laid at the Wimbledon war memorial in memory of His late Majesty King George VI.

W.R.A.C. SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

On Friday, February 1, we made our first effort towards helping *The Lioness*. How? Financially, of course. A grand All Ranks' Dance was held in the Camp Theatre, at which we were lucky enough to have our Editor with us to draw the winning tickets in the various raffles and give away the prizes.

The dance floor was crowded the whole evening and there was plenty of variety in the form of a cabaret and an impromptu "fancy dress dance," which caused much mirth and merriment. Members of the Senior Service were there in force and were to be seen gaily decked out in feather boas, lace shawls and crinolines, while their female partners were forced to wear any unfashionable apparel not thought suitable by the sailors.

The total amount raised for our Corps magazine was £35 and, besides being a financial success, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the dance. (Come on! Who can beat this?—Ed.)

YORK

On January 18 we held our fourth Annual Dinner at the Davy Hall and had a very enjoyable evening. The Dowager Lady Lawson-Tancred was in the chair. On this occasion we welcomed Lt.-Col. C. W. Hull, O.B.E., and Lt.-Col. V. K. Stead, J.P., T.A. We were disappointed that Lady Swinton was not able to be with us, owing to illness. The following week we had a theatre party to see the musical show "Bless the Bride" at the Theatre Royal, York. During March we are hoping to arrange a whist drive in an effort to raise the Branch funds.

News from the Territorial Army

311 (Southern Command) Battalion, T.A.

This Battalion covers a very large area in the south-west, with platoons in Cheltenham, Bristol, Taunton, Dorchester and Blandford, and signal troops in Exeter, Bridgwater, Southampton and Salisbury. Our Battalion was represented at memorial services for His late Majesty King George VI.

Our principal activity since our last notes has been a weekend exercise in which 15 Driver Training Battalion, R.A.S.C., were our hosts. Members of "A" and "B" Companies from Bristol, Blandford, Dorchester and Taunton arrived on February 9 in time for a bacon-and-egg tea and the thoughtfulness of our hosts in making up our beds for us enabled us to get right down to the matter of training. Until 9 p.m. that night and next day, Sunday, until 4 p.m. every woman learnt something of her chosen Army trade. Cooks had a lecture on Saturday and followed it up on Sunday by cooking the midday meal for their instructors!

The R.Q.M.S. took the storewomen in hand and taught them, not only theory, but practical work in the stores. The clerks were given similar instruction in the Orderly Room. The drivers were shown three films on Saturday to teach them road sense and on Sunday, with packed rations, they went off on a 60-mile circuit. Tea was at 4 and dispersal at 5 p.m. All were home by 9 p.m.

The 56 Signal Squadron had their exercise a fortnight later. It was a perfect spring weekend and the sun shone brightly when the members, who came from Exeter, Bridgwater, Salisbury and Southampton, assembled at Figsbury Barracks. Although realistic, the training consisted of operators sending teleprinter messages to non-existent units and imaginary messages of extreme urgency passing to and fro in the mock-up telephone exchange. The atmosphere of quiet efficiency and concentration seemed to cover the weekend and, when it was finished, we had already determined on a repeat performance.

All Comrades are welcome at our church parade on May 10 in Taunton when the Corps Band will be playing. We hope that many will come and cement the friendship between all sections of the Association. All our platoons and troops now take *The Lioness* and some of our ex-members as well as those serving are joining as full members.

313 (Devon and Cornwall) Battalion, T.A.

Many members of the Battalion were privileged to take part in historical ceremonies in connection with the death of His late Majesty. Capt. A. J. Climo, W.O.II Willey and Sgt. V. M. Williams, of "A" Company, were present when the Proclamation was read on the steps of the Assize Court at Bodmin. Major J. Godolphin, the Battalion Commander, attended the Proclamation parade at the W.R.A.C. Depot. Capt. A. J. Climo, Lt. J. Whitwam, Lt. M. E. Hart and the permanent staff attended a memorial service at Truro Cathedral, as did Ptes. Bingham and Pink at St. Austell. Members of "A" Company accompanied the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry to the Bodmin memorial service and the Battalion Commander, Lt. E. M. Supple, Sgt. J. M. Andrew and Pte. D. B. Kimber were present when the Devonshire Regiment paraded at Exeter Cathedral.

The Battalion is now busily engaged in preparations for annual camp, which takes place at Richmond Park camp on May 10 to 24. Many West Country girls will be visiting London for the first time and excitement is mounting rapidly. Owing to the fact that camp falls within the mourning period there will be no official entertaining, but our many friends are cordially invited to drop in and see us at Richmond Park.

314 (Scottish Command) Battalion, T.A.

Friday, December 14, was the start of our Christmas and New Year festivities, for we held a dance at East Claremont Street Drill Hall. Great credit is due to all the Permanent Staff Instructors for their untiring efforts, which made the dance a financial success. Among them Sgts. Mottershead and Speed should be specially mentioned, the former for her cooking and the latter for her gift parcels.

The next day the sergeants, already tired from their previous efforts, thoroughly enjoyed themselves with a party of orphans, boys ranging from six to eleven years. Our platoon at West Pilton had also been asked to assist with the party arranged by the R.A.O.C. unit to which they are affiliated. Our officers had a busy time dashing from one activity to another, seeing us act as "Santa Claus" and supposedly teaching the children how to work the toys but, in reality, playing with them themselves. S/Sgt. Whitehead and Sgt. Baxter appeared to have mechanical minds.

A week later the Peebles platoon joined forces with the 8th Battalion Royal Scots (T.A.) at an excellent party at the Minden Hotel at which the Lord Lieutenant of the County was the principal guest. After dinner some lively music was provided and the whole evening was a great get-together.

Yet another week passed before the Galashiels platoon held their party on December 28. Everyone enjoyed the games and dancing arranged by Cpl. McLeod and her helpers. Members of the Hawick platoon journeyed over on this occasion and thoroughly appreciated the entertainment.

Our final effort was a "Basket Whist Drive." The evening was a great success, being an example of how a whist drive should be run, particularly



Group taken at the first annual dance held by "B" Company, 325 (Glamorgan) Battalion, T.A., on December 21

when it involved the winning of a booby prize by the R.S.M. So we start on another year and hope that our successful activities for Christmas and the New Year are a good sign for a successful year of raining and camping.

308 (Northern Command) Battalion, T.A.

Thirty-two little girls between the ages of five and thirteen came from St. Nazareth's Home for orphan children to be entertained by our "C" Company on Saturday, December 23, 1951. A delicious tea was served, which included everything to delight a child's palate. After tea the children watched a programme of films specially arranged for them and this was followed by games which again brought joy to all present. The Rest Room was gaily decorated and there was a large Christmas Tree, covered with presents for each child. Father Christmas, unfortunately was unable to be present, but was most ably represented by Major W. Smith, our C.O.

Before returning to their home the children sang carols very beautifully, and one small girl of ten years made a speech of thanks for the happy afternoon, which had been provided entirely by voluntary subscription from members of the Company.

"E" Company

326 (City of London) Battalion, T.A.

One way and another we have heard quite a lot of 326 Battalion and now, we understand, they are forming another Company at the T.A. Centre, Lytton Grove, Putney, S.W.15, consisting of physical training instructors, office orderlies, and Regimental policewomen. There are also vacancies for trained hairdressers, tailoresses and chiropodists. The Company Commander naturally hopes that a number of ex-Service women will come and

join as every T.A. Company depends to a great extent on the experienced N.C.O. of the A.T.S., who can give so much to a new unit. She emphasises, however, that recruits are required, with or without experience, and further enquiries would be welcomed at this address, or by telephone—Putney 3495-6-7, Ext. 4—any time between 10 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Early comers have most say in the arrangement of the social programme, so don't delay!

Obituary

MAY ANDERSON FINLAY

The death has occurred in Edinburgh of Miss May Anderson Finlay, M.B.E., for many years president of the Women's United Services Club, Edinburgh. Miss Finlay was born in Edinburgh and educated at St. Margaret's School and at Brussels. She served in the Women's Legion in France in 1915 and, on the formation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, she became W.A.A.C. No. 1, a fact of which she was always proud. She held the rank of Unit Administrator, serving in various places in France. She became the first secretary of the Women's United Services Club when it opened in Edinburgh in 1922. In 1936 she became its president until she left Edinburgh in 1945. She continued, however, to be an honorary president and continued to take a great interest in its affairs. Her death will be sad news for hundreds of Service women all over the world for her work in the club and in the early days of the Association will not easily be forgotten. She had a warm, kindly, sympathetic disposition, combined with considerable organising ability. She was universally loved and respected and her loss will be keenly felt by her many friends both in and out of the Services.



The wearing of the green

A.T.S. officers, many with co-operation from Simpsons, maintained a high standard of uniform smartness. So with their successors—the W.R.A.C. Our Services Department report many orders and many compliments. The new dark green is smartness itself, the cloth eminently “tailorable” . . . and we can deliver made-to-measure uniforms in two weeks. Please write for our Services Booklet.



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In London's fashion world, there is no lovelier smile than that of MYRTLE CRAWFORD.

Like so many smart women, she is an enthusiast for the new fashion of rose-tinting the gums. She always uses Gordon-Moore's Cosmetic Toothpaste and considers it an indispensable part of her daily make-up.



KATHERINE ELIZABETH MAIN

It is with the very deepest regret that her many friends will read of the sudden death of Miss K. E. Main, who served both with Q.M.A.A.C. and the W.R.A.F. She served most of her time at Turnberry, Ayrshire, and was for a short time at Montrose. She was a kindly and understanding officer who was very popular both with her fellow officers and with other ranks. After demobilisation she took a course at Edinburgh University and also spent some time in Canada and America studying dietetics. When the late Miss Finlay retired from the secretaryship of the Women's United Services Club, Miss Main was appointed, and proved to be most efficient, continuing to run the club on the same happy lines that Miss Finlay had inaugurated. In 1929 she left to take up an appointment as dietitian with the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada (London Branch), where she led a very busy, useful and happy life till she retired about two years ago. She had the happy knack of being greatly interested in her own work and also the work of her friends. She will be greatly missed, not only in Scotland, but in the Ex-Service Women's Club in London.

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

Many of your readers who served in A.A. Command from 1943-45 will be interested to hear of the present use of Brigstock Camp, Northants, then H.Q., No. 1 A.A. Command Holding Unit.

In September 1951 it was announced that Major George Sylvester was appointed Commandant of the 32nd A.A. Brigade School, the first U.S. Army school to be established in the U.K. since the war, at Brigstock Camp.

The camp site had been vacant since 1945 and required much planning and labour in preparing it for the permanent staff and students. Post Exchange, snack bar, dining halls and adequate quarters were soon provided, in addition to the classrooms, workshops, visual aids, etc., that such an installation in the U.S. Army demands.

During the war the A.T.S. acted as hostesses to many Americans stationed near Brigstock, little thinking that one day the American soldiers would be acting as hosts to the British in the same camp.

Yours sincerely,

E. JOAN WARWICK,
Ex-S. Comd., A.T.S.

Peterborough,
February 14.

Dear Col. Cowper,

I would like to say how much I agree with Flavia Phillips (November-December issue) when she suggests a yearly subscription for *The Lioness*. One cannot afford to give quite so freely these days, but I do feel that a small amount extra from everyone would be better than an odd donation here and there. The latter need not cease because of this!

I often try to think of ways of raising money for the Association and the thought that keeps return-

ing is the possibility of small silver badges that could be put on charm bracelets; and T.A. badges. Among my friends I know of three of these bracelets. The initial outlay of such a project would, I suppose, be far more than the Association could afford. Or could these badges be ordered by us and you order in bulk? Would the profit warrant all the extra work? If it were possible and would help I would gladly receive all the orders here and send you the numbers required, type and cash at, say, the end of each month.

I have one grouse! Now that I have got over the shock and can trust myself to write politely, I would like to say that our reunions, in my opinion, will never be the same again. I am all for having the gentlemen as our guests on all social occasions, but I do wish the reunion had been just ours alone. There is nothing quite like that mass of women, all either doing their duty or discussing with a chum a duty performed.

And now I wish *The Lioness* every success and thank you for a most interesting paper.

Yours sincerely,

A. K. LONG (Mrs.).

Eastbourne,
February 8.

Dear Madam,

I have been instructed by members of the Southend Branch to state that they are very dissatisfied with the composition of *The Lioness*. They feel that this is becoming a services gazette instead of ex-service and feel that A.T.S. and Q.M.A.A.C. members are not sufficiently catered for. They also consider that the gazette should be published as now.

Yours faithfully,

T. JOHNSTON (Hon. Secretary).

Southend Branch,
March 5.

Dear Madam,

I was very interested in the correspondence in the last number of *The Lioness*, but as an ex-member of the A.T.S., I am moved to dissent very strongly from the views expressed by Miss Pembroke. The chief interest of *The Lioness* to me is news of the activities of the W.R.A.C., and the reason for this is that I like to see how the service which has grown out of the A.T.S., which in turn owed much to the traditions established by the Q.M.A.A.C., has developed and is developing. I cannot, of course, speak for the Q.M.A.A.C., but I do not think many ex-members of the A.T.S. will feel that they have nothing in common with the present serving members of the W.R.A.C. I would, however, suggest that it would be of interest if *The Lioness* had articles comparing present-day life and work in the W.R.A.C. with war-time conditions in the A.T.S. For instance, an article comparing the W.R.A.C. Depot with one of the A.T.S. Basic Training Centres would obviously interest a good many readers.

Finally, I would like to endorse the views expressed by Miss Druitt, whom I well remember from my recruit days at Aldermaston. We should

all join, as members of one whole, in watching and encouraging the present-day growth of the W.R.A.C.

Yours faithfully,
JOYCE A. C. GUTTERIDGE,
Ex-S. Comd., A.T.S.

London,
February 18.

Dear Editor,

First of all I should like to say how very sorry I was to read of the death of Mrs. Pratt Barlow. Apart from the letter from Miss Druitt and the mention in the reunion notices, this was almost the only Q.M.A.A.C. news.

My real reason for writing at all is that I thoroughly endorse all the remarks in the letter from A. Pembroke. At the time the change was made I do not think it was realised that there are many ex-W.A.A.C. who have not yet completed their "three score years and ten," and that the memories of service days were very precious to them and that these, alas, have been taken from us. Oh to have our Old Comrades Association and our "Gazette" back again, even if the latter were but the middle pages of *The Lioness*.

If you wish the W.R.A.C. Association and *The Lioness* to be successful, then it is up to the members of the W.R.A.C. to make them so. To my mind, the change was made ten years too soon. The old O.C.A. did not try to run before it could walk, which would seem to be what those responsible for the change have done.

With regard to reunions, I should like to put forward the following suggestion for what it is worth. We are none of us getting any younger and in all probability there are many who would welcome a day-time reunion. What about a reunion luncheon for those unable or unwilling to venture out at night. I would suggest that someone be approached to act as hostess—no set speeches or what-have-you—just an honest-to-God reunion. If it were possible for tea to be served in the same place then a tea-time reunion might also be arranged on the same day, so that those living out of London would have the opportunity to attend either one or the other. For my part I have kept in touch with a few who served in the Rouen area. (Miss Winter arranged many a successful Rouen reunion.) I give the names of a few and these would probably lead to others: M. A. Robinson and L. Herring (Louis Bouillett), Woodie, Burnett, Edis, M. Charteris, "Chub" Watson, Umpleby and M. Frost (Impasse du Nord).

I should like to conclude with greetings to Miss Druitt and the London Branch and may the W.R.A.C. see to it that *The Lioness* has the success it deserves.

Yours sincerely,
A. STOCKER (nee Patterson),
668 Q.M.A.A.C.

Bournemouth,
February 21.

Dear Editor,

I would appeal to all members of our *corporate* body, Q.M.A.A.C., the A.T.S. and the W.R.A.C. for unity. It does not matter at which period we joined the Women's Army Corps. We are all alike, women who volunteered to serve their King and country in her hour of peril. I take pride in the fact that I was one of the pioneer women who helped to form the first women's army in the modern world. The A.T.S. followed and helped to defend our coast in A.A. batteries and served in far corners of our Commonwealth. Some died. The W.R.A.C. has been incorporated in the Regular Army and, I understand, serve in dangerous places overseas. I take personal pride in them. We are all alike proud of our service. Why should we quibble over a little word like "incorporating"? It makes no difference to our service.

Yours sincerely,
A. GUMMERSALL (Miss), Q.M.A.A.C.
Bradford,
February 28.

The following are extracts only:

Mrs. L. M. Elkins (ex-S.Q.M.S. Jewell). I always look forward to the arrival of *The Lioness*, but I do agree with several others that too much space is given to the W.R.A.C. We want news of "old comrades"—articles by people who served during the war, something to remind us of the days when we were in uniform, for some of us, at least, days so far removed from our present way of life. It is a pity someone cannot be found with plenty of time and interest, from each command, to collect a few helpers to work together and really get news of what has happened to everyone.

Mrs. W. M. Elkins. I joined the O.C.A. in the hope that I would see news from members of my old Companies—"H" Company, Hyderabad Barracks, and No. 8 C.R.U. at Kneller Hall—but what do I see? A lot about W.R.A.C. and units of the T.A. but not a whisper from these two Companies. Also one other I served with was H.Q., A.A. Command, Highfields, Carpenders Park. Here again, not a whisper. So I suggest an appeal be made to all to pull up their socks and let us have news of them.

Miss Mary Lockwood (ex-A.T.S.). Once again may I congratulate you on *The Lioness*. I do enjoy it.

Mrs. E. B. McLaren (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.). I received my first copy of *The Lioness* this month and I enjoyed it very much. I am a new member of the W.R.A.C. this year and proudly wear the badge. Wishing your paper every success.

Ex-Sgt. G. A. Beatteay (A.T.S.). I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how much I look forward to the copies of *The Lioness*. Being so far from home (West St. John, Canada) it keeps me in touch with the affairs of the Association and from time to time gives news of ex-Service persons with whom I served in World War 2.

Do You Want to Send a Greeting?

BY MAUREEN V. LEES

When on Boxing Day I learned I had been chosen to appear on a "live" Family Favourites programme with Franklyn Engleman, along with several war blind men of the two wars, I first chose my song and then mentally puzzled out how on earth could I send a greeting to my friends. Could I say: "To all my friends still serving, to those I once knew, to the unknown girls still in hospital"? But the question was never asked and so I hope that my choice of Harry Lauder singing "Keep Right on to the End of the Road" was heard by those to whom this past year I have not written.

Franklyn Engleman soon put me at my ease. The broadcast took place in a quiet, rectangular room in a building on the Sussex coast. The shelves are lined with braille volumes and we hopeful would-be senders of Boxing Day greetings sat comfortably on each side of the long room.

It was my first Christmas really to be on my feet for a long time, for somehow or other at this time of the year I have seemed either to be in hospital or attacked by a malicious flu germ. But it was interesting to listen to the men talking, naturally and at their ease, with "Jingles" Engleman.

My thoughts wandered many times whilst the men said their little "pieces." I recalled the first Christmas Day of the last war, and of the dash to the Liverpool Docks with Major Heaney, now at the War Office, to collect turkeys for R.H.Q. Christmas dinner. I thought of Training Centre, Lancaster, Christmas Day of 1940; of a hectic rush on Bristol R.H.Q. in 1941 when our only two cooks were suddenly either taken ill or granted compassionate leave. The "Q" Sergeant and I grappled and, indeed, cooked the whole meals over Christmas. I recalled, with a poignant memory of the lovely countryside, Christmas 1942 at Cambridge and Newmarket. And suddenly I felt that even if I never did get round to speaking my greeting to all my former W.A.A.C., all A.T.S. and present W.R.A.C., they must surely know that in this quiet room, with two men talking and the whole world listening, they must sense that one ex-W.A.A.C. and ex-A.T.S. was quietly sending her own unspoken greeting to them.

To the girls who are across the oceans, to those in hospital or ill at home, may I say that I hope they liked my unspoken message.

(Readers will be glad to know that we hope to have Mrs. Lees with us at the Albert Hall reunion. —Ed.)

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 July 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.

Round the Commands

CHILWELL

On going to press we are eagerly awaiting the results of the semi-finals and final of the inter-unit netball tournament at Aldershot on March 17 and 18. We congratulate our team on their victories: 40 goals to 12 and 5 and the match that took us to Aldershot 30—6. Keep up the good work, Chilwell, and bring the cup back.

All of us attended a garrison memorial service for His late Majesty King George VI and, during the period of official mourning, many social events have necessarily been cancelled.

Education has loomed large in our lives and we wish the best of good luck to those who are undertaking the Class III Certificate under the instruction of W.O.II Lister and the education staff. Congratulations to Sgt. Alexander on getting her Class I Certificate.

We extend our usual welcome to newcomers and best wishes to our newly-marrieds, L/Cpl. Rankine and Ptes. Large and Magee. We also wish all the best to our Miss Douglas on her engagement to Capt. T. E. Gwilliam, R.A.O.C.

On the lighter side the period has not been without interest. There was the occasion when some women on a route match came into collision with some cows and W.O.I Hadley is suspected of having jumped over a hedge! We also understand that a warrant officer on orderly officer duty mistook the coal chute for the steps into Williams Barracks. It is reported that she ended up in a swill bin covered in custard!

The W.R.A.C. Association

General Secretary: Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, S.W.3. Subscription (including *The Lioness*): Life £5, four years £1, annual 5s. Concession for serving other ranks who do not receive *The Lioness*: Annual 1s. 6d. Extra copies of *The Lioness* may be ordered separately from the General Secretary by individual members, branches and units for 3s. per annum. The charge for non-members is 1s. a copy.

Mohne See Dam—Germany

A quivering pale green willow tree by the edge of a calm deep lake and the evening sun gently sinking downwards through a soft blue sky behind the range of nearby hills, turned my thoughts back to May, 1943, when this same lake was top line news.

I was back again in the "Ops." room of the Regiment in which I was then serving and could feel again the thrill we all experienced at the news—a story of great heroism and devotion to duty—the bombing of the Mohne See Dam, one of Germany's greatest water reserves, and the crippling of many of the Fatherland's heavy industries. How little I realised that day in 1943 that some years later I should be standing by that very same lake, no longer khaki clad, but a member of the Occupation Forces and enjoying the amenities of a Leave Centre on its banks.

Dark trees on the far side were silhouetted against the changing colours of the evening sky. The sweet scent of clover drifted down from the fields on the hillside. The waters of the lake slowly turned from misty green to a velvet blackness as the sun completely disappeared. Could it have been at the close of an evening such as this when our Lancasters came over the Ruhr Hills bent on their important mission?

I wondered what that slender willow had seen that night. Had it been a silent spectator of devastating flak pouring from the guns into the sky? Had it seen in the dim distance the bombs pounding down on to the power house, the breaching of the Dam, and heard the rush of water as it poured into the Ruhr Valley carrying destruction in its wake? Had it dipped in silent salutation at the passing of brave men as the guns shot them earthwards from the sky?

The waters lapped gently against the side of the great Dam, now nearly restored again, and a deep silence pervaded the scene.

Competition

Have you ever tried your hand at writing? Would you not like to do so anyway? Well! Here is your chance. The Executive Committee offers a prize of half a guinea to the writer of the best short story in approximately 500 words. Entrance fee 1s. and no prize awarded unless there are at least 20 entries. The winning story, if up to standard, will be published in *The Lioness*. The Editor's decision is final.

Reunion Notices

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

No. 7 A.T.S. Training Centre (Guildford)

There will be a reunion of this unit on Saturday, April 26, 1952, at the Victory Club, 73 Seymour Street, London, W.2, at 12.30 p.m. Luncheon will be served. Tickets 8s., from Miss Mary Lockwood, Hodder Place, Stonyhurst, near Blackburn, Lancashire.

Personal

The charge for announcements in this column is 2s. for three lines for members, 6d. for each additional line. The charge for non-members is 3s. for three lines, 9d. for each additional line. Box numbers may be allotted at an extra charge of 6d. Replies to box numbers should be addressed c/o The Editor.

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.

Young Lady, 31, depressed, disillusioned and desperately lonely, seeks fresh interests in life. Before decline had jolly, affectionate nature, keen on motoring, motor cycling, country life, dogs, etc. Genuine offers of companionship, with or without work, greatly appreciated. Exemplary references available. Box No. 6/52.

Wanted.—Service Dress in good condition. Bust 40 in., waist 31 in., hips 41 in., height 5 ft. 5 in. Mrs. Beaufre, 9 Chapel Park Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Wanted.—Officer's khaki service dress and two bush shirts. Height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 38 in., waist 28 in., hips 38 in. Reply to Miss H. Campbell, 24 Falkland Mansions, Glasgow, W.2.

For your Holidays come to Axminster, where a warm welcome awaits you from ex-J. Comd. E. J. Stockton and ex-Sub. E. J. Blackmore at their Guest House, "Quiet Ways," King Edward Road. Phone: Axminster 2293. Axminster is an ideal centre for the many beautiful resorts of Devon, Dorset and Somerset.

Officer's No. 1 Dress for Sale.—Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 34 in., waist 26 in., hips 38 in. Also green hat, size 6½. Apply Mrs. R. J. Hosford, The Cottage, Lindford Common, Bordon, Hants.

Wanted, early May.—A physical training, games and dancing mistress for girls' boarding school. Applications to Principal, Ryton Hall School, Shropshire.

Officer's Greatcoat and Service Dress (A.T.S.) wanted. To fit height 5 ft. 5 in., bust 36 in., waist 29 in., hips 39 in. Box No. 8/52.

For Sale.—Officer's greatcoat, service dress, etc. Height 5 ft. 7 in., bust 38 in., hips 44 in. Also full-length light fur coat in good condition £15 and two black costumes £2 each.

Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Dinner Club.—The next dinner will be held on May 24 at St. Ermin's. Members 12s. 6d., non-members 16s. Tickets may be obtained from Mrs. Binks or Mrs. B. Mayhew, 25 Denmark Avenue, Wimbledon, S.W.19.

Edinburgh.—When in Edinburgh stay at the Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens. All ex-service women welcomed. Special terms for serving W.R.A.C. Write for the brochure to the secretary. Phone, Edinburgh Central 4952.

Rules

The Executive Committee announces that, although funds do not permit of a general distribution of books of rules, there are sufficient for distribution to officers, etc., who need them for the efficient running of their branches. They are already held by branch secretaries and A.D.W.R.A.C.s, but another copy may be sent to any member who sends a stamped addressed envelope to H.Q.



*Naafi service for Officer Cadets
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