



Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Comrades Association GAZETTE



GENERAL SECRETARY: Mrs. Johnston, Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. C.A., 82, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2.

Vol. XX. No. 1.

MAY—JUNE, 1942.

3/6 p.a. post free.

THE STORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

In 1916, the third year of the war of 1914-18, the man-power situation was serious, every possible man was needed for the fighting line, men were withdrawn from industry, from all forms of civil life, and, at last, from the services of the Army itself. Then the Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France was asked whether he would accept women to replace fit men for duties on the lines of communication, and he agreed. The women for such duties had to be uniformed and disciplined, so, in February, 1917, the Army Council formed the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and, before the year was out, 10,000 women were serving overseas as cooks, clerks, signal personnel, postal sorters, drivers, bakers, storewomen. They did most of the jobs, in fact, which auxiliaries do to-day, except those like the duties on gun sites, which are the result of recent technical development. There were differences, of course, telegraphists, for instance; instead of teleprinter operators. By the summer of 1917 the authorities decided that the experiment was a success, and the Corps was extended to home service. Some 57,000 women passed through the ranks.

In October, 1917, the Italians, who were then fighting as our Allies, were badly defeated by the Austrians and Germans, and help had to be sent to them. In November, the Russians, who had also been our Allies, made peace, for they were in the throes of a political crisis. As a result, considerable German forces



Chief Controller,
Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal,
G.C.V.O., G.B.E., C.I., D.C.L.,
Controller Commandant A.T.S.,
Hon. President, Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S.
Comrades' Association.

were liberated for use on the already depleted Western front. In March, 1918, they attacked there in greatly superior numbers, and only the magnificent courage and staying power of our men prevented them from breaking through and separating us from the French. In the background, members of the W.A.A.C. were also doing their best, and the Queen, as a mark of her appreciation "of the good service rendered by the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, both at home and abroad, since its inauguration, and especially of the distinction which it has earned in France," assumed office as Commandant-in-Chief, and gave the Corps her name. That is how it became Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps.

The Armistice was signed on November 11th, 1918, but it was not till September, 27th, 1921, that the Corps was completely disbanded and ceased to exist, though by the end of 1919 only a few remained.

In December of that year the Old Comrades' Association was formed, and

branches soon came into existence in all the larger towns. Each branch arranged regular reunions, at which members could meet, and developed all sorts of friendly activities. More than one had a hut or cottage outside the town, at which week-ends or holidays could be spent; London Branch—the biggest—even had a couple of boats on the Thames at its camp near Datchet, due largely to a donation from the British colony at Shanghai. In the winter there were dances, whist drives, sing-songs. A newcomer to a town or district could be sure of a friendly welcome from comrades whose service experiences were like her own. Sometimes an enterprising branch planned an entertainment for soldiers in hospital or for the children of ex-Service parents,

These social activities culminated in the annual dinner, which was held in London and attended by 500 or 600 members arriving in parties from all ends of the country. It was one of the biggest ex-Service dinners to be held; indeed, it was rumoured to be outnumbered only by that of the R.A. The guest of honour was always a distinguished soldier, who gave us news of the Army with which we had served. Lord Gort, Lord Ironside, and Lt.-General A. F. A. N. Thorne were among many who have replied to our toast of "His Majesty's Forces."

The Gazette was founded in July, 1920, and has been published regularly ever since. It brings news of ex-Service women from every part of the world, tells of the doings of branches, and is a link between our widely scattered members. Its arrival is looked forward to in Australia, Africa and America as well as at home.

The Association has never been rich. It was started when the Corps was almost at an end; it could not give financial help to members who were ill or needed training, and could only occasionally afford a few pounds for very special cases. The best that could be done was to place those in need of assistance in touch with the funds set aside for ex-Service personnel. Of these, the ex-Service women had their full share in proportion to their numbers, both from the United Services Fund and from the British Legion. There is reason to think that funds may not be so plentiful after the present war; that is why the Association initiated the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, for the Council of the Association realise how often quite a little money, spent in the right way at the right time, may restore a worker's health, save a business from disaster, or provide the tools or the training by which a living can be earned.

The Association has had its share of great occasions. Its members have marched with the British Legion procession to the Cenotaph on Armistice Day; they have been present at all sorts of functions. Two of these especially stand out. On May 11th, 1935, the Association had the honour of lining part of the route along which King George V and Queen Mary drove during the celebration of the Silver Jubilee. Every ex-Service organisation was there, and we dipped our standards as the King went by. In 1937 the Association was allotted places, both sitting (for the old and the invalids) and standing, to watch the Coronation procession. Those who stood were on the steps of the Victoria Memorial, and had a specially magnificent view. On June 27th of that year the Association was well represented among the 80,000 ex-Service men and women assembled in Hyde Park to greet a King who had himself served, and who addressed us as Old Comrades.

In the following year (1938) the Auxiliary Territorial Service was formed on a Territorial basis; with the declaration of war on September 3rd, 1939, it entered on full-time service. At the next Annual General Meeting of the Association membership was opened to ex-members of the A.T.S.—it was still an **Old Comrades' Association**. But that did not last. At the Annual General Meeting of February, 1941, membership was extended to serving personnel, while, in February, 1942, the words "and Auxiliary Territorial Service" were added to the name, and the word "Old" was dropped.

This gradual development indicated no lack of interest. In the autumn of 1940 the Council of the Association had inaugurated the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, which, though it is under the auspices of the Association, is managed by a special committee of ex-members of the A.T.S. and is for the benefit of A.T.S. personnel alone. The idea is that now, while officers and auxiliaries

are earning regular pay, they can afford to put something aside towards solving the problems of those—themselves or others—who meet with difficulties and can be set on their feet by a little well-timed help.

Some day the war will be over and peace will come again—peace and demobilisation. At first, perhaps, many auxiliaries will be glad to get out of harness, but as time passes you will want, as your predecessors did in 1919 and 1920, to hear of old friends and to discuss old adventures. Then you will be glad that a Comrades Association is waiting to welcome you. Meanwhile, if you join and attend branch meetings, you will have a share in determining the policy of the future. We hope that many will do so. Any branch with 20 members can nominate a representative to serve on the Council of the Association. The Council normally meets once a month at 6.15 p.m., but during the war meetings are less frequent, and in winter are on Saturday afternoons to avoid the black-out. Would it not be worth while for units to form branches of their own? Those near London could send one of their number to Council meetings, those further off could ask an ex-member of the A.T.S. to be their representative. Even if serving members cannot manage this, the General Secretary will be very glad to receive suggestions from them and to put their views before the Council. There are some A.T.S. and ex-A.T.S. members on it already; we should like to have more.

THE BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY

Our President, Dame Florence Simpson, sent the following letter of greetings to Her Majesty Queen Mary on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday:—
To the Lady-in-Waiting. 24th May, 1942.

Dear Madam,

May I ask you to convey to Her Majesty Queen Mary, on behalf of all the members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Comrades Association, our humble duty and our loyal good wishes on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday.

I feel sure that our new title and all that it signifies will give pleasure to Her Majesty, who has always shown such gracious kindness and interest in our welfare and undertakings. We have also received great support and encouragement from Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, who has consented to be our Honorary President and has presented a portrait of herself to the Association Headquarters Office, of which a reproduction will appear in the forthcoming number of the Gazette, which will also bear our new title.

Chief Controller Knox, Director of the A.T.S., has become a Vice-President of our joint Comrades Association, and is also very interested in all its activities, which I pray may long continue into the future with increasing endeavour for the good of all those who have served in the past and of those who are serving at present.

Yours very truly,

FLORENCE SIMPSON.

The following gracious reply, dated 26th May, has been received:—

Dear Dame Florence,

I am commanded by Queen Mary to thank you, and all members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Comrades Association, most warmly for your good wishes on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday.

The Queen shares in your pleasure at your new title and all its implications, and knowing already what a keen interest the Princess Royal (as Honorary President)

takes in everything that concerns the welfare of your members, Her Majesty is so glad to hear that Her Royal Highness has presented her portrait to Headquarters Office of the Association.

It is splendid, too, that Mrs. Knox has become a Vice-President of your joint Association, emphasizing as this does, the continuity of women's work in both wars and the very live example and experience which many of the older women can bring to the service of to-day.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

CYNTHIA COLVILLE.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT FOR APRIL AND MAY, 1942

A Meeting of Council was held on Monday, April 27th, at 5 Buckingham Gate. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan was re-elected Chairman and Miss Ireland and Miss Davy were elected Vice-Chairmen. The following members were present: Miss Davy, Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Eager, Miss Ireland, Subaltern Bilbrough, Miss Cliff, Miss Saunders, Miss Turner, Mrs. Pratt-Barlow, Miss Billington (Hon. Treasurer), and Mrs. Johnston (General Secretary). Dame Helen was in the chair.

It was a pleasure to welcome Miss Cliff on her first attendance after her very serious accident last year, also Mrs. Pratt-Barlow, who has not been well for some time and thus prevented from coming to the meetings. Miss Haines and Miss Binks sent apologies for absence.

The Annual General Meeting, it will be remembered, referred to Council Miss Ireland's suggestion that the purchase of a Tommy Gun, Bren Gun or Airman's outfit would fittingly mark the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the formation of the Corps. The General Secretary read a list, received from the War Office, of various weapons and their cost. As Q.M.A.A.C. and the A.T.S. belong to the Army, it was considered fitting that an Army weapon be purchased. It was agreed that the aim be to purchase a Bren 303" Machine Gun, price £56.

It was agreed that subscriptions rising from 6d. be called for.

A proposal by Miss Ireland, seconded by Mrs. Pratt-Barlow, was carried that Branch secretaries be informed of Council's suggestion, and that they be asked to obtain the views of their members on the proposal, and to send their recommendation to the General Secretary in time for a notice to be inserted in the May-June Gazette. It was agreed that subscriptions be sent to the General Secretary and that, in order to save postage and labour, no receipts be sent. Acknowledgments to be printed in the Gazette, without sums subscribed.

The General Secretary reported that Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal had presented the Headquarters Office with a fine portrait of herself in the A.T.S. uniform.

Her Royal Highness has now graciously given permission for a copy of this portrait to be published in this issue of the Gazette so that members may have the pleasure of seeing it.

Mrs. Smitheram, the Secretary and Treasurer of the British Empire Service League of the Canadian Legion, sent a letter of congratulation and good will to the O.C.A. for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary; it was

accompanied by a parcel of 24 bars of chocolate. It was decided to raffle the chocolates at one of the London Branch meetings, the proceeds to go towards the Bren Gun. It is possible, of course, that Hitler might prefer the chocolates!

The date of the NEXT MEETING of COUNCIL was fixed for WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17th, 1942. Will members of Council please note the date; the Agendas will be sent as usual a week before the Meeting.

VISITORS TO THE OFFICE

The General Secretary has been most pleased to welcome the following who have been good enough to find time to come to Headquarters: Miss Haines, Miss Bessant, Junior Commander Savignon, who came from Cambridge, Senior Commander Hawkes, Miss Frood and Mrs. H. M. Robinson, our former General Secretary. Mrs. Robinson's visit was an unexpected pleasure, as we have not heard anything of her for some time. She has been very far from well, and has also had the trouble of moving in to a new house at Walton-on-Thames. Miss Osler, Secretary of Nottingham Branch, was another welcome visitor.

OUR TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY— A THANKSGIVING

It will be remembered that, at the Annual General Meeting, Edinburgh Branch put forward a resolution that the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the W.A.A.C. should be fittingly marked.

The Meeting agreed unanimously that the purchase of a Tommy gun, Bren gun, or airman's outfit would mark the occasion in a fitting manner. This would show our connection with the Army and help the war effort.

The matter was referred to Council for the settling of details, and after consideration of a list of weapons and their cost, received from the War Office, it was suggested that the purchase of a Bren 303" Machine Gun, price £56, might be suitable and come within the scope of O.C.A. contributions.

The General Secretary was accordingly instructed to obtain the views of Branches on the suggestion. From the replies already received, the proposal has met with general and even enthusiastic approval. In fact, quite a number of subscriptions have already been received.

It was decided that, in order to give everyone an opportunity of contributing, that subscriptions of SIXPENCE, or more if members wished, be called for.

The subscriptions to be sent direct, or through Branch Secretaries if preferred, to:—

The General Secretary,
Q.M.A.A.C. & A.T.S. Comrades Association,
82, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2
by the 31st JULY next, at the latest.

In order to save postage and extra work, no receipts will be sent. The list of the subscribers (but NOT the sum subscribed) will be published in the Gazette.

Here is the opportunity to show our thankfulness for having had the honour and privilege of serving in Q.M.A.A.C. and our gratitude that we are still here and able to serve the Army again by providing a weapon, especially those of us who are not able to help more actively by personal service in the A.T.S.

"SERVICE WITH THE ARMY"**By Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan**

Our members will be glad to know that Dame Helen has just written a book, "Service with the Army," which is of the greatest interest to all who served in Q.M.A.A.C. and to those who are now serving in the A.T.S. She tells the story of the early days when women first came into the field of service with Florence Nightingale in the Crimea, which was followed by the creation of the Army Nursing Service, later called Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service.

The coming of the war in 1914, with the problem of man power, showed the need for women in a far greater measure and in a wider sphere of work. She gives a most interesting account of the formation of the W.A.A.C., with its problems, difficulties, and amusing incidents. She carries us on through the years of peace, when Emergency Service came into being as a voluntary organisation for the training of potential officers should the need arise. How very useful these trained and disciplined girls proved when the A.T.S. was formed, with its still wider range of duties in which women could replace men.

It is delightfully written, most easy to read, and full of personal touches, with the mention of Camps, places and persons well-known to many who served and are serving. There is an excellent index.

Owing, unfortunately, to the war-time increase in printing, it has not been possible to publish the book under 7s. 6d. It is thought that Branches might find the purchase of "Service with the Army" well worth while, as it would give their members who cannot afford a copy for themselves the opportunity of reading a very enjoyable and informative book. A small charge for the loan of the book might, in fact, help the fund for the purchase of the Bren Gun, which will remind the Germans that, despite their 25th Anniversary, members of Q.M.A.A.C. are still very much alive! The publishers are Messrs. Hutchinson and Co., Ltd.

AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE**A.T.S. FOR SEARCHLIGHTS****Full Operational Duties**

Members of the A.T.S. are to man searchlights in the Anti-Aircraft Command. Experiments are about to start to investigate conditions under which the A.T.S. can be employed in full operational roles on searchlight sites. It is not intended to place the A.T.S. on lonely, exposed, and isolated sites. When a site is approved as suitable for the A.T.S. it will be manned entirely by them. There will be large areas in which they will not be employed. It is likely that in most areas one group of sites may be taken over by the A.T.S. and the next group by men. It is not intended that the A.T.S. should take over sites near the coast.

A.T.S. volunteers from existing units have already been called for to be specially trained as N.C.O.s in mixed searchlight batteries. All A.T.S. members going on to searchlight operational duties will be volunteers in the same way as those for mixed A.A. batteries. An experiment carried out last summer showed that the A.T.S. could carry out all duties on a searchlight site and control its equipment.

Women joining the A.T.S. can volunteer for searchlight work. At first numbers will be limited. In the meantime, volunteers are still required for important work in mixed A.A. batteries.

LADY APSLEY

The new chairman of the Legion Women's Section, Lady Apsley, is the wife of Lord Apsley, M.P., and has shown unusual gifts for leadership in public welfare movements. She is an eloquent speaker as well as a writer.

Herself the daughter of a soldier, she married in 1924 the heir to Earl Bathurst and grandson of Lord Glenesk, founder of the "Morning Post," her husband being in a Gloucestershire yeomanry regiment. They have two sons.

An Air Pilot

Lady Apsley is a qualified air pilot. Some years ago Lord and Lady Apsley decided to find out for themselves the truth about emigration within the Empire as a remedy for overcrowding and unemployment at home. For this purpose they went out to Australia and lived for a period under conditions as nearly as possible like those of poor emigrants. Lady Apsley did her own housekeeping on the little homestead, and kept her household budgets, which she published, together with an account of their experiences, in a book, "The Amateur Settlers" (1926).

From 1914 to 1918 Lady Apsley was a V.A.D. nurse at Marsh Court military hospital. After the war she threw her abounding energies into social, political and county life generally, very much as did her predecessor as chairman of the Women's Section, the late Lady Edward Spencer Churchill at the same age.

It was in the hunting field that she had the misfortune to be thrown, with the result that she has to make use of a wheel-chair. This disability, far from limiting her activities, seems to have intensified her sympathies and work for others.

She joined the A.T.S. in October, 1938, as County Commandant for Gloucestershire, and had risen to be a Chief Commandant when she resigned in November to become an A.T.S. welfare officer. Besides being a welfare officer, she is secretary of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, which works closely in association with the Legion.

A.T.S.

Their lithe young figures drive the cars and man
the A.A. gun,
Their cheeks are pink, their eyes are bright, no
hardship do they shun;
They work in camp and barrack-room, in office,
store, and mess;
Wherever there's a job to do, there is the A.T.S.

And some of us who served before, as they are
serving now,
Look on them with deeper pride, a friendly, heart-
felt glow;
And we recall that slander brought to us a like
distress,
But we have conquered all that now, as will the
A.T.S.

The warmth of comradeship is theirs, the joy in
duty done,
The pride of service rendered to their country one
by one.
All through their lives these things will stay, their
hearts and minds to bless,
And in our records bright will shine the letters
A.T.S.

Gertrude A. George (ex-W.R.A.F.).

7 Belmont Hill, St. Albans, Herts.

CONVOYING BY A.T.S. WOMEN**Long Journeys and Few Accidents**

Convoys have an important part in the work done by the A.T.S. co-operating with the Army. In the Eastern Command, in a pleasant country house, women drivers arrive each day, have their tea, and are then free for the rest of the evening. The following morning, after breakfast, they go to a neighbouring town, where Army vehicles are being manufactured.

Here each driver is assigned one of the vehicles which have been lined up in the road by the works, and she immediately checks the oil, water and petrol supplies and runs the engine. When all is found to be in order, the drivers climb into their seats and the convoy moves off on a 100-mile run to a depot in the Southern Command. About half-way they are met by one of the American mobile canteens, and have hot soup or coffee with the snack luncheon they carry with them, which includes a ration of chocolate.

The convoy, which may number anything up to 50 vehicles, is divided into blocks of five, and should one be held up through engine trouble or accident of any kind the others in the block will be there to assist. Drivers have to be prepared to drive anything from a 7 h.p. car to a 3-ton lorry to any place in Britain. Not all of them have had driving experience before joining the A.T.S., though all must have taken the basic training before being drafted to the company. It is, therefore, all the more to their credit that the accident record is so small.

For those who are not driving there is work to be done in emptying the fuel tanks of the vehicles as they arrive at the depot, greasing, pumping up tyres, washing and repainting the canvas covers, all jobs in which women are rapidly being trained to relieve the men for heavier duties. In the offices A.T.S. girls are gradually taking over from Army clerks, and, indeed, as time goes on the scope for women in all branches of the service will become increasingly wide. At present five A.T.S. companies of drivers attached to the R.A.S.C. are engaged in various parts of the country.

WEDDINGS**Mr. R. Bernays, M.P., and Miss Britton**

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 25th, in Bristol Cathedral, of Mr. Robert Bernays, M.P., and Senior Commandant Nancy Britton, A.T.S., only daughter of the late Mr. G. B. Britton and of Mrs. Britton, of Shortwood Lodge, Pucklechurch, near Bristol. The Bishop of Bristol officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. J. H. Britton, wore a gown of old parchment chiffon with a tulle veil, and she carried an ivory-bound prayer-book. She was attended by a child bridesmaid—Veronica Bernays, niece of the bridegroom.

A reception was held at the Royal Hotel.

Major F. S. Eiloart and Miss E. Buckley

The marriage arranged between Major F. S. Eiloart, R.A., only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Eiloart, of St. John's Wood, London, and Second Subaltern E. Buckley, A.T.S., younger daughter of Mrs. Buckley, of St. Anne's Road, Middlewich, will take place at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 5th, at Oswestry Parish Church. All friends will be welcome at the church.

BRANCH REPORTS**Ilford**

We had our first meeting since the outbreak of the war on the 15th April when 6 members came along. We were most fortunate to have the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Hardy from Edinburgh who was in London on holiday. She is one of our oldest members. She wrote saying she would like to meet as many members as possible if we could find a meeting place, it was fortunate that we were just fixing our meetings again, and she came along to Mrs. Thomas's. We were all very pleased to see her after such a long time, and didn't we all talk, although our numbers were small the noise at times was terrific. It was a good thing Mr. Thomas went out for the evening. We had very nice refreshments, thanks to Mrs. Thomas. I think she must have been saving up her rations. We were very grateful to her for her kindness.

It was decided we should continue with our meetings and have one a month. We then met again on the 13th May when 6 members came along. We were rather hoping Drutt would have been able to get leave and join us, but unfortunately she could not, but we are hoping she may come along next time which will be the 10th June—then tongues will go more, we should all love to see her again—(so please Drutt try and wangle leave, we all want to see you again). We are also very pleased to see any London members who can get to our meetings.

PADDY PARKER.

Norfolk

April has been a sad month in the history of our small branch. On April 20th our dearly loved Waaclet, Barbara Rumbold, only 17 years of age, passed to her Eternal Rest after a very short illness at Bath. We had watched Barbara grow from a wee girlie—enjoyed her dancing at charity shows with pride. She was always so full of life and daintiness—and spent many a happy hour with her at Gt. Yarmouth where she played hostess with her mother beautifully, sharing her schoolgirl pleasures with her. Our sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Rumbold, and Hugh, now in the Air Force, in their great loss, and may they find comfort in the thought that their dear one passed out of Bath, before its great trial of air-raids. Branch members joined in sending a floral tribute.

Our scattered branch members will be pleased to know that members living in Norwich have escaped harm during the terrible raids at the end of the month. Several have had to find temporary homes outside the city, which has suffered very badly during two reprisal raids. Although loss of life has naturally been rather heavy, the Secretary has been able to get in touch with all the members, some of whom are remaining in the city. The Secretary hopes to return as soon as repairs are completed, which will take some weeks, but would like to take this opportunity for thanking many Old Comrades in various parts of the country for their kind letters. How good it is to be remembered in time of trouble.

We hope to be able to resume our fortnightly teas soon. Alas, our old meeting place is no more, but there are still plenty of cheerful tea rooms open, so we can keep smiling. Spring is in the air, and, we hope, in our hearts.

G. W. CHILVERS.

Edinburgh

Miss M. C. Roberts, who was the proposer of the Edinburgh Branch Resolution (No. 7 on the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting) has written to correct the impression given at the Meeting that Edinburgh Branch had in mind the

holding of a "Social function" to "fittingly mark" the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the W.A.A.C. Nothing definite had been considered as they wished first to obtain the views of other Branches. Her idea was that subscriptions be called for to augment the Benevolent Fund, the money to be put in to War Bonds until the end of the War, thereby helping to serve a dual purpose.

She hopes that this little paragraph will clear up this misunderstanding.

Nottingham.

The members of the East Midland Services Club have been very busy this Spring. Most of them are already actively engaged on work of national importance, whilst others, having family ties, give as much of their time as they can spare to various branches of war work.

At a recent committee meeting, held with a view to widen our social activities, Miss Donn suggested the possibility of adopting a minesweeper. Enquiries were made, and we have now adopted the minesweeper "Sea-Mist." Games and books are brought by the members, and donations given. Money is sent periodically to one of the Forces Companies in London who forward to the men about 340 cigarettes for 10s.

Our Chairman, Miss Hassell, and the General Secretary of the E.M.U.S. Club, Miss Harrison, have been instrumental in forming a section of the Women's Defence Unit. Both have worked very hard and enthusiastically and we have already attended seven meetings. The chairman commenced the meeting with anti-gas lectures. Another member, Miss Gott, is giving training in Morse, and Mrs. Elnis has kindly lent her instrument for class-practice. The husband of a member of the Women's Defence Unit is giving a series of lectures in gunnery. Last week an official of the St. John Ambulance Brigade gave a lecture on First Aid in cases of haemorrhage. Other types of lectures have been promised, one which will be popular is "Field Kitchen Craft."

The meetings are held in our Club room, and have proved not only instructive, but have somehow gained that marvellous spirit of comradeship which is always to be found amongst ex-service women.

N. OSLER, Branch Secretary.

North Staffs Branch Report. May 18th, 1942.

At our meeting on May 11th all the members present agreed that it was an excellent idea to make some definite direct contribution to the war effort. As we are a small branch our combined subscriptions will not amount to a large sum so Miss Carrie Myatt has made a beautiful doll for us, for which we are having a "draw." We hope that it will add considerably to our contribution.

We were delighted to see Miss Mycock. She has not been able to come for a long time but hopes to come to the meetings we have whilst the long evenings continue.

On June 8th we are hoping to entertain some of the A.T.S. who are stationed in the district. Our meetings have had to be altered from the 2nd Tuesday in the month to the 2nd Monday as that is a more convenient day for the majority of the members.

H. CLOUGH.

North Staffs Branch Report

A meeting was held in February at Nell Gwynne Restaurant. Seven members were present and all enjoyed the very nice supper provided by Mrs. Smith. Apologies for non-attendance were received from our "Country members." The business of the evening was to discuss the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting so that any suggestions could be sent up before February 28th. We all agreed that some effort should be made to celebrate the 25th birthday of the Q.M.A.A.C., but as we could not think of anything very original which could be carried out practically, we thought we had better try to carry out someone else's ideas.

Subscriptions have come in very well and have been sent to H.Q.

H. CLOUGH.

LONDON BRANCH GAZETTE REPORT FOR MAY/JUNE, 1942.

April and May re-unions have been very pleasant chatty ones, especially Saturday, April 18th, when by good fortune, Dame Florence Simpson was spending the afternoon at the Club. It was not long before Dame Florence discovered that there was a tea-party on in the drawing room. Not, of course, just an ordinary tea party, but a real W.A.A.C. re-union one. Dame Florence cheered us all by joining us for some considerable time listening to our "Blitz and Evacuation" tales. We were delighted to know that she was so much improved in health and it was indeed a very great joy and pleasure for us all to meet again.

Our first social function of the year is to be held on Thursday, June 4th, at 7 p.m. Miss L. Saunders and Miss W. Binks, Asst. Hon. Secretary, are organising a Beetle Drive, as the Wool Fund is now practically nil, it is hoped to raise some cash for future needs.

Comforts Report

Miss Saunders sends us her usual excellent report, herewith:—

"Since my last report, garments have been received from the Misses Benson, Tapscott, Hodges, Pitt, Harling, Burnett, Burr, Moyes and Winter.

"To Miss Billington our thanks are due for another donation to the Fund. Miss Tapscott and Miss Burr not only send garments through the post, but always stamps for return parcels of wool. This is a great help as it keeps expenses down. Miss Sanderson brought to the Club a nice parcel of books for the Troops. I am sure they will be much appreciated. We hope to run a Beetle Drive on June 4th in aid of the Wool Fund. If anyone would care to give us a prize for the occasion we should be most grateful. Sgt. Chambers, A.T.S. writing from a convalescent hospital for A.T.S., asks for wool for the A.T.S. members there, who have generously offered to use their convalescent period in knitting for our Comforts Fund. Her action was much appreciated by us and two parcels of wool have been sent. May we wish these 'Comrades' of ours a speedy recovery and many thanks for their kind thought in joining us in our efforts.

"As knitting needles were also required, I wrote to the 'Duchess of Norfolk's Comforts Fund' for some to be sent. I am hoping they arrived safely as Sgt. Chambers was to let them know how many and which numbers were required. Sub. Billbrough very kindly gave the address of this Fund and so enabled the knitting needles to find their way to the A.T.S.—I hope! Many thanks to all above-mentioned people who are helping us to carry on our successful effort.

(Signed) L. SAUNDERS."

Re-Unions

Future re-unions will be held during the summer months as follows:—

The 1st Thursday in the month at 6.30 p.m.

The 3rd Saturday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Date of Next Committee

In consequence of the Whitsun Bank Holiday, it was decided to postpone the May Committee and call the next meeting for Saturday, the 20th June, at 4.30 p.m.

B. HAINES,
Hon. Secretary.

CARAVAN (Converted Coach), accommodation for four: situated in Aquadrome Club Grounds, Rickmansworth. Available for week-ends or mid-week during summer. Facilities for swimming and boating. For further particulars apply to:—Miss R. Edwards, Hon. Sec. W.V.R. Social Club, 30 Charldane Road, New Eltham, S.E.9.

**Concert, Sponsored by the Ex-Service Women's Branch,
Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., Calgary, Canada.**

Last November, eleven ex-service women members of the Calgary Branch of the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L. (which is affiliated with the British Legion, England), sponsored a Concert in aid of the fund being raised by the Alberta Provincial Council, Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., to provide a Mobile Kitchen for Britain. All the details of organisation and the arranging of the programme were undertaken by Mrs. R. V. Mundy (née Ruby Fowler, W.A.A.C.), who had had previous experience in organising concerts, and her suggestions received hearty support and co-operation from the President, Mrs. Martindale (née Mossop, V.A.D.), and from Miss Margaret Kearns, W.A.A.C., one of the original members of the Club.

Books of tickets were printed and distributed amongst the members and friends, who all worked hard in selling as many as possible. A suggestion of Miss Kearns, that the purchase of a ticket should entitle the holder to a "draw" for various articles, was heartily endorsed and adopted, and Mrs. Mundy was requested to solicit prominent people of the City to "donate" prizes in kind as there were no funds in the Club with which to purchase gifts. This was done, and resulted in the presentation of a beautiful oil painting of the Rocky Mountains and Bow River Valley by the artist, and gifts of a nice table lamp, a hand-made lace tablecloth, and a ring. A "door prize" of a \$10.00 Bond also was a further inducement to purchase tickets, the cost of which were 25 cents. (1s.) each.

The best local professional artistes were approached and readily gave their services in so good a cause. These included a charming trio of young ladies, pianist, violinist, and vocalist, often heard on the concert platform and wireless, a leading robust tenor of the City, and the Ukrainian Choir and Dancers whose choral and dance numbers in native costume were equally outstanding. Mrs. Mundy was especially requested to sing, and accompanied by Mrs. Martindale was accorded a splendid reception. The highlights of the programme, however, were the numbers of the band of one of the R.A.F. Training Schools in Calgary. The members of the band are "boys" all out from England (or Scotland) and many of them are professional radio (wireless) and concert entertainers or music hall artistes. Several instrumental selections were thoroughly enjoyed and the vocalists and instrumental soloists were most enthusiastically received, and the humorous items could not be beaten. One ex-professional music hall artiste was excellent in his impersonations of various British types, including a London Cockney.

The President of the Canadian Legion (Men's Section) kindly acted as Chairman and carried out his duties most efficiently. Assisted by a young evacuee guest from Manchester, England, he made the draw for prizes at the conclusion of the Concert.

Refreshments were served to the artistes at the conclusion of the Concert, when an opportunity was afforded the ex-Service women to become acquainted with the R.A.F. entertainers. All members assisted in serving, under the convenorship of Mrs. Smitheram, W.A.A.C., and other members who gave special assistance in various ways, were Mrs. Morrison, Vice-President, W.R.A.F., Mrs. Stanley, W.A.A.C., and Mrs. Whiteoak, W.R.N.S.

During the weeks preceding the Concert space was granted on two days in one of the big Dre's Emporiums in which to sell tickets and display the "prizes" that were to be offered—and most of the members took turns for a few hours each day in "taking charge." This idea emanated with Miss Kearns, and arrangements with the store were made by Mrs. Martindale.

Congratulations and compliments on the wonderful success of the Concert were received from many quarters, and Legion officers declared it was the first Concert ever presented in Canadian Legion circles. Several expressed the opinion that a "repeat Concert" should be given, to assist other war services, and ex-Service women will certainly be willing to "do their bit" to aid any worthy cause whenever required.

The sum of \$146.00 was received from the sale of tickets and after deducting expenses a cheque to the amount of \$101.00 was presented to the Secretary of the Alberta Provincial Council, Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., by the President and Organising Secretary, Ex-Service Women's Branch. The little group of "Old Comrades" were highly gratified with results, as this was the largest sum to date that had been contributed to the Fund from any Women's Organisation in Alberta. Despite being over age for active service in His Majesty's Forces now they are doing their best to still "carry on" until they come to "Journey's End."

R. G. MUNDY.

A.T.S. WOMEN'S COOLNESS IN A RAID

By their presence of mind when a bomb fell on a mixed heavy anti-aircraft site on the north-east coast early on Friday, May 1st, two members of the A.T.S., Private Emily Wallcott (22), of Cardiff, and Private Elma Mills (19), of Fife, averted danger to a detachment. They were both engaged on secret equipment during the raid. When bombs fell, they were knocked to the ground by blast, but remembered, as they got up, to switch off the electric current.

The battery commander said the girls on the predictor and other instruments carried on although they were covered in mud from head to foot. And throughout the raid the guns did not cease firing.

COMMENDED IN ARMY ORDERS

Members of the A.T.S. attached to the Royal Army Pay Corps in Exeter were officially commended in Army orders recently for devotion to duty during the bombing of Exeter. Three of them saved valuable church property.

OBITUARY.—At Negritos, Peru, suddenly on May 10th, 1942, Agnes, beloved wife of A. Lloyd Hayward, and elder daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Hawley, Musselburgh.

On May 10th, Agnes Hayward (née Hawley) died suddenly at Negritos, Peru, where she had lived for so many years both before and after her marriage.

Her death takes from us one of those who joined the W.A.A.C.S. in the early days and went to France. In 1918 she was posted to Havre, where she served in the D.C.'s office until her demobilisation. Those who were in Hostel 5 at that time will remember her and her sister Jean with warm affection; Jean so witty and full of life, Agnes so quietly competent and reliable. A most devoted pair of sisters.

After the war Agnes became one of the keenest members of the Edinburgh "Wha's Like Us" Club and then of the O.C.A. She was greatly missed when she left to take up a post at Negritos, Peru. There she met her future husband, Lloyd Hayward. The marriage was a very happy one, and all members will wish to send their deep sympathy to her husband in his sad loss. Mrs. Hayward was last home in 1940, when she met Miss Low (her D.C. at Havre) at Birnam, where they spent a very happy afternoon talking of old times. Her premature death takes from us one who will never be forgotten by her old comrades.

RUMBOLD.—On April 20th, 1942, at 13 Johnstone Street, Bath, Barbara Mary, beloved daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Rumbold, Great Yarmouth, aged 17.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

s for the Gazette should reach the Editor, Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. C.A. Gazette, 82, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2, not later than the 21st of the following months:- January, March, May, July, September and November.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES

The Gazette Secretary was very glad to have recently a long and most interesting letter from **Miss Edith Thompson** in Pretoria. Her work there is very varied and absorbing. She says that the improvement in the physical condition of the children she took out is quite remarkable and the fine climate suits her, too, though she dislikes the heat and is "always mopping and dripping"! She has a "small and very gadgety little flat, with a sleeping porch" where she can get a fairly cool night. Two of the people she sees most are WAAC's—Bowen and Feiling; the latter runs the Settlers' Club at Cape Town which is "rather like Buckingham Palace Gate." Again she is doing much travelling, as was the case, of course, when she was Controller of Inspection in Q.M.A.A.C. She was very pleased to hear of Bilborough's commission, thoroughly well deserved, she considers. (Miss Thompson has yet to hear of the second pip!) She longs to see her family and friends, she says, and we, on our side, missed her friendly and cheery presence greatly at the Annual General Meeting, where many enquiries were made for news of her.

Our sincere congratulations go to **Senior Commander Rollinson** and **Senior Commander Grundy**, it is very pleasing to hear of their promotion.

E.W.M.

We have had news of **Sergt. Major Druitt** at Aldermaston Court, one of the A.T.S. Training Centres. She has "roped in" **Pte. Rachel Stallard** as a member of the O.C.A. Stallard served in Q.M.A.A.C., at Folkestone and overseas.

Miss Davy sends a delightful piece of news of **Miss Cocksedge** (who is apparently too modest to send it herself). Miss Cocksedge gave a 4lb. box of her home-made chocolates to the local Warship Week and it was raffled and **MADE £100 15s. 6d.** She must feel very proud of such a wonderful result. As one who knows the quality and goodness of Miss Cocksedge's chocolates from personal experience, it is not surprising that there was such competition to become the possessor.

Old Comrades will sympathize with **Mrs. Rumbold** and her family in the death of her daughter, Barbara, who died at Bath. Fortunately it was before the "Blitz" there so she was spared that dreadful experience. Mrs. Rumbold thanks all those who have written for their letters of condolence.

Mrs. E. Smitheram, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Women's Branch of the British Empire Service League in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, has sent greetings and congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of the formation of Q.M.A.A.C. As a practical sign of their interest she sent a box of 24 bars of CHOCOLATE. These are to be raffled at one of the Meetings of London Branch, the proceeds to be added to the subscriptions for the Bren Gun. It is thought that Hitler may prefer chocolates but is not being given any choice!

Miss Mould, of Bath, writes most cheerfully, in the proper WAAC spirit, despite the fact that her home is without windows, or gas, with the added inconvenience that a time bomb was reposing near her office. The "repose" was only for a limited period, we hope that it was rendered harmless before doing any damage. She tells us that **Junior Commander Abbott** (one of the members of Bristol Branch) had a very rough time in the blitz and lost a good many of her possessions. She has been transferred to Plymouth.

Miss Edith Latimer writes from Appleby that she is unable to take an active part in the war effort owing to ill-health but it is quite clear from her letter that her hands are ceaselessly employed in knitting or clerical work and after all, we cannot do without those who do such good work for those of us who are able to be out and tackling other jobs.

Mrs. Mills, writing in January from Bondi Junction, New South Wales, says that we have her sympathy about "Black-outs"! They have just started there and as the roads are lined with trees it is very difficult getting about at night.

Mrs. Batterham has a delightful address, Eden Lane, Rainbow Bay, Coolangatta, Queensland. She has four sons serving, one has been wounded and now has a Base job. Australia was feeling very sad when she wrote as the famous ship Sydney had been lost, not one of the crew being saved.

Mrs. Parker, who served as Caroline Bott, 3894, in France, writes from Vancouver. She lost her first husband at Mons and is now married to a man who served in the North West Mounted Police. She has been in the U.S.A. and Canada for over 20 years.

Miss Florence Vidler is a new member, she lives in Toronto and was most interested when she heard of the O.C.A. being open to the A.T.S.

Miss Florence West is very busy, she runs a business, looks after her father and mother of 83 and 85, not to mention an invalid brother. She feels that she is, at least, doing her duty on the Home front. She is just waiting to enter hospital for an operation, we wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

Miss M. E. Roberts sends news from Exeter. It is sad reading as so much that was interesting has been destroyed in that lovely little city. One of the raiding planes nose-dived into the ground, burst into flames and exploded, shattering windows in every direction, blasting off doors, and so on. She has been busy trying to nail up some temporary curtains and repairing locks.

Miss E. Knowling is still with the Royal Victoria Patriotic School which was evacuated three years ago to Pembrokehire. They are in sad need of an Assistant Cook and a House Mistress. Can anyone help?

We are glad to learn that **Miss Nespoli** has had her operation and going on well but it will not be known if the operation is a complete success until the plaster has been removed. We hope very much that it will be entirely successful.

A.T.S. KILLED IN ACTION

Private **Norah Caveney**, aged 18, of Walsden, near Rochdale, is the first A.T.S. in A.A. Command to have died at a gun site as a result of enemy action. She was killed by a bomb splinter as she stood at a predictor on a south coast gun site during a raid. She was actually following an enemy aeroplane, and was "on the target" when she collapsed. Private **Gladys Keel**, who was on duty as a spotter, took Caveney's place at the predictor, and continued to follow the raider, and the guns were able to continue firing without a moment's delay.

ESSENTIAL WAR WORK.—Royal Victoria Patriotic School, evacuated S. Wales, requires House Mistress. General supervision 24 girls, 11 to 16. Salary £70 to £85 p.a., according to experience. Also Assistant Lady Cook, Household, 50; salary from £55 p.a., according to experience. All particulars from Assistant Superintendent, Miss Knowling (some time a/U.A., Q.M.A.A.C. Camp 3, Etaples), at Hean Castle, Saundersfoot, Pems.