



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. 3.

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER, 1942.

3/6 p.a. post free.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All contributions 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.**

**HEADQUARTERS REPORT FOR AUGUST
AND SEPTEMBER, 1942**

Nine members were present at the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, September 1st, 1942, with Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan in the chair. They were: Mrs. Powell, Miss L. Saunders, Mrs. F. E. Eager, Miss G. S. Cliff, Subaltern Bilbrough, Miss W. Binks, Miss Billington (Hon. Treasurer), and Mrs. Johnston, the General Secretary.

Apologies for absence were received from Chief Controller Knox, Miss Davy and Miss Turner, who were in Scotland, Miss Ireland, Senior Commander Grundy, and Mrs. Mayhew, who hopes to attend again when the Meetings are arranged on Saturdays.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that the following Branches have not yet sent in any capitation fees: **Bradford, Blackpool, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Northern Ireland, Plymouth, Cardiff, Hastings, and Tees-side.**

This report was most disappointing, as it is now very near the end of the financial year (October 31st), and Council would be much distressed if these Branches cannot be numbered amongst those who are so loyally striving to carry on despite the many difficulties caused by the war. It is hoped that the Secretaries of the Branches named will endeavour to send at least some capitation fees before the end of October.

The General Secretary read a letter from Director Hobby, of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, regretting that she was unable to accept honorary membership of the Comrades' Association. She wrote as follows:—

"My Dear Dame Helen,

"I deeply appreciate your gracious letter of June 20, with its invitation to become an honorary member of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades' Association. It is with real regret that I find I am unable to accept the very great honour you have so graciously offered to confer on me. As a member of the War Department, I must adhere to its policy that no person with the Army of the United States may accept membership in organisations except those of the United States.

"Sometime later, when our Women's Army Auxiliary Corps has had a chance to develop a bit, I shall be

happy to send you a story of its organisation and the scope of its work.

"Please express to your members my thanks and genuine appreciation of their friendship.

"With warm personal regards, I am, sincerely,

OVETA, CULP HOBBY, Director."

Applications to the Service Women's Benevolent Fund continue to be very few. Four only had been received in July and August; each case had been granted the necessary assistance.

The General Secretary reported on the result of the appeal for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary "Thanksgiving" Bren Gun. Subscriptions to the end of August totalled £61 16s. 5d. This sum is more than is required for the Bren Machine-gun, and the balance will be used for the purchase of other suitable weapons.

It was proposed by Miss Davy that the Badge of the Q.M.A.A.C. be fixed to the gun. This proposal received unanimous approval.

The question of the revision of the present Rules of the Comrades' Association was considered, and each member of Council has received a copy, and suggestions will be laid before the next Meeting to be placed on the Agenda of the next Annual General Meeting, on the last Saturday in February, 1943.

The date of the next Meeting was fixed for SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st, 1942, at 2.15 p.m., at 5, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. Will members of Council please note the date and hour. The Agenda will be posted, as usual, about a week before the date of the Meeting.

VISITORS TO THE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

The General Secretary has been delighted to see under mentioned members who have found time to visit her, to admire our portrait of the Princess Royal, and to gather news of the activities of the Comrades' Association. **Miss K. Simons** came on July 24th, and was disappointed not to see Miss Billington. **Senior Commander Marshall, A.T.S.** (from Peterborough), **Mrs. O. King** (who served as Jordan), **Miss A. T. Harrison, Miss Douche, Senior Commander Zimmern, A.T.S., Miss B. M. Hassell, and C.S.M. McGuire Bate** (from Leeds) came during August and September.

Q.M.A.A.C. TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING

Since the publication of the May-June Gazette, the following members and Branches have subscribed to our "Thanksgiving" Bren Machine-gun:—

Ilford Branch (through Miss P. Parker, but no names were given). Mrs. Hardy, Secretary of **Edinburgh Branch**, sent a fine cheque with the appended names of her members who helped to swell the total: Miss I. H. Anderson, Miss B. M. Baxter, Miss G. J. Baxter, Mrs. Beaton, Miss J. Bryce, Mrs. Burr, Miss C. R. Dowie, Miss C. M. Fairley, Miss E. A. Gibson, Mrs. G. D. Hardy, Mrs. J. Hogg, Miss Huffell, Mrs. A. H. Hutchings, Mrs. M. Johnston, Mrs. Kinroy, Mr. Laing, Miss M. C. Lambert, Mrs. Lammie, Miss Lethbridge, Miss A. Low, Miss F. M. Lush, Miss McKirchar, Miss M. McLeod, Miss D. Mess, Miss M. Molyneaux, Miss J. G. Philp, Mrs. Riach, Miss M. Roberts, Mrs. R. Roy, Mrs. G. Stark, Mrs. Steven, Miss K. M. Swanston, Miss I. G. Syme, Mrs. I. M. Tait, Miss Turnbull, Miss Wann, Mrs. Whitehead, Mrs. Whyte, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Wilson, Miss M. A. Finlay, Miss C. M. Turnbull, and Mrs. H. G. McLeod.

The following members of **London Branch** sent donations through their Assistant Secretary, Miss Binks: Subaltern Bilbrough, Mrs. Jerrett, Miss Rogers, Miss Lawson, Mrs. Rose, Miss W. Binks, Miss Eva Mason, Miss D. Porter, Miss Carton, Miss A. Edwards, Miss Benson, Miss Fraser, Miss Sanderson, Miss Fyles, Miss Sparling, Miss Hatfield, Miss Pitt, Miss Dodd, Miss Rogers, and Mrs. E. F. Eager, Mrs. Mayhew, and Miss Burnett also subscribed.

Eighteen members of **Oxford Branch** sent donations through their Secretary, i.e., Miss B. Priestley, Mrs. Hathaway, Mrs. M. Dene, Mrs. Parslow, Mrs. Wiblin, Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Ledgerwood, Mrs. Wassell, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Jackman, Mrs. Omerod, Mrs. Perkin's sister, Mrs. Cheeseman, Miss Britnell, Miss O. Low, Miss Garrett, Miss Holland, and Mrs. Ody.

Mrs. Chilvers (Norfolk) forwarded subscriptions from: Miss West, Miss Gore-Brown, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Paston, Miss McDermott, Miss Howson, Mrs. Selvage, Mrs. Chilvers, Miss Newberry, and Miss Protheroe.

Birmingham Branch sent a cheque through Miss Dipple, the Secretary, but no names were forwarded.

The following individual subscriptions were also received: Mrs. Jugg (E. Payton), Miss E. Parkinson, Miss K. Simons, Corporal E. A. Bowman, A.T.S., Miss E. Cocksedge (second donation), Miss B. Armitage, Mrs. E. F. Bartlett (Butlin, 1336), Miss M. Davies, L.-Cpl.-M. Turnock, A.T.S., (served as Wkr. Davies, 2238, in Q.M.A.A.C.), Miss E. Bertrand, Mrs. L. G. Parker, Miss D. N. Whitbread (6759), Miss A. Wray, Miss D. Hayward, Mrs. R. G. Mundy (Canada, served as Fowler), Mrs. H. Underhill, Miss I. Turner, Mrs. M. Shearer, Miss L. Saunders, Miss A. Carnegie-Brown, Miss G. Blanchard (New York), Mrs. A. Marwood, Mrs. G. Thompson, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Miss M. Douche, Miss E. Budd, "Edie, 2756," and Miss D. H. Young.

The total amount received in subscriptions amounts to £64 5s., which more than covers the sum necessary to purchase the Bren Machine-gun. The whole amount will, however, be sent to the appropriate officer at the War Office, who will use the balance to pay for whatever weapons are required, and which come within that sum.

It has been arranged that the Badge of Q.M.A.A.C. be fixed to the gun, also that a photograph be taken of the gun. This suggestion was put forward by Edinburgh Branch, as it was thought that Branches might wish to have a picture. **Will any Branches wishing to have a photograph of the Bren Gun please let the General Secretary, 82, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2, know as soon as possible,** as it will be necessary to give the order for copies.

BRANCH REPORTS

Ilford Branch.

Owing to holidays, etc., I am sorry I did not send a report for the last issue of the Gazette, especially as we had the pleasure of seeing Druiitt at our July meeting. We held this meeting at Ford's house at Ilford. We were all sitting talking when there was a terrible bang at the street door, and a voice said, "What a noise; it can be heard at Reading." We all looked at one another whilst Ford had gone to open the door, and said, "It's Madge." Then presently in walked Druiitt. We were all very pleased to see her. We thought she looked very well and quite her old self. Needless to say, tongues wagged more than usual. I must say Ford had kept the secret well, for she was the only one who knew Druiitt was coming. We had a most enjoyable evening, thanks to Druiitt and Ford. (Come again, Madge, we like having you.) A collection was taken that evening and, thanks to Druiitt, we were able to send 10s. towards the Bren Gun.

On August 29th, Mrs. Spaul held a whist drive in her garden at Gidea Park, when several members were able to attend. We all had a good time, and, thanks to Mrs. Spaul and her many friends, 52s. was raised, half of which was given by Mrs. Spaul's youngest son to Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and the other half for Branch funds. On September 2nd we met at Mrs. Thomas's, and we then decided, owing to the black-out, and all living some distance from one another, that we had better meet once a month on Saturday afternoons. It was decided that we take it in turn and visit each member's home. Our next meeting will be on October 10th at Mrs. Curtis's, 293, Mawneys Road, Romford. We shall be pleased to see any members from London Branch.

Some Old Comrades may be interested to know that Mrs. Yates (Robinson), of Boulogne, had her daughter married on July 18th, at Hitchin. I was able to attend the wedding and reception, which was at the Sun Hotel, Hitchin. I have not seen "Robbie" for about four years, and was very pleased to see her looking so well. She is now living at Catterick, where her husband is a Major in the Army. The daughter is an officer in the A.T.S., so carrying on her mother's tradition.

PADDY PARKER.

Norfolk.

Unfortunately we have not been able to meet during the summer months, for a variety of reasons, but some local members still meet for tea on Tuesdays in Norwich.

The Hon. Secretary thanks many Old Comrades for their kind letters, and will answer all in due course—also all those who sent donations to the Bren Gun Fund. If possible, a meeting will be arranged in the near future.

L. W. CHILVERS.

London.

In view of the darker evenings now approaching, Re-unions will only be held once a month, i.e., on the third Saturday afternoon in the month, at 2.30.

SPECIAL EVENT.—A social and competitions afternoon will be held on Saturday, October 17th, at 2.30 p.m., to which all members and friends are welcome. Please bring along as many as possible. A "Bring and Buy" stall will be organised by the Misses Billington and Rogers, and all gifts will be most welcome. Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Courage and Miss Saunders have promised to arrange and organise the various competitions. All members are invited to suggest or organise a side-show, and volunteers are required for providing vocal and pianoforte solos. Whilst Miss Carpenter (Club Secretary) will do her best to supply buns or cakes for tea, it is suggested that members could augment same by bringing any surplus supplies they may have at home. The proceeds from the various competitions will be devoted to the Wool Fund, and Miss Saunders sincerely hopes that it will be possible to raise a good sum for the benefit of the Battalion; also to remind all that it will be the last opportunity for raising funds before Christmas. A special prize will be given to the member who raises the largest sum of money from her stall or competition. (Donations not to be included.)

The GENERAL MEETING of London Branch has been fixed for Saturday, December 5th, 3 p.m., at 5, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. (The Hon. Treasurer, Miss D. Hayward, has a word to say about those subscriptions not yet sent in for 1942. We need them badly, so please send them along so that a better account may be given at our General Meeting.)

A special request has been received from Miss Carpenter asking if, on this occasion, members attending would assist her by arranging to bring their own "eats." Tea to drink can be supplied, but cakes, etc., are such a problem. A number of Committee members have promised to provide sandwiches at W.A.A.C. prices. So let's make it a "Canadian Surprise Party." It should be interesting "sampling" our Comrades' war-time efforts in cookery.

The next COMMITTEE MEETING will be held on Saturday, November 21st, at 4.30 p.m. This is an important meeting, and members are asked to make a special effort to be present. Miss L. Saunders sends her usual excellent report on the work of the knitters for the Wool Fund. Here it is:—

"Since the last report, a Beetle Drive was held on June 4th, and the sum of £1. 13s. 9d. was realised. Many members were unable to travel to London to support us, owing to the heat, but we managed to arrange six tables, whilst others who did not feel like playing were able to sit and chat. We were glad to welcome Miss B. Ireland, Major E. W. Mayhew, and some other friends from the Regiment. Donors of prizes were as follows: The Misses Ireland, Binks, Saunders, Benson, Haines, and Rogers. Major Mayhew delighted us by presenting the prizes to the successful "Beetle Drivers." Many thanks to all those who not only played, but paid for a card in their usual generous manner. Mrs. Courage and Miss Burnett, who were unable to be present, sent contributions to the Fund.

"There is still quite a lot of wool in circulation; we hope to receive in the finished garments in good time for the next parcel. Through the kind suggestion of Sergt. Chambers, A.T.S., two parcels of wool were forwarded to the A.T.S. Hospital, and this has been knitted up into scarves and socks and returned to us for distribution.

We are very grateful to Sergt. Chambers for the trouble she has taken, also to the A.T.S.'s for their good job of work. The combined efforts of the Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. cannot fail to give great comfort to the troops. Three further parcels have been sent to the Regiment, containing 41 pairs of socks, eight scarves and one pull-over; this brings our total from the start to 629, and this is entirely due to the faithful few who knit and send donations to their Comrades in Arms with never ceasing effort. Well done, everybody.

"Garments have been received from the following: The Misses Starling, Burnett, Benson, Burr, Moyes, Hodges, Pitt, Lawson, Machin. Donations from: The Misses Mason, Billington.

"We hope that everyone will support our next effort to raise money in order that we may carry on the good work. With many thanks for all the garments and money sent in.—(Signed) L. Saunders."

The Beetle Drive was arranged and organised by the Misses Binks and Saunders, and a happy evening was spent by all.

In conclusion to this report, may I add a little post-script of my own. It is to thank all my London Branch Members for their good wishes and lovely gift to Major Mayhew and myself on the occasion of our marriage. It will ever be a happy reminder of my own dear Old Comrades and the grand times we have spent, and shall continue to spend, together.

B. MAYHEW,
Hon. Secretary.

(With acknowledgments to "The Wren," July, 1942.)

THE WRENS MAKE NAVAL HISTORY **Her Majesty's Tour of the West Country**

Her Majesty the Queen, Commandant-in-Chief of the Women's Royal Naval Service, travelled up a harbour in the West of England on the 7th May, 1942, accompanied by her Ladies-in-waiting, in the stern of a motor launch "manned" entirely by Wrens.

For the first time her personal flag was hoisted on a Naval vessel, and by a Leading Wren.

The analogy to be drawn between Her Majesty sailing to-day in brilliant sunshine, past cheering crowds in a serene harbour . . . and that other Elizabeth in her State Barge, proceeding graciously, perhaps to Greenwich or Tilbury, rowed by picked oarsmen and entertained by musicians . . . is not so remote, that it may trouble us.

The personal flag of Elizabeth Tudor was that of the Lord High Admiral of England, the Sovereign's flag, now known as the Royal Standard, flown whenever the Sovereign, or her representative, was present, the same flag, in fact, that flew for Lord Howard of Effingham at the mainmast of that other "Ark Royal" so many years ago.

The name Elizabeth has always been an inspiration to England—to Britain—and the people of the West Country greeted Her Majesty in the twentieth century with the same confidence that followed Elizabeth Tudor's address to her armies at Tilbury in the sixteenth.

One point stands out, however, to interest the historian, to delight the feminist; and, who can tell, perhaps to trouble Elizabeth Tudor in her grave?

The Queen's Standard was hoisted by a woman, a Leading Wren of the Women's Royal Naval Service, who was also in charge of the crew that sailed Her Majesty's barge.

What prouder moment will come for the Women's Royal Naval Service?

THE AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE.

Our acknowledgments and thanks go to "The Times" for the following reports and items gathered from its pages:—

"The Times," Thursday, September 3rd, 1942.

SERVICE WOMEN'S WELFARE.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Charges of Immorality Unjustified.

(From Our Parliamentary Correspondent.)

There is published to-day as a White Paper the report of the Committee appointed by the Government six months ago to inquire into the amenities and welfare conditions in the three Women's Auxiliary Services. The Committee consisted of five women and three men—four of its members being M.P.s—with Miss Violet Markham as chairman.

Its report is a lively and well written document of 58 pages, which contains a detailed survey of the organisation of the Auxiliary Services and the conditions under which women are serving. It shows that, in spite of some hardships and discomforts suffered by many women during the period of improvisation which accompanied the rapid expansion of the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F., the Services now are on the whole well administered, and that the conditions of service are highly satisfactory.

The committee finds no justification for "the vague but sweeping charges of immorality (among Service women) which have disturbed public opinion." The general impression made by the auxiliaries on members of the committee on their visits to camps was excellent. The report records the high regard which the committee learned to feel for all ranks of the women's services, and adds that "the nation has every reason to be proud of the women who are sharing the work of the sailors, soldiers, and airmen."

TEMPORARY DISCOMFORT.

During the rapid expansion of the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F., when officers new to their responsibilities had to carry out duties for which they were imperfectly trained, there was for a time discomfort in some units and confusion in others; and deficiencies were aggravated by very severe weather in the winter months of 1941-42. The standard of accommodation laid down for service women is, in some respects, better than that for men.

The committee feels that the minimum standard to be applied to auxiliaries should be one of "Spartan decency," and it was by this standard that it judged conditions on its visits to 123 camps and stations in all parts of the United Kingdom. It found that there was justification at the time for many of the complaints that reached it about the accommodation of the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F. The provision made for accommodation and

equipment on a large scale was inadequate. Drafts were sent to half-constructed camps with huts still awaiting completion and imperfectly supplied with light and heat.

Great efforts have been made in recent months to remedy deficiencies in accommodation.

Vague accusations about drunkenness and immorality in the services were partly responsible for the inquiry, and a section of the report deals with "service life and morals." It is observed that "virtue has no gossip value" and that the woman in uniform becomes an easy target for gossip and careless talk. Vague and discreditable allegations about the conduct of women in the forces have caused considerable distress and anxiety not only to friends and relations at home but to men fighting overseas.

Some of these tales have suggested a high rate of illegitimate pregnancy and that excessive drinking was a common practice. Information is available which demonstrates on what slender foundations a superstructure of scandal has been reared. Careful inquiries were made at all the camps visited and it was found that the figures of illegitimate pregnancy proved to be trifling. Comparable figures for the three services do not exist, but for the A.T.S. detailed figures were supplied about discharges for pregnancy which prove conclusively how little truth there is in the rumours about that service.

There are in the A.T.S. large numbers of married women and the pregnancies of these women are often, no doubt, carelessly confused with those of the single women. The pregnancy rate for married women in the A.T.S. in the first five months of this year ranged from 15.5 to 17 per 1,000. The pregnancy rate among single A.T.S. women is 15.4 per 1,000 per annum. This compares with an illegitimate birth rate among the civilian population in the age groups from which A.T.S. members are recruited of about 21.8 per 1,000 per annum. If strictly comparable figures could be arrived at the gap would be wider.

CHANGED STANDARDS.

Another important point is that a number of single women join the Forces when already pregnant. The Committee is satisfied that comparable and detailed figures for the W.A.A.F. and the W.R.N.S. would prove that any allegations as to high illegitimate pregnancy in those services were equally unfounded. It can say with certainty that the illegitimate birth rate in the services is lower than the illegitimate birth rate among the comparable civilian population.

The report comments that standards of sexual behaviour have changed greatly in the last generation; there is a certain bravado in much talk between young people about sex questions and theories are often paraded in conversation which are never put into practice. Shock tactics used against the shibboleths and conventions of their elders, says the report,

may prove good fun for the younger generation, but it is not surprising if the latter sometimes find themselves taken at their word.

Similarly with drinking. Alcohol has become a symbol of conviviality for women no less than for men, and has set a standard of social intercourse among people of all ages. Though there may be little drinking to excess the habit of drinking is more widespread.

Gossip mongers who spread unsavoury rumours never stop to reflect on such abstract details as incidence and ratio, which would reduce the stories they put into circulation to their just proportion. Allegations of general immorality in a camp, when investigated by the committee, resolved themselves into one or two cases which, in the course of gossip, had been multiplied many times over. The same applies to charges of drunkenness.

In the opinion of all most competent to form a reasoned judgment promiscuous conduct in the women's services is confined to a small proportion of the whole. On the other hand, constant tributes were paid to the good work and discipline of the women and their courage and cheerfulness.

MALICIOUS TALK.

The committee considers that these allegations reflect most unfairly as a generalisation on a body of women, the vast majority of whom are serving their country in a high and self-respecting spirit. They deplore the irresponsible conduct of persons who, without any first-hand knowledge, are content to damage the war effort by malicious or careless talk, which is derogatory to the Forces of the Crown and deeply wounding to auxiliaries who have the honour of their service and their uniform very much at heart.

The report emphasises that the well-being of service women depends to a large extent on the efficiency and capacity of their officers. The standard of officers is improving, but much remains to be done, and improvement is handicapped by the fact that all three services are seriously short of officers, a shortage which should speedily be made good.

The committee recommends (1) further recruitment from within the ranks; (2) further recruitment of women with specialist qualifications for emergency commissions; and (3) more active propaganda through the Appointments Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, with the help of the University Appointments Boards and the services, to attract suitable women of good qualifications who otherwise might be afraid that under the present system they would be lost in the ranks for the duration of the war.

The value of older women as officers is emphasised, and it is recommended that the retiring age should be raised to 55 in the A.T.S. and W.A.A.F., with an extension to 60 in special circumstances. Another recommendation is that broader educational instruction should be given to officers to fit them for their primary task of caring for

their women properly, and that training courses should be extended for a fortnight, even if this slows up the output. These recommendations about the recruiting and training of officers have been adopted by the services concerned and are already being put into effect.

Officers in the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F. complained about the inadequacy of their disciplinary powers for dealing with incorrigible women, and the committee was satisfied that the complaints were justified. It does not press for detention powers, because the War Office is considering methods of punishment other than detention, which will probably apply equally to the Army and the A.T.S.

The report records with regret a high incidence of pilfering among auxiliaries. It pained the Committee that the fine record of the women should be marred by this mean habit, and it found that an atmosphere of complete indifference about educational matters overhangs the women's services. It suggests that the excellent A.B.C.A. scheme for men in the Army should be invariably applied to the A.T.S. and extended to the W.A.A.F. and the W.R.N.S.; that more women education officers should be appointed, and of higher rank; and that the C.E.M.A. should be invited to co-operate in the general development of music, drama, and the arts.

In view of the shortage of woman-power attention is directed to the fact that one pool from which officers and other ranks might be drawn is the pool of childless wives of men serving in the Forces.

One of the most interesting sections of the report discusses the future of the women now in the services, and the suggestion is made that many of them would be glad to volunteer for service in "the great task of salvage among the victims of the war" in the liberated countries. For such duties the detachments of the women's services would, in the opinion of the committee, be admirably fitted to share. "To associate women," says the report, "with the task of reconstruction in Europe, to call upon them to share in a work of healing and mercy, would be not only to bring their war duties to a noble conclusion but to open a new chapter in international relationships of high value for the future."

A.T.S. OFFICERS AS A.D.C.s

The War Office states that there is no truth in the suggestion [not in "The Times"] that A.T.S. officers appointed as A.D.C.s are to accompany generals into fighting areas. G.O.C.s-in-C. in certain commands at home are allowed two A.D.C.s and the appointment of A.T.S. officers as A.D.C.s in lieu of male officers has been an approved establishment in these particular commands for a considerable time. These two A.D.C.s are appointed only to the H.Q. of certain commands at home for duty at that headquarters.

THE QUEEN'S TRIBUTE TO THE A.T.S.

The Queen recently inspected A.T.S. training centres and a junior officers' school in the South-Eastern Command. In a letter which Chief Controller Knox, Director of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, has received from Buckingham Palace, the Queen's Lady-in-Waiting expresses her Majesty's pleasure at seeing for herself the good will and skill with which women were applying themselves to so many unfamiliar tasks.

The letter continues: "The Queen was greatly impressed by the splendid esprit de corps which has been built up after only three years, and the obvious pride which your officers and non-commissioned officers take in the Service to which they belong."

After referring to the work of the A.T.S. as affording "a sound foundation for future usefulness," the letter says that the Queen will have many happy memories of her day with the A.T.S.

The Queen has sent to all ranks of the A.T.S. a message of appreciation of their service and her good wishes for their welfare.

BRITISH A.T.S. CHIEF IN CANADA

(From Our Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, September 10.

Mrs. Jean Knox, Chief Controller of the A.T.S., who is in Canada to inspect the Canadian Women's Auxiliary Corps and assist in the recruiting campaign, yesterday told the Press that service in the Army made "better women, not just imitation men." Army discipline, she said, "teaches women obedience, neatness, and a sense of duty. This is a woman's war as much as a man's war." She was deeply impressed with the rapid progress of the Canadian Women's Corps.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES.

Major G. J. Gibbs and Miss M. E. Mackay.

The marriage arranged between Major Christopher John Gibbs, R.A., and Subaltern Margaret Evelyn Mackay, A.T.S., will take place quietly at Pelham Church, near Canterbury, on Tuesday, September 8, at 1 p.m. All friends will be welcome at the church and afterwards.

Major N. C. Adnitt and Miss Campbell.

The engagement is announced between Major Norman Charles Adnitt, Northamptonshire Regiment, second son of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Adnitt, Northampton, and Miss Agnes Jean Campbell, A.T.S., eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Campbell, M.C., and Mrs. Campbell, Greenock.

Mr. T. B. Foster and Miss E. S. de Chassiron.

The engagement is announced between Thomas Barham Foster, only

son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Foster, of 34, De Vere Gardens, W.8, and Eileen Stella de Chassiron, A.T.S., only daughter of the late Baron and Baroness de Chassiron, of Bishop's Waltham.

Lieutenant W. W. H. Brydon, R.M., and Miss D. Thorogood.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant William Walter Hugh Brydon, R.M., elder son of the late Hugh Brydon and Mrs. Brydon, 15, Eliot Place, Blackheath, S.E.3, and Dawn Thorogood, Second Subaltern, A.T.S., daughter of Mrs. S. Thorogood, Baydon, Wiltshire.

Captain P. S. Sanders and Miss D. J. Barry.

The engagement is announced between Captain Peter Crofton Sanders, R.A.O.C., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Sanders, of Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Doreen Jessie Barry, Subaltern, A.T.S., only daughter of Mr. L. C. Barry, of Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire, and of the late Mrs. Barry.

Major D. Dollard and Miss L. Parker.

The engagement is announced between Major Dennis Dollard, R.A.S.C., son of the late Dr. and Mrs. Dollard, and Miss Letitia Parker, A.T.S., daughter of the late Captain W. M. Parker, the Rifle Brigade, and of Mrs. Hardman-Jones.

Captain J. T. Walford and Miss M. C. Jones.

The engagement is announced between Captain James Walford, Royal Artillery, only son of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Walford, Cheltenham, and Margaret Jones, Subaltern, A.T.S., youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. C. Jones, C.B., D.S.O., Royal Marines, and Mrs. Jones, Cambridge.

MARRIAGES.

BARLOW — ROBINSON. — On August 4, 1942, T/Colonel Jocelyn Arthur Barlow, West Yorkshire Regiment, youngest son of the late Brigadier-General J. A. Barlow and of Mrs. Barlow, to Janet Mackay Robinson, Chief Commander, A.T.S., only daughter of the late John Aitken and of Mrs. Aitken.

MacLEOD — MONK. — On August 22, 1942, in Cairo Cathedral, Captain R. M. MacLeod, Rajputana Rifles to Elizabeth Monk, 2/Sub. A.T.S., daughter of the late Mr. F. F. Monk, of St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and of Mrs. Monk, at Kingsland House, Shrewsbury.

HEALD — VAUGHAN. — On August 29, 1942, at Holy Trinity, Dorchester, Sec. Lieut. Villiers A. J. Heald, Dorset Regt., to Jean Vaughan, A.T.S.

AVELING — DENISON. — On August 22, 1942, at All Saints, Spofforth, Lieut. J. S. Aveling, R.A., only son of Surgeon Captain C. J. Aveling, R.N., and Mrs. Aveling, to Doreen (Sergeant A.T.S.), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Denison, of Grantham.

THE A.T.S. BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund is now becoming well-known within the Service, and all ranks are giving it their increasing support, appreciating the value of having something to fall back on in the event of unforeseen difficulties, illness and post-war conditions.

It was decided when the Fund was started that during war-time only the income received from subscriptions that had been invested would be used for specially necessitous cases, as for one thing the income would not be much in the early years, and for another, there already exist several excellent charities which in war-time open their hearts and purses to women serving in H.M. Forces.

The capital is being invested by the Committee of Management in 3 per cent. War Bonds, and as the Fund has received registration as a War Charity, it does not pay Income Tax, which is a great advantage.

To date we have received 31 applications for assistance of one kind or another, and in all but two cases help has been given, either by means of a small money grant or by putting the applicant in touch with the British Legion, the Soldiers and Sailors Help Society, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, or other suitable sources.

One ex-officer has been found employment through the good offices of the Hon. Secretary of the O.C.A., and one as a teacher. Layettes have been obtained free for several ex-Auxiliaries going to have babies. Some very sad cases of T.B. and cancer have received a token of sympathy from the Fund, and two have had their applications for pension reviewed successfully. The British Legion Benevolent Department have been very helpful in our cases, both in giving grants of money and obtaining employment.

Only one case on investigation has turned out to be a fraud.

One of the saddest we have been able to help a little by making a small donation to the A.T.S. Welfare Officer for the purchase of cigarettes, is that of an Auxiliary, at present in a mental hospital, who went off her head on hearing (quite falsely) that her husband—a stoker in the Navy—had been drowned on active service. She is recovering slowly.

The above are just a few of the kind of cases we are able to help, and are a cross section of those likely to come forward in increasing numbers in the difficult post-war years. Therefore, it is up to us to do all we can to raise the Fund to the maximum possible at the present time.

We have had much help and encouragement—The Princess Royal, the Director, Controller L. E. Whateley, the A.T.S. Council, and all the Deputy Directors at Commands have given practical assistance and generous subscriptions.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan has given the royalties from her new book, "Service with the Army."

Our total last year was £1,765. This year we have already more than doubled this sum, though we still are some way off our aim—100 per cent. subscription from all ranks in the Service of one day's pay a year while serving—in order to have a nice nest-egg in the bank on which to call in time of trouble.

Every little helps the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund to help those in trouble and distress. You can help in the following small ways:—

Order an A.T.S. Diary for 1943 from Messrs. Letts, of Diary House, Borough Road, London, S.E.1.

Have you read "These Women Make History" and "Jane Goes to War"—price 1s. 6d. each—published by Messrs. Raphael Tuck (Royalty on sales go to the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund) and they will make suitable Christmas presents for the family.

Also "Service with the Army," by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, published by Hutchinson and Co. (Publishers), Ltd.

The following extract is from a letter received from Miss G. Blanchard, 121, West 81st Street, New York City.

It is always a red letter day when the Gazette arrives, and I think it fine of you to continue it in these difficult days. I like the idea of filling the last page with short items of news from or about members. I wonder do you know that we have a prisoner-of-war in France among the ex-W.A.A.C.'s, although I don't think she is a member of the O.C.A. She is Eleanor Teall, and members who were in Rouen in the last war will know her well. She went to live in Rouen in 1925 permanently, as she liked it so much. Teall and I always corresponded, but letters ceased in June, 1940, and I was without news of her for a year. Then, in June, 1941, I got a double letter card, or postal card, I should say. One half she wrote on, and the other half I was told in three languages to write on the lines and write legibly. Never having done the latter, I decided to type my answer. She told me that she had been in hospital six months, and had lost a little finger through a whitlow, but was now quite better. She said she had now been moved to Vittel, and her address was "Grand Hotel," Chambre 356, Section 6, Vittel, France. The next day a short paragraph in the "New York Times" gave me some information about Vittel, which is a health resort in the Vosges Mountains, and it said that there were 1,400 British women interned there, and that their accommodation was better than it had been in barracks at Besancon, where they had formerly been. In October, 1941, I got a letter card, and she wrote about 25 lines. After inquiring about various people she knew, among them Chrissie Adams, with whom I am not now in touch as she has not written me for some time, Teall wrote as follows: "We have very nice rooms here; there are bathrooms, lounges, and a casino for concerts and classes. There are French, German, English, Spanish, and Russian classes, Shakespeare and other poetry readings, lectures, cinema twice a week, and concerts frequently. There is a park and sports ground, and we have a canteen and a draper's shop. Please do not send any food, as we have plenty and receive a parcel each week, and often cigarettes. There is a large field-kitchen which provides us with tea-water, morning, noon and night. Send a cheap edition of books."

Well, I feel inclined to take that with a "grain of salt," particularly as people arriving in America, who have somehow managed to escape from internment camps, bring tales of awful conditions and treatment—the atrocity stories we hear over here are dreadful. I am sorry to say I have not been able to send her books, as the Post Office won't take them, and I have not been able to find any organisation that will get them to her.

Then last Christmas I had a post-card from her, which was written in November. She said very little beyond wishing me a happy Christmas, and that they had some snow, and she had some sewing to do. Letters from a prisoner-of-war are not very illuminating, but I was always very glad to get even these scraps of information—at least it told me she was alive.

NEWS OF COMRADES, OLD AND NEW.

Our hearty congratulations to **Chief Commander G. Thompson**, who leads a very busy life "Somewhere in England." The number of A.T.S. now under her command run into four figures and she well deserves her promotion. Chief Commander Thompson served in Q.M.A.A.C. as Miss Turner, and was a Unit Administrator at Ripon and York. She enrolled in the A.T.S. in the early days before they were embodied.

Miss M. Sanderson, of London Branch, who always did such wonderful work for the Clothing Cupboard, is working for the Fighting French at the Centre d'Accueil, and is finding the work most interesting. We know that anyone who has Miss Sanderson to look after them is very lucky and there is no doubt that her work is appreciated.

Miss Nora Mitchell has heard lately from **Miss Giles**, who will be remembered at the Convalescent Camp at Le Touquet, where she looked after our convalescents so well. Her letter contained news of **Dr. Nash**, which we are pleased to get as we have heard nothing of her for a long time. Dr. Nash was M.O. at Etaples. She is now living at Havant and since the death of her mother has returned to her surgical and medical work.

Mrs. D. M. Ashton (Dorothy M. Hastings, Wkr. 1631, Q.M.A.A.C.) writes from Seattle, Washington. She is most anxious to return to England now that the British Government are asking our Nationals to return to help over here. However, a most discouraging answer was received as the women most needed here are trained nurses and, like many of us, she was born too soon! She is working in the British Consulate, and the Ministry of Labour state that she could not be doing a better job even on this side of the Atlantic. Mrs. Ashton writes: "During the past years I have lost touch with most of my Old Comrades, owing to having travelled so far away from them all. Would it be possible for you to insert a note in the next issue of the "Gazette" asking anyone who remembers me to drop me a line? I shall be very glad to hear from them. I was stationed at Camp 111, Abbeville and at Signals, Huchenneville. Her address is: C/o British Consulate, 1815, Exchange Building, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

We are glad to get news again of **Mrs. Patricia M. Croydon** (Buckland), who was at one time secretary of Shoreham Branch until her health and move from Shoreham necessitated her resignation. After many months of ill-health and other misfortunes due to the war she is now well and in happy circumstances again. Her daughter joined the W.A.A.F., married, and has now produced a delightful Waaflet (it sounds a nice cuddly name for a baby!), which the proud grannie is looking after until her daughter is demobilised. Mrs. Croydon takes a keen

interest in the A.T.S., and has offered hospitality to members on 48 hours leave, and usually has three or four with her when travelling does not seem worth while. They must feel grateful to spend their time so happily and comfortably with someone who has the same Service traditions.

Sergt. I. Chambers has now left Burnley and is at Preston. She is very keen on getting the Comrades Association known among the A.T.S., and suggests that all N.C.O.s should interest their auxiliaries in the matter. She hopes to find at least 100 new members for the C.A.

Miss Dorothy Stone (F/W, "Dot" Stone) writes from Worcester. She says that she must put **Nora Mitchell** on her list for a letter; also how much she has enjoyed the "Gazettes." She has found Dame Halen's book, "Service with the Army," extremely interesting. She was talking one day to a new assistant at one of her country exchanges and discovered that Mrs. Jones had served as Madge Leach in Q.M.A.A.C. Miss Stone also mentions Miss Giles (Commandant of the Woodside Convalescent Home, Le Touquet), who was much loved by all Etaples W.A.A.C.s. They correspond every Christmas.

Mrs. G. F. Rose (London) leads a very busy life. In spite of going to business every day she looks after her home and a sick husband as well as finding time to be interested in O.C.A. concerns, such as the "Comforts Fund." Her son (a Waaclet of 22½ years) is Acting Flight Commander and her daughter of 18 is in the A.T.S. serving with an A.A. Battery. She proudly informed her mother that they had fetched down four or five bombers a few weeks ago.

C.S.M. Parton, A.T.S., who served at the 4th Musketry School on the Somme, St. Omer and the Base Depot at Camiers in Q.M.A.A.C. has since had the added interest of going to France in April, 1940, and returning just after Dunkirk. She is hoping to have another tour abroad very soon.

L/Corporal M. Turnock, A.T.S. (Wkr. M. Davies, 2238, Camp 10, Rouen), is a member of the Comrades Association. She came to hear of it through the good offices of **Chief Commander C. M. Jupp**, who served in France with Q.M.A.A.C. Mrs. Turnock has a son of 20, who is a Sergeant in the Army, and one of 11, at present a Scout but with hopes of being an "Admiral" in the Navy!

Miss Florence Vidler, of Toronto, **Mrs. Ruby Mundy**, of Calgary, and **Miss Georgina Blanchard**, of New York, have sent donations to the Bren Gun Fund, for which we thank them and also for their good wishes to Old Comrades.

Miss Vidler asks for news of Miss Fisher, whose home is at Stevenage, and also about members who were at Woodcote Park, Epsom. I am sure that she would welcome letters. Her

address is: 124, Park Road, Rosedale, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Both **Mrs. Munday** and **Miss Blanchard** say that the days of their service with the Army were the happiest they remember and they hope that the A.T.S. will enjoy the same experience.

Mrs. Mundy feels sure that the initials "N. M." which appeared at the end of the news in the March-April Gazette must be those of **Nora Mitchell**; she knows most of the Old Comrades mentioned and was greatly interested to read of them. She gives a long list of those with whom she served at Etaples, Dannes-Camiers and Le Touquet, but unfortunately there is not space to give them in this "Gazette."

Mrs. Gwynneth Griffith (Wkr. G. Evans, 2982) served at Queen Mary Camp and Queen Alexandra Camp, Calais, and for a time at Queen Elizabeth, Vendroux. She has lately joined the O.C.A. as a Life member and sent a generous donation to the Bren Gun. Her husband was a pilot in the R.F.C. in the last war and has rejoined the R.A.F. for this one. Mrs. Griffith joined the N.A.A.F.I. and was in London all through the blitz but was discharged suffering from a tired heart. Only in one sense, however, as within a few months she obtained a post with the Military Recruiting Section of the Ministry of Labour. She comes into contact with many members of the A.T.S., and sends greetings to all W.A.A.C.s, A.T.S. and the Comrades Association in general.

Mrs. R. M. Anstee (who served as Ruth Cutter, No. 132) sends the sad news of the death of **Miss Ellen Wilks**, No. 157, another of the early members of Q.M.A.A.C. Her illness was largely due to the bad air raids. "Wilkie," as she was called, was well known to many Wimereux Waacs and was a staunch member of London Branch.

Miss Brandreth has also sent a notice of Miss Wilks's death, which is as follows:—

Ellen Wilks, No. 157, Unit 1, Wimereux. Many Old Comrades will be sorry to hear of the passing of Ellen Wilks on 6th August, 1942, after a long illness, patiently borne. Our sympathy goes to her family, especially to her sister, with whom she had lived for many years.

OBITUARY.—We regret to announce the death in London, on August 14th, of Major-General The Lord Loch, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., M.V.O. Among his many activities he was Chairman of the Council of Management of the United Services Fund. Lord Loch served in the Grenadier Guards, and the funeral service was held at the Royal Military Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Service Women's Benevolent Fund was represented by Mrs. A. E. B. Johnston, the hon. secretary.

BRANCHES

Adelaide.	Miss L. M. Smith, 52, Wattle Avenue, Brighton, Adelaide, Australia.		
Birmingham.	Miss E. I. Dipple, 17, Somerset Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, 20.		
Blackpool.	Mrs. K. Fry, 136 Albert Road, Blackpool.		
Bournemouth.	Miss F. E. Lever, A.T.C.L., Craighurst, 7 Church Road, Parkstone, Dorset.		
Bradford.	Mrs. A. Goodman, 2 Tivoli Place, Little Horton, Bradford.		2nd Wednesday
Brighton.	Mrs. E. C. Jolly, 107 Preston Drive, Brighton, 6.	Aqua Restaurant, Old Steine, Brighton.	2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
Bristol and West of England.	Miss B. Mould, 11 The Tynning, Bath.		Not fixed.
Cheltenham.	Mrs. Mann, Cornerways, Churchdown, Gloucester.		
Exeter.	Mrs. Vicary, Castle House, Powderham, near Exeter.	16 Dix Field, Exeter.	First Thursday of the month, at 3.30 p.m.
Edinburgh and East of Scotland.	Mrs. G. D. Hardy, 51 Lockharton Ave., Edinburgh 11.	Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Grdns., Edinburgh	1st Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Glasgow and West of Scotland.	Miss E. M. Gilchrist, M.B.E., 13 Royal Terrace West, Glasgow, C.3.	251 Renfrew Street, Glasgow.	Every Wednesday, 7.30.
Headquarters.	Mrs. Pratt Barlow, O.B.E., 82, Lancaster Gate, W.2.		
Irish Free State.	Mrs. O'Meara, M.B.E., Cove Cottage, Dunmore East, County Waterford.		Not fixed.
Leeds.	Miss E. Mair, 27 Virginia Road, Off University Road, Leeds, 2.		5 Park Square, first Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
Liverpool.	Mrs. E. Edwards, 8, Wyndcote Road, Liverpool 18.		
London.	Mrs. Mayhew, c/o 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.	See Branch Reports for dates of meetings.	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Ilford.	Miss P. Parker, 4, Richmond Street, Plaistow, E.13.		
Manchester.	Mrs. Cornes, 12, High Bank Crescent, Prestwick, Manchester.	Raglan Café, 24 Mosley St., Manchester.	2nd and 4th Thursday, 7 to 10.30 p.m.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Miss C. W. Maunders, 31, Norwood Avenue, Heaton, Newcastle.		Members notified individually.
New South Wales.	Mrs. E. Mills, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer	26, Victoria Street, Bondi Junction, N.S.W.	
New York.	Mrs. G. Rose. Phone Nevins 8-5250		
Norfolk.	Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 32 Grove Road, Norwich.		Monthly. Members notified individually.
Northern Ireland.	Sergt. Major N. Hughes, A.T.S., Palace Barracks, Holywood, Co. Down.		Third Wednesday in the month at 8 p.m.
North Staffs.	Mrs. G. H. Clough, 3 Eleanor View, Newcastle.	Nell Gwynne Restaurant, Newcastle.	Second Tuesday in month 7.30 p.m.
Notts.	Miss Osler, Flat 4, 74, Park Road, Lenton, Notts.		
Oxford.	Mrs. Jackman, 23 Grays Road, Headington, Oxford.		Members notified individually.
Plymouth.	Mrs. O. Foster, 2 Notte St., Plymouth.		
Cardiff and S. Wales.	Mrs. Diana Foster, 7, The Grove, Rumney, Cardiff.	Y.M.C.A., Cardiff.	Second and last Tuesday at 7.30 p.m.
Shoreham-by-Sea. (in abeyance)		The Café, 5 The Street, Old Shoreham.	2nd Tuesday each month at 7.30 p.m.
St. Leonard's.	Miss E. Taylor, 58 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea.	58 West Hill, St. Leonard's-on-Sea.	Not fixed.
Tees-side.	Miss E. Kendra, 21, Thackeray Grove, Linthorpe Middlesbrough.		
Transvaal.	Mrs. Widdicombe, 8 Gascoigne Street Observatory, Johannesburg, S. Africa.		

Editor Gazette—Mrs. A. E. B. Johnston, 82, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2.