



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.

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New Year Honours

We are sure that all members of the Comrades Association will join in congratulating the A.T.S., who must feel great pride that so many of their Service received Honours at the New Year.

We send our special congratulations to the following, who received the undermentioned honours, all in the Military Division:

Chief Controller J. M. Knox, C.B.E.

Sen. Comdr. Justina Collins (late A.T.S.), O.B.E.

Chief Comdr. L. M. Furguson, O.B.E.

Chief Comdr. E. M. C. Gowers, O.B.E.

Sen. Comdr. G. E. M. Stanley, O.B.E.

Jun. Comdr. F. Black, M.B.E.

Jun. Comdr. P. M. Cooper, M.B.E.

A/W/O Class 1, R.S.M. E. M. Mitchell, M.B.E.

W/O Class 1, R.S.M. J. M. Stripling, M.B.E.

Sen. Comdr. H. V. Webb, M.B.E.

We would like to send our congratulations to Miss E. M. Goodenough, Deputy Director W.R.N.S., who was a graduate of the A.T.S. School of Instruction at the Duke of York's Headquarters. She will be recalled by many who attended that School in the early days of the Service.



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.

Christmas Greetings

In spite of the fact that there was a war on, and a very nasty one, too, which places restrictions on paper and many other things, the Headquarters office was once again gay and festive, with greetings from all parts of the world. These came from our far distant members, as well as those near to us, and conveyed kindest remembrances to all Comrades, especially to those with whom they had served in the old days some 25 years ago! Naturally, all sent best wishes for the longed-for peace. So in the name of all the General Secretary sends thanks and good wishes to all who sent cards, calendars and letters: Mrs. Jolly and Brighton Branch, Chief Commander Rollinson, Margaret Moyes, Miss F. E. V. Nespoli (ex-A.T.S.), Mrs. L. W. Chilvers (Norfolk), Dorothy Ashton (Wkr. D. M. Hastings, 1631; now at Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.), Florence Vidler (Toronto), Mr. and Mrs. Peters (Nottingham), Miss L. Saunders, Oxford Branch, L. Ford (Australia), D. Hoad (Torquay), Nottingham Branch, Mrs. E. K. Roberts (now a sergeant in an Australian Training Depot), and W. Urquhart, at one time a member of Council, who has been in Australia for many years, but of whom we have not heard lately.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twenty-third Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, February 27th, 1943, at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1, at 3 p.m.

It is much regretted that it will not be possible to have a Reunion Tea after the Meeting, as has been the rule since the war began. The great difficulty of catering at present, and the even greater difficulty of staff, make it quite impossible for the Club to deal with such

numbers as are usually present at the Annual General Meeting.

BRANCH SECRETARIES' MEETING

The Meeting of Branch Secretaries will take place, as usual, at 2 o'clock, before the Annual General Meeting.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend both Meetings, so that they may be representative of all Branches.

**QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS
AND
AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE
COMRADES ASSOCIATION**

The TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the EX-SERVICE WOMEN'S CLUB, 5, BUCKINGHAM GATE, S.W.1, on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, 1943, at 3 p.m.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Twenty-second Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday, February 28th, 1942.
2. Business arising from the Meeting.
3. To receive the Report of the Council.
4. To receive the Report of the Hon. Treasurer.
5. To revise the Rules of the Association.
6. To approve list of representatives recommended by Local Branches for election to the Council for the coming year.
7. To elect the Hon. Treasurer.
8. Local Branch Business.
9. Other Business.

A. E. B. JOHNSTON,

82, Lancaster Gate,
London, W.2.

General Secretary.

(Nearest Station to Buckingham Gate: Victoria)

It is much regretted that, owing to the great difficulty of catering and the still greater difficulty of Staff, it is impossible to arrange for a Reunion Tea after the Annual General Meeting.

THE RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

For some time past your Council have felt the need of certain modifications in the Rules of the Association, and during the past months they have given them very careful consideration. The result is the draft printed below, which will come before the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, February 27th next.

We hope you will think them over and make suggestions, in writing before the Meeting if possible, so as to ensure that the Rules are as good and as clear as they can be.

The first thing to be noticed is that Associate Members have disappeared. They are, you will remember, "those who wish to be closely in touch with the Association and to share in its activities, but who did not serve in the Corps." They pay a subscription, but have no vote. Existing Associate Members will remain. They are not numerous. Any further need that exists could be met by a Branch inviting the attendance of some special friend or ally at its meetings and accepting a donation from her without the formality of Associate Membership.

The next point is the subscription. It has been modified to include the subscription to the Gazette. This is important, the Association is growing in size, it is already nearly three times as big as it was a year ago, and, unless we can rely on all members receiving the Gazette an immense amount of correspondence will be necessary, involving added helpers and added office

expenses. All the same, in fairness to present members, they may carry on with their present subscription and take the Gazette or not, as they like. Incidentally, the Gazette will become cheaper.

We have only twice had an Extraordinary General Meeting, and one may at present be called by a twentieth of the members. The Council think it wiser to lay down a definite number. One hundred is the twentieth of 2,000. We have already a larger membership than that, so the new rule makes it easier to call an Extraordinary Meeting if one is needed.

The most important change of all is the representation on the Council of Areas instead of Branches. The Association is growing larger; suppose we had twenty Branches of 200 members each, it would mean a Council of 80 members, apart from Vice-Presidents. It would be a public meeting, not a committee! All it could do would be to appoint an executive. So your Council think it would be fairer that Branches in the same locality should form an "Area," and that the Area should appoint representatives in common. They suggest, however, that this change should not come into force till general demobilisation begins and people are settling down in their homes again. Meanwhile an Active Service Branch has been formed to provide representation on the Council of our members who are still in H.M. Forces. Perhaps, in future, we may find that members in an Area like to meet one another and to have activities in common—that will be entirely voluntary; what is important is that they should join in choosing the best possible representatives.

Your Council will be interested to know how you view their proposals.

H. C. I. GWYNNE-VAUGHAN,

Chairman of Council.

— RULES —

1.—NAME.

The name of the Association shall be "Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association."

2.—OBJECTS.

The objects of the Association shall be to promote the interests of all who served in Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and of all who served or are serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, to foster the comradeship which exists between them, to help them to obtain assistance in need and to encourage preparedness to give service to the Country in peace and war.

3.—MEMBERSHIP.

(a) MEMBERS.—All officers and other ranks of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and of the Auxiliary Territorial Service are eligible for membership. If they have served for less than three months or if their retirement or discharge from the Service is due to misconduct, they shall not be admitted without the authority of Council. Adequate proof of service must be given. Women medical officers who have served with either of the above-named Corps are eligible for full membership.

(b) HONORARY MEMBERS.—Those whom the Association wishes to compliment by reason of their good work for the Association or for one of its Branches may be recommended for election by Council as Honorary Members. They are not required to pay a subscription, and have no voting powers.

(c) TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of any member or honorary member may be terminated by the Council on the vote of a three-fourths majority of those present and voting. Before such a vote is taken the member or honorary member concerned shall be informed, shall have an opportunity of stating her case to Council, and shall be told that the decision of Council is subject to appeal to a General Meeting of the Association. Notice of the intention to appeal must, however, be given within four weeks of the decision of Council being communicated to the member.

4.—OFFICERS.

The officers of the Association shall be the President, the Chairman of Council, the Treasurer, and the General Secretary.

An Honorary President, Vice-Presidents and Vice-Chairmen may also be appointed. The President shall be appointed by a General Meeting of the Association; the Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Annual General Meeting. All other officers shall be appointed by Council.

5.—GAZETTE.

Under normal conditions the Gazette of the Association is published once a month.

6.—SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(a) The Life subscription to the Association is £5.

(b) The Annual subscription, due on January 1st each year, is five shillings.

(c) These subscriptions include the subscription to the Gazette.

(d) Life members who joined the Association before January 1st, 1943, may pay a life subscription of £2 10s. 0d. for the Gazette or an Annual subscription of 2s. 6d. Annual members who joined before that date may obtain the Gazette for an additional 2s. 6d. a year.

(e) If membership is terminated under 3 C. above, no part of the subscription will be returned.

(f) Only financial members, i.e., those who have paid their current subscription (or whose subscription has been waived) have the right to vote at Meetings of the Association or its Branches.

7.—GENERAL MEETINGS.

(a) The Annual General Meeting will be held on, or as near as possible to the last Saturday in February, this being the month in which the first of the Auxiliary Services was constituted.

The General Secretary shall give each Branch Secretary three months' notice of an Annual General Meeting, and shall invite her to forward, at least six weeks before the Meeting, any resolutions her Branch wishes to place on the Agenda.

(b) An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by the Council either on its own motion or on receipt of a requisition signed by not less than 100 members of the Association and deposited with the General Secretary. The requisition shall state the object or objects for which the meeting is called, and no other business shall be dealt with at the meeting. A requisition may consist of several documents signed by one member or by more, provided that the same object or objects are stated in each. At least 14 days' notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given, and shall be accompanied by an agenda setting out the business of the meeting. The date, time and place of the meeting shall be decided by the Council.

(c) Publication in the Gazette of the Association shall constitute sufficient notice of any General Meeting. No General Meeting, Branch Meeting or Meeting of Council shall be invalidated by the fact that any member or members have failed to receive a notice of the meeting.

8.—COUNCIL.

(a) The Council are the executive body of the Association, and, as such, have power to manage the affairs of the Association and to deal with all monies and investments. They shall invest or use such monies at their discretion for the benefit of the Association. Members of Council shall not be held liable, either individually or collectively, for any losses incurred, provided that they have acted with reasonable care and, to the best of their belief, in the interest of the Association. The Council have power to make such regulations and to appoint such sub-committees as they may from time to time consider necessary, subject to any directions received from a General Meeting of the Association. The Council may invite the attendance at any Meeting of Council of members of the Association or of other persons who they consider would be helpful in their deliberations. Such persons shall leave the Meeting when the business for which they have been invited is concluded.

(b) Six members of Council other than the General Secretary and the Treasurer shall form a quorum.

(c) The members of Council shall be the Hon. President, the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Chairman, the Treasurer (if unpaid), the Area representatives, and three members co-opted by the Council to ensure representation of interests for which provision has not been otherwise made. The General Secretary

and the Treasurer (if paid) may be appointed to Council as Area Representatives.

(d) At the first meeting of Council after the Annual Meeting of the Association the chair shall be taken by the Chairman of the previous year, if present, whom failing, by a member chosen by the Meeting. The General Secretary shall call for nominations, from members of Council, for Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be sent to her in writing. The new Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be those having most nominations, and shall take office at the second Meeting of Council. The same person shall not hold office for more than four consecutive years.

(e) The Council shall meet ten times a year or as arranged under exceptional circumstances. Members shall receive 10 days' notice in writing of a Meeting of Council.

9.—AREAS.

The country shall be divided into AREAS, each of which shall be co-extensive with a Home Army Command. In addition, a Headquarters "Area" shall be formed, and shall include all members overseas or otherwise unattached who do not wish to retain their membership of a geographical Area. So long as members of the Association are serving in H.M. Forces they shall constitute an Active Service Area.

Every Area of less than 501 members shall appoint one member of Council, and every Area of more than 500 members shall appoint two members of Council, one of whom shall, if possible, have served in Q.M.A.A.C. and one in the A.T.S. The Area representative need not be resident in the Area which she is chosen to represent, but must be a financial member of the Area.

A Committee of Branch representatives shall be formed in each Area; the members of the Committee shall elect a Chairman and Secretary from among their number. The duty of the Area Committee shall be to appoint the Area representative or representatives on the Council of the Association. The Area Committee may also organise Area reunions or dinners, and may undertake such other duties for the good of the Branches as a whole as a majority of the Branches in the Area shall agree to delegate to them.

A sum of up to £5 to cover postage may be issued annually to each Area Secretary by the Treasurer of the Association.

10.—BRANCHES.

A Branch may be formed in any locality with the approval of Council.

The members of each Branch shall elect a Secretary and a Treasurer from among their number, and shall forward the names of those elected to Council for approval. If Council does not approve, they shall make a fresh nomination. A Branch of less than 50 members may elect one person to fill both offices.

Each Branch of less than 50 members may elect one representative to serve on the Area Committee of the Area in which the Branch is located, and each Branch of more than 50 members may so elect two representatives.

Each Branch shall hold a meeting before the Annual General Meeting of the Association, and the Secretary of the Branch shall forward to the General Secretary, not less than six weeks before the Annual General Meeting, any items to be placed on the Agenda of the Meeting.

It is the duty of the Branch Secretary to keep in touch with the members of her Branch, to collect subscriptions, to inform members of the Branch of all Branch reunions and meetings and of the Annual General Meeting of the Association, and generally to carry out the instructions of Council in respect of the Branch.

It is the duty of the Branch Treasurer to keep the accounts of the Branch, to forward to the Treasurer of the Association 1/- capitation fee for each annual member of the Branch, and at the end of the financial year (October 31st) to forward to the Treasurer of the Association a Balance Sheet showing the financial state of the Branch.

At the end of the financial year the Treasurer of the Association will forward to each Branch Secretary a sum of 1s. 6d. in respect of each Life member of the Branch.

All monies or investments held by a Branch are distinct from those held by the Association, and a Branch shall be liable for its own commitments. In no way shall the Association, the Council or the Area Committee be held liable for debts contracted by a Branch.

Should a Branch cease to exist, the balance of funds, if any,

will be sent to the Treasurer of the Association and included in the general funds of the Association. If, however, a Branch is re-formed in the same locality within three years, the Treasurer of the Association shall forward a like sum to the Treasurer of the reconstituted Branch.

11.—FINANCE.

It is the duty of the Treasurer to have the custody of the funds of the Association. She shall receive and bank all monies.

All cheques drawn on the funds of the Association shall be signed by the Treasurer and one member of Council, or alternatively by two members of Council. The Treasurer shall make a report of the Association's finances to the Council at each of its Meetings, and shall submit for audit a yearly Balance Sheet, to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

The financial year of the Association shall end on the 31st of October.

No alteration shall be made in the investments of the Association without a resolution to that effect passed at a properly constituted Meeting of Council by a two-thirds majority of those present.

The money Resolution shall have appeared on the Agenda circulated to members of Council.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT FOR JANUARY, 1943

A Meeting of Council was held on Saturday, 2nd January, with Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Chairman of Council, in the chair. The Meeting was the smallest that has been held for a long time, only seven members being present: Junior Commander Bilbrough, Mrs. Powell, Miss Billington, Mrs. Mayhew, Miss Slee (our new Hon. Treasurer) and Mrs. Johnston, General Secretary. Controller Carlisle was present by invitation. The draft of the new Rules was to be considered, and Council wished to have the views and suggestions of the A.T.S. should they have any to put before the Meeting.

Chief Controller Knox was unable to be present owing to illness. Council regretted her absence, and sent her a message through Controller Carlisle. Miss Davy, Miss Ireland and Miss Batty also sent apologies for absence.

The draft of Rules was carefully considered and a few amendments suggested. These have been embodied in the draft printed in this issue of the Gazette, and Council hopes that all members will read them carefully and remember to bring their Gazettes with them should they be coming to the Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Miss Slee, who has kindly undertaken to act as Hon. Treasurer, and thanked her for carrying on until the Annual General Meeting, when the Treasurer is formally elected.

The General Secretary reported that serving members of the A.T.S. were joining the Comrades Association in great numbers, some 1919 Annual members and 124 Life members had joined since the beginning of October, and further applications were coming in each day.

Council were pleased to hear that the Branch in Northern Ireland was reviving, and approval was given to the appointment of Miss Smyth as Hon. Secretary in place of Sergt.-Major N. Hughes, A.T.S., who resigned under Council's ruling that serving members of the A.T.S. should not hold such appointments. They were also glad to know that Miss Mair is hoping to re-start the Branch at Leeds, which has been very quiet for some time.

It was agreed not to fix the date for the next Council Meeting until after the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 27th February.

BRANCH REPORTS

Eire

Eire Branch laid a wreath on the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day in the new Memorial Park at Island bridge, Dublin. Our membership still keeps up, and perhaps we may welcome new members during the coming year. Miss Montgomery and Miss Keely are still busy in Trinity College, and we hear that Miss Montgomery has written another book, and that it will soon appear. I saw in a Dublin paper recently a heading, "We Saints and Scholars." It said: "Reviewers of Miss Jean Montgomery's first novel, 'That Men May Eat,' which was published two years ago, expressed the hope that in a future book she would deal with her experiences as Lady Superintendent of the kitchens of Trinity College. During her twenty years at Trinity, Miss Montgomery has made a host of friends. Her firmness, kindness and capability in presiding over commons and the students' buffet have become a College tradition. Whenever Trinity men meet at the ends of the earth you may be sure that one of the first questions is: 'I wonder how Miss Montgomery is doing?' Well, we shall read her book with great pleasure, I am sure. I'm very busy engaging labour for Great Britain, and find it most interesting, and like it very much indeed. Every good wish to Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Comrades from Eire Branch.

ANN O'MEARA.

Glasgow and West of Scotland

The annual soldiers' party, which was originally for the limbo of the last war, took place in the Club in December. With these men came young soldiers wounded in this war, which made a very sad sight. It seemed to us all wrong that they should be mixed. The party was the usual success, the men being thrilled to get an invitation out of hospital. The members contributed the "eats," and gave up some of their own rations in order to bake, etc., so, as formerly, the table was groaning with tempting fare, also the prizes for whist were very suitable. Before leaving each was given a packet of cigarettes and matches, and a box of cakes was sent to those who were not able to be with us.

The Club is very little used these days. One by one the members are scattering, so our little company gets smaller.

Miss Madge McNair has gone to the Employment Exchange at Wembley. We will miss her, but hope she will be very happy.

E. M. GILCHRIST.

North Staffs

On Sunday, January 3rd, we had a party, at which we entertained sixteen members of the A.T.S. who are stationed in the district. Mrs. Smith, at the Nell Gwynne Restaurant, gave up her Sunday rest, for which we were most grateful, and provided a most bountiful tea, to which A.T.S. and other members alike did full justice. After tea we played games and generally got to know each other. A good time was had by all.

We already have eight A.T.S. members of the Branch, who joined in 1942, and there are some more forms which have been distributed to intending members.

As it is not possible to do much entertaining in our own homes, we are hoping to have some more joint efforts and gradually increase our circle of A.T.S. friends.

H. CLOUGH.

Nottingham

Since my removal to the City Centre I have droppers-in," and my time is not so free as hitherto, hence no news from Nottingham.

Our Branch membership is steadily increasing, our members now numbering 20.

It is indeed hard to believe that many of our members (who look and keep so young) can possibly have sons and daughters old enough to serve in this awful war. It must be that the air of the Midlands is rejuvenating.

Mrs. Calvert's daughter Freda is in the A.T.S., and occasionally is free to accompany her mother to our meetings.

Mrs. (Wedgy) Cripp's daughter Josephine is joining the W.A.A.F. on special duties.

Mrs. Elwis's son was recently on leave. I believe he is in the Navy.

Mrs. Jackson's son is in the Navy; Mrs. Meadows has two sons serving, one in the Navy and one a Com-mando soldier.

Mrs. Peters's son, George, is believed to be in the Middle East. Mrs. Reynolds's son, Alex, is in the R.A.M.C. in the Middle East, near his own home. So our small Branch is very intimately connected with the war.

Mrs. Tippet's son, who is only 17½, is going to Oxford University to sit for an open scholarship. He, with five other lads from the school, has passed with distinction for this honour. We all wish him every success.

I have omitted to mention our one serving member, Mrs. Daykin, who is on instructional duties with the A.T.S. stationed within easy distance of the Club. Unfortunately she is unable to be with us very frequently, but we remember her and speak very kindly of her when she is unable to be present.

We have just heard the result of the Poppy Day sales. For the town, the amount collected was £2,653 9s. 1d. The Ex-Service Women's stand realised £103 0s. 3d. Mrs. Reynolds and her husband are responsible for this stall, and each year work very hard for the cause. Many of our members give as much help as possible to Mrs. Reynolds. Mrs. Tippet also had a stall, and realised £27 4s. 8d.

Another of our members, Mrs. Edith Patrick, has been helping at whist drives, jumble sales, "bring your tea" parties, etc., and with the proceeds enabled forty soldiers in the local hospital to have a happy Christmas by giving each man 5s., 20 cigarettes, an orange, razor blades, writing pads and toilet soap.

Unfortunately this gallant little lady, after a successful flag day, fell down a flight of steps and injured herself, yet continued her good work at home.

This week-end the "Waacs" and "Wrafs" held their New Year party. After a sumptuous tea, the evening was devoted to various games. In one game the members were each given a slip of paper with the names of three objects, which had to be drawn on a sheet of paper postcard size. The papers were then collected and re-distributed to everyone, and each had to guess the name of the object drawn. What fun! But none will be admitted to the Academy this year! !

There were team games, and enough prizes for each member to win either one or two prizes.

During the evening we were able to toast the King and also Absent Friends.

We send our kind thoughts to our London comrades, and sincerely hope that no harm befell them during the week-end raids.

N. OSLER, Branch Secretary.

London

I have some grand news for members this month. The following Airgraph letter has been received from Miss Edith Thompson:—

"Christmas and New Year Greetings to Miss Ireland, Mrs. Mayhew and all Members. Warmest greetings to you. I am hoping to be at home on leave in March—for one month only. Please have an emergency reunion for my benefit, but I cannot tell you the exact date. I hope you are getting lots of new Service members. Greetings also to Miss Carpenter, Miss Brandreth and all at the Club. I am longing to be there again. I hope you are all as well as I am—though nearly three years older.—(Signed) Edith Thompson."

So let us make our twentieth March reunion the best ever, always hoping, of course, that this date will fit in with Miss Thompson's arrangements. In the event of the date not being convenient, the Committee members will endeavour to contact members as far as possible, and I may be able to have a notice posted on the Club board announcing any change.

COMFORTS REPORT.—Miss Saunders writes: There is little to report since the year-end. Two parcels were at sent at Christmas from the Club, also one from Northwood Hills. Many thanks to all those who sent garments, even at the last minute, and could not attend the last reunion on December 19th. Only nine members arrived, so the parcels were not so large as hoped for. Donations have been received from the Misses Winks and Collins. Surprise parcels were given by Mrs. Eager, and brought in 13s. to the wool fund. These were "American raffled" by Junior Comdr. Bilbrough. Garments were sent in by the Misses Sparkes, Yetton, Stone, Winks, Saunders, Starling, Hayward, Barnet, Rogers, Mrs. Perry (Northwood Hills), Mrs. Eager, the Misses Winter, Peattie and Benson. Will those who still have wool send in their garments as soon as possible. There are still a large number to come in from wool distributed before Christmas. Many thanks for the trouble and skill shown in all garments sent in. There is plenty of wool for those who are willing to knit—every little helps to swell our Branch effort.

A greetings telegram for Christmas and the New Year was sent to our President of the Association, Dame Florence Simpson.

REUNIONS for the next two months are as follows: Saturday, February 20th, at 2.30 p.m.; Saturday, March 20th, at 2.30 p.m.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING has been fixed for April 17th, at 2.30 p.m. Will Committee members make a special note of the new time, please.

B. MAYHEW, Hon. Secretary.

Ilford

Our December meeting was held at my house, when six members came along. We were very pleased to see Mrs. Hardy. Unfortunately Mr. Hardy had been taken ill, and was in hospital. Mrs. Hardy 'phoned me to know if we were meeting, and it was lucky that we were, so she came along, and we were all very pleased to see her. It was quite like old times; we were only sorry all the members did not come along. Mrs. Spaul has been in hospital, and was too ill to have the January meeting at her house, so we cancelled it, and are hoping to meet at her house on February 13th. I have been trying to locate Mrs. Smith, of Walthamstow; she was one of our old members. I have had her letter returned, and have also written to her husband's place of business, and have had that letter returned. I do not know her single name, but should she have the Gazette and see this note, I do wish she would write me.

Norfolk

Although perhaps a little late in the season, Branch members wish all Old Comrades the Best of Luck in 1943. Unfortunately, very few meetings were held after April last year—just an occasional tea and talk for a few local members during an afternoon's shopping. However, we do hope to meet for tea on Saturday, February 20th, at 26, Branksome Close, Norwich, our hostesses being the Misses Newberry and Prothero, and trust that a good number will be able to turn up. There will be an interesting amount of correspondence, as many members have written for Christmas and the New Year. So roll up in good time for tea at 4 p.m.—the Hon. Secretary has to leave just after 6 p.m. to catch the last bus back to Great Witchingham.

Members will be pleased to know that Molly Howes, Kenya Colony, has quite recovered from her operations, and is busy sewing once more. Her eyes have been rather a trouble again recently. Mrs. Robinson, Dudley, has not had very good health during the past year, but seems better now, and sends her best wishes to "Mac," who keeps very busily employed at her Y.W.C.A. She gets some hectic experiences in her home, but always writes cheerful letters after. Mrs. Rumbold is now back home, and we hope to see her at the next meeting.

Will members please note that subscriptions for 1943 are now due?

L. W. CHILVERS.

AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE.

We have, as usual, to thank "The Times" for some items of interest about the A.T.S. This Service is continuing most successfully to increase the number of its activities, and the confidence placed in the good work of its members has been more than abundantly justified.

A.T.S. SORTERS OF ARMY LETTERS**Replacing Men on Postal Work
SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT**

Specially trained members of the A.T.S. are now taking over an increasing share of the work of the Army Post Office here, which deals exclusively with all forms of mail for the Army and the R.A.F. overseas, thus releasing more men for service abroad. At present there are about 350 members in this company of the A.T.S., of whom 200 are engaged on postal duties. The company has an intake of 25 a week, and will eventually be about 1,000 strong.

At first only A.T.S. members who had been postal workers in civil life were engaged, but now others who show suitability for the work are being employed. Many of the duties require a high degree of intelligence and skill. It is clear that what was originally regarded as—and to some extent still is—an experiment has been abundantly justified.

The women and girls first undergo six weeks' intensive training in the theory and practice of postal work, the latter including sorting specimen addresses on cards. There have been only two failures. At first the rate of sorting may be 100 or 200 letters an hour, but some of the A.T.S. workers attained a rate of 1,000 an hour in a surprisingly short time. Owing to the large number of different arms of the service in the British Army, and the sub-division into regiments, battalions, batteries, and so on, the sorting is by no means simple. The auxiliaries each deal with about 8,000 letters a day.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. Ross, who is in charge of the Army Post Office here and who before the war was in the Investigation Branch of the G.P.O., said to-day that he had never regretted the arrival of the A.T.S. in the various branches under his direction, and he wanted more of them. They had proved themselves to be hard working and had exhibited concentration and intelligence.

SEARCHLIGHTS MANNED BY A.T.S.**Success of Experiment.**

The experiment made in manning searchlight sites by women has proved entirely successful. Already there are a large number of sites in various parts of the country where women are in complete control of all the instruments.

During a Press visit to an A.T.S. unit the women gave a demonstration of their duties when warning of an air raid has been given. Instantly the spotter is out with her field-glasses, other members of the unit take their places on the sound locators and at the controls of the huge, powerful lamp. There is more in working a searchlight than switching on and off the light, for as it swings round the lens has to be kept in focus and the power controlled.

It can be cold work sitting out in a field in the spotter's chair or at any of the other posts, and the women are issued with special "teddy bear" coats, which go on over the head and have no buttoned opening to let in the wind, and mittens with an overall cover like an airman's glove.

R.A.S.C. MIXED TRANSPORT COMPANIES.

A.T.S. transport companies serving with the R.A.S.C. in this country have been amalgamated with men's units to form Mixed Transport Companies. In each, A.T.S. outnumber the men by two to one. This new arrangement effects considerable economy of man-power, paper work, and communications. Soldiers and A.T.S. work side by side in the garages, offices and Q.M. stores. Heavy repairs are mostly done by soldier fitters, although this trade is now open to A.T.S. also.

**IMPERIAL EX-SERVICE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION,
MELBOURNE****Secretary's Report, Year Ending 30th June, 1942**

Our year started most enthusiastically with two meetings a month, but owing to the War coming so much nearer to us, and the need not to gather in the City, it was found necessary to leave our old home, Anzac House. Our President, Miss Foster, kindly came to the rescue, so since the 12th February we have been meeting at her home on the second Thursday in each month. This may not have been so convenient for some, but, on the other hand, those who could be present appreciated her lovely fires, not to mention the supper. It was most kind of her to offer us this hospitality.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Wildy, who entertained us at her flat on the 10th July, when Miss Flint gave some violin items.

On the 14th August Miss Flint gave a talk on her experiences in Greece during the last War, when £2 was collected for the funds of the Returned Soldiers' League.

In October Mrs. Cutting made a splendid effort at her home when the wonderful amount of £12 2s. was collected, and we would also like to thank Mrs. A. Smith for her many activities on behalf of the Club.

On November 3rd Mrs. Britomarte James entertained us at the Centenary Club, 20 members being present. Our old friend, Major-General Coxen, gave an interesting little address and Madam Bindley's choir rendered items which were most enjoyable.

The Annual Dinner was held at the "Wentworth" on the 11th December when 41 Members and friends were present. Our only guests were Major-General Coxen and Mrs. Coxen, and Miss S. Gray representing the Red Cross. We afterwards adjourned to the G.F.S. Hall for a sing-song and supper, the cost of which was defrayed by our Member in Canberra, Mrs. Moloney.

Regarding Anzac Day, to conform with Regulations we did not meet at the Shrine as usual, but Miss Foster placed a wreath on the Nurse Cavell Memorial and also at the Shrine.

Mr. Goldstein again helped the Association by donating 48 9s. he had collected in halfpennies.

The President of the National Council of Women entertained Members at afternoon tea at her home on the 28th February, which proved a very happy outing.

Members assisted at a Bridge Party held at Myers Rooms on the 24th March to raise funds for the Red Cross, and they have also helped in the sale of Matches, Christmas Cards and Blitz Bites. Our main war work, however, consisted of knitting for the Red Cross Section of the National Council of Women, the President of which Society made a special vote of thanks to us for the good result. The following articles were made:—

Ten Cardigans with sleeves, one Cardigan without sleeves, four Pullovers with sleeves, two Pullovers without sleeves, 27 Pairs of Socks, two Long Socks, 11 Pairs of Gloves, six Pairs of Mittens, seven Scarves, two Caps, 14 Pairs of Sleeves, 13 Balacavans, one Rug—total, 100 garments.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES

We are very sorry to learn that **Miss O. M. Ford** has been in a nursing home at Braunton for many months and is still there with complications after an operation; we hope to hear that she is making progress though at present she is not even allowed to knit. She compares her lot this time with all she was able to do in the last War. She is a keen reader of the "Gazette."

Miss M. Storer sends good wishes; she hopes that she will be able to remain at St. Leonard's, though many have already left the coast. It is good to hear that she is keeping better.

Miss M. F. Corner writes from Tavistock; she is very busy in a Government post and is keeping pretty fit.

Sergt. E. Kilgour Roberts is now at the Australian Women's Auxiliary Service Training School at Killara. She was only in the Army three weeks before she was made a Sergeant, so the old W.A.A.C. training stood her in good stead.

Mrs. L. W. Chilvers writes that she and her parents have now quite settled in their tiny cottage at Great Witchingham.

We send our congratulations to **Chief Commander Rollinson** on her well-deserved promotion which dates from June 20th last.

We are pleased to hear that **Miss B. Bailey** is now well enough to undertake some work and is with the Inland Revenue Office.

Miss W. M. Johnson sends her subscription to the "Gazette" and greetings but no news of herself.

Mrs. D. Stedman is working very hard in a Government Office, but she finds time to help with Brownies on Saturday afternoons. She served as Broomhead at Henriville.

An unexpected letter came from **Mrs. E. J. Addison**, who was Forewoman Barnes and served at Etaples (E. and G. Depot), and was later at Calais. She is the first woman to be appointed to an Executive office in the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L. in the Province of Quebec. She is now working in an Aircraft Plant. A short time ago she had news of **Bertha Barret**, also of Etaples, who has lost her husband and is now very ill. Mrs. Addison would like news of her old comrades if they will write to her. She tells us that **Dr. Helen Douglas** (well known to many W.A.A.C.s) is still practising at Winnipeg.

Miss E. A. Riggs (Birmingham) writes that one of their members, **Mrs. Cross**, is now a Postwoman.

Mrs. Nellie James sent good wishes for Christmas, despite her rheumatism she gets about in her chair or on sticks and is a very keen member of the C.A. She was evacuated from her home when it was bombed and now works as Cook in a doctor's family.

Mrs. E. F. Bartlett (Butler) writes from Bridport and is most keen to enrol more members for the Comrades' Association; she is delighted that the A.T.S. are eligible for membership.

Miss G. M. Smith, Secretary of the Imperial Ex-Service Women's Association of Victoria, writes from Melbourne on September 15th, her letter arriving on New Year's Day. She says that their activities met with somewhat of a halt when the black-out became acute. She feels that we shall be able to sympathise about this! However, since the Coral Sea and Midway Battles they feel a bit more secure and now have a good proportion of their lights on except round the coast and further North. They are also experiencing Clothes Rationing, but she thinks that we should think they are well off as they are allowed 112 coupons. It would seem that Lord Woolton ought to be over there as "Potatoes have faded out of the picture." They rejoice when

they see one. The fuel question has been trying as coal is unobtainable and there seem no men available to chop wood. Miss Smith tells us that **Miss L. A. Foster, O.B.E.**, has again consented to be President of the Club, despite her many other activities. Mrs. Britomarte-James (one of their Vice-Presidents) is not very strong at present and is living in the country. She sent the yearly report, which we hope to print if space permits.

Mrs. V. Rumbold informs us that she has now left Bath and is living again at Great Yarmouth. Her son has been in the R.A.F. for some 22 months. She is glad that he is still in England.

Miss Florence Vidler, who is in Toronto, says that it is a red letter day when the "Gazette" arrives. She sent a wonderful Calendar of beautiful Canada. It is most charming and decorative; anyone seeing it would most certainly wish to visit that delightful country at the first opportunity.

Mrs. Canning (nee Preston), who is the Sewing Convenor of the British Empire Ex-Service Women's Association, has sent a parcel of lovely knitted sockettes, mittens, etc., for the A.T.S., which will be very welcome. We do appreciate these kind actions and thoughts from our overseas members.

MRS. E. J. ADDISON, EX-Q.M.A.A.C., ONLY WOMAN TO SERVE ON QUEBEC EXECUTIVE.

For the first time in the history of the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., in the Province of Quebec, a woman has been elected to an executive capacity that is normally a men's branch. She is Mrs. Elsie J. Addison, of Jeanne D'Arc Street, Montreal, recently elected first vice-chairman of the newly organised "Victory" branch which has been meeting at 1419, Drummond Street.

Mrs. Addison is a Great War veteran, who served in England and France, for which she proudly wears the ribbons of the Victory and General Service medals. The branch to which men elected her was organised by the Canadian Legion for "veterans" of the present war, but Mrs. Addison believes it to be far less of an anomaly for a first World War veteran who is a woman to be an officer of the branch, than for a first World War man to be put in the job.

The Canadian Legion wanted one or more people of veteran experience to aid and counsel the young "veterans" of this war along until they had "found their feet," and were happy when the members selected Mrs. Addison.

Mrs. Addison, who attended all the organisational meetings of the new branch, is a native of Staffordshire, England. In the last war she saw service in hospitals in North Wales, at Colwyn Bay and Llandudno, from 1915 to Christmas, 1917. She then joined the Women's Auxiliary Corps, but was not sent overseas until February, 1918. She remained on active service until October, 1919.

Following the war, Mrs. Addison came to Canada and settled in Montreal, where she was married. When the present war broke out she immediately took as active a part as possible. She served with the Women's Volunteer Reserve Corps, assisted the Westmount Women's Club in war work and with Mrs. David Boyd organised a salvage scheme before it became an official war project.

Mrs. Addison's family in the Old Country have experienced the worst of horrors of the German blitz, being in Coventry when that city was almost razed by enemy bombs. At present she is employed at Canadian Vickers' aircraft plant.

FIGHTING BACK.

Mother and Daughter Refugees.

Among the Belgians who fled to England in 1917 was 17-years-old Regina, who later joined the W.A.A.C.s as messenger. After the war she married and opened a guest-house for British visitors at Ostend.

She escaped to England again in 1940, bringing her daughter, but her husband, who could not get away, has recently died. Now she is a W.A.A.F. cook and her daughter a radio operator at the same R.A.F. station.

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 Drove, 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.
Ilford.	Miss P. Parker, 4, Richmond Street, Plaistow, E.13.	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
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. Maunder, 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, 2, King's Head Terrace, Great Witchingham, Norfolk.	Monthly. Members notified individually.
Northern Ireland.	Miss Smyth, 18, Cedar Avenue, Carnalea, Nr. Bangor, Co. Down.	Last Saturday in the month at 7, Victoria Street, Belfast.
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) St. Leonard's.	Miss E. Taylor, 58 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea.	The Café, 5 The Street, Old Shoreham. 2nd Tuesday each month at 7.30 p.m. 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.

NOTES for REPORT of COUNCIL, 27th FEBRUARY, 1943.

COUNCIL has met on the following dates:- 27/4/1942, 17/6/1942, 1/9/1942, and 2/1/1943.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Twenty-second Annual General Meeting, 28/2/1942. 111 members signed the Attendance Roll. 110 at the Tea which followed. Chief Controller Knox present.

Branch Secretaries' Meeting held before A.G.M. Very few Secretaries able to attend,

BREN GUN FUND. In accordance with the wishes of the A.G.M. the Bren Gun Fund was launched by an appeal in the May-June Gazette. Has now been closed at £70. The Gun will bear the Badge of Q.M.A.A.C. 24 bars of chocolate, received from the Ex-Service Women's Branch of the Empire Service League at Calgary, Alberta, was raffled and the proceeds were added to the Bren Gun Fund.

Photograph of H.R.H. the Princess Royal. At the end of February (just too late for the A.G.M.) Princess Mary presented a photograph of herself in A.T.S. uniform to the Headquarters Office. (I will try and remember to bring it to the next A.G.M.) She became our Hon. President in Dec. 1941. A reproduction of the photograph appeared in the May-June Gazette.

BRANCHES. Branches were consulted with regard to the Bren Gun. All, with one exception, approved the scheme. (Manchester wanted donation to a Hosp. Owing to the many duties devolving on Branch Secretaries, it was agreed that these posts should not be held by General Service officers and auxiliaries of the A.T.S. whose time was already so much occupied by their other duties. This necessitated three changes, Nottingham, Tees-side and Northern Ireland; Mun. Commander Skellington being succeeded by Miss N. Osler, Corporal Fryer by Miss E. Kendra and Sergt. Major Hughes by Miss Smyth.

Some Branches have been very quiet and have failed to send in Capitation fees but several have promised revival in the New Year. Others have kept on steadily, meeting regularly during the Summer months though activities have to be curtailed now that the black-out is with us. (It is Leeds, Northern Ireland and Tees-side which show signs of awakenin

SERVICE WOMEN'S BENEVOLENT FUND. There have been still fewer calls on the S.W.B.F. 19 as against 22 in 1942. The assistance granted has been most valuable. Help with arrears of rent while a member was ill. Treatment at a Red Cross Clinic for Rheumatism; Towards maintenance when ill or looking for work; For clothing (case in Ireland) For fares while travelling to Hospital; for a Surgical Belt, for a holiday when convalescent; the cost of an artificial limb (in co-operation with the British Legion and United Services Fund Benevolent Department); for treatment at Harrogate, with the cost of fares; for extra nourishment and towards the cost of furnishing a room, (the whole sum required being contributed by four societies.)

ARMISTICE. On a thoroughly unpleasant foggy morning, the usual wreath in the form of the Badge of Q.M.A.A.C. was laid on the Cenotaph by Miss W. Rogers who was accompanied by Mrs Johnston.

GAZETTE. The Gazette since the issue of May-June has appeared with two Badges and the new title of the Comrades Association. The first issue of this series was graced with a reproduction of the photo of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Hon. President of the C.A. and Controller Commandant of the A.T.S. The circulation has increased slightly but we are still greatly in need of more subscribers. Sincere thanks due to Miss Warrior for her unflinching work in distributing the Gazette without any assistance.

BIRTHDAY of H.M. QUEEN MARY. A letter of ~~gratix~~ loyal greeting and good wishes was sent to Queen Mary by the President. A gracious reply was received, both letter and reply were printed in the May-June Gazette.

The COMRADES ASSOCIATION. The membership of the C.A. was 976 at the end of September. Since the beginning of October greatly increased by many hundreds as serving personnel of the A.T.S. have joined as both Life and Annual Members. (I will get out the correct figures and let you have them.)

THE A.T.S. BENEVOLENT FUND.

Founded January, 1941 by THE DIRECTOR A.T.S.

THE WAR OFFICE.

1. THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

THE LADY APSLEY, Chief Cdt. (rtd.), *Chairman.*

MRS. BLANCHE GIBBS, Senior Cdt. (rtd.), *Vice-Chairman.*

MRS M GARRAD, (W/1 and ex-Senior Leader), Somerset County A.T.S.

HON. MRS. BETTY ROBINSON, Sbn. (rtd.)

MRS. K. E. BRIDGE, Jnr. Cdr. (rtd.)

MISS E. JACKSON-BARSTOW, J.P., Jnr. Cdr. (rtd.)

2. OBJECT. To raise a Fund which will be of assistance to Members of the Service who may be in need after the War.

3. AIM. That ALL RANKS in the Service contribute 1 day's pay a year to the Fund.

4. CONTRIBUTIONS. Company or Group Commanders should collect and forward their Totals to the Hon. Secretary of the Fund, stating if the contribution is for the whole year, or what portion thereof. Nominal Rolls of the O.R. contributors are not required, but the names of the Platoons should be given also the strength of the Company, the proportion subscribing, and the address to which receipt is to be sent. The names of subscribing Officers are requested.

5. GRANTS. During War cash grants will only be made in very exceptional cases and where other forms of assistance are not available. For this purpose only the income of any sums invested may be used. Applications should be made to the Hon. Secretary. The capital sum raised will remain intact until demobilisation.

6. INFORMATION as to the Fund and Grants available, or Advice as to where to apply can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Petty France, Badminton, Glos.

7. ELIGIBILITY. Any Officer or Member who, after leaving the Service, is in need of assistance will be able to apply to the Committee of the Fund, who will do all that they can to help. But it is obvious that the success of the scheme depends on the support of everybody NOW, when the sacrifice of a day's pay a year seems a small insurance against a possible rainy day. Those who share in building up the Fund will not be asking for charity, but the help to which their own foresight has contributed. Many have happy homes awaiting their return, but some are not so fortunate. And, today, can any of us be sure

8. ACTUAL BENEFIT. The actual amount granted to an individual must be at the discretion of the Committee who will bear in mind the large numbers concerned. They will be guided by the need of the applicant, the money available, and the lasting good they can do. They will be able, in addition, to give information about other sources of help whether for training, for convalescence or in other ways.

How much there will be to use in this way depends on the keenness of ALL RANKS now.

All contributions and applications to the HON. SECRETARY:—

THE LADY APSLEY,

PETTY FRANCE,

BADMINTON, GLOS.

January, 1943.

9. **OFFICERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS** in the main are included with those of their Companies and Groups. Many have given generous donations and helped enormously in getting the Fund known. The Director allocated her B.B.C. Fees to the Fund. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., gave £100 from the royalties on the sale of her book—"Service with the Army."
10. **FOR 1943** it is hoped that we shall succeed in obtaining a still greater total for the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, as it is evident that the Aim of 100% subscription consisting of one day's pay a year from All Ranks is not yet achieved. It should be noted that £1,502 18s. 7d.. was collected as **Special Donations.** and it is hoped that during 1943 all Companies who can, will contribute under this heading, especially if their subscriptions fall short of their quota.

It is suggested that all Companies this year—

- (1) Arrange for at least one Church Collection for the Fund;
- (2) Give the proceeds of a Dance or Social to the Fund;
- (3) Set a target figure for the year, based on the quota of All Ranks subscribing a day's pay in 1943.

The Honorary Secretary would be grateful if units would forward their subscriptions in a single cheque at a time if possible instead of numerous small cheques.

11. We have the honour to record, with deep appreciation, the practical interest of Her Majesty The Queen, Controller-in-Chief A.T.S.

We have also received great assistance from H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Controller Commandant A.T.S.

The Hon. Secretary desires to record the continued support of the Director A.T.S. and the constant assistance given to her by the Deputy Director the War Office, by the A.T.S. Council, by A.G.19, by the A.T.S. Inspectorate and by all the D.D.s A.T.S. at Commands in getting the Fund known and appreciated by All Ranks of the Service.

Group Commanders, Company Commanders and Officers commanding Training Centres, Mixed Regiments, and the small units, all deserve special thanks for their work on behalf of the Fund in 1942.

VIOLA APSLEY,

Hon. Secretary,

A.T.S. BENEVOLENT FUND,

and *Chairman* BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE.

PETTY FRANCE,
BADMINTON,
GLOS.

January, 1943.

A.T.S. BENEVOLENT FUND.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

1942.

1. **SUBSCRIPTIONS** received as 638 separate donations amounted to **£9,898 16s. 9d.** as compared with £1,755 18s. 1d. for 1941. This may be considered very satisfactory, but should be surpassed in 1943.

The following is an analysis of the subscriptions:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. The Queen				25	0	0
A.A. Command:—						
G. D. Groups	1,231	9	7			
Mixed H.A.A. Regts. and Training Regts.	855	5	6			
				2,086	15	1
Training Centres				1,252	19	9
Eastern Command				108	8	5
London District Group				348	12	2
M.T. and	589	14	8			
Chilwell Group	289	10	11			
				879	5	7
Northern Command				795	11	1
N. Ireland District Group				173	3	0
Scottish Command				354	13	11
Southern Command				656	5	6
South Eastern Command				724	9	8
(including "Special Birthday Donations" £226 14s. 3d.)						
Western Command				464	11	0
Special Donations				1,502	18	7
(Church Collections, Dances, Socials and Disbanded Units)						
Signals Coys.				115	16	6
Technical Training Coys.				24	5	4
Personal Units				15	7	8
D.A.P.M. Department				3	0	0
War Office Personnel				15	11	6
Ex-Service Donations				2	2	0
Officers Personal Donations				350	0	0
				£9,898	16	9

2. **TOTAL EXPENSES.** (printing reports, postages, stamps, sundries) amount to £24 3s. 8d.
3. **THE AUDITORS.** Mr. J. Basil Watling, Chartered Accountant of Messrs. Watling, Parker & Co., of 40, Broad Street, Bristol, 1, generously audited the books of the Fund in an Honorary capacity. We tender to Mr. Watling our grateful thanks.
4. **THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT** met 3 times during the year.
5. **THE INCOME RECEIVED FROM INVESTMENTS** (January 1941—December 1942) was £59 8s. 3d. to which a further £18 0s. 7d. is due to be added from claims pending with the Income Tax Department, making a total of £77 8s. 10d. It will be remembered that during Wartime, only the income of the Fund may be used for making Cash Grants in specially necessitous cases (see par. 5. Notes on Benevolent Fund). £10 0s. 0d. was received from 236 A.A. (ATS.OFC) Training Regt. specially marked for "Income." The total available for Cash Grants was therefore £87 8s. 10d.

6. **APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE** were received on behalf of 59 Applicants. All received help of the kind necessary. The majority were found eligible to receive assistance from other quarters, merely requiring advice, local addresses and/or an introductory letter to one of the following:—the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association, the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Help Society, the W.V.S., the British Legion and the Women's Section of the British Legion, to all of whom we tender our grateful thanks and appreciation. In all the cases not specifically recommended by Commanding Officers as known to them, the trained British Legion investigators kindly investigated the home circumstances of the applicant, in the majority of the cases providing all or the greater part of the necessary assistance themselves. Only two cases were found to be fraudulent.

The following is a brief resumé of the 1942 applications:—

(a)	For Civilian debt	...	...	...	...	2
(b)	Medical (including surgical appliances, sanatorium fees, illness and Discharge on Family Grounds)	...	...	...	...	37
(c)	Pensions	...	...	...	...	1
(d)	Employment	...	...	...	...	3
(e)	Assistance in provision of Furniture	...	...	...	...	4
(f)	Civilian Clothing	...	...	...	...	2
(g)	Enquiry re Post War Emigration	...	...	...	...	2
(h)	Parents in difficulty	...	...	...	...	5
(i)	Divorce	...	...	...	...	1
(j)	Mental Hospital case	...	...	...	...	1
(k)	Assistance for repair of valuable Musical Instrument (Peace-time Profession).	...	...	...	...	1

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7. **CASH GRANTS WERE MADE** to 3 Officers, 8 O.R's.

	£	s.	d.
Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Help Society (towards provision of layettes for married and un-married mothers) ...	10	0	0
C.O. Withington Hall, A.T.S. Discharge Home (for assistance to unmarried mothers) ...	5	0	0
Case 11 ...	2	0	0
„ 13 ...	2	0	0
„ 24 ...	1	0	0
„ 36 ...	2	0	0
„ 33 ...	1	10	0
„ 16 ...	4	4	0
„ 40 ...	1	5	0
„ 41 ...	10	0	
„ 43 ...	5	0	0
„ 56a ...	10	0	
„ 61 ...	10	0	
	£35	9	0
Lakeman & Co. (Printing 15,000 "Help Leaflets No. 1")	16	17	6
	£52	6	6

8. **HELP LEAFLETS.** In dealing with the applications, the Hon. Secretary experienced great ignorance on the part of the Women discharged from the Service as to the sources of help open to them. To assist in overcoming this disability, the Committee recommended the publication of leaflets briefly setting forth the types of Assistance available at the present time with the relevant addresses. This was agreed to by the Director A.T.S. and the Council A.T.S. the War Office. A leaflet ("Help No. 1") was prepared with the co-operation of Chief Cdr. K. Whiddington, O.B.E. (A.G 19). This leaflet is now distributed by the kind co-operation of the Officer-in-charge Records to all discharged Auxiliaries and a few copies have been made available to all Company Headquarters for information.

"Help Leaflet No. 2" for the information of Officers as to the advice for their Women, is in course of preparation and will be circulated down to Company Headquarters through official channels early in 1943.

QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION.

~~STATION: F-SLOANE SQUARE~~

TELEPHONE: ~~SLOANE 6952~~ = Pad: 8440.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED
TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

82 Lancaster Gate, W.2.

~~DUKE OF YORK'S HEADQUARTERS,~~

~~KING'S ROAD, CHELSEA, S.W. 3.~~

26th February 1943.

My dear Dame Helen,

I searched the Minutes yesterday and found that Warriob came on the Gazette Committee in January 1923, just on 20 years ago. I could not find out the date when she became Gazette Secretary but possibly it was not long after that date.

If she could be made one of the new combined Life and Gazette members, I am sure it would be most pleasing to her though she is so shy and retiring that I do not think she would go to the Meeting if she had any suspicions that it was contemplated making nice remarks etc. about her. Since the war she has carried on without a Committee and has kept the Gazette records and sent off all the Gazettes at each issue. Nothing is any trouble to her that she can do for the O.C.A. and she has made out the Records for the new A.T.S. Branch, which numbers over 2000, with the exception of some

600 which has been an enormous help. She will be a great loss to the C.A.

I understand that she will be going to her home at Harrogate on or about 8th March and will not be returning to London. She has already done all the wrappers in readiness for the next issue so as to save all the trouble possible for her successor.

What a mercy we have got Clark as she will be able to help in all these ~~kindxx~~ ways until we find someone to carry on with the Gazette and the Active Service Branch.

Miss Davy says that she will be at the Club on Friday and has NOT forgotten the Branch Secretaries' Meeting. I do not know of any Secretary who is coming so it will not be much of a Meeting! Last year we had only one Secretary, and the same the year before.

Yours, in haste (as usual)

A.S.B. Johnston

General Secretary.

W.R.A.F. OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION



Changes of subs. etc
don't affect present
members.

Objects - a new one

Membership - full
less than 3 months
or misconduct - Council.
cil.

No Associate

Power to end membership
ship

Officers - essential
& extra. Pres: not
named, because that is
not really a rule, its
a FACT. A.G.M. appoints

Gazette - nothing

Subs. new sub. to
include Gaz.

A.G.M. date, longer
notice to Branches

Ex.G.M. 100 instead
of 1/20th = 150 OR
Council may call.

Publication in Gaz
is notice - economy

COUNCIL Areas
3,000 members in 30
branches = 60 + v.ps

Area Com duty to appt
Area reps on Council,
may arrange Area activ.
6 Cds + 2 Districts

Council 2 16