



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. XXI. No. 8.

JULY—AUGUST, 1943.

Subscription and Gazette,
Life, £5. Annual 5s.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All contribution 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

The first business at the Meeting of Council, held on Wednesday, June 2nd, was the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.

The General Secretary reported that 15 nominations had been received for the re-election of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, with only one other nomination. Dame Helen was therefore declared Chairman.

Nominations had been sent in for the office of Vice-Chairmen as follows:—Miss B. Ireland, Miss L. Davy and Lady Apsley. It was agreed that they be elected Vice-Chairmen.

The Meeting then proceeded with Dame Helen in the Chair and the following members were present:—Junior Commander Lady Apsley, Junior Commander M. M. Grundy, Senior Cmdr. B. G. Harvie-Anderson, Miss Bilbrough, Miss H. M. Billington, Miss L. Davy, Mrs. B. Ireland, Staff Sergt. C. Kemp, Chief Comdr. M. F. Patrick, Mrs. W. M. Powell, Senior Comdr. Viscountess Swinton, Miss L. Saunders, Miss I. Turner, Junior Comdr. E. Walker, Miss M. Snee, Honorary Treasurer, and Mrs. A. E. B. Johnston, General Secretary.

Apologies for absence were received from Chief Controller J. Knox, Private J. K. P. Reynders, Miss Batty, Mrs. Pratt-Barlow, Miss Binks and Mrs. Mayhew (for two Meetings).

The possibilities were out-lined of the permanent retention of women as part of the Armed Forces of the Crown. It was generally agreed that this was desirable and preliminary discussion took place of the ways in which it might be accomplished. Members of Council

were asked to consider whether, after the war, a permanent service would be for the good of the Country and also to what extent women would be likely to wish to serve.

Lady Apsley gave an encouraging report of the progress of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund though members of the A.T.S. were not yet subscribing in such numbers as it was hoped would be the case.

It was agreed that a letter of congratulation be sent to Senior Controller L. V. L. E. Whateley who had received the C.B.E. in the Birthday Honours and that congratulations to all other A.T.S. recipients of Honours be printed in the Gazette.

The General Secretary was granted a holiday from the 5th to 19th July, as Miss V. Clark was available to carry on the work of the office. Unfortunately the night before Mrs. Johnston was due to return to duty a burglar entered Miss Clark's house and stole all the correspondence, Comforts Report, data about the Cake Raffle, a certain amount of cash (fortunately only a small amount as we were able to stop the cheques) and a receipt book.

In consequence of this bad business, the General Secretary is not sure who has written in her absence, though Miss Clark has tried to recall the names of the correspondents. She would, therefore, be very grateful if anyone who wrote to her between the 5th and 19th will be good enough to write again. In the circumstances we feel sure that they will understand why no reply has been sent to the vanished letters. The burglar is not likely to have troubled to do so!

It was a great pleasure to see Miss C. A. Edwards, Miss F. N. Peters and Miss Davy at the office,

BRANCH REPORTS

London

London Branch members put up a very good show when they collected £4 5s. for the raffle for the cake from Canada. Of this sum, £1 was subscribed by the Middlesex Regt., in appreciation of London Branch's help to their Comforts for the Troops. Miss L. Saunders was the winner of the Branch draw and accordingly her name was forwarded to Headquarters for the final draw, which took place at the Club on July 17th. When the names of the winners of each Branch contributing to the raffle were again placed in the hat, Pte. Monica Banks, A.T.S., and niece of Miss Paddy Parker, of Ilford, was asked to draw for the winner. All the luck and the cake went to Miss Julian, of Bradford Branch--Good eating Bradford, London Branch envies you.

At the last meeting of Committee, it was agreed that an effort should be made to provide further funds to reach the target aimed for of 1,000 garments for the Middlesex Regt., 160 are needed to complete. It was suggested that a "Bring and Buy" Sale should be held on Saturday, September 18th, at 3.30 p.m. at the Club. At the re-union following this meeting, members present unanimously approved the suggestions. All gifts will be welcome, particularly cakes, jams and bottled fruit, flowers and any white elephants that are lying around and not being put to any use, a use will be found for them by someone. It is hoped to arrange a few side-shows, etc., and to make the afternoon an enjoyable social one for all taking part. Those bringing gifts are asked to price same for the convenience of the sellers.

The Hon. Treasurer makes an urgent appeal to any member who has forgotten or overlooked to pay her subscription this year, to please send it along to her as soon as possible. Subscriptions have again fallen rather lamentably and the total subs to date are only 114.

The last Saturday re-union was well attended but Thursday evenings seem somewhat neglected. Re-unions are still being held on the 1st Thursday in the month at 6.30 p.m. and the 3rd Saturday in the month at 2.30 p.m. until the end of September. Please make a note in your diaries for SATURDAY, September 18th, and do not forget to bring along your white elephants as well as your other gifts. All friends are heartily invited. Next Committee Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 18th, at 2.30 p.m.

B. MAYHEW,
Hon. Secretary.

Oxford

This branch had a theatre and tea party on Saturday last, twelve members attended. The library at Y.W.C.A. Hall had been lent and tea was laid by the Club leader for us. The eats were all home-made and pre-war in excellence. I'm afraid we left very little to clear away.

All the members present voted for a continuance of meetings to keep members in touch, and all of them thought the decision re annual subscriptions was a very sound idea and all were pleased at the prospects of receiving a Gazette.

Every member is doing some kind of extra work for the war effort. I am pleased to say S.C.S.M. Seabrook who is Secretary to G.O.C. S. Mid. Dist., has promised to join the C.A.

G. JACKMAN.

Ilford

Our June meeting was held at Ford's house when seven members and one Waac-let met and had a very nice afternoon and evening. Mrs. Spaul thought she would like to help the Benevolent Fund, and so a Whist Drive was arranged at her house at Gidea Park for July 10th. Unfortunately, the day was a very wet one so we had to have the Whist Drive in the house, Mrs. Spaul was hoping that we could have had it in the garden. Anyway we all had a very good time and a very nice tea and we are glad to report that £1 12s. 6d. has been handed to the Benevolent Fund. We were very pleased to have Fatima with us again but so sorry she missed the new-laid eggs by one point in the Whist Drive and also in the raffle, she went home very sad, but she was the winner of two prizes so cheer up, "better luck next time." £3 5s. was realised at the event, but half was sent to Dr. Barnardo's Homes. We do say "Thank you" to Mrs. Spaul for all the hard work which she must have put in for this enjoyable afternoon and also for all the prizes which were given, not any expenses were taken for anything, we would also thank the Ilford Branch members who kindly gave prizes. I have never seen such a number of prizes: we thought they were excellent and well worth winning.

With reference to Miss Osler's open letter in the last Gazette, I would like to state that we meet once a month on a Saturday afternoon and take it in turns to go to each member's house when that one provides the tea, and I can assure you that we have had some very nice teas. If one is living alone she seems to be able to unearth some lovely eatables. At Ford's SH. she brought forth a lovely bees' honeycomb which she had been saving for us. If anyone should be a little bit short of anything someone always comes to the rescue. We are still hoping Dr. Druitt will soon pay us a visit. Next meeting, August 7th at Mrs. Custis, 293, Mawneys Road, Romford.

PADDY PARKER.

North Staffs

I am sorry that no report was sent in to the last Gazette, especially as we held meetings in both April and May. At the April meeting we were very pleased to see Junior Commander Burnyeat, who has been a member of the C.A. for some considerable time. She is a very busy person and we much appreciated the time she spared to spend an evening with us.

In May we held a Whist Drive to help up the funds of the branch. All the prizes were given to us and we are indebted to Mrs. Smith for a marvellous "household" parcel which we raffled for quite a nice sum of money.

Mrs. Goodwin entertained us to a party at her house on June 19th. It was a lovely day and we enjoyed the garden and the flowers. We all contributed to the meal and a good time was had by all in spite of rationing.

There will be no further meetings until September when we hope to have a re-union.

H. CLOUGH.

AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE

Our acknowledgments and thanks are given to "The Times" for the following very interesting items which have been printed in that newspaper since the last issue of our "Gazette."

Women as Staff Officers

Replacing Men in Home Forces

Specially Trained A.T.S.

(From Our Special Correspondent)

A.T.S. officers, intensively trained for staff duties, are now replacing male Army officers in junior staff appointments in static formations of the Home Forces. This innovation represents another step in the process once aptly described by the Adjutant-General as "increasing the teeth and shortening the tail of the Army."

Staff appointments affected by the new policy are those of the third grade, carrying rank up to that of captain or (in the A.T.S.) junior commander. It is intended later to feminize second grade appointments, carrying the rank of major or senior commander.

Women candidates for staff training are chosen from recommended officers of A.T.S. establishments of all kinds. After approval by an interviewing board candidates are sent to the A.T.S. Junior Staff College set up recently in the premises of a women's college near London for a seven-week course. Records show that candidates range in age from 20 to 40 years, with an average of 25 years, and an average period of one year and eight months of commissioned service.

Strategy and tactics are excluded from the course; and because A.T.S. officers are not permitted to sit at courts-martial trying male soldiers, or to be concerned with male discipline, training in military law is abridged.

Little else of staff work is omitted. Among the subjects in the syllabus are army organization, mobilization, medical services, courts of inquiry, rationing, petrol and ammunition supplies, ordnance, quartering, salvage, transportation (by land, sea and inland waterways), intelligence, map-reading, training (in relation to allotment of facilities), message and precis writing.

Conditions of Stress

One month of the course is devoted to theoretical work; the other to exercises based on studies culminating in a "battle" as it presents itself in a staff headquarters. In this exercise students work continuously for 12 hours, each dealing with two very active telephone and a variety of callers, including visitors and "chatterers." Thus the capacity of the officer to work under conditions of stress and distraction is tested.

Lectures by officers from all services provide the students with a good background knowledge of the war, but studies of staff duties proceed on the tutorial system. Students work in syndicates of eight, under a male staff officer, and the method of instruction is chiefly one of question and answer.

The A.T.S. Junior Staff College (graduation at which carries the distinction of "J.S.C." after the officer's name) is not an experiment. It is a necessary development born of man-power problems. For a change so drastic, a reception wholly free from doubt and prejudice could not be expected, but the performance of women staff officers so far makes the authorities confident that doubts will be removed by trial, and that prejudice will not survive the excellent reputation which the women are already establishing.

N.A.A.F.I. Girls for Oversea

New Contingent Inspected

An inspection of the A.T.S./E.F.I., a new branch of the A.T.S., comprising N.A.A.F.I. girl volunteers for overseas service, was carried out yesterday by Senior Controller L. V. L. E. Whareley, C.B.E., Deputy Director of A.T.S., at 44, Dulwich Wood Avenue, Upper Norwood, the headquarters of the new detachment.

When it was found that the expansion of allied operations overseas was causing an excessive strain on the number of men available for the R.A.S.C./E.F.I. (the uniformed body of N.A.A.F.I. men who constitute the Expeditionary Force Institutes, and operate overseas), it was agreed by the Service Ministries that wherever possible the men should be released for more forward areas by sending out N.A.A.F.I. girls who volunteered for service in safe areas abroad.

In order that they should be under military discipline and protection, it was decided that they should comprise a branch of the army similar to the R.A.S.C./E.F.I., and as a consequence the A.T.S./E.F.I. was formed. Drafts of auxiliaries mustered at the depot consist of N.A.A.F.I. girls who have undergone a course of instruction at an A.T.S. depot, which includes military discipline, drill, etc. Each volunteer for overseas must be between the ages of 20 and 43, and have passed an A.T.S. medical test.

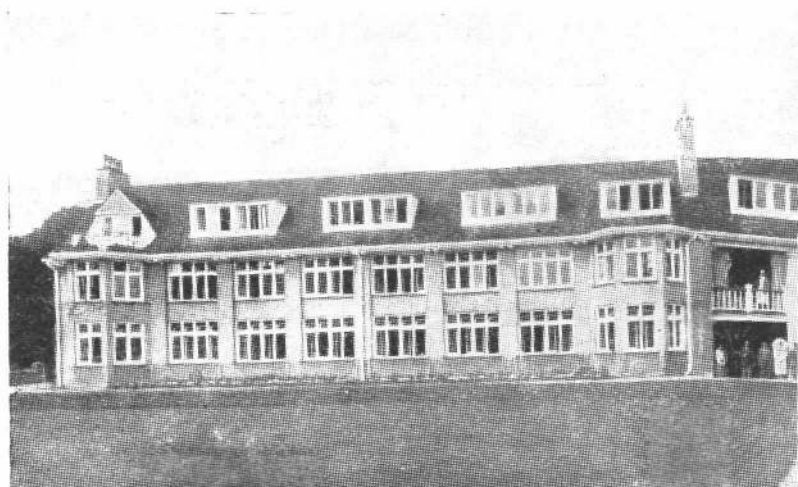
MICROSCOPIC NEGATIVES OF DOCUMENTS

War Office Scheme to Reduce Delay

A quarter of a million documents a week can be handled by the War Office microgram service. Microscopic negatives of the documents to be transmitted are made by the microgram units abroad on films of varying length, which are then sent home by air. As a result, official correspondence is speeded up and transmission of such documents as adjustment of allowances to soldiers' dependents, formerly sent by rail and sea, frequently take only as many days as they previously took months.

One hundred feet of film may bear the negatives of as many as 1,600 documents in a container which is no bigger than a two-ounce tobacco tin. On arrival at the War Office the films are unpacked and put through a micro-printer, which develops, fixes, washes and dries, besides enlarging, in one continuous action at the rate of 1,000 documents an hour. The work is carried out by A.T.S. Auxiliaries who had had experience of photography in civil life and who received further training at the Post Office research station.

The scheme has now been in operation for one year, and whereas previously the service was chiefly from overseas to Britain, an outward service is being rapidly developed.



NAYLAND HALL FOR LEGION'S LATER

BY LT.-COL. GORDON LA...

Nayland Hall, the East Anglian sanatorium at Nayland, near Colchester, has just been acquired by the British Legion for the treatment and care of women, chiefly those discharged from the women's auxiliary services.

It will be run on parallel lines to British Legion Village, Preston Hall, Aylesford, Kent, where tuberculosis ex-Service men are treated and employed.

To Be Linked Up

It will come under the control of the Preston Hall Council of Management and the supervision of Dr. J. B. McDougall, their medical superintendent, who from the beginning has had charge of Legion Village and Douglas House, Bournemouth.

At Nayland Hall it is proposed to develop courses of occupational therapy and training in industrial pursuits similar to those available for the men, and to link up the activities of all three Legion institutions.

The necessary alterations to the property will be put in hand as soon as labour and material are available.

Besides having the tradition of Preston Hall behind it, the name Nayland will keep alive the memory of that famous pioneer of open-air treatment, Dr. Jane Walker, who founded the sanatorium in January, 1901, and was herself buried there.

A £50,000 Scheme

Started for private patients, pavilions for hospital patients sprang up in the grounds, then a juvenile section

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES—continued

Our congratulations and best wishes for future happiness go to **Judith A. L. Marsh, A.T.S.**, who married Lient. (A.) G. F. K. Rogers, R.N.V.R., at St. Peters, Bournemouth, on June 12th, and to **Junior Commander A.P. Wilson, A.T.S.**, who was married on June 19th to Mr. F. W. Fry, at the Friends' Meeting House, Stourbridge.

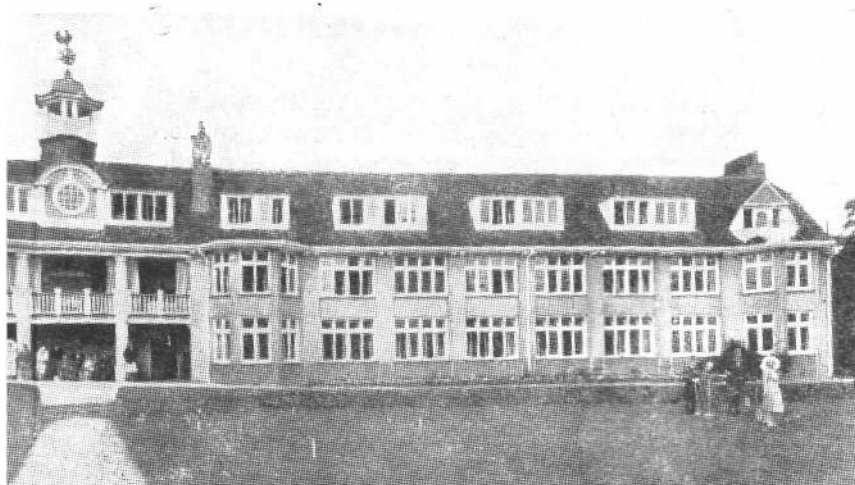
Miss E. M. Warrior has had a long letter from **Miss Janet Payne**, late of Oxford, who is now President of the Adelaide Branch of the Comrades Association. We are glad to know that Miss Warrior, who has been working very hard since she returned home, has lately had a pleasant holiday in the Lake District. One day she chanced to meet **Nora Mitchell** and **Birchenough** who were staying

at Borrowdale and they had a lovely walk over the Honister Pass.

We are delighted to hear that Mrs. Salusbury-Jones, who served as **Chrissie Adams**, has a charming home in Kent. She was expecting to have her son home on leave.

Mrs. Nellie James (Forewoman Bollen) has unfortunately had a painful time with rheumatism and we hope that she will soon be better.

Mrs. Alice Marwood, known as "Gracie" to all her friends on account of her Lancashire accent, had the misfortune just lately to lose her bag, with cash, identity card and worst of all her spectacles, but a kind friend is supplying her with some new ones, so all is well.



FOR EX-SERVICE WOMEN BEST ACQUISITION

MARKING, Chairman of Preston Hall

through which 2,700 children passed in 25 years, and in 1916 a section for the training of soldiers disabled by tuberculosis.

"The Lancet" recalls the zeal with which "Dr. Jane" supervised the big farm and garden, and initiated occupations such as home-made jewellery which made Nayland a hive of hope and industry.

The initial cost to the Legion is round about £50,000.

Our President announced that Major Sir Brunel Cohen has generously given £1,000 to equip Nayland Hall with up-to-date X-ray apparatus for the benefit of ex-Service women suffering from tuberculosis.

Hertfordshire county has guaranteed to raise an-

other £1,000 towards the upkeep of this new Legion settlement, and General Maurice hoped others would follow this splendid example.

Already, as Dr. McDougall wired the conference, 25 women from the auxiliary Services are awaiting the decision of their local authorities for admission as patients.

The Editor of the Gazette acknowledges with many thanks the loan of the block of Nayland Hall, the fine Sanatorium shown on this page, which has been acquired by the British Legion. Also for the letter press which gives details of this their latest scheme for helping ex-Service women.

THE RAFFLE FOR THE CAKE FROM CANADA

It is pleasant to be able to report that six Branches arranged local Raffles for the fine cake sent by Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Belfield and Mrs. Fenton, all of whom served at Pont de l'Arche, as Caroline Bott, Florence Holly and Jennie Evans respectively.

The proceeds sent to the General Secretary were as follows:—Bristol, 15s.; Edinburgh, £1 12s.; Bradford, 10s.; London, £4 5s.; Newcastle (Staffs), 8s.; and Nottingham, 19s., making the very handsome sum of £8 9s. for the Service Women's Benevolent Fund. This will be sent to Miss Royden, Chairman of the S.W.B.F., and it is hoped to print a letter from her in September-October number.

Unfortunately, I was away on my holiday on the 17th June when the final draw was made from the names of the winners of the Branches, but Miss Clark was

present at the Meeting of London Branch on that date as my representative. The names of the local winners were placed in a deep waste paper basket and the winning name was drawn from the basket by a member of the A.T.S. I am sorry that it is not possible to give more details as all the particulars collected by Miss Clark were among the papers stolen from her house on the night of July 20th but we do know the name of the WINNER, she is:—

Miss Nellie Julian, of Bradford. She is a great friend of Miss Cocksedge, of Brighouse, famous for her chocolates. I am sure that we hope that they will enjoy the cake and without doubt we all appreciate the kindness of good Old Comrades who sent us this gift which has so greatly added to the funds of the Service Women's Benevolent Fund.

A. E. B. JOHNSTON.

Nottingham

As Miss Osler is unfortunately "hors de combat" I am sending a brief account of Nottingham's doings during the last two months, when our meetings have provided us with a little relief from the "daily round."

June, being the month of outings, we had, thanks to the excellent arrangements made by Miss Stirland, a most enjoyable afternoon at Nuthall. It was the sort of day when one could thoroughly enjoy the garden, the tea, and the games that were provided and the spectacle of several people trying to get rings over bottles in the approved "fishing" style was very amusing. (To make matters quite clear may I say that the bottles were empty!) Indeed some of us found the joys of the countryside so entertaining that we lingered slightly too long and there was no bus to take us along but we accepted the penalty of walking home with good grace. It was worth it!

In July, we celebrated in a mild way the third anniversary of the opening of our present Clubroom (a slightly different bottle being forthcoming on this occasion). We had as our guest Mrs. Paling, who has helped us so much in the past with Gas lectures and W.H.D. work, and it was very pleasant to have her with us at a somewhat less strenuous meeting.

We have called on Osler who, though badly bruised and in much pain after her fall through space, could still greet us with a smile and a word of cheer. She is indeed a true warrior and we look forward to having her back with us once more.

B. M. HASSELL.

Edinburgh and East of Scotland

A meeting was held at the Club on May 29th at which Miss Finlay explained to the members the recent alterations in, and additions to, the rules. Afterwards the meeting discussed the best way to attract members of the A.T.S. and it was finally decided to concentrate at the moment on getting in touch with discharged and retiring service women members who are in touch with A.T.S. and asking them to co-operate.

Twenty-four members gathered for tea afterwards. We were all very pleased that our President, Miss Alice Low, was then on holiday in Edinburgh and was able to be present, looking extremely well.

Cake Raffle. Twenty-four members took part, and Mrs. Riarch drew the winning ticket. We are now hoping that the cake comes to Edinburgh, so that we can taste it! Will the following members note safe arrival of their contributions: Strain, McKirchar, Innes, Low, Lambert, Lethbridge, Hutchings, Huffell, Swanston, McLeod, Mess, Wann, Ferguson.

All our sympathy goes to Mrs. Lammie, whose son has been killed while on service with the R.A.F. in America, and also to Mrs. Rennie whose son, also in the R.A.F., has been drowned in the Middle East.

G. D. HARDY.

Norfolk

The branch is not very active at the moment, as most members are still busy with war work of various descriptions, and have such a little leisure. However, a few are meeting for tea in Norwich on alternate Tuesdays.

We hope soon to arrange a meeting for one Saturday evening. Members will be notified later.

L. W. CHILVERS.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES

Miss Kate Day, writing from Manchester, says that she is very happy at having a place of her own once more and she is always delighted to see any Old Comrades who can spare time to go and see her. The address is 256, Victoria Square, Oldham Road, Manchester 4. Day sent a very interesting paragraph and a photograph (cuttings from U.S.A. papers) about **Mrs. William L. Miltner**, who served as **Mary Hindle** with the A.E.F. She is shown pinning a W.A.C. "pledge button" on her daughter, Miss Mary H. Miltner, who has joined the W.A.C. (they have now dropped the second "A") of the U.S.A. The paragraph reads:—"Thompsonville, April 9.—Following in the footsteps of her mother, who was an English W.A.C. in the first World War, Miss Mary H. Miltner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Miltner, of 11, Young Avenue, has been inducted in to the W.A.C. and is awaiting her call. Her mother, a member of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, was in France when the A.E.F., of which Mr. Miltner was a member in the Yankee Division, arrived in that country and Mr. Miltner asserts that their marriage was the first of an American soldier in that war. The marriage took place at Camp Bougers."

Mrs. Nora Barker (Worker Thomas, N.2528 Gardener) writes asking news of several old comrades. Her letter will interest many and we congratulate her on her fine family and their achievements. Here is her letter:—"After many years I should like to hear of old comrades who were with me at Abbeville. **Mrs. Gibson, U.A.**, 1917-18, and then at Wimereux, 1918-1920, with **Miss Turner, U.A.** I have often wondered what happened to the Gardeners, **Mackay, Whitton** and others. Many friends in the A.P.C. and Signals. Some comrades at Abbeville may remember the C.Q.S.M. who helped Mrs. Gibson with the rations and came from the Camp next door an Ambulance Unit. After the war we got married and went to Grantham. Six years ago we came to Newport, Essex, with a growing family of five. My eldest daughter is now Pte. C. Barker, 234680, A.T.S., my eldest son, now 20, is an Apprentice in the Merchant Navy; in the short space of two years he has been torpedoed twice and is now on his way home. My second daughter, aged 17½, is Wren J. Barker, and my third daughter has just left school and has a job, leaving only a small son, aged 11, at home. My husband died last December. I attended the last Reunion Dinner before the War and took part in the Parade to the Cenotaph, which was grand. I wonder if any comrades remember the weeks we slept out in Crecy Forest, going along those marvellous straight roads that run through the Forest, then the fields, scarlet with poppies in the early hours of the morning, back to our respective camps. Those charming people at our Y.W.C.A. down in the town, Miss Knight, Miss Price and Mrs. Carrington-Smith, where everything was done to make us happy. That delightful Y.W.C.A. at Wimereux given by the girls of Australia, and in charge of a most charming "Aussie." I could go on and on but time is precious. I should like news of **Jolly** and **Lascelles**, Dame Helen's two drivers. **Kenyon**, a gardener with me at Abbeville is now married and is Mrs. Clarke living at Hatfield. **Williams** was also with me and an Irish girl whose name was **Stapleton**."

Letters for the Forces

A.T.S. Help at Army Post Office

A Considerate Service

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Members of the A.T.S. are now giving valuable help at the Army Post Office. More than 1,000 of them at the Home Postal Centre somewhere in the Midlands are helping to sort and dispatch mail to men overseas. The work goes on 24 hours a day for seven days a week, and the girls of the A.T.S. take their full share of night duty.

There is no room for slackness. The centre handles and forwards weekly to men overseas some 4,500,000 postal packets, including 2,500,000 air mail letters (compared with 700,000 six months ago). Recently men in the front line in North Africa received their letters in 10 days. An immediate consequence was that people took to writing two letters instead of one, and the speed of delivery of some of the mail was inevitably slowed down.

A look round this busy centre leaves no doubt about the keenness of the A.T.S. girls and their male colleagues, men with postal experience in civil life, who have built up a fine service. Equally impressive is the system of working behind all this activity. A letter received recently by the Army Post Office began: "The mail to North Africa is a damnably deplorable disgrace." It grew less alliterative and more ill-tempered as it went on. A conciliatory reply asking for more facts drew an apology for a provocative letter, appreciation of the courteousness of the reply, and an admission that the writer's son had now received his mail. Such is the method of a most human department of Army activity. Every complaint and inquiry (and most of them are reasonable and temperately worded) is investigated and receives a courteous, factual reply.

But although the officer commanding the centre, Colonel D. Ross, frankly admitted that there have been delays from time to time (the reasons for which cannot always, for security reasons, be made known promptly), he does not take the view that the customer is always right. Nor could anyone, after a look through the files of the General Correspondence Branch.

Inquiry Into Complaints

A woman writes that she has not heard from her husband in the Middle East for months. Major W. Green, in charge of the branch, sets one more investigation in motion. Too often, back from the desert comes a report from the man's C.O.: "It is confirmed that X has not written home for six months. . . . Or a woman writes: "My husband tells me that he has not had a letter from me for months"; and from overseas comes the report: "During the 15 months that Y has been in the Middle East he has never had occasion to think any of his correspondence has failed to reach him, and he attributes the complaint to his own negligence in not acknowledging receipt. He admits exaggeration regarding slight delays."

Difficult and pathetic cases arise sometimes when husbands or sons have been killed. They call for tactful and patient handling. I noticed that one such set of correspondence dated

back nearly a year; it was still in progress. Such cases are greatly helped by the invariable rule here to avoid cold official language.

The A.P.O. receives its tributes as well as complaints. For example: "Thank you for your letter and your information re air mail service to W. Africa. You are the most efficient Army department I have dealt with. I wish they were all the same," from a Lancashire man.

There is here a section devoted to the returned letters of casualties. A special system has been devised to ensure that no such correspondence is returned until the next-of-kin have been notified by the authorities. For the visitor this room, with its bundles of mail that can never be delivered, is a sobering reminder of the price of war.

Army Bakery Run by A.T.S.

Bread for Thousands of Troops

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

EASTERN COMMAND, June 12th.

In the first Army bakery to be run by the A.T.S. 67 women bakers and 20 issuers bake and issue 50,000 lbs. of bread every day. They provide the daily bread ration for many thousands of troops, including R.A.F., W.A.A.F., and American Army units, as well as all the British Army and A.T.S. camps within a very large area.

The bakery is installed in large Nissen huts, air cooled, and equipped with the most up-to-date type of machinery, some of which was used by the B.E.F. in France and evacuated before Dunkirk. The work of the A.T.S. starts with the mixing of the dough by machinery in 18 solid steel bowls, each of which contains 500 lbs. of flour. Another machine divides the dough into pieces of correct weight, and after further processes it is to be seen in the cooling room, which has a storage capacity for nearly a quarter of a million pounds of bread. This bread is not issued to units until it is 12 hours old, and it is claimed that it will keep fresh enough to eat up to five days.

Members of the A.T.S. form 90 per cent. of the staff, the only men working at the bakery being an R.A.S.C. captain who was a bakery expert in civil life, the master baker and staff sergeants, and eight soldiers who fire the ovens and lift the heavy bags of flour.

ENTHUSIASM AT ALEXANDRIA

(From Our Correspondent.)

ALEXANDRIA, June 14th.

All the city turned out this morning to cheer the United Nations' parade. Allied flags waved from windows in the main streets, and the enthusiastic population applauded from balconies and pavements. Rear-Admiral A. Poland took the salute in front of the huge statue of Saad Zaghlul, facing the sea front in the main square. Almost all the allied nations took part in the parade, which consisted of several thousand men and women, including a smart detachment of Yugoslavs, a naval party, and Polish infantry, all led by an American detachment. W.R.N.S., all in white, and A.T.S., in khaki, drew warm cheers from the crowd, who had not previously seen uniformed girls on parade.

BRANCHES

Active Service	Mrs. A. E. B. Johnston (pro tem), 82, Lancaster Gate, W.2.	
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.	
Edinburgh and East of Scotland.	Mrs. G. D. Hardy, 51 Lockharton Ave., Edinburgh 11.	Women's United Services Club, 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 evening— 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. First Friday in month, 6.30 p.m.
Notts.	Miss Osler, 243a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.	
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.	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.		