



# 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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## 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

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 28th July, 1943, at 25, Berkeley Square, W.1, by kind invitation of Lady Apsley, with Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan in the chair. Sixteen members were present: Junior Commander Lady Apsley, Junior Commander M. Bilbrough, Miss H. M. Billington, Miss L. Davy, Mrs. F. Eager, R.S.M. A. Glass, Senior Commander B. Harvie-Anderson, Chief Controller J. Knox, Chief Commander M. Patrick, Mrs. W. M. Powell, Private J. K. P. Reynders, Miss L. Saunders, Miss M. Slee (Hon. Treasurer) and Mrs. Johnston (General Secretary).

The meeting was a most interesting one as a full and open discussion took place on the vitally important question of the Post-War Organisation of the Women's Services. It was generally agreed that service for women in some form was necessary. Some were in favour of a Territorial Service, others of a small permanent one (both voluntary), while others considered that six months compulsory training, not necessarily on military lines, would be beneficial, as it would benefit the girls as well as the country should their services be needed in an emergency.

Miss Binks, Miss Cliff, Mrs. Grundy, Miss Ireland, Staff Sergeant Kemp, Mrs. Mayhew, Senior Commander Lady Swinton, Miss Turner and Junior Commander Walker sent apologies for absence.

We are fortunate also in being able to report that a Council Meeting was held on Wednesday, 22nd September. As a rule our meetings are fixed for dates too late in the month to allow for publication in the "Gazette" of that month. The Headquarters office was the meeting place on this occasion, and the following fourteen members were present, with Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan in the Chair:—Junior Commander M. Bilbrough, Miss Clarke, Miss Cliff, Miss Davy, R.S.M. Glass, Mrs. Grundy, Miss Ireland, Mrs. Mayhew, Mrs. Powell, Miss Saunders, Senior Commander Harvie-Anderson, Miss Turner and the General Secretary, Mrs. Johnston.

The Hon. Treasurer, Miss Slee, sent apologies for absence owing to extreme pressure of work. She had been hoping to come until the last minute, but found she could not manage it. Chief Controller Knox was on tour, Chief Commander Patrick away on duty. Miss Binks was lecturing on the new Fire Guard Plan, Miss Batty is still in Wiltshire, Lady Apsley was out of London but sent a report of the progress of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, Pte. Reynders was on Privilege leave and Mrs. Eager unfortunately in the Oculist's hands. They all sent regrets for absence.

The Report of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund shows a steady increase and is an encouraging one. The total to 17th September amounts to £31,254 16s. 6d. The number of cases

which have been assisted is 217, and the sum expended on these cases is £151 7s. 6d.

Will members please note that, owing to the black-out it has been necessary to alter the date of the next Meeting from Wednesday, 24th November, to **Saturday, 20th November, at 2.30.** The first Meeting in the New Year will be held on **Saturday, 8th January, 1944, at 2.30.** The General Secretary would be grateful if members will record these dates as postage is now a very heavy item. Agendas will be sent, as usual, ten days before the date of each Meeting.

It was a great pleasure to see Mrs. Pratt-Barlow at the Headquarters office in July, also Sergt. Coyle, who has lately been discharged from the A.T.S. on Compassionate grounds, Miss M. B. Scott, who is very busy working with the British Legion, and Miss Shearman. It was good to see her looking so well after her very serious illness. She brought with her the friend who looked after her when she was ill.

## FIFTH BIRTHDAY OF THE A.T.S.

The fifth birthday of the formation of the A.T.S. in September 9th, 1943, will be celebrated this week in Great Britain, the United States, Egypt, Palestine, Eritrea, Kenya, and the West Indies. The Army will show its appreciation of the work which the A.T.S. has done during 12 months of peace and four years on active service by providing bands and troops to lead parades, and soldiers will decorate halls for dances and co-operate in arranging sporting events. On Sunday there will be special church parades, and the Princess Royal will take the salute at York Minster. A thousand members of the A.T.S. serving at a Midlands Ordnance depot will attend a drumhead service, and in some towns Home Guards are joining in parades and lending their bands. Whist drives, dances, and sporting events will be held in many camps during the week-end in aid of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund.

## QUEEN MARY AT A.T.S. PARADE

Queen Mary was present at the church parade held in celebration of the fifth birthday of the A.T.S. at St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol on September 12th. She afterwards took the salute at a march past. At the Northern Command celebrations at York the salute was taken by the Princess Royal.

"Queen Elizabeth's March," which was approved by the King as the regimental air of the A.T.S. in June last year, has now, with the Queen's approval, been adopted as the regimental march of the Canadian Women's Army Corps. The march was composed by Pipe Major W. Ross, Scots Guards,

## LONDON BRANCH GAZETTE REPORT

Re-unions are still being held twice a month, and members have asked that Thursday evenings once a month be held for a further period.

The final social event of the season was held on Saturday, the 18th September, at 3.30, and the organisers were most gratified at the large attendance of members and friends, the largest this year. Many who are unable to attend the usual re-unions through lack of leisure time, made a special effort to be present. It was like old times to see Miss R. S. Andrews, Miss Shearman, Miss Vince, Miss Sanderson, just to mention a few of those whom we had missed at re-unions recently.

The "Bring and Buy" stall was the "High Light" of the afternoon, and no wonder. Everything was really good and could have been sold six times over. The sum raised at the stall was £5 2s. 6d. There were numerous helpers, including Miss L. Saunders, Miss Billington, Miss Rogers, Miss D. Porter. Miss Ireland was unable to be present. She sent her regrets and messages to Old Comrades, together with a parcel of most saleable goods, which were quickly appreciated by prospective buyers and snapped up. Mrs. Johnston also sent apologies for absence, and with her customary generosity sent along by personal messenger—namely, Miss Clarke—who we were very glad to see, donations to the stall in many useful forms, again we saw how discerning were the shoppers. The names of all contributing have not yet been received, but will all members please accept sincerest thanks and appreciation for all their gifts and help towards making this effort such a successful one. Following the sale of goods at the stall, raffle tickets were disposed of for a mystery prize. This was drawn for by little Miss Valerie Morrish, and won by Capt. Lawrence. Then followed a guessing competition and an American Auction. This was presided over by Lt. Morrish, who once again proved himself an adept at emptying people's pockets in a good cause. At the close of the afternoon, the total proceeds (including the Stall) amounted to the sum of £15 5s. Lt.-Col. Pasmore, who was present, on behalf of the Regiment, thanked everyone for their magnificent help and co-operation in making such a success of the afternoon and for past help to the "Comforts Fund." Miss Saunders, in a reply, thanked Col. Pasmore, Lt. Morrish and all other Officers present for their generous support and help. Members added their expression of thanks in the form of a hearty handclap. Officers attending were:—Lt.-Col. Pasmore, Major Mayhew, Major Brothers, Capt. Lawrence, Lt. Morrish and Mrs. Morrish, with Miss Valerie Morrish.

## NEWS OF OLD COMRADES

Mrs. Rose, one of our Life Members and Member of Committee for some years, has written to say that she is now living in the country. She asks to be remembered to all Old Comrades and she will be pleased to see any of them at any time. She fears that it will be a long time before she will be able to come to the club again, but will think of all the pleasant times spent together. Members may like to have new address, here it is:—"Hilltop Stores," Charing Hill, Nr. Ashford, Kent.

Last May one of our members, Miss Lily King, kindly sent along a parcel of baby clothes which she thought might be of use. As there is no call for these at present at our Clothing Cupboard, which is now non-existent, Miss L. Saunders asked if she might distribute these to some very deserving families that she knew would be so glad to have them. These have now been distributed by Miss Saunders to three families, all being serving or ex-service people, one to the Navy (the father was torpedoed and since discharged), one to the Army and one to the R.A.F. Three grateful letters have been received and undoubtedly these garments have been appreciated and of great use to the recipients. Miss Lily King will be very pleased to read this and to know what a lot of good her kind thought has given to these families. Miss Saunders knows of a number of further deserving cases and would welcome further parcels of baby clothes and will guarantee that they will be passed to people who really need them, particularly serving and ex-services cases. The parcels should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, London Branch, who will record them and acknowledge same and pass on to Miss Saunders for distribution.

Miss Edith Thompson sends her love and appreciation to all members for their greetings during her brief leave, she says it was just what she needed and it was a wrench to leave again.

## COMFORTS FUND

Miss Saunders reports that a further parcel containing 52 garments have been forwarded to Mrs. Griffiths for the Regiment. This makes a grand total of 841 garments leaving a total of 159 to complete the total of 1,000 aimed for. She thanks the usual faithful few who are still knitting. The splendid results of the "Bring and Buy," etc., now provides a good sum for further purchases of wool towards final achievement of our target.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

London Branch General Meeting will be held on Saturday, December 4th, at 3 p.m. at 5, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.

## FUTURE RE-UNIONS

These will be held on the 7th and 16th of October, the 4th and 20th of November and the 18th of December.

## COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Saturday, 30th of October, at 2.30 p.m.

**Notice to Member whose subscription is still outstanding.**—Will Members who have not yet paid their subscription for this year kindly do so without further delay and send direct to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss D. Hayward. Our Membership of yearly subscribers has now fallen to approximately 120. This means that our representation on Council will be accordingly reduced. Therefore it is entirely up to our Members to pay up their subscription and thus help to retain our full quota of Council Representatives. Please give this your consideration and let the Hon. Treasurer have your subscription without further delay.

B. MAYHEW, Hon. Secretary.

## GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH

Miss J. K. Anderson, a former member of this Branch, writing from Longueville, N.S.W., tells of her continued interest in the O.C.A. and of a delightful meeting she and some of the members of the Services Club had at the Y.W., where she met Miss Jean Scott, also a former member of this Branch. Owing to shortage of staff Miss Anderson regrets that she has had to give up canteen and other voluntary work. She says rations are generous and they have nothing to complain of. Vegetables are dear, but she is able to keep the household going in a great variety of vegetables, which she names, and manages the garden herself. Miss Scott is a friend of Miss Cathie McDonald, a member of this Branch. They were pals in the Post Office here before the first world war, and were together in "Signals" in Calais. Miss Scott went from Glasgow in 1928 and started in the enquiry offices of the Y.W.C.A. in Sydney and is now at the top of the tree. She worked very hard attending Y.W. training courses, eventually obtaining her Social Service Diploma at Sydney University. The "cutting" from a Sydney paper tells of her work in the N.S.W. coalfields and then in the Y.W. in Sydney and of her popularity and enthusiasm.

## "Scottie" Her Name on Coalfields

Miss Jean Scott who succeeds Miss Lyra Taylor as general secretary of the Sydney Y.W.C.A., is known as "Scottie" on N.S.W. northern coalfields. For five years she was organising secretary for the Y.W.C.A. centres there.

For two years she worked only among miners and their families before taking over the Newcastle Y.W.C.A. She was so popular that the then Mayor of the city (Ald. Young) once declared publicly "No meeting is complete without our Miss Scott." "Scottie" came here from Glasgow in 1928. Her Scottish sense of humour is well-known to hundreds of men and women in the Services, for in Newcastle she was a speaker much in demand at recruiting rallies. She has inspired hundreds of women to join the Services by the stories of her own experiences as a W.A.A.C. in France during the war of 1914-18, and for a year after the Armistice. Miss Scott thinks that, given the community backing, there is no limit to the scope of work which the Y.W.C.A. can do in Australia.

## Bristol and West of England Branch.

We tried a new meeting place and day for our July meeting: we met at the Windsor Cafe on Thursday, July 1st, and had a record attendance—17 members and one son-and-heir.

We were delighted to welcome Mrs. Williams (with her small son) also Miss Nespoli, who although they have been members for some time had been unable to join us before.

The members were greatly delighted to hear that Lady Apsley had very kindly consented to become the President of our Branch and we hope that she will be able to join us on some future occasion.

We held a raffle for the wonderful Canadian cake, which was won by Mrs. Whiting, with whom we also rejoice in that she has had news of her son, who had been missing since the fall of Singapore.

On August 21st we had arranged to meet at the Clifton Zoo for tea, and hoped to repeat our happy experience of last year, but alas, the rain poured down with such vigour that only three members turned up; however, we did have our tea party, and after tea the sun came out and enabled us to spend a happy hour watching the antics of the baby monkeys and enjoy the truly wonderful flowers.

We hope to meet again at the Windsor Cafe during October.

## THE FUTURE OF WOMEN IN H.M. FORCES

By Expectans

I believe we have now learnt the lesson that, in order to prevent war, a nation must be strong, its weapons available, its citizens trained to use them. If that belief is justified, it seems almost certain that, after the war, training of men in arms will be universal and compulsory, with the inevitable exceptions on health and other grounds.

Two great wars have shown, however, that the man power of this country is insufficient, unless woman power is included. Even in the war of 1914-18 more than 100,000 women, apart from hospital personnel, served with the Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force. Already, at the beginning of the fifth year of war, the number this time is far greater, in spite of the new demands of Civil Defence and the vaster population of factories and workshops.

We may take for granted that, if war comes again, the women's services will be needed. Twice, in 1917 and 1939, they have been built up hurriedly during a time of stress. Twice they have made good, but we who have served know how much better they might have been. Consider the difference it would have made if, at the start, we had had trained and experienced officers, if we had had trained and experienced N.C.O.'s, if the employment of women with the troops had been something that everyone took for granted, instead of something puzzling and even regrettable! Think how twice, within a few months of the beginning of full time service, an unjustifiable campaign of scandal has arisen to interfere with steady work and progress. Think of the energy wasted in accustoming those in authority to the idea that women in a service can be intelligent, trustworthy and discreet.

For women as for men, a permanent service is needed. There are many military duties in which women have already proved their worth, no doubt there will be many more. It would be an advantage that as large a number as possible should serve, yet their service should be long enough to provide a thorough training, not only to increase their military value, but so that, on discharge, they might be eagerly sought by employers and so be sure of a job. It should be remembered that most of the duties which women carry out in a service are of value also in civil life. Four years with the colours and eight in the reserve would probably be about right. Women would be released on good compassionate grounds. If they became mothers they would be set free from all obligations. I will not attempt to guess what the establishment of such a service should be, but, even if it were only 4,000, this would mean the return to civil life every year of 1,000 trained and fit women.

Junior officers and N.C.O.'s would be selected after (say) two years duty and might be permitted, after training, to prolong their service for a further period. A girl who joined at 18, if she did not meantime marry and become a mother, would thus leave as a trained woman at 22, or, if promoted, might remain till 26 and return to civil life exceptionally fitted for posts of responsibility. Incidentally I hope every woman in the service, in addition to acquiring skill in her chosen trade or employment, would have learnt to cook and clean and would know something of first aid.

So much for the junior members of the service. There remain two very important problems, the senior officers and the W.O.'s I and II. These might with advantage be a good deal older, in their late thirties or even forties. They should have experience, width of outlook, knowledge not only of the service but of conditions in civil life. Some of them, at least, should be married and mothers. I do not see how they are to attain all this while serving. I suggest that the only possible plan is to obtain these seniors by inviting carefully selected women to return to the service after 10 or 15 years in civil life. Not all would be able to do this. But conditions should be so contrived as to make it possible for many. In peace, for example, it would not be incredibly difficult to arrange for mothers with children at school to have leave during the holidays. The experience of such women, and of those who had made good in business would be worth the trouble involved by intelligent adjustment. Two things should be remembered, that the number of general and field officers and the number of warrant officers is relatively small, and that we are considering a service under peace conditions.

If war threatened, this permanent service would provide the officers and N.C.O.'s of a great expansion.

It would, however, be a very great advantage if not only the reservists who were called up, but the women joining for the duration knew something of army life. This might be achieved

either by means of a Militia or by means of a Territorial Force.

The difficulty about a territorial scheme is that, for the jobs women mostly do in the army, it offers very limited chances of training. An evening or so a week is excellent for drill, it might serve (with a reasonable proportion of Sundays) for the girls on the guns, as it does for other gunners. It would not serve for the great mass who work in offices, stores, cookhouses or dining-halls. The annual week or fortnight in camp, if it were authorised, would be their only means of gaining experience, and it would be all too brief. Nevertheless territorial service would give practice in comradeship and co-operation which is not to be despised. It would be greatly helped by the women adjutants and N.C.O. staff instructors whom a permanent service would provide.

A Militia, it must be admitted, is less probable, but what an opportunity it would be! Consider the effects on future generations if every boy and girl, at 18 or thereabouts, was required to give a year to the service of the country. People of different outlook and upbringing would be brought together and would learn to understand each other's point of view. The health of the nation would be increased by good food, well-regulated exercise and an out-of-door life, the habit of these things would be developed. We who have served know the advantages of a training in discipline. There would be occasion for every girl to learn the essentials of housecraft, which are needed in the army as much as in the home; first aid and the elements of child care might usefully be added. The potential housewife or the potential auxiliary would become a better and more effective person both in peace and war. If this training—this gift of a year to the country—were universal, no one would be handicapped by it in finding employment or in training for a profession.

These, I suggest, are the possibilities, they should be looked at from the point of view of the nation and of the future. But the good of the individual should not be forgotten, because every good individual helps to make us a better nation.

### FUTURE OF THE WOMEN'S SERVICES AND POST WAR ORGANIZATION

I have tried to get the auxiliaries to give this matter their careful consideration and views and at a meeting the other night the majority of the auxiliaries said that after demobilization they wanted to have a home of their own and bring up children. A considerable number are married and have husbands in other detachments in London and the auxiliaries live at home.

The majority of the auxiliaries have never been to a Training Centre or had any experience of camp life. Recently several were sent up north on a course and came back thrilled with camp life, but the one idea seems to be what time can I get away from the office and get home.

The older auxiliaries agree that something should be kept going after the war on military lines more on the Territorial basis, with a chance of going to camp in the summer. When I suggested service should include instruction in Mothercraft, Homecraft, etc., they said they did not think that this should be compulsory, as it was always available if required.

Personally, having experienced the difficulties which faced us at the beginning of the war, I feel that some nucleus should be formed at least on the lines of the Territorial Service, so that in case of an emergency there is a body who could immediately take over the training of women. Discipline is good for everyone and there are still a great number of young girls who would be greatly improved with some training in the Service.

XX.

### FUTURE OF WOMEN'S SERVICES

The future Educational plans of the Government require that all children on leaving school shall do some kind of National Service. This should be led up to during school life, so that the most suitable work could be chosen by each child.

The following scheme would use existing organisations for this purpose.

Every child would at school belong to a Guide Company, and would thus be trained in many forms of usefulness. At the age of 16 the girl would choose the form of National Service that most appealed to her and join such bodies as the Junior V.A.D., the G.T.C., etc.

Those joining the G.T.C. would pass into a Women's Territorial Service run on the same lines as the Men's Territorials, and providing for regular training during the whole year and a week in camp with Army units each year.

FINGALL.

## "H.M. FORCES A.T.S."

The following words are especially written to those in the Services who intend to take up teaching as a profession after the war.

Here let me state at the very beginning that I, as an ex-Service woman and a head teacher, would like to be even a small link in the chain to bind the two services together for they have much to give to each other and to the children of our brave new world.

I am not alone in thinking this, and a real welcome is assured to those Service women who feel they are fitted for the task of entering the teaching profession.

Those in the Services have shown by their keenness for duty, breadth of vision, comradeship and courage that they would enrich any profession to which they might enter.

The idea that the teachers wish to keep their profession a closed one is untrue, but they do stipulate that those wishing to join should not only possess many sterling qualities but also should be trained and practised in the skill of teaching.

Academic qualifications are necessary, but in no way so important as the qualities of character, for as you are yourself, so well your class be—a slovenly teacher will produce slipshod children—a teacher who passes over as non-important untruths and other moral deficiencies helps to produce the future criminals of the world. An efficient, inspiring, discerning leader brings out all the best qualities in children, especially if her judgment is saturated with the qualities of "Fair Play." Children are very quick to notice injustices and to resent them accordingly.

The most beautiful and inspiring book in the world is the best basis for all teaching—the Bible, and those who use it as their own inspiration in life will find it easier to instill it into the hearts of their pupils.

Those Service people who believe in these things and are willing to help bring them to pass will find it a very worth-while life and second to none in its importance to the country.

If you want to enter our profession, will you ask yourself these questions?

1. Do I want a materialistic or a spiritual world or a mixture of both?
2. What is the worth of an academic, commercial or technical side to education if the spiritual is not included in it?
3. Have I the personality and courage to join the team of workers who are already using every effort to teach that "Giving" and not "Getting" is the only life that matters?

I believe that the Service personnel have these qualities and that they can help us to fight so that every child shall be given a chance of a full free education with no closed doors to those who have the ability to progress.

One of the chief values of the Service personnel is that they get things done while other people are still talking about it, and what more inspiring life could you wish for than to feel that you are using your energy and initiative in helping to sweep away all that is bad in our education of to-day.

Let us put in its place something that is really worth while.

We plead for good school buildings, where

## NAYLAND HALL FOR

Our thanks are again due to the British Legion for the loan of the blocks where they will be



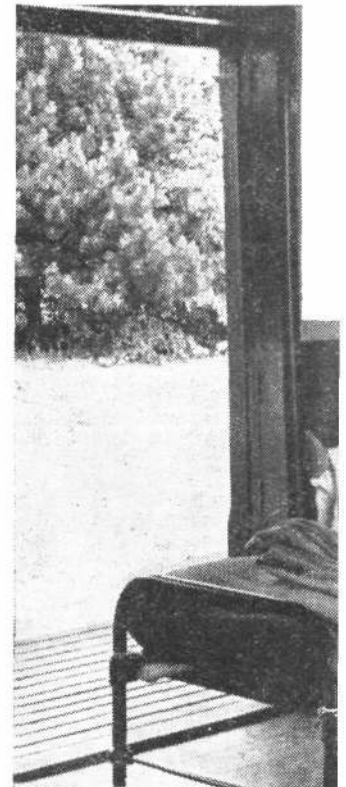
Some of the first to arrive, women from the three Auxiliary Services.



Matron on her rounds.



Patients sitting in the grounds.



A p  
A.T.S., W.A.A.F. and W.R.

### GUNNER'S

My lady wears no mode  
Nor flaunts her silken ho  
My lady is quite conscie  
No powder decks her no  
My lady owns no honey  
Her vocal sounds are ro  
She breathes the freedo  
Oh, Boy! My Lady's tou  
And yet, how fine my la  
When waiting by my g  
I hear (while yet the sir  
Her shouting "Fuse, on

With acknowledgements to "T

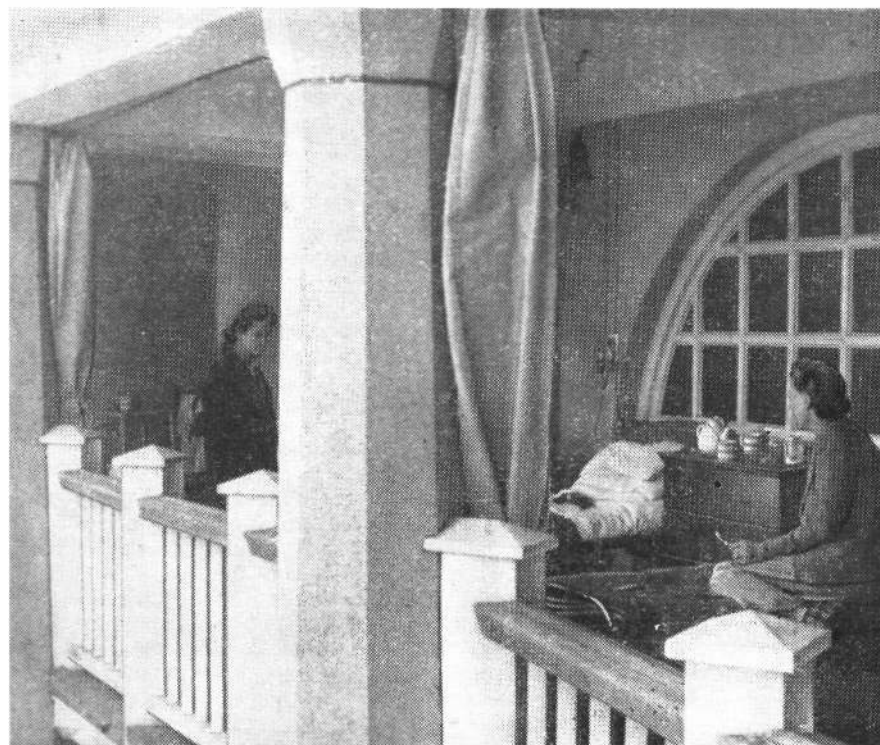
the mind, body and souls of the children can be developed amidst healthy surroundings—Classes of less than fifty, so that the individual child can be developed and not mass produced as at present—Playing fields with adequate money to be spent on equipment for physical development—Trained personnel, with a breadth of vision and a broad outlook on life that is not confined to within the school walls—Opportunities for travel and exchange of teachers, both in this country and the world at large, and those in authority who will be "Doers" and not Talkers only.

We are told that we shall have to fight for these things after the war. I know of no finer body of women who can help to accomplish these things than the ex-Service women.

"RES NON VERBA."

## X-SERVICE WOMEN

one of the first patients to arrive at Neyland Hall, near Colchester, w trades



glimpse of an upper verandah. The Sanatorium is a palatial structure.



outlook from a cubicle.

we find hope of health and occupation



A girl in a well-ventilated workroom.

(Continued from next column.)

The dance was a great success, the proceeds going to the Prisoners of War Fund.

Many people remained for the last waltz, although this was not until 11.30 p.m. A good time was had by all and I think the good news that day helped to make it a greater success.

Last June a dance was held and part of the profit given to the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund.

L.E.

## THE FIFTH BIRTHDAY OF THE A.T.S.

Sunday, September 5th, 1943, was the occasion of a Church Parade, held by this Group to commemorate the fifth birthday of the Auxiliary Territorial Service—which falls on September 9th.

It was very impressive and thrilling, to me especially, as I had never before taken part in a real parade. I felt apprehensive and rather awe-struck as I approached Regent's Park that morning.

Eight companies were assembled by 8.30 a.m. and fell into their allocated positions, my Company leading, to await the arrival of the Group Commander.

The inspection started—row after row—as my turn approached, I prayed silently that my roll would "behave" and stay put above the collar, and that my stocking-seams would not become twisted... the Awful Moment came and went—I held my breath—no comments were made to me and the Personages passed on to the next auxiliary... Oh the relief...

The inspection over, the officers took up their posts and exactly at 9.30 a.m., strictly to schedule, the band struck up. Shall I ever forget that moment—and the order was given for us to start marching. How proud we all felt—even though I did glimpse one of our youngest and latest recruits stifling a tiny giggle.

The procession turned into Marylebone Road. People started coming out of their doorways and leaning out of windows, waiting and watching, they could hear the band in the distance.

Some of our friends lined the pavements and we were told afterwards that we were perfectly in step and "marching as one" which seemed a lovely compliment.

When we approached St. Mary's Church, Bryanstone Square, where our Service was to be held, No. 8 Company at the rear (who were Roman Catholics) separated from us and marched off to the Church of the Lady of the Rosary.

Quietly and reverently we filed into Church to the strains of the band and the swelling of the organ welcomed us.

My particular friend agreed with me afterwards that, even if we had not enjoyed our life in the A.T.S. hitherto, it would have been worth while joining up just to experience the supreme thrill and glory of the moment when the band struck up in Regent's Park and we started marching.

J.D. and E.A.

### BIRTHDAY DANCE

On September 8th, 1943, the dance hall at the London District Transit Camp was hired for a dance to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the forming of the Auxiliary Territorial Service. The music was provided by the C.M.P. Dance Band and one of their N.C.O.'s acted as M.C.

The dance was patronised by members of many of the Allied Forces, including Americans, Australians and Canadians and a number of the three branches of H.M. Forces, which provided plenty of partners for the girls.

There were various spot prizes and great amusement was caused by the winner being the first person to reach the M.C. with his partner's shoes, etc.

A large number of raffle tickets were sold for various prizes. The first prize was a bottle of whisky. The Group Commander, who was drawing the prizes, said that as the only Scotch woman in the room, she considered she should win it. As no one claimed the winning ticket, her tickets were carefully examined and the winning number found amongst them.

(Continued in previous column.)

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H.B.F.

ing News," 8/9/43.

**A WOMEN'S SERVICE OR WOMEN IN THE SERVICES**

The Voluntary Aid Detachments, formed in 1906 as an adjunct to the Territorial Force, provide hospital personnel not only for the Army, but also for the Navy and R.A.F. When the formation of the A.T.S. was under discussion a similar plan was proposed; the new Corps was to be administered by the Army, but was to find workers for the other two Services as well. The Admiralty, however, had not yet decided to employ women, and the A.T.S., on September 9th, 1939, was constituted by Royal Warrant for duties "in connection with Our Military and Air Forces."

The enrolment and administration by the Army of women attached to Auxiliary Air Force units was evidently not a success, for, with effect from June 28th, 1939, the King approved the formation of the W.A.A.F. as a separate Service.

Under a Defence Regulation dated April 25th, 1941, both the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F. became part of the Armed Forces of the Crown, though they were not—and are not yet—part of the Army or the R.A.F. I expect we all look forward to the time when the A.T.S. will become, in theory as well as in practice, an integral part of the Army, but some of us want to go further and see women serving not always in a separate Corps, but in the Corps with which they already work. We want to wear R.A. or R.A.S.C. or Signals badges not above the left-hand pocket, but on the cap, with the corresponding flashes on the shoulder.

Is it a good idea or a bad one? To make up our minds about that we consider what are the essentials of the successful employment of women with the troops. Here are six points. Can you think of others?

1. Auxiliaries should work on a level footing with the soldiers they replace. Their work should carry the same responsibilities and the same opportunities of promotion. Therefore there should be openings for those who make good both as officers and N.C.O.'s.

2. Auxiliaries will need training to the same extent as the men they replace. However much tuition women may possess, they don't do responsible work instinctively.

3. Whether they work under men or women, their discipline should be administered by women officers. This means that officers of field rank should be appointed.

4. These officers should be trained. Some of us can remember the disciplinary efforts of untrained officers in the early days of the A.T.S. Well meant, but uneven and—shall we say—not always without prejudice.

5. It is a military principle that each Corps shall be administered, as far as possible, by its own members. At the War Office, for instance, there are officers and men of the Royal Corps of Signals in the Branch responsible for posting Signals personnel, in the Branch responsible for their training, and in the Branch which deals with their role in operations. If women are members of the R.C.S., there should be women in those Branches.

But there is another military principle to consider. When an officer becomes a full colonel, he sheds the badges of his Corps and puts on red gorget patches and a special cap badge. Officers of this and higher ranks are not concerned with one Corps or Regiment only, but with the needs and activities of the Army as a whole. Some women in these higher ranks would be needed, just as they are now; and one at least should be a general officer, a Director—let us call her the Director of Auxiliaries—with access to a Member of the Army Council, so that she could advise and would be consulted on all questions affecting women. A Deputy or an Assistant Director would be posted to headquarters of Commands.

When a man is called up he joins the General Service Corps and is transferred, as his training progresses, to that arm of the Service in which he is most likely to be of use. How would it be if women were similarly enlisted in a corps of women—an A.T.S.—which would give them the basic instruction common to all arms and would pass them on to their appropriate Corps for technical training? This A.T.S. might also be responsible for the non-technical instruction of officers and N.C.O.'s. It would be the special responsibility of the Director of Auxiliaries, who could thus ensure a common standard in all matters affecting women.

Supposing all these conditions were fulfilled, would there be drawbacks in the inclusion of women in the R.A., the R.A.S.C., the R.A.O.C., the A.P.C. and so forth? Perhaps there would. Administration might be a little more difficult, transfer would be less easy, new problems would arise to be considered and solved.

Would there be advantages? I think so. Women would be part of the Corps with which they serve and to which they give their loyalty and their best endeavours. The badges would be their badges and the traditions their traditions. The Corps would be more concerned to make them worthy members and to help them both during and after service. They would still be administered by women officers—that is essential—but the officers, too, would belong to the Corps and would have the appropriate background. They would no longer be outsiders.

That is how it seems to me. I would like to know whether those who have served in other Corps think the same.

TAMARISK.

**A DEBATE BY THE G.T.C.**

Cadets belonging to a Company of the Girls' Training Corps, at one of their meetings, held a debate, the subject being "Should Women's Services be continued after the War, and if so, should it be on compulsory or voluntary basis." The following is a brief outline of their findings.

For the proposal that it should be continued, it was suggested that women's services gave the opportunity for all classes to mix and to get to understand each other's problems better. If they could be continued, education should be carried on, and that such subjects as languages, especially English, be taught, and a knowledge of world affairs of the day be taught in a way to be thoroughly understood.

It was suggested that the splendid achievements of the women during war time should be allowed to continue in peace time. Women are devoting most of their time and energy in helping to win the war, and the younger generation are thinking ahead to post-war conditions and want to carry on the traditions that their mother and elder sisters have created.

The opposition to the continuation of the Women's Services was expressed in the following terms. Women are not naturally military minded and that if such normal jobs as shorthand typists are needed it could be done by women in civilian life and so help the industrial prosperity of the country. If discipline is a necessary part of training for women of the future, then why not raise the school leaving age to 17 years, and during the age of 16-17 give such training as would fit them physically and mentally for the future. One of the troubles of all sections of the community being in military bodies, is that we should become like Germany was in pre-war days and that is something which is not the British way of living. The main point in the opposition was that if this is a war to end wars there can be no possible excuse for militarising the women of this country.

The motion that the Women's Services be continued after the war, was defeated by 65 votes to 15.

Though the continuation of the Women's Services was opposed, it was unanimously agreed that the W.L.A. should be allowed to continue, as it was very necessary to keep up the good work of growing all kinds of food, to maintain a vital part of the nation's food supply.

WEMBRA-LEA.

**U.S. WOMEN TAKE THE SOLDIERS' OATH**

The conversion of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps into the Women's Army Corps, Army of the United States, has been accomplished 12 days ahead of schedule in the European theatre of operations. The official date for the termination of the W.A.A.C. is September 1st, when the corps as the W.A.C., will become a component of the Army.

The transfer of the W.A.A.C.'s in this country was done without ceremony. They took the "soldiers' oath" and were enlisted without disruption of their working routine. Enlistment is for the duration of the war and six months.

As the Women's Army Corps the members will be entitled to all rights and benefits of military service in the United States Army. They will participate in the national life insurance programme, Army emergency relief programme, and will be entitled to longevity pay. As a part of the Army they will receive free mail privileges, denied them as auxiliaries. In future officers of the W.A.C. may replace male officers in certain operational duties. The increase in operational duties for women in the Army will also increase the opportunities for enlisted women of the corps now on duty at Army posts to be chosen for the officer candidate school.

Open to W.A.C.'s at present are 406 of 628 Army specialist jobs, now filled by more than 1,000,000 enlisted men, but the W.A.C. will concentrate at present on 155 of these jobs.

**SERVICE WOMEN'S BENEVOLENT FUND**

Letter from Miss E. M. Royden

Mrs. Johnston, General Secretary, Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association, 82, Lancaster Gate, W.2.

Dear Mrs. Johnston,—Thank you for your letter of the 26th of August giving me the good news that the Service Women's Benevolent Fund have received such a grand donation towards its fund as a result of the raffle for a cake sent by three ex-members of Q.M.A.A.C.—namely, Mrs. B. W. Parker, Mrs. C. Belfield and Mrs. F. Fenton, who are all resident in Canada.

It is very generous of the members of Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Comrades Association to send the donation to augment the Funds of the S.W.B.F. I need hardly say the gift will be greatly appreciated by some ex-Service woman whose lot will be eased by their generosity.

As well as the donation mentioned above the Ilford Branch, Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Comrades Association have also sent a donation, £1 12s. 6d., towards the funds of the S.W.B.F., which will be used to help one or more ex-Service folk.

On behalf of the S.W.B.F. Committee I send our grateful thanks for the kind thought which prompted the gifts, the donations sent show that the good comradeship of life in the Services still holds good.—Yours sincerely,

E. M. ROYDEN,

Chairman of the Service Women's Benevolent Fund.

**MISS B. A. PRIESTLEY, O.B.E.****An Appreciation**

Those of us who went to Kinnel Park Camp on the Welsh coast during the years 1916-18, and afterwards perhaps to Shoreham-on-Sea, will never forget B. A. Priestley with her vivid personality and the happiness of the camps under her practical and understanding young leadership.

At Kinnel in 1916 there were about 200 of the Women's Legion working in the camp, but in 1917 when the W.A.A.C. took over the numbers increased to nearly 1,000, as the Depot for the reception and training of recruits for the Western Command was placed there, till other accommodation could be found for it and that took six months. Priestley, who was in charge of the Women's Legion at the camp, was appointed Unit Administrator of the Depot, which she had to organise, though still continuing in charge of the workers in the camp. This involved a double staff, great responsibility and very hard work, her day beginning at 7.30 a.m., when she never failed to be on parade and always personally addressed those members being posted to duty in other camps throughout the country and overseas. She was an ideal officer, for she was completely impartial in her judgment, very practical and, although discipline was strict, her ready sympathy and keen sense of humour carried her through all difficulties and there were many to be faced in those early days of the W.A.A.C.

For her successful work at Kinnel she was mentioned in despatches and awarded the O.B.E.

In 1919, Priestley was promoted Deputy Controller at Western Command H.Q., and inspected camps, where many of the women she had trained were at work, until demobilisation in November of that year.

In 1920, she became a member of the Domestic Science Staff of the University of Reading, later becoming Lecturer-in-Charge of her Department. This appointment she held to the last with the same keenness and happiness in her work.

Courage and loyalty were keystones of a very generous, happy life of whole-hearted service.

She passed to Higher Service on Sunday, September 5th, 1943.

**AS FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA**

June 19th, 1943 (At sea).

Dear Mrs. Johnston,—I was so sorry I did not get a chance of coming round to see you while I was in England, but my time was very occupied and any free moments were spent with my family. I was only in London for three or four nights, which further complicated matters, as I always seemed to be catching—or missing—very crowded trains. However, it was a wonderful time, and I would not have missed it for anything. I enjoyed every minute of that lovely Spring, and was lucky to be staying in the country almost all the time. It seemed to me that the cuckoo never stopped.

On the whole, England seemed to me very much more normal than I expected. I thought you would all look hungry, cold and shabby—but not a bit of it. The new restaurants and cafeterias seemed to me excellent, though I don't know how you all manage to look so smart on your coupons.

It was marvellous arriving just in time for the annual general meeting, and so seeing so many good friends all at once. They were so friendly I felt I had only been away a few weeks and had not lost touch at all. I had a great night out with London Branch Committee, though how Mrs. Mayhew managed to secure a table and arrange a dinner at the Cumberland I could not imagine. I was so grateful to them all.

As for the club—I felt at home the moment my taxi dropped me at the door. I might never have been away at all. A warm welcome, tea and a hot bath were ready in a moment, and as a climax a clean pair of pyjamas carefully done up in a parcel, which I left behind in 1940. A home from home, indeed.

Parts of London were rather a shock to me, for although, of course, I had heard about the damage one does not quite realise it, and to you who saw things so much worse they don't seem so bad now they are tidied up.

Now I suppose I shall have to stay particularly in South Africa until the war ends (or end!)—that is, if I ever arrive anywhere—we have been seven weeks at sea so far, but perfectly calm and comfortable though a trifle boring. I don't recommend sea travel in war time if you are in a hurry, though it is remarkable that one can get across the world at all under such conditions. Anyhow, the trip was well worth it from my point of view. I have enjoyed almost every minute and shall not be afraid of being forgotten by my friends this time.

Here's to our next merry meeting and love to the O.C.A.—  
Yours very sincerely,

EDITH THOMPSON.

**LONDON BRANCH, COMFORTS FUND**

September, 1943.

Since my last report, which was not in the "Gazette," as it was amongst the papers stolen from Mrs. Johnston, the only item of interest is a letter from Mrs. Griffiths, thanking us for garments sent in our last parcel containing:—42 pairs of socks, one scarf, one pair gloves, six pairs mitts, one helmet and one pullover, making a total of 52. This brings our total number to 841, leaving 159 to complete our target of 1,000.

Many thanks to all our splendid knitters who have helped to achieve this. We are hoping that those members who are unable to knit will be willing to give freely at our "Bring and buy" sale so that money may be forthcoming for the purchase of wool to finish the job.

In July and August garments were received from the Misses Jerrett, Lawson, Burnett, Benson, Bilbrough, Binks, Peattie, Saunders and Pitt, to whom our best thanks are due.

Letter from the Regiment is printed below.

L. SAUNDERS.

**MIDDLESEX REGIMENT COMFORTS FUND**

43, Park House Gardens, Twickenham Park, Middlesex.

September 10th, 1943.

Dear Miss Saunders,—Will you please thank your committee and members very much indeed for the generous parcels of woollies for the Regiment, which my husband had collected to-day. So sorry for the delay in collecting but transport is so difficult. I hope you and Mrs. Mayhew are both keeping well. Again, many thanks. Kindest regards.—Very sincerely,  
yours,

A. GRIFFITHS (chairman).

## NEWS OF COMRADES

**Mrs. E. Kilgour Roberts** (a Life member of the Comrades Association), who is now serving as a Sergeant in the Australian Women's Army Service, has sent a delightful pennon to Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan. It is of brown cloth with the lovely Badge of the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces and the letters A.W.A.S. in golden yellow. She has kindly lent it to the Headquarter office so that others may have an opportunity of seeing it. Sergt. Roberts also sent a most interesting account of the wonderful work done by Mrs. Mason, in conjunction with Dr. Mary Booth, in founding the Anzac Fellowship of Women and the great help given by the Fellowship in keeping alive a proper observance of Anzac Day and furthering the work of the Empire Service Club for Overseas' Settlers, and the sons of Sailors, Soldiers and ex-Servicemen.

We are very sorry to learn of the death of **Mrs. Clara Moulton**, who served at Pont Remy, near Abbeville as a Fore-woman cook. Mrs. Moulton had a leg amputated some time ago and was delighted when an artificial limb was provided through the good offices of the British Legion and the Service Women's Benevolent Fund. Unfortunately she was taken seriously ill before she could use the limb and died in May last after much suffering. Her husband writes: "She was a brave woman." The British Legion attended the funeral and poppy wreaths were sent both from the Legion and the Women's Section.

**Mrs. E. M. Markes**, ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and ex-Sergt. A.T.S., is now running a Hostel for Air Force Cadets, 42 of them. She took over this work last May and finds it most interesting. She has also accommodation for a few of their relatives, which is a great help as it is so difficult nowadays for visitors to find beds in London.

**Miss Florence Day** sends news of the "passing on" of two old Comrades, **Miss Ena Greig**, who was a Melbourne member of the C.A., but came to England and was working in an Arms factory, and of **Miss H. M. Montifiore**, who died suddenly last March. Miss Montifiore was a U.A., and was in charge of No. 1 Cadet Wing, R.F.C., at St. Leonard's.

**Miss Warrior** sends news of **Miss U. Pudsey**, who served as a U.A. at Scarborough and in the London District. For many years Miss Pudsey and her sister lived in Athens; they were rescued from there when the Germans attacked Greece and were taken to India, via Cairo. Her sister died in India and Miss Pudsey is now in England, very bereaved in having lost her sister as well as her lovely home in Athens. Our deep sympathy goes out to her in all these troubles.

**Corporal J. Thorp** writes from Chester. She is now acting as Escort Corporal, her duty being to take medically discharged auxiliaries to their homes. She tells us that her sister's house was struck by lightning in the last thunderstorm in August, but fortunately no one was injured.

**Corporal Jackson** has just spent her leave with C.S.M. N. Hughes, who was at one time Secretary of Northern Ireland Branch. They had a delightful time in Cornwall.

**Miss M. E. Roberts** has just sent the H.Q. office a large and delightful picture of Their Majesties, the King and Queen, with the two Princesses, walking through a field of barley. This was published in the Press and is a very charming picture. Miss Roberts has now left Ipsley and is working once more as a private gardener.

**Mrs. Mills**, Secretary of Ex-Service Women's Club, New South Wales, writing in July last, tells us that Miss Pace, much to their regret, has resigned the Editorship of the Bulletin. She sends greetings to all members, Dame Florence and to Miss Edith Thompson. They are hoping to see some of us visiting Australia after the war.

We were very pleased to hear from **Mrs. J. M. Murray**, who has lately retired from the A.T.S. Mrs. Murray was awarded

the O.B.E. in the Birthday Honours. She is a Life member of the Association and has just sent a Life subscription to the "Gazette."

**Private F. P. Douch**, niece of Miss Margaret Douch, who served in Q.M.A.A.C., has lately joined the C.A. It is very pleasant to welcome the daughters and younger relations of those who served with the old Corps, whose fine traditions they are upholding so well.

**Miss M. Douch** is still very busy in Canteen work, in Bognor Regis, London and Leatherhead. She enjoyed the London Branch Meeting while she was staying for a few days at the Service Women's Club, Buckingham Gate.

**Mrs. Holdway**, an ex-A.T.S., is now well enough once more to work a 55 hours week at an Aircraft Factory. We hope she will keep fit and carry on the good work.

**Miss Turner** writes to give the sad news of the death, on 5th September, of **Miss B. A. Priestley**, Head of the Domestic Subjects Department at Reading. She will be very much missed there. An appreciation of Miss Priestley appears in another part of the "Gazette."

**Mrs. G. C. Peckham**, who served as Bailey 45758 Q.M.A.A.C., has lately resigned from the Women's Land Army as she has to undergo an operation. We hope to hear that she is making a good recovery. She is looking forward, with the proper W.A.A.C. spirit, to undertaking further war work as soon as she is fit. Mrs. Peckham's husband is serving in the Royal Artillery and she has a daughter in the W.A.A.F. She tells us that she still has the Army biscuit which was served to her for her first tea when she joined at Bristol. She was so disgusted with it that she sent it home in a box and it is still the same as it was then. She wonders what it can be MADE OF!

It was good to hear of **Mrs. B. James**. She was for some years a member of Council and the Secretary of Golders Green Branch. We have not had news of her for a long time and we are very sorry to learn that she has been ill for over four years with arthritis, and unfortunately her condition is not improving in spite of treatment. In her letter to **Miss N. Mitchell** she says that her son John, who was a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, was very severely wounded at Boulogne in May, 1940. He was one of a party sent over to demolish the railway and docks a few days before Dunkirk. He spent two and a half years in hospital, several months in a very critical condition and was eventually discharged from the Navy. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, which he received from H.M. the King at an Investiture in June last. May we congratulate him very sincerely. He is happily married now to one of his nurses and has a lovely baby daughter. Several of Mrs. James's family have had their homes demolished, and she has lost a brilliant nephew in Libya, so the war has been hitting her hard. However, we hope that when it is over she will get stronger. Mrs. James hears at intervals from **Annie Abbott**, who still leads a very busy life and lives near her sister at Walthamstow.

**Miss M. Davis**, who is much occupied with W.V.S. work, sends news of **Mrs. Burbidge (Coonan)**, who has four grown-up children. The eldest, aged 23, is married, and the youngest a boy of 17, is just about to be called up; also the other son. Her daughter is in the W.A.A.F. This summer Mr. Burbidge (known to Etaples W.A.A.C.s as "Pink Arthur") was in London with the three younger children, and later Mrs. Burbidge and her eldest daughter, whose husband is in the Navy, spent a fortnight with Davis. Apparently she and "Cooney" had some good laughs over the happy old days in France.

**Miss Florence Day**, ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and ex-W.R.A.F., is now serving with the N.A.A.F.I. She sends kind messages to Miss Ireland, Miss Billington and Mrs. Powell.

We are so sorry to learn that **Mrs. Coppleston**, who served as Miss Francis, D.A. Ordnance, Calais, had a very serious fall last March and fractured her spine. After a short time in hospital she was put into a plaster-of-Paris jacket, which has to be kept on for six months. At first it seemed almost unbearable but Mrs. Coppleston has borne with it very philosophically and is hoping shortly to be released from her "cage." After that will come massage and we hope a complete restoration to her usual active life.

**Miss Julian**, of Bradford, the winner of the cake from Canada, has most generously sent the General Secretary a very large share. So, after all, Mrs. Johnston's care of the cake until it was finally raffled has been more than rewarded. Many thanks, most kind and thoughtful Julian!