



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

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

Vol XX, No. 10.

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER, 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.**

Christmas & New Year Greetings

The President and Council send greetings and best wishes for a very happy Christmas and New Year to all members of the Comrades Association.

Dame Florence sends a special message, written in hospital, asking that her warmest greetings and good wishes to all Comrades, old and new, may be printed in the "Gazette." She wishes especially to thank Dame Helen, Council and other old Comrades for their kind messages. She says that it is a great comfort to feel that so many good friends are thinking of her.

We can assure Dame Florence that she is very much in our thoughts and we reciprocate her good wishes and hope sincerely that by the time this "Gazette" is with us that she will have completely recovered from the operation and be on the high road to renewed and still better health.

Dame Helen sends affectionate greetings to her Comrades of Q.M.A.A.C. and a special message of welcome to her Comrades of the A.T.S. She congratulates them on work done and looks forward to many happy meetings.

Miss Ireland sends Christmas greetings and sincere good wishes for the New Year to all old Comrades.

Miss Winifred Urquhart sends a charming card of greetings from Australia to all old friends and comrades.

LADY BERTHA DAWKINS

The death was announced on November 12th, 1943, of Lady Bertha Dawkins, for many years an honorary vice-president of this Association and a regular subscriber to our funds. Lady Bertha was born in 1866, and, in 1903, married an officer of the Fifth Fusiliers. From 1907 to 1935 she was a Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Mary and had been an Extra Woman of the Bedchamber ever since, which means that, instead of having regular hours of duty, she could go to her Mistress when asked to do so. It was through her service to Queen Mary that she came to know Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. She was one of our kindest and most understanding friends, and one whom all who knew her will miss.

HAREWOOD HOUSE, LEEDS

November 8th.

The Princess Royal (Controller Commandant) to-day inspected units of the A.T.S. in Anti-Aircraft Command. Her Royal Highness subsequently visited a Military Hospital and Camp Reception Station in the Northern Command.

The Princess Royal, Controller Commandant of the A.T.S., attended a tea party given at the Colonial Office lately by the Secretary of State for the Colonies (Colonel Oliver Stanley) and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (the Duke of Devonshire) to welcome the recently arrived contingent of A.T.S. from the West Indies.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

A Meeting of Council was held on Saturday, November 20th, at 2.30 p.m. as the black-out now makes it difficult for members to attend meetings in the evenings. It took place at the Headquarters Office, 82, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2, when 14 were present, with Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan in the chair; Junior Commander M. Bilbrough, Miss Cliff, Miss Davy, Mrs. Eager, Chief Commander M. Patrick, Mrs. Powell, Senior Commander Lady Swinton, Miss M. Slee, Hon. Treasurer and Mrs. Johnston, General Secretary. The following sent apologies for absence: Miss Batty, Miss Billington, Miss Clark, Mrs. Grundy, Mrs. Knox, Staff Sergt. C. Kemp, Pte. Reynders, Miss Saunders, Miss Turner and Senior Commander E. Walker.

The discussion with regard to future activities of the Comrades Association was of great interest. The Chairman asked whether it would be advisable to enlarge the activities of the Association, suggesting to Branches the useful work they might do by interesting themselves in education, health, infant welfare and other local problems on a non-party basis. Chief Commander Patrick referred to the Army education schemes which were doing so much to arouse interest and give instruction on these important matters to the A.T.S. Senior Commander Lady Swinton pointed out how important it was that everyone should learn about good citizenship. Miss Slee, herself a Borough Councillor, thought the suggestion valuable and was sure that Town Clerks and Medical Officers of Health would gladly speak at Branch meetings if asked to do so. Mrs. Eager stated that ex-Service women would be especially useful in the work of Youth Organisations, which were always in need of helpers. It was suggested that Branches should keep a Register of their members, with their qualifications for employment, their work in the Services as well as before the war. The Chairman asked members to consider this matter and to formulate their opinions. Articles in the "Gazette" could be used to arouse the interest of all members.

The Meeting unanimously elected two new Vice-Presidents, Controller L. V. L. E. Whateley, Directors A.T.S., and Senior Controller C. H. Fraser-Tyler, now senior A.T.S. officer at A.A. Command.

The General Secretary reported that a Chaplet had been laid at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day, an account of which appears in another place.

The Meeting was very sorry to learn that our President, Dame Florence Simpson, is in hospital and to undergo an operation shortly. It was unanimously agreed to send a letter of sympathy and best wishes for a complete and speedy return to health.

Sergeant Thornhill, Miss M. Hunt, Private Foe (who has lately left the A.T.S.) and Mrs. Pratt-Barlow were welcome visitors at Headquarters since the last Report was printed. The General Secretary is always delighted to see either A.T.S. or Q.M.A.A.C. members who can find time to visit the office when they are in London.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Saturday, January 8th, 1944, at 2.30 p.m.** The Meeting will be held at 82, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2. Will all members of Council please note the date, the usual agenda will be sent to each member 10 days before the meeting.

CHIEF CONTROLLER OF A.T.S.

Deputy Director Appointed

The Secretary of State for War has appointed Senior Controller L. V. L. E. Whateley, C.B.E., Deputy Director of the A.T.S., to be Chief Controller and Director of the A.T.S. in succession to Chief Controller J. M. Knox, who recently resigned for reasons of health.

Chief Controller Whateley, whose husband is a squadron leader in the R.A.F., has been deputy director of the A.T.S.

since September, 1941, being the first woman to hold the rank of senior controller. She is 41 years of age, and, volunteering for the A.T.S. in September, 1938, became a member of a City of London unit. She was appointed a junior officer in October, 1938, and at the outbreak of war was posted to the War Office, where she carried out administrative duties in various branches. She was one of the first three women to become a member of a Territorial Army and Air Force Association. Last February she and two other women were co-opted as members of the City of London Territorial Army and Air Force Association, of which her father, Colonel Evelyn Wood, was formerly secretary, and her grandfather, the late Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., was the first chairman. She received the C.B.E. in the last Birthday Honours List.

On November 9th Mrs. L. V. Whateley (Chief Controller, Auxiliary Territorial Service) and Mrs. J. M. Knox (lately Chief Controller, Auxiliary Territorial Service) had the honour of being received by the Queen.

THE QUEEN WITH THE A.T.S.

Fifth Birthday Parade

On Sunday, October 17th, more than 2,000 women of the A.T.S., drawn from every command in the United Kingdom, marched past the Queen, their Commandant-in-Chief, in front of Buckingham Palace, and afterwards attended a service at Westminster Abbey.

The occasion was the fifth birthday of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, the largest of the uniformed Services filled by the women. The Royal Artillery had sent its band to lead the parade, and the first A.T.S. contingent was of women serving with Anti-Aircraft Command in mixed batteries and a mixed searchlight regiment.

The A.T.S. marched magnificently. Swinging past Buckingham Palace six abreast, they gave the "Eyes right" at the command of the officer leading each contingent, the officers themselves saluting, the Queen bowing acknowledgment. With the Queen stood the Princess Royal, in A.T.S. uniform; the Deputy Director, A.T.S., Senior Controller L. Whateley (in place of Chief Controller J. M. Knox, Director of the A.T.S., who was absent through ill-health; and the Secretary of State for War, Sir James Grigg.

Grouped on either side were members of the War Office staff, the heads of other women's services—including the Director of the W.A.A.F. (Air Commandant Lady Welsh) and the Director of the W.R.N.S. (Mrs. V. Laughton-Matthews)—Mrs. Churchill, Lady Louis Mountbatten, representing the British Red Cross, and the Deputy Directors of the A.T.S. for every command and district. The saluting base was marked by two red-capped provosts each holding a flag in the A.T.S. colours—the beech brown, green, and fox red that are more familiar in the A.T.S. forage cap. The band of the Coldstream Guards played the women past.

A.T.S. Pipe Band

Four other bands marched with the A.T.S. from Horse Guards Parade, where they had formed, down the Mall to the palace, and thence by Birdcage Walk to Westminster Abbey. In the middle of the column were the pipers and band of the A.T.S. itself; and there were also the bands of the Grenadier Guards, Scots Guards and Royal Artillery.

In the parade were 10 women from the most isolated A.T.S. unit in the kingdom; they are stationed in Orkney, and have all seen three to four years' active service. There were veterans of the last war, now serving again; there were two women with mothers in the A.T.S., like themselves; there was a private from Ludlow representing a company of convoy drivers who take three ton Army vehicles from the South of England to far northern ports for shipment and deliver them with unfailing regularity; there was a C.S.M. from South Wales who has seven brothers in khaki.

The Queen, with the Princess Royal, drove to the west door of Westminster Abbey, the approach to which was lined by 30 members of the London district headquarters of the A.T.S., whom she inspected before entering the abbey. The Dean of Westminster, Dr. Paul de Labilliere, conducted the service, and the sermon was preached by Canon A. C. Don.

CANDIDATES FOR A.T.S. COMMISSIONS

Testing Intelligence and Personality

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

There are two War Office Selection Boards for the selection of A.T.S. officer candidates, working on similar principles to those for Army candidates. The methods used ensure so far as possible that no candidates shall be rejected because of a lack of school education or social background, and give the same chance to all to display their capabilities.

On arrival, candidates are given a number by which they are known throughout the course, and after a meal are welcomed by the president, who outlines the procedure and dispels any suspicions of nervousness. During the next 48 hours candidates are treated as officers, living with the board officers and taking their meals in the same mess.

Written tests are given on the first day. These are based on scientific principles designed to measure intelligence and general personality, but are in no way dependent on education or acquired knowledge. On the second day, tests of practical ability as members or in command of groups are carried out under the supervision of four A.T.S. testing officers. These tests may take the form of putting candidates into a room filled with odds and ends where they are told to make themselves comfortable as if for a night, or they may have to clear up and remove casualties from a bombed-out platoon office, or keep a discussion going on a set subject for a certain length of time.

Anxiety Removed

No leader is appointed and it is left to the group to work things out for themselves. This shows the reactions of individuals, their personal inter-relationships, and their part played in the communal activity. Every candidate has a further opportunity to show her suitability for a commission in a personal interview with the president or deputy-president, when her past experience in civil as well as service life can be discussed. Besides these two officers, the board is comprised of the testing officers, a psychologist, and two psychiatrists. Each member of the board is called upon on the third day to give her opinion from her own observations of each candidate.

The frank and friendly spirit created from the start by the president is maintained throughout the course. Formal discipline is relaxed, no differences in rank are observed, and any state of tension or anxiety is removed so that the candidate can show her real qualities. Successful candidates may be passed under four standards, Standard A being very high and rare. Where there is a slight doubt, a candidate may be recommended for special pre-O.C.T.U. training. All candidates accepted for training as officers go to a pre-O.C.T.U. unit, where they obtain a wider experience than their previous service may have given them of the A.T.S.

As soon as enough candidates have passed through the new procedure and completed their subsequent training, a detailed study will be made of its effect on the selection of officers. In this way it is hoped to overcome one of the most serious A.T.S. problems, which has been that of finding enough suitable officers from a service in which three-quarters of the members are under 25 years of age.

ARMISTICE DAY

A Chaplet of silk poppies, with a ribbon in blue on which was inscribed in gold lettering Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Comrades Association, was laid at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day by a deputation of Comrades.

The Chaplet was laid by R.S.M. A. Glass, A.T.S., who was accompanied by C.S.M. C. Kemp, A.T.S., Miss A. S. Hodges, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., Miss S. T. Hannen, ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., and Mrs. Mayhew, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., the Secretary of London Branch, who had made all the arrangements.

BRANCH REPORTS

ILFORD BRANCH

Owing to pressure of business I am sorry I did not send a report last issue. Our September meeting was held at my flat, when we were very pleased to have with us Miss M. A. Jones, who was at Boulogne with me in the last war, and has travelled many countries since then. Mrs. Hardy could not manage that week-end, but we were pleased she was able to get to London for the Bring and Buy Sale on the 18th. Our October meeting was at Mrs. Smith's at Harold Wood. We all had a very happy afternoon and came away with runner beans from the garden. We decided that instead of a meeting in November we would make a party and go to a theatre, so seats were booked for "Pink String and Sealing Wax," and we all enjoyed the show very much; then we finished up with tea and all went our different ways home.

Our next meeting will be at Mrs. Spauld's, Gidea Park, on December 11th.
PADDY PARKES.

NORTH STAFFS BRANCH REPORT

This Branch has not been very active recently, but we hope to have a reunion supper on Monday, December 6th. A meeting called in October was not very well attended, the night being very foggy and cold. Our members from Leek are not able to come during the winter because of the black-out and the transport restrictions.

Of our A.T.S. members there are now only two left in the district—Sergt. Ellis and Sergt.-Major Hills. Sergts. Wallis, Cosgrave and Hewitt have been transferred to other districts. Corpl. Phillips has been given a commission. We hope to increase our A.T.S. membership in the New Year. By the time this report is published it will be nearly Christmas, so may the members of this Branch send Christmas greetings and good wishes to the rest of the Comrades Association.

A. CLOUGH.

NOTTINGHAM BRANCH

First of all, I would like to thank all my friends for their kind messages of sympathy in connection with my recent accident. Having been an invalid for 11 weeks and still not wholly free from the result of the escapade, I feel I must not let another issue of the "Gazette" pass without some news of the Nottingham Branch, so have been gleaming news. Last month we had a Bring and Buy Sale, which was very successful, and we had the kind assistance of members of the Ex-W.R.A.F., who gave much valuable help.

So far we have had no applications for membership from the A.T.S. Occasionally one of our members, Mrs. Calvert, brings her A.T.S. daughter to the meetings. We are always very pleased to welcome her. Another member, Mrs. Brooks, brings her little girl Janice along. Janice is a sweet child, who delights in commencing auctions and bids with the confidence of an adult, but it is poor mother who pays, and she does so very willingly. Janice also insists on washing up the tea things.

Mrs. Williamson has been very ill with pneumonia, but we are glad to learn she is well on the road to recovery. Mrs. Peters is again on the sick list. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Tippet's son has won a Bursary and now has gone to college. At the same time, Mrs. Tippet's daughter presented her with a grandson—so double congratulations to our new grandmama. Some of our members went fruit and potato picking and thoroughly enjoyed the time thus given. Mrs. Cripps' daughter in the W.A.A.F. has not had leave so far.

We are holding our A.G.M. on Sunday next, and are not having a high tea or dinner following the meeting, as we are hoping to join forces with the W.R.A.F. next months for a grand Christmas party.

With heartiest greetings for Christmas to all other Branches from the Nottingham Branch.

N. OSLER, Branch Secretary.

LONDON BRANCH

At the time of sending this to Press, it is learned that our President of the Association, Dame Florence Simpson, is about to undergo an operation. All members of London Branch will join in sending every possible good wish for a successful outcome of the operation and a speedy recovery to good health again. We shall all miss our President very much at our

Branch General Meeting, but our loving thoughts will be with her, wishing her well again.

On November 20th, a very cheery crowd congregated around the club drawing room fire, in all about 20. It was a very homely gathering and atmosphere, and the majority were as usual busily engaged with knitting. A stranger to our ways might have thought that they were in fact intruding upon an "At Home" knitting party. Mrs. Carson, of Bournemouth, was a welcome visitor. Miss W. Binks, the Hon. Asst. Secretary, who is our farmyard expert (i.e., in the backyards) is beginning to create quite a name for herself in regard to her "Fowl" stories. Here is her latest. The fate of one of her cockerels had been decided upon. He was "for it" on Christmas Day. He, therefore, feeling the pangs of hunger drawing him nearer to the kitchen oven, decided to make a bold bid for freedom and formulated a cunning plan. When next our Assistant Secretary visited his home to her surprise she found a small egg in his bed. But, alas! our Binks is a very determined person and far above bribes. Such camouflage did not deceive her, and the findings were that the cockerel had been guilty of entertaining his girl friend. The verdict, to be hanged by his neck on Christmas Eve, still stands.

I hope that the Editor will allow this story to be published, as we are approaching the festive season; perhaps she will. It might serve to point out that if we all continue to go forward with a fixed and determined idea as to the finish of this war, no change in plumage, habits or words of these "birds of prey" on the Continent will alter or deter us for one moment from our resolve to bring a final victorious peace to our people and to the oppressed peoples of the world. May this Christmas bring to all of us in fuller measure an increased sense of our responsibility to do our utmost to help in the furtherance of these aims, in a practical manner and worthy of our great country and men and women who are serving in H.M. Forces, so that in the New Year there may be a hope of—Peace for evermore.

To all serving members of the Branch—Greetings and good wishes for the coming Christmas; to all ex-Service members, Greetings, good luck and cheer, to those of you who have husbands, sons or daughters serving, good luck to them and safe journeys and return, and to those of you who have lost one of your beloved ones, our admiration, love and sincerest sympathy and hopes that their great sacrifice and yours, may live for ever in the Peace that must follow.

To our Branch President, Miss Edith Thompson, who is still serving overseas, Greetings and all good wishes and looking forward to your speedy return; all old comrades and new will be waiting to welcome you home again, in the same old way and in the same old place.

To all our new Comrades—Greetings, and the finest thing that we can wish you is: May you all find the same real help, happiness and comradeship in the Association as we of the Q.M.A.A.C. have found. Then if you do, we of the Old Brigade will feel that we have done a really worth while job. We hope sincerely that you will do so.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Saturday, the 18th December, at 2.15 p.m.

FUTURE REUNIONS will be held on the **THIRD** Saturday in the month until further notice.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please note change of address of the Hon. Secretary to: 25, Denmark Avenue, WIMBLEDON, S.W.19. Telephone Wimbledon 2789. B. MAYHEW, Hon. Secretary.

LONDON BRANCH COMFORTS REPORT, 1943

Since October 31st, 1942, until the present date, 251 garments have been completed and sent to the Regiment. With 630 to our credit at the beginning of the year, this brings our total garments to 881, leaving a balance of 119 to complete our target of 1,000.

Sufficient wool is in distribution and in store to complete this effort if sufficient numbers will come forward to do the work and finish the job—before Christmas if possible, please.

The Treasurer has charge of the wool account, which should show a good balance, as, since our last Social effort, only one parcel of wool has been bought, £6 11s. 2d.

My Petty Cash Account shows a balance of £2 6s. 2d. At the beginning of the year it was £3 0s. 4d., but Postage and Rent of Locker has reduced this amount by 14s. 2d.

Herewith lists attached of: (a) Detailed Garments; (b) Personnel responsible for the good work:—

Garments: 613 pairs of socks, 25 pullovers, 149 pairs of mittens, 28 pairs of gloves, 47 scarves, 18 helmets, 1 knee cap. Total, 881.

Personnel responsible for knitted garments and donations:

Misses Moyes, Winter, Eager, Starling, Burnett, Winks, Saunders, Mayhew, Machin, Sparks, Farraghan, Dodd, Pitt, Hayward, Billbrough, Yelton, Stone, Benson, Kelly, Owen, Hannan (Jerrett, Lawson, Binks, Peattie, Rogers, Armstrong, Rae, Ireland, Johnstone, Burr, Courage, Tapscott, Sanderson, Mason, Chambers and A.T.S., Caseley, Ingram, Vince, Bryers, Davy, Mann, Hodges, Fogles, Andrews, Yelton, Goldberg, Rose, Ingram, Thompson, Strang, Douglas, Brand, Smith (Sec. Kitty Coddington), Warrior, Green, Leeming, King, Wilkinson, Hunt, Porter, Davis, Longman, Roberts, Hatfield.

I would like to record my personal thanks to all those who have so loyally supported this effort of the O.C.A. London Branch.
L. SAUNDERS (Oct. 30th, 1943).

NORFOLK

Although our meetings have been very rare during the past year, members have been able to keep in touch by occasional letters. We hope the New Year may be more propitious for meeting, if only a few together at a time.

Members will be pleased to know that Molly Howes is slowly recovering from her nose operations, and writes cheerfully. Her eyes are still a continual cause for anxiety, as she has so much needlework to do these days.

The Hon. Secretary sends Christmas greetings to all Norfolk members, and the Branch joins with her in wishing for a brighter New Year to all Old Comrades at home and abroad.
L. W. CHILVERS.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND BRANCH

On Saturday, October 16th, we met at "The Cosy Cafe," Whiteladies Road, Bristol, for tea.

We took this opportunity of holding the Annual Meeting of the Branch, and the Accounts for the year were presented, the chair being taken by Miss Sims (vice-president).

Apologies were received from Lady Apsley (President), Mrs. Cheeseman, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Hale, Miss Smith and Miss Walker. The Secretary explained the new subscription rate, which includes the "Gazette." Thanks to the Vice-President and Secretary terminated the business part of the meeting and the rest of the time was spent happily exchanging news of absent members.

We were very pleased to welcome Miss McDonald, who has been absent lately through being out of Bristol; also the two daughters of our members, Mrs. Skidmore and Mrs. Whiting.

Our next meeting is fixed, provisionally, for Saturday, January 29th.
B. M.

DR. L. GARRETT ANDERSON

Louisa Garrett Anderson, who died on November 15th, 1943, was the brilliant daughter of a yet more brilliant mother. The story begins more than a hundred years ago, for Elizabeth Garrett, who afterwards married a shipowner, J. G. S. Anderson, was born in 1836. Her ambition was to heal the sick and she determined to be a doctor. But the early Victorian mind was sincerely shocked by the idea that a woman should undergo medical training, and almost every door was closed. After many difficulties, in 1865, she passed the examinations of the Society of Apothecaries and thus became qualified to practice. By the terms of their charter, which had never even contemplated feminine candidates, the Society found that they could not refuse her, but they hurriedly made new rules to exclude all other women. It was not till 1878 that the University of London opened "every degree, honour and prize"—including the medical degree—to women on the same terms as to men. Meantime, Mrs. Garrett Anderson had taken a doctor's degree in Paris, had built up a practice and had become the mother of a daughter in 1873 and a son in 1877. The son, Sir Alan Garrett Anderson, is, like his father, an eminent man of business; the daughter, Louisa, followed her mother's profession. In 1914, with Dr. Flora Murray, she formed the Women's Hospital Corps, which served first in France and later established the Military Hospital, Endell Street. In those days it was an astonishing fact that the whole staff were women from the stretcher bearers to the chief surgeon (Louie Garrett Anderson). When, later in the war, hospital accommodation was required for members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, wards were set aside for them in Endell Street, and many will remember the care that they received. Mrs. Chalmers Watson and Dr. Garrett Anderson were cousins; some of the earliest planning of the Corps, in February, 1917, took place in Dr. Garrett Anderson's room in the Endell Street Hospital.

She was a good friend, a fine surgeon and a keen and unselfish worker.

WOMEN IN THE SERVICES

AN A.T.S.'s VIEWS

May I refer to the article headed "A Women's Service or Women in the Services," by "Tamarisk," published in your issue for September—October, 1943, which I have read with a great deal of interest?

I do not think that "Tamarisk" is right in her assumption that "... 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." If I may express a personal opinion, I think "Tamarisk" is mistaken in her assumption that the A.T.S. as a whole has any such desire. Most of us are indeed proud of the badges that we wear above our left-hand pockets; but our loyalty to the badge which we wear on our caps and shoulder-straps is in no way impaired by this local "Esprit de Corps." We are very proud of our Service and every year that passes, through greater knowledge and experience of its functions, is adding to our determination to make it the best possible Service and one of which all British women, whether A.T.S. or not, can speak with admiration and approval.

It seems to me that a Service such as the A.T.S. is typically British in character. I think it is significant that we, in this country, have sufficient confidence in our women to feel that those serving with the Forces should be run and administered by women. I feel it is significant, too, that those very experienced soldiers in places of high authority, who assisted and advised us in the initial period, also had sufficient confidence in British women to form the A.T.S. on these lines.

We feel deeply honoured to have Her Majesty the Queen as our Commandant in Chief, and it is a source of the deepest satisfaction to all of us that our Controller Commandant, The Princess Royal, looks upon us as "her own," and works so hard, with real personal interest and knowledge, to help us.

"Tamarisk" says, in respect of auxiliaries working on a level footing with the soldiers they release, that "... there should be openings for those who make good both as Officers and N.C.O.s," which would carry the same working responsibility and the same opportunities for promotion. When the Service began I admit that the opportunities offered to the A.T.S. were definitely less than those open to their brother soldiers; but I think the Service may congratulate itself upon the undeniable fact that with each year more and more openings, more and greater responsibilities, have come and are still coming; openings which have been won by the good service given by the auxiliaries and officers of the A.T.S.; openings which reflect all the greater credit on the Service since the very winning of them proves that they have made good and have overcome any natural and initial doubts on the part of the men.

I believe—and I think that a very large majority of my fellow A.T.S. also believe—that, when we have proved ourselves worthy of still greater responsibilities, these will undoubtedly be given to us within the limits of our capacity as women. The British Army has, I consider, been very generous in its recognition of the value of our work, and I see no reason why the end of the war should materially alter their attitude. As a Women's Service, run by women, I think we have a future. But as individual women in the Army, I feel that we might be considered out of place in peace time.

QUEEN MARY A BENCHER OF LINCOLN'S INN

Queen Mary has accepted the invitation of the Treasurer and Masters of the Bench of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn to become their Senior Bencher, a position occupied by his late Majesty King George V. and by the late Duke of Kent. Her Majesty was duly called to the Bar in absentia and published to the Bench in Lincoln's Inn Hall by the Treasurer (Lord Justice Luxmore).

This is the first occasion on which a lady has been made a Bencher of any of the Inns of Court.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

November, 1943.

Armistice Day once again and what memories it still revives. I have recently had the pleasure of meeting one or two old comrades and thought perhaps some of our mutual friends of Calais and Vendroux days would like to hear of them.

I spent a few days in September with the Cresleys; he, sergeant, of "Indents," R.A.O.C. On my arrival who should be there but Mrs. Ross (Dolly Colston), "C" Group and C.O.O.'s. It was the first time she had been that way for four years and neither of us knew the other was to be there. We spent a most delightful evening with the Cresleys, and the next day in town together, mostly talking over old times, of course.

Shortly before this Mr. Cresley was walking down the Strand when someone spoke to him by name. It turned out to be Mrs. Wilson (Billy Williat), "Indents."

We were so very sorry to hear that her son had just been killed in the R.A.F., and her daughter died a short time ago. All our sympathy, Billy, and better luck in the future.

Another contact has been Mr. Harris ("Boyee"), of the O.O.'s. He is in business in Charing Cross Road, and a long letter from Bee Swindon, also O.O.'s, from New Zealand. Her son had just joined up, but was not old enough for overseas. She made one's mouth water by saying that oranges grew in nearly everyone's garden over there.

The last news of Ruby Start was from America two or three years ago. Another great pleasure I had recently was entertaining Mrs. Copleston's son (Miss Francis, D. A., Calais and Vendroux). He is a most charming boy of 19, and is in the Navy, and was stationed near here, so we were able to see him several times. Mrs. Copleston has at last had her plaster-of-Paris jacket taken off, and when I last heard was getting on slowly but surely.

Mrs. Courtley (Jimmie James) and Mrs. Saunter (Ivy Pash) are two others with whom I keep in touch, although letters are few and far between. Friends of the old days are friends for life, which brings me to a suggestion I should like to make.

One of the greatest pleasures of the year used to be the reunion dinner. I believe it has now been decided to have area reunions, and it is of course the only possible way now that the A.T.S. have joined us. But the best part of the evening used to be meeting old comrades with whom we served, and we of the "Old Brigade" will, I am afraid, rarely meet our friends at the area dinners, so would it be possible to have just one dinner after the war, or perhaps one every two or three years. I do not know, of course, if I am speaking for all of the "Old Brigade," but I believe a good many of them. We would still like to be able to obey our beloved Dame Helen's command, "Carry on." I wonder if she will give it now?

With best wishes to Mrs. Johnston and all Old Comrades, especially Bath Branch.

Yours sincerely,

VICTORIA RUMBOLD.

3383 Newing, Calais and Vendroux.

WIMEREUX NEWS

Wimereux W.A.A.C.s will be very sorry to hear of the sudden death, at her home on September 8th, of McLeod, Forewoman at Bagatelle Billet Unit 1, and in the Hotel Union. She will be greatly missed by her family and a very large circle of friends as well as by her Wimereux friends, as she took such a kindly interest in those around her and was always so ready to lend a helping hand.

This is the first break in the group of Wimereux W.A.A.C.s who have kept in close touch since Army days and who meet regularly in the Edinburgh Club. The group includes Wann, Fairley and Elphinstone, who worked with "Mac" in the Hotel Union, Kennedy and Gibson, who were in Bagatelle with "Mac," Ellis (Mrs. Burr), who met her husband in Wimereux and who has celebrated her Silver Wedding, Kerse (Mrs. Wilson), who spent the first few years of her married life with the Army of Occupation, and Anderson, of Scotch House, Le Touquet. Reunions are also held with Armour (Mrs. Brown), Milburn (Mrs. Davies), who also met her husband in Wimereux and who is now a widow, Maxwell and Wattie (of London), both of whom are in the present Services. "Mac" also kept in touch with Downie (Mrs. Macdonald), Rutherford (Tourelle) now in the United States, Fulton in Canada, and Murray (Mrs. Gill) in India, all join in the Club meetings when they are home on leave, and Miss Huffell, Unit II. Administrator, is always welcome when she joins the "Wimereux corner" at the Annual Reunion.

TO THE EDITOR, Q.M.A.A.C. AND A.T.S. G.A. GAZETTE

Your correspondent's report re the Eastern Command Army Bakery gave me an unexpected treat. It carried me right back to the old Base Bakery at Boulogne, and I thought that some of the new "bread-givers" would like to meet the old.

I wonder if anyone reading this will remember the roll-call at 5.30 a.m. up at Henriville, the slipping and sliding down the hill on the dark winter mornings, the comforting glow from the ovens after the chilling walk, and the good appetite for breakfast before going on duty at 6 a.m.? I can picture the girls in calf-length cotton trousers (so daring!) and tight-fitting safety caps cutting the yeast-bags in two, weighing the salt, turning the hose on the "dry ingredients" and setting the cutters revolving in the mixers. Trolleys full of dough were covered and left for another shift to tackle, while risen dough was wheeled out, slid through the cutters to the boards, popped into the ovens on long-handled wooden spades, and fished out again brown and fragrant. Wasn't it excusable to pass the time of day (when good old Pring wasn't about) with the Germans and Austrians stoking the ovens from the back alley? What a "movie" it would have made—the white flour bags driven in by dusky turbaned Sikhs erect as ramrods behind their shining horses—the Chinamen scrambling like monkeys up the bread-racks to supply a bread-train wanted at top-speed—or those same "Chinks" trailing in and out with tiers of hats on and mysterious packages hung all over them. Eight hours of it, then home to camp, past the French barracks, greeted not too politely by the poilus, and into khaki frocks for a concert or dance. Hard work, good fun, splendid pals—good old bakery!

MAC.

SPOTTING ENEMY AIRCRAFT**TRAINING GIRLS FOR A.A. WORK****Ingenious Methods**

From our Aeronautical Correspondent.
An A.A. Training School, September 15th.

To be able to distinguish between friendly and hostile aircraft without mistake or delay is obviously of vital importance to every anti-aircraft gunner. The surest way to avoid costly mistakes is to make every member of gun crews an expert in aircraft recognition, and so it is a strict rule that no gunner or A.T.S. girl can take his or her place as a fully trained member of an A.A. battery until one glance is sufficient for them to know any type of aircraft flying in that war theatre.

This is a stiff test, but ingenious and sometimes unorthodox training methods are helping men and women alike to become proficient. At one of the training schools in the south of England, which I visited to-day, officers, non-commissioned officers, and members of the A.T.S. were taking a training course side by side, and one could not fail to be impressed both by the skill and originality of the instructors and the enthusiasm of the students.

The course is so arranged as to make the subject a fascinating hobby, rather than a tedious task to be learnt, and the eagerness of the students to get fixed in their minds some point which will enable them to pick out any type of aeroplane would do credit to a group of A.T.C. cadets attending their annual camp at an airfield. The school is well suited to its purpose, for it stands on a particularly busy aerodrome, where the students have an almost unrivalled opportunity of studying the aircraft themselves, as well as charts, drawings, and photographs.

The course is compressed into a fortnight, and if at the end of that time students show special ability in aircraft recognition they can then qualify as instructors.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

When I entered a classroom to-day a sergeant instructor was explaining to a mixed class how to find distinctive features which would enable them to decide immediately what type of aircraft was approaching. For instance, the fuselage of an FW190 was shaped like a carrot or a cribbage-board peg; a Heinkel 111 was easy to identify by the pieces "bitten out" of the trailing edge of the wing near the roots, and so on. Another class sat in a small cinema, where 10 silhouettes were flashed on the screen for only one second each, and the students were expected to write down its type.

Another room housed a large model aircraft, the components of which are detachable, so that it can have engines, turrets,

floats, and other parts removed or added. In this way the classes get to know technical terms and the elements of aircraft construction. An ingenious device, known as a miniature range, enables students to study model aircraft under conditions approximating to the real thing. A model, which can be turned in any direction, is suspended in front of an artificial sky, and as the student watches it in a mirror the aircraft can be made to appear to approach or recede from the watcher by altering the distance of the mirror from the model. In this way sighting ranges can be altered from 3,500 yards to 500 yards. Lighting conditions can also be altered to represent full daylight or dusk.

An amusing but effective way of keeping the student interested is by means of games. There are aircraft jigsaw puzzles; a variation of the popular old game of "housey housey," with aircraft instead of numbers; dice with aircraft features inscribed on each side instead of dots; and many other specially adapted games.

The school which I visited to-day was not opened until the summer of 1941, but it has now trained some thousands of men and women, 85 per cent. of whom have qualified as instructors.

NEWS OF COMRADES

It was very nice to get a letter from **Miss Molly Howes** with some news of herself and of the arrival of the first contingent of the A.T.S. in Kenya. The letter was dated August 15th, and reached Lancaster Gate on October 22nd. We are sorry to learn that Howes is not too well, especially that the rheumatism is bad, but, like a good W.A.A.C., she does not let it prevent her from helping in the Canteen as they are very short-handed there so she is doing her bit for the war despite great pain and discomfort. She says that she is afraid that the A.T.S. did not seem to care much for Kenya at first, possibly because the price of everything out there is so much greater than in England. The following is from a cutting that was enclosed in her letter. "A.T.S. arrive. A very hearty welcome to the A.T.S.! It's good indeed to see their familiar uniform around the town. And they look a grand crowd. Their long journey does not appear to have upset them at all. The time they put in in Durban seems to have been enjoyed by everybody and the trip from Mombasa kept more than one of them glued to the train windows, enchanted with the sight of game—something quite new. When they arrived on Saturday quite a lot of people were waiting to greet them: Colonel Modera (representing Major-General Wetherall), Major Birdsall, W.T.S., Mrs. Modera (representing Welfare), and Mrs. Robertson from the Naafi Canteen, with tea and cakes and lots of helpers. A party of FANYS lent these latter a hand and chatted with the new arrivals. They looked remarkably fresh after their trip and were very pleased with everything. The K.A.R. band impressed them particularly. They are now well installed in their camp and we wish them lots of work and lots of fun."

Miss E. M. Gilchrist sent an article from one of the Glasgow Branch members, who signs herself Mac. It will be found in another part of the "Gazette." When she wrote, Glasgow weather was appalling, and the difficulty of getting about in the black-out sadly interferes with the attendance at meetings. However, each day brings us nearer to the time when we may blaze our lights as much as we like!

Mrs. G. Parker writes that she is so pleased that the cake has helped the Service Women's Benevolent Fund so substantially, as well as giving much enjoyment to those who had the pleasure of eating it. She tells us that her garden is wonderful and that she is very busy canning beans and other things.

We are sorry to hear that **Miss N. Osler** has not quite recovered from her accident and hope she will soon be quite free from the painful effects. **Mrs. Doris Evans** (Worker Pilcher-Clayton, 221, R.A.O.C., Rouen) writes from Mission City, British Columbia, and says how much she enjoys reading the "Gazette." She is a most faithful member of the Comrades Association and sends her subscriptions very regularly. She tells us that they are enjoying an Indian summer in B.C., with everything so

quiet and peaceful, and wishes that the whole world could enjoy the same peacefulness. It is particularly good to hear that **Mrs. Coplestone** (Miss Frances, of Vendroux) is now out of the plaster "cage" which she has worn so patiently for the past six months. The fracture in her back seems to be healing satisfactorily, and she is now able to lead a normal life.

Mrs. H. Coulthard (Chief Commander, A.T.S., retired) sends us the sad news of the death of **Senior Commander F. Williams**, on September 27th. She was a grand officer and will be greatly missed.

We are sorry to learn that **Miss L. Saunders**, the indefatigable worker for the Comforts Fund, of London Branch, is laid up with influenza and bronchitis and send best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Mrs. G. Riach (Worker Stacey, Rouen) sends the following very IMPORTANT notice:—"At 10, Royal Terrace, Edinburgh, to Battery Sergt. Major E. G. S. Melvin and Mrs. Melvin, nee **Mary L. Riach**, Sergt. Major A.T.S., on October 29th, a son, **Eric Gordon Skene**.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin thank all members of Edinburgh Branch for their cards and good wishes, with special thanks to **Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Belfield and Mrs. Fenton**, of Canada, who sent two lovely cot blankets for the baby. These three WAAC's served with Mrs. Riach and saw the notice of Mary's wedding in the "Gazette," and thus they got into touch with each other. Mrs. Riach wishes they could see the baby, who is a lovely boy. We understand that he is the **FIRST GRANDCHILD** of Edinburgh Branch! So the passing years lead us from Waaclets to Atlets!

Miss A. C. L. Gummersall (Hostel Forewoman, Boulogne and Havre) sent us some news of Bradford members a short time ago. She is a great champion of ex-Service women and also of the A.T.S., who are the fine successors of Q.M.A.A.C. She and other members of the Branch are hoping to get into touch with those in the young Service and offer some hospitality as these girls have not many friendly places where they spend some of their well-earned leisure. She sent a very nice little snapshot showing several members, including Cocksedge, Julian, Mrs. Greenwood and herself.

Miss E. M. Shearman came to Headquarters the day that these bits of news were being prepared for press and has kindly undertaken to give some voluntary help in sending off "Gazettes" and reminders to some of our A.T.S. members whose subscriptions expire this year. She told the General Secretary that one of her sisters was the first patient at Nayland Hall Sanatorium, when it was started for private patients by Dr. Jane Walker in 1901. Her sister was quite cured while she was there and we hope sincerely that this may be the case with all our ex-Service women who go there for rest and treatment.

MARRIAGES

Mr. K. S. Hollebhone and Miss E. Todd

The marriage between Lieutenant K. S. Hollebhone, The London Scottish, and Miss Elinor Todd, A.T.S., younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Todd, of Nailsea, Somerset, took place at St. Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol, on Saturday, November 20th, at 2 o'clock.

Lieut. E. Kotarski and Miss Pamela Mary Holden

On December 1st, 1943, at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Plymouth, Lieut. E. Kotarski, Polish Navy, to Pamela Mary Holden, Sergeant, A.T.S., only daughter of the late Major Frank and Mrs. Holden, of Bramcote Hills, Notts, and Sealby Hall, Yorkshire.

Correction.—The Editor regrets a printer's error in the little verses which appeared in the middle page of the last issue of the "Gazette." The first line should read:

"My lady wears no MODISH hat." Not modest hat, which would be a most incorrect statement as the "Gunner's lady" certainly does wear a modest cap, though at the angle at which the cap is occasionally worn brings it into the category of "modish"!

THE KING AT THE 'FESTIVAL

At the Albert Hall, November 11th

Our thanks to the "British Legion Journal" of December for the following account:—

The King and Queen have conveyed through Sir Alan Lascelles, Assistant Private Secretary to the King, to our Chairman, Brig.-General Fitzpatrick, the great pleasure which it gave Their Majesties to attend the Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall.

Sir Alan writes:—

"You can assure all those concerned with its organisation that Their Majesties greatly appreciated the results of their work.

"It was in every way a most impressive and moving spectacle."

Service Chiefs

It was indeed a success, this first revival of the Festival since the war; it drew a vast concourse of people in the afternoon, when the Royal party attended, and again in the evening, when Service chiefs and Service men and women filled a large part of the auditorium, along with Legion members from all parts of the country.

The broadcast was so good that listeners would have liked more of it. They heard the massed bands of the Grenadier Guards and Scots Guards, the choir of the Welsh Guards and the trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music. They heard the sea shanties of the Sea Cadet Corps.

They heard Michael Standing as B.B.C. commentator talking of the Chelsea pensioners, and were able to join in the songs of the last war, of this war, and the years between.

"P" for Peter

They would have liked to hear something of the R.A.F. night fighter dispersal group, when a raid over enemy territory was on, and searchlights swept the darkened hall, and see the bomber crew of "P" for Peter arrive from an operational centre straight into the arena in full flying kit, and admire the silent drill of the W.A.A.F.s.

The second part of the Festival was a service conducted by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, with choral accompaniment by the Abbey organist and choir.

Use of the spacious arena, where the Home Guard paraded, helped to give the spectacle cathedral proportions. The way-side cross, in front of which Robert Speaight recited prologue and epilogue, completed the setting.

A Triumph

Colonel H. H. Douglas-Withers, of Aldershot tattoo fame, who devised and planned the Festival, and everybody, from the 180 Legion Standard-Bearers to those who served teas or sold programmes, could count it a triumph.

Sir Frederick Maurice recited Bunyon's Remembrance lines. Earlier in the day, with General Fitzpatrick, he had laid wreaths at the Cenotaph, the Haig and Foch statues and Jellicoe tomb.

PENSIONS APPEALS TRIBUNALS

We are very pleased to learn that Mrs. Elizabeth Harris (of Brighton) has been appointed a Third member (other ranks) of the Pensions Appeal Tribunals and we congratulate her and wish her all success in this very important work. She served as Sergeant Harris, W/26481, in the A.T.S. Her experience in the Service will prove most helpful in her new sphere of usefulness.

The General Secretary was very pleased to see Mrs. Harris at the Headquarters office at the time of going to press, and feels sure that her great interest in the cause of women in general and ex-Service women in particular, with her keenness to do all possible for their welfare, will be very useful assets.

Mrs. Harris is a Life member of the Comrades Association and realises what a helpful part the Association will play, with its kindly and friendly atmosphere, in the lives of the A.T.S. when they are demobilised.

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 Drove, Brighton, 6	Aqua Restaurant, Old Steine, Brighton.	2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
Bristol and West of England.	Miss B. Mould, 11 The Tyning, 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, 12 Drumsheugh Grdns., Edinburgh	1st Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Glasgow and West of Scotland.	Miss E. M. Gilchrist, M.B.E., 13 Royal Terrace West, Glasgow, C.3.	251 Renfrew Street, Glasgow.	Every Wednesday, 7.30.
Headquarters.	Mrs. Pratt Barlow, O.B.E., 82, Lancaster Gate, W.2.		
Irish Free State.	Mrs. O'Meara, M.B.E., Cove Cottage, Dunmore East, County Waterford.		Not fixed.
Leeds.	Miss E. Mair, 27 Virginia Road, Off University Road, Leeds, 2.		5 Park Square, first Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
Liverpool.	Mrs. E. Edwards, 8, Wyndcote Road, Liverpool 18.		
London.	Mrs. Mayhew, c/o 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1	See Branch Reports for dates of meetings.	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Ilford.	Miss P. Parker, 4, Richmond Street, Plaistow, E.13.		
Manchester.	Mrs. Cornes, 12, High Bank Crescent, Prestwick, Manchester.	Raglan Café, 24 Mosley St., Manchester.	2nd and 4th Thursday, 7 to 10.30 p.m.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Miss C. W. 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.			