



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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JANUARY—FEBRUARY, 1944.

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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.**

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

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD
AT THE SERVICE WOMEN'S CLUB
5 BUCKINGHAM GATE, LONDON, S.W.1,
ON SATURDAY, 26th FEBRUARY, 1944,
AT 3 P.M.

Nearest Station to Buckingham Gate: Victoria.

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

BRANCH SECRETARIES' MEETING.

The Branch Secretaries' Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 26th, 1944, at 5, Buckingham Gate, at 2 p.m.

It is hoped that as many Branch Secretaries as possible will endeavour to attend the Meeting as it gives an excellent opportunity to discuss the many problems they have to face at present.

AGENDA.

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Twenty-third Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday, February 27th, 1943.
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. To receive the Report of Council.
4. To receive the Report of the Hon. Treasurer.
5. To consider the most effective means to be taken by Branches to encourage serving and ex-serving members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service to join their local Branch.
6. To clarify the position with regard to annual subscriptions.
7. To report the decision of Council in respect of Association ballots.
8. To approve list of representatives recommended by Local Branches for election to Council for the coming year.
9. To elect the Hon. Treasurer.
10. Local Branch business.
11. Other Business, if any.

A. E. B. JOHNSTON,
General Secretary,
82, Lancaster Gate,
London, W.2.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT FOR JANUARY, 1944

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Chairman of Council, presided at the Meeting of Council held on Saturday, January 8th, 1944, at 82, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2. Eighteen members were present:—Junior Commander M. Bilbrough, Miss H. M. Billington, Miss Cliff, Miss Davy, Senior Controller C. H. Fraser-Tytler, Mrs. Grundy, Staff Sergt. C. Kemp, Mrs. Mayhew, Mrs. Powell, Corporal J. P. K. Reynadas, Miss Saunders, Senior Commander Lady Swinton, Miss I. Turner, Senior Commander E. Walker, Chief Controller L. V. L. E. Whateley, Miss M. Slee, Hon. Treasurer and Mrs. Johnston, General Secretary.

Miss Ireland, Mrs. Pratt-Barlow and Miss Clark sent apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed Chief Controller Whateley and Senior Controller Fraser-Tytler, the new Vice-Presidents; the Comrades Association would appreciate and benefit by their interest and help.

The Hon. Treasurer presented the Balance Sheet and the audited accounts and it was agreed that these be printed and circulated with the next issue of the Gazette.

The Agenda of the Annual General Meeting was considered and it was agreed that this also be printed in the next issue of the Gazette.

It is hoped that members will remember to bring their Gazettes with them to the Annual General Meeting as no further copies of the Accounts nor of the Agenda will be available. (Rule 7, General Meetings.)

A very interesting discussion took place with regard to the new Badge which will be issued when it is possible to get materials and a firm to make them. The design has not yet been chosen and it was agreed that the most suitable designs be printed later in the Gazette and that the opinions of Branches and members be invited.

The date of the next Meeting of Council was fixed for **Wednesday, March 29th, at 6.15 p.m.**

As usual the office looked very gay at Christmas time with many cards and Calendars and we have to thank Comrades from far and near who sent cheery greetings. They are much appreciated and we heartily reciprocate them and hope that by next Christmas we shall be at peace, and free from "black-outs" and "brown-outs"! Our hearty thanks go to Oxford Branch, Nottingham Club, Mrs. Peters, Urquhart (Australia) Senior Commander Service, Miss Woollven (S.W.B.F.), Miss E. A. Parkinson, Chief Commander Rollinson, Miss Florence Vidler (Toronto), The President, Officers and Members of the Canadian Legion Ex-Service Women's Section Calgary Branch No. 1, Mrs. E. C. Jolly and Brighton Branch, Miss Warrior, Mrs. D. Ashton (U.S.A.), Corporal J. Thorp, Miss M. Storey, Miss M. Moyes, Miss A. G. Brown (of Camp 1, Etaples), Miss Lily Ford (Australia), Mrs. Chilvers (who sent a delightful snap of herself and her 88 year old Mother), Miss K. Simons, Miss G. K. Ballard, Pte. D. Manning, Miss G. Harding (once a Waac now a Wren) and Mrs. E. Kilgour Roberts, who sent an excellent photograph of herself in the very smart uniform of the Australian Women's Army Service. It looks so very sensible with a nice short-sleeved shirt and a comfortable short skirt.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

Our hearty congratulations and good wishes go to the following, whose names are included in New Year's Honours, 1944:

192092 Controller Margaret Frances Wagstaff, C.B.E., Northern Command.

192031 Chief Commander Constance Pamela Alice Baroness Digby, O.B.E., Southern Command.

192036 Chief Commander Edith Maud Gell, O.B.E., South Eastern Command.

192041 Chief Commander Beatrice Ethel Lithiby (already has M.B.E.), O.B.E., Southern Command.

192294 Senior Commander Mabel Flora Mary Davin, M.B.E., A.A. Command.

196226 Senior Commander Bella Dalgarno Gillespie, M.B.E., Southern Command.

27402 R.S.M. Florence Maud Hadley, M.B.E., Western Command.

196062 Junior Commander Marion Charlotte Marling, M.B.E., Combined Ops.

192520 Senior Commander Mary Agatha Storey, M.B.E., A.G.

5751 C.S.M. Ethel Williams, M.B.E., Western Command.

17447 L/Sgt. Joyce Alix Barnham, B.E.M., A.A. Command.

39267 Cpl. Muriel Edith Boreham, B.E.M., South Eastern Command.

21337 Private Isobel Freeborough, B.E.M., London District.

16859 Sgt. Vera Rothwell, B.E.M., Eastern Command.

38922 C.S.M. Barbara Gertrude Spicer, B.E.M., London District.

4577 Sgt. Evelyn Taylor, B.E.M., A.A. Command.

14714 Sgt. Winifred Tullis, B.E.M., Northern Command.

21112 S/Sgt. Phyllis Kate Worrow, B.E.M., A.A. Command.

It is with much pleasure that we record that Controller M. F. Wagstaff, Chief Commander Lady Digby, Miss B. E. Lithiby, and Senior Commander B. D. Gillespie are members of the Comrades Association, and append a short biographical note of their services.

Controller Margaret Frances Wagstaff, C.B.E.—Served as an Officer in the W.R.N.S. 1918-1919 with the Anti-Submarine Division and with the W.R.N.S. Headquarters Staff. Appointed Company Assistant—11.10.38. Promoted to Company Commander—15.9.49. Promoted Senior Commandant in A.A. Command—16.12.39. Joined the B.E.F.—21.3.40. Was promoted to Junior Commander in Charge of a Training Centre in South Eastern Command—3.9.41. Appointed A.D.A.T.S. Headquarters, Northern Command—1.1.42. D.D.A.T.S. Headquarters, Northern Command, with rank of Controller—12.5.42.

Chief Commander Beatrice Lithiby, O.B.E. Daughter of the late Lady Lithiby. Was an Artist in civil life. In 1915-1916 employed in Red Cross Work Rooms. 1917-1920 in Q.M.A.A.C. Enrolled as Assistant Administrator Q.M.A.A.C.—1917. Promoted to Senior Administrator, served in England and Overseas. 1918 awarded M.B.E. She was sent overseas to W.A.A.C. H.Q. in 1919, as an artist for the Corps to make records of the work done. She was appointed Deputy Company Commander, 13th City of London Company—8.11.38. Promoted to Senior Commandant—22.1.40, where she served in

Eastern Command as Group Commander. Promoted to Chief Commander—15.8.41, and appointed Commanding Officer of a Southern Command Reception Depot. Became Commandant of a Training Centre in Northern Command w.e.f.—18.2.42. Relinquished her commission on attaining age limit—27.10.43.

Chief Commander Constance Pamela Alice Baroness Digby, O.B.E.—Wife of Col. Lord Digby, D.S.O., M.C., D.L. Appointed County Commandant of Dorset, with rank of Senior Commandant—28.9.38. Promoted to Junior Commander—10.11.40. Appointed A.D.A.T.S., Hants and Dorset District—7.5.43. From 1914-1918 served as V.A.D. in Military Hospitals, including Millbank.

Senior Commander Bella Dalgarno Gillespie, M.B.E.—Enrolled as volunteer 14.3.39 in the 11th County of Aberdeen Company, and employed on clerical duties. Appointed Company Assistant—4.5.40. Undertook a Signal Training Course—17.8.41. Promoted Junior Commander—25.3.42, and was appointed in Command of a Signal Company and served with Signals ever since. Was promoted Senior Commander—16.9.42.

AWARD OF CERTIFICATES FOR GOOD SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST, 1944

The General Officer Commanding London District is pleased to approve of the award of certificates for good service to the following Officers, Warrant Officers and other ranks.

A.T.S.
Bilbrough, Marjorie Eleanor Cautley, J/Commander, 196865.
Barron, Winifred Ethel Kate, C.S.M., W/2306.
Phillips, Nesta Gwenllian, C.S.M., W/12222.
Bossel, Irene, C.S.M., W/10062.
Vicary, Ellen Earle, C.S.M., W/25768.
Edwards, Irene Gladys, S/Sergeant, W/10247.
Lewis, Elizabeth, S/Sergeant, W/7588.
Reeve, Enid, Sergeant, W/27032.
Smith, Margaret Kathleen, Sergeant, W/12474.
Selig, Daphne Alice, Sergeant, W/28889.
Ladbury, Betty Kathleen, Sergeant, W/5059.
Bonny, Iris, Sergeant, W/11146.
Rogers, Joan Mary, Sergeant, W/25338.
Dodgson, Irene, Sergeant, W/112776.
Allwright, Rose Gertrude, Sergeant, W/24644.
Rogers, Gwendoline Florence, Corporal, W/15373.
Goodwin, Marjorie Gwendoline, Corporal, W/44090.

Authority L.D.C/5141/III/M.S.
It is with much pleasure that we print the above list of those awarded Certificates for Good Service and congratulate them very heartily.

Our special good wishes go to Junior Commander M. E. C. Bilbrough, who served in Q.M.A.A.C. as a Forewoman Patrol and who was a member of Emergency Service, passing from that to the A.T.S. on its formation. Her award speaks for her good work in the A.T.S. and she has the sincere congratulations of the Comrades Association, of which she has been a member for many years.

CHIEF CONTROLLER L. V. L. E. WHATELEY, C.B.E. DIRECTOR OF THE AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE

On October 31st, 1943, it was announced that Senior Controller L. V. L. E. Whateley, C.B.E., became Chief Controller and was appointed Director of the Auxiliary Territorial Service. She had been the first woman to hold the rank of Senior Controller, and had been Deputy Director of the Auxiliary Territorial Service since September, 1941.

Chief Controller Whateley is one of the longest serving members of the A.T.S. Volunteering in September, 1938, she became a member of a City of London unit. Between that time, when she was doing clerical duties, and the mobilisation of the Service at the outbreak of the war, she travelled daily to the City to do pioneer organisation work. After a training course at Chelsea Barracks she was appointed a junior officer on October 26th, 1938, and at the outbreak of war she 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 the Territorial Army and Air Force Association. In February, 1943, 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, C.B., D.S.O., 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 Birthday Honours List of June, 1943.

Chief Controller Whateley, born in London 41 years ago, was educated at the Convent of the Holy Child, St. Leonards on Sea, and the Convent of the Holy Child, Cavendish Square, London. She lived near Winchester before the war.

Her hobbies are gardening, reading and cooking. Nursing has always interested her, and she has been Secretary of District Nursing Associations.

She has associations with the City dating back to 1815. Her great-great-grandfather, Sir Matthew Wood, was Lord Mayor of London from 1815 to 1817, and her great-grandfather, Rector of St. Peter's, Cornhill.

At the age of 16 she acted as Secretary to her grandfather when he wrote his book, "Winnowed Memories."

Her 19-years-old son, Raymond, is an Officer Cadet at an O.C.T.U. in India. Her husband is a Squadron Leader in the Royal Air Force.

SENIOR CONTROLLER M. BAXTER-ELLIS, C.B.E., DEPUTY CONTROLLER OF THE AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE

On November 15th, 1943, it was announced that Controller M. Baxter-Ellis, C.B.E., became Senior Controller and Deputy Director of the A.T.S., to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of Chief Controller Whateley as Director.

Senior Controller Baxter-Ellis, the third woman to hold the rank of Senior Controller, is the daughter of the late Sir Joseph Baxter-Ellis, first Lord Mayor of Newcastle-on-Tyne, where she was born.

She joined the A.T.S. at the time of the Munich crisis, and served on the original Advisory Council which inaugurated the Service.

Her appointments since then include the command of an A.T.S. M.T. Training Centre in the south of England, Inspector of Motor Companies, Inspector of Technical Training at an Anti-Aircraft Training Establishment, Commandant of an A.T.S. O.C.T.U., Commanding Officer of the first A.T.S. Junior Officers' School, and, since September, 1942, Deputy Director, A.T.S., for Scottish Command.

Senior Controller Baxter-Ellis saw service in France in the last war with the F.A.N.Y.

She also had experience of the War Office, before her appointment as D.D.A.T.S. for from November, 1940, to June, 1941, she worked under the Director of Military Training, and helped to form one of the first A.T.S. training branches at the War Office.

She is interested in writing, having written many short articles, and in archaeology, which she pursued with Dr. Mortimer Wheeler during excavations in this country in 1933. After the last war she took a part-time course at University College, London, and took an Honours Diploma in History, Ancient and Modern. She has also won the Pollard Prize. Her hobbies include dog breeding.

Awards held by Senior Controller Baxter-Ellis are the C.B.E. (Mil.), the 1915, General Service, Victory, Jubilee, Coronation and Chevalier Leopold II. medals, and medal of Queen Elizabeth of Belgium won in the last war when serving with the F.A.N.Y.

LETTER

A letter from Controller A. T. Chitty, Deputy Director of the A.T.S., Middle East.

Received by the Director of the A.T.S., Chief Controller L. V. L. E. Whateley, C.B.E. Ma'am,

I do not know how much has been made public in England of the part the A.T.S. played in the Mena Conference but I would like you to know what we did. As perhaps you know the people attending the Conference were accommodated in a variety of places, including about 40 villas, scattered in and around the neighbourhood. The Egyptian servants remained in these villas and I was asked to provide N.C.O.'s to act as housekeepers. The required number—20 Sergeants and 18 Corporals—had to be collected at very short notice and I must say Groups were very good indeed about releasing these N.C.O.'s at a moment's notice and without being told what they were wanted for, as, of course, the utmost secrecy was kept.

The first night was spent in a camp from where the women were allotted their jobs. At first they had a very hard job getting the houses, most of which belonged to Egyptians, habitable.

I visited them all during the time they were at Mena and I found them all very happy, some a bit tired but very pleased when I told them how well they were doing. From all sides I heard of their good work: no one could speak too highly of the way they were doing their job.

I went into Mena House Hotel and was greeted by a civilian woman I know; one of the secretaries, who said "Your women are earning golden opinions, everyone is saying how good they are." It was nice to hear, but it was nicer still to hear that the Americans were so pleased with them. As I told the women, they did a very good job for the Service by the willing and cheerful way they did what was required of them.

In addition to the N.C.O.'s, we had two A.T.S. officers doing very important Secret work with telegrams. Of course all of them, officers and N.C.O.'s, enjoyed their work even though they found it pretty hard, and we all feel proud that the Service was allowed to take part in the Conference.

AN APPRECIATION

Old Comrades will have learnt with very sincere regret of the illness which brought about the retirement of Chief Controller Jean Knox and will be glad to know that she is making a good recovery. We may be sure that, before long, she will be drawn into activities worthy of her quality and experience.

Mrs. Knox was one of the early recruits to the A.T.S., she joined in 1938 and soon became a company commander. She did excellent work in charge of women serving with B.E.F. Records and elsewhere. In 1940 she went to the War Office for duty in the Directorate of Recruiting. In the spring of 1941 the A.T.S. Inspectorate was formed and Controller Knox was appointed as Inspector with a seat on the A.T.S. Council. In carrying out her duties she had the opportunity to see units of many kinds and to realise the varied work of the A.T.S. All this must have stood her in good stead when she was promoted Chief Controller and became Director, A.T.S., in July of the same year. During her tenure of office she visited both Canada and the United States. It was a period of expansion for the Service, both in numbers and in responsibilities, we may all be proud of the great achievements it has entailed.

FIRST SERVICE CLUB FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Spending Leave Together

The special needs of married couples, one or both of whom may be in the services, have not hitherto been provided for in the various service men's and women's clubs started in London. Clarendon House, 20, Queensbury Place, South Kensington, which was opened by Lady Clarendon as a Toc H (Married Couples) Services Club, is the first to provide accommodation for those coming to London to spend leave together.

The club has sleeping accommodation for 50 and the usual amenities such as lounge, library, music-room, reading and writing rooms, and facilities for washing and ironing small things. Food is available in the restaurant at reasonable prices, and the charge for bed and breakfast for two people is 5s. The club will be open throughout the 24 hours, and the only formality is that visitors must show their identity cards. The residential staff will be under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. R. Savers, who were previously looking after the Toc H Services Club in York.

5,000 A.T.S. WOMEN IN MIDDLE EAST

New Director on the Service's Record

Chief Controller Whateley, the new Director of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, said at the War Office that 212,000 women were serving their country in the A.T.S.

Of the members serving overseas 250 officers and nearly 5,000 auxiliaries were employed with our forces in the Middle East as clerks, nursing orderlies, switchboard operators, and on other duties. British girls were working happily side by side with Arab and Jewish girls, and in close contact with the contingent of the Polish Women's Service that had been formed there. These girls in the Middle East had won high praise from the Army.

There was also a clerical company of seven officers and 200 auxiliaries stationed in the East Africa Command, and 100 girls were working with the British Army staff in the United States. To the list of decorations already awarded to A.T.S. members there would be added a number of awards of the Africa Star.

Nearly a third of the 200,000 women serving in the country were tradeswomen, Mrs. Whateley said—that was to say, they had qualified in a skilled trade and were directly replacing or supplementing soldier craftsmen. In all there were 80 trades, 14 of which were Group A trades—such as armourers, draughtswomen, fitters, and wireless operators—calling for the highest qualifications.

There were more than 30,000 women engaged on clerical duties, 9,000 technical storewomen in ordnance depots, more than 3,000 teleprinter operators and 4,000 switchboard operators helping the Royal Corps of Signals in manning lines of communication throughout the country and keeping in touch with theatres of war overseas. All these were dependent on the gallant army of 4,000 cooks who helped to feed the men and women serving in this country.

Describing the welfare, health, and education services, provided for the A.T.S., the Director said that a reconditioning centre for them had just been opened under a senior woman medical officer in Surrey.

A.T.S. INSPECTOR VISITS UNITS IN MIDDLE EAST

Controller Carlisle, Inspector A.T.S., has just returned from a three months' tour in the Middle East, East Africa and North Africa.

The A.T.S. in the Middle East consist of British volunteers, Palestinians who are recruited locally, and a contingent from Cyprus.

The work is varied and responsible, such as clerical, ordnance and medical. Controller Carlisle saw a Palestinian sergeant in charge of a native body of men and women engaged on the repair of tentage, and British girls supervising Arab people.

In towns the A.T.S. are accommodated in requisitioned houses or barracks, and in the desert in tents.

Friday evenings are devoted by those who wish to practise their observances in prayer, after which there is dancing. By way of recreation, swimming pools with restaurants attached are provided.

Arrangements are made for the A.T.S. to travel during leave, and there are few who have not visited Jerusalem. The Auxiliaries are lodged in excellent hostels or at the Leave Camp in Palestine. Their summer kit includes a linen skirt, bush shirt and sandals, which are worn with socks.

The A.T.S. in Kenya are mostly engaged on clerical work. The civil population has extended generous hospitality to the women, who are asked to spend their leave with the residents.

Auxiliaries have every opportunity to attain officer rank, as there is an O.C.T.U. and Staff College in the Middle East.

A.T.S. SELECTION CENTRES

To ensure that every woman in the A.T.S. is doing the work for which she is best fitted, two Selection Centres have been opened where members of the Service may be recommended for a change of employment. Commanding Officers will send to them auxiliaries who, in their opinion, could be better employed on duties other than those which they are now carrying out.

This scheme was first tried on an experimental basis, during which a large number of women were interviewed, and in many cases transferred to other work.

Some of the candidates are auxiliaries whose jobs have changed since they were posted. In other cases A.T.S. are recommended for transfer to an employment in which vacancies have arisen since they joined the Service. In this way serving personnel are selected for vacancies in skilled trades which can no longer be supplied from new members now that recruiting has temporarily ceased.

A small proportion of the A.T.S. sent to the Centres are those for which the Medical Officer has recommended a change of duties.

Candidates spend 48 hours at the centre. They are given the usual Service selection tests, unless they have previously done these, and each auxiliary has an interview lasting about twenty minutes with the Personnel Selection Officer. There is also a full medical examination and psychiatrist sees candidates where necessary.

Finally, all the officers on the staff meet under the chairmanship of the Commanding Officer of the Selection Centre, and discuss their reports. They can then recommend the auxiliary for immediate transfer to a posting which carries more responsibility or, alternatively, involves less strain, or they can recommend her for training for another trade. Sometimes they will advise a posting on the same employment but in a different environment, for instance, from a large cookhouse to an officers' mess kitchen, or from an isolated unit to a large formation.

No one with less than six months' service is interviewed, unless there are exceptional circumstances, and the scheme is mainly intended for the reclassification of A.T.S. who joined before the full selection procedure was instituted in April, 1942.

The two Centres can handle 300 women every week. One, in a former private school outside London, with a wing at a Home Counties Training Centre, will deal with A.T.S. serving in the South of England. The other is attached to a Training Centre in Yorkshire and will take A.T.S. stationed in the North.

A.T.S. Appoint 'Flying Squad' of Cookery Experts

A "Flying Squad" of A.T.S. cookery experts, officially known as Supervising Travelling Instructors, has been posted to every Army Command in this country. Their job is to see that Service men and women get what they really like to eat as far as war-time rations allow.

Every A.T.S. Assistant Command Catering Adviser now has a staff of five travelling Instructors, who have had experience of catering in civil life in addition to their Army training. They visit A.T.S. or Army cookhouses where A.T.S. cooks are employed, and whenever a Unit is faced with a difficult catering problem its officer can apply for the expert help of a Travelling Instructor.

Whenever an "S.O.S." is received, an Instructor packs her bag and gets out to the Unit to live on the spot until the difficulty is overcome. As soon as she arrives she puts on a white overall, rolls up her sleeves, asks what the trouble is and sets to work to put it right.

Sometimes all that is required is a general "pepping up." Then the Travelling Instructor teaches the cooks new dishes, shows them how to plan more interesting menus and how to serve meals more attractively. Other Units have a specific problem, such as changing over from Army to A.T.S. cooks, or organising a twenty-four-hour-a-day meal service. Often the Instructor can effect an enormous improvement by altering the layout of a service or by eliminating a bottleneck in the cookhouse. One of the Instructor's jobs is to find out which dishes are most popular with the members of the Unit.

As soon as things are running smoothly the Travelling Instructor packs her bag and goes off to the next Unit. Within a few months she pays a "check" visit to see that the standard of meal service is being kept up and to suggest any necessary adjustments. The team of Instructors in Anti-Aircraft Command has been chosen from A.T.S. with a specialised knowledge of gunsight catering problems.

All the Travelling Instructors are appointed as Quartermaster Sergeant Instructors and one of them, Q.M.S.I. Dorothy Hawkesworth, a Londoner, wears on her cuffs the crowns which her father wore as Q.M.S.I. in the last war. Another Instructor, Q.M.S.I. May Scott, was a Continental cook at a London hotel until she joined the A.T.S., as one of the first volunteers in October, 1938. A third Instructor in the same team is Danish and from a Private cook has risen to the rank of Warrant Officer Class II.

R.S.M. HALL, SENIOR N.C.O. AT A.T.S. RECORDS OFFICE

Serving with the "Backroom Girls" of the A.T.S., in the Records Office at a South of England town, is W/18 R.S.M. Evelyn Frances Hall, 27, of Belfast, who can claim that she holds a chit for the first A.T.S. pay received. She is the Senior N.C.O. of the Records Office, and works in the Central Administration branch.

She joined the A.T.S. in October, 1938. Before passing a successful course at the School of Administration, she was a C.S.M. in Northern Ireland Group, and was posted to A.T.S. Records in March, 1942.

Q.M.A.A.C. AND A.T.S. COMRADES ASSOCIATION OXFORD BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting of the Oxford Branch was held, by kind invitation of the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. D. M. Payne, at 6, Capel Close, Oxford, on Tuesday, 12th October, at 6.45 p.m.

Present: Chairman, Mrs. Payne; Hon. Secretary, Cpl. Jackman. Also: Miss Rickwood, Mrs. Parslow, Miss Holland and Mrs. Wiblin, Sgt. Cramp, C.S.M. Seabrook and Cpl. Harvey, all of "A" Company A.T.S. S. Mid. Group.

The Hon. Treasurer placed the balance sheet before the meeting, and the minutes were read and adopted. The account of the C.A. Gazette and new rules, which apply in 1944, were also discussed.

The meeting elected the following members to sit on the Committee:—

Mrs. Hunt, re-elected. Proposed by Mrs. Parslow; seconded by Miss Holland.

C.S.M. Seabrook, A.T.S. Proposed by Mrs. Payne; seconded by Cpl. Harvey.

Sergt. Cramp, Proposed by Hon. Secretary; seconded by Miss Holland.

Miss Holland was re-elected by the meeting, and the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary are elected ex-officio.

We regret very much losing the services of Mrs. Annis from the Committee, as she is in very poor health and feels she cannot attend the meeting and be as active as a Committee member should be. We hope to have her with us in the not too distant future.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Ody (owing to an indisposition) and from Mrs. Perkins and others.

We welcome our first A.T.S. members, and hope to welcome many more in the future. It was decided to open our social activities to all A.T.S. members, whether they are members or not, and to accept staggered payment of subscriptions from any member who wishes to take advantage of this. Sgt. Cramp kindly offered to collect these subscriptions.

It was decided to carry on as in previous years on the 11th November, and to purchase a poppy wreath through the British Legion, and to attend the service at the War Memorial.

Our next social evening was voted for early in the New Year and to take the form of a whist drive and games, etc.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Payne for the load of good eats and coffee dispensed by her and friends to the meeting, and so much enjoyed and appreciated by us all.

Oxford Branch sends greetings to all old and new Comrades wherever they may be, and a wish that all may meet very soon in a world at peace.

Members were invited to attend as usual at the War Memorial, St. Giles, Oxford, on 11th November, and Mrs. Payne, Miss Rickwood and Mrs. Wiblin faithfully attended. A chaplet of poppies was laid on the

memorial by Junior Commander Nasmyth, of "A" Company, A.T.S.

Subscriptions from Q.M.A.A.C. were received from Mrs. Payne, Miss Rickwood, Mrs. Barslow, Mrs. Wiblin, Mrs. Jackman and Miss Britnell, a very disappointing total. Ten shillings was therefore subscribed from Q.M.A.A.C. Funds. The cost of the chaplet was £1 10s.

Much interest was shown by O.C. "A" Company A.T.S., to which Jackman belongs, and also by Platoon Commanders of the Company. The chaplet was on view and all ranks were invited to subscribe to same. The grand total of £4 7s. was raised, thus enabling the Hon. Secretary to forward the cost of chaplet and £3 7s. in cash to the Hon. Secretary, Oxford Branch, British Legion, from whom a warm letter of thanks was received for such a practical expression of regard.

In addition to the cash received for the chaplet the sum of £12 1s. 6d. was collected by C.S.M. Boyle, Sgt. Cramp, Cpl. Whitby, L/Cpl. Oakland, and others of "A" Company, A.T.S., who worked hard in selling poppies in the billet, A.T.S. Officers' Mess, H.Q. S.M. Dist. and H.Q. R.A.S.C. offices. Cpl. Jackman would like to take this opportunity of expressing thanks to the O.C. "A" Company A.T.S. and to officers, N.C.O.s and other ranks for the splendid response to her appeal, also to the member who inscribed the card for the poppy chaplet.

It was wonderful to be able to attend the Festival of Remembrance in uniform and to see their Majesties and other members of the Royal Family there. There was one omission which rather spoilt the spectacle for Jackman and that was the absence of Q.M.A.A.C. in last war uniform. The R.A.F. gallantly included a Sgt. W.R.A.F. in costume amongst present day serving personnel, so why not the Army also?

Greetings to all from the Oxford Branch.

G. M. JACKMAN, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFS BRANCH REPORT FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

This branch has decided to meet on the first Monday in the month again as Friday evenings seem most inconvenient for everyone. In December we had a most enjoyable evening with a good company of new and old members. We were pleased to see Mrs. Stretton (Pattendon, Calais), who has not been able to come to our meetings for some time. Her small son is old enough to be left in charge of father occasionally, so we hope to see more of her. We had a foretaste of Christmas for supper and a good time was had by all. Our A.T.S. members very kindly asked us to go to see them at their "home" for our first meeting of the year, and in spite of the very wet night all our local members turned up in force. Sitting in a Nissen hut round the familiar coke stove brought back many memories—pleasant ones—and we spent a very hilarious evening.

Our thanks are due to Sgt.-Major Hills, Sgt. Ellis, Sgt. Tappin and the other girls who so kindly entertained us. We hope to return the compliment on February 7th, when we have arranged an evening party. Mrs. Lawson, who is now in Canada, sent a most handsome Christmas card to the Branch and an account of the Red Cross work there with which she is helping.

H. CLOUGH.

LONDON BRANCH COMFORTS REPORT

January, 1944.

Since my last report, parcels have been sent to the Regiment and the letters of appreciation received from the Welfare Officer are printed at the end of the Report.

I acknowledge with many thanks the beautifully knitted garments received from the following members:—Misses Hannen, Machin, Hayward, Benson, Burnett, Kelly, Starling, Armstrong, Winks, Bilbrough, Rogers, Moyes and Saunders.

Donations to the wool fund have been received by Mrs. Eager-Billington, Winks and a promise of 15s. to come from Benny, who in spite of ill-health is one of our staunchest supporters.

924 garments have been sent to date, and with nearly sufficient for another parcel in the cupboard we are well on the way to our target of 1,000.

Will members make a last big effort to finish our job as quickly as possible? If each member could knit one sock each it could be finished in a week!

Sufficient wool is in circulation to complete several parcels, and more can be available to those wishing to help, so please send in socks and yet more socks as soon as possible.

L. SAUNDERS.

Welfare Office, Middlesex Regt.,
14th December, 1943.

Dear Miss Saunders,

I wish to thank you and your lady helpers for the parcels of wool comforts you have so kindly sent to the men of this unit. I can assure you they are always very much appreciated by the men, especially when they have to do a guard on a night when the East wind is keen.

Yours sincerely,

H. V. MORRISH, Lieut.

Welfare Officer.

Welfare Office, Middlesex Regt.,
13th January, 1944.

Dear Miss Saunders,

I wish to thank you and your lady helpers for the woollen comforts you have so kindly sent along for the men of this unit. I can assure you they will be well appreciated. Wishing you the very best for 1944,

Yours sincerely,

H. V. MORRISH, Lieut.

Welfare Officer.

LONDON BRANCH GAZETTE REPORT

At the General Meeting of London Branch in December a number of suggestions were put forward in regard to future activities. The Committee have now fixed the date of most of these and here they are:—

Saturday, March 18th, at 2.30 p.m., "Bring and Buy" Sale.

Saturday, April 15th, at 2.30 prompt, American Brains Trust.

Saturday, September 16th, at 2.30 p.m., "Bring and Buy" Sale.

Proceeds to be given to Branch Funds. Theatre Party not yet fixed.

With reference to the American Brains Trust, Jnr. Com. Bilbrough has fixed this up and the meeting will be open to all services and friends. It is extremely good of the Trust to allocate this date to us and we are anxious to make the Americans feel that it is worth their while by putting up a good show both in attendance and questions. Please reserve this date and bring along your friends and this time we do not want dumb ones, but we want them to share in by taking an intelligent interest by putting up to the Trust some worth while questions of general interest. To ensure a snappy start and a non-stop show, will members who can be ready with a question to shoot right off at the opening, please send in name to the Secretary or hand in same at next re-union. We know that once we have started nothing will stop us.

Miss Billington who is arranging the Theatre Party is finding difficulty in arranging a booking but hopes to be able to do so by the next re-union. Prices of seats appear to be in the region of 6s. 9d.

Date of next Committee Meeting: February 19th, 1944, at 2.30 p.m.

ILFORD BRANCH

Our December meeting was held at Mrs. Spaul's at Gidea Park when seven members were present. We were sorry Leach was not well enough to come but glad she is now better. Several of us were able to be present at the London Branch Meeting. In January we had our meeting at Mrs. Thomas's at Forest Gate when we held a "Bring and Buy" Sale which proved very successful and 18s. 11d. was raised to benefit the Branch. Mrs. Thomas's eldest son Leonard, who is an Observer in the Fleet Air Arm, was on leave and some of us were able to see him (some London Branch Members will remember Leonard). We were hoping Druitt might have been able to meet with us but she decided she would rather go up to Scotland and Mrs. Hardy, we do hope they both had a good time together.

Our Branch decided last year that they would like to adopt a "Prisoner of War," but we had a letter saying they had such a long list of waiting names of people who would like to adopt one that they have had to close the list. I thought perhaps other members may like to know this should they have the same ideas as us.

Although rather late, I should like to wish all comrades everywhere a Very Happy New Year with hopes of an early peace.

P. PARKER.

NOTTINGHAM BRANCH

I am glad to say that some of our recent invalids are now convalescing. Mrs. Cripps, who has been ailing for a long time, is, although weak, able to get out on short journeys. We hope she will be well enough to spare time to visit us this coming weekend, which is the date chosen for a New Year's Party. Mrs. Cripps's daughter, Josephine, who is in the Waafs, is now home on leave. I understand she has recently been moved to another station and is even more in love with the life than she was at the old billet.

Mrs. Elwis, whom I met yesterday, was looking remarkably well and happy. She said she was in a play in the evening, but as the play will be given again in a hall nearer the town she expressed the hope that our members might be able to attend. She has promised to give me the date as soon as it is known. Mrs. Elwis stated her son, who passed through Sandhurst and obtained his commission, was appointed Colonel's Orderly on the passing-out day, and it was a very proud moment when he was seen complete with white belt and gloves and silver sword. Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Elwis and the son.

We were pleased to see Freda Calvert at our last meeting. She is still in the A.T.S., stationed near-by. Her brother was unfortunately unable to be present.

As Mrs. Jackson was unable to be present at our last meeting, there is no news of her sons, who are in the Navy. We wish them God speed.

I am glad to report Mrs. Tippet is slowly recovering from an illness which almost necessitated an operation. Am pleased to say she cheated the doctors, and we hope she will soon be well enough to join our reunions.

I recently met Mrs. Williamson, who appears to have recovered from pneumonia. She looked her usual cheery self and was in town with her son. Best wishes for 1944 to all Branches and renewed strength and health to all members, wherever you are.

N. OSLER (Branch Secretary).

NORFOLK

Unfortunately, the year has not started too well for one of our members—the serious illness of Miss Baron's father, the operations, and his subsequent passing from our ken, is a very sad loss for her. The Rev. and Mrs. Baron-Suckling entertained Old Comrades several times at the lovely old rectory at Barsham, giving us such a delightful time; and we feel sad that our Miss Baron will now no longer be able to call it "Home." Our sympathy goes out to her.

Tempus Fugit. Here's our eldest and only male Waaclet recently married to a member of the W.A.A.F. Can one realise that Hugh Rumbold, the fine lad that used to interest us on our frequent visits to "Holly Lodge," Southtown, Great Yarmouth, has turned 21 years—and taken the great plunge forward into matrimony! We wish them both every happiness, and as Hugh is shortly going abroad with the R.A.F., we wish him a safe return.

Letters were received by quite a number of members at Christmas. Miss Batty sent card and greetings to the Branch. Miss A. Brown is successfully running a Y.W.C.A. Hostel in Scotland, whilst Miss Edwards is still at Rottingdean. Miss Gore Brown is quite happy at the Hostel for boys in Wales, whilst Miss McDermott still carries on at the Y.M.C.A. at Great Yarmouth. Their home was badly damaged in one of the recent raids, but both her parents stood up to it well. We shall hope to arrange a lunch or tea for her one Monday, as the days brighten—that being her only free day. Mrs. Rumbold visits Norwich on most Saturdays so that we look forward to again meeting her when the brighter days are here. Miss West visited London at Christmas. We trust that she had a restful time. Unfortunately, her health is none too good, but she valiantly carries on at the W.V.S., sewing and knitting classes, etc.

Mrs. Paston's three Waaclets are bonny girls. Can one realise that Geraldine is well over 16 years of age and out to business? Mrs. Salvage keeps well, but unfortunately her husband has not been well throughout the winter and is still at home. The younger son is now a prisoner-of-war in Germany, having been transferred from Italy. Miss Howson still carries on with her office work but owing to the hours rarely meets members these days. Mrs. Murton is busy with Civil Defence work at Harleston, and sent a very nice photo of herself in uniform for the branch album. This is, I think, now complete to date. Mrs. Robinson (Smithy) also carries on and seems to be always busy for others. Molly Howes sent a very nice home-made Calendar from Kenya Colony, which actually arrived on Christmas morning. Her health has not been too good again recently. Her dad also wrote giving news, in case her letters had not arrived.

There are naturally one or two members who have not written, but trust they are keeping quite well.

A little news of Unit II. Wimereux Old Comrades. Mrs. Stubbins (Kettle) had a serious operation last summer, but is now almost recovered. She has two bonny daughters, one of whom was recently married. Both are very musical. Mrs. Dell (Coopie) has three sons—one in the R.A.F. and the twins still at school. Their home in London was damaged and they are still in Derby. Mrs. Cooper (Roddy) is quite well and lives in London. Miss Cox (Squirt) is now Sister Superior of her Convent, and has been visited by Miss Otten (Flo). Miss Molly Saffrey writes cheerfully from British Columbia and would like letters from those who know her. All wish to be remembered to each other.

Members will be notified by post of any meetings that can be arranged.

L. W. CHILVERS.

We regret to record the death of **Private Elfrida E. E. Martin**, W/160155, who died in Gravesend Hospital after an operation. Our deep sympathy goes out to her father as Pte. Martin had returned home to be with him on account of the death of her mother.

OBITUARIES

MISS MARY BURNHAM, O.B.E.

Old Comrades, especially those who have served on the Committee of the Service Women's Benevolent Fund, will be sorry to hear of the death of Miss Burnham, for many years Supervisor of the Women's Division, Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa. Miss Burnham, until her illness, disbursed on behalf of the Committee of the S.W.B.F., the funds which were sent to Canada for the benefit of ex-Service women. Her wise and very kind administration of this money and her real personal interest in the women who were needing help was always a great comfort to the S.W.B.F. Committee and was much appreciated by them.

Miss Burnham was a graduate of Havergal College and went to France with the Canadian Convalescent Hospital and was stationed at Dieppe until the end of the war. She received a mention in Despatches. On her return to Canada she had charge of a Hostel for the returned soldiers' families, later taking a course in social science at the University of Toronto. She was subsequently appointed Supervisor to the Women's Division. She was well known in Canada as a speaker on immigration matters until her illness which necessitated her resignation in 1937.

Since that date the funds of the Service Women's Benevolent Fund have been dispersed by Miss Jessie M. Byers in the same wise way and in the same friendly spirit. The Committee have indeed been singularly fortunate in their representatives in Canada.

MRS. BRITOMARTE JAMES

Mrs. Britomarte James, who had been associated with numerous public activities for 30 years, notably the Women Citizens' Movement and the Wattle League, died on November 6th, 1943, after a long illness.

Mrs. James was born at Ballarat, and was the daughter of the late Rev. Ebenezer James. She was the founder, as well as president, of the Wattle League, and also founded the Victoria Centenary Club. During the last war she was a Unit Administrator of the W.A.A.C.'s in France. Her whole family—her husband, the late Col. George Henry James, and their two sons, who were in the Flying Corps—served in the war.

Mrs. James was founder and president of the Victorian Imperial ex-Servicewomen's Association. She was a member of the Town Planning Association and was a vice-president of the National Theatre Movement. Some years ago she received the Order of the British Empire, and had been a Justice of the Peace for a long period.

MISS L. KING

Friends of Miss L. King, of 4, The Vale, Coulsdon, will be sorry to hear of her death. She passed away on November 10th, 1943. London Branch have very kindly memories of her as only last year she sent a large parcel of small children's garments to the Hon. Secretary to be given away. These were given to Miss L. Saunders, who distributed them to three families, the father in each case being on Active Service, one in the Navy, one Air Force and one Army. Very appreciative letters were received from the recipients in each case.

MISS LISA GORDON, M.B.E.

Many Ex-Service friends will mourn the death of Miss Lisa Gordon which took place on December 7th as the result of pneumonia following influenza. Before the last war she was an active worker for Women's Suffrage as Secretary of the Edinburgh Branch of the National Society.

On the outbreak of war in 1914 she was asked to undertake the work of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association in Leith. She organised a large staff of voluntary workers and by her ability and tact endeared herself to them all.

From the time the war began it had been her ambition to work directly for the Army and early in 1917 she got her opportunity. Mrs. Chalmers Watson, who had just been appointed the first Chief Controller of the W.A.A.C., asked her after some preliminary training, to become Area Controller of the Scottish Command. Later she had a similar post in the Northern Command and as time went on she was transferred to France as Chief Controller of the Q.M.A.A.C. attached to the American Expeditionary Force.

On demobilisation she returned to her home at Drimnin, Argyllshire, where she farmed the large estate with marked success at a time when farming was not yet looked on as a normal career for women.

She will be greatly missed by her many friends. Our warm sympathy goes out to her family and especially to her sister, Miss C. M. Gordon (who was one of the Q.M.A.A.C. Recruiting Staff) with whom she lived and who carried on the work of the estate when Lisa Gordon, through crippling illness, became unable to do so.

A.M.L.

NEWS OF COMRADES

C.S.M. Maisie Hunt writes: "May I thank you for the Gazette received just before Christmas. At present I am on the unemployed list and had been feeling rather out of things but was immensely cheered by the Gazette." (The Editor says thank you very much indeed, C.S.M. Hunt.)

Mrs. G. A. Jones, who was a Deputy Controller in Q.M.A.A.C., leads a very busy life as Chief Examiner for three Universities' School Certificate examinations and in entire charge of all the entrance to Secondary Schools of the West Riding. She has a brilliant son, who won a major Scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, and in the two years he spent there he carried everything before him. He is now in the Foreign Office.

Sergt. D. Harper sends her subscription for this year and says that she is very interested in the Association.

Mrs. Campbell, who served in the A.T.S. as Penelope Clowes, sends greetings and her sub. She was very happy in the A.T.S. and is most anxious to keep in touch with others of her Service. She married in December, 1942, and is now the very proud mother of a son, Peter Macleod.

Miss E. M. Warrior keeps in touch with the General Secretary and other Old Comrades. We are delighted to hear that she has found a congenial post in Harrogate

as we know her propensity for work from all she did so cheerfully for the Comrades' Association.

Miss A. L. Brown writes that she is looking forward to the next Annual Dinner, meanwhile her best wishes to all her friends.

VISIT TO NOTTINGHAM

At the beginning of December, I spent two nights in Nottingham, and Osler very kindly arranged a meeting at very short notice at her flat. A good number turned up and I spent a most enjoyable evening. How Osler managed to get hold of all her good things and give us such a marvellous meal I do not know. I was sorry that Mrs. Peters was ill and unable to come. Her husband came and brought a local paper showing a photograph of their son George out East and the paper also gave a notice of the twenty-first birthday of Mrs. Elwin's son. At Mr. Peters's request the paper was sent to Dame Helen, after many members of London Branch had seen it at their General Meeting. I hope Nottingham Branch members were not too disappointed on discovering that once again the names of Billington and Bilbrough had been mixed. They certainly did not show their disappointment and gave me a wonderful evening.

I met Mrs. Esslemont at the Overseas Club the other evening and am glad to learn that she is feeling and keeping very well.

7th January, 1944.

M. BILBROUGH.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

From an Officer in the Indian Engineers

(Dated) 30th November, 1943.

Being out here makes me feel terribly proud of being British and especially of our women folk at home. You all of you are doing a great job of work. You know the people out here have no idea what life is like at home now. Last evening we went to the cinema and in the films they showed in the news the A.T.S. celebrating their anniversary—their march past the Queen was marvellous. I do not think anybody realised the colossal part that women would play in the war. We heard many flattering things said.

From the same Officer written

11th December, 1943

I saw the film "The Gentle Sex," which you probably know more about than I do. It caused a very big sensation here. They made a great do of it, and it is the only film that I have seen out here that has been greeted with applause after the finish. To anyone that has seen what a wonderful job the "Women of Britain" have done, and are continuing to do, it gave one a terrific feeling of pride. Although the film was about the A.T.S. I consider it really was a tribute to all the women in the various services. We liked the film better than "Forever and a Day," which we saw last night.

British Consulate,
1815, Exchange Buildings, Seattle, 4,
Washington, U.S.A.,
18th November, 1943.

Dear Mrs. Johnston,

While looking through some personal papers, etc., a few days ago I found two souvenirs of my service with the Army during the last War—the khaki-covered New Testament presented to me before leaving for France in July, 1917, which contains a message from Lord Roberts, and also the original shilling given to me when I enrolled in the W.A.A.C. in June, 1917 (I believe it was then called "the King's Shilling" and was given to everyone, men and women alike, on joining the Armed Forces).

I think it would be interesting to know if any other Old Comrades still have these souvenirs in their possession.

To you and all Old Comrades I send my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and continued success in the New Year. May it bring Peace to us all

Very sincerely yours,

DOROTHY M. ASHTON (1631, W.A.A.C.).

Anzac House, 9th November, 1943.

Dear Mrs. Johnston,

This is just a note to tell you Mrs. Britomarte James passed away. The girls will remember her at Hotel du Commerce, Boulogne. I was with her there, then coming out here. We opened our Ex-Service Women's Club together. Miss F. Hull and Miss E. B. Greig will remember. They are now in England. I was down at the chapel this morning. It was crowded—Members of different clubs. It was a lovely service. Our President, Miss L. A. Foster, O.B.E., placed a laurel wreath on the coffin from the Ex-Service Women's Association. Dr. Ethel Osborne was there. Mrs. James and Dr. Ethel were great friends. Dr. Ethel was our President one year, then Vice-President.

We send our kind thoughts to our Comrades home and talk and think about home and you all. We are full of work here, keeping the Japs out.

From an Old Comrade, L. B. FORD.

WEDDING DRESSES FOR A.T.S.

The Directorate of Army Welfare has inaugurated a scheme for the provision of wedding dresses free of charge for members of the A.T.S. who do not wish to be put to the expense of buying special clothes on marriage, and who have no suitable dresses of their own. The scheme came into operation on January 1st, 1944.

Under the scheme prospective brides should make application to their Company Commanders, who will obtain the dresses for them from a Central Pool at the War Office. No applications should be made by auxiliaries direct to the War Office. The number of dresses at present available is strictly limited.

The dresses have been obtained largely from members of the public, including readers of women's journals. Great assistance in the provision of dresses has been received from the well-known novelists Barbara Cartland (Mrs. Hugh McCordale) who is a woman Welfare Officer in the County of Bedford.

G.T.C. OFFICERS TRAINED BY A.T.S.

An opportunity to acquire a background of Military Administration and Service atmosphere is made possible for officers of the National Association of Training Corps for Girls in England and the G.T.C. in Scotland, at the week-end courses now being run by three A.T.S. Training Centres.

Started in September, it is hoped to train 360 officers by the end of January.

The course begins on a Friday evening, with an opening address by the Commandant of the Training Centre, and the following morning a tour of the Camp is arranged. Particular attention is drawn to the cook-house, the E.C.T.C., which is the training branch for cooks, the Salvage arrangements in the Camp, and the Q. Stores.

Drill is included in the week-end curriculum, with lectures and demonstrations by a Training Centre Squad, and there are fourteen instructional periods of forty minutes during the course.

These lectures are taken by officers of the Training Centre, and include a practical demonstration of conducting an A.B.C.A. discussion, a talk on Messing—the preparation of menus and catering arrangements—and a talk on general discipline, and the way it is carried out.

The subject which proves of great interest to these officers is the Personnel Selection procedure—the tests which determine the suitability of certain persons for certain jobs in the Service.

The Unit Medical Officer gives a helpful talk on Hygiene, which is of valuable assistance during the G.T.C. summer camping days, and importance is given to the general Welfare lecture which also shows the place religion takes in the lives of Service Personnel.

The training and selection of N.C.O.'s—an item of the utmost importance in all Military and A.T.S. establishments—is another subject in the syllabus of lectures during this brief but intensive course which ends on Sunday afternoon for the groups of 25-40 G.T.C. officers in training.

CHAPEL IN REQUISITIONED HOUSE

In a requisitioned house at an R.A.O.C. Depot, in Eastern Command, A.T.S. observed Christmas in their "own" chapel.

Formerly an empty room, St. Martin's Chapel, named after the soldier Saint, has been furnished and decorated by A.T.S. and military personnel of the Unit. It is for all denominations.

The crucifix and candlesticks on the simple altar were made by the men, and the green velvet altar curtains and frontal cloth stitched by the A.T.S. Some of the officers and auxiliaries gave up their coupons for the material used. The electrically lit crib and the decorated Christmas tree gave a happy seasonal effect.

Sgt. G. J. Easton, a former lay-reader, conducts the daily Evensong service, and during Christmas led the Carol Services.

The chapel is open all day for A.T.S. meditation and it is a welcome retreat for a few quiet moments during the day. The A.T.S. are responsible for the flower decorations in the Chapel.

The Chapel organ has been loaned by the vicar of the Parish Church, who dedicated the Chapel.

SLING BAGS FOR A.T.S.

The A.T.S. are shortly to be issued with uniform sling bags, of a type similar to that issued to members of the Canadian Women's Army Corps.

Made of khaki-coloured canvas, these bags will be piped with brown leather, and the sling, worn through the left shoulder strap, will also be of brown leather.

The size of the bag is 10" by 7" and it will have a zip fastener. It will replace all other forms of sling bags and hand-bags, but it will not be worn on official occasions.

The new bag will not be worn slung across the body, but will hang from the left shoulder.

It is hoped that the issue will be made in January.

FORMER GLOUCESTER HOCKEY PLAYERS IN A.T.S.

Two members of the A.T.S. who have played Hockey for Gloucester County, were in the South Eastern Command Hockey XI which played Southern Command at Reading recently. They were Corporal E. H. Lancaster, of St. John's Vicarage, Cheltenham, and Junior Commander M. W. Needham Cooper, of Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

Junior Commander Cooper, who has been in the A.T.S. for four years is also a keen squash and tennis player.

Corporal Lancaster is a Physical Training Instructor at a South Eastern Command A.T.S. Training Centre, and has been in the A.T.S. for over two years. She has a brother serving in the Royal Corps of Signals.

A.T.S. P.T. OFFICER

Junior Commander R. B. Ayles, of Falkland House, Berkhamstead, Herts, who took part in the recent Southern versus South Eastern Command A.T.S. Hockey match, is Staff Officer for Physical Training in S.E. Command. She has been in the A.T.S. for two years.

Prior to joining up, Junior Commander Ayles was Organiser of Physical Training for East Suffolk County and Ipswich Borough Education Committees.

She played hockey for Suffolk County XI from 1932 to 1941. In 1935 up to the outbreak of war, she played for the Eastern Anglian Territorial Hockey XI and was reserve English international from 1937 to 1938. Junior Commander Ayles was a student at Bedford Physical Training College.

WAITS TO RETURN TO FRANCE

R.S.M. Sylvia Smith of Northern Command Signals has been through all the non-commissioned ranks of the A.T.S. since joining up in 1938. She comes from Gillingham, Kent, and was on the Victoria Exchange of the London Telecommunications Region before the war. Because of her civilian experience she was among the first A.T.S. volunteers to be accepted to man a switchboard at Headquarters lines of communication with the B.E.F. in 1940. Her company was the last A.T.S. detachment to leave France.

In her present job, R.S.M. Smith travels all over Northern Command supervising the work and welfare of the A.T.S. who serve as switchboard, teleprinter and cypher operators. Her ambition is to return to France with the next B.E.F.

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1943

LIABILITIES.			
Capital Account:			
Balance of General Fund as at 1st November, 1942	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
" " Gazette Fund as at 1st November, 1942	1,108	12 1	
	177	7 10	
	1,285	19 11	
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year to date	93	4 6½	
Life Subscriptions Fund: -			1,379 4 5½
Balance as at 1st November, 1942	200	0 0	
Amount received during year	337	10 0	
Gazette Life Subscriptions carried forward	137	15 0	
			675 5 0
Benevolent Fund:			
Balance at at 1st November, 1942	21	9 0	
Add received during year	6	0	
			21 15 0
Bren Gun Fund:			
Balance as at 1st November, 1942	64	4 11	
Less Expended	64	4 11	
Sundry Creditors			48 14 2
			<u>£2,124 18 7½</u>

ASSETS.			
Office Furniture as at 1st November, 1942	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
Less Depreciation at 5 %	56	9 8	
	2	16 6	
			53 13 2
Stock of Badges as at 1st November, 1942	18	7	
Less Amount written off	18	7	
Investments at cost:			
162 National Savings Certificates	129	12 0	
313 National Savings Certificates	250	8 0	
£800 3½ % War Stock	816	17 2	
£600 3 % Defence Bonds	600	0 0	
£50 3 % Defence Bonds	50	0 0	
	1,846	17 2	
Add Interest accrued thereon	17	18 4	
			1,864 15 6
Telephone Rent Prepaid			1 15 6
Cash in Hand and at Bank:			
At Bank	202	7 10	
In Hand	2	6 7½	
			204 14 5½
			<u>£2,124 18 7½</u>

We have audited the above Balance Sheet of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association with the Books and Vouchers of the Association, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Association's affairs at 31st October, 1943, according to the best of our information and the explanation given to us. The cash at Bank and Investments have been verified.

Dundee House, 15, Eastcheap,
London, E.C.3.
28th December, 1943.

L. M. HARRIS & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st October, 1943

EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s. d.	
To Salaries, National Insurance, Travelling of the Secretary, etc.	97	18 8	
" Office Expenses	123	11 1½	
" Miscellaneous	38	9 9	
" Gazette Printing and Postages	121	18 0	
" Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year, carried to Capital Account	93	4 6½	
			<u>£475 8 1</u>

INCOME.			
	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
By Annual Subscriptions			316 5 10
" Donations—General	6	7 1	
" Donations—Augmentation	1	10 6	
			7 17 7
" Capitation Fees from Branches			23 13 0
" Profit on Sale of Badges			1 8
" Interest on Investments			37 19 11
" Gazette Subscriptions, Sales and Donations			89 4 1
			<u>£475 8 1</u>



A.T.S. BENEVOLENT FUND.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

1941.

1. **SUBSCRIPTIONS** received as 217 separate donations amounted to £1,755 18s. 1d., a Total which may be considered satisfactory in view of the fact that information as to the detailed working of the scheme did not reach all Platoons until late in the Spring and in cases of new units may not have reached them at all.
2. **EXPENSES** (printing, stamps and sundries) amounted to £9 13s. 6d.
3. The Fund has been granted Registration as a War Charity under the War Charities Act (1940), thus being free from Income Tax.
4. **BANK.** Messrs. Coutts & Co., 440, Strand, London, W.C., as ~~Bankers to the Fund~~ have agreed to act as Hon. Treasurers.
5. **AUDITOR.** The accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1941, have been audited and found correct by J. Basil Watling, Esq., Public Auditor, of Messrs. Watling, Parker & Co., Chartered Accountants, of 40, Broad Street, Bristol, 1.
6. **THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT** now consists of:—
 The LADY APSLEY, Chief Cdr. (rtd.) *Chairman.*
 Mrs. BLANCHE GIBBS, Senior Cdr. (rtd.) *Vice-Chairman.*
 Mrs. M. GARRAD (W/I. & ex-Sen. Ldr.)
 Hon. Mrs. BETTY ROBINSON, Sbn. (rtd.)
 Mrs. K. E. BRIDGE, J. Cdr. (rtd.)
 Miss E. JACKSON-BARSTOW, J. Cdr. (rtd.)
7. **INVESTMENTS.** On the recommendation of the Hon. Treasurer of the Fund the following Investments were authorised by the Committee:—
 £1,000 in 3% Defence Bonds and £500 in 3% Savings Bonds.
 The sum of £11 7s. 8d. has been received as Dividends.
8. **ANALYSIS** of Subscriptions received show that Commands have contributed (in round figures) in the following proportions:—

Commands.	Approx. Strengths.	Subscriptions.	Amount per Head.
A.A.	8,000	£250	7d.
Eastern	3,000	12	2d.
South Eastern	6,000	114	4½d.
London District	2,500	10	1d.
Northern	11,000	233	5d.
Southern	9,000	443	11½d.
Western	10,000	150	3½d.
Scottish	6,000	100	4d.
N. Ireland District	1,400	94	1/3d.
M.T.	unknown	102	—
H.A.A. Regts.	—	nil	—
9. **SPECIAL DONATIONS.** (Depôts, closing of Camp Funds, Church Collections, etc.) amount to a further £75
10. **OFFICERS SUBSCRIPTIONS.** The majority subscribed with their Companies, so that their contributions are included in (8) and (9). Individual Officers' subscriptions received separately amount to a further £173. The largest individual subscription received was that for £50 from the Chief Controller Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan. G.B.E.
11. **COMPANY SUBSCRIPTIONS.** Many Companies subscribed the equivalent of 100% of their strength, but the average was about 73%. There were many more subscriptions received in the second half of the year than in the first. The majority pay one annual sum, not quarterly instalments.
12. **1942.** If the basic rate of A Day's Pay a Year is contributed during Service, a considerable sum will thus be raised every year which will remain invested ready to meet the needs of All Ranks on Demobilisation. The Hon. Secretary, therefore, requests All Officers to make it a point of honour to subscribe themselves and a duty to explain to their women the advantages of raising as large a sum as possible every year in this way.
 Details of the working of the scheme will be forwarded on application to any Officer who has not yet received a copy of the Hon. Secretary's circulated letter dated 1st Feb., 1941. (*See overleaf*).
13. **CASES.** No money has yet been paid out of the Fund, as the Hon. Secretary has been able to obtain assistance from other War-time sources for all the cases of hardship among Women serving in and discharged from the A.T.S. which have been referred to the Committee. In this connection valuable help was received from Mr. Birrell, Secretary of the Benevolent Department of the British Legion and from Miss E. M. Acton, C.B.E., Secretary of the Incorporated Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Help Society. The difficulties of two Officers were solved satisfactorily through the good offices of Mrs. A. E. B. Johnston, M.B.E., Secretary of the Old Comrades' Association.
14. Our Thanks and Appreciation are especially due to:—
 Chief Controller Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., and the Secretary and Council of the Old Comrades Association of the Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., for launching the scheme;
 Captain A. A. Dobell, Secretary of the Imperial Yeomanry Benevolent Fund, for his valuable advice;
 Chief Controller Jean Knox, D.A.T.S., the A.Ds., A.T.S., the many Group and Company Commanders who have brought the existence of the Fund to the notice of All Ranks.

1 Jan. 1942.

PETTY FRANCE,
 BADMINTON, GLOS.

VIOLA APSLEY,
Chief Cdr. (rtd.)
 Hon. Secretary A.T.S. Benevolent Fund.