



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.
Telephone: Paddington 8440.

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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.**



THE BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY

The following letter was sent to Her Majesty Queen Mary, Commandant-in-Chief, Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, by Dame Florence Simpson, President of the Comrades Association, on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday on the 26th May.

The continued interest of Her Majesty is a source of great pride to those who had the honour of serving in the Corps which Her Majesty Queen Mary so graciously honoured by becoming its Commandant-in-Chief and allowing it to bear her name. It is a real inspiration to those who have tried to make the Comrades Association a bond of true comradeship, in which the Auxiliary Territorial Service now takes its part.

25th May, 1944.

"To The Lady-in-Waiting,

"Dear Madam,—Will you kindly convey to Her Majesty Queen Mary, on behalf of the members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association, the expression of our humble duty and loyal greetings and good wishes on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday.

In addition to the headquarters of the Comrades Association in London there are now 33 Branches, one in New York, two in Australia, one in the Irish Free State and one in the Transvaal and 28 in the United Kingdom.

During the last year Chief Controller L. V. Whateley, C.B.E., and Senior Controller

C. H. Fraser-Tyler, C.B.E., have become Vice-Presidents of the Association.

Yours very truly,

FLORENCE SIMPSON."

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been pleased to send the following most gracious reply:—
28th May, 1944.

"Dear Dame Florence,

"I am commanded by Queen Mary to thank you and the members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps—also the Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association—most warmly for your good wishes on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday, and to tell you how deeply the Queen appreciates your kind and constant remembrance of the anniversary.

Her Majesty congratulates you heartily on the number of Branches now existing all over the world—and the Queen is delighted to hear that Chief Controller L. Whateley and Senior Controller C. Fraser-Tyler have both become Vice-Presidents of the Comrades Association. That seems to symbolize in a very fitting manner the continuity of these Women's Services, which in both these great wars have served the Army with such self-sacrificing devotion! and I think you know how proud Queen Mary has always been of the record and achievements of the Corps which bears her name and of those of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in which Her Majesty has been also deeply interested.

Yours sincerely,

CYNTHIA COLVILLE."

**THE NEW BADGE
A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The Council of the Association invites designs for:—

1. A Comrades Association Badge to be worn by members.
2. A Poster.

The aim of the Poster should be to depict the scope of the Comrades Association and its value to serving personnel after demobilisation.

The competition is open to all serving or ex-Service personnel.

Prizes have been offered in both sections.

In order to help those who do not know of the Comrades Association, the following extract is given from the leaflet: "Experience has shown that there is a great bond of friendliness between those who served together. They want to meet; they are quick to help each other. Their comradeship gives pleasure in good times, it affords help and comfort in days of illness or hardship, it is waiting if your work takes you to a strange town. The Association exists to keep those who have served in touch with one another and to deal as a representative body with the things that an individual cannot handle alone."

All designs should be sent in time to reach Headquarters Office **not later than 15th September, 1944.** They should be addressed to:— The General Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. & A.T.S. Comrades Association,

82, Lancaster Gate,
London, W.2.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT FOR APRIL AND MAY

As it was necessary for the material for the "Gazette" to be in the hands of the printers by the 21st March, it was not possible to give particulars of the Council Meeting which took place on Wednesday, 29th March. This was held, as is now customary, at the Headquarters Office at 82, Lancaster Gate. The following 12 members were present, with Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan in the chair:—Miss Billbrough, Miss Billington, Mrs. Grundy, Chief Commander B. Harvie-Anderson, Miss Ireland, Sergt.-Major C. Kemp, Chief Commander M. F. Patrick, Mrs. Powell, Senior Commander E. Walker, Miss M. Slee (Hon. Treasurer) and Mrs. Johnston (General Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Lady Apsley, Miss Binks, Miss Davy, R.S.M. A. Glass, Corporal J. Reynnders, Mrs. Rumbold, Miss Saunders, Senior Commander Lady Swinton, Miss Turner and Chief Controller L. V. Whateley.

Business arising from the Annual General Meeting was dealt with.

The Chairman stated that the position with regard to the Annual Subscription of 5s. had been clarified at the Annual General Meeting. Any Branch with a member or members who could not afford the combined subscription might write to Council, giving names and particulars and a free issue of the "Gazette" might be considered in such cases.

The Annual General Meeting had agreed, nem. con., that those rejoining immediately before an event to which representatives of the Association were invited should not be included in the ballot. Five years' continuous membership was a necessary qualification for those eligible for membership before 1941.

The question of making the Association known to auxiliaries, who were about to be discharged, was considered. It was agreed that copies of the "Gazette" should be sent to Service Women's Clubs. Sergt.-Major Kemp said that she always placed her "Gazette" where auxiliaries would have an opportunity of seeing it. This was a very helpful suggestion.

The future of the Service Women's Club was considered. The Directors were anxious to know what type of Club would appeal to ex-Service women.

The date of the next Meeting was fixed for Wednesday, the 24th May, at 6.15, at 82, Lancaster Gate, W.2. The Agendas for this Meeting were sent to all members of Council on the 1st May.

Visitors to the Headquarters Office.—The General Secretary had the pleasure of enter-

taining Miss M. Wotzel to lunch one day in April. Miss Wotzel was in the Chief Controller's office in Abbeville and has been a Life member of the Comrades Association for many years. She has now become a Life subscriber to the "Gazette." Miss M. Druitt, who was until lately serving in the A.T.S. as Sergt.-Major, was another welcome visitor, as was Corporal Thorp. Unfortunately, Thorp arrived when the General Secretary was snowed under with the galley proofs of the last "Gazette," and was, apparently, looking very harassed, so the visit was not a long one, but another visit was promised.

COUNCIL MEETING

Will all members of Council please note that the date of the next Meeting has been fixed for MONDAY, 17th JULY, 1944. The Agenda will be sent, as usual, ten days before the Meeting but this information is now given in order that members may have as long a notice of the Meeting as possible.

THE A.T.S. BAND

The following letter has been received from Miss M. L. Chapman, M.B.E., lately a Chief Commander in the A.T.S., who is acting as Hon. Treasurer of the A.T.S. Band Fund. The letter has the approval of the Director, A.T.S., and its publication in the "Gazette" has been authorized by Council.

It is hoped that there may be many who will be pleased to give a donation towards the expenses of keeping up this fine Band.

"I do not know how many of the members of the Comrades Association have had the opportunity and pleasure of hearing the A.T.S. Band during the past year, but it has done a great deal to promote a feeling of keen interest in and admiration for the Service from the general public as well as serving members of the A.T.S."

As honorary treasurer of the Band Fund I am wondering whether some of the members of our Comrades Association would like to have the chance of giving a small annual subscription towards its maintenance. Serving officers of the A.T.S. are asked to give a voluntary subscription of 4s. for senior officers and 1s. 6d. for junior officers who would like to support the Band in remembrance of their service in the A.T.S.

Would it be possible for this suggestion to be made known through the Comrades Association "Gazette"? Subscriptions should be addressed to me as follows:—

**Miss M. L. Chapman,
Hon. Treasurer A.T.S. Band Fund,
7, Winchester Court,
Vicarage Gate, London, W.8.**

Yours sincerely,

MARIE L. CHAPMAN.

WOMEN CHAPLAINS' ASSISTANTS

**A.T.S. OFFICERS' TRAINING UNITS
AND IN R.A.O.C. DEPOTS**

Two women chaplains' assistants are now stationed in A.T.S. units, where potential officers are trained. They attend most of the lectures and practical instruction periods in order to get to know the students and to understand the background of an officer's training. They give talks on the place of religion in Army life and an officers' responsibilities for the spiritual welfare of the women who serve under her. They are also able to share their experiences of work in co-operation with the chaplains in A.T.S. camps, and are available to students who wish to consult them in off-duty hours.

Miss Eveline Holmes, one of the first chaplains' assistants appointed nearly two years ago, has been posted to a recruit training centre in Northern Command, which has a Pre-O.C.T.U. Wing. Previously she spent 15 months among recruits at a training centre in Western Command. She has done five years' public health work for the L.C.C. and has also been a tutor at the Church Missionary Society Training Centre. Before becoming a chaplain's assistant she was a church worker for three years in the London Diocese, when she worked on new housing estates in the Ruislip and Potter's Bar districts.

Miss Bridget Hill, who is now attached to an A.T.S. O.C.T.U., was trained at the Rochester and Southwark Diocesan Deaconess' House, where she took a two years' theological course. Before taking up church work she spent some years doing secretarial work in London. She now lives in the Officers' Mess, but takes most of her meals with the cadets. She holds voluntary confirmation classes for each course.

Women Chaplains' Assistants are also stationed in many Central Ordnance Depots, where A.T.S. are working with the R.A.O.C. on stores for the Second Front.

One, the wife of an R.A.F. padre, is serving at a depot in Western Command, where A.T.S., most of whom were factory hands and shop assistants in civil life, are working on guns, signal apparatus and engineering stores. Many of the women come to her with their personal problems and find that she understands their home background well for she herself has worked both in a shop and a factory in Nottingham. She has also run an evacuation hostel in her home town of Downham, Norfolk. She was trained at the Josephine Butler Memorial House, Liverpool, where she did probation and moral welfare service, and also spent some time in a psychiatric clinic as part of her preparation for church work.

Another, who has recently been posted to a Central Ordnance Depot in the Midlands, was trained at St. Christopher's College, Blackheath, S.E., and has been a Church Worker for some years in the mining parish of Mexborough, Yorks.

The Chaplain's Assistant at a depot in

London District was formerly a parish worker in Leyton, E. She gave up a nursing career to train for church work in St. Michael's Deaconess' House, Oxford, where she took a two years' theology course.

Chaplains' Assistants work in close co-operation with the chaplains and help them to provide for the spiritual welfare of A.T.S. in large camps. They conduct services, organise "padre's hours" and religious discussion groups and contact local clergy and laity who may be anxious to provide hos-

pitality or special religious facilities for members of the A.T.S. stationed in the neighbourhood. They live in the camp and are available to advise women with personal problems or to give instructions and prepare candidates for confirmation on request. They are members of the officers' mess and are invited by the other ranks to join in many of their activities. They do not wear uniform but are recognised by their purple armbands with the letters C.W.W.F. (Churches Work for Women in the Forces).

BRANCH REPORTS

NORTHERN IRELAND

A meeting of the Northern Ireland branch was held on 6th April. It took the form of an inaugural meeting, as we had got in touch with as many A.T.S. members as possible, both ex and serving. There was a good attendance. Dr. Olive Anderson presided and Mrs. Graham, Controller, also spoke.

Miss Ballantine was re-elected President. Mrs. Graham was elected Vice-President, and Dr. Anderson was re-elected to the Chair. Our Treasurer, Miss Baird, was re-elected, and Mrs. Bell elected Secretary.

Seven members were elected to form a Committee, namely — Miss Goodbody, J/Comdr. Maguire, Mrs. Hicks, S/Major Hughes, S/Major Jackson, J/Comdr. Ward and S/Comdr. Hind.

We got 27 new members.

In spite of rationing a good tea was provided, with plenty of home-made eats.

HELEN BELL.

LONDON

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent at the Service Women's Club on Saturday, April 15th, when we were visited by the Anglo-American Brains Trust. It was comprised of the following people:—

British.—Sir Ronald Davison, Barrister, and well-known writer and lecturer on Labour and Unemployment.

American.—Mr. Joseph Charles, Staff of American Embassy, Instructor of History, Harvard University; Lieut. W. J. Casey, U.S.N.R., Staff of the American Embassy, formerly Chairman Board of Editors, Research Institute of America and Broadcaster; Mr. Charles Hogan, U.S. War Shipping Administration, Authority on Adult Education.

Mr. C. S. Williams, Question Master.

The meeting was very informal. Questions were asked by the audience and a wide range of topics was discussed. We learnt quite a lot about the ways of our American cousins. Some of the subjects taken were the Health Services, Hospitals, Old

Age Pensions, Schools, the way the American Parliament is elected. We found their way of living was not so very different from our own in almost every case. It was a very entertaining and enlightening afternoon for the few who attended. We were a very small company, there being only about 30 people present. We were sorry that so many of our members did not turn up. They missed a real treat. This event was notified in the January-February "Gazette," so members could not give the excuse that they did not know about it, as under the new rules everyone should be in possession of the "Gazette" as it is published. The folk who did not attend missed a very enjoyable afternoon; we do hope that if another such opportunity is afforded us of a similar meeting there will be a goodly number of London Branch members present.

The Brains Trust are doing valuable work in promoting friendship between the United States and ourselves, more especially as the work is given voluntarily and in their own time.

D. H.

BRADFORD

Our March meeting went off fine. The usual little crowd attended, and we had a really jolly time, eating and talking. Each member was most generous, and brought lots more than she herself could eat. Lovely sandwiches—luscious cakes and chocolate biscuits, and a huge jug of tea made a feast "fit for the gods." We had enough, and to spare, so for the benefit of our funds we bought up the spare ones, making our little party remunerative, as well. Now we are eagerly looking forward to our next little treat. Mrs. Ross (better known as Colston) has arranged a grand afternoon's pleasure—tea and whist at her home, all the proceeds going to swell our funds. We are certainly trying to get rich quick. We wish all old comrades and new ones, too, the best of luck.

Now I must tell you about the party, at the home of Mrs. Ross, on the 19th of this

month (April). About 12 of us went, and we had a grand time. It simply poured with rain, but Mrs. Ross was such a perfect hostess and she and her charming husband so hospitable, we forgot all about the weather, and just enjoyed every minute of our stay. After a delightful tea, provided by our hostess, we had whist, and a beautiful silk scarf was raffled. We bought up the cakes which were left, and thus our funds benefited by nearly 30s. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ross for making our visit so enjoyable.

On Monday, the 24th, we met again. This time at the club. Although we had, in various ways, given an invitation to the A.T.S. girls, none turned up, but we were happy to have with us Miss Mair, from Leeds. We had a very interesting discussion, and thoroughly enjoyed listening to Miss Mair's views about plans for the future. The evening came to an end all too soon. We send our greetings to all old comrades.

E. WARD.

35, Legrams Avenue, Bradford.

NORTH STAFFS.

The nearness of Easter and the calls of spring cleaning made our April meeting rather small. However, we were able to plan out our future programme quite satisfactorily. A Whist Drive was held on May 1st, which proved to be a great success. The room was filled to capacity and a good time was had by all. Handsome prizes of goods which were very much "under the counter" were provided by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Barrett, whilst Mrs. Clough's hens did their duty nobly for another prize.

On Monday, June 5th, we are invited to Stableford for the evening. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Barrett each have a bungalow there and are entertaining us. In July we are invited to Mrs. Godwin's bungalow at Ashley. Let us hope the weather will be kind on both those occasions.

Our membership is going up slowly, but we have not yet the giddy heights of a representative on the Council. We hope to do so before long.

H. CLOUGH, Hon. Sec.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND

Although silent we are all doing our bit for the war effort. We sympathise with our English comrades who are "going through the fire" on the home front.

A great effort is being made by the British Legion (who have quite a number of ex-Service women members) to raise funds to buy and equip a club in readiness for the return of our men and women. Whist drives, etc., have added to the donations, and to our joy the chairman announced on Friday night that sufficient money has been raised to buy the building. However, we

must not relax our efforts as we are now responsible for the upkeep of the building and the furnishing.

After meeting on separate evenings since the formation of the O.C.A. here the W.R.A.F. and W.A.A.C. O.C.A.'s have decided to meet on the same evening, the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. We inaugurated this with a party on Wednesday evening, when there was a good turn-out of members. There was a wonderful variety of "eats" and there is always plenty to talk about, so everyone was happy.

Our A.T.S. members, Mrs. Horsburgh (nee Goodall) became the proud mother of a little son, Kenneth, on 24th January. She joined the A.T.S. in February, 1939, and was discharged on compassionate grounds in July, 1942. Mrs. Horsburgh was in the 3rd A.A.

I was touched to see the tribute paid to me by O.C. Draft, Edinburgh Depot, 1914, and would like to get in touch with her and also with the policewoman she mentions. Mrs. Trail is on the committee, so we meet occasionally. After a spell in England, we were glad to welcome her back.

E. M. GILCHRIST.

NORFOLK

Our first meeting for this year was held on April 1st at 26, Branksome Close, Norwich, the Misses Newberry and Prothero being our hostesses.

It was a lovely Spring afternoon, and seven members were able to be present. We had a great variety of good things for tea, in spite of such mundane things as rations, and all did full justice to the fare provided. Afterwards we sat around the fire, read correspondence and chatted. Apologies were received from Miss Howson, who could not get away from the office in time to join us, and from Miss McDermott, who runs a Y.M.C.A. at Great Yarmouth and had to be on duty. Monday being her only free day, we hope to arrange a meeting for her in June.

Mrs. Rumbold was able to visit London and represented the branch at the Annual General Meeting, and so gave us details of all that passed. I am sure that members will be pleased to know that Mrs. Rumbold has undertaken to represent the branch on the Council for the time being, whilst Miss Batty is unable to come up from Bradford-on-Avon to attend meetings during the war. We do appreciate the work Miss Batty has done for us in the past, and trust, after the war we shall once again be able to avail ourselves of her help.

Time, as usual, passed very quickly, and, thanking our hostesses for their kindness, we made our various ways home by trains and buses.

L. W. CHILVERS.

ILFORD

Our April meeting was held at my flat, when we were very pleased to have Drutt with us once again. We were nine in number and had a very good time as usual. Our May meeting was held at Yetton's, when again all our members were able to come. It is great fun to have old Drutt with us, but we are all amazed at her

sudden discharge from the A.T.S. in view of the statement made by the Director of A.T.S. "that they were unable to replace the wastage." I think Drutt must be terribly missed for she would give of her very best in anything which she undertakes. Our June meeting will be held at Drutt's home.

PADDY PARKER.

NOTTINGHAM

At the May meeting of the Nottingham Branch four A.T.S. members were invited: Two from the A.P.O., and two from a large Ordnance Depot. The two former members arrived, and one visitor decided she would join the Association. The latter two were probably prevented from attending owing to changes of duty, both being Signallers.

The Nottingham Branch of the United Services Club is now affiliated to the National Council of Women. Miss Hassall, an ex-Q.M.A.A.C. member, was voted by the members to be our representative, and on May 19th attended a luncheon. The speaker on this occasion was Miss Fergusson, Youth organiser of Lincoln. The subject was "Problems of Youth, particularly in relation to the Post-War World."

Perhaps in another issue we may be able to give fuller details concerning the functions of the Council.

N. OSLER, Branch Secretary.

BIRMINGHAM

In Birmingham we try to arrange our club meetings for the last Saturday in each month unless it interferes with a General Meeting or a general holiday.

Our first gathering this year was at a member's house and 11 people were present. I didn't speak much on account of having faceache, so the others had more chance of conversation. The next meeting was on March 11th, when Miss Dipple was telling us all about her visit to London for the A.G.M. Mrs. Jones told us of her son returning to England after being with the R.A.F. in Canada for several years, where he married a lovely Canadian girl.

On March 29th I went to look at General Montgomery's desert caravans, which were on view in aid of the Red Cross.

In April an Army Exhibition was held on a bombed site and several of us went individually. On April 29th we met again and these were present: Mrs. Katie Pearce, Misses Samson, Miss Dipple, Sgt. Lily Willetts (straight from her W.A.A.F. camp), Marjorie Peers (now a civilian, out of the W.A.A.F.), Mrs. Mabel Pearce, Mrs. M. Robinson, Blanche Fidele, Mrs. Chilcott and Mrs. Ethel Cooper. News and views were exchanged and letters read from absent friends.

E. A. R.

A.T.S. OFFICERS ARRIVE IN CANADA

Thirty A.T.S. officers have arrived in Canada, where they will spend three months attached to C.W.A.C. units and Canadian Army H.Q. The party includes eight platoon and company commanders, who will undertake regimental duties, and nine officers from basic training units and O.C.T.U.s who will be posted to camps where recruits and potential officers are trained. There are also four staff officers and one adjutant. The rest are specialists in various subjects, including Personnel Selection, Messing, M.T. Trade Training, Education and R.A.O.C. technical duties.

The A.T.S. officers have been chosen to represent as many different types of work as possible, and all have had considerable experience in the jobs which they will do.

A number of C.W.A.C. officers are being sent to Britain in exchange. The scheme arose from recent visits of C.W.A.C. officers to A.T.S. units in this country. Its purpose is to help the two services to pool ideas and learn by each other's experience. By working side by side with members of the C.W.A.C., A.T.S. officers will demonstrate our methods of administration and of training and employing women to work with the Army. They will also acquire a working knowledge of Canadian methods.

The draft consists of four senior officers, 16 junior commanders and 10 subalterns. Senior Commander Joyce Cambridge, who will be attached as a staff officer to the National Defence H.Q. in Ottawa, was one of the two A.T.S. officers who were sent to Casablanca for secretarial duties at the time of the Conference.

Sub-Hon. Helen Cozens-Hardy, daughter of Lord Cozens-Hardy, is an M.T. officer,

and was a pre-war volunteer. Subaltern Margaret Moore, who will do Ordnance duties, was one of the first A.T.S. officers to replace an R.A.O.C. officer in a technical appointment. She has been serving at a depot in the Midlands, from which clothing for the A.T.S. and Army is issued.

Junior Commander Marjorie Duckworth, of Skipton, Yorks, one of the two Personnel Selection officers who have gone to Canada, was a personnel officer in a factory before joining the A.T.S. She holds an honours degree in sociology and is a member of the Institute of Labour Management.

Junior Commander Allison Tennant, who will do regimental duties, holds a social science certificate. She was educated at the London School of Economics and the Sorbonne University, Paris. The Messing Officer, Junior Commander Margaret Smith, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, had a domestic science training and wide experience of large scale catering before she joined the A.T.S. at the outbreak of war. She began her service career as a cook and later replaced an Army Catering Corps Officer at an Infantry Training Centre, where she supervised the feeding of hundreds of Army recruits.

Subaltern Joaquinita McClintock, whose husband is a Lt.-Col. in the R.A., will be attached to a basic training centre. Before the war she was sent on a special mission to Spain by the Foreign Office in connection with the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief.

The officers come from all parts of England and Scotland, and one, Junior Commander Marjorie Jamieson, who will do staff duties, comes from Belfast.

A.T.S. PLOTTERS WILL HELP THE SECOND FRONT

The A.T.S. who plotted the course of the Scharnhorst, the Gneisenau and the Prinz Eugen are eagerly awaiting the part which they hope to play when the Second Front opens. Working in shifts they man front line plotting rooms on the South Coast throughout the 24 hours. Their job is to chart the course of every Allied or enemy ship which passes our shores within their area.

The moment that the A.T.S. switchboard operator receives the news that there is enemy activity the plotting room springs to life. Quickly and methodically A.T.S. take up their positions. The plotters sit around a table, each wearing a telephone set with head phones and a fixed mouthpiece, which leaves both hands free. As each vital piece of information comes through they begin charting the enemy's course and working out his speed. Other A.T.S. simultaneously pass on the bearings and range to coastal gunsites.

Check is also kept on enemy aircraft and the information passed to Anti-Aircraft batteries.

In one plotting room the A.T.S. have a collection of trophies—splinters of shells fired in action and sent by a coast regiment who are proud of the A.T.S. whose work behind the scenes enables them to engage the enemy. Another exhibit of which the A.T.S. plotters are immensely proud is the tracing of the course of SS Munsterland, which they plotted throughout its two hours' run before it was finally sunk by Coast Artillery.

Each week exercises are held in which A.T.S. vie with each other in "speed plots." They attend lectures on gunnery so that they can see how much the men who man the guns are dependent upon their speed and accuracy, and weekly quizzes are organised dealing with all branches of Coastal Artillery.

Most of the A.T.S. in the plotting rooms have personal reasons for wanting to serve with coastal units, and many of them come from seafaring families.

Pte. Lilian Bolfield, of H.M. Coastguard Station, Bamborough, Northumberland, went to school on Holy Island and has always lived within sight of the sea. Her father served in the Royal Navy until he became a coastguard.

Pte. Mary Innes, of Dundee, has both her brother and her husband serving in the Royal Navy. Pte. Joan Faulkner, of Clapham Junction, S.W.; Pte. Gwen Goldsmith, of Probus, Cornwall; and Cpl. North Smith, of Horwich, near Bolton, Lancs, are all sisters of sailors.

Pte. Joyce Elkington, who formerly worked with the same unit and is now serv-

ing in the West Country, has been mentioned in despatches for gallantry. When wounded by a bomb which fell only five yards away from her during a coastal raid she went to the aid of a badly wounded naval officer and his wife and saw them to hospital.

"Not one of the A.T.S. here would change her job for anything," says an R.A. officer in charge of one plotting room. "They are tremendously keen and live for the time they are in action."

AWARD OF A BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

Recommendation Received from G.Q.C. in C., Anti-Aircraft Command

W/237874 Private (Lance-Corporal) Grace Catherine Golland, H.A.A. Regiment, R.A.

By her courageous behaviour in danger and consistent and unsparing devotion to duty she has set an inspiring example to all ranks. On 29th January, 1944, when performing her gun site duties, she was engulfed by smoke and flame from some 50 I.B.'s which landed close to her, accompanied by H.E. bombs which killed cattle in the next field. Despite the concussion from bombs and the heat and fumes engendered by the incendiaries, Lance-Corporal Golland remained at her post and by her coolness and leadership enabled her team to maintain their duties, thereby allowing the site to fire in further engagements in a period of 57 minutes.

AWARD FOR ROCHESTER A.T.S. GIRL

Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Lloyd, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, has approved the award of a Certificate of Good Service to C.S.M. Phyllis Tong, of Rochester.

Sergeant-Major Tong volunteered for service in November, 1938, and was attached to an A.A. Regiment. She attended territorial camp with them in the summer of 1939, and was a Corporal when called up for active service a week before war broke out. In 1940 she went to an A.T.S. Training Centre as an instructor, and became a Sergeant in 1941. She won her C.S.M.'s crowns about eighteen months ago, and is now Chief Clerk of the Administrative Branch at a District Headquarters.

Only twenty-two now, she had just started work with the South Eastern Gas Company when she was called up. Her brother, a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army, is a Staff Officer at present attached to forces in Persia and Iraq.

C.M.S. Tong's great hobby is music. She plays the violin, and used to perform with the Maidstone Symphony Orchestra. Her responsible job in the A.T.S. does not give her much time for practising, but she hopes to continue with orchestral playing after the war.

A MYSTERY

Her name? That must remain a mystery. All that can be told is that before she joined up in 1940 she had lived for ten years in a convent, whither she will return once the war is over.

In the last war she served in the W.A.A.C.s. In 1930 she became a Roman Catholic, entered a convent in Paris, and never expected to leave the shelter of its walls again. Just think of that! Then one day there came a letter from the W.A.A.C.'s Old Comrades' Association, asking all members to come forward: England had need of them.

So this woman of forty-five returned to England after having first cycled across refugee-crammed Paris to obtain the sanction and the blessing of Cardinal Verdier. In London, it was Cardinal Hinsley, that great and wise Christian, who, after hearing her story, absolved her from her vows for as long as the war should last. To-day she is happy in the A.T.S., happy in serving her country. But the moment another Armistice is signed she will be ready to go back into the convent, and never again venture outside its safe, serene walls.

"SORTING HOUSE"

Private Yolande Holborow, A.T.S., an ex-college matron, daughter of a clergyman in New South Wales, is now stationed at a Cosmopolitan "Sorting House" in the Midlands, where auxiliaries who are awaiting posting follow a training programme comprising lectures on military subjects of general interest, discussion groups, physical training and drill. With her are an American art student, and several refugees from the Continent.

"Bobbie," as she is always called, attended school in the open air, and slept on a verandah with one sheet as bedding. Christmas holidays were always spent by the sea; and Christmas Day itself was celebrated by a swim at dawn and turkey eaten cold on the sands under a parasol.

"Bobbie" declares that the six most adventurous days of her life were spent on a homestead on the edge of the Bush, with no human beings within 15 miles. She spent the time picknicking, crossing creeks on ropes and dodging snakes and dingoes. One night, when sleeping in a camp bed on the verandah, she felt a cold substance at her feet, which proved to be a large-sized snake! On another occasion, "Bobbie" and her brothers set out to burn a hollow tree at dead of night, and while telling ghost stories in the moonlight they heard the howl of dingoes. Turning round, they saw a pack of the animals on the brow of the next hill, so they abandoned their tree-burning and made off at top speed.

Questioned on the subject of kangaroos, "Bobbie" always tells the story of her father's strangest congregation. He was preaching his sermon one Sunday night, when in hopped two fully grown kangaroos who advanced up the aisle and took the front pew. At the end of the sermon they turned round and hopped out of the church and away into the Bush.

NEWS OF COMRADES

Mrs. Tye, Rose Knight 2121 Q.M.A.A.C., has four sons serving in the R.A.F. The eldest was commissioned in January last and is now a Pilot Officer. Congratulations, Mrs. Tye; you must be a very proud mother.

Mrs. Jamison, who served as Fanny Johnston, an Assistant Forewoman cook at Denham Camp, writes that she would like to have news of **Sally Allen**, **Gladys Stokes**, **Bessie Davis**, **Jeannie Lear**, **Miss Powell** **Miss G. Gandy**, or any of our bunch who were at Denham when the new dining hall was being erected, and went to St. Leonards afterwards." Mrs. Jamison has three grown-up sons, the eldest being in the R.A.F. Her address is:—Ballyblack, near Newtownards, Co. Down, Northern Ireland.

Mrs. E. F. Armstrong made two delightful cot blankets, which she kindly sent to be passed on to members still in need of such luxuries! **Miss Saunders** quickly found homes for them and very grateful letters have been received from Mrs. McDade, and from Mrs. E. L. Wood, who was just expecting her eighth baby.

It was a real pleasure to hear from **Miss Mould**, Secretary of Bristol Branch, that her efforts (through the British Legion) to get a pension for **Miss F. E. V. Nespoli**, ex-Corporal A.T.S., have been successful. Nespoli wrote to Miss Mould, saying: "I feel sure that you will be pleased to hear that I have the King's Badge and a pension. I am pleased, of course, about the Pension but more than thrilled with the Badge. I had recently to attend another Medical Board and was also X-Rayed, and this is the result." This was indeed good news as Nespoli was discharged in April, 1942, and Miss Mould and the British Legion are to be congratulated.

Miss C. M. Ford is now out of Hospital after three operations and a long illness of nearly three years. We hope that she is now on the high road to recovery and that she will soon be quite well again.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan will be retiring from her professorship of Botany at Birkbeck College at the end of the Summer Term, where (with war intervals) she has been since 1909. She is to continue her honorary work with the Home Guard. We all know her as an indefatigable worker, with the interests of ex-Service women very near her heart.

Although it is a little late, we would like to send our best wishes for her future happiness to **Mrs. Cook**, who joined the Comrades Association as a Life member in July, 1941, when she was **Subaltern Anne Byam**. She was married on the 11th March, 1944, at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, to Captain Phillip Howard Cook, R.A.C. (Sherwood Foresters). At the time of her marriage she was a Junior Commander.

LIGHTHOUSE GIRL IN THE A.T.S.

Having spent all her life in lighthouses on the rocky coast and remote islands of Scotland, 29-years-old Private Alexina Budge decided, on the retirement of her father, a lighthouse keeper, to join one of the Services and live in a community life for a change. Now she finds life as a mess orderly in the A.T.S. in Western Command a pleasant contrast to her previous rather solitary existence.

Private Budge was taken to a lighthouse on the West Coast of Scotland when she was two months old. Since then she has lived in lighthouses in the Orkneys and in the Outer Hebrides where, the nearest food supply being seven miles away, she baked the bread for the family and helped to keep the lighthouse spotless.

Private Budge, whose home is now at Stromness, says she was rather shy when she first joined the A.T.S. and the spacious living quarters took a lot of getting accustomed to after the limited accommodation of a lighthouse, but now she loves the life.

A.T.S. TAKE UP CHESS

A.T.S. girls at a lonely depot in the wilds of North-West England have taken up chess to while away the long winter evenings. Once or twice a week they meet in their Quiet Room to receive some expert tuition by the Education Sergeant of a neighbouring men's camp.

The girls find chess an absorbing game. Most of them were rather doubtful at first and feared they would not be able to understand its complexities. However, after a few lessons they had grasped the rudiments, and found themselves playing practice tournaments, arranged by their tutor. "Solo" chess is another way in which they amuse themselves. In that case they study the game of a famous chess player from a book, making their own moves first, and then comparing notes with the book.

When they have become proficient at the game the A.T.S. girls hope to meet the men of the neighbouring camp in a tournament.

SMOKING IN THE A.T.S.

The A.T.S. authorities, having received many queries arising out of the single rule that "smoking in the street is forbidden," have issued a new set of rules. Smoking is not permitted now when on duty, except where normally permitted by local rule; in streets or built-up areas; on railway stations or in station approaches, except in station buffets; in railway station, cinema or theatre queues; in buses, trams, tubes, or underground trains, or in shops, except in the tea rooms or restaurants. Members of the A.T.S. may smoke on long railway journeys, in smoking compartments, or in the corridors, and at sports meetings and similar events in the open air. When smoking is permitted the officer or auxiliary need not remove her cap unless she wishes to.

A.T.S. GRANDMOTHER

Among the mess orderlies serving in a barracks in the Eastern Command, is Lance-Corporal L. Jenkins, A.T.S., of Ongar Road, Brentwood, who volunteered for the A.T.S. in 1939.

Lance-Corporal Jenkins, who is fifty-three years of age, is a grandmother, the eldest of her grand-children being twelve years old, while the youngest is just six weeks.

The three sons of Lance-Corporal Jenkins are all in the Forces, one (who holds the same rank as his mother) is in the Corps of Military Police, another is in the Royal Armoured Corps, while the third is serving in the Royal Marines.

Lance-Corporal Jenkins' husband is Corporal Ivor Jenkins, Royal Army Pay Corps, who formerly served for sixteen years in the Welsh Guards.

HUSBAND AND WIFE'S PARALLEL SERVICE CAREERS

For more than five years Chief Commander Elsie Lomer's service career has run almost parallel to that of her husband, Lt.-Col. John Lomer, who is serving with the Allied Mediterranean Forces. In 1938 Mrs. Lomer raised and became the first company commander of the Middlesex Company A.T.S. which served with a battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. She thus held equivalent rank to that of her husband, then a captain commanding the Staines company of the Middlesex Cadet Corps. Later Mrs. Lomer became a Senior Commander and her husband a Major. Now her appointment as Assistant Director A.T.S. at a District H.Q. in Eastern Command, carrying promotion to her present rank, has followed soon on her husband's promotion. Lt.-Col. Lomer served with the B.E.F. in France in 1939 as a member of the R.A.S.C.

CHRISTENING

The infant son of Lieutenant Richard Graham Addis, D.S.C., R.N.V.R. (presumed to have lost his life in H.M.S. Laforey), and of Gillian Addis was christened David by the Rev. C. Hildyard, in St. Faith's Chapel, Westminster Abbey, on Wednesday, May 10, 1944. The godparents were Viscountess Hanworth, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Miss Jean Martineau, Captain David Winsor, R.A.M.C., R.M. Commando, and Captain the Hon. R. C. R. Maugham, 4th County of London Yeomanry.

OBITUARY

We regret to record the death, on 21st April, of Corporal L. Jackson, W/16962. She died in Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet, after an operation. Our sincere sympathy goes to her family. Corporal Jackson had served in the A.T.S. since its formation in 1938, and was for some time a Sergeant with the Searchlights and A.A. Battery!

LETTERS

The Editor would like to express her thanks to Corporal I. M. Sayers, W/167229, of South Croydon, for the following letter of appreciation. It is a great pleasure to find that the "Gazette" is so much enjoyed by Corporal Sayers and her sister Gladys, who is also a Corporal in the A.T.S. Her letter is appended:—

"Thank you for your letter dated 9th May, 1944, also for the receipt and Membership Card.

I am sorry that I only sent a postal order to the value of 2s. 6d. I'm afraid I had not heard that the membership fee had risen, but, of course, I am quite willing to pay the extra, being that I am very proud to be a member of so good an organisation.

I am enclosing a further postal order for 2s. 6d. to cover the balance of my subscription, and may I take this opportunity to say how very much my sister and I enjoy the "Gazettes," as we are often able to read little things about other members whom we have at some time met, and would otherwise perhaps forget.

Once again thanking you,

I am,

Yours truly,

IRENE M. SAYERS.

Corporal Gladys Sayers is also a member of the Comrades' Association.

Letter from Senior Commander E. M. Williams, A.T.S. Group H.Q., East Africa Command, which came by Air Mail.

13th May, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Johnston,

May I say first of all how much I enjoy reading the Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Comrades Association Gazette.

I have been out here now for seven months and I think you may perhaps like to hear something about the A.T.S. serving in Kenya—No. 1 Company has been here over a year—and has lately moved in to a new Camp especially built for the A.T.S.

No. 2 Company arrived more recently and are accommodated in the same Camp, which occupies a very fine position with

lovely views—Mount Kenya may be seen on a clear day.

Much hospitality and the greatest kindness has been shown to members of this Service, auxiliaries spend their leaves on farms, at the coast, Lake Kisumu, and some have been to Dar-es-Salaam.

Opportunities exist for riding, golf, hockey, and tennis (when balls are available). Most auxiliaries have seen game of one kind or another, giraffe, ostrich, zebra, and gazelle, and lately lion have been seen.

Auxiliaries are attached to various military formations and 16 are on detachment about 80 miles away. Auxiliaries are employed on clerical duties and have adapted themselves to local conditions quickly and made valiant efforts (in some cases very successfully) to learn the language—which is Swahili.

Forty-four members of the first Company are now married and some of the more recent arrivals are considering the matter!

Facilities for three auxiliaries to broadcast twice a month to their relatives and friends in the United Kingdom are available to all members of this Service.

News from Home is always of the first importance and the greatest interest is shown regarding the activities of the A.T.S. serving elsewhere.

I am enclosing my Annual subscription of 5s., which I think must be due, and should be grateful if the "Gazette" can be forwarded direct to above address.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

E. M. WILLIAMS.

A.T.S. OFFICER IN OPERATIONS BRANCH OF COMMAND H.Q.

Junior Commander Anne Croft, daughter of Sir William Croft, Secretary of the Department of the Resident Minister in the Middle East, is the only A.T.S. officer in the Operations Branch of South-Eastern Command Headquarters where she has replaced an Army Officer. Her work deals with troop movements and operational policy in the Command. Junior Commander Croft, who is aged 24, and a Londoner, joined the A.T.S. in 1939. She was a sergeant clerk in a Record Office and later became a staff officer at the War Office.

A.T.S. CAMOUFLAGE MODELLER

The A.T.S. are providing artists with opportunities to carry on their professional work. Important factors in the Army's training for warfare are the models of stretches of the countryside which are used for demonstration purposes. Making these models is a detailed and intricate job, which demands considerable artistic ability.

One A.T.S. camouflage model maker is carrying on the work of her father, both in her civilian and her military career. Corporal Van der Weyden, the daughter of an artist who did camouflage work in the last war, is herself an artist.

She volunteered for the A.T.S. in 1940, and spent a year as a cook. Then she was given the chance of training for a commission, but she chose instead to do her present camouflage model work in Southern Command. She says it keeps her hand in for her post-war career. She spent three years studying art—landscape and architectural drawing are her special subjects.

Born in 1900 in France, Corporal Van der Weyden spent most of her life travelling until she settled in England in 1939. Her family are from South America, where they have lived for two generations, and her father now has a studio in London.

Corporal Van der Weyden has recently been awarded a Certificate of Good Service.

A.T.S. COOK SPOTS PARACHUTIST OVER LONDON

When a parachutist baled out over the outskirts of London during a recent raid the first report to reach the police came from an A.T.S. cook, Pte. Agnes Johnson, of Rotherham. She was off duty, but got up and joined her firewatching colleagues when incendiaries were falling. When she saw the parachutist caught in a searchlight beam she reported the matter at once to the orderly officer who telephoned the local A.R.P. post. When the police interviewed Pte. Johnson they told her that hers was the first report received. Next day she learnt that a German pilot had baled out and been captured.

Pte. Johnson, who is 22, was employed in a Sheffield steel works before she joined the A.T.S. a year ago. She has 13 brothers and sisters.

Will all Contributors please note that any particulars they wish included in the next issue of the "Gazette" should reach the Editor not later than the 21st of July.

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 E. M. Trotter, C.B.E., 4, East Avenue, Bournemouth.		
Bradford.	Mrs. E. Ward, 35, Legrams Avenue, Bradford		
Brighton.	Mrs. E. C. Jolly, 107 Preston Drove, Brighton, 6.	Aqua Restaurant, Old Steine, Brighton.	Not fixed. Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
Bristol and West of England.	Miss B. Mould, 11 The Tynning, Bath.		Not fixed.
Cheltenham.	Mrs. Mann, Cornerways, Churchdown, Gloucester.		
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.
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. 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 Nottle 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.
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. Telephone: Paddington 8440.