



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.**

HEADQUARTERS REPORT FOR JUNE AND JULY

Since the publication of the May-June issue of the "Gazette," two Council Meetings have been held, on the 24th May and the 17th July. At the May meeting the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman took place. There being no other nominations Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan was declared Chairman, and Miss Ireland, Miss Davy and Lady Apsley were elected Vice-Chairmen. Sixteen members were present, with Dame Helen in the Chair, Miss Billbrough, Miss Billington, Miss Davy, R.S.M. A. Class, Chf. Com. B. Harvie-Anderson, Mrs. Mayhew, Mrs. Powell, Subaltern R. Pryse, Cpl. J. Reynders, Mrs. Rumbold, Miss Saunders, Miss Turner, Sen. Com. E. Walker, Miss Slee, Hon. Treasurer, and Mrs. Johnston, General Secretary.

The meeting agreed that designs be invited for (1) a badge, and (2) a poster. The notice of this competition was published in the May-June issue of the "Gazette." It gives a great opportunity for members to work out suitable designs for the badge and the poster, and Council are hoping that many will enter for the competition and send in the fruit of their labours by the 15th September, the closing date for entries.

The following sent apologies for absence: Chief Controller Whately, Senior Controller Fraser-Tytler, Miss Cliff, Sen. Com. Lady Swinton, C.S.M. Kemp, Lady Apsley, Mrs. Pratt-Barlow and Miss Ireland. The date of the next meeting was fixed for 17th July.

The meeting in July was only a small one but, as the Chairman, said, a very distinguished one! Dame Helen was in the Chair with nine members present: Chief Controller Whately, Senior Controller Fraser-Tytler, Miss B. Ireland, Sen. Com. Walker, Sen. Com. Lady Swinton, Chf. Com. Harvie-Anderson, Miss Billbrough, Miss Slee, Hon. Treasurer, and Mrs. Johnston, General Secretary.

The Chairman was very pleased to give the good news that Mrs. Addis, who had served in the A.T.S. as Subaltern Gillian Dearmer, had kindly agreed to be Editor of the "Gazette," she felt that we could not have found anyone more suitable. Mrs. Addis had, in addition, undertaken the work of Hon. Secretary of the Active Service Branch. Council were delighted to hear this pleasant news, and wished Mrs. Addis every success.

There were no special items on the agenda to be discussed. **The date of the next meeting was fixed for Wednesday, 17th September.** Will all members please take note of this date. The agendas will be sent, as usual, ten days before the meeting.

Only two visitors have come to the office since the last Report, the General Secretary being very pleased to welcome **C.S.M. I. R. Barnard** (London), and **Cpl. Curwen** from the War Office. C.S.M. Barnard has been busy recruiting for the Comrades Association and found many new members for the C.A.

OUR NEW EDITOR

The new Editor of the "Gazette" has taken it over in fear and trembling from the capable hands of the General Secretary. She was given the Branch Reports from the faithful; Public Relations at the War Office gave her all the news they could about the A.T.S. She read the **Important Notice** about contributions in the "Gazette" for May/June and settled down to wait for an enormous mail on 21st July. She encouraged herself by reading the "Wren," bursting with contributions from serving Wrens.

Nothing Came—Not Even Abuse!

She thought about writing an article herself on "How I shot down a Flying Bomb" and signing it "A.T.S. Bombardier," but quickly saw that this might lead to imprisonment or spots on the tongue for telling untruths. So what is she to do? She is going to begin by appealing to your better natures, to the Comrade in each one of you. **Please write to her. Tell her things.** Don't worry about your powers of authorship. We all want a "Gazette" packed with interest for everyone. So you must pack it. It is a bit difficult for a greying retired officer, sitting in Southern England with the ceaseless stopping of engines overhead, to do it all by herself. **Come on all of you.**

COUNCIL MEETING

Will all members of Council please note that the date of the next Meeting has been fixed for WEDNESDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER, 1944. The Agenda will be sent, as usual, ten days before the Meeting.

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.

BRANCH REPORTS

BRADFORD.

In May, ten of us met at the club and we had a grand chat together. We had cakes and tea, more than we could eat, but we bought up the "left-overs," helping to swell our funds a little more, and it was arranged that we should visit Miss Cocksedge—a treat we eagerly look forward to. We met again a month later, and our June meeting was much the same. Just a friendly little chat, with the usual little cakes and tea which are always forthcoming. The day after this meeting was the day of Miss Cocksedge's party. Ten Old Comrades left Bradford for Brig-house, and we soon arrived at the home of Miss Cocksedge and her sister. After a real welcome, we made ourselves at home, and, to our delight, we learned that our hostesses had invited some A.T.S. girls who were stationed in the district. They arrived shortly afterwards and introduced themselves, and we were soon all happy together. There wasn't any shyness, old and new comrades just mingled together, as if we had much in common, and, indeed we had. They were such friendly girls, and our hostesses, who are so charming always, saw to it that we never had a dull moment. We played cards, and two grand prizes were given by our hostesses. One was won by an Old Comrade and an A.T.S. girl won the other. We were all glad about that. We then had tea. A most delightful tea, to which we all did full justice, having had, on many previous occasions enjoyed the little pastries, sandwiches, cakes, trifles (real old-fashioned creamy ones) which our hostesses always so gladly and liberally provide for us. One of the A.T.S. girls said afterwards, her eyes nearly popped out of her head when she saw the table laid, as we sat down to tea, and we certainly all looked happy about the feast in store. After tea we went into the orchard and had photos taken amongst the fruit trees, which were all showing signs of being good "croppers." We stayed in the garden a little while and went to see the chickens, which are growing up now out of the fluffy stage. Then back into the house and resumed our game of cards, during which chocolates and cigarettes were handed round. Luscious home-made chocolates, the sight of which made our mouths water. Then came a high-spot. Six beautiful brown new-laid eggs were raffled. Six lovely breakfasts for some lucky person who drew out of the hat the magic bit of paper with a

cross on. One of our Old Comrades, Mrs. Lund, was the winner of those. At last—very reluctantly, we had to say good-bye, after thanking our hostesses for a perfect day.

We have also had another "Waaclet" wedding. Mrs. Goodman's daughter, Margaret, who is in the W.A.A.F., was married to Petty Officer Bill Normanton. We Old Comrades turned up in full force at the church and formed a "guard of honour." Mrs. Goodman was our previous Secretary and I am sure that many of her old friends will be interested. Mrs. Goodman served as Worker Annie Rose at Harfleur and Boulogne as well as at Chadderton Camp in England.

E. WARD, Secretary.

NORTHERN IRELAND.

At the meeting of the Northern Ireland Branch on Tuesday, 6th June, in Fitzroy Hall, Belfast, Lieut-General Sir Alan Cunningham, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C Northern Ireland, very kindly spoke to us about his Abyssinian Campaign.

As he had complete charge of the Campaign, you will have some idea of how interesting it was. He told us some hard facts and figures, also some very amusing episodes.

The meeting was well attended, but we had no time for the usual routine business.

Mrs. Graham (Vice-President) proposed a vote of thanks to General Cunningham, which was seconded by C.S.M. Jackson, and passed very heartily by all present.

Dr. Olive Anderson was in the Chair.

At the last Branch Meeting in June, we had the pleasure of welcoming C.S.M. Giles, a member of London Branch. She hopes to come along to other meetings now that she is stationed in Northern Ireland. It is very nice to meet friends from other Branches. C.S.M. Giles sent greetings and good wishes to her old Branch members in London.

H. BELL, Secretary.

ILFORD.

The June meeting was held at Druiitt's, where, despite the general trend of the weather, we spent a happy time in her garden, followed by a most enjoyable tea. Mrs. Thomas entertained us with amusing experiences of the new work she has undertaken, and later Druiitt's brothers graced us with their company. Laden each with a parcel

of buns and cream we set foot for home. An altogether happy re-union.

Spaul's was the venue for the July meeting and, despite "doodle-bugs" and the weather, we turned up in strength and welcomed as our guests Leach's cousin and Coppen's daughter, Mary. Another good tuck-in and a regular chin-wag whiled away the time, although we missed Parker.

The next meeting is again at Spaul's, on 22nd July, when we are to have a Whist Drive in aid of Dr. Barnado's Homes and the Mission to Seamen. Six wounded Servicemen from the local hospital have been invited as guests and, amongst other things, we have already acquired a box of matches for each of them!

E.S.

NORTH STAFFS.

The "summer programme" which was arranged has had to be altered. On 5th June our A.T.S. members were busy "Saluting the Soldier." They had six parades in a very short time—so we postponed our trip to Stableford until 12th June. Fortunately the day was fine and the evening was perfect. A party of ten of us had a very enjoyable time, including four of our A.T.S. members. We missed Sgt. Ellis, who was, unfortunately, prevented from coming. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Barrett who gave us such a hearty welcome and lots to eat.

Our visit to Ashley, which should have been on 3rd July, was postponed owing to the wet weather. Since then this district has received many evacuees and the bungalow was taken over, so that we were not able to pay our visit there at all.

I enclose a photograph from the local paper of the girls from Longfields. Several of them are members of the Comrades Association and nearly all of them have been entertained by us during the past two years.

I am sure Sgt. Hewitt and Sgt. Wallis will be glad to hear of their old friends winning the drill competition. They certainly looked very smart when we saw them in the "Salute the Soldier" Parade. Congratulations, Sgt.-Major Hills!

H. CLOUGH.

RECRUITING.

The opening of the Second Front has brought a need for even more A.T.S., especially (as ever!) in the cooking and driving trades. A.A. is asking for operational numbers to serve on gun-sites, and the Royal Corps of Signals and the Pay Offices require women at once.

Recruits may volunteer specifically for the employment they wish to follow and can volunteer for overseas service as soon as they reach the age of 19.

The A.T.S. are already in Italy, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, North and East Africa, Washington and the West Indies. We expect soon to hear of their arrival in France—and how envious we shall be!

THE W.R.N.S. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

An Address given by Mrs. Laughton Mathews, C.B.E., Director W.R.N.S., at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Wrens, 20th May, 1944.

The Director began by stating that the point which perhaps struck her the most forcibly in looking at the past was the extreme shortness of the 1917 Service. Her own year of Service at the Crystal Palace had seemed a life-time, yet a year now was only a small part of the life of the W.R.N.S. And some Wrens in the Great War had had only a few months' service. The Director said that although she had been at Immingham and in Edinburgh, the centre of her former Wren life had been at the Crystal Palace. She was glad to say that two of her former ratings there were present to-day. The R.N.V.R. Depot at the Crystal Palace was the first Naval establishment to have Wrens.

She herself had already applied to join the W.A.A.C. when a notice that a W.R.N.S. was to be formed had made her rush to the Admiralty and she was in the first W.R.N.S. Training Course. Mrs. Laughton Mathews recalled that as there was no uniform available, she had gone to the Crystal Palace in a green costume, one Wren amongst 10,000 men to enrol immobile Wrens. As Headquarters was very busy she was not much bothered by them; later mobile quarters were added. Fourteen days' training was given to both mobiles and immobiles before they were posted to their duties.

The work then was much the same as Wrens did at the beginning of this war: storekeepers, stewards, office staff. The Director thought that a Unit Officer in the W.R.N.S. had the best job in the world and she said that she had gained something from the Service which had lasted her all her life.

She said that the great help which the 1917 Service gave was to break the ice. The first W.R.N.S. had left a fine tradition of high service which must have influenced the Admiralty in starting the 1939 Service and had much to do with the welcome the Navy gave it.

The Association of Wrens had bridged the gap between the wars. There was more time then for making friends. There were new activities, hikes, Annual Dinners to preserve the Service spirit of comradeship and the annual march to the Cenotaph when for one day each year "Life was young and the world was new."

In 1938 the official handbook envisaged a new W.R.N.S. A small semi-civilian body was contemplated of some 1,500 Wrens. There was no idea then of the powerful organisation which the W.R.N.S. was to become, or that it would be an integral part of the Royal Navy.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews said that at the

beginning of the war Wrens were given jobs conventionally associated with women but to-day Admiralty policy was to employ Wrens in every job which women could do which was a very wide field indeed. Some of the new jobs meant that women carried responsibility for the safety of men and ships.

The Director then detailed some of the hundred categories of work in which Wrens are now engaged: Signals Officers, Mess Caterers, Engineers, Acetylene Welders, Air and Radio Mechanics, Torpedo Wrens, maintainers and repairers of aircraft, Boarding Officers, Boat Crews, W/T Operators, Duty Staff Officers, Wrens who service engines, who take guns to pieces and re-fit them, who care for the insides of torpedoes, besides which the insides of clocks are child's play. Two W.R.N.S. Officers have been through the Staff College.

Mention was made of the Wrens who accompanied the Prime Minister on his journeys and of the officers and ratings serving afloat in the armed liners. Wrens serve in overseas Stations, in the Eastern Fleet, Mediterranean, South Africa and the U.S.A.

Although she could not vouch for the veracity of the story, the Director amused us all by stating that a W.R.N.S. Officer in Africa was much perturbed by being told by the native police that two of her women were in the local police station charged with being drunk and disorderly. Hurrying along with trepidation she found to her relief that the culprits were two Highlanders! A Senior Naval Officer had reported that wherever he had been overseas he had been given glowing reports of the work and bearing of Wrens and that he had been told on more than one occasion that the efficiency of the base went up to 100 per cent. when Wrens came in.

Referring to the future, Mrs. Laughton Mathews said that already some Wrens who had had to go out of the Service had expressed a wish for an Old Comrades Association. Her own feeling was that the new Old Comrades should build on to the old Association of Wrens. It might be desirable for branches to be established in different parts of the country.

No decision had yet been announced in regard to the future of the W.R.N.S., but one might hope that there would be at any rate a reserve on the lines of the R.N.V.R.

The important thing for the future was what Service women were going to take out with them into civilian life. Mrs. Laughton Mathews spoke of the "hot air" which was talked about the Services spoiling women for civilian and home life. Women had not changed fundamentally and she believed that they would be better and stronger women for their service experience. She hoped that all would realise that responsibility does not end with their personal lives, that they have a duty to the community.

"If all Service women feel like that," the Director concluded, "then the seed of the Past, which blossoms so splendidly in the Present, will bear fruit in the Future."

A.T.S. WITH R.E.M.E.

The A.T.S. who belong to R.E.M.E. wear the flashes with the lightning zig-zag of the electrician, the hammer and tongs of the vehicle mechanic, the horse's bit and chain of the coach trimmer.

Vehicles of every description, from water-tankers to light cars, come in for repairs. The auxiliaries go over them thoroughly, stripping the engine, replacing brake linings, seeing that the dynamos are in perfect order. They take motor-bicycles to pieces and put them together again. They wire the head-lamps of vehicles, grind new engine valves, repair canopies and upholstery.

They have the satisfaction of sending the vehicles out really fit for their hard running.

All these mechanics were drivers before they went on their six-month's mechanics' course.

"We know cars and motor-cycles inside out now," said Pte. Webber, of Plymouth, whose job is to re-assemble motor-cycle parts

in a R.E.M.E. workshop at South-Eastern Command. Pte. Webber wants to go in for Command. Pauline wants to go in for politics after the war.

At the same depot is 19-year-old Pte. Slater, who is a welder. "I love it," she said, carefully grinding down engine valves to the exact requirements.

Pte. Mortlock's job is very different. With firm stitches she sows together ripped canopies, mends saddles, and does feats of ingenuity over worn upholstery. She comes from Middlesbrough.

A Glasgow girl, Pte. McClenaghan, is one of the auxiliaries doing electrical wiring. She strips and repairs magdynos, talking in technical terms that would have been a complete mystery to her as a civilian clerk a year ago.

All the A.T.S. quickly get the knack of "handling" the vehicle parts, working side by side with their soldier colleagues, who do the heavier work. They don't mind overtime for they know that vehicles are urgently needed for the Invasion armies. They sing to the strains of wirelasses amidst the hammering noise and perpetual movement of the workshops.

They work hard and they get dirty—but off duty they're some of the smartest in the Service.

A.T.S. BAKE FOR INVASION TROOPS

A process whereby bread can be kept fresh for fourteen days and more has been discovered and was tried out with very successful results during a large-scale exercise held in the North of England early this year.

This special non-staling bread was again used to ensure supplies for the Army up to the latest possible hour before it was landed in Normandy. The bread was supplied to invasion craft for the troops.

This baking was carried out over a period of ten days before D-Day by A.T.S. at a large military bakery not far from London. During that time 60,000 loaves of this specially processed bread was produced.

But for this good work by the A.T.S. bakers, many thousands of troops would have been eating biscuits instead of bread for several days before D-Day.

Some of the women had experience of bakery in civilian life but many of them have been taught since joining the Service.

It is the first bakery to be run by the A.T.S. and provides the daily bread ration for thousands of troops at home, including units of the American Army.

The Corporal and the Sarge

They only find to lose again,
They only meet to part,
They've little time to linger
With the language of the heart.

She to her radio station,
He for the road to Rome,
There's much to do and far to go
Before they both come home.

And he must march full many a mile,
And fight through change and charge,
Ere he promotes his Corporal
And makes her Mrs. Sarge.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

The soldier is giving up all he holds most dear. What can we do to show our gratitude? We salute the Soldier by saving more and yet more—every day and every week—not only in your special "Salute the Soldier" Week, but all the time.



Issued by the National Savings Committee

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

We are proud to see many A.T.S. names in the Birthday Honours List. Controller M. M. Carlisle has been made a Commander of the British Empire and we offer her the congratulations of all Comrades. Chief Commander Belinda M. G. Boyle, who is now in Egypt, becomes an O.B.E. She was one of the original members of Emergency Service and her fellow veterans will be pleased to think of meeting her again (after all too long a time) wearing the ribbon she so well deserves.

To Chief Commander Bridget Holmes a Court, and Chf. Com. V. E. Jowett, of the N.Z.W.A.A.C., we also offer our heartiest congratulations on their being made Officers of the Order.

The M.B.E. has been conferred upon Chf. Com. G. H. Thomson, Sen. Com. Ida W. Hawley, Sen. Com. M. H. Pine, Sen. Com. K. G. Putnam, Sen. Com. R. Watson,

Jun. Com. J. E. A. Hose, Jun. Com. W. E. L. Lawrie, Jun. Com. G. D. McKerrow, C.S.M. R. E. Relf and C.S.M. A. May Wren.

Our congratulations to all of them.

S.Q.M.S. Kathleen Barbara Ingham, who is one of fourteen A.T.S. sergeants who have received the B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours List, has been responsible for the preparation of hundreds of vehicles for the invasion armies. She is working as assistant to the Technical Officer (also a member of the A.T.S.) in charge of a large section of a Vehicle Reserve Depot in the Home Counties.

Her ten-hour day's work includes the supervision of the auxiliaries greasing, lanolising and maintaining vehicles for issue and repair. In this particular part of the depot, the vehicles are known as "light," which means that they are anything up to three-ton lorries.

S.Q.M.S. Ingham, who is 28, comes from Leicester.

A.T.S. Working at the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces

Five hundred officers and auxiliaries of the A.T.S. are serving at the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force. They are proud to have been chosen for this highly coveted work, for they know that they are at the nerve-centre of the Invasion armies.

They serve side by side with the members of the British Army, the U.S. Army and Women's Army Corps, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force and the W.A.A.F.

The women have their own camp run largely on American lines where they share barrack rooms, mess hall and recreation rooms. They have even learned to drill to American words of command. Everyone is on U.S. rations cooked by W.A.C.S. who also run the laundry. Instead of a N.A.A.F.I. there is a post exchange where the members of all the women's services can buy American cigarettes and such rare luxuries as hair grips.

A.T.S. staff officers work in the Civil Affairs and the Intelligence divisions, and the Chief of Staff and the Deputy Chief of Staff both have A.T.S. officers as Personal Assistants.

A clerical platoon provides clerks, typists, shorthand writers and confidential secretaries to each division. About thirty of them are working with Civil Affairs and about half this number with each of the Operations, Intelligence and Personnel and Training Divisions. One auxiliary is attached to the Publicity and Psychological Warfare Staff and two are attached to the European and Allied Contacts section.

There are forty-six A.T.S. members of a Mixed M.T. Company; they operate a shuttle service and also supply drivers when a General's personal driver is off duty. There are lucky ones who have driven the most senior officers of the Allied Forces.

Several hundred auxiliaries are serving with the S.H.A.E.F. Signal Unit; among them are six cipher officers who help to deal with the "Top Secret" traffic. The A.T.S. working at S.H.A.E.F. have been chosen for their

efficiency, good conduct and strong sense of "security" for they guard the operational secrets of the Allies. All of them knew early on D-Day morning that the landings had begun for each one received a copy of the personal message from General Eisenhower which was given to every man who took part in the invasion.

Nearly all the A.T.S. at S.H.A.E.F. have volunteered for overseas service and are looking forward to the day when they will go over to join the armies in France.

A.T.S. OFFICER WHO CATERS FOR 15 MESSES

Subaltern Mary Paul, A.T.S., is responsible for the catering of seven other ranks' and eight officers' messes, including one reserved for officers of the rank of Brigadier and above. She also supervises the cooking for a large number of soldiers and auxiliaries at South-Eastern Command Headquarters.

In her spare time she runs evening classes for A.T.S. clerks, many of whom are hoping to set up house after the war. Her pupils welcome the chance to learn in their off-duty time the domestic accomplishments which war conditions prevent them from acquiring in their own homes.

Before the war Subaltern Paul taught cooking and laundry. She was trained at the National Training College, Domestic Subjects, London.

Her work at Command includes obtaining food supplies from the N.A.A.F.I. and R.A.S.C. four times a week. All rations have to be checked, weighed and issued.

Whenever possible, she purchases fresh fruit and vegetables from the gardens under military control, leaving market supplies for civilians. Cookhouses and messes have to be visited and an eye kept on the swill-bins to see that there is no waste. And, of course, periodic mess meetings are held, when mess representatives can make suggestions or air any grievances.

Subaltern Paul's hobby is ballet dancing and for some time she took training at the Sadler's Wells evening classes. Her two brothers are both serving with the R.A.F.

BACK TO FRANCE!

General Montgomery's A.T.S., twenty-two officers and nearly five hundred auxiliaries, serving with Rear H.Q. of 21 Army Group, are impatiently waiting for the day when they embark for France. For nearly two months now they have been mobilised and although they are still in this country they are officially regarded as an overseas unit—the first A.T.S. ever drafted abroad as a complete unit.

Their documents, like those of the troops already in the Continent, have already been handed over to the Second Echelon, and their outgoing mail is censored regimentally, except for one letter a week, which is censored at base. No one may leave the camp for more than twenty-four hours or travel beyond a twenty-five-mile radius. All auxiliaries have volunteered for overseas service and several of them have already served abroad in this war.

Most of General Montgomery's A.T.S. have served with the 21 Army Group ever since it was formed and many of them had previously served together in the same Home Forces company. They have watched Montgomery's army grow, taken part in its training and preparations, shared many of its secrets and finally seen it off to the front.

There are 220 clerks and almost every branch of the H.Q. has A.T.S. typists and shorthand writers; 120 cooks and orderlies are divided between the officers', sergeants' and other ranks' messes, while 113 A.T.S. members of a mixed car company drive staff cars and administer the transport arrangements. Some of these are personal drivers to generals, others operate the car pool. They provide a twenty-four-hour service and are prepared to set forth on anything from a few miles' to a three-day journey at a moment's notice. There are fourteen regimental officers, seven staff officers and one provost officer in charge of twenty-seven military policewomen.

When they arrive in France they will be joined by members of the Canadian Women's Army Corps and the U.S. Women's Army Corps who will share their camp under the command of the senior A.T.S. officer.

All A.T.S. in this Continental Group are taking intensive training to prepare them for service in France. As they are working at full pressure most of this has to be done in the evenings. Special training includes a refresher course of drill to enable them to move quickly from place to place. There are also Passive Air Defence and Gas lectures, First-Aid demonstrations and training in hygiene. Several officers and N.C.O.'s have been sent on a hygiene course which includes instruction in water purification. The provost section have French lessons and all auxiliaries have lectures and talks on France.

MORE PALESTINIAN A.T.S. FOR ITALY.

Palestine is expected to provide a substantial proportion of the 6,000 auxiliaries who are urgently needed to work in Italy, says Reuter.

Palestinian A.T.S. are already doing splendid work in Italy, but every Army unit and every hospital is in need of more.

NEWS OF COMRADES

Mrs. Riach, who served in Q.M.A.A.C. as Clara Stacey, 5579 (Pont de l'Arche), is very pleased to have her son home from the Middle East after being away for twenty months. He was married on the 14th June, at Fountain Bridge Church, Edinburgh, to M. Sutherland, W.A.A.F. We wish the happy pair every blessing in their future.

Miss M. Gore-Brown has now left Wales and moved to Liverpool. She was first a Hostel Forewoman and later an A.A., serving at Chatham, Sydenham and Shorncliffe.

We were pleased to get news of **Miss Norah F. Corner**, who is a Life Member. She has renewed her "Gazette" subscription so we hope to keep in closer touch. We hope she enjoyed her visit to London.

Mrs. Savill, who served in the A.T.S. from January, 1939, to December, 1943, writes that she has been busy moving and has therefore been too busy to attend the last few meetings of London Branch.

Miss Olive Mainland sends us a new address as she has been bombed out of her old home. She was away at the time but **Miss H. M. Harvey** who was there had slight injuries and a nasty shock. It is to be hoped that they will not have any further misadventures.

Mrs. Alice Marwood is now comfortably settled in Weybridge. Still working, despite her 74 years, and a great comfort as she is an excellent cook!

Mrs. Marion Wheeler, who is an ex-A.T.S., has just moved from Stanmer Road, Brighton, to 138, Preston Drive, a delightful part of Brighton, with fine views.

Miss E. M. Gilchrist, the Secretary of Glasgow Branch, sends us a new address: 1, Great Western Terrace, Glasgow, W.2. It will be quite strange to see this change on the back of the "Gazette" as Miss Gilchrist has been at 13, Royal Terrace, for so many years. May she have many happy years in her new home.

We are glad to hear that **Miss E. Shearman**, who has served in Q.M.A.A.C., the W.R.A.F. and the A.T.S. is now driving for the U.S. Army as a transport driver. This is good news as it shows that Shearman must have recovered completely from the effects of her operation. She drives a Humber Super Snipe Six and works long hours but she likes the job.

Members who knew **Mrs. Helen M. Robinson** as General Secretary of the Old

Comrades Association from 1st January, 1927, to the 30th November, 1930, will be sorry to learn of her death, which occurred at Weybridge, on the 9th May, 1944, after a few days' illness. Mrs. Robinson had been in poor health for some time and the doctors were not hopeful of a cure. We send our sincere sympathy to her sister.

From Calgary, Alberta, comes news that **Mrs. E. Smitheram**, who served in Q.M.A.A.C. (Northern Command) and is the Secretary of the Ex-Service Women's Branch of the British Empire Service League of the Canadian Legion has undertaken the work of supervising the making of ditty bags for the Merchant Navy. This Branch has also undertaken the task of furnishing a room in the Colonel Belcher Hospital.

Mrs. E. Ward, Secretary of Bradford Branch, sends an account of the marriage of her son, Dennis Arthur Ward, who is a Fleet Air Arm Pilot. The wedding was almost completely a Service wedding, Mrs. Ward served in Q.M.A.A.C., her husband is also ex-Service. The bride, **Miss Mary Miller**, is in the A.T.S., the best man—Lieut. Rawlings is a Fleet Air Arm Pilot and the groomsmen in the R.A.F. The marriage took place on the 14th June, at St. Oswald's Church, Bradford. The bride wore a crinoline dress of white taffeta and spotted net, her net veil was held in place with white carnations. The bridesmaids wore similar dresses in apple-green. Many congratulations and good wishes for a very happy future to them both.

London Branch members in particular will be very sorry to hear of the death, through enemy action, of Miss Ada Pitt, who was a great favourite and a member of many years of that Branch. A flying bomb struck Lambeth Hospital about 9 a.m. on the morning of 30th June, and Pitt was fatally injured. Like all good W.A.A.C.S. we feel sure that she would be glad to have been on duty until the last minute of her life. Pitt served at Deptford and also at Unit 3, Le Havre. Our deep sympathy goes to her sister and family.

Miss Georgina Blanchard, who is now in Washington, writes: "I have not much news for you this time except that Mrs. Rose, who used to hold meetings for ex-W.A.A.C.'s in New York, has been seriously ill. She had a severe operation on 20th March and was three hours on the operating table. She is now back at home and slowly recovering but still seems to suffer a good deal of pain. So many of the ex-W.A.A.C.'s in New York have either left or are very busy; in consequence the meetings have dropped off altogether. One of our members, **Miss Betty**

Humble, returned to England in December, 1942, and is now with the N.A.A.F.I. in Kent. An ex-W.A.A.C. friend from New York is spending the week-end with me. I am looking forward to her coming very much and am taking two days of my leave so that I can show her the sights on Monday and Tuesday. It is beginning to get quite hot in Washington, the temperature all this week has been about 85 degrees in the afternoon. In summer it goes up to 100 degrees and we are properly baked! Easter was lovely and then we had a cold spell for a week or two afterwards. With all good wishes to all Old Comrades." This letter was dated 15th May and was received on the 4th July. May we send our best wishes to Mrs. Rose for a speedy and complete return to good health.

Miss Lilly Bond, in reply to Mrs. Ashton's query that she received a Testament which she used always in France. She did not, however, receive a shilling. Bond was stationed in Abbeville with the 1st A.M.T.D. and sent a most interesting copy of Le Miroir, with some W.A.A.C. photographs.

Our congratulations on the birth of a son go to **Mrs. Tannett** (née Morton), who was a Junior Commander and is the wife of Lieut.-Com. (E.) Owen D. Tannet, R.N.

We send greetings also to Miss Beal, who was born on 21st July, to **Katherine**, wife of **Major N. A. G. H. Beal**, Royal Marines. Mrs. Beal was well known to many of us as Kit Bovenschen.

Many Comrades have married during the summer and we wish them every happiness in the future. **Jun. Com. Mary Roake** was married to Major George Boyd Murray, D.C.M., R.A.M.C., at Newcastle-on-Tyne, on 21st June. **Subaltern Lucy Ashton Ingram** married Lieut. Thomas C. Spencer-Smith, Ox. and Bucks Light Infantry and Army Air Corps on 15th June, at Bramley. In Malta, on 7th June, Lieut. Denys Bryan Martin, R.N.V.R., married **Subaltern Irene Maud Frances Taylor**.

Subaltern Joan Cotter was married to Capt. Henry Haskins Ferrel, Medical Corps, U.S. Army, at Manorbier, in South Wales, on 20th May.

In July we have heard of the weddings of **Subaltern Caroline Metcalfe**, who married Major Anthony J. H. Taylor, The Buffs, on 5th July, and of **Subaltern Audrey Hamilton Budden**, who became Mrs. Borradaile on 8th July. Major Ronald George Borradaile is in the Cameron Highlanders.

Miss Florence Day, who has now left the N.A.A.F.I. and has a priority job in Uppingham, sends news of **Mrs. Morrison**, an ex-member of Q.M.A.A.C., who is the proud mother of triplets, two fine boys and a girl now 17 years of age. Mrs. Morrison served first in the Women's Legion, then she was in the W.A.A.C. and Chief Section Leader in the R.F.C. at No. 1 Cadet Wing, St. Leonards-on-Sea. Her name was **Wheatley** then, and eventually she became a W.R.A.F.

A.T.S. SIGNAL OPERATORS GAVE THE WORLD THE NEWS OF THE INVASION

Nine A.T.S. signal operators gave the world the news that D-Day had arrived. Soon after they came on duty at the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces a message was handed in at the receiving hatch of the Signal Office which is staffed by men and women of the British and American Services. It was General Eisenhower's first communiqué.

The first person to read it was L/Cpl. Parry, of Southampton, the wife of a R.E.M.E. craftsman serving in Italy. When she found that it contained the news of the Allied landings in France her first thought was, "How awful it would be if I made a mistake." She quickly routed it and passed it for registration to 19-year-old Pte. White, of Middlesbrough.

From there the communiqué went to the teleprinter room where seven A.T.S. operators simultaneously transmitted it to the War Cabinet and Allied H.Q. all over the world. One of them, Pte. Tinley, has two sisters in the A.T.S. and three brothers in the Forces. Another, Pte. Green, of Cleadon, Northumberland, was so excited that she could hardly teleprint. Pte. Hall, of Grimsby, sent the message on to General Montgomery's H.Q.

The whole shift were delighted with the luck that brought them on duty when the Number One Invasion Communiqué came through. There was tremendous excitement in the camp at the first news of the Allied landing because the girls knew that the entire operation had been planned from their H.Q. A few of the most confidential clerks had known for some hours that the operations had begun, and immediately the communiqué was issued everyone in the camp was handed General Eisenhower's personal message.

FIRST A.T.S. AMMUNITION EXAMINERS TAKE OVER.

The first A.T.S. Ammunition Examiners, each replacing a man of great technical experience for service abroad, are now at work in the ammunition depots in various parts of the country.

At one depot in Western Command, these examiners, whose job is to inspect and supervise the repair, examination and packing of tons of live ammunition a week, are each in charge of ten auxiliaries working in groups in dispersed sheds.

A.T.S. Ammunition Examiners undergo months of training ending with an intensive ammunition course, after which they have a 100 per cent. knowledge of all types of ammunition ranging from revolver cartridges to 25-pounder shells, from hand-grenades to 4.7 in. mortar bombs, and from machine-gun bullets to mines used against enemy tanks and infantry.

Detonators, fuses, propellants, high-explosives and igniters are every-day words in their vocabulary, and they supervise the dangerous work of removing explosive fillings. The fact that they are dealing with the most necessary of all supplies to the fighting men makes them proud of their job.

The "A.E.'s," as they are called because of their distinguishing arm-badge, must know all the safety precautions and regulations governing their work. For some jobs special equipment is provided, such as bronze tools to prevent spark or friction, and rubber overshoes to cover the steel and grit that collect in the chinks of leather shoes.

At this depot there are eight ammunition examiners, all under 23, who did all manner of jobs before joining up. L/Cpl. Morrison, of Lanarkshire, worked in a biscuit factory; L/Cpl. Keeler was a tailor in Newcastle-on-Tyne; and L/Cpl. Lawrie, of Fifeshire, was an assistant in a shoe shop; while Sgt. Marshall, who has been through the worst of Hull's air-raids, made tablets and pills for a manufacturing chemist.

REHABILITATION.

We read a lot about this formidable word these days and it is interesting to hear of its practical application to our A.T.S. convalescing in the South. It must be depressing to be confronted with discarded khaki issue and old blankets and told to make toys, though the cellophane from the inside of U/S firehoses presents more hopeful material. But, apparently, even after illness, the A.T.S. are undaunted and set to work with their own patterns to make wonderful

soft toys which they dye in gay colours.

Out of every kind of salvage they make new and useful things and there are plenty of tools to use, and plenty of salvage! We are told of old leather jerkins and gauntlets transformed into balls, slippers, new gloves and, of course, button-hole flowers.

Carpentry is carried out so thoroughly from salvage that even the nails are not new. Every kind of wooden necessity is made.

Cloth from disused clothing is decorated with lino-cuts made from disused linol

FOUND—A DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE, Q.M.A.A.C.

A Discharge Certificate of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps made out in the name of No. 35547 Mary Horrocks, and dated 25th June, 1919, has been found and forwarded to the War Office.

Unfortunately Mary Horrocks is not a member of the Comrades Association and we cannot, therefore, get into touch with her. If any member knows her address will she please write to the General Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. C.A., 82, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2, or get into touch with Mary Horrocks herself and inform her that the Discharge Certificate has been found. Mary Horrocks should apply to: The War Office (A.G.19), London, S.W.1, giving the reference No. D.O./K.W. C.R. 1340 (A.G.19).

OBITUARY.

London Branch members will be very sorry to hear of the death by enemy action of Ada Pitts. She worked for some years in the Lambeth Hospital and was fatally injured when a flying bomb struck the kitchen recently. She was cremated at Golders Green Cemetery on 6th July. Pitt served in Q.M.A.A.C. and was stationed at Hostel 2, Le Havre. She came regularly to reunions of London Branch when her duties permitted her to do so, and was a staunch supporter of everything arranged. We shall miss her cheery smile on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons at the Club. Our sincere sympathy goes to her family in their sad loss.

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 September

WOODSIDE, FRANT, SUSSEX

LATE NEWS

We have now heard of the arrival in France of the first batch of A.T.S. with Rear H.Q. 21 Army Group. Our congratulations and best wishes to them and all who are joining them.

BRANCHES

Active Service	Mrs. Richard Addis, Woodside, Frant, Sussex.	
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., 1, Great Western Terrace, Glasgow, W.2.	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. Maunders, 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. Last Saturday in the month at 7, Victoria Street, Belfast.
Northern Ireland.	Mrs. H. Bell, 27, Wellington Park, Belfast.	First Friday in month, 6.30 p.m.
North Staffs.	Mrs. G. H. Clough, 3 Eleanor View, Newcastle.	Nell Gwynne Restaurant, Newcastle.
Notts.	Miss Osler, 243a, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.	
Oxford.	Mrs. Jackman, 23 Grays Road, Headington, Oxford.	Members notified individually.
Plymouth.	Mrs. O. Foster, 2 Notte St., Plymouth.	
Cardiff and S. Wales.	Mrs. Diana Foster, 7, The Grove, Rumney, Cardiff.	Y.M.C.A., Cardiff. Second and last Tuesday at 7.30 p.m.
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.