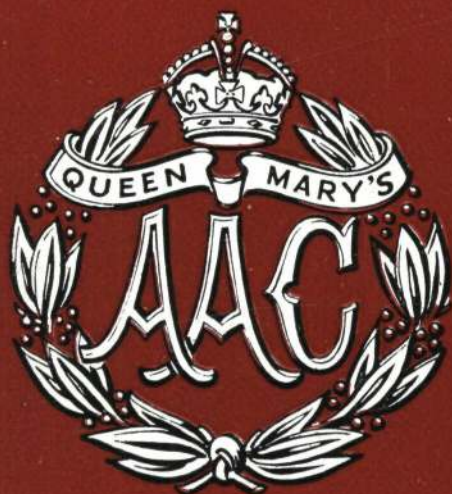


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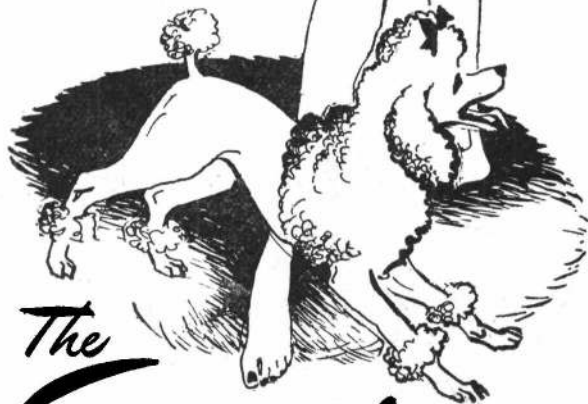
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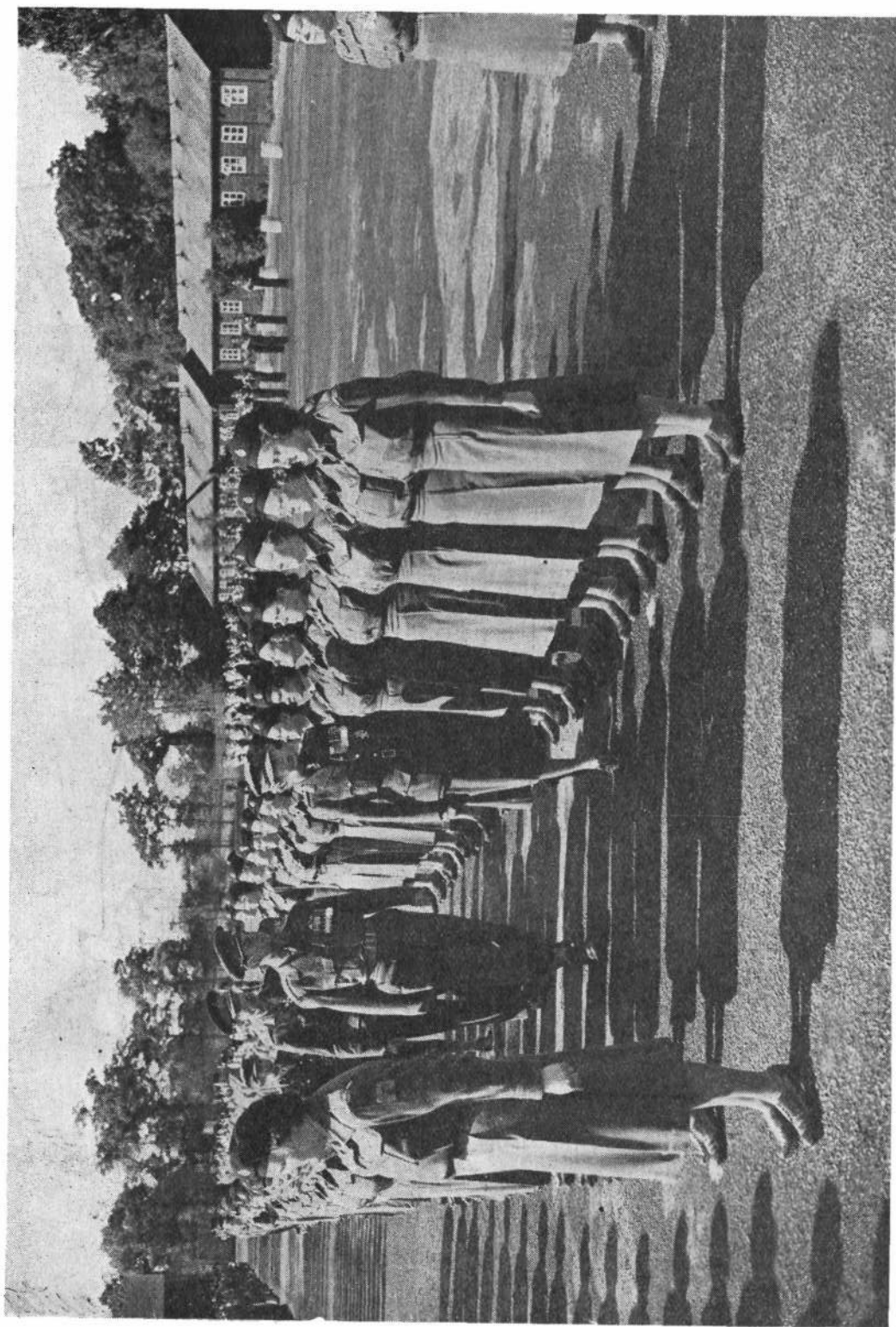
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AN HISTORIC EVENT

For the first time the W.R.A.C. are stationed on "the Rock." Before their departure for Gibraltar they were inspected by Maj.-Gen. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who is seen here accompanied by Lt.-Col. D. C. Curne, R.A., O.C. 46 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. Also in the picture are Lt.-Gen. Sir Charles F. Loeven, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. A.A. Command, and Col. S. Cooke, T.D., D.D.W.R.A.C. A.A. Command. The detachment forms the W.R.A.C. element of a mixed battery of 54 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., and is also the first operational W.R.A.C. unit to serve abroad in peace



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXV

November 1952

No. 4

Contributions should reach the Editor, Col. J. M. Cowper, T.D., Women's Royal Army Corps, The War Office (A.G.16), Stanmore, Middlesex, as early as possible and NOT later than the 6th of the month preceding issue.

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Editorial

As the next issue does not appear until February this is the last opportunity we have to wish all ranks, past and present, the traditional wish of a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We may be being unduly optimistic but it does appear to us that there are some small signs of improvement in this troubled world. Whatever may be in store for us, however, we have one common attribute which should carry us through. To the young, every new year holds promise of adventure; to those of us who are not so young we could not be members of this Association if we had not been numbered amongst the pioneers of Servicewomen. To them adventure is so much of a habit that they are accustomed to look forward with courage however great the troubles that beset them. We have a great tradition to carry forward and we are sure that there is not one of us who will not do her part in seeing that 1953 is a star year in our history.

Short Story Competition

Readers are reminded that the competition announced on page 30 of the March-April issue is to remain open until February 1. Send us a story of not more than 500 words with 1s. entrance fee and win half a guinea.

Dame Leslie Whateley, D.B.E.

My present work has brought me into contact with many ex-A.T.S. and, perhaps for that reason, I have not appreciated the extent to which I have left you all in silence as to my whereabouts. The reason is not far to seek, because eighteen months ago I took on another sort of Directorship from that in which all my ex-A.T.S. friends knew me and no day is ever long enough. Every time I attend our Regimental Association meetings and meet the Editor my conscience, which has pricked me for some months, gives me an extra jab because I have contributed nothing to *The Lioness*.

Before I was accepted in my appointment as Director of the World Bureau of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts it was Dame Helen who spoke for my character and capabilities. The Director I succeeded was an ex-A.T.S. officer and the first member of my World Committee to tell me something of our organisation was yet another ex-A.T.S. officer.

One of the Colour bearers when I was enrolled as a Guide was none other than Mildred Nicoll of War Office fame, whose able care for our clothes and that of all the Women's Services during the war made her a prominent figure in the Services. She is now equipment secretary at Imperial Headquarters, Girl Guides' Association, Great Britain.

To those who know of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts it may seem surprising for, owing to the fact that my office is in London and located immediately opposite British Guide Headquarters, there are many who do not realise that my work is not part of the International Department there. Actually, my Bureau is entirely separate. Great Britain is one of thirty-two Member Countries of the World Association and therefore my contacts with the British Guides are the same as with Brazil, Italy, Haiti or any other of the thirty-one members.

My work is intensely interesting, involving travelling all over the world, and here I must quote the aims of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts for therein lies my *raison d'être*:

The object of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts shall be, through co-operation, to promote unity of purpose and common understanding in the fundamental principles of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting throughout the world and to encourage friendship among girls of all nations within frontiers and beyond.

I have no longer any A.T.S. Regulations to quote and, when things are not all that they should be in a country, I must rely on powers of persuasion coupled with a large measure of diplomacy. Whereas we had seventeen different nationalities in the A.T.S., I now have fifty or more to deal with and,

of course, all on their own ground. The first essential is, therefore, to learn something of each country's history, with its habits and customs, in order that the most essential of all qualifications, human understanding, may be used to the utmost advantage.

Since April, 1951, I have visited Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Great Britain, Holland, Luxembourg, Norway, Mexico, Switzerland and the United States, and five of these I have revisited. You will notice that I include Great Britain as a country visited because it needs as much planning to accept invitations from Great Britain as it does any other country.

I do a great deal of flying, a mode of travel I find both dull and tiring, but it would not be possible to cover the ground unless I did. In the A.T.S. I learnt the overwhelming benefits to both sides through personal contacts and that lesson holds good more than ever in my present work.

I have recently returned from three weeks in Norway, where we held our 14th World Conference, an experience which will remain long in my memory. Representatives from 28 different countries attended, all of us living and working under one roof, and what a roof. The most delightful hotel high up in the mountains in the centre of Norway. Neither language, colour nor creed found any barriers. Problems of every kind were freely discussed, the diverse opinions of East and West only enriching the ultimate decisions.

I only wish I could give a really detailed account of this conference, as indeed of many other experiences of the last eighteen months, solemn and humorous, deeply moving and very light-hearted, all going to make an intensely worth-while whole. I long for my ex-service comrades to share my good fortune in this further service through the children of the world to mankind in general.

Before this appears in print I shall have left for India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon. To one of India's finest State Guide Commissioners (another ex-A.T.S. officer) recently returned to this country I owe a great deal of very able briefing on a delicate and important mission. So you see that, even if such a thing were possible, I am given no chance to forget those with whom I served in the Great War.

In case I am not back in England in time to send you greetings for Christmas, please accept my warmest ones now.

LESLIE E. WHATELEY.

WOMEN'S INTER-SERVICE SPORTS FIXTURES

Fencing—Saturday, December 6, 1952. Aldershot.

Hockey—Wednesday, March 11, 1953 (R.A.F. v. R.N.). Uxbridge or Halton.

Thursday, March 12, 1953 (Army v. R.A.F.). Park Royal.

Friday, March 13, 1953 (R.N. v. Army). Burghfield.

Netball—Monday, March 30, 1953 (Tournament). Halton.

Rifle Shooting—Monday, March 16, 1953. War Office Rifle Range.

Annual General Meeting, 1953

Coronation year happens to coincide with our new plans for the Grand Reunion, and there is to be no such reunion in London next year. Your Council have had under consideration whether any change of plan is advisable in view of the extraordinary programme in London. It has, consequently, been decided that our plans should hinge on the Coronation Ex-Service Review on Sunday, July 5. Provisionally a programme has been arranged as follows:

Friday, July 3—Evening, Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion.

Saturday, July 4—Morning, Branch Secretaries' Meeting. Afternoon, Cricket Match, W.R.A.C. v. ex-A.T.S. Evening, Annual General Meeting.

Sunday, July 5—Afternoon, Ex-Service Review.

The only provisional part of the programme is the cricket match for which, up to now, no ground has been found. If that match can be arranged all members of the Association, whatever their Service, will be entitled to buy tickets, and it is hoped that a sort of informal reunion will result. In the circumstances your Council have agreed to postpone the Annual General Meeting, which would otherwise have been fixed for the afternoon, until the evening. A firm programme should be published in the next issue of *The Lioness* together with amended dates for submission of resolutions, etc.

Your Council fears, however, that no arrangements can be made for accommodation, and members desiring to come will have to make their own arrangements.



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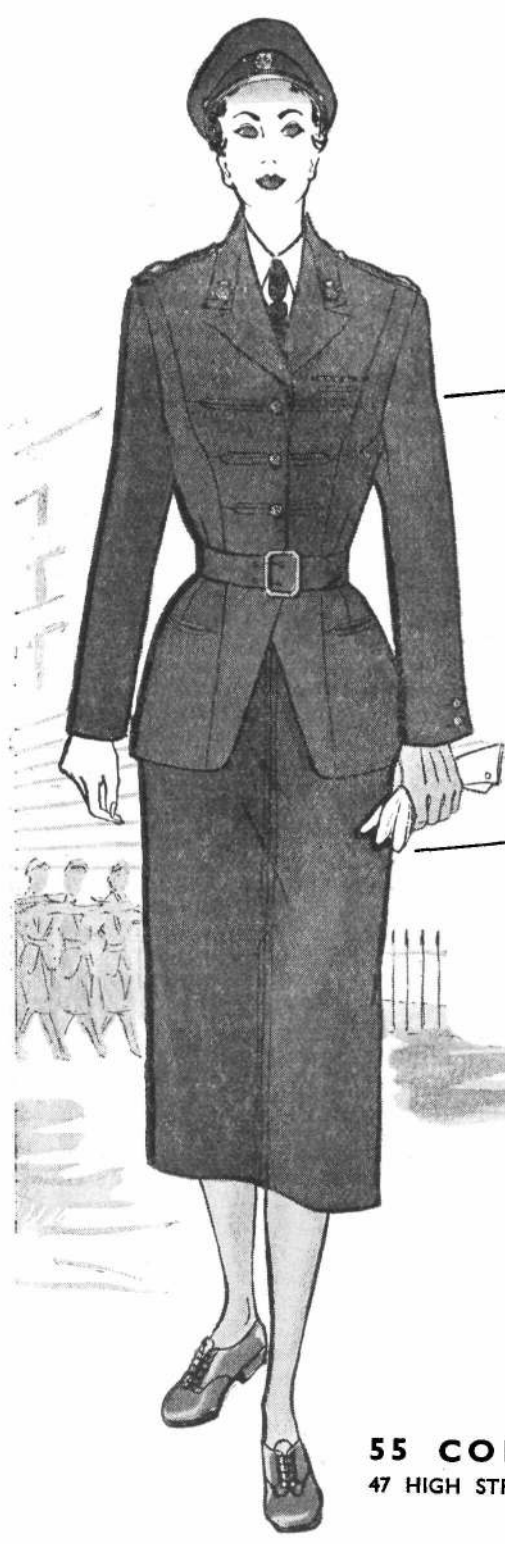


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News of Comrades

Miss Bertha Helsby (ex-Corporal, A.T.S.) would very much like to hear of some of her old comrades of 71 S./L. Battery and 162 Battery of Liverpool. She has recently moved to Westcott House, Sherborne, Dorset. **Mrs. S. Pierce** (ex-S. Comd. *nee* Blagrove) and her husband have left London and have a small farm in Devon. **Miss I. Redgrave**, a member of Q.M.A.A.C., is now working with the Church Army in B.A.O.R. She is still serving with the Army!

Mrs. Winifred Chalker writes from 42 Woodlands Drive, Stanmore, Middlesex, to ask whether it would be possible to get in touch, through *The Lioness*, with any of the old comrades with whom she served in France or England during the First World War. Her name was then **Venn** and she was usually known as **Leslie**. She served at the Canadian Officers' Club in Chesterfield Club, Mayfair, when it first opened, also at 13 Mess (Officers' Mess), Camp B, Harfleur, when that opened. We hope that someone will write to Mrs. Chalker and that *The Lioness* will be the vehicle through which disrupted friendships are restored. Comparing the address with that given by **Mrs. Ellen Chalker** in the Births column we do not think we are guessing too wildly if we presume that we may congratulate Mrs. Winifred Chalker on the birth of a grand-daughter who may, who knows, one day be a member of the corps in the third generation!

Mrs. Court, of Maidstone Branch, has sent us a cutting, unfortunately written in Dutch, giving an account of a visit to Holland sponsored by the British Legion, in connection with the War Graves Commission. The account has been submitted by a member of Maidstone Branch, **Mrs. Promhows**, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., and it includes a photograph of one of the members of the party, **Mrs. R. Hallett**, also ex-Q.M.A.A.C., being presented with a bouquet as a gesture of welcome to Holland, by a little Dutch girl.

Mrs. Waring, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., who describes herself as having been N.C.O. at Holland Park and also at the Coldstream Guards during World War I, tells us that she was in Australia during the last war, where she gave her spare time to Red Cross work. She gives her address as c/o Queensland Trustees, Brisbane, Old Australia, although she was on holiday in England when she wrote to us in August. Her interest in the present generation and her efforts on their behalf are still great. She has sent us a letter, which is unfortunately too long to include, which she wrote to aid recruiting in the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps. This letter, containing an account of the trials and tribulations of our early pioneers, was accepted on behalf of the Australian Army by Brigadier White and we are proud to record this further proof of comradeship and interest between the three generations, all over the world.

Cpl. Lovell's name appearing in our last issue has brought forth a letter from **ex-Sgt. L. I. E. Jones**, who writes from 33 Southsea Road, Patchway, nr. Bristol. Sgt. Jones served at Bulford in

Ward Barracks, attached to the 1st Battalion, Royal Hampshire Regiment, previously known as the Wessex Brigade Training Battalion. She was also at Nos. 8 and 16 Civil Resettlement Units and would like to hear from any comrade who served with her, particularly Cpl. Lovell.

We have also heard from **Anne Brooke** (*nee* Crowther) from Morrisville, 16 Wilmslow Avenue, New Town, Hobart, Tasmania. She complains first of lack of news from the Leeds Branch, so we would be grateful if the Secretary would rectify this omission! Secondly, she asks for news of any members of "D" Company, Group 3/4 Western Command A.T.S., who served with her at Huyton in 1940 and 1941, particularly W/625 "Whitty." They have been in Hobart just a year now and are finding everything delightful. Another ex-A.T.S. member, **Mrs. McGhee**, also lives in Hobart and both have settled down well to their new life. They have met many people, chiefly through church organisations, and are beginning to wonder if the original immigrants to Tasmania all came from Scotland or Yorkshire. Writing in October Mrs. Brooke said they were having a cold snap, but by the time this appears in print they will be having their usual hot summer. Do we envy them?

Apart from news exchanged at **Mrs. King's** party, which is reported on another page, messages were received from absentees. **Mrs. Gibbons (Reid)** had just returned from a visit to Australia; **Mrs. Aburrow (Cable)** was recovering from eight weeks in bed with arthritis; **Miss Dawson-Smith** was very busy helping a nurseryman and fruit farmer; **Mrs. Copledone (Francis)** has been in hospital for a slight operation; **Miss Wilks** has retired and lives in Edinburgh; **Miss Nixon** is going on a visit to Australia. Mrs. King also heard from **Mrs. Jupp (Morgan)**, who was very sorry not to be there to talk over Pont de l'Arches days. She married Major Jupp from that camp and they had two girls and one boy. Mrs. Jupp lost both her husband and boy in the last year of the last war, but her interest in public affairs has not abated. She lives a very busy life running a business and yet finds time to be Divisional Chairman for the local Conservative Association (really a man's job). Her eldest daughter is in the W.R.A.C./T.A. as the local battalion C.O. with the rank of Major. They also have a very nice house in a small village and keep fowls, pigs and dogs! **Miss Muriel A. Hughes**, who has recently returned from South Africa, where she has been since 1922, was very much disappointed not to be at the party. She served first in W.V.R., then W.A.A.C., and, finally, Q.M.A.A.C. She served as an officer on Salisbury Plain at Larkhill, at Rugely Camp, then recruiting in the south and west. After that she was one of the first eight to go up to the Rhine in February, 1919. After demobilisation she continued in Germany on the Rhineland Commission. Her first Q.M.A.A.C. reunion was in Johannesburg. At the end of World War II she returned to London, where she has been teaching until her retirement last month. She lives alone in a quaint "League Lodge" of which the address is: League Lodge, Fernwood Crescent, Oakleigh Road N., London,

N.20. She very much hopes to be kept on the Q.M.A.A.C. list and to renew old acquaintances.

Miss P. Parker, of Ilford Branch, tells us that her holiday this year took her to Catterick, where she spent a delightful week as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Yates (both of Boulogne). Mrs. Yates was **K. Robinson**. During the week she arranged a meeting in Bobbie's Restaurant at Harrogate with **Mrs. Robinson (Caldwell)** and **Mrs. Hannon (Elland)**. They had a delightful time talking over the old days in Boulogne, both happy and otherwise!

Mrs. Ward, writing from 35 Legrams Avenue, Bradford, Yorks, sends us news of herself which we would gladly hear from other members. She and her husband spent their holiday in the Isle of Wight and they took the opportunity of breaking their journey at Guildford to visit the Depot and the Museum. They met a young lance-corporal in the town who added Mrs. Ward to the squad she was conducting to the camp. She was shown round by the second-in-command and the R.S.M. and escorted back by one of the Policewomen. We gather that Mrs. Ward greatly enjoyed the visit and feels that the home of the Corps is in worthy sur-

roundings, the camp looking lovely in the sunshine with its wealth of flowers and great stretches of green. She says she could not help but think of the duckboards she had to walk on to and fro in those old Calais days and assures us that the saying: "The Army of to-day's all right" is surely true. We wish more of the Pioneers of the 1914-18 War would follow Mrs. Ward's example and thus strengthen the bond between us.

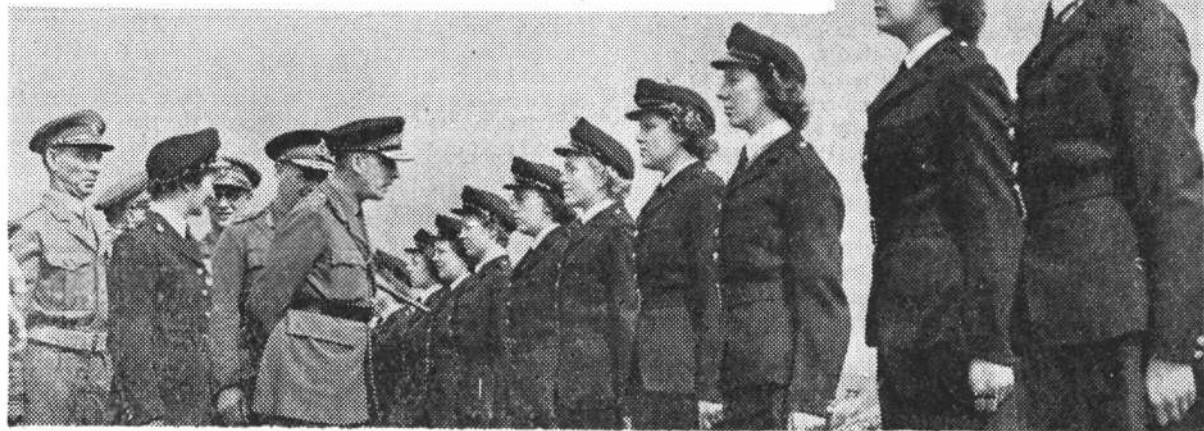
Ex-S. Comd. I. N. B. Walker writes from her caravan which she shares with **ex-J. Comd. Myra Sterling-Hill** at Whipsnade. She is running her own Mobile Library in Dunstable and even takes her books into the Zoo every Saturday morning! They have a large and lively golden retriever and they all like their country existence very much. They think caravan life is a great joy and have had two holidays touring in it as well as using it as a home. They have a small piece of garden near the hotel which provides them with a postal address: The Chequers Inn, Whipsnade, nr. Dunstable, Beds., and would be very glad to give cups of tea to any of their old friends who are visiting the Zoo and would care to call *en route*. Old Chester Comrades will be interested to hear that **ex-S. Comd. V. Haig Brown** is now living a country life in Porlock, Somerset.

Round the Commands

News from Regular Units at home has been very sparse this quarter. We hear from 2 (Indep.) Company at Donnington that they had a very busy month in June. During their Regimental Week-end on June 14-15 they had displays of folk dancing, a drill competition, a dance and a church parade. The Company was, however, even more excited

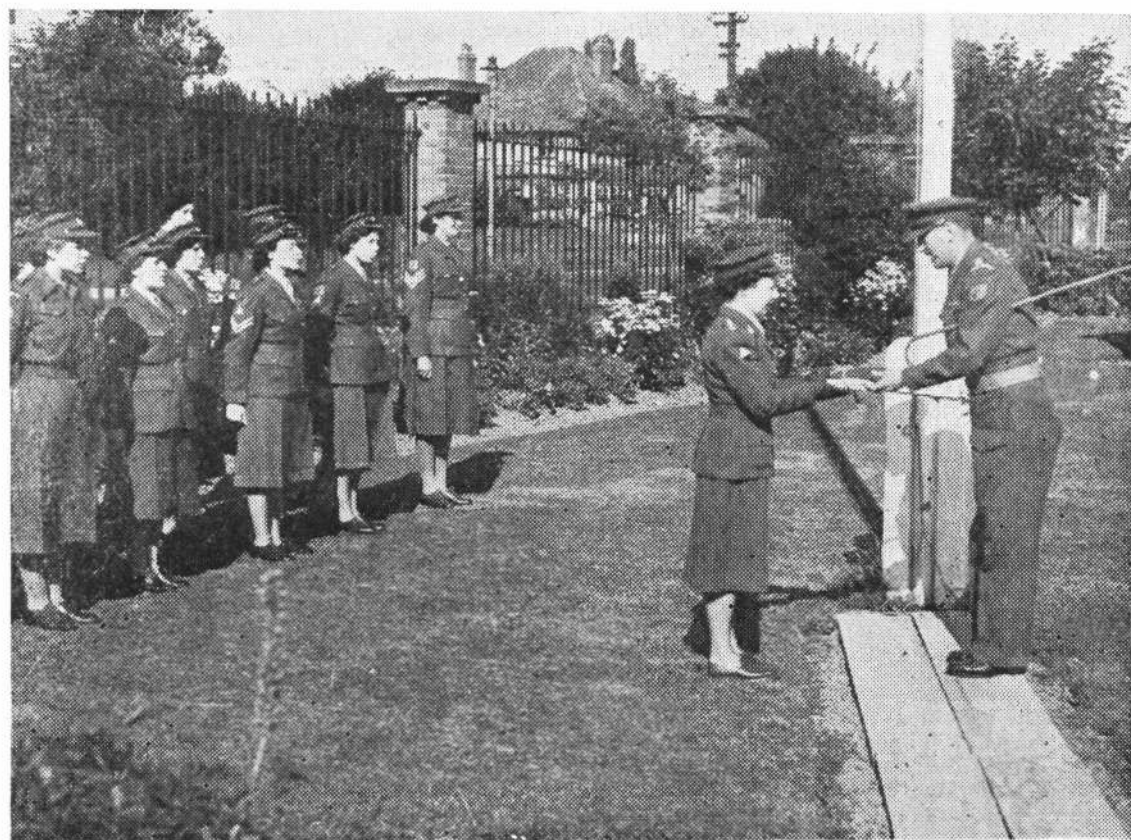


[Express & Star, Wolverhampton]



[Wellington Journal & Shrewsbury News]

2 (Indep.) Coy. first No. 1 Dress parade (a) being inspected, (b) moving off.



[Scarborough Evening News and Mercury]

when they attended a parade of 9 Battalion, R.A.O.C., for the Rededication of the Standard of the R.A.O.C., Donnington, for it was the first time that all ranks paraded in No. 1 Dress.

No. 3 Battalion at Catterick also report a Regimental Week-end, one of the objects being to raise funds for the Association. A dance was held, which included raffles of a basket of fruit and a cake made by Cpl. Gentle. Sgt. Goodall, the proud possessor of two grandsons, excelled herself as a ticket seller and collected more than £10 on the raffle. A fair on the W.R.A.C. parade ground was equally successful, realising some £45, a sum well beyond estimates! A special tea was served that afternoon by Cpl. Gentle and the next day the week-end ended with a church parade at which the salute was taken by Brigadier W. S. Clarke, C.B.E., D.S.O., Commander R.A.C. Training Brigade.

We have had two reports from 11 (Indep.) Company since we last went to press. All those of us who have served at Chilwell know that life there cannot long be dull. In the world of sport their team returned triumphant from the Northern Command Athletic Meeting; their netball team reached the finals of the Inter-Unit competition at Aldershot and three of their cricket team went to the Cricket Festival to play for the Command. Perhaps more exciting was the success of L/Cpl. Westley at the North Midland District Individual

Cooking Competition at Catterick. No doubt the W.R.A.C. Sergeants' Mess will profit by her efforts. On June 22 the C.O.D. was open to the public and the programme included a short drumhead service, a march past and a cricket match between the W.R.A.C. and R.A.O.C. We are not quite sure who claimed the victory. The rest of the news is of comings and goings, particularly on marriage. We wish all of them the best of luck.

No. 5 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment were recently presented with a W.R.A.C. flag by Capt. M. Franks on her retirement. The photograph shows Lt.-Col. A. T. Sladen, O.B.E., R. Signals, commanding the Regiment, handing over the flag to Capt. M. Leeming at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, on August 22.

5 Passing-out Parade of Officer Cadets

The fifth Passing-out Parade of officer cadets of the Women's Royal Army Corps took place at Huron Camp, Hindhead, on October 1, 1952. Maj.-Gen. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal graciously took the salute and spoke to the cadets passing out. Owing to rain, the full parade had to be cancelled and a modified version took place in the Drill Shed. This boiled down to an

inspection and an address in which Her Royal Highness spoke of the symbolic meaning of our green uniform, the evergreen qualities of which should be characteristic of the Corps, a freshness of outlook, a constancy of hope and endeavour and a steady healthy development. The ceremonial sash for the officer cadet who has shown the most outstanding qualities of leadership was presented to Senior Under Officer G. J. Smith and the certificate for the first in order of merit went to Junior Under Officer W. H. Kittermaster. Sixteen officer cadets passed out.

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

In a letter to you I suggested the idea of a luncheon reunion which might be more agreeable to some of the older members of Q.M.A.A.C. I have had several delightful letters from Old Comrades and Mrs. Stockwell (Blighty) and I met when she was on holiday near here. We talked things over and would very much have liked to arrange a meeting in October, but I fear that the notice is much too short.

There may be others who would like to join us for lunch and I should like to propose that we try to fix a date for, say, April of next year, possibly the second Wednesday—the 15th. So far the following have intimated that they are interested: Coppin, England (Blighty), Ballard, Eborn, Jen Edis, "Tiny" Burnett, "Chub" Watson, Pat Hartley, Woodie, Robinson (Louis Bouillet). I am sure there must be others from Impasse du Nord, Louis Bouillet, Cauchoise, etc., who would like to come along. If so, so much the better. Mrs. Stockwell gave her address in the last Gazette. If you would now publish mine anyone interested could write to either of us and I would then ask you to publish the names of those likely to come in the next issue of *The Lioness*.

The suggestion at the moment is that we should have the ordinary lunch at the Ex-Service Women's Club in Lower Sloane Street, notifying the Club in advance as to the number likely to be present. Impasse Old Comrades will be more than pleased to hear that I have had an extremely nice letter from Miss Dawson Smith. She could not possibly come in October, but we hope that she might be able to manage a date next year. She has very happy remembrances of the girls in her charge at Impasse which I am sure will be warmly reciprocated by those who were there.

Coppin, now Mrs. Curtis and, alas, a widow, would welcome anyone who got in touch with her. Her address is 293 Mawneys Road, Romford, Essex.

I also received a very nice letter from an ex-A.T.S. member who lives in Gloucester. Unfortunately I have mislaid her letter. She would like to get into touch with some of her old comrades and I would suggest that she writes to the Gazette giving her address.

Yours sincerely,

A. STOCKER

(nee Paterson, 668 Q.M.A.A.C.).

36 Belevedere Road,
Bournemouth, Hants.

October 6, 1952.

Dear Editor,

As an old Rouenite myself in World War I, I, too, was very interested in Mrs. Stocker's letter in the April issue of the gazette and also to see in the following issue that it had brought forth news of her friends and comrades, many of whose names are familiar to me. Mrs. Stocker's, or Pat's, mention of the Annual Rouen Socials which were held for some years in London awoke memories of the many Rouenites who came to these annual gatherings—many alas scattered and unknown to us now. What happy evenings they were! Time marches on!

Still, "old soldiers never die, they simply fade away." So runs the saying, but they have a habit of turning up again and it is always a thrill to meet or hear of any of them from the past.

Before her marriage, Paterson (Pat) was a regular member of the London Branch and for a time was a very efficient Secretary to the Branch, acting jointly with the late Mrs. Senn (Harcourt-Brown, also of Rouen). The London Branch missed her very much when, on her marriage, she went to live at Bournemouth. I think her idea of a reunion luncheon in London some time is a good one and I should be very pleased to join the party if and when it can be arranged.

Now I have retired and am living in Ilford. I am still enjoying my association with the London Branch and have also joined the Ilford Branch. Just over a year ago the Ilford Branch had a new member, Mrs. Turnbull, who had come over from Australia on her marriage and is now living in Leytonstone. We were very pleased to welcome her to our reunions. Our introduction to Mrs. Turnbull came via Mrs. Bessie Tait (White), also from Australia, who was over in England visiting her daughter. We quickly got in touch with Mrs. Turnbull with very good results. I regret that I do not know her maiden name. Both she and Mrs. Tait were members of the Sydney C.C. I believe that in Mrs. Tait's honour (it was her first visit to England for 30 years, she having married a serviceman from Rouen) a reunion "bon voyage" party was held on November 18, 1951. So, after 30 years, six of them, formerly of the British Officers' Club, Rouen, met at a farewell party—Mrs. Molly Davis (Bradley) from Cheltenham with her husband, Mrs. Beattie Eels (Nichol) from Faversham, Kent, Louie Ison, Mrs. South and Janet Strang. They were 12 strong, including two ex-Service husbands—a really lovely party in Mrs. Tait's honour to cheer her on her way before she returned to Australia.

I keep in touch with a number of Rouenites. Dorothy Hoad at Torquay is in much better health than in previous years. Beattie, a regular London Branch member for years, is now living in Scotland with an aged mother.

Yours sincerely,

E. U. WINTER,

189 Q.M.A.A.C.

28 Seymour Gardens,
Ilford,
Essex.

October 1, 1952.

W.R.A.C. Regimental Dinner

The second Regimental Dinner was held at the Hyde Park Hotel on Thursday, October 2. Maj.-Gen. H.R.H. The Princess Royal presided and the principal guests were Field-Marshal Sir William and Lady Slim, Gen. Sir John and Lady Crocker and Sir George and Lady Herbert, thus representing the Army Council in force with the C.I.G.S., the A.G. and the Permanent Under Secretary. Among serving and retired officers present all were delighted to see Brigadier Tyrwhitt and Col. Hammond (*nee* Haynes) and, as the list of retired officers grows, the Regimental Dinner promises to be yet another of the many reunions held by different sections of our three Corps.

News from the Territorial Army

This has been the camping season, and the first in which the emphasis has been everywhere on the technical efficiency of the woman at the job she would be called upon to do in war. It is five years since recruiting started for women in A.A. Command, four years since Home Commands formed their units. There has been ample opportunity to weld these units into efficient training machines and, in the process, a considerable amount of technical efficiency has been achieved. Nevertheless, this year's technical training camps have been something of an experiment which, from all accounts, appear to have been an unqualified success.

In particular, we have had reports from various Battalions, including 305 (West Riding) Battalion whose technical personnel were trained, the drivers at Catterick, R.A.O.C. at Royston and R.A.P.C. at the Regimental Pay Office at Nottingham. The General Duties personnel went to Rolston, near Hornsea, where many had their first experience of living under canvas. The general opinion was that the elimination of most of the chores which are necessary in a hutted camp more than compensated for any of the minor disadvantages of canvas.

From 310 (Southern Command) Battalion we hear that they were able to hold their whole camp under the auspices of 7 (Training) Battalion, R.E.M.E. The majority of the Battalion were drivers and were engaged in Driver Training. The rest were employed in their respective trades as cooks and orderlies and as clerks in the offices of 7 (Training) Battalion, R.E.M.E. So well did these women work that the men were more than loth to part with them at the end of camp!

The Scottish Command Battalions were encamped at Glencorse, where the efficiency of their training was evident by the high percentage who passed their trade tests. The highlight of the camp was, however, the visit of our Controller Commandant, Maj.-Gen. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. She inspected a parade on which were represented both Regulars and Territorials, took the salute at a march past and watched displays of squad drill, P.T., netball, convoy drill and Scottish country dancing. Before going home the

numerous guests were entertained for tea in the Officers' Mess, where many had the honour of being presented to Her Royal Highness.

No. 324 (Western Command) Battalion went at full strength in Castlemartin and were the first W.R.A.C. unit to form part of the permanent staff. The Battalion took over the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, providing the cooks and mess orderlies. The women were also employed on the M.T. Park, in offices and stores and, in fact, were ready to do any job required, even to sewing on Divisional signs for "Z" Reservists. The camp was something of an experiment, but a heat wave helped to ensure that it should turn out to be the happiest camp since the formation of the Battalion.

No. 53 Signal Squadron went to Kinmel Park, near Rhyl, in North Wales. They were housed by a Regular R.A. Unit and trained with a Signal Unit. More than half were successful in passing their trade tests. The camp was in every way successful, but it was particularly memorable in that it was visited by ex-A.T.S. Sgt. Molly FitzGerald, who was spending a holiday arranged by the British Legion at Prestatyn. Many readers will remember Molly's broadcast in a Wilfred Pickles show and will recall that she was badly wounded whilst serving with an A.A. unit at the beginning of the late war. She is unable to walk but, for anybody feeling sorry for themselves, there can be no better tonic than a meeting with Molly. She just bubbles with good spirits and humour. We even managed to get a male R.S.M. to push her chair up some of the hills during our tour round camp. Then she had tea in the Sergeants' Mess and called at the girls' billets so that they all had a chance of meeting her and presenting her with flowers and cake. The talk for days afterwards was all about how lovely she was to look at, how wonderful to talk to and how proud we are that we belong to a Service of which she was once a member.

From the Cheshire T.A. Association we receive two very different sorts of news. In the first place we hear that W.R.A.C. members of 33 (Mixed) A.A. Signal Squadron distinguished themselves by operating a Line Field Switchboard in a recent combined exercise. In spite of a spirited attack by "enemy" paratroopers these communications are reported to have remained open all day. From the same source we hear that L/Cpl. Sheila Jones of 493 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), has become the first woman Associate of the Institute of Insurance. Consequently she was awarded second prize in the Wallace Prize Competition by the Liverpool Marine Underwriters' Association. Here again she is the first woman in the field.

No. 65 (M.) A.A. Fire Command Troop divided their camp between Yorkshire and Weybourne. The first week, in Yorkshire, was spent with a Regular Fire Command Troop who soon took the Territorials under their wing and made them feel at home. They gave a great deal of assistance with new methods of training plotters and D.O.A.s. In the A.A. Practice Camp at Weybourne the Troop was under canvas and thoroughly enjoyed itself, demonstrating its newly-acquired skill.



Top left: Sgt. West's winning netball team is congratulated.

★

Top right: Dame Helen inspecting University Cadets.

★

Centre: Decorating the gymnasium for the Harvest Festival Service.

★

Below: Headquarter Company march past the Saluting Base.

(Courtesy) Surrey Advertiser



Depot Notes

The Depot held a Regimental week-end on September 13-14 and were proud and happy to welcome, amongst others, two particularly distinguished guests. The first to arrive was the Director who was "home" in time to present the prizes for the Saturday afternoon sports. After tea Brigadier Coulshed spoke to Cadets from six University T.A. Companies who were attached to the Depot for annual training in lieu of camp. The Unit Branch of the Association ran a most enjoyable dance on the Saturday evening which resulted in a profit of £20 for the Benevolent Fund.

Our second guest, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, arrived on Sunday morning and attended the Harvest Festival Service. The special collection of £7 1s. 0d. also went to the Benevolent Fund. Dame Helen took the salute at the march past after the service and gave an inspiring talk to members of the permanent staff. A visit to the Museum and a concert by the Corps Band brought a most successful week-end to a close.



Obituaries

MISS G. M. E. DARKE

We have learned with regret of the death of Miss G. M. E. Darke, ex-A.T.S., and are indebted to her sister, Mrs. Fairbourne, for the following account of her service. Mrs. Fairbourne has our deepest sympathy.

Miss Darke joined the A.T.S. in May, 1939, at Derby and was mobilised early in September, being posted to Catterick Camp, where she spent some considerable time working in the Administrative Section with the Royal Corps of Signals. She spent periods of her service at Hull, Beverley, Whalley, Preston, in London, and a fairly long while at Chilwell in "D" Company, Chilwell Group. She was released in September, 1946, with the rank of Staff Sergeant. She loved her life in the A.T.S. and attempted to rejoin in the Territorials in Manchester but was debarred by age. From her demobilisation till her death on May 7 this year, she held a resident post as secretary to a medical practitioner in Manchester.

MRS. ELIZABETH HUGHES HALLETT

The following notice is reproduced by kind permission of *The Scotsman*:

Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes Hallett, whose death is announced, was a well-known writer and broadcaster on cookery and allied domestic subjects, the author of books on cookery and formerly a contributor to *The Scotsman* as well as to the *Glasgow Herald* and the *Bulletin*. Trained at Edinburgh College of Domestic Science, and holding its First Class Diploma, she was at one time on its teaching staff. Her part in the radio programme, "A Scots-woman's Diary," was always most popular, for she had just the right friendly approach and could always make her matter interesting as well as helpful. During the First World War Mrs. Hughes Hallett was one of the officers (or Unit Administrators as they were then called) in Scotland with the W.A.A.C., with whom she served both at home and overseas. For her services she was mentioned in despatches. A native of Dollar, she is survived by her husband, Mr. Cyril Hughes Hallett, and by a son and a daughter.

MISS NUFFELL

Readers will be sorry to hear of the death of Miss Nuffell, also an ex-officer of Q.M.A.A.C., but we have not heard any details.

MRS. WINIFRED POWELL, O.B.E.

Dame Helen writes:

"Mrs. Winifred Powell, O.B.E., joined the W.A.A.C. in 1917 and served as Deputy Controller in a Home Command. In the autumn of 1918 she was transferred to the W.R.A.F. and was Assistant Commandant I (equivalent rank, Lieut.-Colonel) at the Air Ministry. For many years she represented Birmingham Branch on the Council of Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Comrades' Association and attended all meetings with most praiseworthy regularity. She did many kind actions and was always ready to help an old comrade."

Retirement

COL. E. I. W. HOBKIRK, C.B.E., T.D.

Col. Hobkirk's many friends will join with us in saying how sorry we are to say good-bye to her as an active officer and in wishing her well in her new job in civilian life. Before ever she joined the Army her career was not undistinguished as she was a Justice of the Peace, certainly the youngest woman J.P. we have ever met! She was also a F.A.N.Y. and on the formation of 6th Western M.T. Company, became a Section-Leader in the A.T.S. and, later, a Company Assistant which she was when war broke out. She remained a Regimental officer, chiefly with M.T. units, until February, 1944, when she became D.A.D.A.T.S., Western Command. June, 1945, saw her appointment as A.D.A.T.S., Mid-West District, the following year D.D.A.T.S., London District, and, exactly a year later, D.D.A.T.S. at the War Office, where she completed her three-year tour and earned the C.B.E. She has now completed a little over two years at Eastern Command and six years as a full Colonel and so, as we have not yet invented a super-numerary list for full Colonels of the W.R.A.C., she is turning her talents to civilian life.

Her charm and sympathy, combined with a wide cultural outlook and deep interest in all human problems, were qualities she freely gave as a Regimental officer, at District and Command Headquarters and as Deputy at the War Office, where she was during the most important policy-forming years of the Women's Royal Army Corps. To those who allow themselves to be deceived by outward appearances, her inflexibility when once her mind is made up comes as something of a shock. It has always been, however, a source of comfort to those for whom she fought, for no thought of self prevents her from doing what she considers right. All who served with her and under her benefited from the experience.

Now, after a brief holiday, she has gone to take up an appointment with the Bristol Group of Hospitals, where her work consists of the supervision of the nurses' hostels in the Group. Each hostel has its own warden and so Col. Hobkirk finds herself in a position not unlike that of a D.D.W.R.A.C., responsible for the work of others. We feel sure that she will carry out her new duties with the enthusiasm she has always shown in the Army and we hope she will enjoy them as much as we feel sure she will be appreciated by her new colleagues.

Appointments

The following appointments of senior officers have been made and either have been or shortly will be implemented.

Col. E. S. Macfie, T.D., D.D.W.R.A.C. War Office; Col. M. Railton, D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command; Col. M. Crewe-Read, T.D., D.D.-W.R.A.C. Eastern Command; Lt.-Col. M. D. Morgan, T.D., Commandant W.R.A.C. School of Instruction; Lt.-Col. D. C. M. Hingston, Second-in-Command Medical Services and W.R.A.C.

Records; Lt.-Col. M. M. K. Marsh, A.D.W.R.A.C. 5 A.A. Group; Lt.-Col. M. M. Bell, A.D.W.R.A.C. Middle East Land Forces; Lt.-Col. S. M. Crawley, A.D.W.R.A.C. 2 A.A. Group.

Students at the Second Course of the W.R.A.C. Staff College have been posted as under:

Major R. D. Allerton, D.A.A.G. (Welfare) H.Q. Middle East Land Forces; Major N. M. Jamieson, D.A.P.M./W.R.A.C.; Major D. H. I. Wilson, D.A.A.G. British Troops, Egypt; Major I. M. Smith, W.R.A.C. Adviser, 65 A.A. Brigade; Capt. M. W. Hickson, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. Lowland District (on promotion); Major P. M. Lipscomb, O.C. Cadet Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction; Capt. S. W. Whitworth, Staff Captain, War Office, W.R.A.C.1; Capt. R. B. L. Puxley, G.S.O.3, War Office, G.S.(W)3; Capt. J. L. Rankin, Staff Captain "A," Western Command; Capt. S. C. Puckle, M.B.E., T.D., Staff Captain "A" (Manpower), B.A.O.R.; Capt. M. E. Clarke, G.S.O.3 1 (B), Betfor; Capt. C. A. Cooke, Staff Captain "A," Far East Land Forces.

The following officers have joined the third course at the W.R.A.C. Staff College:

Majors A. Carswell, E. M. H. Seeman de Barcaye, J. Fisher, E. V. Watts, B. Rosenbaum and M. Anderson; Capts. D. A. Crofton, M. G. Wilton, J. T. Croke, M. B. Lathom, M. F. Harford and S. W. Foley.

Reunions

Q.M.A.A.C. Overseas Officers

Mrs. O. K. King (Jordan) again entertained her old comrades to tea at her delightful home in Streatham. For the first time, this year, her guests were unable to walk round her garden as almost torrential rain poured for the whole afternoon. *The Lioness* was again honoured by an invitation, which was gratefully accepted and much enjoyed. Some incidental news was gleaned which appears in the column of News of Comrades, but nothing can replace or describe the sense of comradeship at this unique reunion of those who served as pioneers over 35 years ago. One item of interest which we think appears in no other column is that Miss Turner, late of Reading University, has now retired and at the time of the party was in transit to her permanent residence in Mull. May she enjoy it but emerge occasionally for it is too far for most of us. Those present were: Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Miss Phippen, Mrs. Garrard (Barr), Miss Wotzel, Miss D. M. Johnson, Mrs. Grundy (Saunders), Miss Bertrand, Mrs. Newton (Betts), Mrs. Clifton (Jones), Miss L. Putron, Miss Bourne, Miss Turner, Miss Cowden and Miss Grundy.

Lancashire Training Centre Dinner Club

Only six members of the club turned up this year but nothing that the Chairman and Secretary could say would persuade members that we should give up the club. By the amount of gossip that went on we feel they must be right! Suffice it to say that the next reunion is to be in the North on September 12, and it is hoped that it will be held at Ripley itself. Future activities were confined to a pre-Grand Reunion drinks party so that we all remain together on entrance to the hall. We were



*Naafi service for Officer Cadets
at the W.R.A.C. School of
Instruction, Liphook, Surrey.*



*Restaurant of the Naafi permanent club
for Ratings and Other Ranks, Chatham.*



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particularly sorry to be without Miss Anne Bell and Mrs. Lynas-Smith (Lynas-Grey), both of whom were ill in hospital. The Secretary was asked to write to them both.

News from Branches

AYR

Our branch continues to flourish and we have resumed our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month in the T.A. Rooms, Wellington Square. We are pleased to report that some new members have joined our Branch and we would welcome any others. Our summer activities consisted of an evening and an all-day coach tour, both of which were most enjoyable. In September we had a visit from the Glasgow Branch and, once again, the weather was perfect. All agreed that it was a most enjoyable day, finishing up with a visit to the local theatre. Our Branch members were all delighted to welcome a previous member, Mary Savage, home on holiday from Chicago. We held a theatre night followed by a supper when we had an opportunity of hearing Mary's impressions of life on the "other side." This proved most interesting. She has now flown back, so we wish her all the best and look forward to seeing her again soon.

BATH

During the summer we have had some enjoyable outings. First a mystery coach tour followed by supper at the Vineyards, then a visit to Wellow Church to see the murals, and on this occasion we were entertained by a friend of Mrs. Bunyan (one of our members) and to supper at Mrs. Bunyan's house. The last outing this year was to Longleat to see the house, followed by a coach tour and supper at the Vineyards. We are arranging a jumble sale to take place on October 25. Our meetings still take place on the first and third Monday of each month.

BIRMINGHAM

Our winter session opened on Tuesday, September 9 with a social evening, which was attended by 27 members. The competitions and raffles were thoroughly enjoyed by all present and everyone voted that it was a very pleasant evening indeed. By the time these notes are published we shall have had a visit in October from an Inspector of the Women Police from whom we expect a very interesting talk on the work of this Force. We shall also have had our Annual Dinner on November 11. We look forward to a most enjoyable time as it is the one meeting in the year when one is able to chat over old times with comrades who live at too great a distance to attend every month.

ILFORD

Our meetings are still well attended. At the W.A.A.C. Reunion we were delighted to meet Mrs. Hetty Smith (Slater of Eastern Command). We lost all contact with Mrs. Smith during the air-raids on London in 1940, but are very pleased to have her back with us at our monthly meetings. She and Miss Parker spent a very happy week-end

with Miss Ada Yetton at her bungalow at Bexhill-on-Sea. Ten members of the Branch are hoping to attend the London Branch dinner.

LONDON

During the summer months we continued our meetings on the first and third Thursdays and our programme has included a beetle drive, which was as boisterous as usual, an evening of charades, which was spontaneous but quite amusing, and another visit from Mr. Finlay Dunn, who entertained us with songs at the piano. On October 2 we held a spelling bee, which was organised by Mrs. Hayne. This proved to be a most instructive as well as entertaining evening, and we had two teams to make it Q.M.A.A.C. versus A.T.S. Q.M.A.A.C. members are to be congratulated on the way they shot ahead at the start and kept the lead till the end.

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the Branch will be held on December 4 and we would like to see as many as possible at that meeting.

MAIDSTONE

At our June meeting we invited members from Tunbridge Wells and three came along. During the evening we went into the garden at the back of the Ex-Service Club and had some snaps taken. (It is regretted that we cannot afford to reproduce the one sent.—Ed.) In July, in spite of the weather, some of us went to Hastings. After lunch we met Miss Ostler of St. Leonards. We had a very enjoyable afternoon listening to the Orchestra and having a talk across the tea table. Miss Murray and Mrs. Court, Chairman and Secretary respectively, were elected at our last meeting to serve on the Joint Council of Ex-Service Organisations. We are hoping in the near future to have a plaque of the Association badge to hang with those of other services in the Ex-Services Club.

16 BN. BRANCH, MIDDLE EAST

We hoped our Association Outing would be a visit to the Sinai Desert, across the Great Bitter Lake, but as nearly 100 women wished to come and there was only one launch this idea had to be shelved. Instead we arranged a picnic at St. Patrick's Leave Camp, Kabrit. Both companies were well represented and all were quickly settled in bamboo chalets along the beach. Bathing was soon in full swing, whilst others indulged in camel rides, horse riding, trips in rowing boats, etc. Lunch was much enjoyed, especially ice cream and pineapples. Tea was served in the NAAFI canteen and the buses then arrived to take us back to Fayid and Moascar. It was a good day, enjoyed by all, and there were many enquiries of "When can we have another?"

NORFOLK

The Branch has settled very happily into a room at Ailwyn Hall, Thorpe Road, Norwich, for monthly meetings. Refreshments are such an asset to members travelling some distance. Miss Challoner gave the meeting a shock on September 3 when she told members she was leaving her job at Norwich City Hall on the following Friday and

flying from London on the Monday to start work in the Government Office in Uganda, East Africa, on Wednesday, September 10. How small the world seems nowadays! The branch has given her a black silk evening bag to wish her the best of luck in her new life. Miss Challoner expects to be home and at a meeting in April, 1955. Miss Challoner wanted to get in touch with Miss Phyllis, Hyde, Dorset, whose address was mislaid. We are glad to let her have it now: P.O. Box 10, Entebbe, Uganda.

We would like to express our thanks to Mrs. Robinson, secretary of Ipswich Branch, who arranged for one of her members to visit one of ours, Mrs. Adams, in hospital with polio. She took some fruit and flowers and sent a detailed report. Our Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Withy, was also able to call and found Mrs. Adams very cheerful, learning to walk with caliper. She is now at home with her husband and two of her four small children.

The branch goes to the theatre to see "Show Time" on October 11. Holidays have kept the meetings on the small side, but all seem to have had a nice time with fairly favourable weather. The raffle will be held, as usual, at the January meeting, tickets 6d. each from Secretary or members.

READING

On a lovely sunny afternoon in May we visited Windsor Castle. We saw round St. George's Chapel and the State Apartments and then had tea in the town before returning home. In June some of our members went to the Royal Tournament and enjoyed the performance. In July Miss Turner very kindly invited us to St. George's Hall for an evening Garden Party, and we had the pleasure of meeting three members of the Newbury Branch there. Miss Turner is leaving Reading and can no longer be our President. We gave her a cut-glass vase with our best wishes for her future happiness and members who were not able to be present will like to know how delighted she was with it.

Formation Signs

The Museum Committee draws the attention of all members to the appeal for formation signs published in the May-June, 1951, issue of *The Lioness*. A few have been received but not enough to make a display. There must be hundreds lying about in drawers, forgotten. Look them out and send them to the Museum Secretary, W.R.A.C. Depot, Queen's Camp, Guildford.

Four Years

BY PTE. GARDENER, W.R.A.C.

It began one Tuesday. I was bored to tears. What could I do? Then, quite suddenly, I thought of the Army. There was no reason for me to think of it. My father was in it during the war but he rarely spoke of it. I asked my mother what she thought about it and she said it was up to me but I had better think it over first. I thought it over and the idea still stuck. From then on my life was to begin again!

It started in a small recruiting office in Birmingham. I, a "mere human," was suddenly changed into someone who was under Military Law. I was told to report to Snowhill Station at 10.30 one morning, where I would be met by an N.C.O. I spent some time trying to figure out what an N.C.O. was; eventually my father told me. On arriving at the station I found that there were more girls like myself, all destined to spend the next five weeks together. We climbed aboard the train in a subdued manner; for us the adventure had begun.

On arrival at Guildford we were met by a sergeant, who bought us a cup of tea—the last cup in "Civvy Street." Then we clambered into a truck and were off once again. All too soon we were at Queen's Camp. By this time we were all friends and we looked at each other with the same thought written—Oh! so clearly—on our faces: "What have we done now?" or "I wish I was home."

To my eyes it seemed to be a rambling place, with huts and buildings everywhere. The most arresting thing of all was an enormous square, black and shining in the slight drizzle. I wondered what it was used for, little realising how soon I would find out. We were taken to a building called the Company Office, where we were given a number and the name of our Company. I thought I would never remember the number, but I did. After this a bright looking corporal arrived on the scene—such a smart looking lass. The uniform! Those shoes and buttons! Everything we thought we would look like when we received our kit. How sadly mistaken we were! During the first week we were fitted out with kit which had immediately to be marked to prevent misunderstandings amongst us all. Then, one morning, at the unearthly hour of 5.30, someone opened the door of our barrack room and told us to get our feet on the floor—or else! We got—and quick! Then the fun and games started. There were ties that could not be tied, collars that refused to stay in one place, shoes that were too tight, and so one after another we had to be sorted out by a very patient N.C.O.

Now for the great expanse of tarmac. What did I wonder for? I knew all too soon what it was for. Marching—that is if you could call the tripping, stumbling, first attempts, marching. We learnt like so many before us, the hard way, and strange things happened. Shoes that were easy on the feet now seemed tight and pinched. One had to make one's arms and legs perform unusual movements, but it was worth every blister and aching muscle eventually to march to the sound of the band, shoes shining, buttons gleaming and everyone in step. Five weeks later we were due for posting out. We had a large parade. Who would have thought we were the same girls who had arrived five weeks previously—these smart girls in step with their heads up? It gave me a thrill to march to the band. It still does and I think it always will.

I was posted from Guildford as a House Orderly to a place I can honestly say I had never heard of—Chester! There I spent two and a half years. It was wonderful. I had a good job, friends whom I should never otherwise have known and lovely surroundings. Then something happened to

change my life again. One of the girls started talking about overseas service. To me this sounded unheard of. Me! A mere House Orderly! What chance had I to go overseas? Nevertheless I put my application in and imagine my surprise when it came through. I was loth to leave my friends and home, but I had "made my bed" and so off I went, back to the Depot at Guildford.

This time I was an "old sweat" and could not but look back and think how surprised I would have been had anyone told me when I first left the Depot that I should pass through those gates again. Such is life. For nearly three weeks we waited on draft, being kitted with billycans, death blankets, K.D. and odds and ends. The draft before us had been flown over owing to the crisis in Egypt. Lucky people! How I wished we could fly but there were so many of us that we had to go by sea. We left Guildford one cold, dark morning which, to most of us, seemed like the middle of the night. We arrived, after a great deal of flapping and rushing around looking for lost cases, at Liverpool. We were given a meal at the Reception Hall, then lined up for our berthing cards. One mad scramble for the bus and we were off again, this time for further afield. The *Georgic* was a ship of 29,000 tons. To us she was the *Queen Mary* and she was ours for ten whole days. Several of us were interviewed by newspaper reporters and had photographs taken. For ten days we saw nothing but sea and distant land. Some of the girls were sea-sick but, at the least, it was exciting. When we docked at Port Said it was with some regret.

After staying at Port Said for some five hours we continued on our way and reached Fanara Wharf at six in the morning. We were taken ashore in "Z" craft and then by truck to Fayid, where we spent two days before being taken to Moascar, where I am at present.

My opinion of the Army? It is a grand life if you like it and, anyway, it is what you make it. For people who cannot take orders and muck in—don't join. For my part I would not change the last four years for I am glad to have seen places I could never otherwise have visited and to have had the opportunities the Army has given me.

The W.R.A.C. Association

General Secretary: Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, S.W.3. Subscription (including *The Lioness*): Life £5, four years £1, annual 5s. Concession for serving other ranks who do not receive *The Lioness*: Annual 1s. 6d. Extra copies of *The Lioness* may be ordered separately from the General Secretary by individual members, branches and units for 3s. per annum. The charge for non-members is 1s. a copy.

The New Grammar School Bradford

A little more than a year ago some ex-members of "C" Company, Leeds Sub-District Group A.T.S. revisited their old barracks, now the New Grammar School, in Manningham Lane, Bradford. They were met inside the school by the Secretary who,

throughout the tour, was most patient and tolerant of all the whims and fancies of the party. After all, he could not have been too pleased at the allusions to the "rat pit," nor the enquiry as to whether there had been any *more* suicides by leaping from the balcony. The school is most beautifully fitted out now and it was a treat to walk on the polished wooden floors, while remembering the rough pitted concrete of the war. The rooms now have panelled walls and rows of well-made chairs and desks replace the wooden forms and trestle tables of earlier days. Most of the rooms used by the A.T.S. are classrooms now, and the party were also shown many which must have been the men's barrack rooms, for they were the "Out of Bounds" parts. The documentation room, the courts-martial rooms and workrooms are all now classrooms; the Messing Office is the Headmaster's study, and the little room beside the Messing Office, where Marian Richardson and Ethel Allsop spent so much of their time at the switchboard, is the Headmaster's secretary's office. The gym was visited and one member, at least, of the party gave silent thanks that *that* place of torture had not been completed in time for A.T.S. P.T. But the same member wished that the swimming pool had been completed as such during the war. Then it was the N.A.A.F.I. It was a dingy uninteresting spot, only redeemed by the fact that in the early R.A. days the 12 A.T.S. amongst hundreds of men seldom came away without at least six months' chocolate ration each week. That, of course, was before the N.A.A.F.I. girls took over the canteen!

Sgt. Dinsdale made a thorough tour of the cook-house, where she recognised ovens and boilers and demanded to know the whereabouts of any article which was not immediately visible. She and Cpl. Simpson-Griffiths compared notes on the state of the kitchen and gave a "no complaints" verdict. School notices rang a familiar bell, especially notices of dances. One which had across it "All Tickets Sold" must have been almost as popular as the Connaught Room dances of military fame. One comment was that the old-type pin-ups which graced some barrack room walls compared quite favourably with the somewhat futuristic drawings and designs which now "ornament" the art rooms in the school.

Letter from Port Said

The original of this letter, dated March 5, 1951, is in the possession of the Editor. We fear that Mr. Hassann must now have little hope!

To O/I/C A.T.S.

Here is Port-Said where is the sunshine opposite the green big trees in the gardens and the large buildings situated in front of the Mediterranean Sea.

Here's the good weather, I wish to have one girl to be as friend as you see, I am student in the colleges of England. I have 28 years old, born in Port-Said. For this reason I hope to send me one girl to be friendship, thanking you very much for this service.

Yours faithfully,
M. S. HASSANN.

Births

CHALKER.—On June 18, to Ellen (ex-Pte Hartrey, H.Q. A.A. Cmd.), wife of Driver Chalker, a daughter (Carol). Present address: 42 Woodlands Drive, Stanmore, Middlesex.

KIRK.—On June 7, to Dr. and Mrs. John Kirk (ex-J. Comd. Combeer)—a brother for Jenifer (Henry Logan). Address: Madras Lodge, Gullane, East Lothian.

Marriages

BURCH—CRAWFORD.—On August 30, at Beverley, Yorks, Trevor Burch (ex-Sgt., R.A.E.C.) to Valerie Mary Crawford (ex-Sgt., W.R.A.C.). Present address: 39 Ferriby Road, Hessle, E. Yorks.

DACRE—BAKER.—On September 12, 1952, at Alton, Sidney Dacre to Mary Barbara Baker (ex-C. Comd. A.T.S.). Present address: 3 Gloucester Close, Four Marks, Alton.

Deaths

CAMPION.—On October 9, Miss Florence Campion of 11 Giamorgan Street, Pimlico, London, S.W.1 (ex-Q.M.A.A.C., Dieppe and Vendroux).

POWELL.—On August 8, in St. George's Hospital, Mrs. Winifred Powell, O.B.E. (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.). Funeral was in Birmingham.

W.R.A.C. Oversea CARIBBEANS

This year, for the first time, 5th Independent Company at Jamaica had an official annual inspection. This took place on February 1, and there was hardly a breath of criticism in the whole report, which finishes up with the words "A very well administered unit." The Commander, Caribbean Area, remarked on the steadiness of the women on parade and the excellence of their turn-out.

Since then the Company has been on parade at several official functions. A detachment paraded at Spanish Town for the memorial service for His Majesty King George VI, and, in spite of never having had to slow march for any distance before, their bearing was excellent. After the proclamation parade Lady Foot personally telephoned to the Company Commander to congratulate her on the smartness of the women. H.E. The Governor also sent a special message of congratulation to the W.R.A.C.

We also understand that, for the first time, a detachment of W.R.A.C. took part in the Queen's Birthday parade in Jamaica. We are sure that here, too, they covered themselves in glory and only wish that more of us could see something of this most isolated of all our companies.

W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund

A number of applications are being received for layettes and much difficulty is being experienced in getting them, particularly as the Forces Help Society have run out. Will anyone help with baby clothes? Even odd articles would help.

Contributions should be sent to the Secretary of the Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3.

A.T.S. Employment Office

We are sure that news of the work of this office will be of interest to our readers, especially at the present moment when all who can are asked to contribute to the national effort. The office, which is administered by the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, is still working to capacity. It is an accredited agency under the Ministry of Labour and, up to date, over 7,200 women have passed through its hands. Its services are available to all ex-members of the A.T.S. and of the W.R.A.C., of any rank or age, no matter how short or long a time they have been out of the Service. From this it will be noted that the Employment Bureau will help ex-members of the W.R.A.C. who have had no service in the A.T.S.

Through the years good contacts have been made with employers and, as ex-Service women are known to be well trained, industrious and self-reliant, there is no lack of vacancies. Special care is taken to ensure that, as far as possible, Service qualifications and experience are put to the best use.

The interviewing officer, Mrs. Macfie, is always pleased to see old friends and welcome new ones, and any of our readers who are looking for a job or needing advice about employment could not do better than go and see her. The address of the office is 73 Elizabeth Street, London, S.W.1, and the telephone number SLOane 8984. Interviewing hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

Uniforms

Seeing the number of uniforms advertised in the Personal column of this Journal, one or two people have enquired as to whether there is any method of getting in touch with T.A. officers who would welcome extra uniform free of charge which they cannot afford to buy. We have offered to take advantage of this generosity by holding the uniform at the War Office (A.G. 16 (o)) and issuing it to individuals on the recommendation of their C.O.s. At present we have only two sets, both to fit a woman of approximately 5 ft. 5 in. in height and with 39 hips. Articles available include a greatcoat, British warm, service dress and battledress, shirts, pullovers and collars. Applications should be sent through the usual channels and should be clearly accompanied by the recommendation of the C.O.

Q.M.A.A.C. Uniform

We have had a request for a Q.M.A.A.C. uniform for the War Museum at Canberra, the capital of Australia. The Corps Museum has no uniforms to spare. All are either on exhibition in the Museum or on loan for display elsewhere. If any old Waac has a uniform and feels generous enough to present it, she should send it to the General Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3. We will arrange for its despatch. It will be most gratefully acknowledged.



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A *message*

FROM HER MAJESTY'S FORCES SAVINGS COMMITTEE

While you are serving there is little chance to buy things of lasting value so it is a good opportunity to save for your future needs.

The Services provide, in every Unit, facilities for you to save direct from pay into a Post Office Savings Bank Account (Service Series) in your own name. The Pay Authorities work the scheme for you.

Service men and women today are making steadily increasing use of this welfare service; and more than a quarter of the strength of H.M. Forces now save through Forces Savings.

Most young service women find that when they start to save they can afford to allot 6d a day and not miss it. As their pay rises, they can afford to increase it.

You can always get the money if you want it. Consult your Pay Office and start them off saving for you TODAY.

H.M. Forces Savings Committee, 1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7

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say Berlei

You've heard about the woman
with more money than sense? Well,
this new utility Berlei 'Unda-lift' is
made specially for the woman with more
fashion-sense than money. It has a
glamorous shape and it's beautifully
made in batiste with adjustable back. There
are two versions, brief and bandeau
... the brief with two bust cup fittings,
the bandeau with three. White or pink.



Berlei
REGD.

'Unda-lift' Brassieres
REGD.

A Bowler Hat and Umbrella

By MRS. MAUREEN V. LEES

In striking contrast to the W.R.A.C. Comrades' Association Reunion on Saturday, March 15, a quiet little ceremony was seen on the Sunday following, just about noon. Having decided to walk through Admiralty Arch and eventually to Horse Guards Parade, my friend said: "Although there seems to be no one else about there must be something doing as I can see a number of policemen heading this way." So, anxious to show the sights of London to my escort-companion, we waited. A friendly police sergeant explained what was afoot and, quickly, a crowd collected and formed themselves into a hollow square. Beside us were two men, obviously ex-Brigade of Guards, with their small children. A little boy of about five years of age was scanning a map and, making friends with the self-same Sergeant who had told us about the parade, he explained exactly where, on his map, he was then standing. Two tiny girls were standing in front of us and one turned to her daddy, saying: "Will we weally see Farver Kissmus, Daddy?"

Then we heard the sounds of a band approaching and we waited with deep interest. The band, their long grey greatcoats covering their uniform, marched smartly in front of the parade. Behind the band marched the men, some in dark suits wearing bowler hats and carrying umbrellas, then some others also wearing dark suits some of which were covered by raincoats, but all erect and smart.

The last man in the parade was a Pensioner of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, his uniform in bright contrast to the other men's dark clothes. All wore medals and, above the medals, a sprig of shamrock. A simple word of command and the band left the square, leaving only the men in mufti and the one Chelsea Pensioner. A wreath shaped as an Irish harp was placed on the simple Guards' War Memorial and then the parade marched away.

The scene had lasted only a few minutes but, to me, it was symbolic of the Brigade of Guards. I found myself thinking of a young guardsman I have met who, blinded and taken prisoner at Dunkirk, marched many miles to a prison camp. He held to his face a smashed and bloody nose, but he marched every inch of the way.

Personal

The charge for announcements in this column is 2s. for three lines for members, 6d. for each additional line: for non-members is 3s. for three lines, 9d. for each additional line. Box numbers 6d.

Bexhill-on-Sea.—Small hotel (run by two ex-A.T.S. W.O.s), set in spacious grounds, secluded yet within easy reach of sea (12 minutes), also Hastings and Eastbourne. On main London-Bexhill road. Comrades specially welcomed. Write for brochure. Mrs. I. R. Barnard, Thorne Hotel, Ninfield Road, Bexhill-on-Sea. Telephone: Ninfield 212.

Clacton-on-Sea.—All comrades, ex-comrades and friends are welcome at Trelawne, 31 Lancaster Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea. Every attention, combined with good food. For particulars, write as above or phone Clacton 979.

London for Holidays.—*En route* for Piccadilly, theatres, Windsor Castle, etc. Members welcomed in guest house at reduced terms of 12s. 6d. bed/breakfast. Golsby, 49 Holland Road, Kensington, W.14.

Edinburgh.—When in Edinburgh stay at the Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens. All ex-service women welcomed. Special terms for serving W.R.A.C. Write for the brochure to the Secretary. Phone No.: Edinburgh Central 4952.

For Sale.—Service Dress, hat. Sam Browne. Fit height 5 ft. 3½ in. Apply Miss Beatty, 60 Ashley Gardens, S.W.1.

Mitchell, Cox and Williams, Ltd., Malvern, Worcs., require immediately ex-service cook, age between 35 and 40, to cater for about 60 persons; to live in, own bed-sitting room.

For Sale.—Officer's service dress uniform in excellent condition. Height 5 ft. 7 in., average size, made in khaki barathea by well-known tailor. Seen London. Box No. 16/52.

For Sale.—New battledress top, size 1; A.T.S. greatcoat, small size, height 5 ft. 2 in.; three khaki shirts and two bush shirts size 13; Sam Browne. Offers to Mrs. Jackson, Silksworth, Park Road, Camberley. Tel.: 847.

For Sale.—A.T.S. officer's greatcoat by Bernard Weatherill, seldom worn. Measurements, height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 38 in., waist 26 in., hips 40 in. £4. Khaki service cap, 10s. Brown ski boots, Lilley-white, unused, size 6, £5. Near offers. Apply Mrs. Lane, Lomond, Horley, Surrey.

Cap, Service Dress, Greatcoat, fit 36 in. hip, 5 ft. 4 in., £12 or separately. Phone: PRO 4081.

Officer's Service Dress for sale. Bust measurement 38 in., hips 40 in., height 5 ft. 5 in. Man-tailored. Barathea and in perfect condition. £4. Apply Mrs. Esslemont, 26 Rubislaw Den North, Aberdeen.

Officer's No. 1 Dress for sale. Weatherill-tailored tunic and skirt, also cap, all in good condition. Height 5 ft. to 5 ft. 2 in., bust 34 in., waist 25 in., hips 36 in. Cap size 6½. Apply Mrs. Whitfield, Queda, Eythorne Road, Shepherds Well, Dover, Kent.

For Sale.—Officer's khaki greatcoat and service dress to fit height 5 ft. 2 in., bust 34 in., hips 38 in. Also fur felt service cap, size 6½. Also two shirts with detachable trubenised collars, size 13½, one pair brown leather gloves, size 6½, one pair stockings, size 9, worn once, one khaki shoulder bag, all in good condition. Box No. 15/52.

For Sale.—Officer's khaki greatcoat, very good condition. Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 36 in. £7 10s. Box No. 14/52.

For Sale.—Officer's service dress. Height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 36 in., waist 26 in., greatcoat lined red. Felt cap, shirts, collar 14 in. All excellent condition. Mrs. Peter Tingle, Summerfield, Curbar, Derbyshire, via Sheffield.

No. 1 Dress Greatcoat.—Officer's green greatcoat for sale, hardly worn. Weatherill. Height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 36 in., cost £30. What offers? Apply Miss C. H. Scudamore, Haughton House, Canford Cliffs Avenue, Parkstone, Dorset.

Annual Reunion

It is hoped to hold a Scottish Reunion in Glasgow on Saturday, March 21. Full particulars will be given in the next issue of *The Lioness*.

Sports and Games

The past year has shown a steady, though slow, improvement for the Army in Inter-Service matches, the bare results of which are tabulated below:

- Athletics*, 1951.—1st, Army; 2nd, R.N.; 3rd, R.A.F.
Badminton, 1952.—1st, R.A.F.; 2nd, R.N.; 3rd, Army.
Cricket, 1951.—Cup held jointly by the R.N. and the R.A.F.
Fencing, 1951.—1st, Army; 2nd, R.N.; 3rd, R.A.F.
Hockey, 1951-52.—Cup shared by R.N. and R.A.F.
Lawn Tennis, 1951.—1st, R.A.F.; 2nd, R.N.; 3rd, Army.
Netball, 1951-52.—1st, R.A.F.; 2nd, R.N.; 3rd, Army.
Rifle Shooting.—1st, R.N.; 2nd, R.A.F.; 3rd, Army.
Squash Rackets.—1st, Army; 2nd, R.A.F.; 3rd, R.N.
Swimming, 1951.—1st, R.N.; 2nd, R.A.F.; 3rd, Army.

CRICKET, 1952

Although we did not come near winning the Cup we played a very much better team than in former years, winning our game against the Navy and losing to the R.A.F. The full season's results are as follow:

- v. Miss N. Joy's XI. Match drawn.
 v. Kent "A". Lost by 95 runs.
 v. Civil Service. Lost by 4 wickets.
 v. Ex-A.T.S. Rain stopped play.
 v. Riverside. Match drawn.
 v. Royal Navy (Women's) Cricket Association. Won by 43 runs.
 v. Royal Air Force (Women's) Cricket Association. Lost by 4 wickets.

LAWN TENNIS

Although we have never heard the exact result of the Inter-Service Tournament we are glad to be able to announce that, for the first time, the Army won the women's matches.

SAILING

A member of the W.R.A.C., Capt. E. M. E. Galloway, and a nursing officer were both members of the Swanage Group team in the first regatta held by the Army Sailing Association. They did not, unfortunately, collect enough points to get into the finals but Capt. Galloway managed to keep up the prestige of the W.R.A.C. by coming in second in her heat. Perfect weather, the delightful setting in Cowes Bay and the excellent organisation in the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club made the regatta most successful, and it is hoped that it will become an annual event.

RIFLE SHOOTING

Though, unfortunately, still bottom of the three Women's Services, the R.N. beat the Army by only one point this year and we hope to make that good in the coming season.

N.B.—It would be a help if Secretaries of Games Associations would give results to the Editor as they happen. The fact that she knows the result in an official capacity does not help one edit the Journal at week-ends and on leave, which is when it usually gets done.

"London Gazette"

JANUARY TO JUNE, 1952

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- O.B.E. Lt.-Col. Margaret Joan, Lady Bowyer Smyth, T.D. (T.A.).
 M.B.E. No. W/24807 Warrant Officer Class II Margaret Sutherland.
 Capt. Elsie May Williams (T.A.).
 B.E.M. No. W/279730 Sgt. Margaret Moore Howie.
 No. W/6881 S/Sgt. (Acting) Agnes Galloway Russell

REGULAR ARMY

- To be Major*: Capt. D. J. M. Wilkinson, July 5, 1950; M. P. Sandbach, January 11, 1952; M. M. Anderson, February 3, 1952; K. A. Waterworth, March 14, 1952; J. E. Parker, March 28, 1952; E. E. Michell, May 20, 1952; G. M. Sowers, May 18, 1952.
To be Captain: Lts. D. D. W. Brousson, November 20, 1945; M. K. Cavanagh, June 28, 1949; B. Paget Clarke, October 12, 1947; E. G. Joynt, September 5, 1948; T. Mackowie, December 20, 1949; A. V. Fisher, June 27, 1952.
To be Lieutenants: (From S.S.C.) Lt. M. F. Townsend, January 10, 1948. 2/Lts. A. Logsdail, April 25, 1951; M. E. Bevan, January 8, 1952; S. N. Wood, January 25, 1952; E. A. Haggard, K. Finch, J. B. Primmer, M. E. J. Lockington, M. H. J. Robinson, P. J. Faram, H. T. Skinner, H. M. Hopkin, March 6, 1952; M. Summers, March 25, 1952; B. G. Palmer, April 1, 1952; J. M. Dalwick, June 1, 1952.
To be 2/Lieutenants: Cadets A. Logsdail, April 28, 1949; M. E. Bevan, January 8, 1950; S. N. Wood, January 25, 1950; M. S. Higgins, February 4, 1951; M. Atkins, July 10, 1951; E. Roper, September 29, 1951; E. M. W. Roach, E. M. Street, M. Richards, S. Z. Dunn, E. E. Russell, S. M. Powell, A. H. Humphries, R. M. Turnbull, December 13, 1951.
Resignations: Capt. D. E. M. S. Langdon, 2/Lt. A. S. Melsom, Capt. J. M. S. Clare, Capt. D. Beatty, 2/Lt. J. E. Hosford, Capt. K. M. Rodwell, Lt. B. James, Lt. S. M. Evans, Major R. E. Manasseh, Lt. K. Williams.
Retirements: Lt.-Col. E. D. Stilgoe (on account of disability).

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

- To be Captains*: Lts. M. A. Mack, January 4, 1952; M. E. L. N. Bocker, June 11, 1950; O. Watt, February 12, 1952; E. A. Hine, February 22, 1952; L. E. Kenefick, March 28, 1952; M. Anderson, October 1, 1952; M. Burt, May 11, 1952; E. S. Cowper, N. E. Jones, D. Richardson, I. B. Watt, P. M. Baldwin, E. J. P. Varney, June 15, 1952.
Relinquishments:
 December 1, 1951.—Capt. M. S. Vaudrey.
 January 1, 1952.—Capt. P. F. Thomas, M. Russell, M. Jones, V. I. Boyes, E. M. Rumbold, A. I. Field, E. M. B. Smith, A. F. M. Anstee.
 January 24, 1952.—Capt. M. L. Milne.
 February 1, 1952.—Capt. B. H. Wood, D. Barton, M. Williams, C. V. E. de Bourbel, M.B.E., T. L. Davison, M. D. E. Youngman.
 February 6, 1952.—Capt. O. Scott.
 February 13, 1952.—Lt. P. J. Humphrey.
 March 1, 1952.—Major E. R. Eccleson, Capt. E. M. Taylor-Jones, M.B.E., I. Edwards, Major J. I. Lingwood, Capt. D. I. Swenny, J. H. Thom, A. M. K. Kendall, A. H. Highfield, Lt. G. Burke Mills.
 March 29, 1952.—Capt. M. F. Fair.
 April 1, 1952.—Capt. E. Burnett.
 May 1, 1952.—Capt. C. N. Dupernex, J. E. Wilson, J. Haynes.
 May 29, 1952.—Capt. M. Charlton.
 June 1, 1952.—Capt. P. J. Boothby and D. E. Aylen.
Resignations: Lt. A. M. Jenks, Capt. J. G. Butler, 2/Lt. J. B. Forward, Capt. C. McKinnon, D. Blomfield.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

- The following officers have joined the Reserve*:
 From A.T.S.—Lts. A. W. B. C. F. McRae, H. C. Cassavetti, B.E.M., S. F. Mollo, A. L. V. Gunter, S. H. Macewen, A. M. Aplin, H. A. Oldman, N. P. Knapp, M. B. Ramsbottom, E. M. Ind, B. H. Nurse, O. H. R. Brewis, B. P. Fletcher, S. V. Monk, M. McI. Kenny.
 From W.R.A.C.—Lts. J. Henderson and G. Burke Mills, Capt. J. Hayne.
 From W.R.A.S.—Lt. E. S. Parsons.
Relinquishments:—Lts. P. B. Darley, P. M. Lane, H. P. Bell.
Resignations:—Lt. M. Fletcher, Capt. N. J. Thomson, H. F. Constanduros, Lts. G. Holmes, A. P. Morse, L. E. Avery, Capt. I. Roderick and Lt. K. B. Baker-Carr.

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THREE familiar words used in the Services, calling for attention and action in some routine matter, apply equally to us as the printers of your journal. Our assurance of attention and service in matters concerned with all kinds of printing is well known to an ever-increasing number of Service personnel, and we shall be pleased to include you in our list of satisfied customers. We welcome enquiries, so why not—

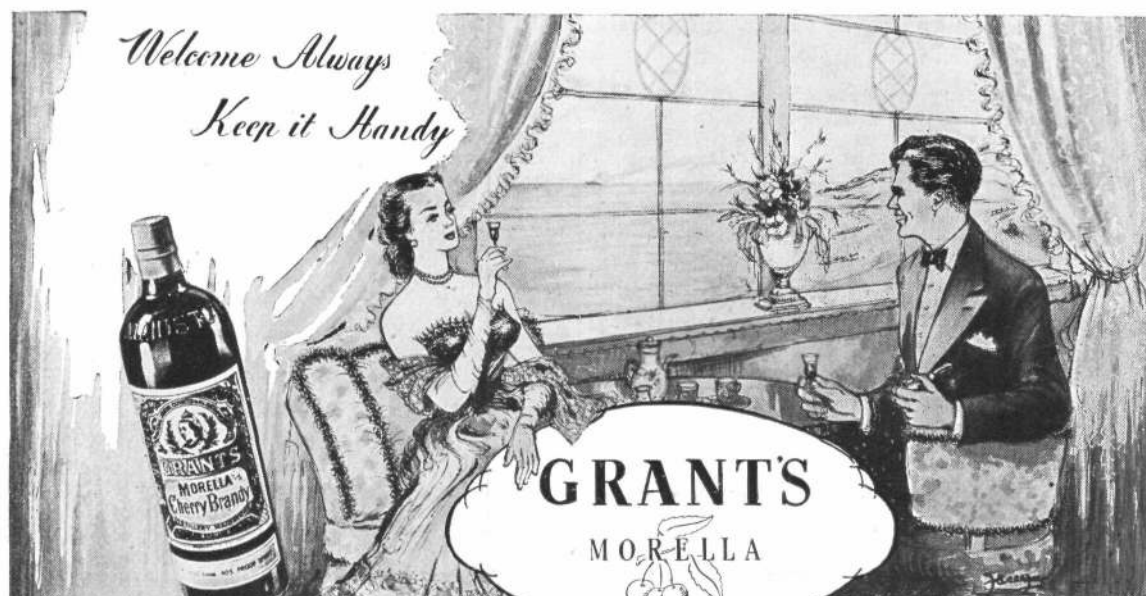
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