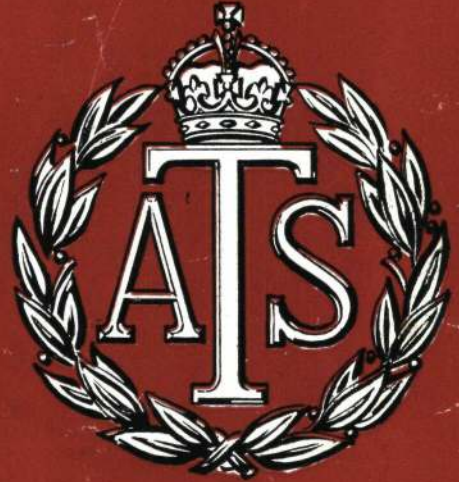
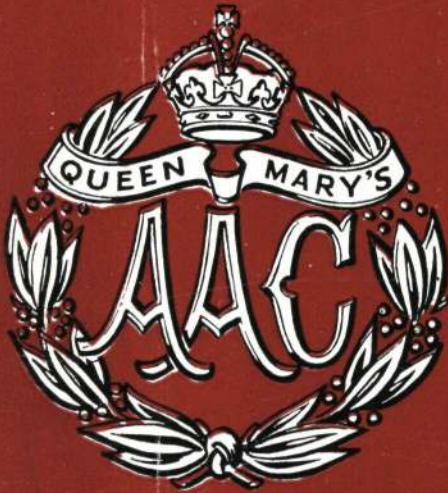


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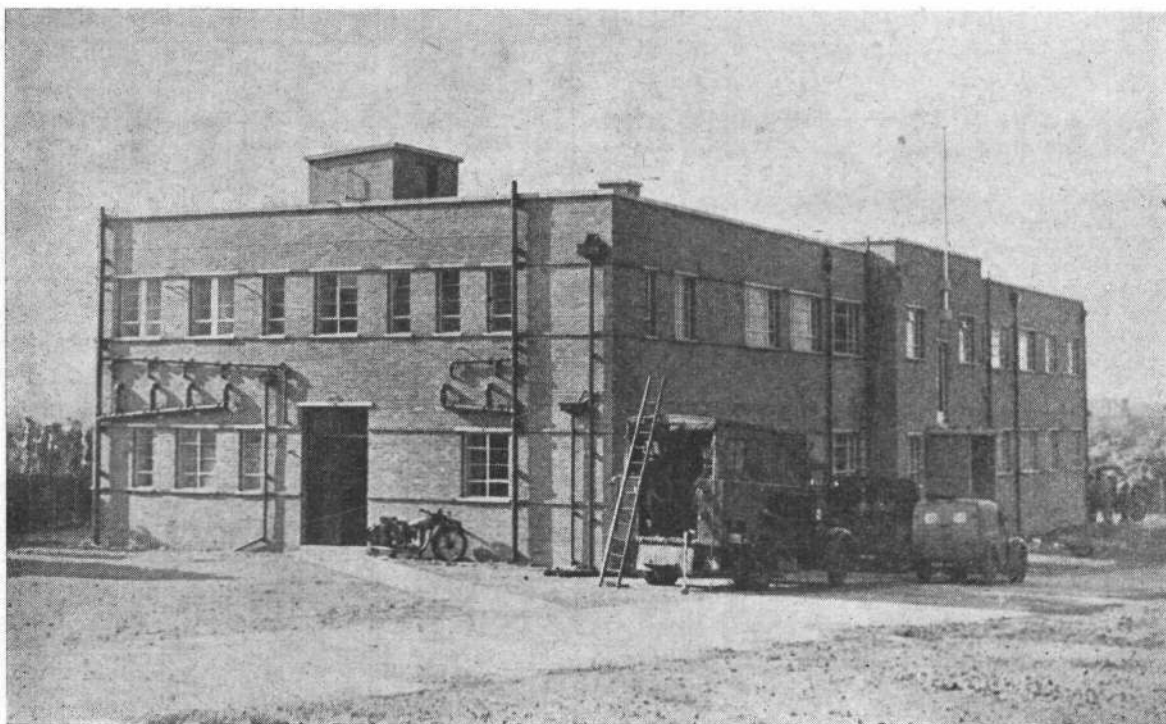
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REGD.

'Unda-lift' Brassieres
REGD.

Obtainable from the N.A.A.F.I.



*Above: The Nissen Hut which used to house 308 (Northern Command) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
Below: The new headquarters, believed to be the only Drill Hall specially built for W.R.A.C.*



[Courtesy: Leicester Mercury]



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXVI

February 1953

No. 1

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

In the extracts from the "London Gazette" published in this issue can be found several milestones. To begin with we should congratulate three officers on being the first to earn their majorities on reckonable service. This is no mean achievement, but, lest some may not appreciate it to the full, we feel that a little explanation should be given, both of the entries in the "Gazette" and the method by which the promotions therein recorded have been attained. In the first place all references to rank are to substantive rank and it does not matter how long an officer has held temporary rank; it does not now in any way affect her seniority or date of retirement. Col. Macfie, whose promotion to full Colonel is notified in this "Gazette," has held the temporary rank of Colonel for over four years, but she could still do six years as a substantive Colonel if she did not reach the age limit in that time.

The second point that should be made is that, in order to start a new Corps off with a proper seniority roll, every officer granted a commission before a certain date was placed in the roll as though she had been given her commission on her 23rd birthday. Thereafter, with certain provisos, the normal Army rules for promotion were applied. To Captain and Major promotion is earned after 6 and 13 years' service respectively and these

officers therefore normally get it on their 29th and 36th birthdays. This is not true of officers with Short Service Commissions who have to complete 13 years' actual service before gaining their majorities and the first to do so are Majors O. M. Dickson and W. M. Backhouse. Major S. A. E. Heaney, having been commissioned at the outbreak of war, before her 23rd birthday, is the first regular officer to get her promotion on reckonable service.

Lastly, the "Gazette" entries are now published only twice a year and are compressed as far as possible. They include all entries from July 1 to January 1 in this issue, including the New Year Honours. Those of the other half-year are in the August issue. It should be of interest, not only to the Corps, but, properly understood, it should be a way of ex-service comrades seeing news of their friends, for most W.R.A.C. officers have spent a large part of their service in the A.T.S.

We were delighted to receive a postal order from Pte. Michaels of F.A.R.E.L.F., which she had won in a competition for the best article considered suitable for *The Lioness*. We are disappointed to find, however, that, although we have one or two articles from the Far East held over for publication, we do not appear to have one from Pte. Michaels. Nevertheless, we are grateful to her for her generosity.

We were guilty in the last issue of very bad reporting, but, although prepared to apologise to all concerned for printing erroneous information in the journal, and particularly to the 1946 Tennis Team, we are not really a bit sorry for nothing but good appears to have come out of it. This is what happened. Having made many efforts to get games results reported officially and always failed we made up most of those in the last issue. Some came from good sources, the Editor having watched the match herself or remembered to take home with her official accounts sent to her in her capacity of A.A.G. A.G.16. Some came from verbal accounts of eye witnesses and one in particular from a casual conversation in the Club! This last was wrong in every detail. Mrs. Gough (ex-J. Comd. D. M. Perceval) wrote to say that not only had her sister been a member of the team that won the triangular contest in 1946 but she herself had been a reserve. She also pointed out that, according to *The Times*, we only tied with the R.A.F. for first place this year and are sharing the cup. Of course she is right and we can only say we are sorry.

On the other hand, she goes on to say: "As a great lover of sport and one who takes an interest in all games I should very much like to read about more sporting activities in *The Lioness* and I am sure that I am not alone in making this request. Could the names of the Service teams be mentioned and also a little more detail given? I am sure

that the majority of those serving in the W.R.A.C. and those who have served in the A.T.S. are interested in sport and games and would appreciate this." We are not sure that all our readers would agree and for that reason we must crave the indulgence of our sports correspondents if we do some ruthless cutting. At the same time we are very grateful to Mrs. Gough for her letter which has inspired an instruction from the Secretary of the Army (Women) Central Sport Committee to the Games Secretaries to send in their news. For them, the more detail the better so that the greatest amount of interest can be extracted and printed.

Since the last *Lioness* was published Servicewomen have sustained a great loss in the death of Dame Katharine Furse. In giving permission for us to reprint the appreciation Dame Rachel Crowdy wrote to *The Times* she said:

"Although Dame Katharine never actually served in Q.M.A.A.C. she did draw up the first scheme and she lent many of her best officers, who were serving in France with the V.A.D.s, to start the Service in 1915, so she was closely connected with its beginning." Even to those of us who never met her Dame Katharine's name was one to conjure with and the world will be a worse place without her.

Round the Commands

Two national disasters have taken place during the last six months and in both, even though in a minor capacity, the W.R.A.C. was on the spot to give what help we could. At Headquarters, South Western District, one evening in August, a call for help was received from the stricken village of Lynmouth. The previous week had been depressing, continual rain, frayed tempers in the office and Mess, upheavals about "Z" Reservists going to camp, shortages and inefficiency of staff, and all the usual frustrations which seem to mar present-day army routine. But how the atmosphere changed when the crisis arose. The G.S.O. 1 held a conference until 2 a.m., at which everyone was briefed and "Operation Floodlynton" was launched. Everyone was there. There were no regular W.R.A.C. in the district except Major K. L'E. Heppard, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., but she soon found herself in it up to the neck. Her jobs were pretty varied and ranged from the movement of vehicles to plain straightforward typing!

Nor was she confined to the office but, the day after the operation was launched, she visited the various camps and saw how the telephone orders of the previous night had been carried out. For example, one unit was briefed at 0002 hours to form a camp at Dulverton, some fifty miles from their station, with the object of helping farmers on the east side of Exmoor. By 0900 hours the camp was established in the hunting stables of the Carnarvon Arms Hotel, Dulverton. Two hundred men had been fed on bacon and eggs cooked in the open; telephones were installed and working parties were already out helping the farmers.

There were many similar instances. Working parties of young National Servicemen, stripped to the waist, worked hard clearing fences and streams

and they were singing as they worked. At Hillsford the Engineers sited a Bailey bridge. In the village itself the Army was present, getting on with the job and giving a helping hand wherever it was needed. To dwell in detail on this scene would be superfluous after all the accounts which have appeared in the National Press, but the thing which impressed itself on the mind of our eye-witness, Major Heppard, was the spirit of selflessness which such a disaster called forth in all ranks who were called upon to help. Everyone did so and turned their hands and brains to any work which presented itself, and she herself was not backward in undertaking any task, however unfamiliar.

Later in the year the nation was horrified to read of the railway disaster at Harrow and Wealdstone station, not far from the Headquarters of 26 (Indep) Company, W.R.A.C., which serves H.Q., A.A. Command. Girls from this Company were amongst the first to volunteer for relief work. They drew up a roster and took it in turns to report to the station and hand round tea and make themselves generally useful. All this was done in their off-duty time and, so useful did they make themselves, that the Company Commander received a letter from the Chief Officer of the Railway Executive, thanking all ranks for their co-operation.

Other news from this Company is of a less spectacular nature. Lady Loewen, wife of the C.-in-C., A.A. Command, attended a small exhibition of the garments and toys made by members of the Company for the Y.W.C.A. Christmas Fair. Col. S. Cooke and Major J. Shelmerdine, D.D.-W.R.A.C. and D.A.D.W.R.A.C., A.A. Command, also visited the Exhibition. Lady Loewen also kindly presented the First Class Certificate of Education to Staff Sgt. Haigh, Chief Clerk of the R.A.O.C. Branch at H.Q., A.A. Command, who has been in the Army for over twelve years.

Training evenings in December have been memorable for a series of lectures on Musical Appreciation by an Educational Lecturer, Mrs. Woolfs. These lectures culminated in a visit to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, to see "The Marriage of Figaro." This visit proved such a success that it is hoped to repeat it in the New Year.

ODE TO SPRING

Hullo there! Spring is on the way,
The sun is bright and warm today,
So take fresh heart for life is sweet,
Forget your eightpence worth of meat
And think instead of fresh green peas,
Of strawberries and things like these.
The winter's past; summer's ahead,
And now when you get out of bed
The birds are singing, sweet songs too.
But listen to what they say to you:
"The winter's past, tu-whit, tu-whoo,
And your subscription's overdue.
So get it paid without delay
Or the penalty you'll have to pay!!"

The mention of the meat ration betrays the fact that this reminder was NOT written this year. The subscription is still wanted all the same.—ED.

GRAND SCOTTISH CORONATION REUNION

The Annual Scottish Reunion will be held in Glasgow this year and, due to the kindness of the Lord Provost of Glasgow, the Banqueting Hall at the City Chambers has been placed at our disposal for this event, which will take place on Saturday, March 21, 1953, from 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and the price of the tickets will be 5s. 6d., including buffet. Owing to it being Coronation year the Committee hopes that all Scottish branches will make every effort to give full support to making this Scottish Coronation Reunion one which will long be remembered.

The gracious and familiar presence of H.R.H. The Princess Royal will be missed by one and all,

but we look forward to having her with us at our next Scottish Reunion. A number of distinguished guests will be present, including the Under-Secretary of State for War, Mr. J. R. H. Hutchison. The Military Band of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), by kind permission of Major D. M. Cartre Campbell, will provide music throughout the evening.

Branches are asked to make early application for tickets as the accommodation is limited. They may be obtained from the Reunion Secretary, Mrs. N. H. Crawford, 80 Merrylee Road, Newlands, Glasgow, S.3, or from the Treasurer, Miss M. Thomson, 3 Princes Terrace, Glasgow, W.2.

News of Comrades

We hear from **Mrs. B. White** (nee **Broadfoot**) (ex-W.O.I., A.T.S.) that she is anxious to get into touch with old comrades who served with her at Chilwell during the years 1939-45. Her present address is 24 Bowood Avenue, Leeds 7, so roll up, ex-Chilwellians! Write direct or to us for your news to be inserted in this column.

We hear from **Mrs. Vaughan** (ex-J. Comd., A.T.S., and now a member of T.A.R.O.) that, living so far from home, *The Lioness* is particularly welcome. Her address is in the notice announcing the birth of her son Charles and she tells us that another ex-A.T.S. officer lives only five minutes from her in N. Nigeria! She sends her greetings to 327 (County of London) Battalion (T.A.).

Miss Sybil Rothwell (ex-J. Comd., A.T.S.) sent her greetings to the Lancaster Reunion, but they unfortunately arrived too late to be passed on there. She was at the time on holiday in Canada. Her travels up to that time (October) had covered a four-day visit in Montreal, visits to her brother and an aunt in Ontario, a month at a cottage on one of the lakes and a three-week visit to Hartford in Connecticut, U.S.A. While there she looked up an ex-A.T.S. friend, **Barbara J. Sindall**, who, although she was resident in America at the outbreak of war, had never become an American citizen. In 1942 she crossed the Atlantic to join up and spent her whole service, both other rank and commissioned, in Mixed H.A.A. Regiments. Her job in civilian life is that of Classics Mistress in one of Connecticut's well-known private schools for girls. She would like to send greetings to any of her old comrades of 626 Battery where she served as an other rank and to 589 Battery, 143 Regiment, 498 Battery and 144 Regiment in which she served as an officer.

Miss Stear, writing from 143 Beach Road, Fleetwood, Lancashire, sends her best wishes to any ex-Women's Legion or Q.M.A.A.C. friends who may remember her. She has recently joined the Women's Section of the British Legion and is much impressed by the hard work done for the Poppy Fund, but she complains that she has not

met any ex-Service woman. Where are they, all? There used to be some A.T.S. in Blackpool before the war and many Lancashire lasses joined later.

Miss Audrey Sellar, whose article on her reasons for volunteering for both A.T.S. and W.R.A.C./T.A. appears on another page, writes to ask for news of anyone who served with 123 C. (M) T. Company at Chatham, 1944-45 or 52 V.R.D. at Sevenoaks, 1946-47, where she spent most of her service life. Her present address is 50 Banstead Road South, Sutton, Surrey.

From **Mrs. Armstrong**, in Canada, we hear news of a distinguished ex-member of the A.T.S. who has recently been touring over there with a rifle team from Britain, **Miss M. E. Foster**. Mrs. Armstrong herself was a keen shot and they had met at Bisley in 1915 when Miss Foster was in the M.T. Section of the Women's Legion. Later she joined F.A.N.Y. and, in World War II, the A.T.S. Writing to Mrs. Armstrong she tells of the wonderful time she had in Canada, winning both matches. In the "Canada" they smashed all previous records by 8 points. She herself made 149 out of a possible of 150 in the "Governor-General's" Class. She won the all-comers' aggregate at Toronto and at Ottawa, her average being 49 out of 50 on two weeks' shooting.

A second letter from **Mrs. Armstrong** does not make such pleasant reading as, with deep regret, she has decided to relinquish her efforts to form a branch of the Association in Victoria. We also are very sorry, but are sensible of the difficulties. We are grateful for her efforts in the past and only hope that she will not cease to send us such news as comes her way, both of herself and others. She wants, as a parting shot, to remind Canadian members that their subscriptions were due in on January 1. She also sends a message from **Mrs. W. F. Steele**, 190 Helmchen Road, Victoria, to Mollie Plummer, late Alton Towers, Staffordshire. We hope that this will reach her eyes and that contact will be re-established between them.

Miss Matthews (ex-W.O.I., A.T.S.) writes from Hamburg, where she is in the Information Services Office of the Land Commissioner's Office. She and her sisters have just bought a tiny place in

Hampshire, at Stickbridge, near Winchester, so we shall know where to find her when she eventually retires. At present she has a large and comfortable flat and an interesting and busy job, with offices in Hamburg and Berlin. Berlin still functions under a Military Government, but elsewhere our staffs now live on the German economy and are much more merged with the German people—a situation which is good from the point of view of acquiring the language and grand from the catering angle! One can have mountains of everything one wants in the food line. Miss Matthews says she often wonders what has happened to everyone in Northumberland Group. She has come across one or two of them in Germany, **Sgt. Tetlow** of the M.T. Company in Gosforth, now Mrs. Durban, and **Sgt. Atkinson** from "D" Company. **Ex-Sgt. Pringle** met her husband while she was in Germany since when she has spent two years in Tanganyika Territory. Her husband's tour is now drawing to a close and she plans a trip to the Far East—Ceylon and Singapore—before returning to England.

Mrs. Rodger (nee **Margaret Menzies**) writes from 11 Chalmers Street, Edinburgh 3. Her husband is Chaplain to the Anglican students attending the University and colleges in Edinburgh. The basement of their house is given over to the students as their club and headquarters. They are free to come and go as they like. Mrs. Rodger appears to be enjoying life, which she finds very busy.

Miss B. M. Soman (ex-J. Comd., A.T.S.) writes from 212 Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey, and asks for news of women from Bicester C.O.D. She would welcome them in her T.A. Company which badly needs recruits.



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BRITISH LEGION, 49 PALL MALL, S.W.1

Mrs. Ellen Smitheram (nee **Wilson**) writes from 105-7 St. West, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and flatters us after our many critics by saying that, not only does she thoroughly enjoy *The Lioness* herself but passes it on to other Old Comrades. She served in Q.M.A.A.C. as a clerk and would very much like to hear from any others who served with her in Northern Command.

Births

EASTWOOD.—On September 15, 1952, to Edith (ex-J. Comd. Scott), wife of Major B. J. Eastwood, O.B.E., R.A.S.C.—a son. Present address: 25 Devonshire Place, London, W.1.

HEXT.—On October 14, 1952, to Florence Joyce (ex-Sgt. Porter), wife of S/Sgt. Michael Hext, R.E.M.E.—a son (Graeme Michael). Present address: 11 Park Road, Wem, Shropshire.

MARSHALL.—On October 6, to Kathleen (ex-Sgt. Mather, 531 (M) H.A.A. Battery, R.A.), wife of Herbert Marshall, B.Sc.—a son (Bruce Nevison). Present address: "Morgenhorn," 73 Graffham Avenue, Giffnock, Renfrewshire.

VAUGHAN.—On September 30, 1952, to Daphne (Capt. B. D. J. Marshall, W.R.A.C./T.A.R.O.), wife of J. N. Vaughan, Nigerian Administrative Service—a son (Charles). Present address: c/o Provincial Office, Jos, N. Nigeria.

Marriage

THORNE—WORRALL.—On November 1, 1952, at St. Mellons Parish Church, John Francis Thorne (ex-R.A.S.C.) to Margaret Worrell (ex-A.T.S., G.H.Q., 2nd Echelon, B.A.O.R.). Present address: "Charlwood," 5 Tyr Bent Road, St. Mellons, Cardiff.

Death

MEAKIN.—On October 9, 1952, suddenly, Miss Winifred Theodora Meakin (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.), member of St. Leonards-on-Sea Branch.

CORONATION YEAR SPECIAL NOTICES

The Association is being allocated seats and/or places along the route of the Coronation Procession, but at present the details are not known. Will members who would like to be considered for these seats write to the Secretary before March 31, stating clearly whether they are prepared to stand if no seat is available. If there are more applications than seats a ballot will be held and successful candidates notified at once, full particulars being published in the May issue of *The Lioness*.

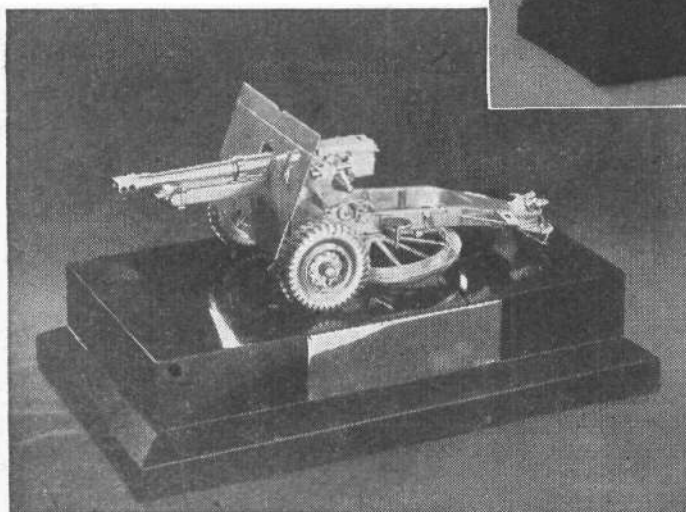
H.M. The Queen will review ex-Service men and women in Hyde Park on July 5. Any ex-Service member of the Association who would like to take part should also apply to the General Secretary before March 31. Members are reminded that the address is:

W.R.A.C. Association,
Duke of York's Headquarters,
King's Road, London, S.W.3.

In each case please enclose stamped addressed envelope.

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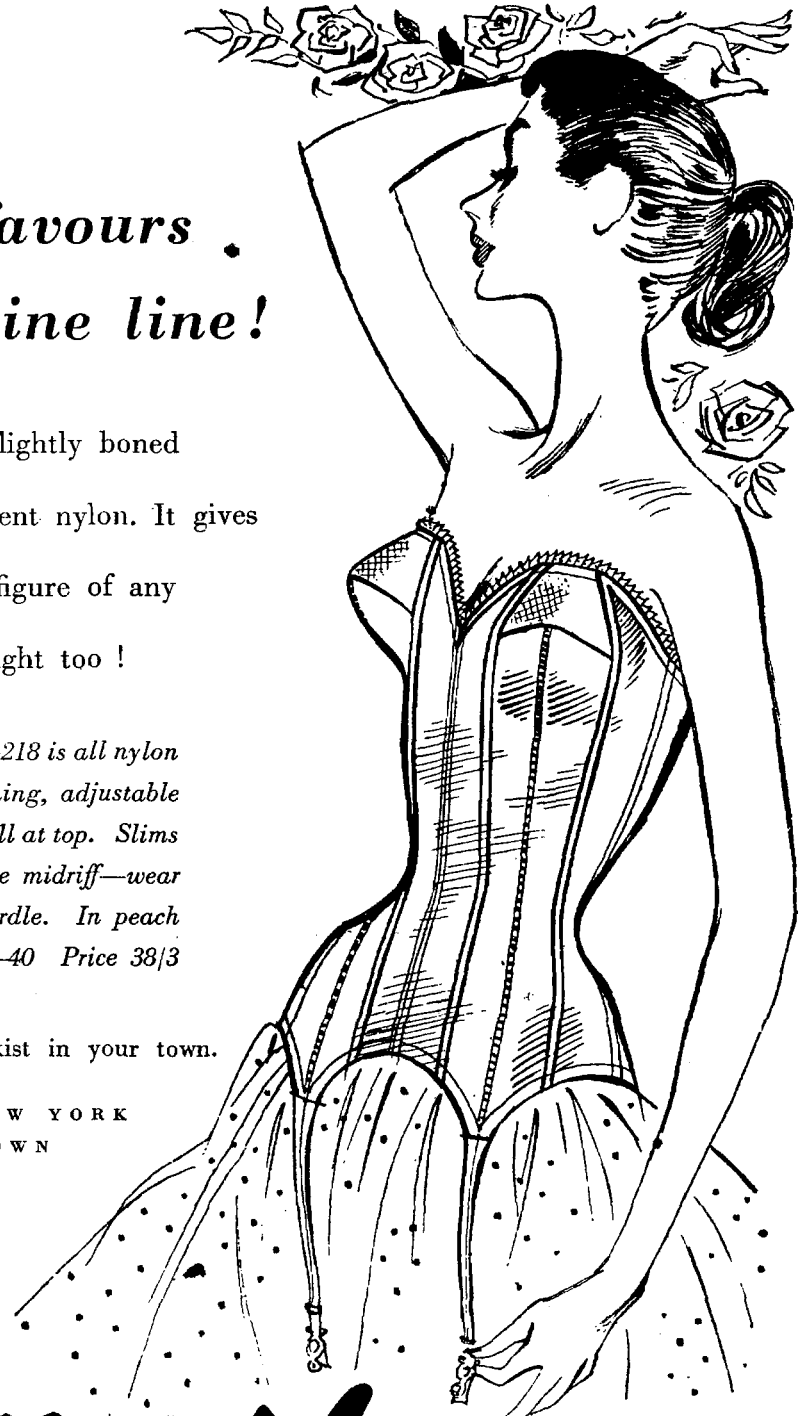
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the waist, smooths the midriff—wear
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A black and white line drawing of a woman in profile, facing left. She is wearing a sleeveless, form-fitting bodice (basque) with vertical boning lines and a decorative top edge. Her hair is styled in a bun, and she is holding a small bouquet of roses. The background is plain.

WHY I JOINED UP

By AUDREY SELLAR

About twelve years ago, while I was still at school, I had the privilege of attending a Passing-Out Parade of Officer Cadets at Windsor. I think I shall always remember the great thrill of those marching feet in perfect time with the band and with apparent ease, as they swung past the saluting base where the then Director, Chief Controller Jean Knox, stood motionless waiting for the march past of about forty young women.

It was then that I felt a strong desire to become one small part of that large important organisation. Several years passed in my life with such milestones as leaving school and the subsequent taking of a secretarial course. It was not until the year of 1943 that I was allowed to volunteer for the A.T.S. and how disappointed I was when recruiting was suspended for a short while! How excited I was when at last, in January, 1944, I received my call-up letter.

I would like to stress at this point that the attitude you have towards life greatly determines whether you will be happy in your service life. I firmly believe that anyone who is prepared to "give" as well as "take" will be extremely happy. Although, of course, longing for the end of the war, I can honestly say that my three and a half years spent as a medical orderly in the A.T.S. were very happy ones. This was true despite the fact that I am an only child and had led a somewhat sheltered childhood in a happy home environment.

After returning to civilian life and finding a job as a doctor's secretary-dispenser and allowing myself adequate time for adjustment, I felt that something was missing. Great Britain was facing yet another crisis and it was up to a great number of us to form a Territorial Army and help to make a strong reserve line of defence. It was with this in mind that I wrote to the local Employment Exchange in an effort to try to find a local unit. I was delighted to receive a letter saying that a Company was being formed at a place about four miles from my home, a journey of about forty minutes by bus. I have now been in the T.A. for just over four years and have been trained as a R.A.P.C. clerk, quite a different trade from my previous service trade. I have been to four T.A. camps with girls who are ex-A.T.S. and others who now feel that they ought to give up some of their spare time to help avoid another war.

Last summer at camp the pay clerks worked with regulars at Canterbury and were also billeted with a regular Company. I felt that there was a very friendly feeling between the regulars and territorials. The former seemed much impressed by our efficiency and general appearance and quite amazed that some of us had given up our ordinary holiday to go to camp. If everyone in the T.A. could apply the motto: "Women ready and competent" to themselves, then indeed would we be a vital and important part of the Army.

In my very humble opinion, without something rather deep inside one, the feeling called *esprit de*

corps, you are better outside the T.A. as, without it, you cannot be completely efficient and ready to give that little bit extra which I feel should be the aim of every Territorial.

News from Branches

BELFAST

The Annual General Meeting was held on November 7, 1952, with Mrs. O. B. Graham, O.B.E., our President, in the chair. The officers for 1952-53 were elected. Members heard with deep regret of the death of Miss Florence M. Lavery, who was a loyal member of the Branch and will be greatly missed by all her friends.

Once again members of the Branch remembered ex-A.T.S. who were in hospital at Christmas and seven parcels were prepared and distributed. Members were most generous with gifts and, to all who contributed, we say "many thanks."

Our Annual Dinner is to be held on Saturday, February 28, 1953, in the War Memorial Hostel at 7 p.m. As this is Coronation year, why not make a special effort to attend? The dinner will cost 8s. 6d., and the Secretary, Miss Norah M. Arnold, 11 Easton Crescent, Cliftonville, Belfast, will be very pleased to receive the names of those wishing to attend.

Branch meetings are held on the first Friday in each month in the British Legion Rooms, 10a Waring Street, Belfast.

CARDIFF

After our visit to Miss Stanley's farewell party we fulfilled our promise to visit her at Kilmerston, outside Bath, as she had kindly suggested to us. In a very pretty house on top of a hill, a bus load of very excited members and friends arrived at 4.30 p.m. on a September afternoon. We were welcomed by Miss Stanley and her helpers, not forgetting the two puppies, who were very excited. After a very good feast we went round the gardens and brought a quantity of apples away with us! After we had taken our farewells we arrived back in Cardiff about midnight, having enjoyed ourselves very much. Congratulations to Mrs. Hatcher, our chairman, who has once again been placed as one of the smartest standard bearers in Cardiff's British Legion. Cupid is very busy amongst some of our younger members and we all hope they will be happy. We are not holding our normal monthly meeting in December as it would have fallen on Christmas Day. Instead we are having a dinner on December 11 and also a Sale of Work.

GLASGOW

Our meetings continue to be popular and well attended. In September a party of us visited the Edinburgh Festival. We had tea in the United Services Club before going to the Castle Esplanade to see the Military Tattoo. This was a most spectacular pageant and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Also in September we had the pleasure of visiting our Comrades at Ayr once again. As usual we had a lovely day for this, the afternoon being spent on the shore, and in the evening we visited the Gaiety Theatre.

In October we gave a Hallowe'en Party to twenty orphan children from Bridge of Weir. This was a very happy afternoon for all present and the children were delightful guests. The many contributions of sweets, chocolate biscuits, cakes, etc., which we received for this party were very much appreciated.

Our November meeting was a military whist drive at the Service Women's Club and we were pleased to welcome our Q.M.A.A.C. friends at this function. There was an excellent attendance and the meeting was most enjoyable. At the Q.M.A.A.C. Annual Reunion Dinner in November two of our members had the pleasure of being present on this pleasant occasion. On Armistice Sunday we were represented at the Cenotaph, George Square, Glasgow, and two of our members laid a wreath on behalf of the Association.

Our December meeting was a highly successful Scottish Country Dance held in St. Andrew's (Mid) Hall and this turned out to be quite our most popular function so far. Everyone had a most enjoyable and very strenuous evening. This dance was such a success that it looks as if it will become an annual affair.

Our comrades of Ayr had their Annual Reunion Dinner on January 2 and some of our members had the pleasure of being present on this happy occasion.

Our final meeting before the A.G.M. is a theatre night, with tea at the Service Women's Club and then to the pantomime at the "Citizens."

The Annual General Meeting is on February 16 at 7.30 p.m. in the Service Women's Club. A good attendance is particularly requested and we should be very pleased to welcome new members.

LEEDS

To the tune of "Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer" and other similar tunes we entertained nearly 50 children at a local orphanage early in December. All the tea was contributed by members and their friends and the children really had a gala feast, although I am afraid that some of them were more interested in the sweets which were tied in fancy handkerchiefs on each plate. After tea there was a puppet show, during which excitement was intense and, when each child received a gift, apple, cracker and fancy hat, there was simply no holding them. What a hilarious evening!

We shall round off our Christmas activities with, nearer the holiday, a party at the Ministry of Pensions Hospital for our ex-Service patients and, in January, our Annual Dinner when we hope that The Lady Swinton will be our guest of honour.

LONDON

On October 16 Miss Thompson gave us a most enlightening talk on the colour bar question in South Africa, which was all the more interesting in view of the recent disturbances there.

We held a Bring and Buy Sale on November 30, which was well supported and the most successful we have had for some time. The sum of £8 12s. was raised. We also had a stall at the Service Women's Club Bazaar, held on November 22, and this effort raised the sum of £45 for their funds.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on December 4. Miss Thompson was in the chair and the business of the meeting was carried through smoothly. The programme for next year has now been drawn up and will be circulated to members when cards are received from the printers. We have tried to do this in accordance with the wishes of the A.G.M., but please remember that without *you*, the members of the Branch, this programme cannot be carried out successfully, so please do come along to the meetings as regularly as possible.

Our Christmas party was held on December 18, and once again Mrs. Giles drew up a very entertaining programme, including carol singing, games and competitions.

MANCHESTER

Our meetings have continued successfully throughout the summer months and our Social Committee have a full programme ahead for us. Our Annual Dinner was held on November 11 and 35 members attended. The evening was a great success and we were very happy indeed to have so many ex-Q.M.s with us. Unfortunately our President, Mrs. Eastwood, was unable to attend, being laid up with a suspected broken ankle. Nevertheless, she was with us in thought and a cheery telegram to her from all the members recompensed a little, we hope, for her absence from a really cheery evening.

A poppy wreath was laid on the Cenotaph by our Secretary at the Remembrance Parade in the City on November 6.

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Miss G. M. E. Darke (mentioned in the last issue), one of our very good members. Always willing to help in everything that was asked of her, we shall miss her very much and our deepest sympathy goes to her sister.

By the time this news bulletin appears in *The Lioness* our first dance of the season will have taken place, also a suggested theatre party and our Christmas Bring and Buy Sale. The proceeds of the latter will be used for buying Christmas presents for our sick members, both at home and in hospital.

READING

Through the kind permission of the O.C. 2 A.A. Group (M) Signal Office Squadron (T.A.) we had the use of the Canteen for the meeting on November 21. We were very pleased to see some new members and we also welcomed Mrs. R. King, O.B.E., who has most kindly consented to be our President for 1953.

On December 15 we held our Reunion Dinner at the Oasis Cafe, Reading. We were so sorry that the frozen roads made it impossible for three of our members to get in from the country, but fourteen of us spent a very happy evening. We were delighted to welcome as our guest our late President, Miss Turner, whose emigration to the Isle of Mull was reported in the last issue of *The Lioness*. Very fortunately she had come south for Christmas so we had another opportunity of trying to express our thanks to her for all that she has done for the Branch.

SHEFFIELD

Our Jumble Sale in September made just over £14, and what a rush there was to buy the goods! We all had a very hectic hour. This way of increasing the funds is great fun. On October 16 a party visited Arthur Lees Steel Works here in Sheffield, and found everything very interesting indeed. Four members of our branch were again on the stage for the Festival of Remembrance on November 8 at the Sheffield City Hall and most of the others were acting as programme sellers. We have also been busy organising our Christmas Fair, which was held on December 13. After much hard work we shall have made approximately £32 clear, to be divided between the Sheffield School for Blind Children and our own funds.

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1953 are now due and should be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. Olivant. On January 22 we have our pantomime party at the Lyceum Theatre and, on February 19, our Annual Dinner is to be held at the George Hotel, Hathersage. 'Would all who intend to be at the dinner please notify the Secretary as soon as possible. A coach will be leaving the City Hall to take members and friends at approximately 6.45 p.m.

SOUTHERN IRELAND

By kind permission of the Royal Air Forces Association we now hold our meetings in their Club premises at 23 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin, on the fourth Thursday in each month. We had a splendid turn-out on parade to the Garden of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday.

Although the numbers at our beetle drive held in November were not large we had a very enjoyable evening and we are planning to hold another early in the New Year. The Secretary, Miss Edith Kaye, 17 Killeen Road, Rathmines, Dublin, would be glad to hear from anyone interested in joining our Branch.

Dépot Notes

We are proud to announce that Her Majesty The Queen has graciously given her approval for our camp to be known in future as Queen Elizabeth Camp. This will not only commemorate Her Majesty's own close association with the Corps, but also that of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Readers will remember that H.R.H. The Princess Royal graciously consented to the celebration of her birthday as the Corps Day and that we were unable to mark the occasion last year as, owing to the tragic death of His late Majesty, the nation was in mourning. This year the Depot will be "At Home" to the public from 2.30 to 6.15 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, when, we are honoured to be able to announce, Her Royal Highness will herself be present. All serving and ex-Service members of the Association will be welcome, but admission will be by ticket only. These may be obtained on application to the Adjutant, W.R.A.C. Depot, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford.

PLEASE APPLY EARLY

Sport

Rifle Shooting. Please note the date of the Inter-Service match is Monday, February 16, and NOT as stated in the last issue of *The Lioness*.

Fencing. The Inter-Services Team Fencing Championships took place at Aldershot on December 3 and the Army won the women's event, having 16 victories to their credit to the Navy's 9 and the R.A.F.'s 2. We also entered a team in the Ladies' Team Foil Championships which took place at the London Fencing Club on December 6 and 7. The team survived three rounds, beating Bember Club by 15 to 1, Beaufoy "A" by 9 to 2, and Cambridgeshire by 14 to 2. They were beaten in the Quarter Finals by Lansdowne Club by 9 victories to 3. Lt. I. Milne, W.O.1 J. Marmont and W.O.2 J. Roberts played in both teams, being joined by Capt. J. Tappin in the Open Ladies' Team Foil Championships.

Squash Rackets. The year started well and, at the Women's Inter-Services Championships held at Bracknell on January 31 and February 1, we regained the Cup, which we lost in 1951, from the R.A.F. The final result was 8 matches for the Army, 4 for the R.A.F. and 3 for the Navy. Owing to lack of finances the Inter-Services Squash Championships have been discontinued, but a match has been arranged against the R.A.F. at Hounslow on February 20. There was not a large entry for the women's events in the Army Championship, which was won for the third year running by Major D. L. M. Portway, who beat Major N. Christy in the final 9-2, 9-1, 6-9, 9-6. Capt. Hickley, Capt. M. U. Walker and Capt. M. E. MacLagen were also in the team which regained the Cup.

Cricket (Middle East). The Army women were at home to the R.A.F. women in the annual inter-Service match at Fayid on October 8. The game was fast and exciting up to the last ball and stumps were drawn at 4 p.m. The highlight of the game was the brilliant innings of 47 by Cpl. Taylor, W.R.A.C., who scored confidently with strokes all round the wicket. She was supported by Sgt. McDonnell and Pte. Hawkes, who made 14 runs apiece. With the score at 112 for 8 the Army Captain (Capt. Thomas) decided to declare, leaving the R.A.F. 1½ hours to make 113 runs. The R.A.F. opening batsmen, in a manner not unlike that of Hobbs and Sutcliffe, scored steadily and 30 runs had been scored before the first wicket fell. Cpl. Tryer, whose bowling analysis had been 3 for 37, then came in and scored a lively 8 before being sent back from a beautiful catch by Sgt. Rodgers from the bowling of Pte. Hawkes. The third wicket fell at 53 and the fourth at 72. Hawkes, who had been bowling well, now found a spot on the wicket and skittled the next three batsmen with only three runs being added. The eighth wicket was slow to fall but the ninth fell quickly. The R.A.F. now needed only six runs for victory, but, although they kept their last wicket up and so avoided defeat, they were unable to score off the last two overs and the match resulted in a draw. Pte. Hawkes' bowling analysis was 5 for 32.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1952

BALANCE SHEET—OCTOBER 31, 1952

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account and in our opinion they are properly drawn up to present a true and correct view of the affairs of the Fund at October 31, 1932, and of the Income and Expenditure for the period ended on that date. The United Services Trustee has certified that on October 31, 1932, the above investments were held for the Fund.

L. M. HARRIS & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.
M. RAILTON, Col.,
Chairman, W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund Committee.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1952

BALANCE SHEET — OCTOBER 31, 1952

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account and in our opinion they are properly drawn up to present a true and correct view of the affairs of the Museum at October 31, 1952, and of the Income and Expenditure for the period ended on that date.

MARY TYRWHITT,
Chairman, Museum Committee.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1952

REUNION FUND

[illegible]

BALANCE SHEET—OCTOBER 31, 1952

1951			1951		
GENERAL FUND			GENERAL FUND		
£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT:			OFFICE FURNITURE:		
2,405	1,807 16 2	1,893 16 11	55	52 13 0	52 13 0
(less) 597			2	2 13 0	
1,808	86 0 9		53		
LIFE SUBSCRIPTIONS FUND:			INVESTMENTS AT COST:		
1,854			817	816 17 2	
1,386	1,834 16 3		1,500	1,500 0 0	
3,240	1,324 13 9		800	800 0 0	
88			1,000	1,000 0 0	
HARDSHIPS FUND			375		
140	136 12 6		250	250 0 0	
144	138 17 6		STOCK OF "SERVICE WITH THE ARMY":		
405	90 3 0		STOCK OF BADGES:		
749			19	37 4 0	
			72		
			91		
REUNION ACCOUNT:			SUNDRY DEBTORS:		
200	188 4 0		33	32 10 0	
5	5 5 0		200	188 4 0	
205			58	67 7 6	
			2	1 14 4	
			293		
REUNION ACCOUNT:			CASH BALANCES:		
200	188 4 0		206		
5	5 5 0		468		
205			10		
			2		
			686		
			135		
			12		
			58		
			£6,090		

We have examined the above Balance Sheet of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association, with the books and vouchers of the Association and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the affairs of the Association as at October 31, 1952, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us.

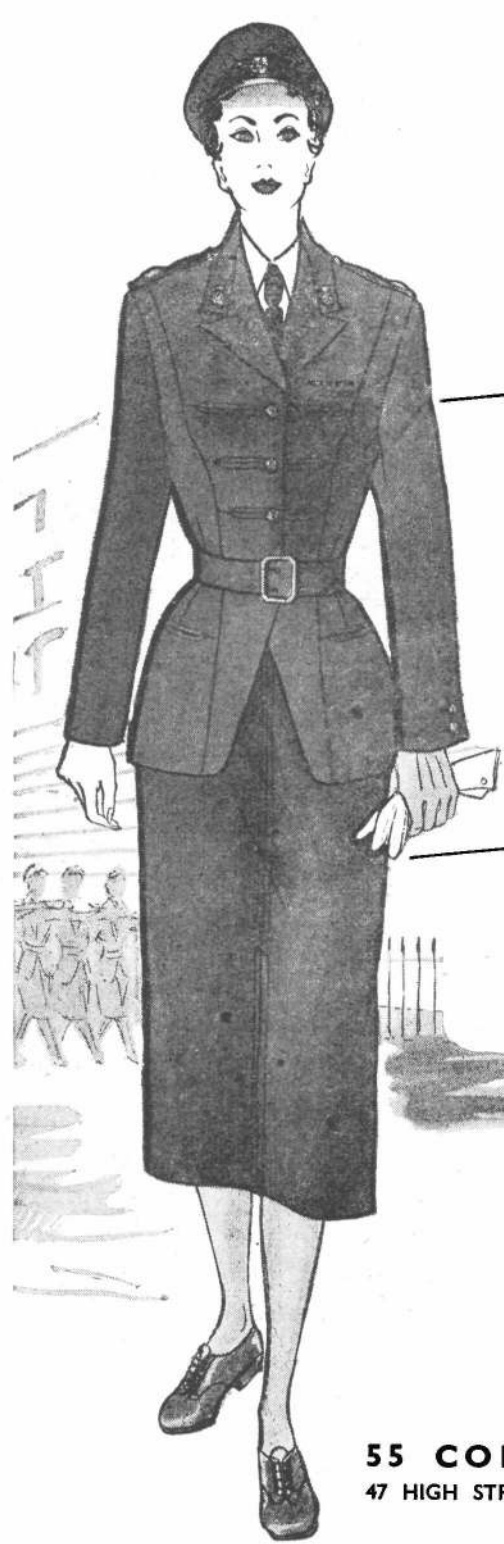
68 COLEMAN STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2.
January 1, 1953.

L. M. HARRIS & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.
REGINA EVANS,
Chairman of Council, W.R.A.C. Association.

THE LIONESS



BY APPOINTMENT
RIDING CLOTHES
OUTFITTERS
TO THE LATE KING GEORGE VI



**Bernard
Weatherill**^{Ltd}

*Officially Appointed
Tailor to the
W.R.A.C.*

55 CONDUIT STREET, LONDON, W.1
47 HIGH STREET, ALDERSHOT. 11 BENNETT'S HILL, BIRMINGHAM
BRIDGE HOUSE, SOUTH ASCOT



*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.*



In the early days of Naafi, it was generally recognised that a woman's place was in the home. Many changes have occurred since then. Women have gained equality with men. They travel the world over. And they share with men the honour of serving their country. Naafi has progressed too, never forgetting its original object—to be at your service wherever you may be. Naafi canteens cater for the daily needs of the Services and Naafi clubs provide recreational facilities, games rooms, reading and writing rooms, cafeterias and other amenities for your pleasure and relaxation.

*Please inform your friends
that Naafi needs more female staff for Canteens. Applications to Local Employment Exchange*

NAAFI

THE OFFICIAL CANTEEN ORGANISATION FOR H.M. FORCES

RUXLEY TOWERS · CLAYGATE · ESHER · SURREY

News from the Territorial Army

The only news received this quarter from the Territorial Army comes from 311 (Southern Command) Battalion, who took the opportunity of holding a Battalion Week-end on October 11-12, when the Corps Band was visiting Taunton, accompanied by R.S.M. Hadley from the School. On the Saturday Miss Hadley gave drill instruction on the square at Middleway Camp; in the afternoon the Battalion went to Bridgwater, where "The Retreat" was beaten, followed by a March Past. The salute was taken by the Mayor of Bridgwater, Councillor P. Wills. The next day there was a Church Parade, the service being taken by the D.A.C.G., the Rev. T. J. C. Roberts; one lesson was read by Major K. L'E. Heppard, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., and the other by Maj.-Gen. C. L. Firbank, G.O.C. South-Western District, who also took the salute at a March Past after the service. The officers of the Battalion then held a very successful cocktail party in the Officers' Mess, H.Q., S.W. District, for their various friends. In the afternoon all ranks listened to an excellent concert by the Band, after which they dispersed, having thoroughly enjoyed the week-end.

England to Helsinki by motor cycle

By C.S.M. M. E. M. CARTER

It all began with a chance remark during break one morning in February, 1952. What about a trip to Helsinki? The idea took root; maps were consulted, shipping and travel agencies visited and my companion, C.S.M. Mallard, and I spent the next few months preparing for the expedition.

We left camp at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 12, with the Union Jack and an Olympic Flag flying from the handlebars of my 350 c.c. Triumph motor cycle, and £17 each in our pockets. Our destination was Harwich, via Gravesend, Tilbury and Colchester. We arrived at 4 p.m. and, after the usual formalities had been completed, boarded the *Kronprinsesse Ingrid*, bound for Esbjerg, Denmark. After a good crossing, during which we proved ourselves to be reasonably good sailors, land was sighted just after midday on Sunday. We docked soon afterwards. The weather was shocking, raining like mad and blowing a gale. Notwithstanding, we set off in good spirits and rode until late afternoon, by which time we were both thoroughly soaked. Stopping at a roadside café in order to dry out a little and revive ourselves, we ordered four sandwiches and a pot of tea, for which the charge was 7s. 6d. Somewhat taken aback, we donned our dripping clothes and rode on to Nyborg and the first hotel that came in sight. Our clothes despatched to the boiler room, we changed into dry togs and took a look around town.

Next morning the sun was shining and we set off on the next stage of our journey, an hour and a half sea trip to Korsör. Our next lap took us via Roskilde to Helsingør where we ate hot dogs, our first meal since breakfast, while awaiting yet another ferry to cross to Halsingborg in Sweden. This

journey took only twenty minutes, customs formalities being complete during the crossing. We arrived about 4 p.m., went shopping for methylated spirit, paraffin, tomatoes, eggs and bread, and then set off northwards, stopping at L'Jungby in the evening. Here we found a Youth Hostel, a two-storied wooden building, spotlessly clean with kitchen provided for members. Supper was cooked on our picnic primus stove and, after a good strong cup of English tea, we went to bed.

Plans for an early start the next morning were set back by the sound of rain. However, after a breakfast of two slices of bread and half a banana each, we were able to make a start by 10 a.m. Continuing northwards our route took us through pine forests, past rivers jammed with logs and alongside lakes that were so wide that the far shore was barely visible. This part of the journey was marred only by the fact that the road in parts was simply appalling. Nevertheless we managed to stay upright and rode on until dusk was falling, when we turned into a Youth Hostel just a hundred yards from the main highway. We had an amusing experience here for one of the guests, a Swede who spoke fairly good English, declared that English people were spoiled as nearly everyone spoke our language. We felt very honoured!

Wednesday morning saw us on the last lap to Stockholm, with just seventy-eight miles to go. We arrived at midday and sailed at 2 p.m. for Turku in Finland, a journey of some thirty-six hours. What a wonderful voyage! The ship steams for four hours between hundreds of islands before reaching the open sea. Within a couple of hours the islands reappear and land is in sight for the remainder of the voyage. During the whole journey it never grew dark and the sea was like a millpond. Whilst on board a minor disturbance was created when C.S.M. Mallard presented two half-pint mugs at the canteen and asked for hot water. After a long argument, chiefly in sign language, the water was produced for the price of 2d. The ship docked at 2.30 a.m. and we were on the road early with only a hundred miles to go. What a journey! For eighty miles the road was either cobbled or of a very poor nature and, when at last we came on a good surface, the rain came down. Thus we entered Helsinki.

On arrival at our accommodation, a large school, we were received by a reception committee of about eight people. The first to arrive, I am sure that we were hardly their idea of English visitors in our wet mackintoshes and bright yellow waterproof leggings. However, they were most helpful and kindly folk and very eager to make us comfortable so we were soon settled in.

Friday was spent surveying the city which was larger and far more modern in design than we had imagined. Saturday, the opening day for the Games, saw the streets, houses and, in fact, everywhere bedecked with flags. Excitement grew as zero hour grew nearer and at last we were in the stadium, amongst thousands of people of all nationalities, in the pouring rain. Here we watched the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games of 1952 and, during the following week we cheered

"Hasn't she ever heard of
ODO-RO-NO?"



Lovely to look at, but when she's near — oh dear!

Every woman, every man, perspires to some degree. Yes, even you! It's only natural.

Although perspiration evaporates quickly from most of the body, it can't from under the arms. So it goes stale. It soils and spoils your clothes. It leaves that tell-tale odour you, yourself, may not notice, but others certainly will.

A daily bath isn't enough. Talcum powder isn't enough. Perfume isn't enough. Only an effective deodorant and anti-perspirant like Odo-Ro-No gives you complete under-arm protection — not for seconds, not for minutes, but for 24 hours. *Make Odo-Ro-No your nicest daily habit.*

- Checks perspiration safely
- Stops odour instantly
- No waiting — just wipe away any surplus
- Never irritates normal skin
- Will not rot fabrics
- Stays creamy always



IN JARS

Most Cream for your money



DE LUXE SPRAY —new quick-drying formula



Use **ODO-RO-NO** daily
and be sure of yourself

ourselves hoarse as we watched every athletic event. We thoroughly enjoyed every moment. During our stay we bought and cooked our own food, living almost entirely on cornflakes, eggs, tomatoes, bread and, believe it or not, Horlicks Tablets. Most of our evenings were spent in a canteen specially opened for visitors, swapping experiences with Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and Americans over a bowl of jolly good soup. I must add that on three occasions we lunched at the British Legation.

We sailed from Helinski on Sunday, July 27, and landed in Stockholm the following afternoon. The same route was taken as on the inward journey, the only exception being a slight diversion in order to visit Copenhagen. During our short stay here we visited the King's Palace and rode down a one-way street the wrong way. We continued westwards as far as Kolding in Denmark before turning south, with Hamburg as our objective. This day, Thursday, July 31, was memorable for we had the first really hot day of the tour and were able to discard our raincoats and really dry out. One night in Hamburg and we were off again. On Saturday, August 2, we presented ourselves at the headquarters of 14 Battalion at Bad Oeynhausen, where we were made most welcome and were invited to stay for the week-end, an invitation which we gladly accepted. Many old friends were encountered during our stay, which passed all too quickly and on Tuesday we took to the road again and travelled as far as the Dutch border. Here I was fortunate in meeting my brother who was on manoeuvres and whom I had not seen for years. The next day we crossed into Holland, stopped for a short while in Arnhem and visited the Airborne Cemetery, and arrived at the Hook of Holland in the evening. On the Thursday we visited The Hague and had a wonderful time eating and shopping, spending the last of our money in a most carefree fashion.

Our boat sailed at 11 p.m. on Thursday night and docked at Harwich early next morning, Friday, August 8. We made for London, where I left my companion, and I continued home to the Isle of Wight. So ended a wonderful holiday. We both returned feeling remarkably fit, I having driven, and my companion having sat uncomplainingly on the pillion seat for 2,268 miles.

Plans for the future? Well, maybe Melbourne in 1956!

Civil Defence

Volunteers are urgently required for the National Hospital Service Reserve. They are required to put in two hours a week nursing for twelve weeks, plus one complete week's training in a hospital. Drivers are wanted for the Ambulance Service and work in First Aid Mobile Units. Rest Centres and Transit Camps will be set up in the event of an emergency and volunteers with experience of organisation, welfare, cooking and driving, etc., would be particularly useful. Even people with only a little time to spare are asked to apply to their local Civil Defence Centre to enrol in one of the branches of Civil Defence.



UNIFORMS

Tailored to measure uniforms can be
supplied with rank and ribbons.

TAILORS TO THE SERVICES FOR 70 YEARS

MOSS BROS
OF COVENT GARDEN

Junction of Garrick and Bedford Streets, W.C.2 Temple Bar 4477
AND BRANCHES

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.

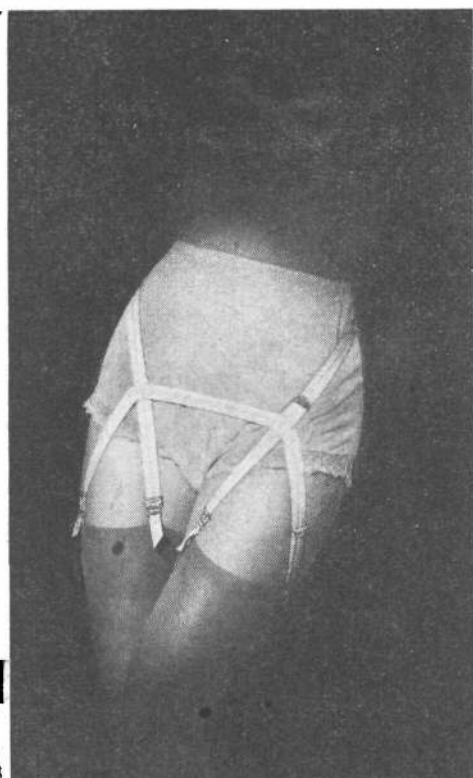
Service men and women today are making steadily increasing use of this welfare service; and more than a quarter of the strength of H.M. Forces now save through Forces Savings.

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

Sleekline, the new all-purpose stocking suspender.
Sleekline has special appeal to the service girl.
Sleekline maintains a real comfort both on and off parade.
Sleekline holds the stockings in perfect position be they an "issue" or the sheerest of nylons, without strain or twist.
Sleekline is light and easy to wear and is adjustable to all types of figure.
Sleekline washes beautifully.
Sleekline is obtainable from all leading stores.
Price 8/11, in black, white, tea rose and sky.



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 25 MOSCOW ROAD, W.2.
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Ex-Servicewomen start life anew in the NEW ZEALAND W.R.A.C.

For single ex-service women with two or more years service experience there are opportunities in the New Zealand Women's Royal Army Corps. Applications are invited for vacancies in the following categories:—

Typists, Clerks, Cooks, Keyboard and Cypher operators, instrument and telecommunications, Mechanics, Waitresses, Hospital Cooks. Good conditions and rates of pay. Free Passages. Age Limits 21—35.

Write for details, stating age, service experience and qualifications to:

NEW ZEALAND ARMY

DEPT. 15, ADELPHI, JOHN ADAM STREET, LONDON, W.C.2.

Reunion

LONDON BRANCH DINNER

Our dinner this year took place on October 18 at the Service Women's Club. We were very much disappointed that our guest, Dame Lillian Barker, was unable to attend owing to an attack of bronchitis, but we were pleased to see Dame Helen again, and, of course, our President and Vice-President, Miss Edith Thompson and Miss Ireland. The dinner was extremely good and again excellently served. The tables were arranged differently this year and we all agreed that this was a great improvement on last year. We are again indebted to Miss McNeil and her staff for their grand work on our behalf.

The speeches were up to the usual high standard. Miss Druitt, our Chairman, was in good form and we were both amused and interested by Mrs. O'Hara and Miss Suggate. Sgt. Reed was resplendent in her new No. 1 Dress and, in view of the activity after dinner in trying on her hat, we began to wonder if there would soon be a few new members in the W.R.A.C.!

N.A.A.F.I. Fashions in B.A.O.R.

It may seem strange to you to buy your model dress for the season in N.A.A.F.I., but this is being done to an increasing amount by Service women and wives in Germany. It does not mean that, just as you can have a cup of tea weak or strong, with or without sugar, so you buy your dress plain or fancy and leave it at that. On the contrary, it has entailed the organisation of two fashion shows every year for five years and they have become increasingly successful as the needs of this 18,000-strong community have become better understood.

The German wife of a British soldier has introduced an additional complication for German tastes in feminine dress are often diametrically opposed to those of British women and the average German girl has different hip measurements. Yet Mr. Jack Jordan, chief N.A.A.F.I. buyer, has to please them both. He caters for women with a good sense of fashion and not very much money who live in a small society which offers plenty of opportunity for friendly competition in dress. They are restricted by currency rules from buying on a large scale in German shops.

This is a £60,000 fashion show, with dresses of all ranges from what used to be called Utility at 25s. to the more expensive variety up to £22 and more. There are also fur coats up to £50. Compared with a show in Paris or New York, this is a very small figure, but it meets the demand in two countries and has some unique features. Unlike the big fashion houses, N.A.A.F.I. cannot restrict shows to the places that pay but must also present the season's offerings in little out-of-the-way places, wherever a few British Army or Air Force families may be stationed.

Every year Mr. Jordan, an expert fashion buyer, combs international fashion houses. Apart from the dictates of fashion he is influenced by the little white suggestion slips placed in little boxes in the

50 N.A.A.F.I. shops in Western Europe, all of which are carefully studied. Thus he gathers a representative collection of everything the Servicewoman can want at prices she can pay.

When these are presented in March in six big German cities they are as fashionable as the clothes on view in Oxford Street the same day. There is no palming off of clothes left from last spring, for they are sold annually within 10 per cent. N.A.A.F.I. fashion shows do not resemble a January clearance sale. On the other hand, they are not exclusive, with a few women sitting around on gilt chairs. They are practical, gay and in step with London and Paris.

There is continual, good-tempered activity in the fashion departments of N.A.A.F.I. shops in B.A.O.R. Customers are met by Miss Guthrie, a young and efficient senior drapery assistant, or Mr. Price, a friendly shop manager, whose twin interests are fashions and politics, which enable him to cope with any excitement. There is a specially picked team of German sales girls, fluent in English, who understand the requirements of British women, and how they shop. There is no mannequin parade. Well-lit dressing cubicles and mirrors and fashion advisers are available. Face tissues are provided for removing make-up before trying on the model clothes.

Fabrics and patterns are supplied from popular fashion books for those who prefer to make their own frock for the Mess Dance, or those who scorn Dame Fashion entirely, and only wish to be covered up.

How does N.A.A.F.I. avoid that terrible moment when Pte. Smith's wife turns up at the Regimental Dance in exactly the same model as the Sergeant's wife? Different colours and alternatives in one design are held in reserve at the warehouse. Various versions of model coats and dresses are distributed carefully at shops widely separated. Two exact replicas of the same dress are never on view in one shop at the same time.

Family meetings are held in the shop or the tea-lounge. A Fashions Committee is formed to thresh out queries and grumbles with the buyer, Mr. Jordan, and other N.A.A.F.I. officials. Children's clothing is also on view so that parents can kit up their offspring before the school term begins. Furs, beachwear, rompers, cocktail dresses, footwear, jewellery and perfume are presented to Service families in season—everything except women's hats. Such individual things defy even the fashion-telescope eyes of Jack Jordan.

Contributions to "The Lioness"

Please note that the Editor is glad to receive as early as possible contributions for the next issue. Anything received after April 7 cannot be included. Contributions should be addressed personally to the Editor, Col. J. M. Cowper, T.D., Women's Royal Army Corps, The War Office (A.G. 16), Stanmore, Middlesex, so as to ensure that they are not mislaid or held up in the Central Registry.

Remembrance Day, 1952

On November 6 Miss M. Druitt and Mrs. Giles, both ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., and Capt. B. Metcalfe, W.R.A.C., planted a cross in the Field of Remembrance on behalf of the Association. They were fortunate in being present at the same time as H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh.

On November 9, Remembrance Day, the wreath was laid at the Cenotaph on behalf of the Association by Canterbury Branch.

We have also heard from Pte. E. J. Forrest, at present on the unemployed list, to say that she and her sister had been able to attend the Service that day at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. She says: "It was wonderful to see such a huge congregation all wearing poppies, and so many rows of glittering medals. I have heard since that while we were leaving the Cathedral, after the Service, a section of the congregation sang *God Save the Queen*, but we did not hear it, to our great disappointment."

"In our sitting room here hangs a portrait of King George VI in naval uniform. I believe that in very many Irish homes there is utter loyalty towards Britain."

Do you Remember?—M.T. Convoy Driving

It was in the early days. A section of an A.T.S. Convoy Company reported at the depot for "three nights away," prepared to take a mixed bag of vehicles to a unit stationed in Forfar. The vehicles were checked for oil, petrol and kit, the documents and vouchers collected, routes and stopping places arranged, and at about 8 a.m. the convoy started, 2/Subaltern "M" (Coy. Ass.) in the rear, ready to pick up any bits or tow in breakdowns if necessary. You remember the rank of Company Assistant in the A.T.S. abbreviated to "Coy. Ass."?

The first night was to be spent in Carlisle, and by the time the "Coy. Ass." arrived the Sergeant had contacted the police and found out where the women were to sleep. There was always a great competition for the "Crown and Mitre," whilst the "Viaduct" was definitely unpopular. If ever a bed was discovered to have pink sheets it was to be reserved for "M," regardless of all other claimants.

Next morning, after refuelling, the convoy left for Stirling, where billets were booked. This was a fairly easy stage and with any luck a visit to the pictures might be possible; the billets were nearly all in private houses and Scottish teas were much appreciated. The rain was pouring down next morning when they started, and as most of the vehicles were open the drivers were very wet by the time they reached their destination. On enquiring at the Police Station about the unit's location, it was learnt that the main body had moved the day previously to the South of England, but that a rear party could be found just outside the town. On arrival only a Sergeant could be

located, who informed the "Coy. Ass." that all the officers were at lunch and a conference and he *could not take over the vehicles*. Miss "M" took the drivers back to the town where a kind Scotswoman, who ran a café, agreed to dry them and feed them, and the officer returned to the camp, leaving the drivers removing their wet garments in front of a roaring fire. There were still no officers to be seen, but after about an hour a charming Colonel arrived who, on seeing a dripping A.T.S. Subaltern anxious to hand over badly-needed vehicles, decided to sign for them himself (he also asked if he could sign for the drivers as his were not too bright). The damp, but still moderately cheerful "Coy. Ass." then went to a hotel, where the best and only drying facilities were in the stokehole.

Shortly after getting into bed that night Miss "M" was called to the telephone and was told that: (1) she was to send the drivers back next morning under their own steam; (2) she was to go to Penrith and pick up another convoy which was staging there, and then go on to somewhere north of Perth; and (3) she was to visit a hospital where a driver who had an accident and was badly hurt was admitted. As by this time the "Coy. Ass." had used up all her clean collars, she hastily washed them and stuck them on the looking-glass to dry.

The convoy duly arrived at Penrith with a male Captain in charge. The Subaltern joined him in his car next morning and started once more for Stirling. Shortly after leaving Lanark they came round a corner to find a 3-tonner on its side across the road. The driver, a Sergeant, was trapped in the cab and one arm was held fast. After much heaving she was released and wrapped in a rug, and while the male officer controlled the traffic the A.T.S. officer drove to the Police Station, informed the police, rang for an ambulance, and sent a message to the police at Stirling where the drivers would be reporting about their billets. A message was also sent to the depot at Stirling about recovering the vehicle. The police got hold of a doctor who administered first-aid. Both officers accompanied the ambulance to a Glasgow hospital, where the Sergeant was found to need a few stitches and treatment for shock and bruises. In spite of her protests that she could perfectly well carry on and what was everyone fussing about, she was admitted to hospital for a few days, and the two, by now tired and dirty, officers set off for Stirling. The police told them that all the women had arrived and were in their billets, so, feeling that a bath and something to eat were badly needed, after reporting the accident to their own depot, they went to claim their rooms at the hotel. Alas, *some mistake had occurred and the hotel was full*. Capt. "A" contacted several other places without any luck and then suggested a pub in Dunblane where he had stayed before. He rang the proprietor, who agreed to squeeze in two officers, and once more they took the road. The publican was horrified to see a man and a woman officer as the accommodation consisted of a bedroom with a cubby hole leading off it in which was another bed. Both Capt. "A" and the "Coy. Ass." were

past caring by now and propriety or no propriety determined to stay; the offer of fresh salmon for supper and home-cured ham and eggs for breakfast settled the matter.

They arrived in Stirling next morning to find that a lone raider had dropped a land mine and had sprayed the depot with a machine gun during the night. The damage was not great, there was more mess than real damage, but Miss "M" was worried about the drivers and had visions of being court-martialled for leaving her troops! However, they all turned up, the only casualty being a driver who, on hearing the plane, had sat up and had a bump on her head and a scratched face where a picture had fallen on her.

Several vehicles had been damaged, broken windscreens, bent mudguards and torn canopies, and had to be left behind. All the vehicles were plastered with mud. More telephoning to the main depot to explain the situation, then Capt. "A" went on with the convoy while Miss "M" took his car to visit the driver at Gleneagles Hospital. She was suffering from two broken ribs, concussion and bruises, but was very cheerful and well looked after.

Next morning the drivers were despatched by train and the officers returned by road. Another convoy had been completed, though it was sad not to be able to deliver all the vehicles so badly needed by the Army at that time.

Imperial Ex-Service Women's Association

We have recently received the 29th Annual Report of the Imperial Ex-Service Women's Association, Victorian Branch, which was formed in Australia in 1923. The report is accompanied by a most interesting booklet containing extracts from a news-cutting book which has been kept from the beginning of the Branch. The original meeting was convened by Mrs. James (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.), who was elected the first President and, although from the beginning membership was open to all who served, the bulk of the members were Q.M.A.A.C.

When T.R.H. The Duke and Duchess of York, afterwards King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, visited Melbourne in April, 1927, the Association was given a special place to see the procession on their arrival. A member provided a banner bearing their badge which, in the words of the book, "gained us a special salute." Later they took part in the march of Anzac, marching past the Duke and then on to the Exhibition Memorial Service, where the Duke gave an inspiring speech. The next day they provided a Guard of Honour for the Duchess. On this occasion a golden porringer and spoon, to which the Association had subscribed, were given to the Duchess for Princess Elizabeth.

The club still carries on and this year's report is one of well-attended meetings and steady activity. We send them our best wishes for the coming year and hope that any member who also belongs to the W.R.A.C. Association will see that this message reaches its destination.

Obituary

DAME KATHARINE FURSE

Dame Rachel Crowdy writes:

"Katharine Furse will go down to history as the pioneer of the women's services. Commandant-in-Chief of the V.A.D.s, part author of the plan on which the W.A.A.C. was based, creator and director of the W.R.N.S., she was the outstanding woman leader of the 1914-18 war. Her friends will remember her for the quality of her friendship. The young thought of her as ageless, the old took strength from her, and her most intimate friends knew that her friendship once given would be untouched by time or distance. She was a stern critic of anything which appeared to be false or lacking in integrity. She hated all gossip or small, mean thinking. On her desk stood a picture of St. Jerome, for she was a hermit at heart, but much of the time which she wished, as she grew older, to spend in contemplation went in solving the difficulties and sharing the sorrows of others, who will remember her." (Reprinted by kind permission of "The Times.")

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

I wonder if I may once more have space in *The Lioness* to ask past members of the County of London units A.T.S. who may have missed my letter in the 1952 January-February issue to send me accounts in their own words, newspaper cuttings and/or photographs to help us further with assembling an account of the war-time work and whereabouts of the County of London companies and Platoons and any names that would help to complete our lists of pre-war members who:

- (a) Received honours and awards and/or were mentioned in despatches.
- (b) Reached the rank of Senior Commander and above or W.O.2 and W.O.1 during the war.
- (c) Held interesting or important appointments in the A.T.S. or other women's services.

I have had most interesting information about some companies, but there are many others whose records are as yet quite unknown to us. Any further contributions should be sent to me, c/o H.Q. 327th (County of London) Bn., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, S.W.3.

I would like to take this opportunity of publicly thanking all who have already helped us.

Yours sincerely,

DIANA THORNE.

(N.B.—On retiring from the T.A. Col. Thorne reassumed her rank of full Colonel on the Reserve and should therefore be addressed Col. M. D. Thorne, C.B.E., T.D.—Ed.)

A.T.S. Badge Brooches

Gilt badge brooches, at 2s. 6d. each, are still obtainable from the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, 73 Elizabeth Street, S.W.1, to which proceeds of sale are credited.

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.

Channel Islands.—All comrades and friends are welcome at the Coronation Guest House, 38 Kensington Place, St. Helens, Jersey (3 mins. from the beach, 10 mins. to shopping centre). For particulars write as above.

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

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.

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.

For Sale.—Barathea service dress, hand-tailored by Emm's of Savile Row, lined red silk, in excellent condition. Measurements, 5 ft. 3½ in., 34 in., 27 in., 37 in. Any reasonable offer accepted. Also Tom Brown felt cap, lined red silk, as new; barathea service dress, utility type; greatcoat, etc. Mrs. M. Branney, 23 Dartford Road, Bexley, Kent.

For Sale.—One stock-size khaki standard officer's greatcoat (Simpsons). Unworn as owner served only in S.E.A.C. Ex-F.A.N.Y. £5. Mrs. J. D. Pearce, 234 High Road, Loughton, Essex.

For Sale.—Officer's green tunic and skirt. Height 5 ft. 4 in., waist 27 in., hips 36-38 in. Wetherills. Hat. Shoes, size 4. Shirt, 2 collars, silk tie. £30 complete. Box No. 1/53.

For Sale.—Greatcoat (red silk lining), in excellent condition, 9 gns.; service dress (jacket and skirt), 4 gns.; battle dress (blouse and skirt), £2 10s.; khaki cap (size 7-7½), 10s.; full set of W.R.A.C. buttons, collar badges and cap badge, £1. Measurements: height 5 ft. 5-6 in., bust 34-36 in., waist 26-28 in. Prices subject to offers. Box No. 2/53.

For Sale.—A.T.S. officer's uniform, greatcoat, costume (2 skirts), blouses. £10 the lot or would separate. Height 5 ft. 8 in., hips 40 in., waist 28 in. Holland, 106 Codsall Road, Tettenhall, Staffs.

For Sale.—A.T.S. officer's uniform, fit stock size, height 5 ft. 6 in. Greatcoat, fully lined; two uniforms, one almost new; battle blouse; about six shirts and collars, size 13½ neck. Box No. 3/53.

Officer's Khaki Greatcoat for sale. Size for approximately 5 ft. 6 in. height, 37-38 in. bust. As new. Five guineas. Apply Mrs. O. H. Gibson, c/o Q Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R., B.A.O.R. 1.

For Sale.—Two service dress uniforms, khaki, in very good condition. Height 5 ft. 4-5 in., bust 34-36 in., waist 26 in., hips 38-40 in. Box No. 4/53.

For Sale.—Officer's service dress (two skirts), good condition, made by first-class tailor. Height 5 ft. 8 in., bust 34 in., hips 37 in. £5. Also barathea cap, new, £1. Box No. 5/53.

Partner wanted with view to start handicraft business in south or west of England. Please state in which handicraft you are interested. Experience if any. Suggestions welcomed. Serving member due for release considered. Box No. 6/53.

For Sale.—British warm, service dress, Sam Browne, battle dress, tropical uniforms, khaki drill and gaberdine. To fit height 5 ft. 3 in. Apply Miss C. Russell, "Thela," Albert Road, Caversham, Reading.

"London Gazette"

JULY TO DECEMBER, 1952

HONOURS AND AWARDS

C.B.E. Col. M. Raitlon.
O.B.E. Lt.-Col. V. K. Stead, T.D. (T.A.).
M.B.E. Majors B. M. Balmer and V. Burke (T.A.).
B.E.M. Sgt. E. M. Wheeler.

Mention for distinguished services in Malaya. Capt. D. Atkinson.

REGULAR ARMY

Promotions and appointments with seniority shown:
To Colonel: Lt.-Cols. M. K. Crewe-Read, T.D., August 22, 1952; E. S. Macfie, T.D., August 22, 1952.
To Lieutenant-Colonel: Majors M. M. Bell, June 12, 1952; M. M. K. Marsh, August 22, 1952; S. M. Crawley, T.D., August 22, 1952.
To Major: Capt. M. W. Hickson, June 14, 1952; P. Riley, July 27, 1952; S. A. E. Heaney, T.D., September 2, 1952; N. Lupton, September 21, 1952; E. S. Jacob, December 30, 1952.
To Captain: Lts. M. F. Townsend, January 10, 1952; O. W. Watt, December 14, 1947; P. M. Shilton, July 31, 1949.
To Lieutenant: 2/Lts. I. Milne, January 17, 1951; D. C. Clark, October 4, 1951; P. M. Mangin, March 9, 1952; J. A. Dodds, July 28, 1952; A. M. E. Marshall, P. D. T. Nelson, A. F. V. Scudamore, J. Melville, M. A. Sworder, Y. Charters, August 10, 1952; Capt. A. E. A. Herdman-Grant (late W.A.C. (I)), November 17, 1950; Lts. J. D. M. Ravenscroft (late S.S.C.), December 18, 1948; B. Kearney (late S.S.C.), August 2, 1952; 2/Lt. J. E. U. Buncher (late S.S.C.), September 7, 1950; 2/Lt. M. C. Mogford, April 30, 1952; Capt. P. J. B. C. Campbell (T.A.), January 11, 1949; Lt. K. W. Byrne (S.S.C.), September 18, 1948.
Second Lieutenants: Cadets I. Milne, January 17, 1949; D. C. Clark, October 4, 1949; P. M. Mangin, March 9, 1950; M. C. Mogford, April 30, 1950; V. M. A. Pawcett-Barry, November 14, 1950; J. P. Castles, April 1, 1951; E. M. Chitty, September 13, 1951; N. G. Hartland, September 20, 1951; V. Forster, B. B. Turner, November 15, 1951; E. M. Miseroy, November 22, 1951; S. S. Donley, January 22, 1952; A. M. Cotton, March 9, 1952; P. W. Ward, C. A. F. Smith, March 20, 1952.

Resignations: 2/Lts. C. Yeoman, M. Harrison, P. E. Lee, I. Whitfield, B. J. G. William; Capt. A. V. Gregson; Lts. M. Owen, S. N. Wood, J. M. M. Kennedy.
Retirement: Col. E. I. W. Hobkirk, C.B.E., T.D.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Promotions and appointments with seniority shown:
To Major: Capt. O. M. Dickson, August 26, 1952; W. M. Backhouse, September 2, 1952.
To Captain: Lts. C. V. E. de Bourbel, M.B.E., April 20, 1949; E. M. Catherall, July 20, 1952; E. E. Steer, December 8, 1949; G. J. Champion, K. M. Hahn, September 15, 1952; E. G. Pritchard-Davies, September 28, 1952; M. L. Minkin, W. M. Sim, October 18, 1952.
To Lieutenant: Lt. M. L. Edmondson (late R.A.R.O.), November 2, 1949; 2/Lt. G. B. Partridge, October 4, 1951; Lts. P. A. Laverton (R.A.R.O.), August 20, 1949; R. S. Rogers (R.A.R.O.), December 2, 1951; Major S. N. F. Potter (T.A.), January 13, 1950.
Second Lieutenants: Cadets R. A. N. Hurst, M. A. Sibbald, D. H. G. Saxon, J. S. McLeman, April 24, 1952.
Resignations: Capt. M. A. Dalgleish, E. Robinson, E. Page; Lt. E. Lowther.
Relinquishments: Capt. M. Frank, E. M. Corns, M. I. Nash, M. Foster, E. M. Hambley; Capt. V. K. Robinson, M.B.E. (with hon. rank of Major); Lts. M. Johnston, M. Matless, G. B. Partridge, D. V. Templeton, P. M. Cutting.
To R.A.R.O.: Capt. O. M. Davies.

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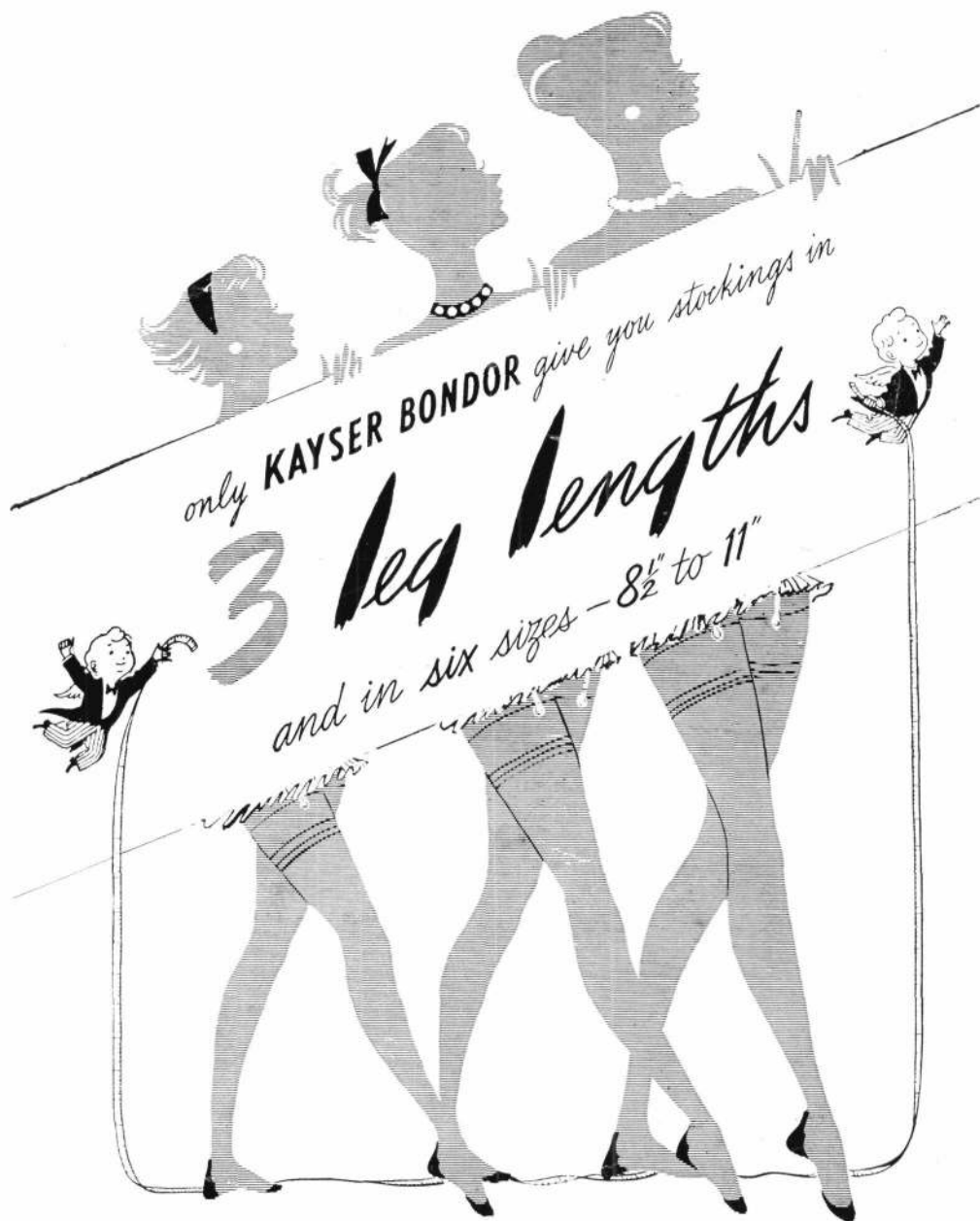
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