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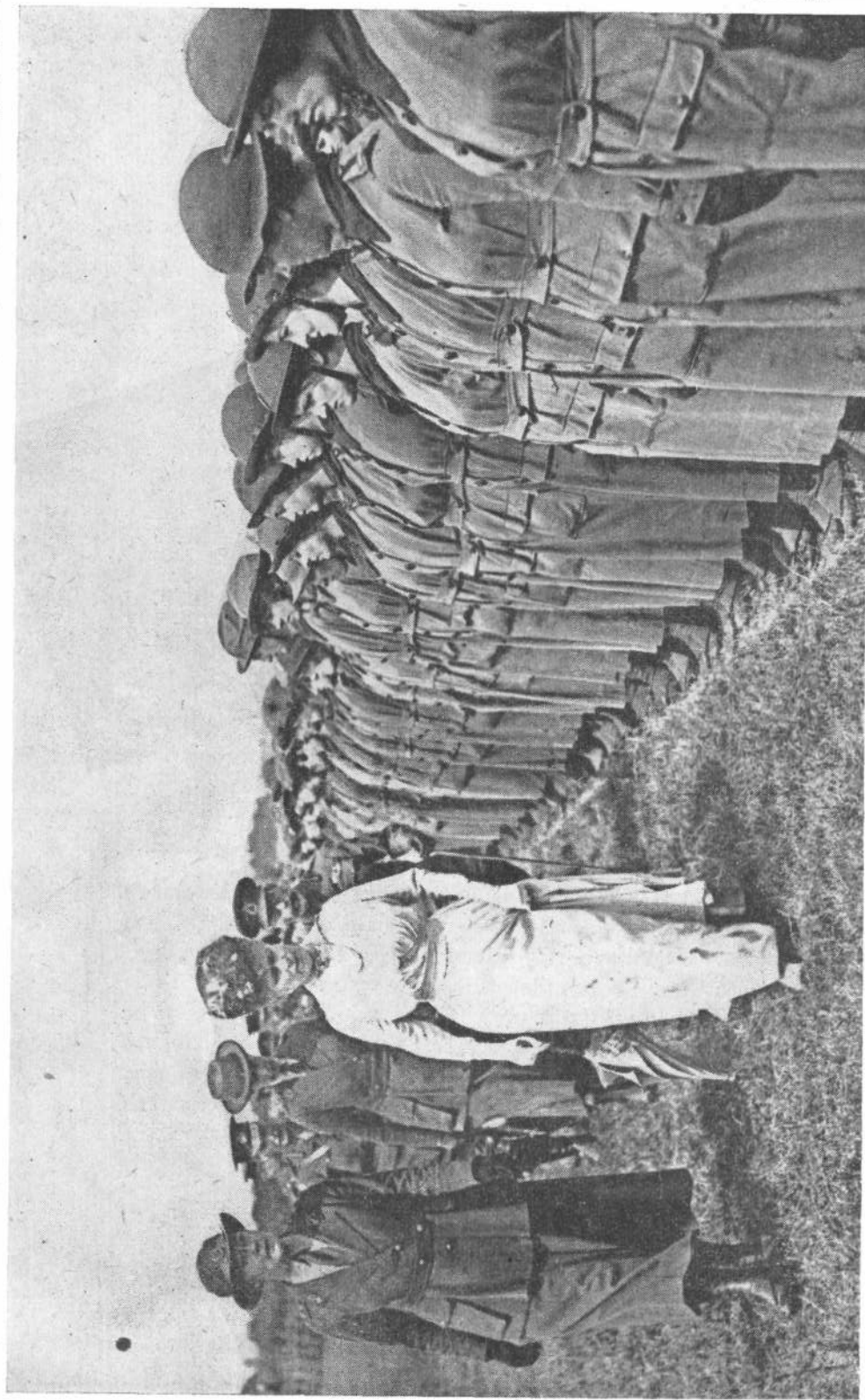
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[Photo by Reuter

H.M. The Queen inspects her own Corps at Aldershot in 1918. Behind her is King George V



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXVI

May 1953

No. 2

Contributions should reach the Editor, Col. J. M. Cowper, T.D., 4 Hillside, Lancaster, as early as possible and NOT later than the 6th of the month preceding issue.

Queen Mary

Commandant-in-Chief, Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps

By Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., LL.D., D.Sc.

Queen Mary was born on May 26, 1867, the daughter of the Duke of Teck and the granddaughter, through her mother, of the Duke of Cambridge, one of the many sons of George III and a younger brother of the Duke of Kent, Queen Victoria's father. She was thus a younger second cousin of King Edward VII. She was affectionately known as Princess May. In 1893 she married George, Duke of York, and when he succeeded his father, was crowned with him in 1911. They had four sons and one daughter, the Princess Royal.

During the war of 1914-18 Queen Mary accompanied the King when he visited the troops in France. On July 4, 1917, she inspected the quarters of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps at Wimereux; a few days later she and the King lunched at the Officers' Club in Boulogne, where they were waited on by ten members of the Corps.

Next spring came the attack by the Germans in great force and the inevitable retreat of our armies. On April 9, 1918, while the battle was still in progress, an announcement was made by the Secretary of State for War:

"As a mark of Her Majesty's appreciation of the good service rendered by the Women's Army

Auxiliary Corps both at home and abroad since its inauguration and especially of the distinction which it has earned in France by its work for the Army during the recent fighting on the Western Front, Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to assume the position and title of Commandant-in-Chief of the Corps, which in future will bear the name of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps."

This is just one example of a kind and wise decision, of dignified action, calculated to help and encourage, but it is an example that the women who serve with the Army will never forget.

Queen Mary visited the original Service Women's Club when first it was formed and, while doing so, she wore the badge of the Comrades' Association of her Corps. A signed photograph of herself was sent to Mrs. Johnston when that indefatigable General Secretary of Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Comrades' Association retired from office.

And so it has been through the years. Her Majesty's kind thought and gracious messages embraced equally the A.T.S. and the W.R.A.C. Her devotion to duty, her dignity, her consideration for others and her many great qualities are, and will remain, an inspiration to those who loved and revered her as their Queen.

Royal Messages

On the occasion of the death of Queen Mary the thoughts of all ranks, past and present, of the three Corps which make up our association naturally turned to H.R.H. The Princess Royal in her great sorrow. These thoughts were expressed for us in a telegram signed by our Chairman of Council, Dame Regina Evans, in which she said: "The Women's Royal Army Corps Association, incorporating Q.M.A.A.C., the A.T.S. and the W.R.A.C. Comrades' Association, wish to offer to their President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, their deepest and most respectful sympathy on the death of Her Majesty Queen Mary. Her late Majesty was Commandant-in-Chief of Q.M.A.A.C. and all members of the original Service feel most deeply the loss of their beloved Commandant-in-Chief."

To this Her Royal Highness replied: "I am deeply touched by the telegram of sympathy you sent me on behalf of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association (incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps Association). It is par-

ticularly gratifying to me to know that my dear mother's Army Auxiliary Corps is thinking of me at this time. Please thank all members and Comrades very warmly from me for their message."

Dame Florence also wrote to the Lady-in-Waiting, but, having been sent from and to South Africa, there has not been time for a reply to reach us. After her personal expression of sympathy, Dame Florence wrote: "Although I am separated from my Old Comrades by many thousands of miles, I know they would wish me to express, on their behalf, the sorrow and sadness which we all feel in having lost our revered Commandant-in-Chief, together with our humble duty and sincere sympathy and condolence with Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal."

On behalf of the Corps the following message was sent to H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother: "The Director and all ranks of the Women's Royal Army Corps present humble duty to their Commandant-in-Chief Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and beg to express

their deepest sorrow at the death of Her Majesty Queen Mary." To this message Her Majesty replied: "I send my sincere thanks to all ranks of the Women's Royal Army Corps for their very kind message of sympathy which I have appreciated most deeply."

To Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal the message ran: "The Director and all ranks of the Women's Royal Army Corps present their humble duty and beg to express their deepest sorrow at the death of Her Majesty Queen Mary." Her Royal Highness replied: "I am deeply touched by your most kind sympathy in my great sorrow and send my warmest thanks to you and all ranks of the Women's Royal Army Corps. It helps me to know that I am in your thoughts at this sad time."

Birth

HADLAND.—On February 16, to Winefrede (ex-Cpl., A.T.S.), wife of Major John L. Hadland, R.E., a son—Martin Charles.

Marriages

POWELL—PURNELL.—On December 6, 1952, at Christ Church, Clifton, Bristol, Ernest George Powell to Bertha Purnell.

WARNER—THOMPSON.—On Saturday, January 24, Hilda Thompson to Frederick A. Warner, of Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire.

WHITCOMBE—OUGH.—On January 10, in London, Thomas Whitcombe (ex-King's Own Royal Regiment) to Dorothy Esther Ough (nee Harrison, ex-A.T.S. and W.R.A.C.). Present address: 72 Haddington Road, Bromley, Kent.

Deaths

GOUGH.—On March 4, after a short illness, Pte. Winifred Gough, W.R.A.C. Bandswoman.

STACE.—On January 3, suddenly, Miss N. F. Stace (ex-A.T.S.), member of Liverpool Branch.

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Editorial

We are greatly indebted to the anonymous friend of one of our readers who volunteered to translate, in his spare time, the account in Dutch of the British Legion Pilgrimage we reported in November. The only additional piece of information of interest to our readers which emerged from this translation is that the British Group was led by Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, who was accompanied by his wife. Mrs. Dacre will be remembered by a few as having started life in the pre-war A.T.S., but became W.A.A.F. as soon as that force was formed. Many of us met her in that capacity throughout the war.

We must also apologise to Pte. Michaels, whose prize-winning article was forwarded by G.H.Q. FARELF, but got mislaid, which explains why it was reported missing in our last issue.

We have to report complete failure of the short story competition. One entry was received on time, another followed after the second appeal, another came anonymously with no entrance fee and a note saying "No prize expected or required" and, finally, another turned up which had apparently no connection with the competition. The competition entries were returned with entrance fees, but both contributors have generously presented them and their copyright to us. All are therefore being held for future use.

Association Notes

GENERAL SECRETARY

It was with much regret that the Council received last autumn the resignation of Mrs. Greenwell as General Secretary of the Association. Mrs. Greenwell succeeded Mrs. Lloyd Jones three years ago and during that time had made many friends amongst the Old Comrades. During her period of office the Association grew into its present form and, owing to her tact and pleasant personality, these developments caused very little upheaval in the office work of the Association.

We are glad that Mrs. Greenwell is continuing to act in a voluntary capacity as Secretary to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Her interest was always very deep in this side of the Association work and her knowledge and sympathy is of great value to that Committee. All members would like to thank Mrs. Greenwell for her past services and to express their pleasure on her continuing interest in, and work for, the W.R.A.C. Association.

CORONATION SEATS

We have received an allocation of seats on Government stands in Hyde Park for viewing the Coronation procession. As published in the February *Lioness*, the closing date for applications for a seat was March 31. The tickets, which will be issued singly and to ex-Service members only, will cost £4 each. Members who have not heard whether they have been successful in the ballot are asked not to write to H.Q. as some of the successful applicants in the ballot are unable to take up their tickets and these are being redrawn. Members who have been unsuccessful will be notified as soon as the ballot is complete.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 4, 1953, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 15, 1952, and circulated in the August, 1952, issue of *The Lioness*.

2. Apologies.

3. Business arising from the Minutes.

4. Election of officers.

Nominations received: *Chairman of Council*: Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E.; *Council Vice-Presidents*: Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., Mrs. R. King, O.B.E., Mrs. Russell Simpson, Dame Leslie Whateley, D.B.E.

5. Report of Council.

6. Report of Hon. Treasurer.

7. Report of Committees.

8. Resolutions by Council.

9. Branch Resolutions:

(a) That the Council be asked to obtain a smaller hall for the reunion, thus economising in rent, and making it possible that this function be held annually. That the services of a well-known person from the entertainment world be engaged for the evening.—*Maidstone Branch*.

10. Any other business.

RUTH JOHNSTONE,
General Secretary.

CORONATION EX-SERVICE REVIEW

Our contingent for the review in Hyde Park on July 5 will be 300 strong, and ex-Service members of Q.M.A.A.C., the A.T.S. and the W.R.A.C., whether they are members of the Association or not, are asked to write to the General Secretary if they would like to take part.

Indications at present are that our contingent will be asked to assemble in the west of Hyde Park at 12 noon and will arrive at the parade ground in the park at 1 p.m. After this, and until the Queen arrives, the time of which is expected to be 2.30, it will be possible to sit and obtain refreshments from buffets. In view of the numbers of people who will be using the buffets it is advised that packages of sandwiches, clearly marked with their owner's names, be brought and arrangements will be made to bring these to the park. It is expected that a short service will be held by the Archbishop of Canterbury, after which the Queen will review the parade. This will be followed by a march past, taking approximately one hour. At 5 p.m. the parade should be over.

Those taking part are strongly urged to wear sensible shoes, small hats or berets, and to avoid brightly coloured clothes. Medals (not miniatures) will be worn.

PROGRAMME FOR THE WEEKEND OF
JULY 3, 4 and 5

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

Saturday, July 4. Morning: Branch Secretaries' Meeting; Branch Secretaries' Luncheon. Afternoon: Cricket match on the Eastern Command Ground at Hounslow (Ex-A.T.S. v. W.R.A.C.). 7 p.m.: Annual General Meeting.

Sunday, July 5. 11.30 to 5: Coronation ex-Service review by H.M. The Queen in Hyde Park.

EX-A.T.S. v. W.R.A.C. CRICKET

Tickets for this match may be obtained from Capt. M. E. MacLagan, W.R.A.C., H.Q. Eastern Command, Hounslow, Middlesex, at 2s. 6d., including refreshments. The match will take place in the afternoon before the Annual General Meeting on the Eastern Command ground at Hounslow. Come and make it into another reunion.

News from the Territorial Army

Whether it is as a result of there having been almost no news of the T.A. in the last number of *The Lioness*, or whether because the launching of the recruiting campaign has brought them much into the public eye, we cannot tell. All we do know is that we have more T.A. news this quarter than anything else, even including our own Branches.

We start off with 313 (Devon and Cornwall) Battalion, who have sent us an account of their doings throughout 1952. In May they went to Richmond Park Camp for annual camp, the highlight of which was a sight-seeing tour of London, Buckingham Palace, a rehearsal of Trooping the Colour, Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London, culminating in an enjoyable river trip from the Tower to Richmond. The W.R.A.C. Band visited them for a church parade on the morning of May 18 and gave a delightful concert under the trees in the afternoon.

In July the Royal Show was held in Newton Abbot and, owing to restrictions on cattle, the Battalion and the Regular Army Recruiting Staff together managed to secure one of the pens alongside the Royal Naval and Royal Air Force displays. In the midst of the turmoil of preparations in intense heat on the day before the show officially opened the pen was honoured by an informal friendly visit by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal which did much to inspire the team.

The W.R.A.C. Band visited Exeter on their way to Taunton, a visit which was recorded in our last issue. After playing on the lawn of the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, to the obvious delight of the children amongst whom they moved showing off their instruments and their uniforms, the Band beat Retreat in the Cathedral Close. The Mayor of Exeter took the salute at the Guildhall and, with city dignitaries, attended in the Close.

A new venture was launched in the autumn with the object of stimulating recruiting, when a decorated truck was entered in carnivals and torchlight processions. The results as far as recruiting went were not marked, but several prizes were won, to the great benefit of the P.R.I. ! A detachment was again included in the Remembrance Day parade in Exeter Cathedral and Major Godolphin laid a wreath on the Cenotaph. The old year



[Courtesy Evening Standard]

11 A.A. (M) Sig. Regt. have a champion Netball Team

closed with the inauguration of a new section at Axminster under the command of Capt. E. J. Blackmore, of Quiet Ways Guest House, to whom we wish all success.

From 11 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment (T.A.) we hear of very different activities in the staging of a pantomime entitled "Little Wrac Riding Hood," which was produced in their Drill Hall in Brompton Road, London. The whole performance was home grown. The words, written by the cast themselves, were full of wit and topicalities; music was provided by Lt. J. Eason, costumes by Capt. R. Ortelwell and scenery by Capt. D. Aylen, assisted by one of the male officers of the Regiment, who also played Squire Wardrobe. Capt. P. Tully made a charming Rose Riding Hood and Cpls. J. Wybrow and G. Drane with L/Cpl. P. Bury got a lot of laughs as "The three girls from St.

Trinians." Also in the cast were Sgt. M. Haggan as Polly and Ptes. M. Green, S. Hopkinson, P. Moore and P. Simmonds as villagers, not to mention the male officers and other ranks of the Regiment, amongst whom Capt. E. V. S. Flack, Royal Signals, was conspicuous as Mrs. Riding Hood and a leader of community singing. The whole thing was produced by Lt. M. Baird. After the show the audience and players met in the canteen and the lady members of the cast were presented with flowers. A most enjoyable evening was spent and everyone looks forward to the next venture.

304 (Eastern Command) Battalion has sent with pride particulars of their C.O., Major Vera Burke, who was recently awarded the M.B.E. Many readers may remember Major Burke as Cpl. (later J. Comd.) Quayle before her marriage in 1947. She served in the A.T.S. in Scotland, the War Office, and at the Holding and Drafting Unit. Now she leads a very full life as she somehow manages, in an admirable manner, to be a wife, a T.A. C.O. with a Battalion covering Surrey and Sussex, and a professional woman, for she is also a negotiator with a firm of surveyors, valuers, auctioneers and estate agents in Hampstead. Her telephone number is Hampstead 0153 and, apart from welcoming a call from old friends, she would be pleased to help any readers with regard to accommodation in London.

The W.R.A.C. contingent of 455 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), held a Corps training weekend at Hoath Lane Camp on March 21-22 when, despite cold weather, a good time was had by all! The programme was largely concerned with N.C.O. and recruit training in preparation for annual camp at Tonfanau. Arrangements are in full swing for celebrating the first Corps Day, in which they hope to get a follow-up of the publicity they had recently when a local paper devoted a whole page to photographs and a write-up on the training of the W.R.A.C. T.A. (We wish these blocks had been borrowed for *The Lioness*.—Ed.)

The first direct news we have received of the nation-wide recruiting drive is from 459 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), who launched their local campaign by holding an "At Home" in their T.A. Centre at Walthamstow on Thursday, March 12. Invitations were sent to approximately 40 local business firms or their representatives and they were asked to send parties of girls to gain first-hand knowledge of the H.Q. and to see for themselves the advantages and social amenities offered. Some 30 girls arrived and were given tea, after which the C.O. and Major E. M. Burlison of the W.R.A.C. T.A. spoke to them about the work of the Regiment. During the evening they were shown a film entitled "The Second Battle of Britain," which dealt exclusively with the problems of A.A. units and the flying bomb. Members of the W.R.A.C. T.A. personally conducted parties on tours of inspection, after which the guests departed. It is still early to assess the success of this effort, but signs seem to indicate that it was well worth while, for some recruits have already been attested as a direct result of the evening and there is promise of more to come. A further "At Home" is

therefore being organised at the T.A. Centre, Forest Drive, Whipps Cross, Walthamstow, E.17, where all enquiries should be addressed.

Sgt. Seller, to whom we tender apologies for wrongly spelling her name in the last issue, has sent us an account of the big parade of this campaign on Sunday afternoon, February 22. At Victoria and the other London stations various units began to assemble and the cry was: "Which is the best way to Petty France?" However, by 1.45 p.m., everyone was ready, having made the

usual feminine adjustments so well noted by the newspapers. For example, the extra shoe polish, the quick tidying of hair, the final tucking away of handkerchiefs and the checking of buttons. The last words of advice and encouragement from the officers had been given and the four detachments were all attention, eager to be off to the music of the W.R.A.C. Band, resplendent in their green No. 1 uniform. "As we marched along through the fairly busy London streets," says Sgt. Seller, "the Band playing, the people talking, the traffic buzzing

T.A. Officers under Training at the School of Instruction



[Courtesy Evening Standard

Students being welcomed by O.C. Officers' Training Wing



[Courtesy Evening Standard

A student in her room



Students in their Mess

[Courtesy Evening Standard]

and cameras clicking, many thoughts must have passed through 340 women's minds. To the recruits it must have been a rather tense, yet thrilling, experience. To the more experienced it was, most likely, no less a thrill, as one endeavoured to do one's best to make the parade a great success. After approximately a mile and a quarter, having passed the Cenotaph and the mounted Guards, we formed up on the Horse Guards Parade, ready for the inspection by Maj.-Gen. B. C. H. Kimmins, C.B., C.B.E., Director of the T.A. From the few words heard across that large parade ground, it was clearly understood that everything had gone off quite well and that our efforts were very much appreciated. After the march past, followed the march back to Petty France along the streets of London, the whole thing over, but an afternoon which will remain in my mind for a long time."

For 327 (County of London) Battalion this was the climax of a campaign that had been going on throughout the month during which, together with A.A. units in the county, they manned a mobile recruiting van, provided window displays in some of the larger stores and did duty at local cinemas. Here they displayed recruiting slides on the screens and provided information tables in the foyers. "C" Company combined with other units in their area to give displays at Clapham and Lambeth, which included tent pitching, field cookery and first-aid.

The Battalion was also represented at the T.A. display in Hyde Park where their drivers were on duty with the mobile vans, and the cooks, augmented by volunteers of almost every trade, cooked a meal on petrol burners for 120 male Territorials. In addition they manned a recruiting stand and had on display the various models which have been made in the Battalion. During the afternoon a display of physical training attracted such large crowds that the police had to clear a path into the

arena for those who were performing. W.O.1 Nightingale, the regular Staff W.O. for P.T. at London District, devised the programme and trained those who took part.

The drivers of the Battalion have been very busy and their recent activities have included a weekend trip in convoy to Christchurch, a convoy to Windsor (including a visit to the castle) and a "bus service" to Greenwich when they conveyed over 60 members of the Battalion on a trip which included attendance at morning service and a tour of the college. The W.R.N.S. stationed at Greenwich acted as guides and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. A very instructive Sunday was spent watching the road trials of the local club at Slough and, as a result, all the drivers are training themselves for reliability trials at annual camp. The drivers were also busy providing transport for those who volunteered to go to Kew to assist the W.V.S. with the sorting of clothing for flood victims.

Had it not been for dense fog the drivers of "C" Company and volunteers from all Companies would have been driving in an all-night exercise of the Home Guard. Unfortunately the M.T. side had to be cancelled, but the disappointed drivers still turned up as assistant cooks and supper was prepared for 60 men. This exercise took place at Kennington Oval where, in the Mess, the cooks slept on the floor and provided breakfast the next morning. The telephonists were so interested in the exercise that they refused to be relieved and stayed on duty all night.

The last piece of news of this Battalion is of a performance of a pantomime, "Snow White," before an audience of 1,400 at the Duke of York's H.Q. in January. The pantomime was written and produced by the Adj., Capt. E. Joynt, who served a long apprenticeship as a pantomime producer in the Middle East. The cast of 19 players, of whom Capt. Joynt as the witch was one, and

two dancing choruses were drawn from all ranks of the Battalion; costumes and scenery were made by members of the unit; lighting effects and all other details were devised at home. Capt. S. Drake and Lt. Robertson were chorus mistress and stage manager, respectively. There were three performances, one specially for the children of Dr. Barnardo's and the British Legion Children's Homes. At this performance the witch attempted to mix with the audience after the show, but she had played her part so well that no one could be persuaded to come near her and could not even be tempted by a rosy apple which was far too like the one they had just seen poisoning Snow White! The pantomime was honoured by the presence of both the Directors, of the Corps and of the T.A. A collection was made during each performance for the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund, which realised £46 1s.

With all this activity the strength of the Battalion has risen during the last six months by 50, but they are anxious to do even better. Any reader who could help is asked to communicate with the Adj., 327 (County of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C.

(T.A.), Duke of York's H.Q., King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3. Telephone: Sloane 0461, extension 33.

From 63 (North London) A.A. Brigade we hear news of the recruiting drive in 484 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), and 609 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.).

609 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment concentrated their energies on winning the Brigade drill competition for W.R.A.C. (T.A.). Twice a week with enthusiasm and commendable regularity, the squad fell in at the beginning of the evening and at the end were dismissed, just that much wiser in the mysteries of foot drill. All members of the Regiment who were not taking part, men and women, were invited to watch the squad when they competed for the cup. Many of them brought along their friends and relations also and the audience was quite a large one. But nothing put the squad off its stride. Like good soldiers should, they achieved two objects with one manoeuvre: not only did they win the cup for the Regiment, but they also won many recruits. The whole Regiment was on parade the following day, drawn up in a hollow square, to

Three pictures of 609 (M) H.A.A. Regt. R.A.

Left: Cpl. Frances Corbett on the gun telephone.

Right: Lt. Cynthia Bradley with the unit mascot.

Below: Sgt. J. Killingray on the predictor.

[Courtesy Evening Standard]



see Col. Cooke present the cup to C.S.M. E. Allen, who had put the squad through its paces in the competition. The Regiment, apart from being the first winners of this cup, a fact of which they are very proud, were asked to co-operate in launching the recruiting drive and featured prominently in the *Evening Standard's* supplement.

With the co-operation of the manager of the Gaumont State cinema in Kilburn, 484 Regiment organised a show during the week in which the feature film was "Marching Along," the only one it was possible to obtain with a military sounding title. The evening began with the arrival of the guests at about 1945 hours. They were conducted through the foyer, lined by W.R.A.C. T.A. personnel in uniform, to the State Restaurant for the reception. By eight o'clock, when the Mayor and Mayoress of Willesden arrived, over 100 guests were assembled, including Col. S. Cooke, D.D.W.R.A.C. A.A. Command, the Brigade Commanders of 6, 63 and 82 A.A. Brigades and the C.O.s of neighbouring A.A. units. After inspecting a guard of honour mounted by 21 Independent Company, the Regular Company at the H.Q. of 1 A.A. Group, the Mayor and Mayoress joined the remainder of the guests in the restaurant for cocktails.

All guests were seated in their reserved seats by 2040 hours when the programme began with a newsreel. Then, after "Coming Attractions," a W.R.A.C. film flash was closely followed by the W.R.A.C. Band in No. 1 dress appearing in the

orchestra pit playing a Sousa march. This unexpected appearance was greeted by a tremendous ovation from the public. Now that the audience had been prepared for an unusual programme, the main tableau followed. The stage setting depicted a Bofors gun in action manned by R.A. personnel, together with searchlights and other instruments manned by W.R.A.C. personnel. The scene opened with the distant sound of aircraft approaching rapidly. The gun swung round into action; the order "Fire" was given. Flashes appeared on the stage and the sound of gunfire was heard distinctly above the drone of aircraft. The screaming whine of an aircraft then drowned all other noises and a very realistic plane appeared from out of the sky and came crashing to earth. To add to the realism, the sound effects man let off a maroon at the right moment and, by concealed lighting, also conveyed the effect of burning debris.

The end of the tableau provided an excellent opportunity to appeal to the members of the public to join the T.A. This was done by Mr. Thorp, the manager of the cinema, who also introduced to the audience the star of the W.R.A.C. film flash, Sgt. Kennedy McKenzie, of 593 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.). The W.R.A.C. Band concluded the programme by playing the W.R.A.C. slow and quick marches.

In the world of sport the Brigade is glad to claim 484 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.) as the winners of the 1 A.A. Group badminton competition. Well done!

Sleekline, the new all-purpose stocking suspender.

Sleekline has a special appeal to the service girl.

Sleekline maintains 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.

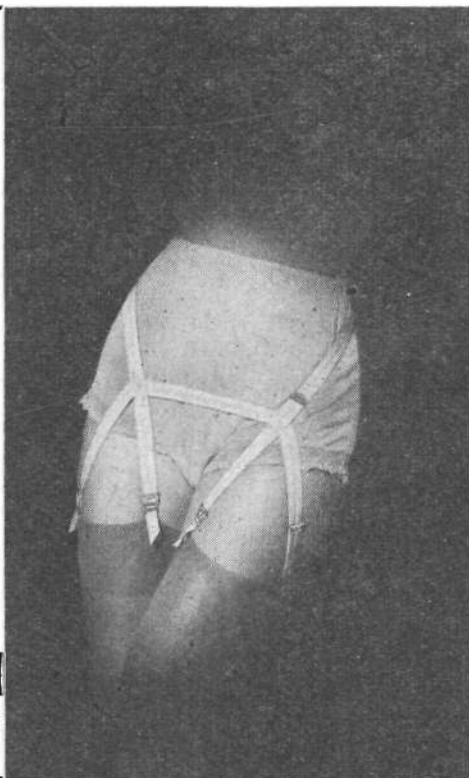
Sleekline washes beautifully.

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Scottish Coronation Reunion

"An outstanding success." "A wonderful evening." "The best reunion held so far." These are a few of the remarks heard on all sides at the close of the Scottish Coronation Reunion held in the Banqueting Hall, City Chambers, Glasgow, on Saturday, March 21, 1953.

Close on 500 Comrades packed to capacity the splendid Banqueting Hall with its magnificent chandelier lighting and, until the entry of the platform party, a most enjoyable musical programme was rendered by the Band of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). Mrs. Russell Simpson took the chair and opened the proceedings with a message from H.R.H. The Princess Royal in which she expressed her regret at being unable to be present and sent her best wishes for the success of the reunion.

The principal guest and speaker was Mr. J. R. H. Hutchison, Under-Secretary of State for War, who told us something of the inducements now being offered to encourage recruiting. He paid tribute to the work done by the pioneers since the days of World War 1 and finished by describing the results of these efforts. "The women of the country," he said, "are asked to play a great role, no longer that of stopgaps called upon only in war-time to do insignificant jobs but the part they are now asked to play is a significant one, their role an enduring one and their career a continuing one." A storm of applause broke out as Mr. Hutchison resumed his seat.

The Director, Brigadier Coulshed, was the next speaker and she spoke mostly of the part that those ex-Service women could play who were unable to leave their homes. She described how ex-officers and N.C.O.s of the A.T.S. are filling full-time vacancies on the permanent staff of the T.A. in their own home town. She also spoke of recruiters, some of whom are employed on the same terms. She concluded by announcing that Her Majesty The Queen had approved an alliance between the New Zealand Women's Royal Army Corps and our own Corps. She also received a great ovation.

Major-General W. R. Goodman, G.O.C. 3 A.A. Group, followed with a short address on the excellent work of the A.T.S. in World War 2 and the way the W.R.A.C. are carrying on in peace. Great applause greeted the next speaker, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, evidence of the esteem in which she is held by all generations of Service women. Her address was all too short, but delivered with her usual gusto and eloquence. She reminded us all of the particular pride we should feel that the central figure in the Coronation, H.M. The Queen, had once held a commission in our Corps. Dame Helen was followed by Dame Regina Evans, Chairman of Council, whose spirited appeal for the Benevolent Fund realised the sum of £26 6s. 6d. Messages of loyalty and greeting had been sent earlier in the day to the Royal Households and the replies were now read from H.M. The Queen, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and Queen Mary.

Supper was a great success in that the whole assembly was seated at tables and there was no

confusion or crowding of any sort. The highlight of the evening, immediately after supper, was the mannequin parade by serving members of uniforms from 1917 to the present day. They ranged from the old shapeless overalls and round felt hats to the modern No. 1 dress and nylon stockings. There was also a collection of photographs of the A.T.S. from 1938 onwards. The trouble was that the evening was far too short and it was with a feeling of great regret that we all joined hands to sing "Auld Lang Syne," after which we came smartly to attention for "The Queen."

We are greatly indebted to the Lord Provost and magistrates of Glasgow for the use of the City Chambers, also to the staff for the excellent service and to the Corporation Parks Department for the lovely floral decorations.

Photographs of the assembly and of the platform party were taken during the evening, and cabinet-sized copies (6½ in. by 4½ in.) can be obtained from the Reunion Secretary, Mrs. A. Crawford, 80 Merrylee Road, Newlands, Glasgow, S.3, price 3s. 6d. each, plus 2½d. postage.

W.R.A.C. Overseas

From the Middle East we once more hear of pantomime, "The Sleeping Beauty," presented by "A" Company, 16 Battalion, at Fayid. The pantomime was devised and produced by Miss Kathleen Byrne of the Signal Company, who succeeded in attaining the traditional atmosphere of Drury Lane with the added attraction of introducing good human sidelights on Service life. It was indeed the old story of "Sleeping Beauty" with a difference. It was a triumph of production and staging for the Battalion, who would be the first to acknowledge their indebtedness to their helpers of the Royal Signals and R.E.M.E.

The Beauty was played with customary charm and grace by Cpl. Paddy Lysaght, who was effectively partnered by Cpl. Mavis Russell in the role of Prince Rudolph, the principal boy. Full-blooded comedy was provided by Mrs. Bake-em-well (Cpl. Heather Manuel) and by the kitchen-boy Joey (Pte. Grace Webster). Indeed, all the characters were convincing and confident; the troupe of dancing girls might well all have rejoiced in the name of Tiller.

Here was Christmas entertainment at its best and all ranks of the three Services in the Canal Zone were warmly appreciative of the splendid contribution made by the W.R.A.C. to the Yuletide entertainment programme. Not only was pleasure given to all who saw the show during the various performances, but the proceeds will help to swell the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.

(This account has been condensed from one received from Major D. O. Hogg, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Military Observer in Egypt.)

Special Notice

Please note change of the Editor's address. Contributions for the next issue should be addressed as set out in the title page to *this* issue and should reach the Editor not later than July 7.

H.R.H. The Princess Royal goes to the West Indies

When our Honorary President, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, recently visited the West Indies she sailed from Newcastle-on-Tyne on board the *M.S. Regent Springbok*. Both the Association and the Corps sent flowers and messages of good wishes to the boat and two officers drove to the quay to wave goodbye on behalf of us all.

The Acting Equerry to Her Royal Highness wrote to the Association Secretary and said: "The Princess Royal has asked me to convey to you and, through you, to all members of the W.R.A.C. Association her very sincere thanks for the telegram of good wishes for her voyage and the lovely gift of flowers, both of which Her Royal Highness received with great appreciation of your kind thought."

To the Director, Her Royal Highness replied herself: "I am deeply grateful to you and all ranks of my Corps for the delicious spring flowers which greeted me on board *M.S. Regent Springbok* at Newcastle on January 24. Very many thanks also for the telegram of good wishes for my journey. You have all given me very great pleasure. I was delighted to see both Lt.-Col. Hull and Capt. Alison in No. 1 dress at Wallsend to see me off. I feel, if I may put it that way, that my Corps have done me proud."

Appointments

The following appointments have been made and will shortly be implemented:

A.A.G. War Office A.G. 16, Lt.-Col. M. D. Morgan, T.D., with temporary rank of Col.; Commandant, School of Instruction, Lt.-Col. S. F. M. Nimmo; A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Army Group, Lt.-Col. J. G. Grierson; A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Ireland District, Lt.-Col. T. Morris; A.D.W.R.A.C. 4 A.A. Group, Major A. D. S. Hurburgh, with temporary rank of Lt.-Col.; A.D.W.R.A.C. War Office, W.R.A.C. 1, Lt.-Col. M. K. R. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D.; A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command, Lt.-Col. M. H. Pine, M.B.E., T.D.; A.D.W.R.A.C. 1 A.A. Group, Major D. S. Gray, with temporary rank of Lt.-Col.; A.D.W.R.A.C. Far East Land Forces, Major L. E. Holt, with temporary rank of Lt.-Col.

News of Comrades

The Editor's postbag this quarter has been even more varied than usual and seems to have come from all quarters of the globe. Canada, as usual, is well represented. **Mrs. Armstrong** has written twice. She had planned a grand Coronation reunion in Victoria, but cancelled it when she heard of the serious illness of Her late Majesty Queen Mary. As the date planned was May 29, we do not know whether she will decide to go ahead. She had got the room free and had every intention of catering for herself, so the greatest expense to those attending would be the journey. As members are scattered all over Canada, however, this expense would be great and might well prevent people from coming. We hope that many

will turn up, particularly as Mrs. Armstrong herself is not in the best of health, and we feel the best tonic she could have would be a good gathering of Canadian comrades. We fear that this will arrive too late for any to read and go, but, for future reference, Mrs. Armstrong's address is c/o General Delivery, Victoria, B.C.

Mrs. Luckin, who writes from "Pinehurst," Almonte, Ontario, cheers us all up by saying that Mrs. Broadfoot, who appealed for letters in the last issue, is the third ex-Chilwellian she has got in touch with through the columns of *The Lioness*. She met **Carol Shanks** in Toronto and is still writing to **Eileen McKearny**, who lives in New York. Both are very happy. Other A.T.S. in Almonte and Ottawa include **Mrs. Murray Guthrie** (nee **Hollins**, R.A.P.C., Bradford). She has two children and wishes to be remembered to all her friends. **Mrs. Roy Proctor** lives in Ottawa. She comes from Edinburgh and was a dispatch rider in Aldershot during the war. Almonte, on the Canadian river Mississippi, is about 36 miles from Ottawa and is known as the "friendly town." It is certainly very pretty. Mrs. Luckin sends her best wishes to *The Lioness* and to anyone who served with her in Queen Elizabeth Camp, Chilwell from 1940 to 1947.

Mrs. Alice Lancaster, of Q.M.A.A.C., is now living in San Francisco and would very much like to keep in touch with old friends. Her address is: c/o General Delivery, Main Office, San Francisco, U.S.A. On the opposite coast, in New York, recently, a minor reunion took place when **Joan V. Parsons**, erstwhile S.Q.M.S. in Bad Oeynhausen, went to stay with the **Callmans**, Ann, who was a Sgt. with "G" (Int.), and her twin sister, Lilo, who was a Sgt. Cook with 2nd Echelon. Not content with that, **Phyllis Tanowski**, who was a driver in 721 Car Company, is now living in the same apartment building as the Callmans. Joan Parsons went to the U.S.A. and the Callmans to Canada at different times in 1948, meeting in Toronto in 1949 when they visited the Niagara Falls together. In 1951 Joan Parsons paid a visit to this country, attended a reunion and visited the War Office Drafting and Holding Unit, and in both places she met many friends. In the same year the Callmans moved to New York and this is their first meeting since. As usual, the writer of the letter is regrettably silent about herself, but she tells us that Ann Callman is a statistical expert with a large aluminium corporation in the Rockefeller Center and her sister is with one of the leading restaurants in New York. Phyllis Tanowski is a blouse designer and we have a wonderful description of the joys of spending a New Year vacation in New York. But, for more solid news, we can only suggest that her friends write to her direct at 209 West Liberty Street, Evansville, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Mrs. Waring writes from Brisbane on her return from a visit to this country. She says how happy she was to renew old acquaintance and to find the "Women's Army" unchanged in ideals, still active and young-in-heart, indispensable wise counsellors. She goes on to say that what impressed her most of all was the respect for older women by

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A message

*from Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.A.*

Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee.

At the invitation of Lord Mackintosh, Chairman of the National Savings Committee, I recently took on the work as Chairman of H.M. Forces Savings Committee, which post, as you know, was formerly held by Air Marshal Sir Richard Peck, who died in the Autumn of last year.

Sir Richard did a great deal for the Savings Movement, and under his guidance Forces Savings rose from £3½ millions in 1948 to more than £8 millions in 1952. I shall do my best to emulate his good work, and I think it would be a fine thing if we could raise our Forces Savings to the £10 million mark in this Coronation year.

I feel sure we might well succeed in reaching that figure if all Commanding Officers and Unit Savings Officers will continue whole-heartedly to support us in this important welfare work for Savings in the Services.

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

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the present generation! She also has happy memories of the little dinner party for two at the Service Women's Club and the hour and a half she and **Miss Edith Thompson** spent chatting. She had the honour of meeting Dame Helen for the first time; the War Office found a badge for her to replace the one she had lost in Australia; last, but not least, her "Coronation Poem" was accepted by Her Majesty The Queen. Now she is at home and feels reinforced. Her cottage is half a mile from the sea, her husband is a mariner and her son a civil engineer. Her address is c/o Queensland Trustees, 395 Queen Street, Brisbane, Old Australia.

Mrs. Potter, who as **C.S.M. Alderson** boasted the number W/1954, writes to say that she has returned to this country from Nairobi. Of those with whom she served in East Africa she has recently met **Vera Allbon**, who went out again last August to a job in Nairobi with Shell. **Ex-C.Q.M.S. Carrall** is at present on her way home on leave from Dar-es-Salaam where she works in the Secretariat. Of her comrades of 566 (M.) H.A.A. Battery, R.A., Mrs. Potter still hears from **Pte. Dorothy Barton**, **Cpl. Doris Bragg**, now **Mrs. Hart** with three lovely sons, and **Sgt. Irene Burrows** who is now **Mrs. Woodley** and has one son. One of the first ports of call is to be Reading, where Mrs. Potter looks forward to seeing **C.S.M. Gwen Goodall**, who as **Mrs. Krasno** is the proud mother of a son, and **S/Sgt. Edna Wallace**, now **Mrs. Muir**. Mrs. Muir has a very pretty two-year-old daughter, but she has recently lost her husband in very sad circumstances. Mrs. Potter's present address is 205a Godstone Road, Whyteleaf, Surrey.

W.O.2 D. E. Harrison, whose marriage is announced on another page, tells us that, since

leaving the Army in 1951 after ten years' service, she has been working at the W.V.S. H.Q. in Westminster. Another wedding is that of **Sgt. B. Purnell**, Permanent Staff Instructor of "B" Company, 311 (Southern Command) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), of which we are publishing a photograph. Sgt. Purnell also had ten years' service when she eventually left to get married at the end of last year, having served at Droitwich, Wrexham, and in the Reconditioning Centre before joining her T.A. Battalion. **Hilda Thompson**, the last of our three brides, is marrying a man who served as a saboteur, working in conjunction with the underground movement in Norway where he was dropped by parachute. Before her marriage Miss Thompson was a prominent worker in the British Legion and on the Social Committee of the Bradford Branch of the Association. Now she is living at Sutton Bridge, where she would be glad to hear from old friends. We wish all three couples every possible happiness.

News of **Miss E. M. Shearman**, whose work with the blind was described not long ago in these columns, is not so bright. On Christmas Eve she got a notice to go into hospital for an operation on the 28th. Two days later she underwent an operation and suffered a good deal of pain. After three weeks she went off to Hastings, but was longing to get home and eventually did so. Her chief concern is to express her gratitude to Mrs. Macfie of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund who visited her in hospital and took her some lovely flowers, to all her other friends who called and attended to her affairs, and to the warden and staff of the club where she lives who welcomed her back with such kindness. She returned to find lunch ordered, hot bottles in the bed, a spring-cleaned bedroom and staff and residents all eager to help make her bed,



The Powell-Purnell Wedding

[Courtesy Bristol Mirror]

dress her wound and look after her in every possible way. Her worry is when will she be well enough to wear the new Civil Defence uniform which arrived while she was in hospital! We wish her a speedy recovery.

H.M. The Queen at Larkhill

On Saturday, February 21, Her Majesty The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh attended the United Services Point-to-Point at the School of Artillery, Larkhill. They were entertained to luncheon in the Royal Artillery Officers' Mess, where No. 3 Platoon, 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., had the great honour of waiting on the royal party. S/Sgt. C. B. Polson, B.E.M., was in charge and had a staff of 14 privates of the Corps. The women were wearing their new No. 1 uniform for the first time and were to be congratulated all round on their efficiency, bearing and appearance.

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

Will you allow me to further our recruiting campaign for the W.R.A.C. T.A. by appealing in *The Lioness* for volunteers in the Merseyside area?

The 493 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.) has a present strength of about 120 women, but we have dropped considerably in numbers and feel particular need of ex-Service women with plenty of experience and *esprit de corps*.

Very soon we shall have a magnificent new T.A. centre on our present site at Birkenhead and that, we all hope, will put the Regiment even more in the public eye. We have vacancies for both operational and G.D. personnel.

There must be many ex-Service women in this area who would wish to give some of their spare time to training for an important role in an A.A. Regiment and we all hope they will come along and visit us and see for themselves the opportunities for service and comradeship opened by the W.R.A.C. T.A.

We have several officer vacancies and should be delighted to contact experienced ex-officers. Enquiries should be addressed to the O.C. 493 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), "Chetwynd," Bidston Road, Birkenhead.

Yours sincerely,

DOROTHY FORSTER,

Major, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Burton, Cheshire.

February 26.

Our Queen and Commandant

This day we mourn—

We who are privileged to be

What England never before had seen,

Fifty thousand "Soldiers of the Queen."

At sight of her, when things looked grave,

Something within us made us brave.

England at war! For it was then

Women first did the work of men.

God grant that we, however vain,

Like her, still upright will remain.

CATHERINE WARING (late Q.M.A.A.C.).

Rifle Shooting

The Inter-Services Rifle Meeting took place at Metropole Buildings, Northumberland Avenue, S.W.1, on Monday, February 16, 1953. The Royal Navy won with a score of 1,552 points, the Army being second with 1,541 points and the R.A.F. third with 1,531 points. The general standard at the trials showed a distinct improvement and the members of the team are to be congratulated in making it such a close match. The team consisted of Major G. E. M. Saunders-Davies, T.D., Capt. M. A. Mack, Lt. Y. Charters, 2/Lts. R. Griffiths and Kittermaster, S/Sgts. M. Anthony and J. Brunton, Sgt. Wilkie and Cpls. S. H. Wells and Paine. Major Saunders-Davies obtained the highest individual scores of 98 and 100. She was presented with a silver spoon to mark this achievement.

Western Command report an inter-unit postal competition for both Regular and T.A. units in which fifteen teams of six women each were entered. The winners were 573 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), with a score of 1,611. No. 2 Independent Company were second with 1,583 and 325 (Glamorgan) Battalion (T.A.) were third with 1,485 points. Here again there was a general improvement, both the two first teams having scored more than last year's winning score. Cpl. Hart's was the best individual result of 286 out of a possible 300. She and the third, W.O.2 Harvey, who scored 275, both came from 573 Regiment, while the second, Sgt. Whitwam with 281 points, was from 325 Battalion.

The Shining Mountain

Kilimanjaro, Swahili for Shining Mountain, is the name by which a mountain in Tanganyika is most usually known, though the local tribe call it Kibo, or the Spotted Mountain. It has twin peaks joined by a bare lava-boulder-studded saddle of some seven miles in length. The highest point is nearly 20,000 feet above sea level.

On Saturday, September 2, 1950, four adventurous spirits, including Major (then Captain) "Jo" Wilkinson, W.R.A.C., set out from Nairobi to conquer its heights. They started out in a not-so-young Chevrolet car and for the first 103 miles, to Namanga, the road was good. Giraffe were in abundance and there was plenty of game visible as they drove over the Athi Plains—wildebeest, hartebeest, Tommy's and Grant's gazelles, zebra and ostrich. The road steadily deteriorated as it crossed miles and miles of very dry plain with scrub and thorn trees, but eventually they reached Moshi.

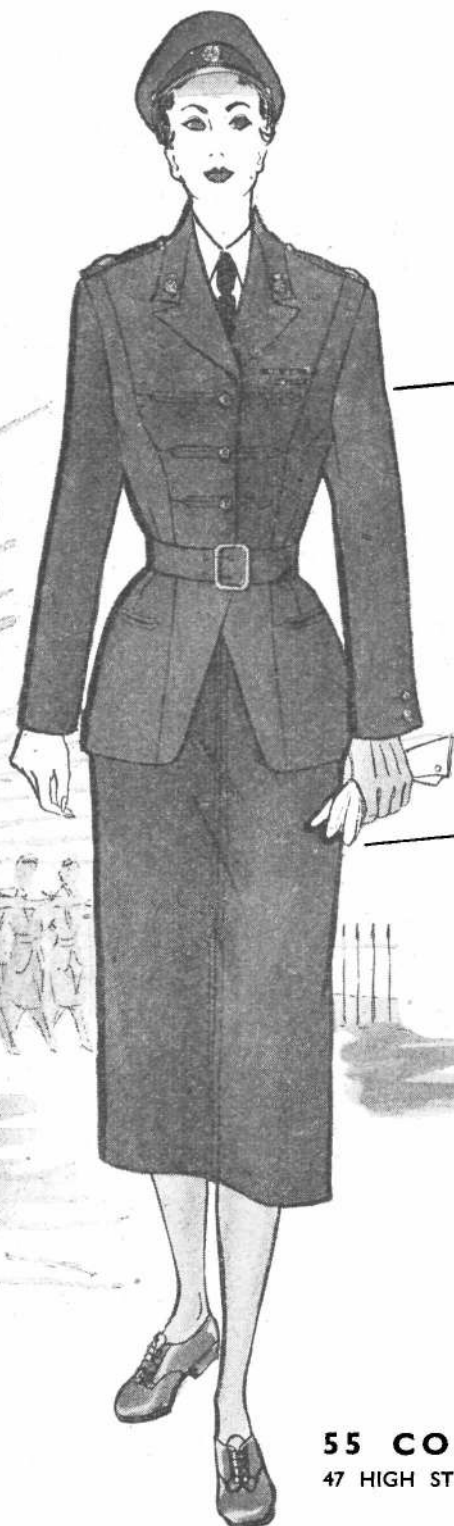
At about 10.20 a.m. on Sunday, September 3, having abandoned the car, the party set out on foot. It was pouring with rain and they were wearing macs. Their kit and provisions were carried by ten porters and they were accompanied by two guides. In the early stages they passed through the country of the Wachagga, a tribe who cultivate bananas and coffee on the lower slopes. Then came two miles of forest belt where the path was steep and had clearly been used by elephant

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not long before. They picnicked on an open stretch of heathland at mid-day and, having got beyond the rain belt and reached perfect weather, they spent about half an hour lying and dozing in the heather. Shortly before tea time they reached their goal, one of the huts belonging to the local mountain club known as Bismark Hut. Having covered nine miles and climbed 4,500 feet they were now about 8,750 feet above sea level, and here they unrolled their bedding and sorted out their very limited kit while the guides made lashings of tea. All the huts are similar in construction, the only difference being that Bismark has two rooms while the others have only one. They have two double-tiered wooden bunks built against one wall, a stove in one corner, a table and two benches. Water is provided by a mountain stream near which the hut is sited.

Leaving the hut at 8.30 a.m. on the 4th, the party passed through a narrow forest belt to open heathland and had the most perfect view of the mountain. They climbed in perfect weather through heath country covered with giant lobelias, groundsel and wild flowers of all kinds, and they reached Peter's Hut at about 1.30. Here they had a good meal of soup, stew, bubble and squeak, cheese, jam and tea, after which they tried to light the stove. When they had nearly smoked themselves out Sam-bananga, the senior guide, came to the rescue and repaired the chimney, after which they soon had a glorious fug inside.

On the 5th Major Wilkinson decided not to join the others in climbing the lower of the two peaks, but the next day, at 9.15 a.m., they all set out again for Kibo Hut, 16,000 feet above sea level. Practically all vegetation disappeared once they reached the saddle and they had a long, slow plod over lava rock and dust with quite a cold wind blowing from the north. They reached the hut at about 2.45 p.m. in good shape except for slight headaches which disappeared as they got used to the altitude. The hut was the smallest of the three, being only 12 feet by 9 feet and, in the rather small space all four of them, two guides and a kitchen boy milled around and got in each other's way. In desperation they got out and had their tea outside, which was very pleasant until the sun went down and they were forced indoors.

On Thursday, September 7, the assault on the summit began. They woke at about 1 a.m. and set out after tea and porridge on a clear, cold, starlit night, one guide in front with a hurricane lamp and the other in the rear. At about 2.30 the last quarter of a waning moon rose behind them and gave them enough light so the lamp was parked among some rocks to be collected on the way down. The last 3,000 feet was pretty strenuous going, and it was not possible to take more than five paces upwards at a time, with feet turned outwards like Charlie Chaplin, then to rest on a climbing stick and pant. The last bit of practically vertical scree had become snow-covered and the snow had frozen hard on top. This was particularly hard going as it was difficult to raise the effort to kick footholds, and Major Wilkinson found that she was getting practically nowhere. One of the

guides saw that she was a bit stuck so he came to her aid and, linking arms with her, helped her over that stretch. Beyond this again was loose scree which was comparatively easy and she reached the top, the first of the party. It was 6.30 a.m.; the sun was just rising, a really marvellous sight that was well worth the effort. They climbed to the cairn, unearthed the box and wrote their names in the book, with times of leaving the hut and arrival at the top, and the reading of their uncontrolled aneroid. It was too cold to hang about for long so they split into two parties, one of which went down to explore the crater while Major Wilkinson and a companion went round the crater to the Kaiser Wilhelm Spitz which, at 19,750 feet, is the highest point on the mountain. It was only two miles away but it took two hours to reach as it was quite impossible to move quickly and they just plodded on, resting every quarter of an hour. It was impossible to keep the cold out, even with three pairs of socks, two pairs of trousers, three jerseys, a leather jacket, balaclava and mittens. However, they eventually reached their destination and duly inscribed their names in the book—certainly the highest point at which the initials W.R.A.C. have yet been seen! They came back to Gilman's Point by easy stages and then on to Peter's Hut. Going down was far more scaring than going up. The rock face fell away for 2,000 feet in an apparent sheer drop. The only way to go down was to slide on the loose scree with a sort of dancing step from one foot to the other, leaning well back all the time. Once you had got the hang of it it was quite simple and at each step you slid about six feet. One of the peculiarities of high altitudes is that one's appetite deteriorates and the party found that they really were not at all interested in food for 48 hours. In fact, the only thing that was acceptable was barley sugar which could be sucked and required no effort of mastication. They arrived back at Peter's Hut at about 4.30 p.m., had an early meal, and fell into bed after a most exhausting day.

The next day they covered the last 18 miles before reaching the hotel. They lunched at the first hut at which they had stayed on the way up, a meal that was followed by the ceremony of crowning their hats with the wreaths of the immortals and the presentation of small bunches of flowers accompanied by a short speech in Swahili. They arrived at the hotel at 6 p.m., paid off the boys, consumed a pint of beer each, and then prepared to assault the bathrooms before the rest of the residents could stake a claim.

Acts of Bravery

An officer of the T.A. has written to ask if members of the Association could give accounts of any acts of bravery performed by members of the Corps in either of the two world wars. Some of those which earned medals are, of course, mentioned in the *Official History of the A.T.S.*, of which every W.R.A.C. unit should possess a copy. There must, however, be many acts which went unrewarded and, if we could have them, we would like to publish.

News from Branches

BELFAST

Our Annual Dinner was held on Saturday, February 28, in the War Memorial Hostel. We were very pleased to have our President, Mrs. O. B. Graham, C.B.E., and our Vice-Presidents, Dr. Olive Anderson and Miss N. McCullough, with us for the occasion. From the Southern Ireland Branch we welcomed Miss Hadden, who responded nobly to the toast of "Our Guests." We also welcomed some of our own members who, through distance or business ties, are unable to attend our meetings but who, nevertheless, continue to be staunch and loyal members of the Branch. The toast of "The Queen" was proposed by Miss McIlroy. The toast of the "W.R.A.C. Association" was proposed by the President, who, in the course of her remarks, said how proud we of the Branch were of those from Northern Ireland who were still serving in the W.R.A.C., mentioning in particular Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington, T.D., who is now commanding the Depot. The toast of "Absent Friends" was proposed by Dr. Olive Anderson and that of "Our Guests" by Miss N. McCullough. After dinner a most enjoyable evening followed, musical items being rendered by the Misses Campbell and Strain, who gave a first class performance which was greatly appreciated. Several games for which prizes were presented helped towards making the evening a success. Our thanks are due to the committee who were responsible for the arrangements. It was decided at the dinner that two representatives from the Branch attend the ex-Service review in Hyde Park in July, and Miss McIlroy and the Secretary will be present.

BIRMINGHAM

At our Annual General Meeting all officers were re-elected en bloc for a further year, there being no other nominations. Our Vice-President, Miss E. Dipple, was unanimously proposed as President in view of her long service to the Branch.

We continue to have an average gathering of 27 members at meetings and, on February 7, we gave a party for 25 elderly people who are unable to get about easily for any enjoyment. They were collected by car, a service which was given by one or two of the members, and then entertained to a film show by Mrs. Walter Higgs, J.P. She very charmingly gave a commentary on the various film shows, which were of visits made by her husband and herself to Norway, Sweden, etc. This was greatly enjoyed by all present and then our guests were given a sumptuous tea, all eatables being given by Branch members. As each guest left they had a parcel containing cakes, the ladies also receiving a bag of sweets and the old gentlemen tobacco. They were extremely grateful for the outing and everyone said how much they had enjoyed the relaxation.

The Branch annual dinner was a very successful affair and altogether 65 members turned out for this function which proved to be the happy evening we have come to expect year by year.

Our future programme includes a "beetle drive," theatre outing and, in the early summer, an outing

to a spot of interest locally and it is hoped that all members will rally round and make these functions a success.

BOURNEMOUTH

Fourteen members came to an informal supper party at Kelly's Restaurant at the end of January, and we shall be meeting there again in April. Miss F. Bull has moved to Portsmouth recently. She will be missed by our members, as she has taken a great interest in all our Branch activities. We are pleased to welcome back to Bournemouth Miss M. A. Brown, who has returned after several years at Deal. Several of our members have registered for the Home Guard Reserve and have attended training nights at the H.Q. of the 23rd Hants (Bournemouth) Battalion Home Guard at Holdenhurst Road Drill Hall.

CANTERBURY

We had our fourth Annual Dinner on December 11, followed by the Annual General Meeting. But this year our usual happy gathering was somewhat overshadowed by the fact that it was also a farewell gathering—a farewell to our Secretary, Mrs. Carroll Leahy, who was unfortunately having to give up her position because she was moving to Ireland early in the New Year. She will be greatly missed by all, especially by those members of the Branch who served under her during the war and joined way back in 1939. A book token was presented during the course of the evening by the President, Miss Machin, as a mark of our appreciation for all that Mrs. Carroll Leahy has done for the Branch since its formation.

As attendance at monthly meetings has not been very good, it has been decided to hold meetings in future only once a quarter. We send our best wishes to all our members and hope that we shall see a few more of them during the coming year.

DERBY

We are deeply indebted to Capt. J. H. D. Richardson, Adjt., Derbyshire Yeomanry, for his kindness in allowing us the use of the recreation room at the Sidalls Road T.A. Centre for our socials. We would also like to thank him for his friendly manner towards us all. We have had two of these socials and were more than delighted to see some of the W.R.A.C. T.A. We hope to see more and more of them and hope that they will join us. Our membership is not very strong, but we do get great support from our friends at our social evenings. Some of the 5th Battalion Band of the Sherwood Foresters gave us a very good night's entertainment.

A poppy wreath is laid each year on the war memorial. We were glad to be able to visit two of the W.R.A.C. Band who were taken to hospital here; also we were able to give them some small gifts. Mrs. Jones, the Treasurer, was also glad to have one of the W.R.A.C. to tea in her home.

GLASGOW

Our Annual General Meeting was held on February 16 in the Service Women's Club. We had quite a good attendance and were very pleased to welcome new members. After the signing of the minutes we elected Miss M. Thomson President,

in the place of Mrs. Whitelaw, who has unfortunately had to resign owing to ill health. Miss C. Kelly was elected Treasurer instead of Miss E. Baxter, who has also resigned. The programme for the next session was then discussed and our immediate activities include a visit to the *Daily Express* newspaper office in April, a visit from Ayr Branch in May and, in June, it is hoped to arrange a sail. There will be no meeting in July. Arrangements were also made for a Saturday afternoon ramble in August, a visit to the Edinburgh Festival Tattoo in September and a party for orphan children in October. It was agreed that a Scottish country dance should again be held and a military whist drive and a theatre night were also included. At the close of the meeting Miss Newton proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and we then adjourned for tea. Many of us attended the grand Scottish Coronation Reunion which is reported on another page.

A party of members from Glasgow are joining Ayr Branch for a week's holiday in London during the Coronation period and we are looking forward to what we know will be a happy occasion. We are all very grateful to Miss Howie, Ayr Branch Secretary, for the excellent arrangements she has made on our behalf and are most appreciative of the time and work involved in this connection.

It has been intimated that Miss Donaldson, Lennoxton, has been appointed Glasgow and District representative of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT

We have continued to hold successful meetings during the winter months. Our activities have included a "Bring and Buy" sale, the result of which was most gratifying. Another very successful event was a dance in November in the canteen of a local T.A. Drill Hall. The proceeds from this dance helped to swell our funds considerably. We have also held whist drives and "beetle drives," when we have been pleased to welcome members' friends. As a result of our efforts we were again able to entertain over 30 patients from the local Ministry of Pensions Hospital. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking those Branch members who not only provided refreshments but also helped to entertain the patients. These parties, which have been held regularly during the last six years, have proved to us that our members can be relied upon to do their utmost to make the evening a success.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on February 4, when the election of officers took place. Miss Smith, Miss Hayward and Miss Clucas were all re-elected Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Later discussion included the programme for future meetings and each member has been informed of decisions.

As usual, no meetings will be held in July or August and, this year only, the meeting on June 3 has been cancelled. This would be on the evening following Coronation Day and some members are still hoping they may be lucky enough to draw a ticket in the ballot for a seat on the route! We

shall resume meetings on the first Wednesday in September.

LONDON

Our meetings have continued this year on the first and third Thursdays in the month, and in January we ran a whist drive which was very enjoyable, though we would have liked to have seen more members there. In February we had a visit from the Century House Choral Society who entertained us extremely well with some very delightful singing. At this meeting we had a collection for the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund and, in the near future, we also propose running a raffle for this worthy cause. On March 5 we ran a "beetle drive" which proved, as always, a most amusing evening. May we draw the attention of London Branch members to the handicraft competition on October 1, as it is not too early to get started on your entry. We hope that all members will try to submit some small sample of their handiwork.

COUNTY OF LONDON

Approval has been given for the formation of a new Branch of the Association which has been given this name. Its object is to bring together all who served, or are serving, in a County of London unit. Meetings will be held at the Duke of York's H.Q., King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3, by permission of the O.C. 327 (County of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). The Secretary will be very pleased to hear from all those who have served in County of London units and who would like to keep in touch with each other in this way.

Please write for further particulars to the Secretary, c/o 327 (County of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Duke of York's H.Q., King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3, or telephone Sloane 0461, extension 33.

NORFOLK

The New Year's party and raffle on January 7 was a great success and all enjoyed the refreshments. The Annual Meeting was held on February 4. The officers and committee were all re-elected, with the addition of Mrs. W. Norman. The balance for 1952 was considered satisfactory.

The floods did great damage in Norfolk. Mrs. McDermott, of Great Yarmouth, had a very bad time with her invalid mother. They had to spend two days and nights marooned in a bedroom without food or water and they were eventually rescued by boat from the bedroom window. There had been some 5 ft. of dirty river and sea water and the house had suffered badly. Our sympathy goes to all Old Comrades who have suffered in this great tragedy.

Mrs. Molly Howes is living a very worrying life in Nairobi, Kenya Colony. In her last letter she says she has to have a policeman to sleep in the house at night. Miss E. Challinor, Entebbe, Uganda, was married on March 21 to Mr. H. Barr. We wish them every happiness.

Members please note that there will be a Coronation party at the Aylwin Hall, Norwich, when we have our monthly meeting on June 3.

OMAGH

Meetings last year consisted of a quiet, informal dinner in February; a gathering at the home of our Hon. Secretary in June; another meeting in October and a whist drive in November. On the whole, attendance has not been good, but as some members live a good distance away this may account for it. The dinner was most enjoyable, but we were unlucky in the weather in our June meeting and had to remain indoors. In October and November we gave wedding presents to the two brides of the year, Daisy Wilson, who became Mrs. Frank McMullan in June, receiving hers in October, and our President and former Hon. Secretary, now Mrs. William Roulston, receiving hers in November. On this occasion the proceeds of the whist drive only amounted to £3 17s. 3d. but, in spite of poor attendance, the evening was a great success. We have lost two members during the year, one having lapsed and another moved from the district, and our membership now stands at 22. However, in spite of irregular meetings, we hope to carry on and increase our membership and we are grateful to the Women's Section of the British Legion for allowing us the use of their hall.

PRESTON

The Annual Dinner and social evening was held at the Drill Hall, Stanley Street, Preston, on Thursday, January 29, 1953, at 7 p.m. Again we decided to cater for ourselves, so our Chairman, Mrs. Bucklee, again made herself responsible for the cooking of a turkey and a tongue and all the trimmings. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Miss M. Harris and Mrs. McCue, saw to the provision of soup and ice cream, respectively, whilst members helped with other items such as prizes, cutlery, cruets, tablecloths, etc. Mrs. Bucklee, Miss Moran and Mrs. Heaton were at the room early and prepared the meal and the tables. At 7 p.m., 40 members and friends sat down to a most enjoyable dinner, followed by coffee. Mrs. Bucklee welcomed our guests and asked them all to join us again throughout the year at our meetings. When the tables were removed after dinner we played games. A doll had been filled with small gifts and these were handed out liberally to the winners. The Secretary and Treasurer (Miss Downham) made themselves available for subscriptions and the enrolment of new members. At 10 p.m. we sang "Auld Lang Syne" and so ended another pleasant evening. We would like to thank the W.R.A.C. T.A. for the loan of their room, not only for this event, but for all our meetings throughout 1952.

SOUTHERN IRELAND

On March 21 we held our Annual Dinner at the Central Hotel, Dublin, and were delighted to welcome our guests from Belfast Branch, also Miss Pat Earls from the T.A., Belfast, and Mrs. Meta Grainger, a former member of Southern Ireland and now residing in Belfast.

We are now preparing for a jumble sale to be held during April and also for a household stall for which we are responsible at the Donnybrook Fair, which is run by the Women's Section of the

British Legion in aid of their Benevolent Fund.

Several of our members hope to take part in the review in Hyde Park and our Standard will be carried.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

This Branch, having been formed by W.R.A.C. T.A., is proud to announce that it has recently enrolled its second Q.M.A.A.C. member. Miss Gertrude Hall was our first and, although unable to attend our evening meetings, she shows a very lively interest in all the proceedings which are notified to her by post. Miss Rosemary Baker has visited the local W.R.A.C. T.A. unit to talk about service in Q.M.A.A.C. and has become very popular with all the girls. Both of these ladies have promised to attend the Corps Day church service on April 26, thus enabling us to include in the service ex-members of Q.M.A.A.C., the A.T.S., the W.R.A.C. and the W.R.A.C. T.A.

Obituary

PTE. W. M. GOUGH

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Pte. Winifred Gough on March 4, after a short illness. Pte. Gough will be familiar to many as our smallest Bandswoman. What she lacked in stature she made up for in determination and spirit. During her brief Army career of 17 months she became a well-known character and will be badly missed, not only by her fellow Bandswomen, but by all ranks at the Depot.

MISS N. F. STACE

Miss Stace was a member of the Liverpool Branch for some years and, although her duties as matron of the House of Help, Liverpool, sometimes prevented her from attending our meetings regularly, she was always a keen supporter of our activities. Her funeral was attended by several members of the Branch and a wreath was sent on behalf of the Association.

Draper Road

After every war the names of the nation's heroes are perpetuated in the names of the new-born children, newly-formed towns, newly-discovered territories or mountain peaks and, even more frequently perhaps, in the new roads which spring up as successive governments try to make good the ravages of war and the backlog in housing. So it was in Bournemouth until the Town Clerk suggested that it would be more appropriate to name these roads after the unsung local heroes of the neighbourhood, the ordinary people who also did their duty and made the highest sacrifice.

The first road to carry a woman's name is Draper Road, Kinson. Pte. Gwendoline Florence Draper, A.T.S., daughter of working-class parents of Pokesdown, died at the age of 20 on December 16, 1942. All the names are taken from the Book of Remembrance in the Hall of Memory at Bournemouth Town Hall. Between the entries in this book of DOWNEY, Robert James, Corporal, Corps of Military Police, and that of EAVES, Arthur Stanley, Trooper, 2nd Northants Yeomanry, comes that of DRAPER, Gwendoline Florence, Private, R.A.O.C., A.T.S.

New Zealand Women's Royal Army Corps

Her Majesty The Queen has graciously approved an alliance between the Women's Royal Army Corps and the New Zealand Women's Royal Army Corps.

Readers will be interested to know that the application for Her Majesty's approval travelled many miles, starting with His Excellency The Governor-General of New Zealand in his capacity of Commander-in-Chief of the New Zealand Forces. From the Commonwealth Relations Office in this country it went to St. James's Palace for the consent of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, and so to Buckingham Palace to H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and final submission to Her Majesty.

Despite the great distance apart, the alliance makes a solid stepping stone on which to meet to promote mutual interest and cement goodwill between the two Corps. Let us, therefore, through *The Lioness*, extend to all ranks of the New Zealand Women's Royal Army Corps greetings and best wishes from all members of our Association.

The Didcot Tea

It all started through missing so many of our comrades in the crowd at the first reunion in the Albert Hall. Naturally, each time we met we talked of the reunion until an idea struck us. Why not try to meet as many as possible for tea before the reunion? We each wrote to half a dozen or so with whom we had kept in touch and asked them to pass on the news. At that stage my small part ended, but "Waggy" (ex-C.S.M. Wagstaff) continued to work hard, receiving all replies and getting the whole thing organised.

On the afternoon of the 1948 reunion about 30 of us sat down to tea at Stratford Court. The indefatigable "Waggy," armed with notebook and pencil, took our addresses and thus was laid the foundation of what has become an annual function. Each year the number of addresses grows until she has now nearly 200.

Early this year "Waggy" was a little worried. She knew that several who attend the teas are not members of the Association and would not therefore be aware that a reunion was not to be held in the Albert Hall in March. Would people write for news of the tea, in which case she would have to answer? Should we try to arrange something in July, or should we hold the tea as usual in March? Those to whom she mentioned it all agreed that it should be held in March, although it was not expected that the attendance would be very big; just those living in London and the outskirts.

In the end we met on Saturday, March 21, and there were 53 of us, not just from London but from all parts. One came from Nottingham. Who were they? Why, "Group" (Mrs. A. M. Wilson) and "Adj." (Miss B. Hale); Miss Hill, who will be remembered by all who worked at the Depot; "Cummie" of the M.I. Room, not looking a day older but talking of when she receives her pension; K. Williams and Couchy, all of whom have come each year. Also there were: "Moggie" Martin, now

cooking at an R.A.O.C. Officers' Mess; "Pop" Hibbert and "Archie," both of whom we all knew in the Mess. Among the "first-timers" were ex-Sgt. Jennings ("Towney"), who now lives at Lambourn and still works in the Depot, and ex-C.S.M. Brunt (now Mrs. Sweetzer).

How we talked! We recounted the days we had spent in Didcot and our present lives. Naturally the married ones proudly displayed photographs of their children. Nor did we forget R.S.M. Marlow, for we all signed a menu which Mrs. Wagstaff will send her. The Association was also remembered. How proud I was to enroll seven new members!

We all owe a debt of gratitude to both "Waggy" and her husband. He always gets called upon to help with the work and it is entirely due to them that we are able to have such an enjoyable day each year.

To you who served at Didcot, should this be the first news of the tea, do write to Mrs. E. Wagstaff, 2 Tierney Road, Streatham Hill, London, S.W.2. Do remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope, as her post is heavy!

MARJORIE V. FROST
(ex-Sgt., A.T.S. Signals).

Clothes in the East

We members of the W.R.A.C., wherever we are stationed, have one common interest, whether we be Privates of a few months' standing, hardened Warrant Officers, or even Commissioned Officers. This is an interest in what we or our colleagues wear during our "off duty" periods.

During the six weeks I've been in Singapore I have reorganised my wardrobe to such a drastic extent that one dress brought from home has been "cut down" into cushion covers, a second is doomed for dusters, and the rubber soles are all that remain of my cosy slippers.

There is such a small demand for "Western" fashions that the shops do not carry large stocks of ready-made dresses. Instead, it is possible to choose from vast stocks of silks, cottons, linens, and that strangely-named fabric—sharkskin—the type and shade of material one likes best, and have a dress made-to-measure within a week.

Patterns present no difficulties to the tailors here (incidentally, they are *really* tailors—men who sit cross-legged on the floor; Singapore doesn't appear to possess any dressmakers as we know them in England). A picture torn from a fashion magazine, an advertisement, or even a rough sketch is sufficient guide for the tailor. He will jot down a few measurements, accept two or three dollars deposit, and set to work. Normally he doesn't even request a "fitting"—something I always hated as a child! In a week's time the dress of your dreams will be awaiting you.

In the same way shoes and sandals can be hand made to order. How often have you seen a shoe which was just what you wanted, only to discover, to your dismay, that it was a size too small?

I hope to return to the U.K. in two years' time with one of my "Kit Bags—Universal" full of some of the good things Singapore has to offer.

Sport

The preliminary rounds of the Western Command Netball Competition were played, for T.A. units, in the Districts and 4 A.A. Group, a separate competition being held for Regular units. The winning teams, the winning Regular unit and a T.A. unit from each of the two Districts and the A.A. Group, came together on Sunday, February 22, at Donnington. The finals were played as an American tournament. There was never any doubt as to the result, for 573 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), were unbeaten during the whole afternoon. Their teamwork was extremely good and showed that they had practised hard. Next came the two T.A. units, 53 Signal Squadron from N.W. District being 2 points ahead of "B" Company, 329 (Western Command) Battalion, from Mid-West District. No. 2 Independent Company, although they had succeeded in beating all other Regular units in the Command, failed to defeat any of the winning T.A. teams and were therefore placed fourth.

A W.R.A.C. team (Majors N. Christy and S. M. Howe and 2/Lt. Macready Bryan) were second in the Inter-Unit Competition at the Bedale Hunt Trials held at Catterick. R.A.C. were first and Royal Signals third.

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.

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.

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.—A.T.S. (officer's) greatcoat, small size. As new. New brown lace shoes, size 6. Harbord, Abercelyn, Bala, N. Wales.

For Sale.—Coat, British warm (Burbury made), large size. Excellent condition, £8 8s. od. Mrs. Rowley Hill, Rosehill, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex.

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 dress, tunic and skirt. Height 5 ft. 2 in., bust 36 in., hips 40 in. Hat size 6½. One shirt, size 13; four collars, size 13½. Also khaki greatcoat. Box No. 7/53.

For Sale in good condition. Service khaki dress suit, whipcord. Bust 34 in., waist 24 in., hips 38 in., back jacket length 23 in., skirt length 28 in., sleeve underarm 16½ in. Offers please. Box No. 8/53.

For Sale.—Khaki uniform (officer's), Bailey & Weatherill, first quality perfect, hardly worn. Bust 42 in., waist 32 in., hips 42 in., skirt length 28½ in.

Write Mrs. Wilson, 6 Sunnyside Flats, St. Ives, Cornwall.

For Sale.—Perfect No. 1 dress. Height 5 ft. 3 in., bust 34-5 in., waist 24-5 in., hips 36-8 in. Cap size 6½, green shirt and two collars, tie, shoes size 5. Complete, £25. Also khaki service dress £5 and khaki greatcoat £3. Write Miss Scrutton, 31 Royal Avenue, London, S.W.3.

For Sale.—British warm, superior material. To fit height 5 ft. 6½ in., bust 38 in., length 46 in. Price £10, as new. Also for sale fine khaki tunic (shoulder to hem 29 in.) and skirt, length 31 in., hips 44-5 in., waist 30 in. Both as new. Write Mrs. K. Armer, M.B.E., The Sanatorium, Lord Wandsworth College, Long Sutton, nr. Basingstoke, Hants.

For Sale.—Officer's Baratheia uniform, 50s. Whipcord uniform, 20s. Baratheia skirt, 30s. Baratheia battledress and skirt by Huntsman, 50s. Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 36 in., hips 38 in. Three shirts with two collars, 6s. each. Four shirts, 5s. each. Collar sizes 13½-14 in. Also three shirts with two collars, 6s. each. Collars 14½-15 in. Ties, gloves and hat. All may be seen W.R.A.C. Association H.Q.

Required.—Officer's service dress. Height 5 ft. 11 in. to 6 ft., bust 38 in., waist 28 in., hips 40 in. Miss A. C. Layton, Ye Olde House, Witham, Essex.

For Sale.—No. 1 tunic and skirt by Sandon. Worn very few times. Bust 38 in., hips 41 in., height 5 ft. 5½ in. Toft, Service Women's Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, S.W.1.

Service Dress, pre-war cloth, beret, four shirts, tie and scarf for sale. Bust 36 in., waist 26 in., hips 38 in. What offers? Miss Huffam, Kirk Ella, nr. Hull.

W.R.A.C. officer's green No. 1 dress, made only about six months ago and hardly worn, for sale. Tunic and skirt, bust 36 in., waist 28 in., hips 39 in., height 5 ft. 8 in., £20. Cap (Scotts), size 7, £2. Green shirt with two Trubenized collars, size 13½, and tie, £1. Black shoes, size 6½, and regulation shade nylons 10 in., £2. Capt. M. Haxell, Camborne, Pelham Road, Thorpe Bay, Essex.

For Sale.—Officer's green tunic, skirt and greatcoat. Height 5 ft. 5½ in., bust 33-4 in., waist 25 in., hips 36 in. Cap. Shoes, size 4. Gloves, 6½. Two shirts, four collars. All in perfect condition. £50 complete. Khaki greatcoat, £5. Box No. 9/53.

Wanted.—Battle blouse 36 in., slacks 26-in. waist, 30 in. inside leg. Write D. M. Murrell, 216a London Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

New Khaki Greatcoat for sale. Although made over ten years ago by Sandon, this coat has been worn only once. It cost £30 and is being offered at £15. Also a Sandon service dress and skirt in good condition for £2 10s., and three bush jackets and skirts, worn for a fortnight only, at 30s. each. To fit full figure, height 5 ft. 5 in. Box No. 10/53.

Come and spend your holiday at Trelawne, Lancaster Gardens, Clacton. All Comrades and friends welcomed. Every attention and comfort with good food. Small hotel run by ex-A.T.S. Write as above or phone Clacton 979.

I took myself in hand...

I never used nail polish because I thought my nails weren't good enough. Silly of me—I might as well have thought that I couldn't wear lipstick because my mouth wasn't a good shape! I've discovered now that Cutex actually flatters my nails.



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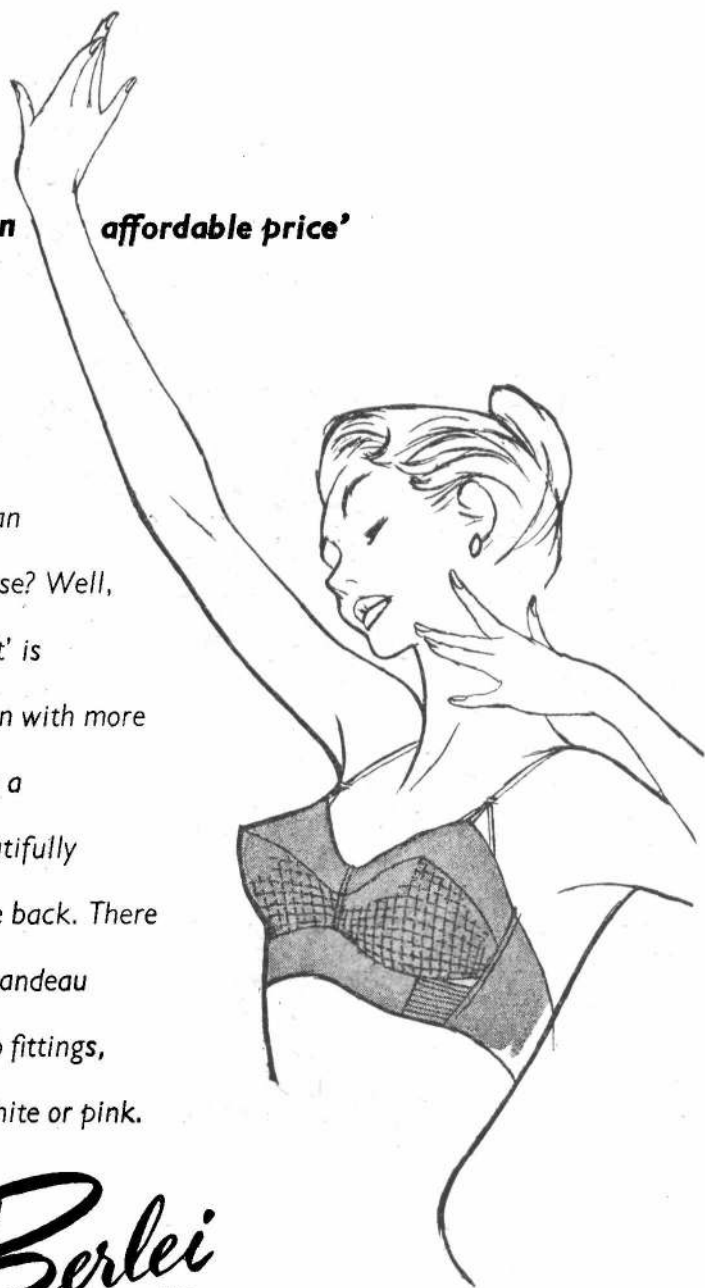
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LIST OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

When sending alterations to the Secretary please write out the complete entry in capital letters.

- Adelaide.**—Mrs. C. Hurren, 190 Torrens Road, Woodville, South Australia.
Ayrshire.—Miss J. Howie, 5 Alton Terrace, Monkton, Ayrshire.
Aberdeen.—Mrs. M. Wilson, 6 Crimon Place, Aberdeen.
Bath.—Mrs. Kennard, 2 Raby Place, Bath, Somerset.
Bedford.—Mrs. E. Hayman, 9 Cardington Road, Bedford.
Belfast.—Miss N. M. Arnold, 11 Easton Crescent, Cliftonville, Belfast.
Birmingham.—Miss E. Udall, 84 Longmore Road, Shirley, Birmingham.
Bournemouth.—Miss J. Lunniss, "Lamorna," Stapehill, Nr. Wimborne, Dorset.
Bradford.—Mrs. E. M. Suttle, 9 St. Anne's Terrace, Baildon, Nr. Shipley, Yorks.
Brighton.—Miss J. A. Durndell, 38 Toronto Terrace, Brighton.
Bristol.—Miss K. M. Cottrell, 435 Fishponds Road, Fishponds, Bristol.
Canterbury.—Mrs. R. Closier, 3 The Paddock, Upper Charity Lane, Canterbury, Kent.
Cardiff.—Mrs. D. Pucknell, 11 Kybeliog Street, Cardiff, Glamorgan.
Carlisle.—Miss E. Wightman, 11 Orfeur Street, Carlisle, Cumberland.
Chelmsford.—Mrs. M. Bragg, 57 Byron Road, Chelmsford, Essex.
Chester.—R.S.M. C. M. Savage, M.B.E., W.R.A.C., The Drill Hall, Volunteer Street, Chester.
Chesterfield.—Miss E. M. Cleary, 543 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.
Colchester.—Miss Manley, 118 St. Andrew's Avenue, Colchester.
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 2 Ind. Coy.—W.O. II Bell, Venning Barracks, Donnington, Shropshire.
 3 Ind. Coy.—L/Cpl. M. B. Elrick, School of A.A. Artillery, Manorbie, Nr. Tenby.
 4 Ind. Coy.—Sgt. I. T. Friend, G.H.Q., FARELF, c/o G.P.O., Singapore.
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 8 Ind. Coy.—W.O. II C. Pilgrom, H.Q. Southern Command, Salisbury.
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 10 Ind. Coy.—Mandora Hutments, Hope Grants Road, Aldershot.
 11 Ind. Coy.—W.O. II F. Hardwick, Chilwell, Beeston, Notts.
 12 Ind. Coy.—2/Lt. C. R. Mordaunt, Menage Lines, Old Infantry Lines, Canterbury, Kent.
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 24 Ind. Pl.—Sgt. M. Trinnick, P.O. Box 4000, Nairobi, Kenya.
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Note.—Where the secretary's name has not been notified the address only is given. Will Officers Commanding units please check this list and notify the Secretary (NOT the Editor) of any inaccuracies.

Acknowledgment

On Thursday, January 29, London's *Evening Standard* produced an illustrated supplement to launch the recruiting campaign for the Army Women's Services. We are much indebted to the general manager who, contrary to usual practice, has lent us all the blocks referring to our Corps. All photographs in this issue, unless otherwise acknowledged, appeared in this supplement and are reproduced by kind permission of the *Evening Standard*.

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Passing-Out Parade

Officer Cadets

The salute at the sixth passing-out parade of Officer Cadets was taken by D.W.R.A.C., Brigadier M. F. Coulshed, C.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., on Wednesday, February 25, 1953. Owing to the uncertainty of the weather at that time of year the parade took place in the Drill Shed, probably a wise decision, but quite unnecessary as it turned out to be a beautiful day. Ten Officer Cadets passed out and, for the second time, both the Sash of Honour and Certificate of Merit were awarded to the same person, Senior Under-Officer R. Surtees.

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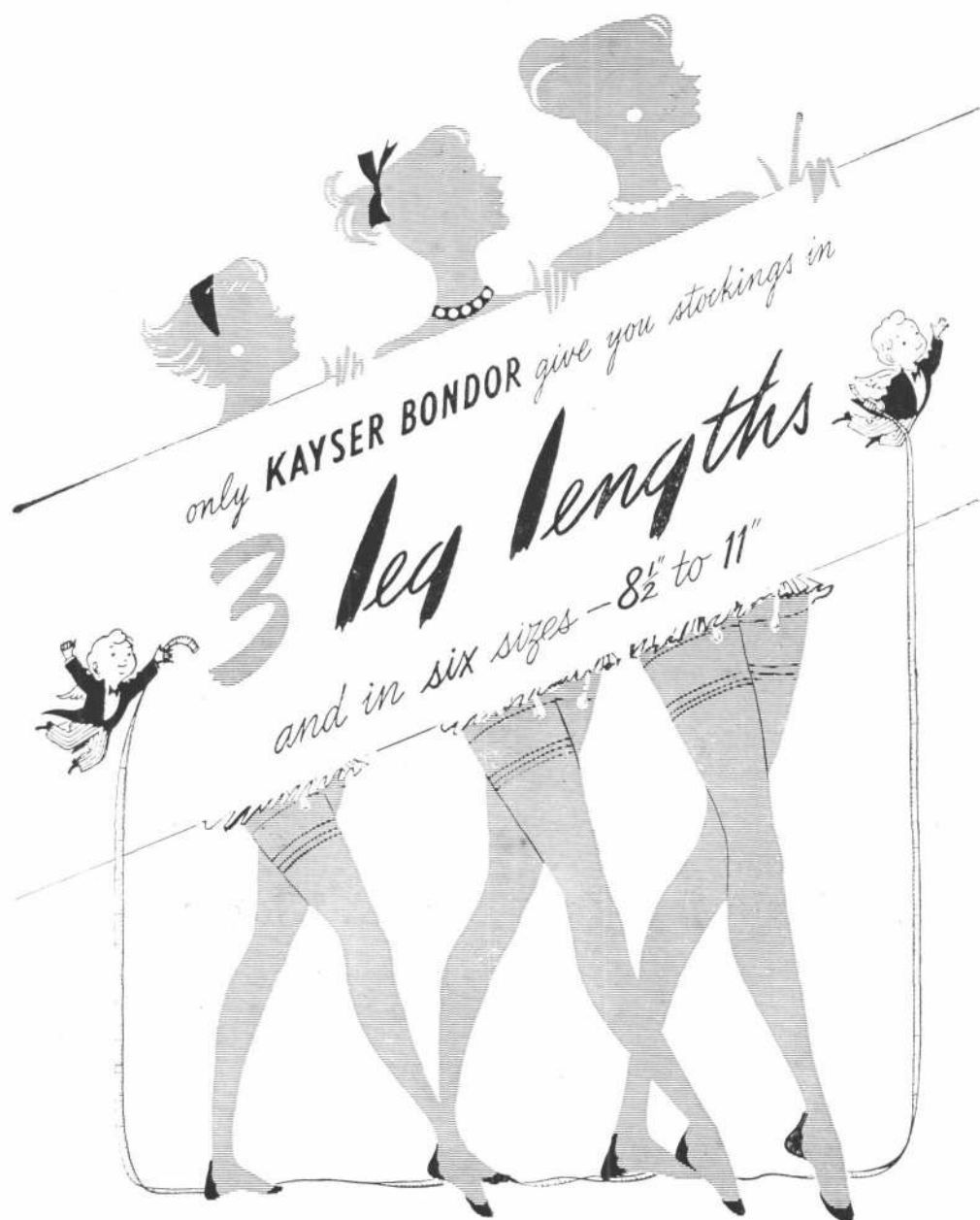


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