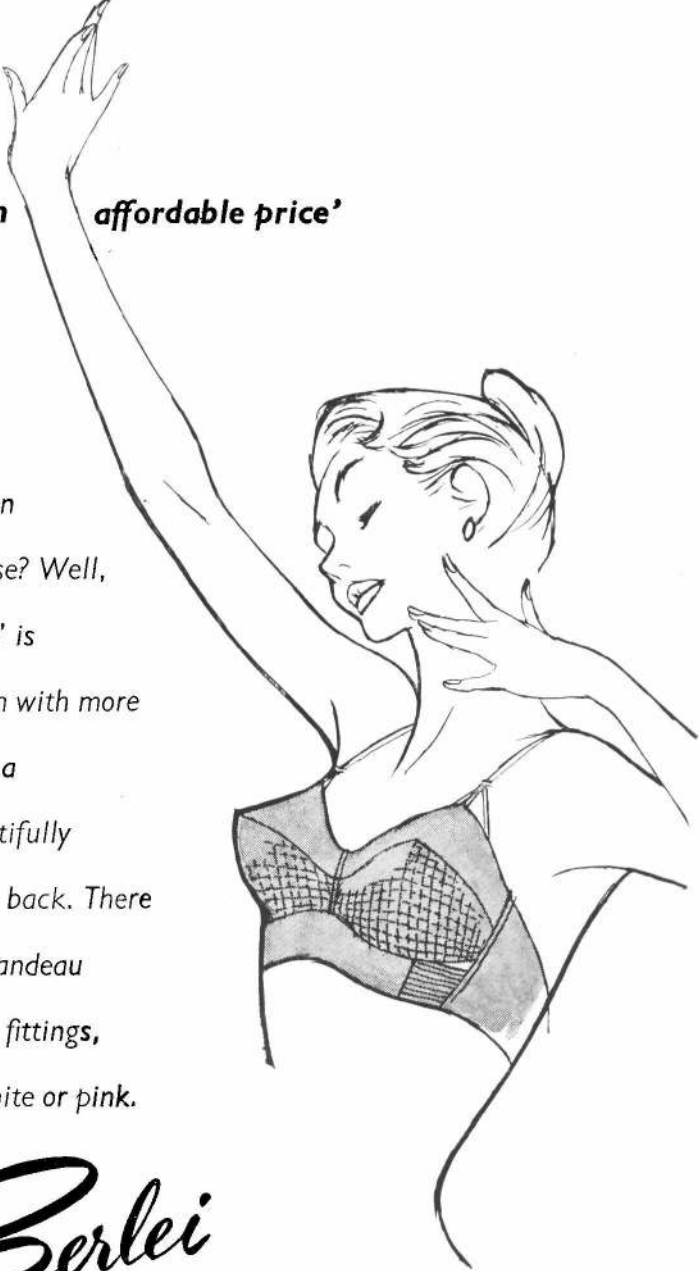


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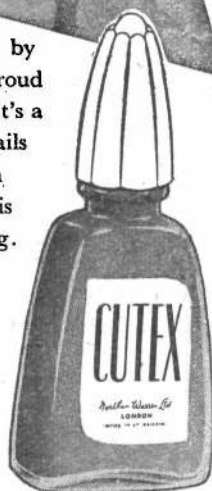
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W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK

General Secretary

(to whom all communications should be addressed re Membership and Distribution of *The Lioness*)

Duke of York's Headquarters
King's Road, London, S.W.3

Editor

(only contents of the Gazette, including the Personal Column and Box Numbers)

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**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY
JANUARY 1**

A message to Commanding Officers

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



Today, of all Forces personnel, 30% wisely save through National Savings, and the method chosen by 93% of all Forces savers is deductions from pay into Service Series Post Office Savings Bank accounts.

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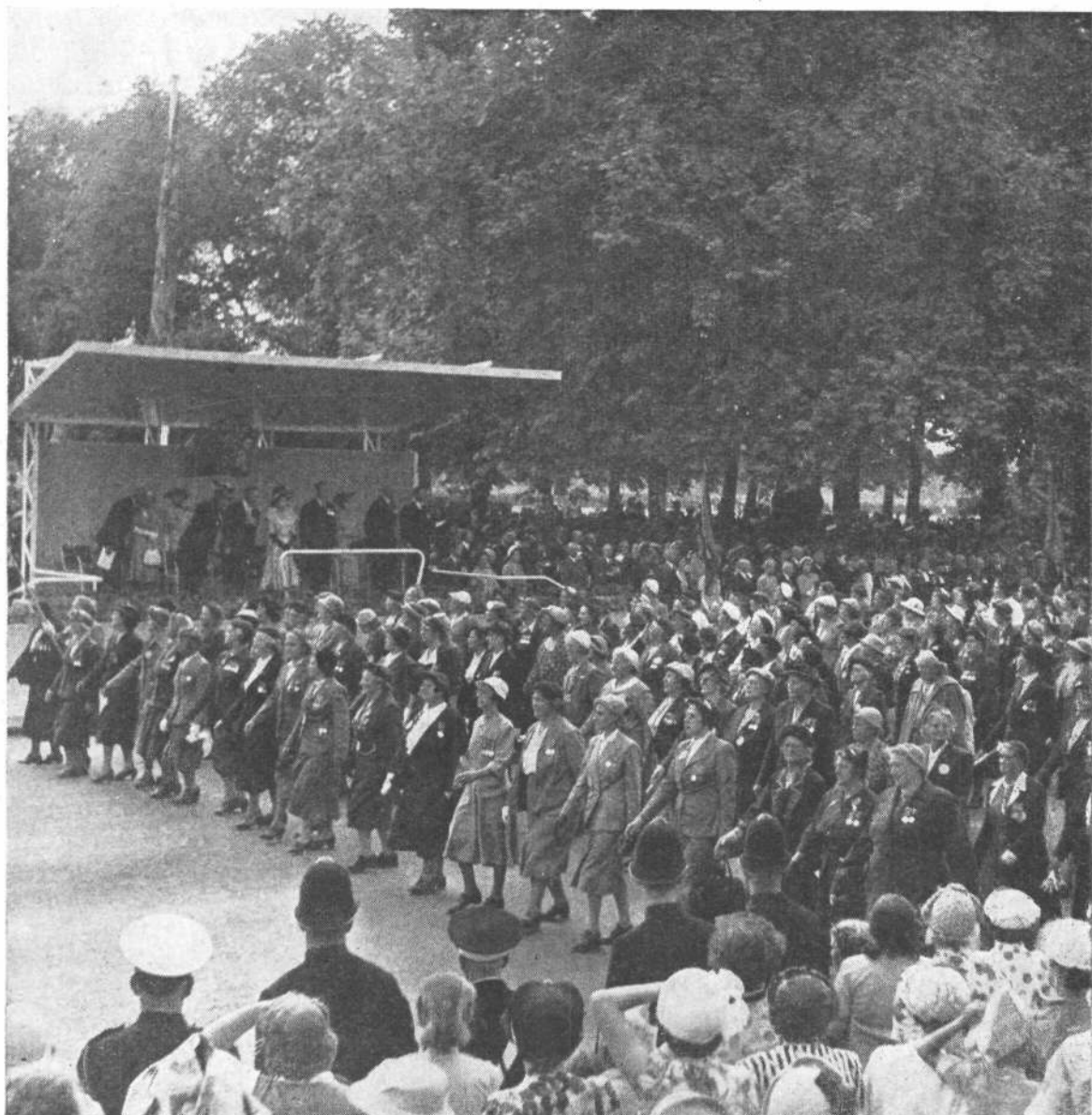


THE LIONESS

Vol. XXVI

November 1953

No. 4



[Photo United Photographers, London, S.W.9]

*The Association Contingent marching past Her Majesty at the
Royal Review on July 5, 1953*



Diamond, Platinum,
Gold and Enamel



Gold and Enamel



Gold and Enamel



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Editorial

We regret very much that due acknowledgment was not made in the last issue to *The Surrey Advertiser*, to whom we were indebted for the loan of the blocks used in the Frontispiece. Although it is true that *The Lioness* is not quite as expensive a luxury as it was we are not yet in a position to be able to afford to make many blocks of photographs. We are therefore very grateful to those newspapers, of which there are several, from whom we regularly borrow the blocks which liven up our pages. *The Surrey Advertiser* is amongst our most faithful friends.

To our very great joy your Council has decided to end our contract with our present advertising agents. It is true that we have learned a lot from them, in more ways than one, and there is no doubt that we have by now demonstrated our value as an advertising medium. At the same time our advertisements, up to now, have not paid us as much as we think they should have done. Our business manager, Lt.-Col. J. Berry, assures us that her hair will be quite white before she has succeeded in drawing up a new contract which will satisfy our needs. Anyway we are doing our best. The new lay-out, which you may or may not like, is an attempt to produce "special positions" for our advertisers without too much departure from our present high standard of production. Incidentally it gives us a thing which we have always wanted. On the "Contents" page you will see that we have included an "Association Address Book" in which we can include instructions, charges, etc. Up to now we have periodically put in this information and it has always been squeezed out. This space is no longer available for news and we shall have to keep our hands off it.

And that brings us on to the next item of importance. Hitherto we have nearly always left the News from Branches completely unedited but, unless our advertisers really do turn up trumps and allow us to reap in so much money that we

can expand the paper, we must get more space and, this issue, for the first time we have omitted any items included in Branch News which have been fully reported in other columns of *The Lioness* and references to forthcoming events which would have been over by the time this issue appears. If any of you feel strongly that this should not have been done we hope that you will write and say so. We would like to add that all news from the regular and T.A. units has had this treatment for some time.

In this issue we have four extra pages which are not being paid for out of the normal funds. Only in this way has it been possible to insert all the news we have received and include the material squeezed out of the last issue. One of the reasons for this is that some people whose news cannot be held over *will* send it in after the final copy has gone to the printer. In future no contribution will be accepted after the 1st of the month preceding issue unless warning has been given before that date and the space reserved.

If I may end on a personal note I would like to thank all friends, both known and unknown, who have sent me good wishes on my retirement. It cannot but be a wrench after fourteen years but I am particularly fortunate in that I have been engaged to write the last, or rather the third volume of the history of my father's regiment, The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster). The volume is to cover both world wars and the Regimental Funds are not deep enough to allow me more than two years to do it in. So, in fact, I seem to have even less available time than I had while serving. The only difference is that I can now work on Sundays and do *The Lioness* on weekdays, if I so desire! Incidentally I find that at least two companies of Q.M.A.A.C. served with the King's Own. If any readers know anything about such companies I would be very glad to hear of it.

What Enterprise !

308 (Northern Command) Battalion T.A. made history this year and we print their news separately in order to draw attention to it. As soon as they heard that they were going to annual camp at Shorncliffe, in Kent, they thought of a day trip to France. 305 (East and West Riding) Battalion were equally pleased with the idea and the Battalions combined. Soon there were 119 names on the nominal rolls—but what a pity one cannot get away from them, even for pleasure. A few days before the actual trip French currency had to be collected and passports stamped. What fun! Pay parade in French money! Then the day dawned. The party sailed from Folkestone harbour in S.S. *Canterbury* with lots of good wishes from those left at home, all of whom seemed to be going to London! They took the precaution of taking Kwell's but, luckily, the weather was good, the sea calm, and no Kwell's needed.

Arrived at Boulogne harbour, a Cook's courier

met the party and conducted them to the Boulogne Station Restaurant, where they all thoroughly enjoyed a good luncheon. After lunch a bus tour incorporated the old town. There was one lovely moment when a wreath was laid on the grave of a relation of one of the girls, who had died in the First World War. The cemetery is beautifully cared for. An inspection of the cathedral followed the bus tour, a really lovely place. Then there was a period when everyone, left on their own, concentrated on spending their francs. Eventually all were rounded up and brought back to the ship by bus. There were a few anxious moments when three girls could not be found, but all's well that ends well and, amidst blasts on the hooter of S.S. *Canterbury*, telling them that the ship was leaving, one officer and three girls raced like mad up the gangway. Just in time, too!

Back to Folkestone; back to camp and everyone agreed that it was a jolly good trip.

The W.R.A.C. Exhibition

The Exhibition was opened at the Tea Centre on September 28, by H.R.H. The Princess Royal. In the official party were the Under-Secretary of State, Mr. J. R. H. Hutchison; the V.A.G., Major-General A. D. Campbell; the G.O.C. London District; and the Mayor and Mayoress of Westminster.

Her Royal Highness spent well over an hour touring the Tea Centre, visiting the various stands and taking a keen interest in the prize-winning handicrafts which were displayed.

The displays included a scale model layout to show work on an A.A. gunsight, the car chassis on which H.M. The Queen learned to drive and which is used for instruction at the Driver and Clerks' Training Centre, and a demonstration of how typing is taught to music. Other items of interest included a glass case filled with examples of the work of our cooks, such as raised meat pies, marzipan fruit, scotch eggs and fruit salad, backed by pictures of the cooks at work. There was a display of photographs of all ranks on and off duty at home and overseas; a chapel corner with a chapel rug made by a unit in Southern Command and church furnishings made by members of the Corps; also a demonstration of lace making. A splendid touch of colour came from a display of painted shields of the badges of Commands, Districts and Formations where the women are employed at home and overseas.

For the 21 handicrafts classes entries were received from all over the world and special congratulations are due to the small units in the Caribbean and Gibraltar for being so well represented among the final prizewinners. The standard of work, particularly in tapestry, embroidery and toymaking, was very high indeed and was praised by the Royal School of Needlework and the members of the National Federation of Women's Institutes who did the judging. In the inter-unit competition, open to any entry made by not fewer than six people, the first prize was won by 328 (Ulster) Battalion (T.A.), whose set of models of life in a W.R.A.C. unit, shewing the barrack room, signals office, orderly room, garage and sports field, was a continual source of interest to passers-by when it was displayed in one of the windows of the Tea Centre during the fortnight that the Exhibition was open. Second and third prizes in the inter-unit competition were won by 13 A.A.(M) Signals Regiment for a dressing table stool and lamps in cream satin and 14 Independent Company for a dressed doll and cot. The prizes for this class were most generously presented by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan. Donations for prizes for the other classes were received from a very large number of units and T.A. Associations to whom we express our greatest thanks.

This report is being written during the second week of the Exhibition when already over five thousand people have visited it. Many were past or present members of the Service who were amazed and delighted at the high standard of work on view, and many more members of the public

showed such interest and appreciation that it was soon apparent that all the hard work had been well worth while.

Christmas Greetings from our President

To our great joy we have received a long letter from Dame Florence from which the following extracts are taken:

I have just received the August issue of *The Lioness*, which is so interesting. The years have flown by so fast since I came out here; it is two years and three months ago since I left England. I have settled down very well and am surrounded with things which bring back happy memories of bygone years. My little annexe has quite settled down as part of my daughter's house.

Harrismith is situated almost half-way between Johannesburg and Durban. So far I have not been to Johannesburg, as it is a much greater change to go to Durban and to get down to the sea from 5,600 ft. instead of going up to 6,000 ft. I have driven down to Durban several times, and spent a month there last year during the coldest and windiest month here, August. I am looking forward to spending a few weeks with an old friend at her lovely place at Elgin, 45 miles from Capetown, 1,000 ft. up in the Holland-Hottentot mountains. I have never been there at this time of year when all the fruit trees are in bloom. When I was there in 1926 there were thousands of acres of peach-trees heavy with ripe fruit. Now the fruit farmers have switched, almost without exception, to apples. I hope to go to the Caledon wild flower show; people travel from far and wide to visit it.

Driving back from Durban last April in misty, rainy weather, my car skidded on a particularly treacherous piece of road and finished up with a big bump against a low bank and my left arm was broken on the steering wheel. It has been a long time in plaster, but is now getting stronger, although still stiff in the morning when I first wake up.

I shall be most grateful if you will send (via *The Lioness*) my warmest good wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year to all my comrades at home and overseas. I hope to see many of them next year. My thoughts will span the seven thousand miles which divide us on Christmas Day. I have read, with much pleasure, of the activities in which our Association has taken part, and I feel proud to be a member. I regret deeply that I shall not be in England in time to be present at the reunion in March.

We had a wonderful day here on June 2; we sat on the verandah all day and listened-in to the commentaries and to the beautiful ceremony of the coronation in Westminster Abbey. Every word came to us so clearly on my portable wireless. It was a still, sunny day and no atmospheric. I think the Archbishop of Canterbury has got a beautiful voice and delivery. The Queen's broadcast in the evening was perfect. . . .

(Signed) FLORENCE SIMPSON.

Moyeni Farm, P.O. Box 49, Harrismith,
Orange Free State.

September 11, 1953.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, March 27, 1954 at 3 o'clock.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, July 4, 1953, and circulated in this issue of *The Lioness*.
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. Report of Council.
4. Report of the Hon. Treasurer.
5. Report of the Editor of *The Lioness*.
6. Report of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.
7. Report of the Museum Committee.
8. Resolutions by Council.
9. Branch Resolutions.
10. Date of the Next Meeting.
11. Any other business (if any).

A. R. JOHNSTONE,
General Secretary.

October 5, 1953.

Branches are reminded that, if it is desired to give other branches an opportunity of reading and discussing resolutions before the A.G.M., they must reach the General Secretary in time for her to send them to the Editor by January 1, for publication in the February *Lioness*.

W.R.A.C. AT GIBRALTAR

After weeks of hard work we staged our first Handicrafts Exhibition when, on Wednesday, August 5, the games room at Windmill Hill took on the impressive air of gown salon, handicrafts shop and photographer's studio. The panel of judges was headed by Lady McMillan, wife of H.E. The Governor. She inspected a Guard of Honour, judged the exhibits, toured the quarters and had tea in the sergeants' rest room. This was followed by presentation of prizes to Cpl. Harrison for photography, Pte. Prentice for knitting, Pte. Bell for dressmaking and Pte. Rimron for embroidery. A special prize was given to Pte. Zouch for her work in preparing the room and exhibits. The ex-Service members of our branch of the Association had their own display and prizes were awarded to Mrs. Waddingham and Mrs. Wardle. The unit entry was a patchwork quilt made from remnants of dress material. The centrepiece, a Lioness Rampant superimposed on the Key of Gibraltar, was designed by Pte. Zouch and embroidered by Pte. Johns. The quilt is to be presented to the Millbank Hospital. After tea the exhibition was opened and we had a continuous stream of interested visitors.

July saw our first wedding on the Rock when L/Cpl. Grevatt married Pte. Newbigging of the Army Catering Corps. They were married at King's Chapel and spent their honeymoon in Tangier. In August Pte. Arnold married Lance Corporal Murdoch of the Corps of Royal Military Police and their honeymoon was spent in Madrid. Mesdames Murdoch and Newbigging have claimed their discharge and we wish them every happiness in their new "career." Several members of the unit have taken the Garrison Life Saving Course and we congratulate Cpl. Pybus, and Ptes. Eade and

Fox in obtaining the Bronze Medallion and Cross of the Royal Life Saving Society. Lt. A. F. V. Scudamore, Sgt. Davies and Ptes. Smith, Foster and Bull obtained the Bronze Medallion. We had six finalists in the Garrison Swimming Sports where Ptes. Eade, Jarrett and Zouch carried off all trophies for 50 yards back and 50 yards free-style between them. The end of our first year on the Rock has seen the departure of some of our pioneers who have terminated their engagements and from now on there will be new faces in Windmill Hill. We wish all those departing or arriving happiness in their new surroundings.

We cannot close without saying how proud we were to join 94 (New Zealand) H.A.A. Battery, R.A. in their 150th Anniversary celebrations. The Battery, then known as "C Baynes" Company 8th Battalion, was formed at Woolwich on September 13, 1803. It has fought in many famous campaigns including New Zealand in the sixties when two officers won the Victoria Cross and the Battery gained its Battle Honour. It was the first peace-time unit overseas to employ women on operational duties as radar and anti-aircraft instrument numbers. The Band of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment played during the afternoon when the Battery was "At Home." Majors Jefferis and Waddingham, R.A., and Major E. Askham, W.R.A.C., cut the huge birthday cake with a sword presented to the Battery by Lady Milne whose husband, the late Field-Marshal, was once a subaltern in the Battery. The day finished with a Battery dance.

W.R.A.C. STAFF COLLEGE CLUB

Following the precedent set by Camberley the W.R.A.C. Staff College Club has been formed and the first general meeting was held at Frimley Park on Saturday, August 8, 1953. The Club has been formed with the general object of giving opportunities for reunion to former women students of Service Staff Colleges. There are already nearly sixty members and H.R.H. The Princess Royal has most graciously accepted the invitation to become Patron of the Club. Membership is open to any serving or retired officer of the Women's Services who holds the qualification j.s.c. or who successfully completes a course at the W.R.A.C. Staff College.

Officers and ex-officers who are eligible to join are invited to apply for membership and further particulars to the Secretary, Lt.-Col. K. Cooper, W.R.A.C. Staff College, Frimley Park, Near Aldershot. The annual subscription is 5s. with the alternative of a £5 life subscription. The Club proposes to hold a cocktail party in London on December 11, so any A.T.S. officer holding a j.s.c. who wants to be present at the party should write at once.

APOLOGY

The greatest and worst mistake was made in the August *Lioness*. The issue was edited in the bracing air of the Highlands which were, presumably, too strong for us and we attempted to correct the name of the Ilford secretary from memory. It is, as every one knows, Miss R. Parker to whom we offer our deepest apologies for our error.

The Coronation

Received too late for inclusion in the last issue are accounts of the Coronation Day parades in the Middle East. At Kasfareet the parade took place on the airfield and, by eight o'clock in the morning, some 2,000 troops, including 106 Q.A.R.A.N.C. and W.R.A.C. and a mounted parade of guns, tanks, etc., were drawn up six deep awaiting the arrival of the Reviewing Officers, Gen. Sir Cameron Nicholson, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Air Vice-Marshal H. V. Satterly, C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C. The Army women's contingent, commanded by Major E. V. Watt, consisted of Capt. C. M. Mould, 2/Lt. Sharland and 96 other ranks of the W.R.A.C. and one officer and six other ranks of Q.A.R.A.N.C. After a Royal Salute, Feu de Joie, Artillery Salute, Three Cheers for Her Majesty, a final Royal Salute was given as the Royal Standard was lowered. Then the whole parade marched past the saluting base, headed by the massed bands and drums of the units taking part. It was an impressive sight. The vast line of troops stretched across the desert airfield with its background of sandhills, the monotony of the dust-coloured scene being broken by the glitter of sunlight on medals, the band instruments, and bayonets. Just before the start of the ceremony it was announced that Everest had been conquered and one felt that a final touch of glory was added to a proud morning. By 10 o'clock most people were back in their various camps, gathered round wireless sets, where they remained until late afternoon. Reception from London was excellent and, as a copy of the official programme had been bought for each woman by P.R.I., everyone was able to follow the service and procession. With the temperature in the hundreds it was hard at times to visualise the English rain and the general regret was that 16 Battalion could not contribute some sunshine and blue sky for the occasion.

At Moascar the general form of the parade was similar. Capt. J. Leslie, a Q.A.R.A.N.C. officer and 62 women were on the parade which took place at the Kitchener Road Stadium, where the salute was taken by Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Sanders, K.B.E., A.D.C., C.-in-C. Middle East Air Forces.

Drumhead services were held on May 31 and June 1 at Moascar and Fayid. The celebrations included massed band displays, tribal dancing by East African Troops, a Royal Air Force display, fireworks, sporting events and innumerable dances, the women being inundated with more invitations than they could accept. To sum up, the whole week was marked by genuine gaiety, enthusiasm and rejoicing, in spite of the state of affairs which made the following official warning necessary: *"Do not relax any precautions. Honour the Queen while going about your duty."*

Her Majesty's State Visits

Scotland was honoured by being the first part of the United Kingdom, outside London, to be visited by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth after her coronation. It was an honour greatly prized by all whose home and heritage lies north of the Border.

Edinburgh is a proud city with a unique natural beauty; but plans were in hand many months before the Queen's arrival to make the most of gifts which nature has bestowed on our capital and to add, where necessary, such decoration as would make plain to all who beheld, and particularly to Her Majesty, the pride and joy which was felt throughout the length and breadth of Scotland in greeting our new-crowned Queen.

A striking feature of the coronation decorations in Edinburgh was the magnificent floral displays in Princes Street gardens, George Street and throughout the city generally. The gardeners, who unfailingly produce such amazing designs and displays in the famous gardens in Princes Street, surpassed themselves on this occasion. The floral cuckoo-clock which must be, by now, as well known throughout the world as St. Giles itself, was a marvel of precision in colour, consisting as it does entirely of thousands of tiny plants with foliage and flowers of blue or green. A huge imperial crown flanked by the royal monogram, the whole depicted in flowers, was arranged on the sloping lawns of the Mound before the Assembly Hall and, therefore, clearly visible from the whole length of Princes Street.

On June 23 the city, dignified yet gay with flags and flowers, lay shrouded amid the morning mists as the royal train drew into Princes Street station. There was no public holiday in Edinburgh yet the route of the State entry from Princes Street station to the Palace of Holyroodhouse was thronged with people. Members of the W.R.A.C. Association in Edinburgh had places with the British Legion in Rutland Street and had a wonderful view of the procession in all its magnificence and of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in particular.

It is quite impossible to describe the feelings of pride, admiration and delight which, compounded together, bring tears to the eyes as one witnesses a spectacle such as this involving our Royal Family, but that this complex emotion filled the hearts of the citizens of Edinburgh—not by nature demonstrative of their deeper feelings—there is no doubt.

The Queen spent almost seven crowded days in the city and during this time there was a positive feeling of "completeness" here. A woman waiting in the crowd to greet Her Majesty returning to Holyroodhouse after a busy day expressed this feeling admirably when she said: "Eh, but she'll be glad to be hame the night."

The most important occasion for Scotland was the Service of Thanksgiving at St. Giles on June 24, when the Honours of Scotland were borne before Her Majesty. A morning of bright sunshine brought out the full glory of the wonderful pageantry which surrounded the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on this historic occasion. On Saturday, June 27, the Keys of the Castle were presented to the Queen by the Governor, who is also G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command. Representatives of our Association had places on the route within the precincts of the Castle, from which to watch the procession to and from the ceremony. This provided some moments of surprise for our stalwart representatives as it turned out that they

were expected to march with the British Legion from the place of assembly to the Castle! None would admit to having forgotten anything they had learned on the square in times now long past, but that old confusion between left and right returned to minds so unprepared. As we tramped up the steps of the Castle Esplanade we could not refrain from comparing ourselves with the military precision we had admired throughout the week—precision of which we, too, were once capable!

Her Majesty spent two days in Glasgow and the West and this crowded and happy week came to an end on the Monday evening when we waved a forlorn good-bye to our Queen and her Consort. At the station the City Fathers were moved to spontaneous song and lustily rendered "Will ye no come back again." We who had watched from vantage points near Holyroodhouse watched the Royal Standard still bravely fluttering in the evening sunlight at the masthead on the roof. We could see the sentry standing motionless. At last he moved and the Standard was slowly lowered. We turned sadly away and in our hearts also echoed the words of the old song: "Will ye no come back again."

Just a week later, past and present members of the Corps were well represented on the occasion of Her Majesty's State visit to Northern Ireland. There were a number of ex-Service women at the ex-Service parade at Balmoral Park, including Major (Miss) Watson, whom many will remember as D.A.D.M.S. Northern Command during the war, and Major L. McBride, once a J. Comd. A.T.S. and now a Major (T.A.). W.R.A.C. (both Regular and T.A.), together with W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F., had the honour of lining the beautiful Prince of Wales Avenue leading to the Parliament Building at Stormont, when H.M. The Queen drove up to receive the loyal addresses. Some of the women of Northern Ireland District (Mixed) Signal Squadron took part in "keeping" the railway station at Lisburn when Her Majesty left on her visit to Londonderry. There the W.R.A.C. (T.A.), from the northern part of Ulster, were, with their sister Services, on duty in the Guildhall Square and nearby when the Queen arrived. To celebrate the occasion of the State visit a searchlight tattoo took place at Balmoral and the W.R.A.C. were responsible for the sale of programmes.

From Cardiff we hear that Wales had eagerly awaited their promised visit of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and members of the South Wales Branch of the Association were very proud to be included in the ex-Service detachments on parade. Furthermore, their president, Miss Marjorie Oxenham, was honoured by presentation to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh.

The scene at Cathays Park was colourful and unforgettable, the gay robes of the civic and other dignitaries vying with the Service uniforms. Prolonged cheers borne on the breeze warned the crowds of the approach of Her Majesty—and then she was there—a slender, white-clad, graceful figure for whom the assembled thousands had waited so long and patiently. Troops were inspected, children sang and danced, presentations

were made and the Lord Mayor of Cardiff was knighted.

All too soon it was time for the royal visitors to depart and the cheering crowds waved God-speed, shouting: "Come again soon" and "Stay longer next time" in a typically affectionate Welsh manner, which told the stranger within our gates, if indeed one existed, that this young monarch and her consort are greatly beloved in the Land of the Leek.

East Anglian District Military Summer Show, August 22, 1953

In the few days before the show, entries for the various horticultural, agricultural, cookery, household and handicraft sections poured into the show ground on Abbey Fields, Colchester. Although perhaps not so numerous as last year, entries were of a high standard and the W.R.A.C. was well represented, especially in handicrafts where 17 (Indep.) Coy. appeared with regularity throughout the Prize List. An excellent display of photographs, models and posters was arranged by the Corps recruiters and the film "Greensleeves" was showing at intervals throughout the day. 301 (Eastern Command) Battalion (T.A.) had a steady stream of visitors at their Kiosk which looked most inviting with "Action Photographs" taken during Annual Camps and training weekends held during the year.

Apart from show tents and side shows, there were horse events to watch, show dogs at their benches and in the judging ring, after which came tea and refreshments. There was even a toyland railway from "Little Tottering Station" which R.E.M.E. had set up most realistically and, lastly, a display by the Essex Foxhounds and a Canine Performing Troupe to see before departing homewards, agreeably tired after a most enjoyable day.

Correspondence

Dear Madam,

We have recently opened a Motor Transport Platoon in Sevenoaks and I am anxious to obtain a full-time instructor who would be responsible for the care of our vehicles and for the training of drivers. The instructor would hold the rank of Sergeant and the appointment is on a W.R.A.C. restricted service engagement of three years, which is similar to the old local service one. Accommodation is not provided so the applicant would have to live within a reasonable distance of Sevenoaks and Tonbridge or she would have to find lodgings there. The rate of pay is as for the regulars, less 1s. a day, plus service and rank increments, ration, lodging and laundry allowances. Uniform is issued free and there is an upkeep allowance.

I would be very grateful if you could bring this vacancy to the notice of your readers as it is possible that some of them might be interested. Anyone who would like further particulars should write, giving details of her M.T. qualifications and former service, to me: O.C. "B" Company, 303 (Kent)

Battalion, Women's Royal Army Corps, Yeomanry House, 49 Bromley Common, Kent.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) M. M. LEES, Capt.

Bromley Common.

September 2, 1953.

Madam,

At the Annual General Meeting of the Edinburgh Branch of the W.R.A.C. Association the question arose concerning the change of name of the Association from the Old Comrades' Association to its present form and although this is by way of being rather an "old chestnut" it still appears to be a cause of a feeling of regret in some minds.

A number of our members, both Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., feel that the title "W.R.A.C. Association" savours too much of "service" and not sufficiently of "ex-service" which, incidentally, has a direct bearing on the numerical strength of the Association. Ex-Service women who did not serve with the W.R.A.C. do not recognise it, from its title, as *their* Association and it is felt here that this loses us many members. The view is also held that "Old Comrades" bound us together as such and did not in fact divide us into 1914-18, 1939-45 and after 1945.

There is none among us who would not be proud to wear the badges of the W.R.A.C. nor any who does not feel a thrill of personal achievement when we learn of and witness the very fine achievements of the W.R.A.C. for which we, in our conceit, perhaps, like to think that we laid the foundations, each in our turn during the past 37 years. Yet we cherish our identity.

We know that none of this was overlooked at the time the change in name was made nearly three years ago but still the question—"Why was it necessary?"—is in so many minds.

May I suggest that Headquarters be asked to publish in *The Lioness* the reasons for the new title in preference to the old and so dispel the query which remains?

I am, yours faithfully,

(Signed) MARY MACKENZIE

(C. Comd., A.T.S., Ret'd.),

for Secretary, Edinburgh Branch.

Edinburgh.

May, 1953.

The following statement is published by authority of the Executive Committee:

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME . . .

Even today we are sometimes asked why our Comrades' Association thought fit to change its title. It was formed, as Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps Old Comrades' Association, in 1919 when the disbandment of the original corps was already foreseen. That name remained unaltered for more than 20 years. Then, in 1941, membership was opened to serving as well as ex-Service members of the A.T.S.; the term OLD Comrades' Association ceased to be appropriate. The Annual General Meeting which discarded it

added the words "and Auxiliary Territorial Service" in its place.

In 1949 the W.R.A.C. was formed. The authorities of the new Corps greatly desired that their Regimental Association should bear the new name. The Council recommended the name Women's Royal Army Corps Association (incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades' Association) to the Annual General Meeting of 1950 for they were most unwilling to visualise the possibility that a separate W.R.A.C. Association might spring up. They felt that the new Corps had a right to the great tradition built in two wars and that a common Comrades' Association would help towards this. They remembered, too, that it is the Army custom to use the name of the Corps in being. For the sake of generations to come those who attended the A.G.M. of 1950 made what was to them, as to other members of Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., a very real sacrifice—and one which, we hope, will not be wasted.

Births

BALDWIN.—On August 17, to Dorothy Margaret (ex-W.O.II D. M. Slinger, B.E.M.), wife of W.O.II T. B. Baldwin, R.A.S.C., a daughter (Lesley Jane). Present address: R.A.S.C. School (F.E.), c/o G.P.O., Singapore.

BUNYAR.—On May 6, to Sylvia (ex-A.T.S. L/Cpl. Say), wife of Albert Bunyar (ex-Royal Canadian Regt.), a son (Robert Charles). Present address: 1 High Street, Wellow, Nr. Bath, Somerset.

PRICE.—On July 5, to Kay (née Pascoe, ex-S. Comd. attached R. Sigs), wife of Capt. James W. Price, Royal Signals T.A., a brother for Gordon.

Deaths

FLETCHER.—On Monday, August 24, Mrs. S. G. Fletcher, Junior Commander A.T.S. and President of Maidstone Branch.

MURPHY.—On September 18, at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, as the result of being knocked off her bicycle in Hyde Park, Miss Murphy (Micky), ex-C.S.M. A.T.S.

PATERSON.—On August 14, at Aberdeen, Jean Paterson, A.T.S., and a member of Aberdeen Branch.

(Obituaries in Branch News.)

Depot Notes

We at the Depot have sometimes felt this summer that the United Nations have nothing on us. Our first visitor, Madame de Groote from Belgium, was particularly welcome as she was brought down by Dame Leslie, whose appearances at the Depot are far too rare. Next came the Director of the Dutch Women's Army Corps, closely followed by Lt.-Col. Sullivan, Commandant of the American W.A.A.C. Training Centre. In both cases we were struck by the similarity of our organisation, training and problems. It is encouraging to know that we are not the only Corps to struggle with shortages of

cooks, trouble with irons, and women who regard their clothing allowance as a nest egg for their leave. Longer attachments have included Capt. Pitt of the Australian W.R.A.C., Lts. Neilson and Peterson of the Danish Lotterkorps, and 2/Lt. Rosius, training officer in the Netherlands Army. Our last visitor has been Major Gustafsson, Inspector of Military Bands in Sweden, who appeared to be delighted to be greeted by the playing of his own National Anthem on his arrival at the Band practice room. All these interesting overseas visitors have given us a bad attack of wanderlust and we are full of plans for prolonged foreign tours in the near future.

Each to Her Choice.

Some people choose to climb mountains when on leave or holiday, others prefer sightseeing in foreign lands, while there are those who just like to stay at home and relax. Here, however, is another suggestion. What about spending a week or two helping at "The Cheshire Homes for the Sick" in Cornwall or in Hampshire? Anyone who has experience as a cook, orderly, medical orderly or clerk—in fact, anyone with a cheerful heart and a willing pair of hands and feet—will be made welcome. Food and accommodation will be provided and, for those serving, your leave warrant will take you from your station, wherever it may be, to Cornwall or Hampshire and back.

This is the story of these homes. Group Capt. Geoffrey Leonard Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C., is well known for his gallantry as a bomber pilot. An account of his courageous work in perfecting pin-point bombing over Germany is admirably given in the book, "Dam Busters," by Paul Brickhill. When he left the R.A.F., after so many miraculous escapes from death and injury, Leonard Cheshire felt the urge to devote his life to those less fortunate than himself and his first venture was to try to help ex-Servicemen to re-establish themselves by forming a colony where they could live and work together. However, he fell ill and had to go away for his health. When he returned he found that there were many needy cases among the homeless sick and incurables. So he founded a home in his aunt's old country house, set among the rhododendrons at Liss in Hampshire. Here about 40 patients who are homeless or who have no one to care for them in their sickness have found peace and happiness under the care of skilled doctors and nurses.

About two years ago Group Capt. Cheshire was appointed to the airfield at Predammack, near Helston, South Cornwall. Some derelict huts on the edge of the airfield gave him an idea and, in his spare time and with the help of a few others whom he had inspired, he set to work to convert them into habitable dwellings. This little band of workers painted and plastered, hammered and sawed, until the light and pleasant habitation known as St. Teresa's Home took shape. Here about 25 patients of both sexes and all ages and faiths are housed on the lovely sea-framed Lizard Peninsula, where primroses and violets bloom in spring and where the scent of gorse fills the air in summer.

Another wing is to be added when funds permit, for applications for admittance far outnumber the beds available. Priority is given to the most deserving cases. A small annex has recently been added to cater for the rehabilitation of ex-Service men suffering from mental and nervous disorders.

The homes are supported almost entirely by voluntary contributions. Patients pay only what they can afford, and some are maintained free of all charge, while some are partly subsidised by the State. Up to a few months ago Group Capt. Cheshire personally supervised the running of these homes, assisted by a body of paid and voluntary helpers. He has since been taken seriously ill and is himself a long-term patient in a hospital, but his work is carried on, in his absence, by a committee. More help is urgently needed, even on a temporary basis, for the temporary helper can relieve a permanent member of the staff who can thus get away for a much needed holiday. She herself will benefit from a change of air in pleasant surroundings, free accommodation and food, and the knowledge that, through her efforts, others have been helped. If you are interested in this suggestion you can write for more details of the home at Liss to the Warden, The Cheshire Foundation Home for the Sick, Le Court, Liss, Hants. For particulars of the Home at Predammack, near Helston, write to Major S. M. Howe, Women's Royal Army Corps, Officers' Mess, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Chilwell, Beeston, Notts.

Notices

The general secretary asks us to remind readers that copies of *The Lioness*, when not included in the subscription, are 9d. each and the yearly subscription is 3s. Some units have apparently not appreciated this fact.

The Association has received a further supply of souvenir programmes of the Coronation Ex-Service Review held in July. Will members who took part in the Review and who were unable to obtain a programme apply to the general secretary if they wish to obtain a copy.

Cheshire Guild of Hand-Loom Weavers

Mrs. Maureen V. Lees is on the Executive committee of this newly-formed Guild, of which Miss Trant, whom many will remember as a Junior Commander in the A.T.S., is chairman. We were hoping to hear from Mrs. Lees again to learn how their first exhibition went in September but, up to the date of publication, no news has arrived. The Guild has been formed to encourage excellence of craftsmanship and to foster co-operation of hand-weavers with all interested in this and allied crafts. An advisory panel will help with any weaving problem and an annual exhibition will be held. The annual subscription is 10s. 6d., which should be sent to the honorary secretary at the Cheshire Rural Community Council, 22 Newgate Street, Chester, to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

Q.M.A.A.C. Overseas Officers' Reunion

Of one thing you may be fairly certain, that at any Q.M.A.A.C. gathering, there will be someone who is present for the first time and this year, the reunion given by Mrs. O. K. King (Jordan) for overseas officers was no exception. No fewer than five newcomers attended. The party was held on Saturday, May 30, at Mrs. King's delightful house in Streatham. When we arrived we found the drive and approach to the house gay with flags and festoons of flags and the gardens full of beautiful flowers, all very much in keeping with the coronation spirit. The weather was not too kind but, at least, there was no rain. The high wind was inclined to play havoc with some of the taller flowers, among which was a splendid bed of multi-coloured lupins of such varied colours as one rarely sees. This was the fifth garden party Mrs. King has had for us at Streatham and many of us remember those pre-war ones at Gerrards Cross. As usual, this was a very happy gathering, but time goes far too quickly and one comes away not having heard half enough of old comrades. Tea was served in the house but, afterwards, we were able to stroll in the gardens and admire them. It was good to meet again after many years the five newcomers, Miss Pridden, who now lives near Cambridge, so we shall hope to see her more often, Mrs. Hughes (South Africa), Mrs. Marsden, Mrs. Erant (Pargeter) and Miss Cliff, who gave news of Denning. She is now in Kenya.

Many who had hoped to be able to come were prevented, among them being Mrs. Gibbons (Reid), who, unfortunately, was in hospital. Mrs. Clifton was in Benghazi. Mrs. Grundy (Sanders) was too busy with a coronation pageant to be able to get away. Mrs. Aburrow (Cable) and Miss Fausett had been in Germany and were flying home that day. Mrs. Coppleston (Francis) was prevented by bereavement. There were over 30 telegrams and messages of greeting pinned up on a board for all to read. It does seem a pity that more of the old set are not able to get along to this gathering. It is very noble and generous of Mrs. King to go to all this trouble year after year and it is to be hoped she realises how grateful we are to her. Those present on this occasion, in addition to the five "newcomers," were Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Miss Bertrand, Miss Phippen, Miss Wotzel, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Newton (Betts), Miss Mainland, Miss Johnson, Mrs. Michie, Mrs. Garrard (Barr). Thank you, Jordan, and we are looking forward to next year.

Women's Services Sport

Athletics. Capt. A. D. S. Williamson won both the 100 and 220 yards Army championships, Pte. Jones the hurdles, Pte. Preston the high jump and Cpl. Seed the javelin. In the inter-Service championships the Army came second with 41 points to the R.A.F.'s 70 and the Royal Navy's 35. The Army was regrettably disqualified in the relay due to a faulty hand-over outside the 22 yards allowed. The disqualification virtually gave the

match to the R.A.F. who already had a lead and it was doubly unfortunate since, in fact, the Army team had gained ground on the other take-overs. The W.R.A.C. was represented in a Combined Services team by Capt. A. D. S. Williamson (Captain), Cpl. Seed and L/Cpl. Orr when they met London University and the Rest of the Universities in a triangular match on July 25. The Combined Services came second with 41 points to London University's 54.

Cricket. The Army lost to the R.A.F. by 121 runs and drew with the Royal Navy. The R.A.F. also won their match against the Royal Navy and therefore kept the cup. Of the other matches played the Army won two, lost two and drew one. The two matches won were against Kent and Riverside, the former by 9 wickets, and the two lost were against Middlesex and the Civil Service, the latter being by only sixteen runs. These are the best results since the war and the team is to be congratulated on a successful season. The team consisted of Major K. I. Cunningham, Capt. M. E. MacLagan, (Captain), E. J. Bowles and B. G. Palmer, W.O.II Powell, Sgt. Lively, Cpls. Willard and Ridgeway, L/Cpls. A. and S. Kitchen and Pte. Richards. Reserve Powell Price. A Combined Services Team, captained by Capt. MacLagan and including W.O.II Powell and the Kitchen twins, played and won two territorial matches against the East and South. MacLagan took six wickets in the two matches for 28 runs.

Fencing. Lt. I. Milne, W.O.I J. Roberts and W.O.I (now Lieutenant) J. Marmont won the Inter-Service Foil Championships for the Army by 12 wins to the R.A.F.'s 8 and the Royal Navy's 7. Miss Roberts is the Army Champion and, as will be seen, the standard is high. The committee is, however, concerned with the small numbers of women who fence and remarks that, unless something is done, there will be no one to carry on the good work when the members of the present team leave the Corps.

Rounders. "C" Company, 12 Battalion, won the inter-unit competition.

Swimming. Although the Army were still bottom of the Inter-Service Swimming Championships the standard was very much higher than in previous years and the team is very much to be congratulated. The winners were the R.A.F. and, for the first time, the Royal Navy was defeated though the margin was narrow, being only five points. The winners scored 65 points and the Army only 28. The only member of the Army team to come in first was L/Cpl. A. V. Allgood in the Spring Board Diving. Our most usual places were 5th and 6th but this does not give a true picture of the team's achievement and encouragement should be taken from the fact that the margin of defeat was much narrower than in previous years. There is still a long way to go but, with training, we will get there.

Tennis. The Army were bottom of the Inter-Service Tennis Championships, the team being: first couple, Major D. L. M. Portway and Capt. M. E. Beale; second couple, Capt. M. E. MacLagan

and Lt. Isard; third couple, Major de Garis Martin and Capt. R. M. Nichols. Major Portway was the singles champion, Major Portway and Capt. Beale the doubles, while Major Portway and her partner won the mixed.

A Cuddlesome Doll

BY MAUREEN V. LEES

The Assembly Room at Chester Town Hall is a familiar place to me, well remembered from pre-war days—its high ceiling, beautiful oak panelling—and it has housed many handicraft exhibitions. But none, I venture to say, so tastefully displayed as was the first W.R.A.C. Exhibition. Not likely now to become beguiled by the W.R.A.C. recruiting propaganda, we made our way to the knitted garments for adults. They were of a really high standard. Maybe I thought the lovely dresses, including several evening gowns, the last word in style and workmanship. We came to the toy section. Some of the toys were beautiful but the one which appealed to me most was the doll made by hand, every stitch of her. I found myself thinking of four and a half year old Susan who lives down the road. Just the previous day she had told me, "I don't like a talkie-walkie dolly very much; I have asked Farver Kissmuss to bring me a little dolly I can cuddle." I felt had Susan been there that little doll would have been missing. The children's garments, too, all of which I felt were good, but here again I fell for a white coat for a kiddie. It was tailor made and some wee child is going to look very smart. The tapestries too were of a high standard and so were the embroidered goods. I liked the Unit effort, the baby cot made from a N.A.A.F.I. tomato box, the quilted hangings and the baby doll. But the simplest thing of all in the exhibition was, to my mind, the one thing I would have envied could I see to read. A simple little bookrack, with a protecting rail at the back of it.

Such a long time ago it is now since I was in the A.T.S., but I recall vividly how interested the girls always were in handicrafts, with poignant memories of the "Elephant Club" we organised at the Y.W.C.A. in Nottingham, the two girls in Newmarket who designed lovely dresses, the ingenuity of many others. I thought to myself "Well, I am glad the W.R.A.C. are shewing the world that the service girl is interested in lovely things, in creating and making lovely things." I am glad that I was taken to that exhibition and I am glad, too, that I was allowed to feel every item. I hope that this exhibition will be the forerunner of many, many more both in this country and overseas, and indeed wherever the W.R.A.C. are serving.

Recruiting

It is interesting to note that, in the second quarter of this year, when there were fewer regular recruits for the three Services than in any quarter since the end of 1951, recruiting for the W.R.A.C. was easily a record for this quarter. The W.R.A.C.'s popularity continues to decline and its intake was the lowest since the autumn of 1949. The Royal Navy's totals for both men and women remain steady. Is the nation at last realising the im-

portance of the Army's role in peace and the necessity to substitute male manpower by women? We doubt it but we also hope that all ex-Service women will do their utmost to encourage their younger friends to volunteer for the Army and so maintain this record.

Rifle Shooting

Six teams competed in the Inter-Command Postal Shoot for 1953, of whom the first four were placed as follows:—

Eastern Command..	..	..	1117 points
Northern Command	..	..	1096 "
Western Command	..	..	1081 "
Northern Army Group	..	..	1054 "

Each team consisted of six members and each competitor was required to fire ten Bull Match Cards. The results as a whole were very satisfactory and the fact that many of the competitors had never previously entered for the W.R.A.C. trials means that we should have an even larger number to call upon next year. With the increasing interest in Rifle Shooting it is hoped to raise the number in a team from six to eight in next year's shoot. A cup will be presented to the winning team in the near future.

Royal Review

Lord Tedder, who expresses himself as extremely proud to have had the honour of commanding the ex-Service review in Hyde Park, has sent a copy of the signal he received from Her Majesty to all Associations taking part. It reads as follows: "I was much impressed by the splendid Review of Ex-Service men and Ex-Service women in Hyde Park yesterday and by their bearing both during my inspection and as they marched past. I should be very grateful if you as Commander of the Parade would convey my warm congratulations and best wishes to all the Organisations that took part. (Signed) Elizabeth R."

STOP PRESS URGENT.

GRAND REUNION TO BE HELD SEYMOUR HALL MARYLEBONE FRIDAY 26 MARCH 54 STOP QMAAC REUNION TO BE HELD DUKE OF YORKS HEAD-QUARTERS SATURDAY 27 MARCH 54 STOP TICKETS FIVE SHILLINGS AND FOUR SHILLINGS RESPECTIVELY AVAILABLE FROM 1 JAN 54 STOP.

The Corps Band will play during the evening, at the Seymour Hall, there will be few, but interesting speakers, and plenty of time for meeting old friends. Tickets are limited and will be allotted strictly in order of application. Please apply after January 1, 1954, to the REUNION SECRETARY, c/o W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION, DUKE OF YORK'S HEADQUARTERS, KINGS ROAD, LONDON, S.W.3, enclosing correct money, and specifying for which Reunion tickets are required, and stamped and addressed envelope for their return. The W.R.A.C. Association cannot undertake to arrange accommodation in London. If members are coming from a distance they are recommended to book their accommodation in good time.

Further particulars and details of the programme will be published in the next issue.



★
"B"
Company
325
(Glamorgan)
Battalion
W.R.A.C.
T.A.
 ★

*Photographs by courtesy
 of the
 Herald of Wales*



NEWS **from the** **TERRITORIAL** **ARMY**

This is the season—or, rather, this *was* the season—for T.A. camps and we are indebted to the *Herald of Wales* for permission to reproduce the pictures on this page and for the loan of the blocks. They depict "B" Company of 325 (Glamorgan) Battalion at Aberporth in the camp which they shared with other units from Scottish, Western and Northern Ireland Districts. The weather was excellent, except during the period of the 48-hour exercise, when it became so bad that the original plan of sleeping out had to be abandoned. However, it is debatable as to whether the 60-mile run back to camp in blinding rain over mountain roads on a very dark night did not indeed constitute better training than that planned. Our photographs show, in the bottom right hand, a squad setting out for training, top left hand the queue at the cook-house door, while in the other two pictures can be seen some practice in maintenance. L/Cpl. L. M. Williams appears in both pictures, on the right getting down to things with Pte. P. E. Barton and S.M. Harris, while, in the other picture, the Permanent Staff Instructor, Sgt. M. M. Powell, supervises the inflation of a tyre carried out by the Lance-Corporal and Pte. N. M. Ford. Training assistance was given by an R.A.S.C. team from North-West District. The lighter side of camp life was not neglected, dances being popular with the Company and their R.A.S.C. colleagues. There were also cinema shows.

326 (City of London) Battalion describe how they set out on an extremely wet and miserable day on Sunday, July 12. The misery of the weather was greatly off-set by excellent accommodation at Languard Camp, plenty of hot water, irons and ironing boards and quite good food. Drivers, clerks, cooks and medical orderlies all had plenty of opportunity of putting their knowledge to the test. The winter months of lectures more than justified themselves when many passed their trade tests. For relaxation there was plenty of opportunity to visit the places of interest around Felixstowe. On the Sunday morning the Battalion took part in a drumhead service together with the various R.E.M.E. units who were in camp with them. The sports afternoon was organised by W.O.I. Nightingale from London District. A day's scheme for the drivers and medical orderlies was most amusing as well as useful. The general alertness of all was well tested as they first drove in convoy, then camouflaged the vehicles, had a mock air raid with casualties, guarded secret documents from the enemy and had plenty of map reading. Two dances were also much appreciated in spite of drill or P.T. earlier in the day! In fact,

Sgt. Seller reports, judging by the happy faces and atmosphere, the majority seemed to have enjoyed themselves and looked extremely fit and it has made more than one wonder about joining the regulars.

In the spring and early summer a number of sub-units of 328 (Ulster) Battalion were officially adopted by their towns and exchanged plaques. These ceremonies usually took place during the final parades held in conjunction with recruiting drives for all Defence Services. All members of the Battalion helped in making a recruiting exhibit in the form of a model barrack block, showing a barrack room, recreation room, orderly room and a netball pitch; and a number of dolls were dressed to demonstrate uniforms worn by the Corps. The Battalion broke new ground for camp this year and joined units of Scottish and Western commands in the camp at Aberporth reported above. This was the first time that the Battalion had crossed the sea and the journey was an event in itself.

The drivers of 71 (Independent) Company have recently been on an exercise in Wiltshire. They drove in convoy from Bristol to Figsbury where the Drivers and Clerks Training Centre now resides. There, after going through Warminster, Chitterne and Shrewton they spent the Saturday night. On the Saturday evening they climbed to the top of Figsbury Ring, from which post of vantage they were able to survey the surrounding countryside and receive excellent instruction in map-reading. Next day, in four sections, following different

routes by means of map references given to them just before departure, they drove to Longleat, the home of The Marquis of Bath. Although the sections were largely composed of recruits of only two months service, they reached Horningham without either losing the way or making a scratch on the vehicles! They convoyed on time and entered Longleat gates together. After eating haversack rations in the grounds and salads in the canteen beneath the house, the platoon was shewn round by a guide. Leaving at 4.15 p.m. the drivers drove in convoy to Bristol. The cooks of No. 2 platoon had accompanied them. 71 Company, until recently "B" Company of 311 Battalion, has recruited 32 women since April and nearly all the new recruits were able to attend annual camp in August.

303 and 304 (Eastern Command) Battalions also went to Languard and we have heard from 304 Battalion that everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were sorry to break camp. The sports day was indeed a "wash-out" as it poured all day until the evening when it turned out fine for the all ranks dance which was most enjoyable. In spite of the fact that the camp had been under water at the time of the East Coast floods, it had dried out and was very comfortable and the wealth of wild flowers made a good show on inspection days. Most of the rooms were decorated with red, white and blue crepe paper curtains and table cloths and one room sported a huge bow at either end, under which were pinned pictures of the Royal Family.



OFF TO CAMP

[Photo : Western Daily Press]

Lieutenant McIntyre, Sergeants Brunt, Louis and Seel, Corporals Morton and Brown, Privates Knight, James, Beer, and Porteous of 71 (Indep.) Company.

Major Burke was unfortunate enough to have to spend a couple of days in bed with a bad throat, but the Battalion was relieved that her recovery was speedy. On the whole our correspondent, Sgt. R. Clarke, who sports the early number of W/6722, appears to regret most the rapidly changing population of the T.A. which means that there are always old faces missing and new ones to learn. We can assure her that, anyway up to the time we saw a regular unit last, it is nearly as bad there. Why are those who join the W.R.A.C. so attractive that we cannot keep them?

We have for the first time heard from the youngest of our Territorial Battalions, 330 (West Lancashire), with its headquarters at Lancaster. This battalion was formed on February 1, with Major M. Young, who served in the W.R.N.S. during the war, in command. Major Young has been in the T.A. ever since the local company was formed when it belonged to 319 Battalion under the command of Lt.-Col. M. I. M. Hewitt, O.B.E.

On September 1, Battalion Headquarters moved from their old cramped quarters in the T.A. centre (which they shared with "A" Company) to new premises in King Street, Lancaster. The Association have been very generous in the provision of amenities and the headquarters is now worthy of its purpose. The unit consists of two companies, one in Lancaster with detached platoons at Preston and Barrow, and the other in Blackpool with a platoon at Fleetwood. R.A.O.C. clerks and storewomen, drivers and G.D. clerks make up the bulk of the trades, with the normal number of mess staff and administrative personnel. For annual camp this year the Battalion was split by trades. It is proposed to hold two weekend courses for general duties clerks before Christmas if suitable accommodation can be found in Lancaster. The area covered by the Battalion is large and thinly populated and the strength is naturally not great but the Battalion is always looking for new recruits who are ever welcome.

Members of 493 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., spent a very happy and successful camp at Cleave Camp, Bude. As many readers will know, the camp is situated in delightful country overlooking the well-known beauty spot, Coombe Valley. The girls were delighted to find such excellent accommodation from which they had a magnificent view of the coast. The twenty-odd recruits were enthusiastic about camp life and found it most absorbing. Social activities included dances, a potted sports meeting and coach trips. It was most unfortunate that the weather was so bad on the middle Sunday, when most of the trips were held, but the rain did not dampen the spirits of those who went on the excursions. Intensive operational training was carried out and excellent results were attained. "Queen" Battery scored a direct hit. The pilot of the towing plane flew low over the gun positions and there was great jubilation when it was seen that the sleeve was minus its tail. The sleeve was presented to the Battery by the Gunnery Staff and is now treasured at the new T.A. Centre, which was opened by Lord Leverhulme on May 2. The unit was honoured by a visit from the Director, who

spent a lot of time watching the operational work, after which she wrote to the Commanding Officer to express her satisfaction at the high standard attained.

An "At Home"

BY MRS. M. V. LEES

July 25, 1939, is a date I shall always remember—a day when, in the absence of my two A.T.S. officers, I read a "Top Secret" letter and realised that war was imminent. July 25, 1953, is a day which I also will recall—the day of the "At Home" and official opening of the new Drill Hall at Chetwynd, Birkenhead. I had received an invitation and I am glad that I accepted it. The Drill Hall is a wonderful achievement and, with its huge main hall, the staircases, the balconies, the canteen, the conveniences, the lockers for the girls—a far, far cry from life on the original gun-sites of Merseyside. Life as I, the first woman to serve with a Heavy A.A. Battery on Merseyside, can well recall.

What a pity it was that the rain just poured down and so spoiled the outdoor display that had been planned. I knew what hard work and enthusiasm had gone into the planning of such an exhibition but I think that those who, like myself, had braved the heavy rain—well they were not disappointed. Whilst sitting listening to the band of the Cheshire Regiment, later to the net-ball game and hoping that the Blues might equalise with the Reds, my thoughts wandered far afield. Suddenly I was back in a very dirty little room in the old and condemned drill hall at Tramway Road, Aigburth. I can still visualise the huge recruiting poster bearing the picture of A.T.S. No. 1 with a bugle to her lips and the slogan, "Join the A.T.S." I can see myself now measuring up and marking a line on the wall, to help when we measured up for height the would-be recruits. I can see now the two barrack-room tables, piled high with documents. Perhaps my most vivid memory is that of being interviewed by the adjutant, not realising that I was being weighed up for promotion to Senior Leader, with a very slight figure in mufti (Major S. A. E. Heaney) somewhere in the background.

I suddenly thought of a vital day in 1939, a Sunday morning, and Colonel Peters calling one of my clerks (O'ga Erickson) and me into the Officers' Mess. How we stood there silently concerned each with our own thoughts as the Prime Minister told the world that we were now at war. I remembered how short of equipment we were; how our lack of official A.T.S. Regulations was a hindrance, but I remembered, too, how hard my company worked, despite our having no beds, no greatcoats. Maybe I thought of how the men of 309 Battery had, with their own cash, bought us all Wellingtons—and my own trip to a Liverpool store to collect them. I found myself thinking of that cold February day in 1940 when my Company and I were officially told that we could not accompany our peacetime unit, the 70th, to the Orkneys. Rumour had taken us practically all over the world, across the sea to France, to Singapore, heaven quite knows where. We crossed deep water all right—the river Mersey!

I have known Chetwynd most of my life, when it was the private home of a friend of my father's, so that when we moved to Birkenhead, the R.H.Q. was no strange building to me. The house in Beresford Road we were to occupy had been empty for years. It was dirty and dusty. We still had no beds, no equipment, and the day was cold and deep snow had fallen and more was coming down. The roof leaked, the water tanks had burst, we had no black-out curtains—but in the twinkling of an eye the advanced party had kindled a fire in the kitchen—and a pot of char was ready. We had to share one table whether we were warrant officers, N.C.O.s. or volunteers—and I think maybe that close association helped us pre-war A.T.S. warrant officers to know and respect our subordinate ranks.

As I sat at the new Drill Hall, taking in all I was being told, I felt that with me I had all my old colleagues of the 1st West Lancashire Company A.T.S. marvelling, as I was marvelling, at the achievement of an ideal of ours—that one day women would become an integral part of a Regiment. I could imagine Olga and Bardie Erickson, with their cheery nonsense and their aptitude for taking hard work, clerical or scrubbing floors, in their stride; of Pip Coleman, rather scared I thought then, moving into Company headquarters, of "Mop and Brush do-little" or, to give them their real names, Pat Kinder and Florence Davies, taking chores and mess waiting in their stride. I could hear the rather shy voice of Sonny Blundell, a trained nurse, when she realised how many of the girls were sick as a result of the bad weather, "I can help you with the girls, Senior Leader." And help she did. In the background I could visualise Carrie Sherger, a sergeant cook, that lady of unknown age who nevertheless tackled the cooking and achieved wonders. So many others of my original company and I somehow wished that at least one of them could have been present too.

I am truly glad that I attended that "At Home," it meant more than a casual visit to one's old unit. It helped me, as so often happens, to recall happy memories of deep comradeship and friendship during the war years. Perhaps my most poignant moment was when the film was shewn. The W.O. who described it to me little realised where my thoughts had gone. At Guildford, I thought of the filming of "The Gentle Sex" and remembered my old friend R.S.M. Ashworth with a little known story of how, when my own old regiment the 70th had arrived in Manchester just to be greeted with a terrific blitz, Mary had beetled round the sites to make sure the girls were all right only to return to R.H.Q. to find it a shambles. She is reputed to have, in a split second, got a hot meal and drink ready for all the R.H.Q. staff. Or when the Passing-out Parade was shewn and I heard Jean Hadley's voice, am I forgiven for thinking back to a small training wing, opened for only six weeks at The Dale, Chester? Of my stooping over a kit bag, glancing up and seeing a slightly built girl with wide open eyes standing there. A corporal... and what on earth was she doing there... "I am to be the Admin. C.S.M., Ma'am." Good

Lor'—wearing two chevrons. I think Jean knew why I plunged deep down into my old kit bag and said abruptly, "For heaven's sake put these damned things on before the recruits see you." Well maybe my dad's old badges meant as much to her that day as they had done to me when I was first appointed Senior Leader.

A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. Association Benevolent Funds

At the Annual General Meeting of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association reports were given of the work of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund and the W.R.A.C. Association Benevolent Fund and, as various questions were asked, it is thought that readers may be interested to know something more of the connection between these two funds.

The A.T.S. Benevolent Fund is run by a Committee of Management of which H.R.H. The Princess Royal is president and the grants are administered by a Grants Sub-Committee. The W.R.A.C. Association Benevolent Fund is run by a Sub-Committee of the W.R.A.C. Association. Members of both sub-committees sit jointly each week to consider all applications for financial assistance to either fund.

The A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, which still has considerable capital, helps all suitable applicants who have ever served in the A.T.S., even if they subsequently joined the W.R.A.C., but under the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund Charter they are not allowed to use their funds for women who served only in Q.M.A.A.C. or the W.R.A.C. and were never members of the A.T.S.

Under the W.R.A.C. Association Benevolent Fund Charter all women who have served in Q.M.A.A.C., the A.T.S., the W.R.A.C. or their successors (whatever they may be called in future) can receive benefit. Ultimately, therefore, the A.T.S. Fund will cease to exist and its responsibilities will be taken over by the W.R.A.C. Association Benevolent Fund.

The object of both funds is to aid either serving or ex-Service women and/or their dependents, but, by agreement between the two committees, the present policy is for the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund to spend its capital as it is needed and for the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund to build up its finances for future use. Subscriptions to either fund would be most welcome and should be sent to: The General Secretary, A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, 73 Elizabeth Street, London, S.W.1; or to: The Hon. Treasurer, W.R.A.C. Association Benevolent Fund, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3.

Appointments

The W.R.A.C. Directorate is being reorganised and the Deputy Director is combining her duties as Deputy with those of Grade I Staff Officer in W.R.A.C.I., where, in future, there will be two D.A.D.W.R.A.C.s. The officer responsible for policy in that branch is now Major B. L. M. Anwyl-Passingham.

A New Venture

Last year and this year an experimental Air Despatch Service has been running in Southern Command and members of the W.R.A.C. have been doing duty as couriers.

Auster planes of 657 Air Observation Post Squadron have been used and the couriers supplied by Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment. The women have been quick to volunteer for this service and nearly all the couriers have come from the Headquarters Signal Troop.

The plane started from Middle Wallop, landing in a field near the Headquarters of Southern Command. Sometimes before the plane came in cows had to be moved from the field and Pte. Farwell impressed the photographer sent down from Reuters so much with her efficiency at this job that he took three photographs of her doing it. The Duty Signal Officer, on arrival at the field, checked the direction of the wind and laid out a white "T" to show the pilot which way to come in. As soon as the plane was sighted the D.S.O. flashed the "O.K. to land" by means of an Aldis lamp. A Verrey pistol was also held in readiness in case of emergency and once had to be fired by Lt. J. Buncher, much to her satisfaction. We hope that there will be no fuss about the expenditure of one cartridge on loan from the R.A.F. As soon as the plane landed the courier climbed aboard with the packages to be delivered, was strapped in and the plane took off. The Air Despatch took the place of normal courier or despatch runs to Taunton, Plymouth, Aldershot and Portsmouth.

All couriers were volunteers but there was no lack of men and women who wanted to go in spite of the odd lad or lass who felt rather ill by the time he or she returned to Wilton. Paper bags were carried but, so far, nobody admits to having had to use them.

(Once more we regret not being able to reproduce excellent photographs submitted.—Ed.)

News of Comrades

In these pages, from time to time, we have all seen the name of **Maureen V. Lees**. Some of us were fortunate enough to serve with her and can well remember her dynamic personality, and many more must have read her story in the pages of this journal. In this issue we publish her account of her visit to the "At Home" at Chetwynd, Birkenhead, in their new T.A. Centre. She was once the first Senior Leader with the 1st West Lancs Company A.T.S. in that Drill Hall and was proud to be present on this occasion. Looking back on her own association with the Regiment she looks back to her parentage. Her father was a regular soldier who, invalidated out after a severe wound which shattered all the knuckles of his right hand, became an Out-Pensioner of Chelsea Hospital. This did not deter him in World War I from volunteering and he served throughout the war with the Corps of Mounted and, later, Foot Military Police. On returning home from France, Palestine and Egypt, he resumed his duties with the Customs and Excise Department. Not until then did his

daughter learn that, with his left hand, he had achieved a reputation of being a crack shot. It was a great thing for both father and daughter when, in 1938, Maureen joined the A.T.S. She served and returned home without her sight. She tells us how, on the day of her first medical board, her father seemed to be in his usual health and good spirits. He reminded her of his own inability to continue service, and continued: "You will go to St. Dunstan's and you won't like it. You will be on your feet one day. I don't think you will get your sight back but, mark you, one day you will meet again the girls you know and like and maybe you won't always feel it is your Army service that has brought you down." Two hours later he was dead from thrombosis. Little wonder that his daughter remembers so clearly his prophecy and we sincerely hope that, in the Association, Mrs. Lees does indeed feel that she still has friendship, comradeship and good hope. For our part, we take off our hats to her for her courage and determination and would like to draw readers' attention to her notice of the Cheshire Guild of Hand-loom Weavers, of which a notice appears on another page.

As reported in the May issue under this heading **Joan Parsons** spent a vacation in New York with her friends, the Callmans. Here are her impressions of it.

"New York is a city of noise, neons, night life and newspapers, with quite the fastest traffic in the world! To cross a street other than at the recognised "Walk" light which operates along with the usual "Stop" and "Go" light, is to invite a swift and untimely end. It is, however, a fascinating city. While there I went to a concert in Carnegie Hall, saw a Broadway stage play, "The Children's Hour" with Patricia Neal and Kim Hunter; went to Radio City Music Hall, a magnificent theatre seating six thousand people which, in addition to a film, has a stage show. Being the Christmas season I saw a beautiful nativity play and, among other things, a wonderful display of dancing by the famous Rockettes, a troupe of thirty-six dancing girls so renowned for their similarity that it is said that if one of them grows a half-inch or even puts on an extra pound in weight she is immediately dropped from the troupe and someone having the required measurements steps into her place. Their feature, "Toytown Parade," was done with the precision of guardsmen and, in their uniforms of red jackets, white trousers with red stripe, and black busbies, they really were spectacular—an R.S.M.'s dream! I shopped in the Rockefeller Center, a skyscraper building of business offices but, underground, a maze of arcades with shops of every description, restaurants and cafeterias. It really would take pages to describe the wonders of everything—the Automat which produces a meal on the insertion of a coin or two, the sunken ice rink in the Rockefeller Plaza, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the eighty foot Christmas Tree aglow with lights, the hundreds of upright flickering neon lights to represent candles and the lights of Broadway."

Talking of holidays **Marjorie Clark**, whom we mentioned in the last issue as living in Kenya Colony,

gives us rather more cheerful news of that unhappy place. She apparently had a lovely leave last year, spending the first week on the coast about eighty miles north of Mombasa. It was a lovely place. The hotel was built in Arab style. The natives round about were the real ones who wear grass skirts and nothing up top and really look wonderfully healthy. There were plenty of palm trees. After eight days they went back to Mombasa and flew from there to Zanzibar for a week. It was very interesting with its very narrow streets and bazaar shops. They hired bicycles and spent some time bicycling along roads with palm trees on each side. They had a terrifying ride in a rickshaw and also went up to the Indian Bazaar. Crowds of people were lounging in doorways; glaring Indian music was played on both sides. The shops were fascinating, full of local crafts but, although Miss Clark succeeded in buying an evening bag and a silver-embroidered black velvet belt—she also states that she understands there is very little crime in the island—she says it was an experience she would not care to attempt again.

Mrs. Walter, from whom we heard the very sad news about Micky Murphy which is published in the deaths column, writes from 85a Lower Addiscombe Road, East Croydon, Surrey, and is most anxious to get in touch with any old comrades who served with her either in England or in the Middle East. As usual she gives no news of herself and we would be glad if she would rectify this.

Mrs. Armstrong has at last given in temporarily and has taken up residence in a delightful place called the Rest Haven Hospital, situated on an island off Vancouver Island, B.C. We were delighted with the photograph she sent us and think that bad luck sometimes has its compensations. Nevertheless we wish her a very speedy recovery.

East Africa A.T.S.

BY ILFRA M. CROW

"The Shining Mountain" has inspired me to write an article, firstly because I know how difficult the mountain is to climb, and secondly, because one A.T.S., Ellen Stanton by name, did it in 1944. She alone was not mountain sick and enjoyed every minute of it. Ellen belonged to No. 2 Company, A.T.S., East Africa Command, and so, though maybe it is the highest point the W.R.A.C. have yet seen, the A.T.S. have been there too. I wish Ellen were around to tell her story, but we have lost sight of her.

Whilst I have the inspiration upon me I will continue the story of the two Companies in Nairobi where perhaps some five to six hundred girls spent some time from 1942 to 1946. No. 2 Company went out in 1943 and was with one of the first convoys to pass through the "Med." We were bombed twice, but luckily suffered no casualties except the loss of the balloon attached to the ship's mast. A ship near us was hit and drew out of the convoy. We never knew how bad the damage was, but it was a nasty sight.

It may not be generally known but each December we have an East African Reunion at the Duke of York's Headquarters in Sloane Square, and

80 or 90 people usually get there. Even in the great fog of 1952 40 ex-A.T.S. found their way.

We meet in the afternoon and gossip happily of old times spent in the sun; tea is served, photographs are taken; then in the evening odd groups go off together. Some dash home to bath the children and put them to bed. We also have lots of members still in Africa. Some married or got local release and stayed; others came home but could not settle and went out again, not always to Kenya. Salisbury, Bullawayo and Kanfala are amongst the choice of districts; also many are now in Canada or Australia. Kenya certainly did something for us and we cannot forget it. It is a very true saying that Africa binds a person to it. It is always calling me back, but perhaps working in a Travel Office makes it worse. Now the W.R.A.C. have a real war on their hands. We of the East Africa Command can sympathise for we know our native well, but we know they will come through it with all the honours, the most frightening thing being the unknown enemy and that is what the Mau Mau is.

I wonder if any other Unit of the A.T.S. keeps together as much as the ex-East Africa A.T.S. do. It would be interesting to know if we are "special." Recently we had an extra Reunion together with a children's party. This was a great success and the children behaved marvellously, especially as they had not met "Mummy's soldier friends" until that day, nor the other children. We have to thank Elsie Matthews for all the hard work she puts into keeping us together.

(Miss Crow's address is "Trewinion," Bordesley, Redditch, Worcs.)

Princess Royal's Day, 1954

The Depot will be "At Home" to the public from 2.15 to 6 p.m. for Princess Royal's Day next year on April 25. Individual invitations will not be sent but all serving or retired members of the association will be particularly welcome. The programme will include displays by the permanent staff and recruits, programme of music by the Corps band, showing of the films "Greensleeves" and "The Gentle Sex," side shows in aid of the Benevolent Fund, Drumhead Service. Please apply for tea tickets during February or March, stating whether for officers', sergeants' or rank and file mess

Obituary

MRS. CARTER

L. Richards writes:

Members will have seen in our last issue of the sad and sudden death of Mrs. Carter who joined the A.T.S. with me in 1938. We went to camp in 1939 and, at the outbreak of war, were posted to Blackdown, Hants. She served until the end, being demobbed in June 1945, became a member of London Branch O.C.A. and for the last two years was an active member of the committee. The O.C.A. was represented at the funeral by our chairman, secretary and myself. For me it is the end of a very long and faithful friendship lasting 28 years.

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Minutes of the 1953 Annual

General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, July 4, 1953, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3, by kind permission of the County of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association.

In the absence of the president, the chair was taken at 7 p.m. by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, the senior vice-president.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 15, 1952, having appeared in the August issue of *The Lioness*, were taken as read and signed as correct.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Dame Florence Simpson, D.B.E.; Lt.-Col. M. K. R. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D., W.R.A.C.; Col. J. M. Cowper, T.D.; Mrs. D. Stevenson; Mrs. J. Thomson.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman of Council: Only one nomination having been received, Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E., was declared to be elected.

Council Vice-Presidents: Four nominations only having been received, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., Mrs. R. King, O.B.E., Mrs. Russell Simpson, and Dame Leslie Whateley, D.B.E., were declared to be elected.

5. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

Dame Regina Evans read the report of the Council for 1952-July 1953. This was adopted and is printed at the end of these minutes.

6. REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

In presenting the balance sheet the hon. treasurer stated that there was nothing outstanding to report in the financial year. The financial position remained the same as in the previous year, namely, that more subscriptions were still needed. She hoped that the more economical publication of *The Lioness* would make our finances correspondingly more solid. The sum of £600 had been realised from the redemption of part of our holding of Defence Bonds and this had been invested in 4½ per cent. British Electricity Stock. We had been given an introduction to Messrs. Cazenove, Akroyd and Greenwood, who are now dealing with our investments. The treasurer thanked the assistant treasurer for her valuable help and also the general secretary for dealing with the money between her own visits to the office.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) *A.T.S. Benevolent Fund.* Miss K. Acland, O.B.E.

Miss Acland stated that the Grants Sub-Committee had considered 811 cases and spent £6,177 9s. 7d. in grants and loans during the first six months of 1953. There was still a distressing number of really deserving cases and scarcely any

appreciable difference in the amount of work being handled compared with last year. A great effort was made to keep in touch with the "chronic" type of case and it was fair to say that many of these ex-Service people looked upon the fund as a friend. Their letters were very encouraging to those who worked on the committee and on the staff. On the employment side in 1953, 85 ex-members of the A.T.S. had been placed in jobs to their knowledge, and 11 ex-members of the W.R.A.C. had also found employment. In all, 41 ex-W.R.A.C. members had applied for jobs to date (July 3).

(b) *W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.* Col. M. Railton, C.B.E.

Col. Railton reported that since October, 1952, the total investments had been brought up to £8,000 by the investment of another £1,000. It was hoped that a generous grant would again be received from the Army Benevolent Fund. H.R.H. The Princess Royal, it would be remembered, gave an annual donation of £100 in the form of a Covenant. The Benevolent Fund was now recognised as an official charity and received full relief from Income Tax. Col. Railton thanked the many units, large and small, which had contributed during the year. By their contributions they showed that they remembered the Fund as well as rendering great financial help. Col. Railton stated that the capital must be increased and called for further efforts from members during the coming year to ensure that subscriptions were not forgotten. She believed that a number of people had not appreciated the fact that women of the W.R.A.C., with no service in the A.T.S., cannot be helped by any fund except the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. It was a matter of some urgency, therefore, that the capital be built up.

Forty-four cases had been dealt with since November 1, 1952, and the average amount of money granted was £6 10s. Fifteen pounds was the largest sum granted and £4 the smallest. The number of applications for assistance was naturally increasing as more women left the Service. The average number of cases was 2-3 per week. Since the last annual report a grant had been made to the Regular Forces Employment Association. Since the last annual report the committee had lost one of its most valued and experienced members in Mrs. A. E. B. Johnston, who had resigned as her health no longer enabled her to do as much as she had done in the past. They were very glad to welcome Miss A. M. Martin in her place as representative of Q.M.A.A.C., and Mrs. D. Stevenson, who had also joined the committee. All members would be very glad that Mrs. Greenwell was continuing her work as honorary secretary. Col. Railton concluded her report by apologising for the loss of some receipts which had caused delay in acknowledging donations, and calling on everyone to do everything in their power to increase the capital of the fund.

(c) *The Lioness*

In the absence of the Editor, Col. Berry read her report. Col. Cowper apologised for one or two errors in *The Lioness*. From the November number

she would be working from only one desk and the organisation of her work should not be so difficult. Up to now she had been in close touch with the Association through the meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee and she had been in very close touch with the Corps. But from now on these contacts would have to be maintained by post and she called on everyone to make an even greater effort to keep *The Lioness* in the front of their minds and to keep the Editor informed of all news. Col. Cowper asked Branch Secretaries, Units of the Corps, Corps games Secretaries, and interested War Office Branches to make a note in their diaries to send in news on or before December 15, March 15, June 15 and September 15. She thanked all those who had provided such excellent material in the last few years and enabled *The Lioness* to achieve such a high standard. She also thanked the Association office for its work on the distribution side and the Council and Officers for their unflinching support.

Lt.-Col. Berry, in presenting her report as Business Manager, stated that only four editions were now published each year. During the year 1950-51, when there were six editions, there was a loss of £636, but during the year under review this loss was reduced to £83. This was due not only to the reduced numbers but also to the very generous donations which amounted to over £100. Without these donations the loss would have been nearly £200. In order to effect further economies we were now printing on cheaper paper. Against this, the last edition had been increased from 24 to 28 pages and the next issue would be the same. This inevitably increased the price again but it made a far more interesting journal. In addition the number of copies had increased from 4,060 in August 1952 to 4,420 in May this year. While every effort was being made by the Council to reduce costs, it was sincerely hoped that all members would do their best to increase circulation, and donations to the gazette would be gratefully received.

(d) *The Museum Committee*

In the absence of the chairman of the Museum Committee Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan thanked all those who had made donations to the Museum during the year. Mrs. Simpson reported that a bronze bust of Dame Helen, sculptured by Miss Julian Allen, was on show for the next few weeks at the Imperial War Museum in London. The bust had been made in plaster in 1938 and was presented by the sculptor to The Princess Royal in 1951. Scottish Branches and senior officers who had served in Scotland during Dame Helen's tenure as D.A.T.S. had the bust cast in bronze and Her Royal Highness had presented it to the Museum.

8. 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.* (Maidstone Branch.) The Chairman reported that it had been decided to hold the Reunion of 1954 in the Seymour Hall, which was considerably smaller than the Albert Hall. Mrs. Rumbold

moved as an amendment: *That the question of an annual reunion be held over until after the 1954 Reunion when it would be known how many people had attended.* The amendment was seconded by Miss Ireland and CARRIED.

(b) *That the services of a well-known person from the entertainment world be engaged for the evening.* (Maidstone Branch.) LOST.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman said a few words about the Royal Review of ex-Service men and women which was to take place in Hyde Park the next day. Col. E. S. Macfie, T.D., said that the hearts of all serving members of the Corps would go out to ex-Service members taking part in the Review. She wished them every success.

The Director W.R.A.C. proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for her unflinching work for the Association. This was carried by acclamation.

10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was left to the Council.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Report of the Council

July 4, 1953

Our Association has sustained a great loss in the death of H.M. Queen Mary, who since 1918 had been Commandant-in-Chief of Q.M.A.A.C., and to whose unflinching interest we owe so much. A wreath was sent to St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and messages of condolence to H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Princess Royal. On behalf of Q.M.A.A.C. Miss Ireland signed the book at Buckingham Palace.

The great event of the year is the coronation of our greatly revered Life Member Queen Elizabeth. We were represented in the Abbey by Mrs. Simpson; our chairman and vice-chairman were also present. A coronation medal, the personal gift of the Queen, was awarded to Miss B. Ireland.

The Association was allocated 63 seats on a stand at Grosvenor Gate for watching the coronation procession. As over 400 applications were received a ballot was held and members fortunate in drawing a ticket have reported that the seats were in an excellent position. In addition to the seats we were given three standing places at Wellington Island, Hyde Park Corner, where standards of ex-Service Associations were assembled. Mrs. Rumbold carried our standard.

The Review of ex-Service men and women by H.M. The Queen, which takes place tomorrow, will be well attended by our members. Four hundred of us will be marching and we were fortunate in being allotted 200 seats for relatives of those taking part. H.R.H. The Princess Royal has said that she will visit us at our assembly area in Hyde Park before the start of the parade. Dame Helen will lead our contingent, and Mrs. Chitty (ex-Controller Chitty, A.T.S.) will carry our standard. Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S., ex-W.R.A.C. and Branch standards will also be carried.

During the past year many new members have joined the Association, but the gain in new members has been offset by members whose subscriptions have lapsed and have so far not been renewed. Several new branches have been formed by units of the W.R.A.C./T.A., their aim being to recruit members for the Association from ex-members of their units as well as serving ones. The recently-formed Gibraltar Branch, which includes serving and ex-Service members, is doing well. The W.R.A.C. in Jamaica have enrolled new members among ex-A.T.S. and report great interest in the Association.

The grand reunion was not held this year but it will be held in March 1954 at the Seymour Hall. It is hoped that members will make it the best reunion ever held.

At the Cenotaph Service on Remembrance Day Canterbury Branch laid a wreath of poppies on the Cenotaph. Mrs. Giles, with Miss Druitt and Capt. Metcalfe, W.R.A.C., planted a cross in the Field of Remembrance.

Your Council decided to offer the collection of Q.M.A.A.C. silver, previously kept at the Service Women's Club, to the W.R.A.C. Depot. Q.M.A.A.C. members will be glad to know that their trophies will take a proud place with the present Corps silver. The Service Women's Club was thanked for the excellent way in which the plate had been kept.

An invitation has been received from the W.R.A.C. Depot for three trees to be planted by the Association, commemorating Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. Arrangements are being made for the planting in November.

It was with much regret that the Council received last autumn the resignation of Mrs. Greenwell as general secretary of the Association. Mrs. Greenwell is continuing to act in a voluntary capacity as secretary of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. All members would like to thank her for her past services and to express their pleasure on her continuing interest in the Association.

A Lovely Music Method

BY THEO HARRISON

When I was demobilised from Q.M.A.A.C. I studied the most lovely of music methods, called the Fletcher Music Method after its originator Miss Evelyn Fletcher. Miss Fletcher invented this method after witnessing the distress of nervous students who, with herself, were being trained by famous professors in Germany. After she had developed her method it was patented in England and she lectured in England, Germany and other countries of Europe. Her work was so much appreciated that she was made an Honorary Member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

I took the teacher's course and among my first pupils were the children of Sir Henry Wood. Indeed, all through my career children of our best musicians and heads of academies, etc., have been in my classes.

I would like to tell you a little about the method. It is for students of any age and I have trained people of all ages, either as beginners or music teachers who themselves desire to teach the Fletcher method.

Apart from my ordinary Fletcher training I had to take a special course to entitle me to train teachers, and I myself am Principal for Great Britain and the Commonwealth and my great need at the moment is for more teachers. There are pupils waiting in several towns of England and in the Commonwealth and any teacher who takes up this method is rewarded a hundredfold in every way. As Eric Cundell, Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, speaking from personal experience said, it is ideal for children of all ages since it gives a broad foundation both in playing and in appreciation of music and it never fails to capture the imagination of the child and leads to a musical development and desire for music in a wide sphere in contrast to the usual lessons confined to the pianoforte alone.

The apparatus one uses is beautifully constructed and children become so absorbed that I can honestly say that they accomplish more in an exceedingly short space of time with the Fletcher method than in years spent learning the ordinary way. Such subjects as improvising, playing by ear, accompanying, transposing and composition are taught to the youngsters instead of waiting until they decide to go to a College of Music and learn these things when older. In 1947 six of my pupils (aged 7 to 11) had a tremendous thrill because their compositions were chosen to form a book which we sent to our present Queen on the occasion of her marriage and, in return, they received a lovely letter of thanks and appreciation.

To teach notation, children pull out five staff lines across the table and place large wooden clefs and notes on the lines. When young a child assimilates knowledge more easily if it can handle things, and this apparatus is excellent. Each note has a name and there is always a reason for choosing that name, such as Baby B and Daddy D, etc., and I have toys which the smaller children place on the respective key or on the table by the written note to help the child's memory. Where pupils are more adult I naturally adapt my training methods to their intelligence.

There is a lovely full-sized keyboard with the note printed on each key. One can learn notes, scales and chords from this. There is also a pack of cards—52 cards in a pack and 52 notes on a piano!—and all sorts of ingenious games can be played to encourage reading at sight. Our sight-reading results are excellent and one of my pupils, the daughter of Harold Craxton, one of our finest teachers at the Royal Academy of Music, gained first prize at the Paris Conservatoire of Music for sight-reading. Time is taught with strips of wood of various lengths and many other aids, and rhythm is taught by constantly improvising in whatever key we are in that week—first the melody only and then, as we advance, using chords. Harmonising is taught in a delightful way and each piece we learn we transpose. Everything is memorised—one does not really know a piece until it can be played from memory.

One of our leading illustrated papers took pictures of some of my children at work, but the Coronation has had prior place! I must mention ear training—old and young alike have such fun with that. Most

of the pupils gain positive pitch and find it easy to recognise intervals and chords by ear.

Another inestimable pleasure both to the children and to their elders, is that training by the Fletcher method makes the child completely self-conscious, and even with shy children one never finds them afraid to play in front of other people. This is because although each pupil has individual lessons, he or she participates in class lessons where each child as a matter of course plays regularly in front of the others, which completely removes any sense of ordeal.

The Bust of Dame Helen

Readers will be interested to know that the bust to which reference is made in the A.G.M. Minutes is to go to the Exhibition of "The Famous in Sculpture" at the Imperial Institute from November 17 to December 22, after which it will go to the Corps Museum, its permanent home. All ranks are very grateful to the Scottish branches and their friends who have made this gift.

The Seventh Passing-Out Parade of Officer Cadets

The salute was taken by Field-Marshal Sir John Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., Chief of the Imperial General Staff. It was July 21 and the School felt highly honoured that this was the first public appearance of the C.I.G.S. since his promotion to Field-Marshal. It was also the first occasion on which the whole parade was

able to turn out in Number One Dress. It consisted of 24 senior officer cadets, 19 junior officer cadets, 30 members of the permanent staff and 40 student N.C.O.s. The Corps Band played. The C.I.G.S. said that he was most impressed by the splendid turn-out, drill and marching. He emphasised the need for more women in the Army where there is a widening field for their employment and as an outstanding principle of the Army, he said: "I would like to impress on you that duty must always come first. As members of the W.R.A.C. your first duty is to God. After that comes your duty to your Queen, your country, corps and unit and to those who will be serving under you. . . . You must be careful not to be copy-cats. Don't try slavishly to copy the men with whom you will work. Don't try to turn yourselves into Amazons, but do your woman's job in a womanly way." He wished the cadets good fortune, after which he presented the ceremonial sash to Senior Under Officer A. S. Nicholson and the certificate of merit to Junior Under Officer D. Mitchell. After tea a helicopter descended on to the parade ground in which the C.I.G.S. embarked to go on to his next appointment, an event which added another element of excitement to a day which is never without its thrills.

New Type of Commission

The War Office announces an extended short service commission scheme for W.R.A.C. officers. It allows officers holding non-regular commissions

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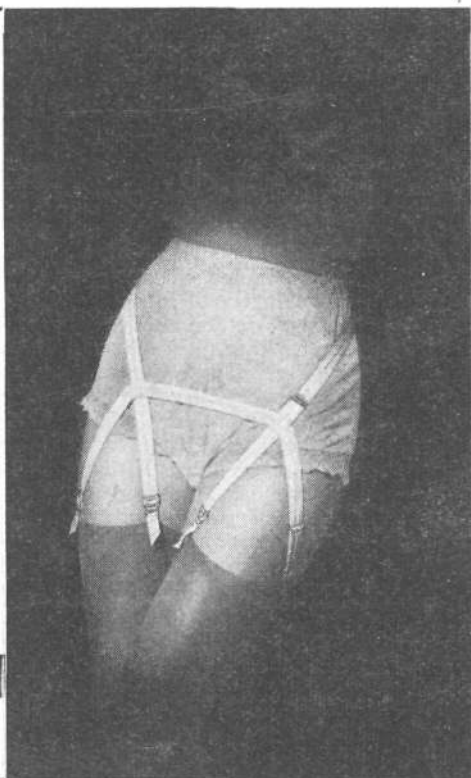
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to engage for an initial term of five years and then, in three-year terms, up to a maximum age of 55. Non-serving officers may not apply for acceptance under this scheme unless or until they have applied for and been accepted for a normal short service commission. Officers who are accepted for an extended service commission may, with certain provisos and subject to completion of the normal periods of active service, be eligible for both time promotion and retired pay at a modified rate.

Readers will also be glad to hear that the grant of a quartermaster's commission to W.R.A.C. warrant officers has also been approved.

News from Branches

ABERDEEN

Our monthly meetings are now being held on the third Thursday of the month and take the form of social evenings, talks or visits to places of interest. We have had an evening at Telephone House, a visit to the Rowett Research Institute and to Stoneywood Paper Mills. On all these occasions our guides took much trouble to show us all the interesting details and answer our many questions. At other meetings we have had illustrated lectures and also short talks by our own members about their work and their hobbies which we hoped would help us to know each other better.

During the winter, we are planning a whist drive to augment our funds and a demonstration of china painting. We regret very much the death of one of our first committee members, Miss Jean Paterson. A willing worker and a loyal colleague, she was liked by everybody with whom she came in contact and we miss her pleasant smile and genial presence at our meetings.

BELFAST

We resumed our branch activities on September 4, in our new premises at 58 Dublin Road with a most successful whist drive. We are indebted to the members of the Masonic Old Girls' Association who have kindly allowed us to share their accommodation and given us the use of their china, etc. This accommodation problem has existed for a long time and, now that we have solved it, it is hoped that members will attend more regularly, especially as we have resumed our twice-monthly meetings. The members of the committee have volunteered to provide supper and prizes for the various functions.

We hope to hold a quiz—T.A. against the Association. We extend our heartiest congratulations to one of our vice-presidents, Miss N. McCullough, who gained a first prize in knitting in the recent W.R.A.C. inter-unit competition. Miss McCullough is an officer in 502 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), and is an enthusiastic member of this branch. To Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington we also send our congratulations for her highly commended exhibit. To our five new serving members from 51 (U.) A.A. Brigade we extend a cordial welcome and hope that their duties will permit them to come to some of our meetings.

BIRMINGHAM

The autumn season opened with an open meeting when members were able to have a chat over holi-

days. The number of members attending was much smaller than usual but it is hoped that more will come along later, as we get into full swing again. During the holiday season, when indoor meetings are finished, we have had two very special outings—the first, in July, was a visit to the coronation pageant at Warwick, a very special setting for a wonderful pageant, which we all thoroughly enjoyed, despite the awful weather. Some 15 members and friends had tea together after the performance and wandered round the lovely church and local beauty spots. The second outing, suggested by members after the successful visit to Warwick, was to Aston Hall, another local spot of historical interest. Once again the weather was rather unkind to us but everyone voted the afternoon a great success. We now look forward to another enjoyable season of indoor functions, theatre visits, etc.

BOURNEMOUTH

We had an informal supper party at Kelly's Restaurant, Bournemouth, early in September. At the end of a very enjoyable evening we said goodbye with great regret to Mrs. A. M. Smythe, who has been our chairman for five years. She has left Bournemouth but still lives in Hampshire, so we hope that it is only *au revoir*, and that we shall see her again sometime at our Branch supper parties.

BRIGHTON

We have had a very exciting summer, having been joined by five new members. We still meet on the third Monday of each month at the R.N.A. Club, Kings Road Arches, Brighton, at 7.30 p.m., and we would be very pleased to see old and new members at these meetings. We try to arrange Sunday afternoon outings once a month and, among the places visited, have been Ashington, to pick wild daffodils, and, by coach, Sheffield Park and Wannonck Gardens, and the Downs near Falmer, to pick blackberries. We were also represented at the Coronation ex-Service Review in Hyde Park and at the R.A.F. Battle of Britain Service in Brighton Dome. Five members spent a very interesting time at the Guildford Depot on their "At Home" day.

BRISTOL

The Royal Review will remain long in the memory of those privileged to take part. A British Legion Band was playing as we arrived at Paddington station and, proceeding to Lancaster Gate, we had no difficulty in finding "Section M." When the Queen and the Duke came round in their jeep, Section M was one of the first to break ranks in order to get a closer view. The waiting period was trying before the actual march past. One striking impression one got was the enthusiasm of the crowds. How they cheered! All London seemed to have turned out for the occasion. We arrived home at about midnight, tired but happy that everything had gone according to plan.

There was no meeting in August as so many people were on holiday but a quarterly meeting was held in September which was combined with a "Bring and Buy" Sale organised by Mrs. Morgan,

CARDIFF

We still keep on with our meetings and we have about 11 to 15 members who attend regularly. Of course, if we have a dinner or outing we get about 24. It would be nice to get more at the meetings.

We were very thrilled to be on parade for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on their visit to Wales. Our president, Miss Oxenham, was presented to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. Amongst the standard bearers of the British Legion was our chairman, Mrs. Hatcher, who is one of the bearers who has gained prizes and goes all over England and Wales to conferences, etc.

EDINBURGH

When at last the seven crowded days of the Royal visit were over we felt rather deflated as we returned to the old unglamorous routine, but that wonderful, infectious spirit which has bound us all ever closer together this coronation year lives on undiminished. The Royal Review in Hyde Park was the next important date on the ex-Service calendar and the Branch was very pleased that Miss J. Cruikshank (A.T.S.) was able to be there.

Our one sad moment this quarter has been the departure from Edinburgh of Mrs. G. D. Hardy (Q.M.A.A.C.). Mrs. Hardy was secretary of the Branch for 10 years, from 1939 to 1950, and steered it very wisely through that difficult transitional period and the expansion brought about by the steady infiltration of new Old Comrades of World War II. Even after her retirement she continued to give the Branch much of her time and the benefit of her experience. We know that she has been looking forward to settling in the South and we hope that she and her husband will enjoy a very happy retirement in Warwickshire. Her address is to be 213 Warwick Road, Kenilworth.

Our own celebration to commemorate this coronation year is to be a combined operation with the Edinburgh Branches of the Association of W.R.N.S. and the R.A.F. Association. A Women's Services Dinner is to be held on November 7. Combined operations provided many of the most successful ventures of the war. Though times are different we are confident that this one will be no exception.

GIBRALTAR

Our August meeting was a fitting climax to the W.R.A.C. Handicrafts Exhibition. The Association entries were worthy of the high praise they received and the prizes finally awarded to Mrs. Wardle and Mrs. Waddingham were for some very original and beautiful embroidery. Through the kindness of Mrs. Scherr, one of our members, our September meeting was held in her house. The spirit of the Corps was so much in evidence that our chairman, Major Askham, could hardly get a word in edgewise. The meeting was closed with the "cup that cheers" and refreshments very kindly provided by Mrs. Scherr. It is with regret that we say farewell to our treasurer, Lt. C. M. Thomas, who is leaving the Service to be married in Malaya to Capt. J. C. Saby of the Colonial Police Force. We all wish her a safe and pleasant journey

and happiness in her new career. We welcome Mrs. Kearley as our new treasurer and we hope that very soon she will have some funds to treasure. She is to be seen at each meeting guarding zealously a tin box in the hope of collecting some capital.

Actually, since writing the previous paragraph, we have had a whist drive. There were 12 tables, including some of our latest recruits to the whist school, who have undergone a gruelling course of instruction in the arts and intricacies of the game—to quote our latest member, Pte. McHugh: "Do you mean those shamrock things?" Our profit was £3 so Mrs. Kearley can now make use of her little tin box and should be able to produce a credit balance at the end of the year.

GLASGOW

Our visit to the Edinburgh Festival on September 2 was a great success and we were delighted that some of the Ayr Branch members were able to join us. We had our evening meal at the United Services Club and then proceeded to the Castle Esplanade for the Tattoo. We all enjoyed the W.R.A.C. display of Indian club swinging and rhythmic drill. Those of our members who were keen country dancers were particularly interested in the exhibition of Scottish country dancing given by a team of 104 dancers from the Scottish Regiments. The historical fantasy, "An episode from the life of Rob Roy," was of great interest to us all and the last two items, the massed Pipes and Drums and "Scotland the Brave" (The Sunset Call), were much enjoyed and appreciated. We had our annual visit to Ayr Branch on September 12 and this was, as always, a happy occasion. We were fortunate, once again, with the weather and had a very pleasant day with our Ayr comrades.

We are holding a Scottish country dance on Friday, November 27, in St. Andrew's (Mid) Hall at 7.30 p.m., and we hope for a good attendance on this occasion. The tickets are 4s. 6d. On Wednesday, December 9, a military whist drive will be held in the Service Women's Club, at 7.30 p.m., and a good attendance is requested. The tickets are 2s. 6d. and names should be sent to the secretary, or entered on the list provided at the Club, by Thursday, December 3.

LONDON

We were very glad to welcome Dame Helen to our meeting on July 16 and she gave us a most enlightening talk on "How Our Minds Work." Our August meetings were quite well attended in spite of holidays and the fact that we had nothing special on our programme. On Saturday, August 15, four members went to Richmond Park Camp to the fete held to raise funds for the Benevolent Fund, which was opened by Dame Helen. In September we had an evening of "Bedlam," and also an interesting talk by Miss Thomson on "Queen Victoria and our present Queen." We have also run a raffle for a cushion cover from Headquarters and have raised £1 15s. for the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. We would remind members that, on November 19, we are running a "Bring and Buy" and look forward to their support on this occasion.

MAIDSTONE

It is with deep regret that we mourn the loss of our President, Mrs. Fletcher, who died on August 24. With her co-operation, in December 1948, we started this branch. Mrs Fletcher was always ready to give a helping hand. She helped towards the Poppy Wreath and laid it in the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, and also gave to the raffles that we organised. She represented us on the Area Committee. Mrs. Hackney, our chairman, was at the funeral service, representing the branch.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

Although the numbers are few who attend the monthly meetings that we still hold we are glad to report that those who come do so most regularly and take a keen interest in the Association. Two of our members were fortunate in obtaining seats at the coronation, which event gave an excellent subject for discussion at a subsequent meeting. On August 16, a very enjoyable day was spent when we had our annual outing to Alnmouth. We were favoured with a lovely day which enabled us to have a picnic lunch on the beach and those who were more venturesome to paddle. Arrangements had been made for tea in Alnmouth which proved to be excellent and a very happy ending to a pleasant day.

(Sorry we cannot afford to reproduce the snap.—Ed.)

NORFOLK

Summer meetings have been fairly well attended. Members returning from holidays have, as usual, made the evenings interesting for others with their news. The Hyde Park rally was attended by three members. Mrs. Rumbold carried the Q.M.A.A.C. standard; Mrs. A. E. Clarke of King's Lynn wrote to say it was a wonderful sight; and Mrs. J. Murton of Harleston had a most enjoyable time, meeting a friend with whom she served at Dover and had not seen since 1919. Mrs. Murton took part in the inspection and marched about a mile but was not able to continue to the end. The heat was too much for her.

It was decided to have a raffle again for funds, the draw to be at the January meeting. Details and tickets, price 6d. each, can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Assistant Secretary, Miss M. Withy, Flat 1, 147 Thorpe Road, Norwich.

SHEFFIELD

Members of this Branch continue to meet at the Forrester's Hall in Trippet Lane, Sheffield, on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Our first get-together after the summer break was a coach trip to our Chairman's home at Bamford on September 3, when presentations were made to two members who had been married a short while before. The following meeting, on September 17, was a hive of industry as all were busy sorting goods for a jumble sale that was held the following evening when £18, less expenses, was taken. Our meetings in November will be taken up with preparations for the Christmas Fair which, this year, will be held on Saturday, November 28. Our Panto tickets have

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already been booked for Thursday, January 14, next year and details of the Dinner have also to be arranged for February. Members are asked to note that the Secretary, Mrs. Olivant, should be contacted at 6 Oliver Road, Millhouses, Sheffield 7, phone 72279, and not Whitham Road, as before.

SOUTHAMPTON

Our meetings continue to be held at the Carlton Drill Hall, Carlton Place, Southampton, on the first Wednesday of the month. Although not a large branch we manage to be well represented in service and local affairs. Meetings during the year have been quite varied, including several interesting talks, a bring and buy sale, socials and a cookery demonstration. In December we gave a Christmas party for some orphan children. Funds for this were raised by holding a whist drive and members contributed towards presents, sweets, etc., which the children received from Father Christmas. Our third Annual Dinner, held in February, was a most happy occasion, our guest being Col. M. Railton, C.B.E., who gave us a most interesting talk on the work of the W.R.A.C. Members, many of whom had not met since the early part of the war, did not miss this grand opportunity for a long chat about the old days in uniform.

The highlight of the year was, of course, the Royal Review, for which we hired a coach, some of us taking part in the parade and some coming as spectators. Despite our long wait in the hot sun, July 5 will always remain in our memories as a most momentous and inspiring occasion.

Personal

For charges and particulars please see Contents page.

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

London, Royal Kensington.—Members welcomed in friendly hotel. Lounge, piano, garden. Room/breakfast, 15s. daily. Sharing, 27s. for two. Adrian House Private Hotel, 49 Holland Road, Kensington, W.14. Western 4471.

Officer's No. 1 Dress for sale. Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 34 in., hips 38 in. Apply Mrs. Francis, 49 St. Anthony's Road, Blundellsands, Liverpool.

For Sale.—A.T.S. Officer's Service Dress uniform. Two skirts, greatcoat, battledress blouse, cap and beret. All practically new. To fit height 5 ft. 9 in., chest 38 in., waist 28 in. Price £6. Brogden, 10 Courtenay Drive, Emmer Green, Reading, Berks.

For Sale.—A.T.S. uniform and greatcoat. Bust 34 in., hips 38 in., waist 26 in., height 5 ft. 6 in. Also quantity of khaki shirts, collars and ties in good condition. Apply Mrs. Stenson, 46 Queen's Gate, S.W.7. Phone Western 4409 after 5.30.

For Sale.—W.R.A.C.(T.A.) Officer's khaki greatcoat, 5 ft. 3 in. Baratheia Cap, 6½ in. Viyella Shirt, size 13½, two collars 14 in. New silk shirt,

size 13 in., two collars 13½ in. £10, or will sell separately. Mrs. K. Elderkin, 95 Moore Road, Mapperley, Nottingham.

For Sale.—No. 1 Dress, tunic and skirt. B.34, W.24, H.38, Ht. 5 ft. 6 in. £20. Also hat size 7, 30s. Hardly worn, perfect condition. Officer's khaki cap, size 7, 10s. and three shirts (1 size 14, 2 size 13) 5s. each. Reply Box No. 17/53.

Channel Islands.—All comrades and friends are welcome at the Coronation Guest House, Kensington Place, St. Helier, Jersey (three minutes from the beach, five minutes main shopping centre). Phone Central 3539 or write as above.

For Sale.—Officer's uniform, khaki, various articles. Service dress, two shirts, 5 ft. 7 in., 32 in. bust, 38 in. hips, £5. New cap, £1. Shirts, etc. Box No. 16/53.

For Sale.—Officer's Khaki Greatcoat made by Huntsman, £6. Khaki Service Dress, £1. Sizes 36 in. bust, 38 in. hips, height 5 ft. 7 in. Gough, 22 The Highway, Sutton, Surrey.

For Sale.—Khaki greatcoat, service dress and khaki drill skirts. 36 to 38 in. bust, 28 in. waist. Peaked cap, size 6½. One pair light brown walking shoes, size 4½. Two silk shirts, 14 in. neck. Two silk and 2 Aertex shirts for wear with khaki drill. Stockings and ankle socks, 9 in., and khaki knitted gloves, size 7. All in good condition. Offers to Mrs. Bullock, 20 Woodlands Road, Stafford, Staffs.

Ex-driver, 32, would share primitive timber bungalow between Egham and Virginia Water with another. Box No. 15/53.

Staffordshire.—Ex-Service officers, W.Os. N.C.Os. and Privates wanted for W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Battalion covering the whole country. Few permanent staff vacancies still available. Apply for details to the adjutant, Capt. A. E. Sadler, W.R.A.C.(T.A.), Beacon Place, Lichfield, Staffs.

For Sale.—Officer's khaki greatcoat together with khaki service dress and two skirts (Huntsman). Also one battledress blouse and skirt. Bust 36 in., waist 29 in., hips 37 in., height 5 ft. 6 in. £12 the lot for quick sale. Apply Mrs. Jenyns, Timber House, Hutton Lowcross, Guisborough, Yorkshire.

Royal Review.—Would some kind person who was lucky enough to get a good snap of Her Majesty The Queen, at the ex-Service men and women's review on July 5, send the negative to Miss K. B. Jones, Worcestershire Hotel, Droitwich Spa, Worcs.—and I promise to return it immediately after use. (I left my camera in the lorry on that day!)

Come and have a late holiday at Trelawne, Lancaster Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea. Special terms for all comrades and friends. Every attention and good food. Run by ex-A.T.S. Write as above or 'phone Clacton 979.

N.A.A.F.I.

N.A.A.F.I. announce that as from Saturday, October 10, 1953, their Sports Showroom at Kennings Way, London, S.E.11 will temporarily be closed. Re-opening on Monday, January 11, 1954.

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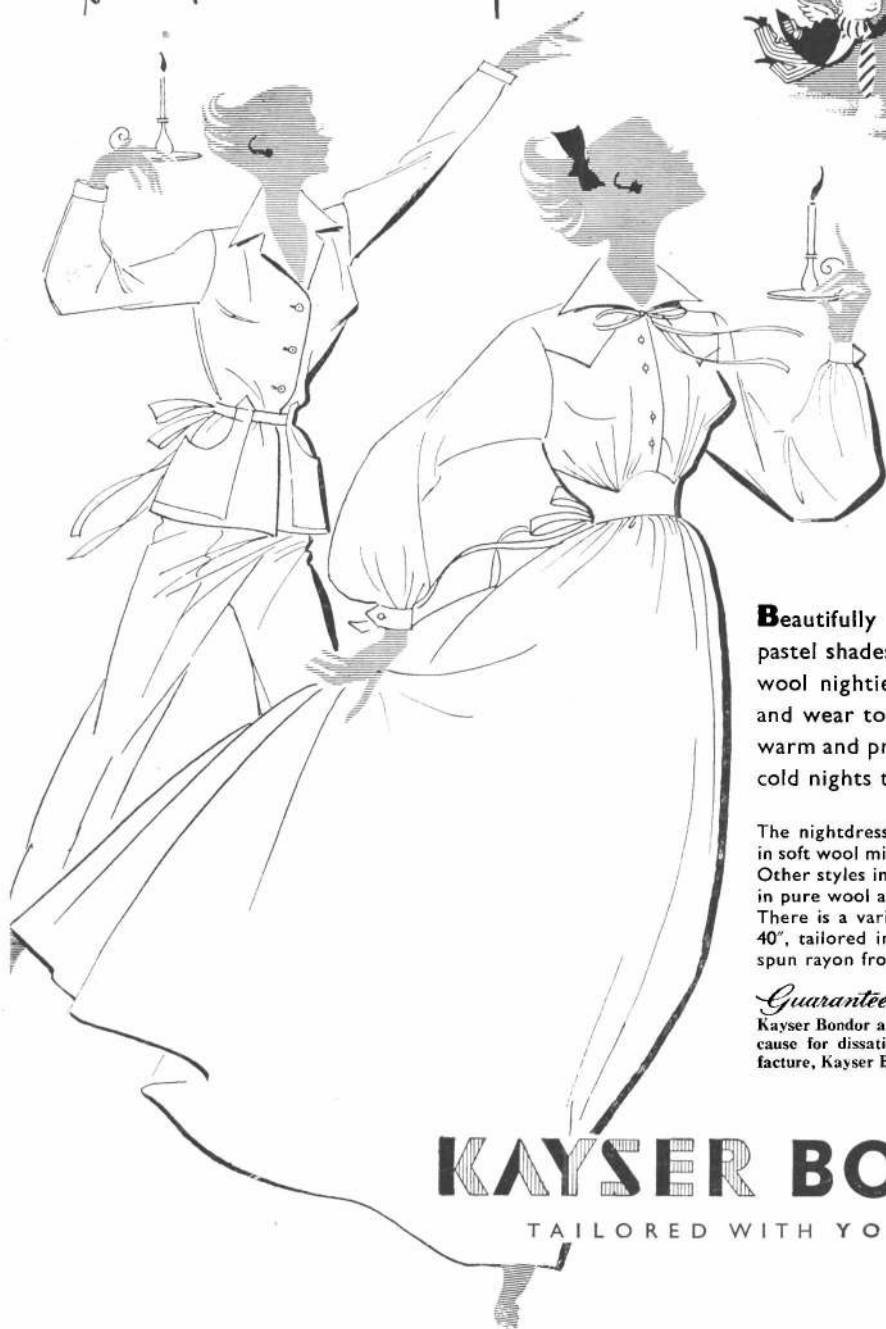


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