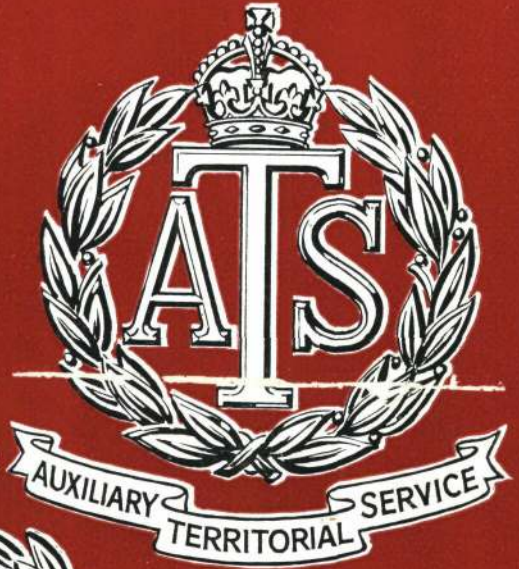


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THE LIONESS



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Contents

	PAGE
Editorial	55
Association Notes	55
Miscellanea	56
News from the Territorial Army	57
W.R.A.C. Overseas	59
News from Branches	60
A History at Last	63
Glasgow University Training Corps	63
Reunions	64
Two Q.M.A.A.C. Occasions	66
Review	67
Births and Marriages	67
Sport	68
The Sailor	69
Well-Groomed Hair Takes You Half-way to Smartness	70
Our African Visitors	70
Sixty-Hour Safari	71
Staff College Club	73
Change of Editor	74
A Library is Founded	74
Retirements	75
Personal	75
Unit Branches in the A.A. Command Area	76

W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK

General Secretary

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

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY
JANUARY 1

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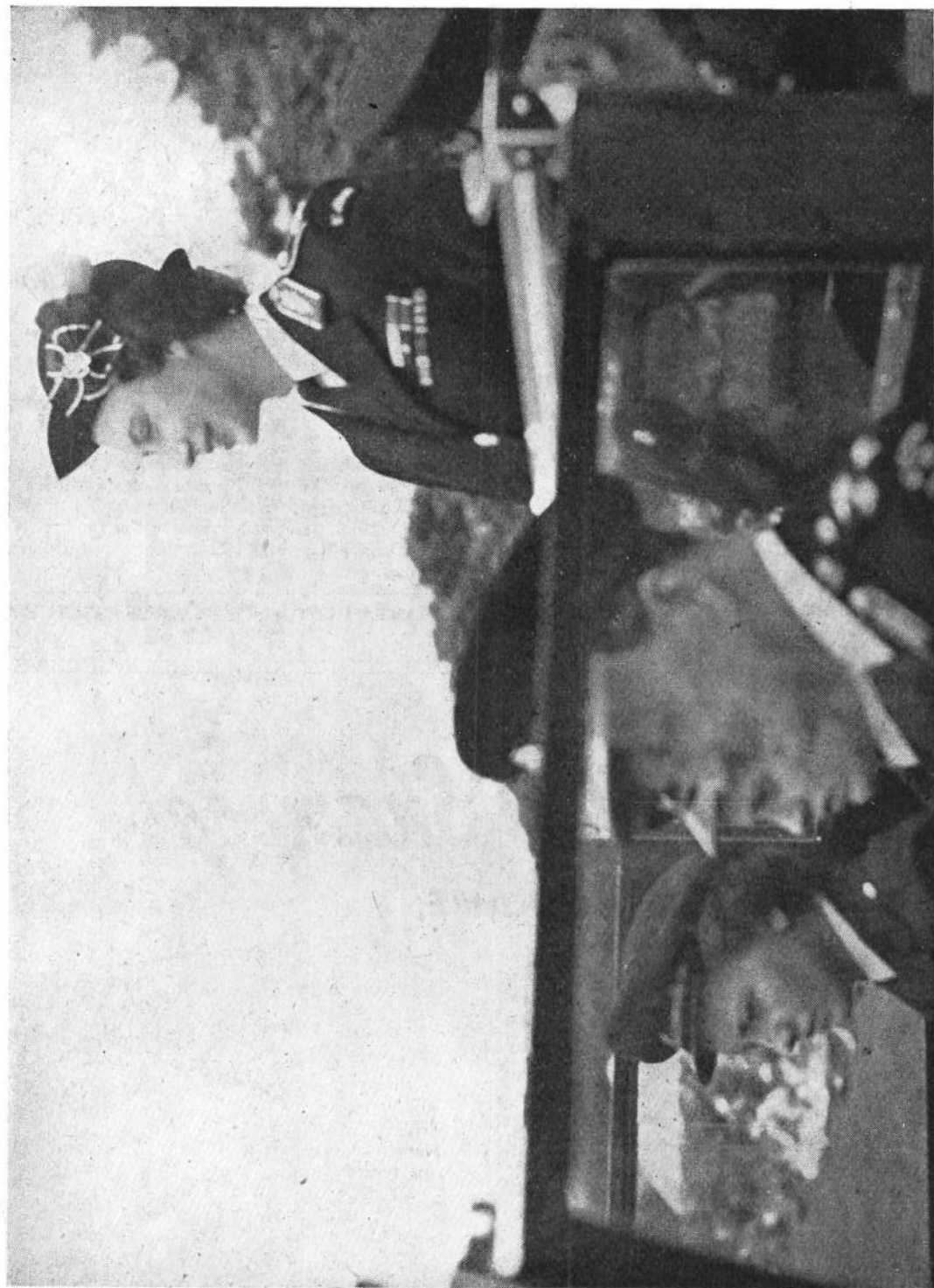
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H.R.H. The Princess Margaret is driven by Private J. Collier of the Women's Royal Army Corps
[Photo: Planet News Ltd.]



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXVII

November 1954

No. 4

Christmas Greetings

from our President

May Christmas and New Year bring to you all Happiness and
Peace is the wish of your old comrade—FLORENCE SIMPSON

EDITORIAL

We have received a copy of the *Veterans' News Service*, dated August 4, from which we understand that it provides a fortnightly world-wide service free of charge to editors by the World Veterans' Federation, of which the headquarters are at 27 Rue de la Michodière in Paris. The copy we have received contains a copy of the telegram sent by the President of the Federation to the General Secretary of the Geneva Conference welcoming the cease fire in Indo-China, an appeal to the United Nations to help the world's homeless millions, and a considerable number of interesting items about the co-operation of veterans all over the world. Canada helps veterans to build their own houses; the work of one of France's war heroes for disabled veterans lives on for, when he died, he bequeathed the author's rights of a book to them; Belgian veterans' children visit Italy; the French Union of the War Blind has obtained two braille writing machines from England which have enabled them enormously to increase their library; there are particulars of the new French braille duplicator which will make it far easier to get books for

the blind; a French specialist comes to England to study paraplegics and Greek veterans visit New Zealand. Council has now decided to join the World Federation so we shall in future contribute more substantially to its work.

We also acknowledge with thanks receipt of the *Australian Defence Newsletter*, which is sent to us regularly and which we are always glad to see, although it seldom has news in it of interest to us particularly as a women's service.

STOP PRESS

Thursday, October 11, was a proud day for the Corps when Capt. J. B. MacDowall, L.R.A.M., carried off the Worshipful Company of Musicians Medal for the best-all-round student of The McBain (1954) Class at The Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall. Capt. MacDowall also won silver medals in the Choral prize and the Somerville prize for Military Band arranging and the Besson Cup and Medal for the student obtaining the highest marks in the War Office Examination. We would all like to join in our congratulations and our wishes for her future when she takes up her appointment as our Director of Music.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, March 19, 1955, at 3 o'clock.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 27, 1954 (circulated in the May issue of *THE LIONESS*).
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. Reports of Council and Committees.
4. Election of Vice-Presidents and Chairman of Council.
5. Resolutions.
6. Any other business.

October 1, 1954.

A. J. LUMSDEN,
General Secretary.

In order that Resolutions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting may be printed, they should reach the General Secretary by December 30, 1954.

GRAND REUNION

The next Grand Reunion will take place at the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, March 19, 1955, commencing at 7 p.m.

Price of tickets will be 5s., obtainable in advance with effect from January 1, 1955, from: The Reunion Secretary, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3.

Names of guests and speakers will be notified in the next edition of *The Lioness*.

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

The Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion will take place at the Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, Chelsea, on Friday, March 18, 1955, commencing 7 p.m.

Tickets 4s., obtainable as above.

N.B.—When applying for tickets please enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply.

MISCELLANIA

We were delighted to hear from **Dame Florence** that she really does intend to visit us next year, but a little disappointed to find that she has booked her passage back to South Africa on July 30 but has not yet found a boat coming our way in March, as she would like. Anyway, she hopes to be in England about the second week in April and we know she will get a warm welcome. An earlier letter was written from the Blue Mountain Inn at Teyateyaneng, Basutoland—a beautiful spot but over 3,000 ft. above sea-level and cold in July. It appears that this winter out there has been exceptionally cold and snow fell in Harrismith for the first time for years. So we are not the only people complaining of topsy-turvy weather. We hope that Dame Florence managed to get a little warmer weather when she went to Durban for three weeks in August.

Dame Helen has received a letter from **Mrs. C. Melliard** (sub. A.T.S.), who is back in England from British Guiana. Her address is Largo, 9 Mardale Drive, Kingsbury, London, N.W.9, and she would so much like to hear from old friends.

There must have been many who were shocked to read of the death of a Mrs. Christian Fraser-Tytler who will be delighted to know that it was *not* the **Mrs. Fraser-Tytler, C.B.E.**, who was a Senior Controller in the A.T.S. So far as we know she is alive and, we hope, well.

We were delighted to hear more news of **Miss E. M. Shearman**, of whom we last heard in the issue of May, 1953. When she had recovered from her operation she took a course at Constance Spry's School. During the school holiday last Christmas Miss Shearman started driving for a taxi-owner's service but she had to go back to the school at the end of the month. Unfortunately, when the course was ended the work in a florist's proved too heavy and she had to give it up, including turning down the job of holiday relief work at the Savoy Hotel. Now she has been put in charge of a little business and handles all its stock and cash. Her illness and convalescence has taken 20 months but she was, fortunately, able to drive her car for a good deal of the time and was able to do a great deal for others, as she always does, taking sick folk to hospital, the dentist, or on to the sea-front for tea. She has also been to Rome, Florence, Assisi, Pisa and Paris again this year. She has bought a lovely blue Austin A 30, which she loves very much, and, of course, she still drives for the Civil Defence L.C.C. Ambulance Section. She has now been able to see herself in her blue uniform and approves the result. She asks who can beat her record? She still lives at Hopkinson House, 88 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

We are indeed indebted to **Miss D. I. Green**, R.S.M. of 316th Battalion, for her energy and initiative in raising over £5 during annual camp for *The Lioness*. It is intended to enable us to have a larger magazine so that all articles submitted can be included as well as the barest news items. She

will be glad to see the extra four pages in this issue. If eleven others would follow her example annually it would be possible to have an issue this size every quarter.

Such is the shortage of staff officers in the Army that it was decided in 1953 to offer special short-service commissions to women who would never be anything but junior staff officers. Since the scheme was introduced 28 applicants for this type of commission have passed a Regular Commissions Board of whom nine have already passed through a short course at the W.R.A.C. Staff College.

Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil has just taken over command of the Depot from **Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D.** Between jobs, Col. Cecil went to visit the French Army on an exchange *au pair*. She writes to say that she spent two days in Paris visiting the War Office and spent a morning in the French equivalent of our A.G. 16. She found much that resembled our own branch except that the other ranks' records also are kept at the War Office and not in a Record Office. They carry no rank higher than lieutenant, although they hope that the rank of captain will be reinstated this month. The standard maintained at the Centre d'Instruction, Personnel Feminine l'Armee de la Terre (usually shortened to P.F.A.T.) is extremely high. It needs to be as students who pass courses there, unlike those at our school, are always promoted and posted out in the higher rank.

Capt. Esther Ovesen of the Danish Lottekorps is now at the W.R.A.C. Staff College and we all hope that she will thoroughly enjoy her visit.

The Women's Services this year were represented at the Royal Tournament by 144 members of all three Services, who gave a demonstration of Indian club swinging which proved extremely popular.

Detachments from the School of Instruction have paraded in the Aldershot centenary celebrations and, for the first time, in the Queen's birthday parade.

News was received in July, only just in time to push in a line about it in the August *Lioness*, of the creation of a new appointment at the War Office, a W.R.A.C. Inspector of Recruiting. Her task is to get in touch with careers and appointments mistresses at girls' schools and with the schools liaison officers and W.R.A.C. officers with the Army team of lecturers. She will co-ordinate the efforts made within Commands to lecture to the various women's organisations as well as to maintain liaison with the Regular Commissions Board, School of Instruction, W.R.A.C. Directorate and the Directorate of Personnel Administration. We think Col. Colvin will find sufficient scope even for her boundless energy!

Mrs. Oswald B. Lord, who has replaced Mrs. Roosevelt as the United States delegate to the United Nations' Committee on Human Rights, visited the Depot on May 12 to compare our training* and selection methods with those of the U.S. Women's Services.



[Courtesy: Northern Whig Photo.]

Q.M.S.I. E. A. Young, M.B.E., Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C.

News from the TERRITORIAL ARMY

Never before has Ballykinlar known such excellent food in an O.R.s cookhouse, for Q.M.S.I. E. A. Young spent 15 days with 328 (Ulster) Battalion in camp there. Q.M.S.I. Young joined the W.A.A.C. in January, 1918, and served in France until December, 1919. She was employed as a cook in a R.A.S.C. camp outside Rouen for the majority of this time. On the outbreak of the Second World War she rejoined for service in the A.T.S. in January, 1940, and is still serving. Q.M.S.I. Young who completes her present engagement in October, 1954, has applied to serve for a further two years.

Three of the Regiments of 105 Brigade, Royal Coast Artillery, have been given mixed establishments on the lines of Mixed Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiments. The first to implement the new establishment is **412 Highland (M.) Coast Regiment, R.A.**, commanded by Lt.-Col. W. H. Pearce, M.C., R.A., which covers the N.E. coast of Scotland, from Morayshire to Caithness. Starting in February, it already has a W.R.A.C. strength of over 40, composed partly of recruits and partly of members of the Caithness, Ross-shire and Morayshire Platoons of the former "B" Company, 316 (Scottish Command) Battalion. The W.R.A.C. Adviser to the Commanding Officer is Major S. Rowan-Hamilton, T.D., who formerly commanded "B" Company. Ever since the formation of the Caithness Platoon in 1950, this unit, in addition to normal training, has had unofficial instruction with the coast batteries at Wick and Thurso. Permission was given for the Platoon to attend the Coast Regiment's camp in 1952 and the favourable impression they made led the War Office officially to sanction the establishment of mixed coast regiments.

The first mixed camp was held at Tynemouth, from June 5 to 19, and, in spite of cold, wet weather, it was voted a great success. Although it had not been possible to give much training on the instruments beforehand, the various detachments soon acquired skill and team spirit and the standard of firing did not appear to be adversely affected by the

introduction of the female element. At first there was a tendency to jump at the bangs but this soon wore off and the drill squad was able to march in slow time without batting an eyelid to the sound of 3.7s a few hundred yards away. During the second week the camp was visited by the G.O.C. Highland District, Maj.-Gen. J. Scott-Elliot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and the Inspector, Royal Artillery, Brigadier J. H. Beattie, C.B.E., D.S.O., both of whom were pleased with the standard achieved. Other visitors included a former Deputy Director and Inspector of the A.T.S., Senior Controller M. Baxter-Ellis, C.B.E., T.D., and the Mayor of Tynemouth, Councillor Ada Southworth.

The time for packing up was a sad one for there is little opportunity, except in camp, for the Regiment to be all together. The women's homes are scattered over so wide an area that many members have great distances to travel to drills, the record being held by Sgt. Murray, of Ross-shire, who travels 75 miles each way. The Regiment considers, however, that mixed coast artillery has got off to a good start and is already engaged on a big drive for recruits for the coming training season. We are indebted to Major Rowan-Hamilton for having the block made which has enabled us to celebrate this historic camp by publishing the photograph of Sgt. Murray and the General at camp.

This year units from South-Western District and Aldershot District combined for their annual training at Plasterdown Camp, Devon, from May 22 to June 5, under the command of Major T. A. Taylor, whose photograph we reproduced in our May issue. Apart from "A" and "B" Companies of 310 Battalion, under Capt. D. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton and K. N. Edwards respectively, there were in camp 70, 71, 73 and 74 Independent Companies, under Capt. R. Harding-Francis, Lts. M. McIntyre and A. J. Clime, and Capt. A. Hine-Haycock. The camp was run entirely by W.R.A.C. (T.A.) personnel with the assistance of the sponsor unit and an additional 20 R.A.S.C. driver instructors.



[Courtesy: Newcastle Chronicle and Journal Ltd.]

The G.O.C. Highland District talking to Sgt. Helen Murray, senior W.R.A.C. sergeant in 412 (M) Coast Regt. R.A.

The majority of the women were trainee drivers so particular attention was paid to M.T. training. The M.T. officers, Lts. P. Gordon-Thompson and E. Sinclair, and their staff deserve much credit for the unruffled way in which they overcame one problem after another; problems caused by the wet and windy weather, vehicles bogged down in mud, non-starters saturated by the penetrating mists, and the many schemes. Maj.-Gen. C. L. Firbank, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. South-Western District, visited the camp and Brigadier Railton, the present Director and then D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command, took the salute after a church parade on the middle Sunday. She also inspected the camp and watched the training on the following day.

The whole camp took part in an all-day scheme on Bodmin Moor, in which three convoys took part. Many unsuspecting persons found themselves under arrest for improperly completed documents and a spy even infiltrated the ranks but was detected by the vigilant security staff. A sports afternoon, night convoys, map-reading exercises and a fire-fighting demonstration by the Tavistock Fire Brigade were among the other activities, and the camp was a great success, in spite of the weather.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF
EDITOR**

Forthcoming Events

Branch Meetings and Dinners

BIRMINGHAM. November 9. Annual Dinner.

BRISTOL. Monthly meetings held the first Thursday in the month at Legion House, Portland Square, 7 p.m.

HARTLEPOOL. Meetings on first Wednesday in the month in the Sergeants' Mess, 426 (Durham) Coast Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), West Hartlepool.

LONDON. Meetings every first and third Thursday each month at 7.30 p.m., Service Women's Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, S.W.1.

NORFOLK. Meetings first Wednesday in every month, 6-9.30 p.m., in Ladies' Room at Railway-men's Club, 11 Thorpe Road, Norwich.

PORTSMOUTH. Meetings monthly at the Drill Hall in St. Paul's Road, off Commercial Road, Portsmouth.

SALISBURY. Meetings on the last Thursday of the month at the local Cadets H.Q., Evelyn House.

SHEFFIELD. Meetings every first and third Thursday each month at the Foresters Hall in Sheffield, except when an outing has been arranged. First meeting of this session was on September 2.

Miscellaneous Dates

December 17—Army Squash Rackets Championships, London.

W.R.A.C. OVERSEAS

East Africa. The fact that readers know so little about our small detachment in Nairobi lies with us all. Our numbers have varied over the years but, to get down to the mundane, accommodation is now available for 6 officers and 36 other ranks. Although the rank structure of the latter is officially specified it is not worth enumerating. We tend to have a high proportion for N.C.O.s, sometimes filling R.A.S.C. vacancies; the Commander-in-Chief and the Chief of Staff both have P.A.s.

We are employed with four different formations, but all live together in a compound of G.H.Q. All our administration is done by the Camp Commandant but the senior W.R.A.C. officer is generally responsible for the well-being and welfare of the detachment. Although the appointment is at present a normal staff one at a lower formation (H.Q. G.H.Q. Troops), the holder is also D.A.D.W.R.A.C. and Commanding Officer. All the messes are mixed and we attribute the fact that we are so excellently fed in the officers' mess to the work of the newly-appointed messing member of the committee, a W.R.A.C. officer, as was her predecessor for a long term of office.

There is a widespread belief, not fostered by some of its temporary inhabitants, that Nairobi has the perfect climate. We all have our own ideas of perfection but drizzling cold mornings in Nairobi do not appeal to all and sometimes we wonder why the powers that be have specified that our all-the-year-round dress should be "tropical." The long sleeves of our dresses which are supposed to be rolled up during the day, are often seen at full length, and pullovers are a necessity in some offices.

It is difficult to get a picture of our accommodation, but we live in "bandas" which, in our case, are blocks of rooms of different varieties and practically the only common factor is that they all have verandahs running the full length of the banda. At present the warrant officers and senior N.C.O.s are the luckiest as, although their rooms are small, each block of six is self-supporting with ironing room, lavatory, bath and two wash basins and their joy is the thermostatically-controlled water. Some of the junior ranks share rooms between two in a self-contained banda (less ironing room) and the remainder are in larger rooms with the "necessities" just outside. This banda includes the rest room. Officers have two rooms each with a connecting door, their own wash basins, and they also have made themselves self sufficient. All ranks are to have thermostatically-controlled water when the necessary adjuncts have arrived from the U.K.

There are such things as laundry contracts for the camp and our official washing is done by Askaris who also keep the communal accommodation clean. Anomalies which one does not expect crop up in washing clothes, for Askaris have religious scruples about touching some articles of feminine clothing. Although we expect to do our own "small" it is rather a surprise when pyjamas

remain in the linen basket. Sheets and towels are done by the Askaris. There are many times, however, when we wish that there was no prejudice about white women doing domestic chores.

This article was submitted anonymously as an introduction to the way of living of our detachment in East Africa. We hope that a promised article on their general way of life will follow. After months of silence from this Command we find ourselves almost suffering from *embarras de richesse* in that we have also been sent extracts from the quarterly report. It appears that the Corps day activities were marred by the fact that they coincided with operation "Anvil" about which we all read in the papers. The Other Ranks were shewn the film "Greensleeves" on the correct date but their dance, the officers' cocktail party and their showing of "Greensleeves" had to be postponed. Capt. J. Sharcott was detailed as time-keeper at G.H.Q. Athletics Meeting and she did so well that she has since been working with the Kenya Athletics Association and went to Uganda for the Kenya-Uganda Athletics Meeting.

Gibraltar. We have all been thrilled to read in the Press news of the visit of our Honorary President and Controller Commandant, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, to Gibraltar, where she named the new W.R.A.C. block "Princess Royal's Block."

Other news of the Gibraltar detachment includes an exploration of the subterranean chambers of the Rock. All agreed with the United States Navy that St. Michael's Caves, with their concealed lighting, would make an ideal nightclub, and there is no further doubt that stalactites tumble down and stalagmites might grow up. R.E.M.E. workshops, under one of the largest unsupported roofs in the world, made an interesting trip which finished with a visit to the City Council Waterworks. During the latter the women walked straight through the Rock, seeing many of the gigantic rain-water reservoirs *en route*. In addition to two weddings at King's Chapel, Ptes. West and Zouch, the detachment has lost by marriage L/Cpl. Harris and Pte. Parry, both of whom are to be married at home, and Pte. Anker who is joining her fiancé in Australia.

The last item from Gibraltar is contributed by Sgt. R. S. M. Lee who was on duty at the Convent (the official residence of H.E. The Governor) when H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Rock. She tells us how she had stood and admired the gifts which the people of Gibraltar were presenting to The Queen and The Duke when they were displayed in a shop window but that, when they were placed in her hands for safe keeping until the actual presentation, she was almost too stunned to examine them properly.

"I soon recovered," she continues, "and made the most of the wonderful opportunity. The

(Continued on page 73)

NEWS FROM BRANCHES

Bath. Since we last went to press we have had the misfortune to lose our Founder and Secretary, Mrs. E. M. Kennard, who has now moved to Guernsey. At the Annual General Meeting held in April, Miss B. Mould paid tribute to the work done by Mrs. Kennard who founded the branch seven years ago, and on behalf of the Branch presented her with a Ronson table lighter and a bouquet. The new Secretary is Mrs. J. Ferguson, 16 Lime Grove Gardens, Pulteney Road, Bath. A new idea to raise funds has proved very successful: one member provides tea for all other members, who pay 1s. 6d. per head, and the proceeds go into Branch Funds—Mrs. Bunyar, Mrs. Cantello and Mrs. Mant have raised money in this way. A visit to the theatre to see "Seagulls over Sorrento" was much enjoyed by the party of 20 who attended, and a Jumble Sale in aid of the Branch Funds proved very successful. We propose holding another Jumble Sale in November, when the whole of the proceeds will go to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. An evening trip to Priddy, Wells, with supper at a well-known hotel was much enjoyed by all members, but don't think we meet only for pleasure, for members have been busy all the year round making articles in aid of a Sale of Work which we propose holding next year—working parties meet once a fortnight at the Chairman's home and sew and knit diligently! Four members were successful in gaining awards at the W.R.A.C. Day Exhibition at Salisbury, and the small party that attended the "At Home" were greatly impressed with the new smart uniform and seeing the W.R.A.C. in action—some married members were almost rejoicing until they tasted good old NAAFI tea again, which rather put them off! With Christmas not so far off, thoughts are again turning to the Annual Christmas Supper which will be held on December 15, and it is hoped as many members as possible will turn up for this very popular event—the "Thrift Club" is flourishing as a result, as members find it a good way of saving up for this and other outings which take place during the year.

Birmingham. Our chief social function of the year, the Annual Dinner, will be over by the time these notes appear in print. We are indeed fortunate in having as guest speaker Brigadier D. H. Lyall Grant, supported by Air Vice Marshal W. C. C. Gell. The Recruiting Staff in Birmingham have had several enquiries as to our whereabouts. We are going to meet in future on the second Tuesday in the month at the newly-furnished British Legion Headquarters in Thorp Street and hope that enquirers will come and join us.

Bournemouth. We were fortunate to have a fine evening for our visit to Wimborne at the end of June when Miss Carr and Miss Parrett invited us to a picnic supper in their garden. Before supper Miss Carr took us to see the Minster and obtained permission for us to go back through the beautiful gardens of Dean's Court. This walk gave us good appetites and enabled us to do justice to the feast provided. The sun shone on us again for an out-

door tea party at the Branch Secretary's home on July 11.

Bradford. We feel that it is worth putting on record that, in this inglorious summer, we have managed to achieve an outing and a Garden Party in sunny weather. Our outing was to visit a member living at Sutton Bridge in Lincolnshire. As a town girl she is making a great success of being a smallholder's wife and is also doing a most praiseworthy job as stepmother to a spastic child. She has earned the sincere admiration of all her fellow members. We enjoyed her hospitality and came home laden with strawberries and tomatoes. We left behind us our Chairman, Miss Gummersall, who planned the outing to coincide with strawberry time. She has also been enjoying "lashings" of asparagus and butter. What a good thing it is off the ration. Our Garden Party and Bring and Buy Sale was held by courtesy of Mrs. Emily Ward, who always turns up trumps on these occasions and especially so if the proceeds are for a worthy cause. As a result we are sending a £2 2s. od. donation to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund through the Northern Area Committee. We enjoyed a good evening on the beautiful lawn and in the glorious sunshine. Members are taking part in the Festival of Remembrance which is being revived in November. There is to be a pageant portraying the Home Guard through the ages which introduces the women into the Services. Bradford felt very proud when they read of The Queen Mother's visit to the Museum at the Depot, knowing that they had been responsible for providing a wall show case and Miss Gummersall's contribution case which holds the visitors' book. We would commend to other branches the idea of perpetuating their service in some similar way. We certainly get a thrill out of it. Our meetings are now held on the third Monday each month at the Limbley ex-Servicemen's Clubroom and we should be pleased to welcome new and old members. Twenty-two members travelled by coach to the Northern Area Reunion at York. In the party were ten Q.M.A.A.C., including our 78-year-old chairman, Miss Gummersall; Miss Julian, O.B.E., who had come up from Wales specially for the event; Miss Cocksedge, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Armitage, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Bottomley, Mrs. Oldfield, Mrs. Lumb and Mrs. Rumbold of Yarmouth, a member of the Association Council who had travelled up specially for the occasion. We were also pleased to have her company at our September meeting when we had as speaker Mr. Barnard of the Bradford Police Court Mission. His talk on his work gave us much to think about and, as it followed an address given by Miss V. K. Stead, O.B.E., J.P., on her work as a magistrate, it gave us a pretty good insight into the wonderful work performed by these noble citizens. Our members stood in silence as a tribute to Mrs. Ellis whose death was announced. Mrs. Ellis had been a very good and much loved member of the branch who had, for many years, organised the Bradford British Legion Poppy Day Fund for which she had received recognition from H.Q. and was presented with a Gold Badge. Six of our members attended her funeral.

Brighton. We have had some very enjoyable outings since we last reported our activities. In March we went by bus on our annual trip to pick wild daffodils near Ashington. In April we went to Guildford Depot for Princess Royal's Day and, in May, on a day of brilliant sunshine, we went to Ditchling Common to pick bluebells. Also in May we went on a coach trip to Leonards Lee Gardens which are famed for their wonderful array of rhododendrons and azaleas. In June, we went on a coach trip to Balcombe Forest and, in July, a few brave souls went by steamer to Shanklin, Isle of Wight. We have also been to Alfriston and to Stanmer Park. On July 17, Pam Harvey (ex-driver A.T.S. 57th Company) was married at Haywards Heath to Bill Keeley (ex-R.A.S.C.), and several of our members went to the wedding. The honeymoon was spent at Thorne Hotel, Bexhill, where they were made extremely comfortable by their ex-A.T.S. hostesses. Our monthly meetings have been fairly well attended. In June, one of our members, Anne Jones, brought some of her souvenirs of Singapore to show us, and gave interesting reminiscences of when she was stationed there whilst in the A.T.S. Pam came to our August meeting and brought us all a piece of cake and shewed us some wedding photos. The majority of the rest of the members had just returned from their holidays and there was much lively chatter, and a glowing account was given of a holiday spent at the ex-Service Women's Holiday House at "Oversea," St. Leonards.

Bristol. On July 1, we paid our annual visit to Miss Bernays, Winterbourne. The weather was cold and inclement but we enjoyed a very happy evening seated round a blazing fire. Miss Keynton (A.T.S.) gave a report of the visit to the W.R.A.C. Southern Command "At Home." A Drumhead Service, British Legion, took place on Durdham Downs on Sunday, July 18, at which our Standard was again carried. The Service was taken by the late Dean of Bristol, Rev. Harry Blackburne, D.S.O., M.C., and the Lord Mayor, Alderman G. G. Adams, took the salute at the march past. There was no meeting during August but a quarterly meeting combined with a Bring and Buy Sale organised by Mrs. Morgan (A.T.S.) has been arranged for September and will be over by the time these notes appear.

Cardiff. Please note that we have changed our place of meeting to Park Street Drill Hall, where we still meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. We still have an average monthly attendance of 14 to 16 members and we have one very sick member, Mrs. Telfer, who came to us from Aberdeen. Mrs. Telfer has been ill for some six months and her doctor has advised her to keep very quiet and avoid exertion. We hope that she will be better and be able to come to our meetings in the New Year. Another of our members is expecting a new arrival shortly and we send her and her husband our best wishes. We spent a very jolly day at Brock-Hampton Court and enjoyed a very good tea. Several members visited the Fire Station and spent a couple of hours there but history does not relate whether anyone tried to come

down the pole to attend any fire alarm or call. We should be pleased to welcome any new members who care to come to our meetings in our new and very comfortable room. It has nice new armchairs and sideboard, individual tables and is really like a "home from home."

Hartlepool. Although attendance at meetings is not so good in the summer months those who do attend enjoy getting together so much that we do not feel it worth while to cancel more than the August meeting. At the July meeting we enjoyed trying out our brains with two general knowledge games, also discussing the possibility of a few of us attending the Northern Area Reunion. In September we had rather a small gathering, some members still being on holiday and we found that only four of us would be able to get to the Northern Area Reunion. We were sorry to hear that our treasurer, Miss M. McCarthy, had been ordered to bed for a fortnight by her doctor. Flowers and good wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to her. We are hoping to have a real good winter programme and hope that all our members will make every effort to come along on the first Wednesday of every month.

London. Our meetings since our last report have consisted mainly of reunions, due to the holiday season, but in July we spent an evening playing at Bedlam, and at the beginning of September we ran a spelling bee in which Q.M.A.A.C. again beat the A.T.S., this time by three points. On the 16th Dame Helen came along to talk to us on "Perseverance in Learning" and illustrated her talk with examples of how men have worked in the past to make important and vital discoveries. As always with Dame Helen, we had a most interesting evening. Would Branch Members please note that subscriptions for next year should be sent to our Hon. Treasurer, Miss C. R. Leach, 166 Bawdsey Avenue, Ilford, Essex and NOT to headquarters.

Lonsdale. As our first business meeting was really held too late for us to appear in this issue of *The Lioness*, we must confine our remarks to a report that, subject to the approval of headquarters, we exist. We have enrolled 14 members of whom ten are new to the Association; our Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Lindsay, Brooklands, Scotforth Road, Lancaster and we are meeting on the first Monday in each month. A programme has provisionally been agreed and, when the details are fixed, it will be circulated to each member.

Norfolk. Branch meetings have been fairly well attended in spite of the holiday season. We send our best wishes to Mrs. Barr (*nee* Challoner) who sailed with her baby daughter on September 14, to join her husband in Mombasa. It has been decided to have the New Year's Party and Raffle in January again. Tickets will be available at meetings from October and the Secretary would appreciate application for them from members who are not able to attend the meetings.

North Staffs. We have all been working hard for our coffee evening on November 10, and thanks are due to Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. Emery, Mrs. Holder and Mrs. Rhodes, who brought examples of their

work to spur us on to further efforts and told us how to achieve similar effects. Mrs. Pratt, who has been a tower of strength as Treasurer for the past eight years, and Secretary more recently, is retiring from office at the end of the financial year. We are very grateful for all she has done for us and to her husband for doing the annual audit. We hope to have her company at the monthly meetings. Mrs. Hampson (Sgt. Sheila Jepson, A.T.S., York and Nottingham) is our new Secretary and Treasurer. Her address is 1 Seabridge Road, Newcastle, Staffs.

Sheffield. After a break in July and August, our Branch met again on September 2, when we were pleased to meet a new member. On September 16, a party of members went on a tour of the Sheffield C.I.D. building and found it very interesting indeed. On Saturday, the 18th, 14 members went by coach to the Northern Area Reunion in York where a very pleasant afternoon and evening were spent. On October 7, we are to meet to collect goods for our jumble sale on the 8th, when we hope to have a great deal of fun as well as make friends. Members are asked to note that there is a Whist Drive on November 18, at 7.30 p.m. in the West Street Telephone Exchange, and on Saturday, November 27, there is the Christmas Fair at the Y.M.C.A. Please will you all try to come to this and bring along your friends. The Secretary will be pleased to accept any gift for this fair. Congratulations to Jessie Amos (*nee* Chattaway) and her husband on the birth of their baby daughter in July. Readers are asked to note that in the last issue of *The Lioness*, the name of our retiring Treasurer should have read Miss M. A. Gillott.

Southampton. Our Branch still continues to hold meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at the Sergeants' Mess, Carlton Drill Hall, Carlton Place, and although efforts have been made to find more ex-Service women to join us, up to the present we have only succeeded in recruiting one ex-A.T.S. However, we keep on trying. We usually muster about 16 regulars and have had some very pleasant evenings during the past months.

In January we held our annual party for some poor children of the town and this year decided to do our own catering; it proved so successful that we shall continue to do so. Our annual dinner, held at the Court Royal Hotel, was a great success—25 members and our guest speaker, Col. D. C. M. Hingston from "Records," enjoyed a truly delicious meal, after which Col. Hingston spoke for nearly an hour on life in the Corps today—the only drawback being that time was all too short. Owing to the very severe weather during the early part of the year our February meeting had to be postponed; we did, however, succeed in arranging for our speaker to come along for the April meeting, this being a beauty treatment demonstration. It proved immensely popular and we managed a full house. We have also visited the local H.Q. of the Police Department and one member volunteered to have her finger-prints taken. We all came away feeling much the wiser as to how the machinery of finding criminals worked. Once again we invited our local branch of the W.R.N.S. Association to a

social evening and, in spite of the fact that the Sergeants' Mess resembled the Q.M. Stores (owing to the impending departure of the T.A. to camp), we managed to enjoy the programme arranged by the games committee.

Owing to the very "doubtful summer," our usual outdoor programme of events had to be amended, but we did manage to have a truly glorious June day for our outing to Figsbury Park for "Corps Day," when the Chairman and Secretary were privileged to be presented to H.R.H. The Princess Royal. A number of members sent exhibits for the handicrafts show and carried off a few certificates of merit between them. We also had a bus ride out to the New Forest and a member who is fortunate enough to live out there took us for a very pleasant stroll through the glades, ending up the evening by having coffee in the Chalet at Ashurst.

In August, contrary to our usual practice of not holding a meeting, we visited St. Cross Hospital, Winchester, thanks to the kindness of Mrs. Thackeray (*nee* Senior Commander Fair), who, although unable to come along to meetings, takes a keen interest in our activities. We were privileged to be taken round the hospital and church out of normal visiting hours, and were able to appreciate fully the antiquity and beauty of the buildings. The evening ended with supper—sandwiches and fresh raspberries and ice-cream—taken in the local hostelry.

In September a few members spent a quiet evening by having a trip on the ferry to Hythe and innumerable cups of tea were consumed at the pierhead café.

The Chairman and Secretary have also attended two Area Council Meetings, the last one being to bid Col. Railton farewell and wish her every success in her appointment as Director. We shall miss her in the area. The Secretary still serves on the Committee of the Forces' Appeals Committee and a number of members take a keen interest in many other local activities in the town.

Drivers of Distinction

Our frontispiece shows H.R.H. The Princess Margaret when she was inspecting the St. John Ambulance Brigade Cadets in Hyde Park. She was driven that day by Pte. J. Collier of 70 Company R.A.S.C. (M.T.), who also succeeded in defeating the panel in TV's "Guess my Story." Altogether it was an exciting and memorable week-end for this driver.

Many of us saw Pte. R. A. Parry a week later in the triangular driving contest in Arenascope on television, when she defeated drivers from the W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F. She has only been in the Army for 12 months, during which time she was trained and tested for her licence at the Drivers' and Clerks' Training Centre. Now she is with 70 Company R.A.S.C. (M.T.) for whom she drives a staff car carrying senior officers of the Headquarters, Eastern Command. All those who saw her could not help feeling proud of her and congratulate her upon her performance.

A HISTORY AT LAST

The following extracts from a letter written by the Director, Women's Royal Army Corps, are my authority for appealing to all ranks of Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. to send me anything they may have which will add to the story of the women of our corps in two world wars.

"I have spoken to H.R.H. The Princess Royal and to the ex-Directors of Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and A.T.S./W.R.A.C. on the subject of your appointment as Corps Historian. All are agreed that you should be appointed and H.R.H. has asked me to write and tell you of this decision.

"This letter is, therefore, to give you authority, as the officially accredited historian of the Corps, to have access to official sources for the purpose of writing articles and/or a history of the Women's Services."

I am indeed much honoured by Her Royal Highness and deeply grateful to the Directors concerned, under all of whom I have served, for their united action. Council has now considered the financial considerations but it will still be some time before the book can actually be started. I am committed to finish the history of the King's Own Royal Regiment by the end of August next, but this will not prevent me from doing what I can during the next year to collect material. Dame Regina has already stipulated that it should be "accurate and popular." Discussions I have had during the last fortnight with a distinguished author and his publisher have revealed the fact that the most economic length for a book is eighty thousand words and that is the length most publishers prefer. If this is agreed it will mean that a great deal of selection will be necessary, which will only be possible if all who served will co-operate by letting me have all the stories possible. I aim at producing a story of the women who served in our three corps, written against a background of the wars which they helped to win. To do that much more is needed than official records, and I ask you all to let me have anything you may have. If you could lend me letters or diaries written at the time I would take great care of them and return them when I have finished with them. If you have nothing like this, then I can only ask you to draw on your memories and put pen to paper.

Every contribution will help to create—or rather re-create—the atmosphere of our many units and, even if little of your actual words appear in the finished book, they will have helped to produce it. One year from now I shall be writing the book, but please do not wait until then. I need time to read and digest your material, so please DO IT NOW.

JULIA M. COWPER.

APPOINTMENTS

Readers will be sorry to hear that Lt.-Col. L. E. Holt has been flown back sick from the Far East and that she has had to be replaced at short notice. Lt.-Col. J. E. Rivett-Drake, M.B.E., has been selected and is flying out in the immediate future.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS

Although the W.R.A.C. element of a University Training Corps (T.A.) is usually small, it is certainly not lacking in quality. We here in Glasgow are certainly a very flourishing and active Sub Unit, and we feel that we should like to be included in the long list of units which contribute to *The Lioness*.

A University Training Corps (T.A.) cannot, for obvious reasons, be run on exactly the same lines as any other T.A. Unit—life is so controlled by University Terms, class and degree examinations and graduations—not to mention the actual classes and the research work appertaining to them. The student has, in fact, probably far less time to devote to T.A. activities than the average T.A. woman who is not troubled with the horror of examinations. In spite of all this, however, and of the fact that the T.A. must be such a secondary part of student life, our activities are varied—apart from purely W.R.A.C. Training, we are fortunate in being able to learn a great deal about the Army as a whole by working with our Technical Sub Units—Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, R.A.M.C. and R.E.M.E., and from the Infantry we receive such instruction as enables us to enter some of our members in District Rifle Meetings and other Rifle Competitions.

It is felt by many people that military training and academic study do not mix well together—in fact this has been put up as an objection to recruiting aid—but since the very early part of the century this University, at least, has never been without its Training Corps.

The Corps is a good thing for the students—male or female—and it is one of the few organisations which pays its members and does not demand a financial subscription. Its social side can be very attractive—we are lucky in that we have an excellent Common Room and a Drill Hall in which our netball matches, P.T. classes, drill parades, and Scottish country dancing can take place. It is in so many different ways a relaxation for the students—and the student certainly requires relaxation.

Our object is to produce officers for the W.R.A.C.—either Regular or T.A., though obviously the majority of candidates would apply for T.A. Commissions as very few students, particularly women students, come up to the University without some definite career in view. This object is being achieved by degrees—in both senses—and we have, within the past year, had several successful applicants, who will now go forth and bring into the world of T.A. their mixture of academic and military training. And with them will go our best wishes and fullest confidence in their ability to cope with whatever situation may arise.

BADGES

The Badge of the Association, the design of which you can see on the title page of this issue, can be obtained, price 1s. 6d., from the General Secretary.

Reunions

Aldermaston Depot (A.T.S.). Fifty-three members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service who were stationed at Aldermaston Court during 1939-42 met there again on Saturday, May 1, to celebrate the 10th year of the Aldermaston Depot (A.T.S.) Association. Through the courtesy of the Associated Electrical Industries Ltd., who now occupy the Court, the members were able to visit the Court and its grounds and to renew many happy memories.

An excellent buffet lunch was most generously provided by Mrs. L. M. Ferguson, O.B.E., President of the Association and Commandant of the Aldermaston Training Centre from 1940 to 1941. This was held in the village hall, which had been the A.T.S. Medical Reception Station during the war. During the short business meeting which followed, Mrs. Ferguson spoke with regret of the recent deaths of Major T. L. Harris (R.A., retired), who acted as adviser and gave so much help in the early days of the Depot, and of Miss M. G. Cross, A.T.S., Junior Commander and Pay Officer at the Depot, both of whom were remembered with much affection by many present.

In the afternoon the photograph which is reproduced on this page was taken of the members. They are on the terrace of the Court, overlooking the lake and large lawn which, in their day, had been the scene of many parades and drill competitions. This was followed by a showing, in the ballroom, of the W.R.A.C. film, "Greensleeves," which, showing the life and training of a recruit of today, proved to be of very great interest to those who had been responsible for the training of so many hundreds of A.T.S. recruits.

Many old friends from Aldermaston who had shown much kindness to members by inviting them to their homes and who had taken a great interest in the Training Centre, joined them at tea in the village hall and, by doing so, brought the reunion and a very pleasant day to a close.

Northern Area. A most successful reunion was held on Saturday, September 18, 1954, at the Festival Restaurant, York; in fact, we already have had requests for a repeat performance next year. Our new chairman, Lt.-Col. T. Morris, presided and read greetings telegrams from Col. Hull, her predecessor; Brigadier Railton, the director; Dame Mary Tyrwhitt; Lt.-Col. M. Appleby; Lady Barnard and Mrs. Tortise, the late secretary of the Northern Area, all wishing us a successful evening. Lt.-Col. Morris, who is A.D.W.R.A.C., is no stranger to York, as she was with the Training Centre there in the early days of the war and, latterly, was A.T.S. Adviser to the Northern Command (M.) Signal Regiment. We are all pleased to welcome her in her present capacity.

Our guest speakers, Dame Regina Evans and Lady Swinton, were most charmingly introduced by the chairman. Dame Regina said that it gave her much pleasure to return to Northern Command. She told us how she had been asked what she wanted to do at the beginning of the war and that "Staff" had been suggested, but that she had visions of herself amidst papers, most of which would be lost. Then recruiting was suggested, but this conjured up visions of herself standing outside

public houses, so she declined that also. Then there was training and, when she admitted she liked dealing with people, that was settled but, as she had a flat in London she asked for London or the South Coast. The next thing she knew she was in Durham. Dame Regina described how she and Lady Swinton had searched Northern Command before they found Neville's Cross, where she spent some of the happiest months of her war service. She spoke of the news of the River Plate victory, which came through late at night on her wireless, and she found that half the Training Centre seemed to have collected in her bedroom to hear it. She also spoke of Chilwell and the magnificent work which was done there.

The next speaker was Lady Swinton, well known to all of us as President of the Northern Area and our hostess on a number of occasions at Swinton. She also spoke in a reminiscent vein but her chief subject was the Benevolent Fund and she reminded us of the wonderful work that is being done to assist those in need. Although there is a good deal of money available, if it continues to be spent at the present rate it will be exhausted in five years. With this appeal still ringing in our ears we subscribed the sum of £15 12s. 7d. between us.



This group of members and their friends attending the Aldermaston Reunion includes Miss D. M. Beston, their indefatigable secretary; Miss V. Cross, Miss M. Druitt, Mrs. L. M. Ferguson, O.B.E., Miss M. I. Gorrings, T.D., Lt.-Col. D. C. M. Hingston and Mrs. C. D. Jagger (nee Barford).

[Courtesy: The Reading Standard]

Mrs. E. M. Suttle, secretary of the Northern Area Committee, proposed the vote of thanks to Dame Regina and Lady Swinton and recalled the prayers which were said daily at Neville's Cross, where she trained. She remembered her interview with Dame Regina, who thought her so clever to be able to work a switchboard that it had been an encouragement to her ever since. She also expressed pleasure in welcoming Col. Morris and Col. Cowper, Editor of *The Lioness*. Members were present from a number of Northern Area Branches and we were pleased to welcome a large contingent from Liverpool, including a husband and wife with a combined record of service of 51 years. Also in the Liverpool party was Major Helen Campbell, who had served in 5 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment. Then there was Mrs. Rumbold from Yarmouth, a member of council, and Major D. H. I. Wilson, on leave from the Canal Zone, who will be remembered as the A.D.W.R.A.C., Catterick District.

After a most excellent supper there was much chin-wagging and meeting of friends and we all felt that the end had come too soon. Col. Morris announced that members might take the flowers from the tables for sick comrades who were unable to be present and this suggestion was much appre-

ciated. R.S.M. Castellane and Miss Blanchard had most charmingly carried out the floral decorations and our thanks are due to them and to Col. V. K. Stead, O.B.E., J.P., for the final arrangements. We are indeed grateful to all who, in any way, contributed to the success of our own reunion. Amongst other things which thrilled us was that Dame Regina made the first announcement that night of the fact that Col. Cowper had undertaken the writing of the history of the three Corps, Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C.

Impressions. As one who has spent eight years of my service in Northern Command, I have been asked to give some impressions of the reunion. The first was that it seemed to me to exemplify the spirit which, in my opinion, has always distinguished Northern Command, the spirit of friendliness. From the moment that I saw Lady Swinton, Lady Lawson-Tancred and Dame Regina in the same room my mind went back to the Group Commanders' conferences of 1939-40. Then the room was small enough to see one's friends and my next great joy was to see so many people from Chilwell. I missed Mrs. Wentworth Reeve, whom most people will remember best as Mrs. Wagstaffe, and my friends from Newcastle, but the room was

literally crawling with people whom I knew when I was last in the Command from 1948 to 1950, both my friends of the Association, my own staff and many others. I have been to many reunions but never one which was so delightful, and I greatly hope that the Command will repeat the experiment, but let it not grow too big. Let us fight for tickets and those who are lucky be able to find their friends.

Chilwell. The Northern Area reunion inspired some of us who were there to consider organising one of our own. The idea is to have one somewhere in the Midlands in the spring of next year, so, if anyone who served in Chilwell would like such a reunion, would they please write either to Mrs. B. White, 24 Bowood Avenue, Leeds 7, or to Mrs. B. A. Clulee, Friendly House, Chiswell Street, London, E.C.1.

TWO Q.M.A.A.C. OCCASIONS

May was an eventful month this year for, within the space of eight days, we enjoyed two of the Q.M.A.A.C. gatherings to which we look forward each year. The first was the annual meeting and dinner of the Q.M.A.A.C. Dinner Club, held this year at St. Ermin's Hotel, Westminster, and attended by 112 members. At St. Ermins there is plenty of room to move about and one is constantly meeting old comrades, not met since those far-off "war days" in which we served. It was good to see Abbey (W.A. Hotel Commerce, Boulogne) again after very many years. Fortunately, she was returning home to Edinburgh from Holland, where she had been holidaying, just at the time of the dinner and so was able to attend. Also there were present two of our oldest members, both of whom admitted to being over eighty. The evening followed the usual pattern; good comradeship, good dinner, and a generally happy evening. The Club is growing all the time and we are very grateful to the Hon. Secretary and her committee for all the work they put in to make it so successful.

The second occasion was the annual garden party, held on May 29, given each year by Mrs. O. K. King (Jordan U.A.) for the ex-officers of Q.M.A.A.C. who served with the B.E.F. in France. Once again the weather was most unkind and, not content with rain, we had thunder and lightning as well. It was not possible to go into the garden but we could at least admire, through the windows, the great variety of flowering trees and shrubs; one tree in particular, a huge red chestnut in full bloom, gave a colourful and warm effect.

As at the annual dinner, we met again, after years, two Old Comrades, Miss Faussett, who now lives near Lewes and is a J.P., and Miss D. S. Baker. Letters of regret were received from several, including Julian Allen, who is in Macedonia, photographing medieval frescoes, and E. F. Grundy (U.A. D. of F.) who was holidaying in Dalmatia. Holidays accounted for many absentees.

Once again, thank you, Jordan, for your ever kind hospitality.

RECORDS OFFICE NEWS

Officer i/c Records has produced a new series of notes for the information of all ranks so that we can make some attempt to keep up to date with news.

Since the last list of R.S.M.s was published the first two Quartermaster's commissions have been granted to Miss M. Ashworth, M.B.E., who goes to the Depot and Miss E. E. Harrison who goes to the School. There have been a number of other moves of R.S.M.s since the last list was published in May and we give below a list of those who have moved since that date and their present location: W. E. Andrews, 14th Battalion, B.A.O.R.; K. F. Hughes, 12th Battalion, Kingston; J. Wiffen, 323rd Battalion, Lichfield; G. P. Blay, 321st Battalion, Chester; M. G. Fahy, 4th Battalion, Chilwell; E. M. Mallard, 308th Battalion, Leicester; M. E. Norcott, Drivers' and Clerks' T.C.; D. I. Green, 316th Battalion, Aberdeen; L. Vowles, 303rd Battalion, Maidstone.

N.B.—Battalions numbered from 1 are regular; those from 300 are territorial.

It may be of interest to readers to know how compassionate cases are dealt with in the Women's Services now that the Navy, Army and Air Force Reserves Act has had the effect of cancelling the unemployed list. The Commanding Officer still has the power to grant 28 days' compassionate leave, which may be extended to 56 days on district authority. Periods in excess of this, but where an additional short period of paid or unpaid leave will meet the need, the case must be dealt with by the War Office (A.G.1 (c)). If discharge is necessary it may be granted free under the terms of A.C.I. 335/54 and, in such cases as are considered ineligible for a free discharge, a woman may always purchase it. Applications to do so would not normally be refused in peace.

CONTEMPORARIES

We are delighted to have received copies of *Bellone*, the journal of the "Forces Feminines Francaises" and *De Danske Lotter*, the journal of the Danish Lottekorps. No two journals could be more different. *Bellone*, which comes out six times a year, is a 38-page magazine and is full of information about the armed forces of the world as well as articles on the contemporary theatre and other subjects of general interest. The cost of each number is roughly equivalent to the amount of our subscription allotted for a whole year's *Lioness*. *De Danske Lotter*, on the other hand, is a 16-page publication including the cover, which appears to deal exclusively with military subjects, most of them of a domestic nature. There is one article on the general military situation, the history of an anti-aircraft regiment, a discussion about the efficiency of evening drills and a tribute to the late Princess Marthe, training instructions and local reports. Our translator has unfortunately omitted to tell us how often the paper is produced or how much it costs in English money. We are indeed grateful to our continental sisters for sending us their papers and hope that they have found ours as interesting as we have found theirs.

REVIEW

"Women's Hockey"

This book claims, with justice, to be the complete book on women's hockey and is published with the authority of the All-England Women's Hockey Association. Its illustrations show the evolution of dress on the hockey field, not to mention the proper dress of today instead of the skin-tight shorts which so often appear on the field. They also demonstrate such things as the reverse tackle, the jab and other strokes, the bully and the penalty corner, while the diagrams in the coaching chapter should be a joy to coaches and players alike. All the chapters are written by experts who have set out to give all the information a girl or woman hockey player needs to know about the game in order to improve her play.

No one pretends that it can do more than to put young players on the right lines but, with constant practice, the study of this book should do much to raise the standard of hockey. After a historical introduction and an account of the organisation of the All-England Association, a chapter on coaching is excellent. In language which can be readily understood it covers everything from linking up through throwing, catching and fielding, receiving, intercepting, tackling, dribbling and running to the game itself. Later chapters deal with the technique of strokes, the game as a whole, the goal-keeper, the backs, the halves and the forwards, umpiring, the pitch and equipment. From this it can readily be seen that every aspect of the game is covered and little can be added except to say that the book is as readable as it is useful.

Births

BAIN.—On May 5, to Mary (*nee* Sgt. Whitehall, W.R.A.C.), wife of W.O. II C. Bain, R.A.O.C., a daughter (Ann), sister for Deryck. Present address, 12 Sheepcote Road, Harrow, Middlesex.

HADLAND.—On July 25, to Winefride (*nee* Sealey, ex-Cpl. A.T.S.), wife of Major John L. Hadland, R.E., a third son, Paul Richard.

PACKER.—On August 31, at the Military Hospital, Gibraltar, to Mary (*nee* Galer, L/Cpl. A.T.S.), wife of S/Sgt. R. Packer, a son (John). Present address: 1a Block Europa, Gibraltar.

Marriages

FOSSEY—WEST.—On August 21, at King's Chapel, Gibraltar, Emi Gordon Fossey, H.M.S. *Cheviot*, to Pamela West (Private, W.R.A.C.).

SKIPPER—HANNAN.—On September 11, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1, John Skipper of 17 Fairmead Crescent, Edgware, Middlesex, to Rachel Hannan (ex-A.T.S. Sub.) of 87 Ebury Street, S.W.1.

WALKER—ZOUCH.—On July 17, at King's Chapel, Gibraltar, Pte. Robert Walker (1 Duke of Wellington's Regiment) to Ann Zouch (Private, W.R.A.C.).



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SPORT

The weather in the United Kingdom has not been very good this year for games. Nevertheless, the usual inter-Service championships have taken place and we have received reports from all the summer games secretaries, except swimming. We understand that, in spite of all our efforts we were unable to get ourselves out of the third place in these championships. The Royal Navy won the women's cup from the Royal Air Force, but only by 5 points.

Another item of general interest is that the Women's Services representative on the committee of the Army Ski Association has been authorised to form a Q.A.R.A.N.C. and W.R.A.C. Ski Association. Anyone interested should write direct and at once to Col. E. S. Macfie, T.D., Deputy Director, Women's Royal Army Corps, The War Office, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London, W.1.

Athletics. The weather in the early part of the year was not too bad had our athletes started training in time but, when it came to the Army Individual Athletic Championships at Aldershot, on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 29 and 30, we became fully conscious of our lack of sprinters and hurdlers. Neither did the field events look too promising, in spite of the fact that Capt. A. D. S. Williamson equalled the women's long jump Army record with a jump of 17 ft. Several athletes who had been unable to compete in the individual championships were invited to come to trials and last-minute training took place for the two days before the inter-Service championships. In the event the Army team was unlucky. Capt. Williamson was second in the long jump with a jump of 16 ft. 5½ in., but she injured herself in that event and was unable to run in the 100 yards or the relay. Even so, it seems a pity that we should have been 36 points behind the R.A.F., who won, and 20 points behind the Royal Navy. Can nothing persuade the Army that keen and fit women are infinitely more useful and that athletics, of all forms of sport, are most suitable for women?

Cricket. Only two of the cricket fixtures were ruined by rain, out of a total of seven matches played. One of these was unfortunately the one against the Royal Navy, and the other was against Cornwall. Of the other matches three were won and two drawn. The three wins were against Devon, a combined Devon and Cornwall team and the Civil Service. Unfortunately, one of the drawn matches was against the R.A.F. and, as they had won their match against the Royal Navy, the cup was presented to the R.A.F. That very great supporter of Army cricket, Gen. Sir Ouvry Roberts, motored all the way from South Wales to present the cup. The other match drawn was against Middlesex, whose standing in the world of women's cricket is well known and we must congratulate the cricket team on a successful and enjoyable season. Four bats had an average which reached double figures: M. E. MacLagan, 154.5; A. M. Kitchen, 33.7; E. J. Bowles, 16; and M. J. A. Willard, 14. MacLagan's bowling analysis worked out at 5.2, followed by J. Goodall 10.6, S. L. Kitchen 12.2, and A. M. Kitchen 12.4. The inter-Command Festival was

won by Eastern Command, who were presented with a miniature bat upon which the winning team have inscribed their names.

Lawn Tennis. In spite of the bad weather the lawn tennis team has had a busy season but, although there have been one or two promising young players, the standard is still not as high as could be desired. An inter-unit tournament, which it is hoped to run annually, was won this year by the Depot. A small grant was made to Scottish Command to help finance some of their matches and it is hoped to be able to make a similar grant to the Staff College to launch the Ladybirds Lawn Tennis Club on its way. Of the four matches, three were lost and one drawn on account of rain. The three lost were against United Banks Ladies, Civil Service Ladies and Roehampton Club, and the drawn match was against Roehampton. The R.A.F. won the ladies' inter-Service championships with eight matches, while the Army and the R.A.F. each won five. Both county matches, against Sussex and Surrey, had to be cancelled as the Home Counties cup-tie match fell on the same day. There was a larger entry than usual in the ladies' events in the Army championships, in which the singles champion was Major D. L. M. Portway, with Major M. E. Beale the runner-up; together they won the doubles, while Major Portway and her partner won the mixed. The Army women's plate was won by Capt. M. U. Walker, with Lt. A. Buckley of Q.A.R.A.N.C. as runner-up.

The team would like to meet an ex-Service team in the 1955 season. Is there any reader of *The Lioness* who would be prepared to organise such a team? If so, would she please communicate with the secretary of the Army (Women's) Lawn Tennis Association, Major R. M. Green, W.R.A.C., The War Office (M.O.2), Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

Overseas. From the Far East we have news of netball, cricket, athletics, swimming and fencing. Capt. J. Tappin is to be congratulated on her outstanding performance as the only woman competitor in the fencing championships. Enjoyable games of cricket, in which the W.R.A.C. have not yet been victorious, have been played fortnightly against G.H.Q. officers, and a memorable netball match against the same Mess ended in a draw at seven all. The netball team has played eight matches of a more serious nature and is still unbeaten. There were, for the first time, three women's events in the district swimming championships and, in the G.H.Q. swimming gala, the W.R.A.C. competed against a Q.A.R.A.N.C. team and one from the W.R.A.F.

In the Middle East the women's athletics cup went to the R.A.F. The Army were unlucky in losing Pte. Carter, who broke her leg just before the meeting, having won both the 100 yards and the long jump in the Army individual championships. Pte. Noble won the 80 metres hurdles in 15.3 sec. Miss Powell is doing good work training this year's young and enthusiastic cricket team. The swimming team will miss Cpl. Butchard, but in her place it has gained Major Bishop, who swam the Bitter Lake in a solo swim in the good time of 8 hours and 10 minutes.

THE SAILOR

By E. Burrows

(The only entry in the short story competition of 1952)

Horatio Jellicoe Brown opened his eyes and blinked, then, shading them from the sun with one hand, he picked up the clock with the other. It was exactly 6.10 a.m. Placing the clock back on to the bedside cabinet he stretched himself luxuriously, then turned to gaze at the uniform which was hanging on the cupboard door in spite of his mother's protest that wardrobes, not door-knobs, were designed for the purpose of supporting clothes. He felt a surge of pride as he looked at the sleeve with the thin gold band. He noted, too, with satisfaction, that his mother had pressed the suit beautifully.

Throwing back the bedclothes, he hurriedly put on his slippers, then scrambling into his dressing gown he went across to the bathroom and cleaned his teeth, after which, whistling noisily, he went down to his breakfast via the banisters.

Whilst he sat dipping his bread into the egg that Hermione had condescended to lay that morning (a great surprise as she had done no such thing for the past two months), he listened to his mother running the bath water, then his mind wandered to the battleships and submarines lying at anchor in Portsmouth Dockyard. In a matter of a few hours he would, with his father, be escorting his mother around and pointing out the various objects of interest dear to a sailor's heart. Bolting back the last morsel of bread and marmalade, he helped it down with a gulp of tea, then taking the stairs two at a time, he ran up to bath and dress.

One hour later he was down again perched on the stairs in the hall and twiddling a lead at the end of which a cocker spaniel christened Sandy, due to colour and not alcoholic leanings, was securely fastened. Glancing at his watch, a present from the family, he saw that it was half-past eight. Expressing his views rather forcibly on the apparent slowness of the opposite sex, he yelled the time to his mother, forgetting, man-like, that she had cooked the breakfast, run his bath water and attended to a few other minor chores, too. A quarter of an hour later they were, however, settled in a taxi and on their way to Waterloo.

The train steamed into Portsmouth at 11.20 and his father, a chief petty officer, stood waiting at the barrier. A taxi was soon hailed and in less than no time they were at the dockyard gates. Horatio J. Brown helped his mother to alight while his father paid the driver, then turning in at the gates he gravely returned the salute of a passing matelot.

Towards the end of the afternoon, having been over H.M.S. *Victory*, flagship of Vice-Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson, whose illustrious name he bore, he suggested having tea on board a battleship fitted out for this purpose. Having climbed aboard, his parents sat down and ordered. And then the ghastly thing happened. Horatio, who had climbed up a few stairs, unused to the steepness, had tripped coming down and, with a frightened cry, shot clean through the wire at the side of the ship and into the water below. Two stalwarts of the British

Navy dived into the rescue and, later, seated between his father and his mother and being offered consolation in the form of ice cream, he began to feel himself again. For Horatio Jellicoe Brown was, you see, only eight years old.

Trusty and Well Beloved

The time-honoured words in which the Sovereign commissions her officers have been taken for the title of a booklet produced for the War Office by the Central Office of Information. It is copiously illustrated and gives full particulars of the method of entry to commissioned rank in the W.R.A.C.

Any member of the Association who knows a suitable young woman could not do better than to draw her attention to this book. It can be obtained from the War Office (A.G. 16), Stanmore, Middlesex or from any Recruiting Office.

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N.J.C. Conditions apply to both posts. Further details and application forms may be obtained from undersigned, to whom they should be returned as soon as possible.

J. L. LONGLAND,

Director of Education.

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WELL GROOMED HAIR TAKES YOU HALF-WAY TO SMARTNESS

Take care of your hair and you are half-way to being smart. This is a simple maxim and more true than many women in the Services sometimes realise. Women as a rule under-estimate the importance of their natural features in making themselves attractive. Healthy hair glows with life, just as a good complexion is a better basis for an attractive appearance than a load of cosmetics. Good grooming means a care of hair, skin and hands as well as clothes and shoes.

Taking care of the hair does not necessarily mean expensive hair-do's. Providing your hair is kept neatly trimmed, you can do the rest yourself, especially now when fashion decrees simpler hair styles and the problem of setting is being simplified too. Just on the market is a new hair-conditioning cream which has been designed to make setting easier, and it also keeps the hair in place. This cream is applied when the hair is wet after the shampoo. The hair will only absorb sufficient to give it a bright lustre and silkiness which will last until the next shampoo.

Brushing is another important part of grooming the hair, and the idea of brushing a hundred strokes night and morning is a good principle, for this stimulates the scalp and helps to keep the hair smooth. Each hair is actually a very narrow tube

covered entirely with little overlapping scales. The conditioning cream spreads a tiny protective film over these scales and brushing keeps them smooth. Hair glistens when these scales are smooth, and so they make highlights in the hair.

Brushes and combs come into grooming too. You cannot keep hair attractive if the brush and comb are not washed regularly. The easiest way to keep them clean is to dip them and scrub with a soft nail-brush in a good warm solution of soapless washing powder. Rinse thoroughly and dry. Take care, if your brush has a delicate fabric backing, not to wet the handle and framework. It is a good idea to make your brush and comb a routine on the same night as your hair shampoo.

Food may seem a diverse subject, but diet does come into the hair picture, just as it affects complexions. In winter time it is sometimes difficult to keep the correct balance of diet and one of the elements often neglected is calcium. Foods rich in natural calcium are colourful vegetables like carrots, cabbage and spinach—milk and cheese are good calcium foods too—and then there is nothing to be lost and perhaps much to be gained by taking some calcium tablets which contain vitamins A and D, also contributors to good health and good looks.

OUR AFRICAN VISITORS

Three years ago we were offered an article by Miss Violet Lyon, sometime Q.M.A.A.C., about the work in which she was interested amongst the African students in this country. It was offered so charmingly, to be included "when there was space," that we have held it ever since rather than offend the many who have asked for their articles to be published "while they are topical."

Miss Lyon pointed out the two-fold aspect of the problem: how the student comes to learn modern methods and take them back to their own countries, but that he or she often comes to study at first hand the British way of life. "This," said Miss Lyon, "is as great a chance for us as it is for them. The chance of getting to know them and, through them, to enjoy glimpses of life in their countries, instead of our having to go globe-trotting in search of it. At our doors—but not inside our homes unless we invite the visitors in.

"It is sadly true," she continued, "that some students have gone back home after spending a few years here without ever having seen the inside of an English home, having spent their out-of-study hours in colleges, hostels, restaurants, libraries and public places . . .

"The ideal programme for a student from overseas is to be a paying guest in an English family home during term and to visit other scenes during vacation, or to reside in a college hall among

students of English and other races during term and visit families during vacation. Residence in hostels for overseas students is a poor makeshift, only better than lodging alone."

Miss Lyon describes the lead which was being given by a committee headed by the Dean of Westminster and composed of representatives of the Churches, the Missionary Societies, Students' Christian Movement, the British Council and other interested bodies with co-opted representatives of the students themselves. This committee had already been working for four years to spread knowledge of the students, to encourage mutual discovery and to help the students' own Union to establish an adequate centre in London. A new centre had just been opened at 13 Chelsea Embankment which was designed to become a focal point for Africans in England, to provide a meeting place for them and their English friends, and the scene of their many central group activities.

Visitors to central London cannot but realise how valuable this centre must be and also that the need for it has not decreased with the passing of the last three years. Anyone interested to hear of its recent development, who can help either through the Dean's committee or as separate individuals, should write to the centre and make enquiries. In Miss Lyon's words: "Here is a way of helping to build the Kingdom of Heaven on earth."

SIXTY-HOUR SAFARI

BY CAPT. J. SHARCOTT

When, within a few weeks of my forthcoming departure from Kenya, I was invited to join a party of friends on a short safari to Amboselli National Reserve in search of game.

The Reserve is one of Kenya's sanctuaries for the wild life of the country; it is an area of some 4,000 square miles lying close along the Tanganyika border. A large area? Yes, but this is a very large country. In the Reserve one may not go on foot, nor shoot, nor use car headlights—one may do nothing which is in any way likely to disturb the game.

There were eight of us in the party, six grown-ups and two children, and the vehicle was a one-ton safari waggon specially built for this sort of work, with plenty of room inside and a trapdoor in the roof through which heads could be poked to get a better view. In the event, I spent much of my time sitting on the roof of the waggon, my legs dangling through the trap-door, clinging on by pressing my knees against its sides, violating all the rules of good horsemanship.

We left Nairobi very early on Saturday, in the crisp bite of early morning, with 150 miles to go and a hasty cup of tea inside us. The road was good for Kenya and the big waggon made easy work of it. We passed the Athi River Mau Mau Detention Camp and, farther on, the one at Kajiado, both already hot and dusty in the rolling Masai country. The day warmed up quickly and when we stopped for breakfast—cold sausages and eggs and tea brewed on the primus in the shelter of an old quarry—we were more than ready to shed jackets and jerseys. Kilimanjaro, the "plum pudding" mountain far away in Tanganyika, was still hidden in mist but there were plenty of wild animals to see, mostly small buck and the wildebeeste, who look like sad, bearded old men, and also several man-yattas, little Masai villages with surrounding walls of thorn bushes; the houses, made of caked cattle dung, so low that they were hardly visible above the scrub. The Masai we met were all friendly and courteous; they are a warrior people, the blood-and-milk drinkers, of fine physique, who have firmly resisted all advances of civilisation. They stand tall and straight, with a natural dignity, and look as if they own the world. Sometimes I think they do.

Half-past eleven saw us drinking very good coffee in the little Namanga Hotel, a delightful place with its lovely English garden, a triumph of determination in this hot, scorched country, where every drop of water is precious. A few yards beyond the hotel we entered the Reserve, having signed the book, paid our 10s. vehicle fee and received a smart salute from the African game warden in charge. The track which would lead us 50 miles to Ol Tukai Camp was thick, with soft grey dust, and when we met another vehicle we had to stop until the clouds of it had cleared and we could see and breathe again. We were lucky here for we saw five of the rare Gerenuk, sleek creatures with long graceful necks, the size of a buck but akin to the giraffe in that they move both legs on the same side at once, as he does.

Presently we left the bush and came out on a broad open plain with a huge shimmering lake spread out before us, every tree and hill reflected in the clear water. But as we drove towards it so the water receded from us until we were down in the bottom of the lake and there was no water at all; for this is a famous mirage and there is only the eye-searing expanse of white salt deposit, left there perhaps hundreds of thousands of years ago. Soon after one o'clock, pursued by a thousand whirling dust devils, we reached the camp. This was a huddle of little white-thatched bandas, built by the film unit which made "Where No Vultures Fly" and since taken over by the Reserve authorities. The most amazing things about this camp in the middle of the wilderness were the constant hot bath water and the real "push and pulls." We had brought all the things we needed, so we had lunch quickly and unpacked our bedding. All creatures, human or not, rest here in the heat of the day; all are revived by the cool of evening.

Our programme was to rise at five-thirty each morning, search for game till it became too hot, have a late breakfast at about ten o'clock, do as little as possible until the evening and go out to see game again until darkness came. And if any distraction were needed there was Kilimanjaro to watch, so near and yet so far away, the cap of snow constantly changing colour in the varying light.

Throughout our stay we were extremely lucky. We saw every kind of game; buffalo, rhinoceros, elephant, lion, giraffe, many kinds of buck and beautiful brilliant birds. We would never tire of cruising gently through the swamp and bundu, looking for the creatures who never strayed far away, remaining in the area for the sake of the waterholes, the only ones for at least 50 miles in any direction, which could keep them alive. On one occasion we had stopped in a clearing to watch some elephants, mostly cows with young ones. The little ones were suckling very daintily, their tiny trunks coiled neatly out of the way. Suddenly two bull elephants crashed through the bush fighting, really fighting hard. We could hear the smack as they met head on and the sharp click of tusk on tusk. It was a sight one might never see again in a lifetime in the jungle. I was out on top of the waggon, keeping a cautious eye open, for you never know what may be behind you in the jungle. Quite suddenly I saw another herd of elephants moving through the trees, then another, and another! It took only a few seconds to realise that we were almost completely surrounded by elephants, though none were closer than a hundred yards. However, we moved slowly out towards the plain and there, in front of us, was yet another herd. This one was much bigger than any we had seen before and looked very travel weary. The leader stopped dead and stared at us for several minutes while we sat very still. Then he slowly turned and trudged away to our right, his weary host of followers trailing behind. We thought they must have come many miles in search of water.



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

To: All Serving in Her Majesty's Forces

Subject: SAVE WHILE YOU SERVE

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I recently retired after many years in the Royal Air Force. I know how valuable a service Forces Savings is giving to both Regulars and National Service personnel, and no matter where you may be stationed you can save a bit from your pay if you want to do so. I also commend Forces Savings for mention by parents and friends to young men who are going into the Services (and to young women too, as in the Women's Services there are some of our best savers!)

We have an excellent series of leaflets (shown above) which tell, in simple language, all about Forces Savings. Why not write for a copy of the one which applies. Address your letter to me:—

Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,
H.M. Forces Savings Committee.
1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

So many moments of this safari will stay in my memory for years to come. The time we did the forbidden thing and climbed on foot to the top of a hill, going carefully in case there should be lions about, and from the top looked out on a view of breath-taking beauty; and in the middle of it all was an enormous rhino, charging head down at a car. He tried three times to ram it but failed and trotted disgustedly away into the shade. The time we said: "We shall never have a finer or a closer view of elephants" and, within half an hour, found ourselves trying to appear cool and dignified as we beat a hasty retreat from a great bull elephant who stepped on to the track a few yards behind us, ears flapping, trunk lifted, and a nasty glint in his eye. The time we said how civilised it was to find such a camp in such a place and a few hours later one of us stepped out of the banda in the darkness to find herself looking into the eyes of a lioness. The time we sat over our good-night drinks, looking at Kilimanjaro gleaming faintly in the moonlight and talked of many things and found life very good. The time we thought it was useless trying to see anything in the dust storm that had arisen and within a few minutes had been quite close enough to two wicked-looking buffaloes and had seen a pride of lions so disdainful and proud that they scarcely bothered to glance at us. The time I woke in the darkness to feel something bumping against my bed and moving about the banda and felt cold prickles of fear down my spine as I remembered the lioness of the night before. I never discovered what this creature was but I lay awake the rest of that night listening to elephants trumpeting and hyenas laughing in the swamp.

We left Ol Tukai very sadly on Monday, coming back by way of Emali, where we turned on to the main Mombasa-Nairobi road, Sultan Hamud, where we bought ice-cold beer from the Indian duka, and Athi River again. Civilisation seemed horrible after the romance and continual surprises of the jungle and the wide untouched stretches of country, but by six o'clock we were back in Nairobi, hot, dirty and tired, but very very happy. We had been away exactly 60 hours. Only 60 hours of measured time but an eternity of discovery and pleasure.

Hotelympia

A Women's Services cookery competition was held at the Hotelympia Exhibition, 1954, and the W.R.A.C. entrants carried the day by gaining a first and two second prizes. Cpl. McKenzie at the Depot was the winner and was awarded the "Maison Prunier" silver challenge trophy and a gold medal. The two second-prize winners, Q.M.S.I. Chambers of Western Command and Sgt. M. F. Prior of 5th A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment, were awarded a gold medal and a bronze medal respectively. The presentation of awards to the prize-winners took place in March at the Park Lane Hotel, preceded by a luncheon party given by Madame Prunier for the successful competitors at the Maison Prunier Restaurant at St. James's Street.

Staff College Club

The Club has held its second annual meeting and can report good progress with 78 members and a substantial bank balance in the General Account. The Commandant is *ex-officio* a member of the Committee and all members were sorry to have to say good-bye to Col. R. A. Buchanan-Dunlop in his official capacity, who had worked so hard for the college since its foundation and for the Club. He is to take up an appointment in Scotland on his retirement from the Army, but all hope to see him at future gatherings of the Club. He is being succeeded by Col. M. B. Jenkins, D.S.O., late North Staffordshire Regiment. The winter cocktail party is to be held on the Friday preceding the directors' conference in December.

W.R.A.C. Overseas

(Continued from page 59)

brooch, which was presented to The Queen, was even more beautiful than it had appeared from a distance. I was also able to discover for myself that the flask presented to The Duke was not empty when he received it! I studied closely the lovely album of photographs of the children's presents. This was given to Her Majesty as it was impossible to take the doll's house and the miniature railway back with them on the Royal Yacht and they were to follow at a later date."

May 10, 1954, will, for Sgt. Lee, be a day to be remembered and talked of for the rest of her life.

Our news from M.E.L.F. in the last issue was so full that there appears to be little to take out of the Quarterly Progress Report from which extracts have been forwarded from the War Office. The release of a quantity of paint, distemper and a limited supply of labour has given the camp at Fayid a "new look." Electric water coolers have to some extent off-set the shortage of large refrigerators. There appears to have been an influx of officers and some of them have gone under canvas—a blessing in disguise for, although the tents are hotter at mid-day, they are both cooler and quieter at night.

F.A.R.E.L.F. news includes an account of The Queen's Birthday Parade on the Padang in Singapore. It was 7.15 a.m. when the Parade was in position and a quarter of an hour later H.E. The Governor was received with a Royal Salute, after which he reviewed the parade in an open land-rover. At the conclusion the Royal Standard was broken at the masthead; the massed bands played the National Anthem; the R.A.F. flew past and dipped in salute; a ceremonial *Feu de Joie* was fired and a 21-gun salute. After three cheers had been given for the Sovereign the Royal Standard was lowered to signify the departure of the Sovereign and the Governor's personal standard was raised. His Excellency then proceeded to the saluting base to take the salute as the parade marched past. The W.R.A.C. contingent, under the command of Capt. M. Haldane, followed Q.A.R.A.N.C. They were distinctive in their green berets and their marching and general bearing was of a very high order.



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AND BRANCHES

CHANGE OF EDITOR

Will Branch Secretaries and other contributors please note that the new editor is taking over her duties now, and all contributions for the February *Lioness* should go to her. Her name is Lt.-Col. S. M. Crawley, T.D., and her address is to be found on the contents page.

After editing *The Lioness* for exactly five years it is impossible to relinquish the reins of office without regret, but I am delighted to hand over to one who will so adequately carry out the duties involved. Col. Crawley was first appointed to the A.T.S. on October 21, 1938, and was a regimental officer in London and Aldershot until she was appointed Chief Instructor of the A.T.S. Wing of The King's Own I.T.C. in Lancaster. So successful was she as an instructor that she went on to instruct at No. 2 A.T.S. Officer Cadet Training Unit and at the Junior Officers' School. After 18 months as D.A.D.A.T.S., Southern Command, Col. Crawley did over three years at the Record Office, becoming Second-in-Command, with the rank of Chief Commander, in January, 1946. For some time she was without an officer in charge records and she carried out his duties with considerable success. Since then she has been A.A.G., A.G.16, A.D.W.R.A.C., Mid-West District, Officer Commanding 12th Battalion in London and A.D.W.R.A.C., 2 A.A. Group, which appointment she now holds.

I owe a debt of gratitude to all those branch secretaries and others who have so regularly kept me supplied with news that my task has always been a sad one. I have had systematically to exclude many excellent articles, stories and anecdotes in order to include those news items for which *The Lioness* exists. I shall hand over to my successor a file of such material and she will never be in the position of my predecessor, who had difficulty in finding sufficient material to fill the pages. Mine has been the happier lot, but not the easier one!

May I appeal to all contributors to remember that an officer's name is never complete without her initials and decorations, though they may be dropped when referring colloquially to such distinguished personages as our many Dames of the British Empire and others who are well known to us all. I can assure you from bitter experience that much of the editor's time is spent with an Army list by her side, looking up the correct titles of officers mentioned in reports. It would also help very much if branch reports could mention the name under which a member served for "Mrs. Snooks" has no connection in the minds of all the people who served with her as, say, S.M. A. L. Pink. In these cases the Editor is as helpless as her readers for she does not work at Headquarters and cannot look up her record. In course of time the Editor gets to know by heart the addresses of many of the Branch Secretaries, but she does waste a good deal of time looking them up when acknowledging reports. It would help a lot if the address could always be given. Lastly, I did ask, last quarter, if those who type their reports could do so in triplicate with a 2-in. margin and in double-

spacing. The last two are essential if the item is to be sent on to the printer without retyping. Now that the amount of material received does not greatly exceed the amount of space available, it is possible to include most reports in full, without drastic cutting. There has, in fact, been no editing of Branch News at all since February. Since having had to do the whole of the work myself on my retirement I have allowed approximately half-an-hour a day and four weeks in the year for *The Lioness*. This could be considerably reduced.

As this is my last contribution as Editor, may I take this opportunity of wishing all the readers the very best of wishes for Christmas and the coming year and, to my successor, the very best of luck and many happy hours with *The Lioness*.

JULIA M. COWPER.

A LIBRARY IS FOUNDED

On her retirement Brigadier Dame Frances Coulshed has presented to Headquarter Mess 15 books, to form the foundation of a library which, she hopes, in time will be a worthy addition to the Mess and to the Depot. She has also presented a book plate to the Mess. This plate was designed by Capt. A. I. Barfoot and a number of copies have been printed. It consists of the Corps badge superimposed on a background of lozenges in which are inscribed a number of Her Royal Highness's ciphers, as depicted in the Corps button. Above the badge the words "Ex Libris" are borne on a scroll with "W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess" on another scroll below. Under the plate there are the words "Presented by" and a space for the name of the donor of the book. If any officer is puzzled about the most suitable gift that she can give to the Corps on her retirement, here is a suggestion which can so easily be adapted to the pockets of us all. Book plates can be obtained from the Secretary, W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, if the donor wishes to sign them and affix them herself or they can be put in the books at Guildford, with the name of the donor added. In order to avoid duplication we append herewith the names of the original 15 books and additions to the library will from time to time be published in *The Lioness*:

The Traveller's Year, Elizabeth Nicholas.

The Queen's Beasts (described by Philips Record Atlas), H. Stamford.

Standards, Guidons and Colours of the Commonwealth Forces, Major T. S. Edwards.

Other Men's Flowers, A. P. Wavell.

The Ascent of Everest, John Hunt.

A History of Flower Arrangement, Julia S. Berrall.

Red Coat, E. W. Sheppard.

Warrior's Paradise, Anthony Armstrong.

Voice from the Ranks (Edited by Kenneth Fenwick).

Bouquet de France, Samuel Chamberlain.

A History of the Regiments and Uniforms of the British Army, Major R. M. Barnes.

The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary.

Good Housekeeping Cookery Book.

RETIREMENTS

Brigadier Dame M. Frances Coulshed, D.B.E., T.D.

It is nice to know that Dame Frances is not leaving us on her retirement. She tells us that her immediate plans are not settled, but we gather that she is prepared to serve on the committee which is to deal with the question of the production of our history. Nobody could be better qualified to sit on this committee, for during the time that she has been Director, Dame Frances has endeared herself to all ranks, past and present, of our three Corps. She has visited branches of the Association and has shown her interest in so many ways that she is almost as well known to the veterans of the First World War as she is to the two Corps in which she has herself served.

On the outbreak of war she was embodied with the 1st Derbyshire Company and reported for duty with a Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. In those first few months before Groups were formed with an official establishment much improvisation was necessary, particularly in the scattered units of Anti-Aircraft Command. Where much appeared to be built on shifting sand, a few units stood firm, as though built on solid rock, and one of these was the 1st Derbyshire Company. Her Company Commander taken from her to become adjutant, Company Assistant Frances Coulshed took all the reins into her own hands and her company was one of the first to provide women in the Gun Operations Room.

The story of her successes would take too long to tell. Probably, apart from her ascent to the giddy heights of the Directorate, the most outstanding moment in her career was her appointment as D.A.D.A.T.S., 21st Army Group (A.A. Troops), when she made history by being the first A.T.S. officer to be appointed to a mobile operational headquarters. She served there as a Senior Commander from the time of the German push in the Ardennes until she was regranted temporary rank of Chief Commander on being appointed A.D.A.T.S. 21st Army Group (Lines of Communication) after the war in Europe was over.

Wherever she may go and whatever she may do, she will take with her the best wishes of all who served with her, all of whom hope that they will continue to see much of her at Association functions of the future.

Col. S. Cooke, C.B.E., T.D.

Those who served in Eastern or South-eastern Commands during the war will remember better than the rest of us the untiring work of Col. Cooke. Starting at H.Q. Eastern Command at the beginning of the war, she was promoted Senior Commander before the end of the year and continued to command general duties groups in that command until she went as A.D.A.T.S. Aldershot District in April, 1944. She was Deputy Director of Personnel Administration after the war until that appointment was abolished and she became A.A.G. A.G.16. In these two appointments Col. Cooke was responsible for much of the planning

for the W.R.A.C. Since 1951 she has been D.D.W.R.A.C. A.A. Command, and she has the best wishes of all her friends.

Band Notes

The last season has been the most successful since the formation of the Band in 1949. There has been no lack of recruits of a high quality and those selected have soon acquired proficiency. On several occasions it has been possible to produce a second band for passing-out parades. Engagements have included the Depot "At Home," the Aldershot centenary celebrations, the Royal Tournament, the White City and ordinary programmes at Southall and Hastings. At Hastings the Band was honoured by being asked to lead the carnival procession. The Band also took part in the Diocesan Service at Guildford Cathedral, gave concerts on the bandstand at Eastbourne, visited Bicester and Folkestone and Larkhill for "Larkhill Day." Since then the Band has fulfilled engagements at Nuneaton, Guildford, Manchester, Woolwich and Chichester. No reports have yet been received but some of us saw the Band on television at the searchlight tattoo arranged by the Royal Artillery at Woolwich and the engagement at Chichester was to play at the "Regimental Day" of the Royal Sussex Regiment.

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.

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

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

The Service Women's Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, London, S.W.1, exists for the comfort and convenience of Service and ex-Service women of all ranks. It provides accommodation and the usual amenities of a ladies' club at most reasonable rates and new members are always welcome. For full particulars and brochure please write to the Secretary. Tel.: SLOane 9131.

For Sale.—Complete No. 1 Dress uniform. Greatcoat, 3 shirts, collars, tie, shoes size 4½, hat size 6½, gloves, green satchel. Uniform by

Weatherill. Bust 34 in., hips 37-38 in., height 5 ft. 4 in. Excellent condition, greatcoat hardly worn. Available now. £45 complete, or will sell separately. Box No. 14/54.

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 Dress jacket, skirt and cap, khaki greatcoat and cap, Service dress jacket and skirt (Huntsman), battle dress blouse and two skirts. No. 1 Dress and Service dress in excellent condition. Will sell separately at reasonable prices. Height 5 ft. 7½ in., bust 36 in., waist 26 in., hips 39 in. Cap 6½. Apply Mrs. J. S. Hutchinson, 26 Aisne Road, Blackdown, nr. Aldershot.

For Sale.—No. 1 Dress (Weatherill) to fit 5 ft. 6½ in., bust 40 in., waist 30 in., hips 42 in. Tunic, skirt, greatcoat, hat (7), handbag, three shirts, three collars. Apply, Mrs. John Robertson, Willow Way, 36 Greenlands Road, Staines, Middlesex.

For Sale.—Unworn Officer's No. 1 Dress, bust 36 in., waist 27 in., hips 38 in., height 5 ft. 4 in., £20. Dress hat with gold braided peak, size 6½, £6. May be seen by appointment at B. Weatherill, Ltd., 55 Conduit Street, London, W.1. Box No. 15/54.

For Sale.—Officer's khaki Service Dress and greatcoat. Height 5 ft. 7½ in., bust 38 in., hips 42 in. Reasonable offer accepted. The articles are in good condition. Box No. 13/54.

For Sale.—No. 1 Dress, tunic, skirt and cap, £20. Bust 36 in., waist 33 in., hips 40 in., height 5 ft. 4 in. Three outfits of officer's khaki Service dress, skirt, tunic and a greatcoat. Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 36 in., waist 33 in., hips 40 in. £17 for all khaki. Apply Adjutant, 327 (County of London) Bn. W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3.

Officer's Kit For Sale.—Khaki greatcoat, small size; M.T. boots size 7; shirts, slacks, etc. Also raincoat, very long. All in excellent condition. Reasonable. Box No. 16/54.

The Guide Club, 46 Belgrave Square, S.W.1. Membership is open to women with a past or present connection with the Scout or Guide Movements in any part of the world. Junior membership 18-22 years inclusive. Bedrooms, Dining Room, Writing Room, Library, two Drawing Rooms. Table d'hôte luncheon 4s. 6d. or 3s. Supper 6-8 p.m. and dinner 7-8 p.m. at most reasonable *à la carte* prices. No guest charge. Use of tennis court free of charge. Three minutes walk from Hyde Park Corner. For full particulars please write to the Secretary. SLOane 8102.

Wanted.—Service dress 5 ft. 8 in., hip 40-42 in., bust 37 in. State price. Box No. 17/54.

UNIT BRANCHES IN THE A.A. COMMAND AREA

- 1 Ind. Coy.—W.O. I Van Os, Redford Cavalry Barracks, Colinton, Edinburgh.
- 2 Ind. Coy.—W.O. II Bell, Venning Barracks, Donnington, Shropshire.
- 3 Ind. Coy.—L/Cpl. M. B. Elrick, School of A.A. Artillery, Manorbier, Nr. Tenby.
- 4 Ind. Coy.—Sgt. I. T. Friend, G.H.Q., FARELF, c/o G.P.O., Singapore.
- 6 Ind. Coy.—Sgt. M. E. Greeves, H.Q. Southern Command, Salisbury.
- 7 Ind. Coy.—W.O. II K. M. McManus, H.Q. Southern Command, Salisbury.
- 8 Ind. Coy.—W.O. II C. Pilgrom, H.Q. Southern Command, Salisbury.
- 9 Ind. Coy.—W.O. II J. Wiffen, Fugglestone Camp North, Wilton, Nr. Salisbury.
- 10 Ind. Coy.—Mandora Hutments, Hope Grants Road, Aldershot.
- 11 Ind. Coy.—W.O. II F. Hardwick, Chilwell, Beeston, Notts.
- 12 Ind. Coy.—2/Lt. C. R. Mordaunt, Menage Lines, Old Infantry Bks., Canterbury, Kent.
- 13 Ind. Coy.—Lt. K. J. O'Keefe, Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.
- 15 Ind. Coy.—W.O. II I. M. Butterfield, c/o 18 Trg. Bde. R.A., Park Hall Camp, Oswestry.
- 16 Ind. Coy.—Sgt. N. Richards, Wolverley Camp, Kidderminster, Worcs.
- 17 Ind. Coy.—P. & E.E., New Ranges, Shoeburyness.
- 21 Ind. Coy.—13 Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7. Secretary-Treasurer: W.O. II E. J. Garfield.
- 25 Ind. Coy.—"Cloverlands," Newdigate Lane, Kimberley, Notts. Secretary-Treasurer: W.O. II T. Buchanan.
- 26 Ind. Coy.—"Highfield," Carpenders Park, Nr. Watford, Herts. Chairman: Capt. G. E. Dunn.
- 22 Ind. Pl.—S/Sgt. D. M. McDonald, H.Q. Land Forces, Hong Kong.
- 24 Ind. Pl.—Sgt. M. Trinnick, P.O. Box 4000, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 25 Ind. Pl.—Sgt. Trendall, Abercorn Barracks, Ballykinlar Camp, Co. Down.
- 3 Bn.—W.O. I C. M. Savage, M.B.E., Catterick Camp, Yorks.
- 12 Bn.—W.O. II Andrews, Richmond Park Camp, Kingston, Surrey.
- 14 Bn.—Sgt. P. Gilbey, H.Q. Northern Army Group, B.A.O.R. 1.
- 1 A.A. (M.) Signal Regt.—Orsett Camp, Orsett, Essex. Secretary-Treasurer: S/Sgt. V. Embrow.
- 2 A.A. (M.) Signal Regt.—Barrosa Barracks, Stanhope Lines, Aldershot, Hants. Secretary: W.O. II G. Wild.
- 3 A.A. Group Branch.—Riccanton House, Currie, Midlothian, Scotland. Secretary: S/Sgt. Talbot.
- 4 A.A. Group Branch.—Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, Lancs. Secretary-Treasurer: Sgt. J. Turnbull.
- 5 A.A. (M.) Signal Regt.—Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, Yorks. Secretary-Treasurer: S/Sgt. D. Argo.
- 46 (M.) H.A.A. Regt., R.A.—Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield, Surrey. Secretary-Treasurer: 2/Lt. H. M. Phillips.
- N.I.D. (M.) Sig. Regt.—2/Lt. Page, Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.
- Scottish Comd. (M) Sig. Regt.—Capt. Rushton, Glencorse Barracks, Milton Bridge, Midlothian.
- Southern Comd. (M.) Sig. Regt.—Sgt. K. Russell, H.Q. Southern Command, Salisbury.
- School of Instruction.—W.O. I F. J. Hadley, Huron Camp, Hindhead, Surrey.
- Depot.—W.O. I Ashworth, M.B.E., Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, Surrey.
- Staff College.—Frimley Park, Frimley, Nr. Aldershot, Hants.
- 16 Bn.—W.O. I K. M. Holmes, W.R.A.C. Camp, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F. 17.
- 321 (Ulster) Bn. W.R.A.C./T.A.—W.O. I H. Bell, Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.
- 455 (M.) H.A.A. Regt. (Kent), T.A.—C.S.M. Nairne, T.A. Centre, St. John's Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
- 54 A.A. Regt., R.A.—C.S.M. E. Mallard, Windmill Hill, Gibraltar.

Note.—Where the secretary's name has not been notified the address only is given. Will Officers Commanding units please check this list and notify the Secretary (NOT the Editor) of any inaccuracies.

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