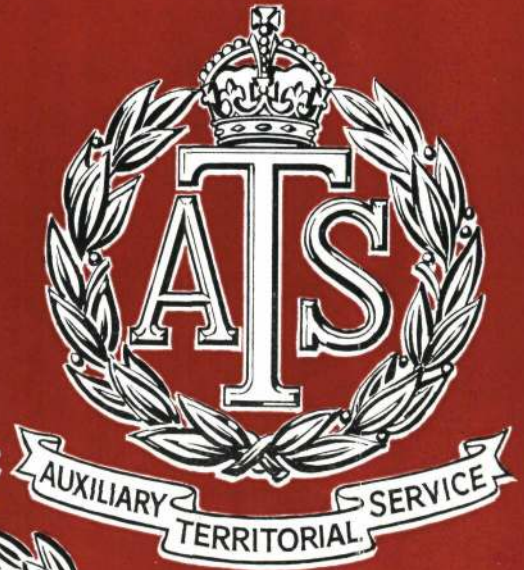


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THE LIONESS



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W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK

General Secretary

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

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

Editor

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

Lieutenant-Colonel S. M. Crawley,
H.Q. London District, Horseguards, London, S.W.1

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY
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[Photo: Airborne Photos]

Captain F. A. G. Goddard, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., First Director of Music W.R.A.C. Staff Band



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXVIII

February 1955

No. 1

EDITORIAL

Producing one's first paper seems to be rather like producing one's first child—a matter of pride, panic and preoccupation, an occasion for starry-eyed dreaming, an excuse for letting other people do the washing up.

We approached our new vocation in a spirit of sober dedication. First, we explained to our General that we had been elevated to an honourable appointment which would probably prevent us from doing any normal work for the next few years. By a curious coincidence we were almost immediately posted—our new address (till our next G.O.C. appreciates the situation) is shown on the index page.

Then we started to groom ourselves for the rôle of a press magnate. As our ideas on the subject had been formed entirely from the cinema, we imagined ourselves either in shirt-sleeves and an eyeshade, barking out orders to a squad of keen young newshounds in telephone boxes at the scene of the crime, or marooned at a vast mahogany desk on a sea of thick-piled Axminster, with a dictaphone and a blonde red-nailed secretary. We were a little surprised when *The Lioness* office was handed over by the retiring Editor in a small cardboard box, labelled (no doubt for security reasons) "CHOICE DANISH BUTTER." Thanks to the experience and helpfulness of Col. Cowper, however, which we acknowledge with deep gratitude, the box turned out to contain all the tools of editorship except the eyeshade.

We found our colleagues very ready with their help and everyone else very ready with their advice. We called on the printers and spent a most interesting morning learning about blocks and galleys. The block is not, as we thought, the thing that traitors face or lovers walk twice round; the galley is not the thing that the Roman slave goes into, or the ship's cook comes out of. We also called on the advertising agent and talked knowledgeably about O.B.C., I.B.C. and I.F.C. This came quite easily to us as, after 15 years in the Army, we are accustomed to conversing in unidentifiable initials.

The retiring editor advised us to aim at printing more pages than have ever yet been allowed by the business manager. The business manager advised us to aim at the minimum quantity of letterpress to the maximum number of advertisements. The aims suggested by other well-wishers were (a) to be very very informative (like the *Army Quarterly*), (b) to be very very funny (like *Punch*), and (c) to increase the circulation (like the *News of the World*). We promised everyone everything and went away to think. Finally, as we had heard nothing but good of the November issue (the last produced by Col. Cowper), we decided to spurn all other models,

and have stuck a new label on the cardboard box, "UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT—BUSINESS AS USUAL."

COL. J. M. COWPER, T.D.

Those of us who listened to Col. Julia Cowper's Broadcast interview will feel that the writing of the History of the Service of Women in the Army lies in the best possible hands. We much regret that Col. Cowper has had to resign from the editorship of *The Lioness*. Added to her other literary activities, her residence in the North of England has made it impossible to fill the dual post of Editor and Official Historian. Col. Cowper had a most difficult task in building up *The Lioness* to its present standard. Added to the grave financial situation which arose from inflation of prices and shortages of newsprint, was the ever delicate question of maintaining the balance of news of interest to ex-Service and serving members. That *The Lioness* is so popular a journal is due largely to her enthusiasm and hard work. We are glad to know that we have not lost her interest, and that her talents are being employed in a wider field. The Council and all members of the Association wish to express their appreciation and gratitude to Col. Cowper for her enlightened editorship and wish her the best of good fortune in her future work.

REGINA EVANS.

Forthcoming Events

- | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------|
| Feb. | | |
| 16 | Hockey, Army v. Civil Service | Hounslow |
| 17 | Hockey, Army v. United Banks | Rochampton |
| 18-24 | Hockey, Army Tour | |
| Mar. | | |
| 2 | Eleventh Passing-out Parade of Officer Cadets | Hindhead |
| 4-5 | Netball, Inter-Unit Championship | Aldershot |
| 9 | Hockey, R.N. v. Army | Burghfield |
| 10 | Hockey, R.N. v. R.A.F. | Uxbridge |
| 11 | Hockey, Army v. R.A.F. | Aldershot |
| 14 | Rifle Shooting Inter-Service meeting | Portsmouth |
| 18 | Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion | Duke of York's H.Q. |
| 19 | Annual General Meeting | Duke of York's H.Q. |
| 19 | Grand Reunion | Seymour Hall |
| 21 | Netball, Inter-Service Tournament | Portsmouth |
| Apr. | | |
| 24 | Princess Royal's Day | Guildford |
| 29 | Table Tennis, Inter-Unit finals | Guildford |

ASSOCIATION NOTES

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters
at 3 p.m. on **Saturday, March 19, 1955**

AGENDA

1. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 27, 1954, and circulated in the May issue of *The Lioness*.
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. Election of Officers.

The undermentioned Officers have been nominated:

Chairman of Council: Miss B. Ireland, M.B.E.

Council Vice - Presidents: Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E., Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., Mrs. R. King, O.B.E., Mrs. R. Simpson.

4. Report of Council.
5. Report of the Hon. Treasurer.
6. Report of the Editor of *The Lioness*.
7. Branch Resolutions:

"That W.R.A.C. Association Branches be associated with their nearest Regular W.R.A.C. unit, in order that closer contact may be kept with serving members, and also that members of Regimental Associations may receive invitations to social functions."—*Oxford Branch*.

"That, on completion of engagement or on release, members of the W.R.A.C. be given the address of the Branch of the Association nearest to their new location, and that a list of Branches be prepared and circulated."—*Wolverhampton Branch*.

8. Date of next meeting.
9. Other business (if any).

THE GRAND REUNION

will be held on **March 19, 1955**, at the
SEYMOUR HALL, MARYLEBONE

THE W.R.A.C. BAND
will play during the evening

*All who served in Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S., or W.R.A.C.
will be welcome* **Tickets 5s.**

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

will be held on **March 18, 1955**, at the
DRILL HALL OF

**135 SURVEY REGIMENT, T.A.
DUKE OF YORK'S HEADQUARTERS**

All who served in Q.M.A.A.C. will be welcome
Tickets 4s. including refreshments

The number of the tickets for the reunions is limited and applications will be dealt with in strict order. Please apply as early as possible to: Reunion Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, S.W.3, enclosing remittance for tickets and a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

Capt. F. A. G. Goddard,

L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

On December 8, 1954, Col. Crewe-Read as Chairman of the Headquarter Mess Committee presented Capt. Goddard (whose portrait appears as the frontispiece to this issue) with a silver salver from officers of the Corps.

Col. Crewe-Read expressed the thoughts of everyone present when she said how greatly Capt. Goddard's work with the W.R.A.C. Staff Band has been appreciated and how much he will be missed.

W.O.II Goddard, as he then was, went to Guildford five and a half years ago to start the W.R.A.C. Band. His first two recruits were clerks from the W.R.A.C. Training Centre Orderly Room, and in the first two dozen there were very few trained musicians. If the candidates were keen to be bandwomen, were physically fit and with a pride in the Corps, Capt. Goddard was prepared to turn them into musicians. There were several "small miracles."

Much enthusiasm and hard work went into the making of the W.R.A.C. Staff Band which today bears witness to Capt. Goddard's ability as a tireless, patient and inspiring instructor. As well as his musical and instructional ability he brought with him considerable experience of army life and love of its traditions. All this he passed on to anyone who was willing to learn.

Not his least contribution was the way he and his family fitted in so well with the life of the Training Centre and Depot and rapidly became part of the unit. He and Mrs. Goddard took a great pride in the W.R.A.C. and were always most loyal. In turn the staff of the Training Centre got much pleasure from watching David and Roberta grow—and grow up.

Many good wishes will follow Capt. Goddard in his new appointment as Director of Music of the R.A.O.C. Staff Band—and his family in their new home at Blackdown.

Queen Victoria School

It is not generally realised that Queen Victoria School, which exists to give free education, clothing and accommodation to the sons of Scotsmen serving or having served in the ranks of the regular Services, is open also to the sons of Scotswomen who have served in the ranks of the W.R.A.C.

Boys may be registered from seven years of age and, if selected by the Board of H.M. Commissioners, are admitted between their ninth and eleventh birthdays. They normally leave at 15 to join a branch of H.M. Forces or take up an occupation in civil life, but they may, if recommended, continue their education at the school until 18 years of age.

Preference in general is given to nominated boys, total orphans, those whose fathers have been killed in action or died in the Service, and motherless boys whose fathers are serving abroad.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Commandant, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Scotland.

Tenth Passing-Out Parade of W.R.A.C. Officer Cadets

The Tenth Passing-out Parade of W.R.A.C. Officer Cadets took place at the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction on Wednesday, October 6, 1954. The Inspecting Officer was Major-General G. W. E. Heath, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., President of the Regular Commissions Board, who was accompanied by Brigadier M. Railton, C.B.E., D.W.R.A.C. and Lt.-Col. S. F. M. Nimmo, Commandant of the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

The Parade consisted of 15 Senior Officer Cadets, 15 Junior Officer Cadets, 26 members of the permanent staff and 44 student N.C.O.s. The Staff Band of the W.R.A.C. played for the Chapel Service and the Parade.

At the Chapel Service before the Parade the address was given by the Rev. K. A. Puntan, O.B.E., B.A., Q.H.C., Assistant Chaplain-General Southern Command.

After the Inspection and March Past, Major-General Heath addressed the Parade and presented the Ceremonial Sash to Junior Under-Officer P. K. Cox, and the Certificate of Merit to Officer Cadet L/Cpl. H. P. Ogden. 2/Lt. Cox subsequently appeared in "In Town Tonight" on television and sound radio.

This was the last ceremonial function before his retirement at which General Heath was to be present and in his address he said how pleased he was that it was a W.R.A.C. ceremony.

Tea followed the Parade and the Camp Theatre was the scene of a minor Corps reunion. All members of the present Staff College course were at the Parade. Capt. Andree Weitzel of the Swiss Women's Services and Capt. Ovesen of the Danish LotteKorps were very interested spectators.

Scottish Command Reunion Luncheon

Thirty-three ex and serving senior officers of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. of Scottish Command met for a Reunion Luncheon at the Albyn Rooms, Edinburgh, on November 24, 1954.

Among those present were the Director, Brigadier M. Railton, C.B.E., A.D.C., Col. A. C. D. Hind, M.B.E. (who came as the guest of Major A. Alexander, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., 3rd A.A. Group), Miss V. H. C. Stirling, O.B.E., T.D., Col. E. I. W. Hobkirk C.B.E. (who came as the guest of Miss A. Maconachie), Lady Vivian Younger, Mrs. Russell Simpson, Mrs. Finlay, Miss M. Kyd, Miss H. Nimmo, O.B.E., T.D., Miss M. McLellan, Miss J. Wright.

Unfortunately at the last moment, Miss Baxter Ellis, C.B.E., T.D., and Miss Kingston-Walker, T.D., were unable to come owing to influenza. Regrets had already been received from many others, notably Lady Maud Baillie (who is away in Kenya), Mrs. Fraser Tytler, O.B.E., Miss S. A. M. Allen, O.B.E. (who has moved to Dorset), Miss J. Collins, O.B.E., Mrs. King, O.B.E., and Lt.-Col. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D.

12th BATTALION AT HOME

Saturday, October 30, saw the successful opening of the "Parents At Home Day" which was held by 12th Battalion W.R.A.C. at Richmond Park Camp, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey.

The day opened at 3 p.m. with an Inter-Company Netball Tournament in which teams from "B" Company, "C" Company, Holding and Drafting Company, and No. 4 Platoon of "B" Company (from Hounslow, Middlesex) competed for the cup. The matches were played off before a most appreciative audience of parents and visitors, and the victors were "B" Company, who had been represented by No. 5 Platoon (postal workers at the Army Postal Depot, Knightsbridge). The cup was presented by the Commanding Officer, Major E. B. Drake, and photographs were taken for the Unit record.

The Netball Tournament was followed by hoop waltzing, arranged by W.O.I. Nightingale, W.R.A.C. The outfit of blue skirts, white shirts, matching white shoes and socks, and red belts was most colourful, and as the team waltzed to music from the W.R.A.C. Staff Band they made a most delightful picture. The gaily coloured hoops, flash of colours from the Display Team and the lilting music of the Band had the gratifying effect of stopping traffic on the road passing the camp, which was considered by all to be a most effective form of recruiting.

After the display, parents and visitors were shown the camp. In the Education Centre a recruiting stand displayed a most interesting collection of photographs showing life in the W.R.A.C. at home and overseas. The handicrafts contributed by members of the Unit for the Y.W.C.A. Christmas Fair were also on view, including most professional basket-work by Sgt. Pargiter of "B" Company, painting on silk by S/Sgt. Simpson of Holding and Drafting Company, and original soft toys made by members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Tea was served in the N.A.A.F.I. for all visitors, and in the evening a very appreciative audience attended a concert given by the W.R.A.C. Staff Band.

The Church Parade on Sunday, October 31, to St. Paul's Church, Kingston, attracted a good deal of attention from the local population, especially as the W.R.A.C. Staff Band was again in attendance. Unfortunately the weather was not so kind, and the March Past took place in very heavy rain, but everyone was in very good spirits and this was reflected in the bearing and smart appearance of the Parade. The salute was taken by the Commanding Officer, Major E. B. Drake.

Several letters have been received from parents who attended the "At Home Day," expressing their appreciation of the opportunity to see where, and how, their daughters lived. All the writers were impressed with the standard of accommodation, general arrangements, and happy spirit of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

HAVE YOU NOTED THE EDITOR'S NEW ADDRESS?
(See "Address Book" facing Contents)

DIDCOT DOINGS

After a week of torrential rain the morning of October 27, the day of 7th Independent Company's Annual Administrative Inspection, was indeed the calm after the storm, for the air was mild and the sun shone beyond our wildest expectations. Out of camp and along Station Road to the Parade Ground, swung a proud Company, for it was headed by the Corps Band which surely must quell the whistle and roar of the Paddington-Penzance express due to rush past the parade ground at the moment of the General Salute for Brigadier R. G. C. Poole, A.D.C. The day ended with a most exhilarating and enjoyable Band Concert in the Garrison Theatre.

Guy Fawkes evening saw the Company again trying to outdo the British Railways, with their atom bomb fireworks which were most ably let off by the Entertainments Committee. The noble efforts of the accordion players soon got everyone sitting round the embers of an enormous bonfire for a sing-song, while the soup kitchen, set up by two unknown emulators of St. Trinian's, did a roaring trade.

On November 7, Remembrance Day services were attended in the morning and again in the afternoon, when the Company paraded to an outdoor service at the Garden of Remembrance, Edmonds Park, Didcot, with the British Legion.

On November 15, Col. C. Hull, O.B.E., T.D., D.D.W.R.A.C., Southern Command, paid her

first visit to this unit and toured all quarters. The C.O.D. were delighted, for she spent the afternoon seeing the women "on the job."

After a heart-breaking day of wind and rain which caused leaking roofs, sagging decorations and flooded pathways, the evening of the Company's Christmas dance was again the calm after the storm. We were fortunate in having the Dance Band of the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment, and they were indeed tireless, not stopping for alcoholic refreshment even when Cpl. Workman of the H.L.I. piped his way into a crowded dance hall and won the hearts of all our Scots lassies. The theatre decorations gave us all considerable pleasure for Ptes. Mallinson and Norton had excelled themselves by doing a Walt Disney theme throughout the entire building. All told, we were nigh on 400 strong, having the able support of all three Services.

Candlelit Yule logs were the theme for the Company Christmas Dinner held on Monday, December 20, when the entire Company sat down to what seemed (to those senior ranks and officers who waited on them) a series of unending courses. Standing by an outsized Yule log, Brigadier H. S. Mitchell gave the Company a toast and wished them a very Happy Christmas. After the dinner the Corporals took the hard-worked waiters and waitresses round to their clubroom, and there in a charmingly decorated room took place a most rollicking party which ended all too soon, but with the feeling that it was good to be alive at Christmas-time.



[Photo: Studio Atalanta]

Captain Mackowie and C.S.M. Cullen serve Christmas Dinners at Didcot

OPERATION HURRICANE

The School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Manorbier, took a severe beating from the 123 miles per hour hurricane, which struck the coast of Pembrokeshire on the night of November 29-30, 1954.

A night in the blitz of World War II was never more fearsome than this. The electricity supply failed, buildings swayed and crashed, roofs took off into the night, windows complete in frame blew out, chimneys and guttering went flying in all directions to land with resounding crash in the darkness and driving rain.

The gale began at approximately 2230 hours, Monday, November 29, working up into a frenzy, reaching its height at 0130 hours and continuing to rage until 0400 hours on Tuesday, November 30.

3rd Independent Company W.R.A.C. (attached to the School) took its full share with fortitude. As one section of the roof after another departed from their sleeping quarters, women moved from room to room seeking dry cover. It was impossible and dangerous for anyone to attempt to make contact between huts and not until daylight was the full extent of the damage realised.

Twenty women were evacuated next morning and about two-thirds of the Company had to be reissued with dry bedding. Nevertheless, in spite of a night without sleep, the cooks and orderlies turned up promptly on duty at 0600 hours, and cooked breakfast by candlelight. Morale was very high amongst the women, who very willingly, when not on duty, assisted their less fortunate companions in clearing up the debris.

There were a few cases reported of members being blown off their feet, including the Orderly N.C.O. for the evening who was blown from the top of the Orderly Room steps, which are three feet high, and bodily carried across a patch of grass a distance of nearly five yards. A W.R.A.C. W.O.II and one sergeant were marooned at the Sergeants' Mess which is a considerable distance from the W.R.A.C. sleeping quarters, but decided as the night turned to morning to take the plunge. They had the hair-raising experience of a corrugated iron roof being blown over their heads, and falling into an entanglement of telephone wires which were trailing over the roadway. Finally they got half-way back to the quarters, when they were literally blown backwards a distance of 30 yards, landing eventually down a grass bank behind a building. Though bruised and badly shaken, they made the course on their hands and knees, realising this was the safest and surest way of getting back to quarters.

In counting one's blessings, the nightly rounds of the Orderly Officer and N.C.O. are now considerably lessened by the fact that the garages and cycle sheds no longer exist, and the favourite squash court has lost its roof.

CORRECTION

We apologise for a mistake in the list of books on page 74 of the November issue. The author of *The Queen's Beasts* is H. Stanford London, Norfolk Herald Extraordinary.

THE BAND IN MID-WEST DISTRICT

During the three-day visit of the W.R.A.C. Staff Band to Mid-West District, November 2-5, 1954, there was one event which, among many successful performances, was outstanding in the pleasure it gave and the praise it evoked from those who witnessed it. This was the "Beating of the Retreat" in the Shire Hall Square of the lovely old market town of Shrewsbury.

The Mayor of Shrewsbury, the Town Clerk, the Police and all Local Government Officials were exceedingly kind and co-operative in helping with the arrangements for this great occasion.

The crowds began to gather shortly before 4 p.m., and being a market day there was soon a considerable audience waiting for the Band. Among the military spectators were Lt.-Col. W. H. Bamfield, Army Recruiting Officer for Shrewsbury, Capt. P. Lonsdale, W.R.A.C. Recruiting Officer for Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton, and representatives from 15 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., and 69 (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Independent Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). Notable among the crowd was the very smart contingent of 60, all in No. 1 Dress, from 2 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Donnington. Two members of 140 Provost Company, W.R.A.C., were on duty.

Promptly at 4 p.m. the Mayor of Shrewsbury, Alderman Ellis Jones, J.P., Brigadier A. S. Shaw Ball, D.S.O. (representing the District Commander), and Brigadier M. Railton, C.B.E., D.W.R.A.C., emerged from the Shire Hall and the "Retreat" was begun.

The official party was accompanied by Lt.-Col. M. H. Pine, M.B.E., T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C., Western Command and Major B. A. D. Tansley Witt, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Mid-West District.

A particular compliment was paid to the Corps by the local authorities, who gave permission for the Corps Flag to be flown from the old Market Hall flagmast during the ceremony. This honour is rarely accorded to military units and we are most grateful for being singled out in this way.

The marching and playing of the Band, as well as their skill in completing complicated drill movements, drew many admiring remarks from the spectators, both military and civilian. When "Retreat" had been sounded the Band marched past to the "Lass of Richmond Hill." The salute was taken by the Mayor, who was accompanied by Brigadier Shaw Ball and Brigadier Railton.

Afterwards, tea was served in the Shire Hall to the official party.

The Band spent a short period exploring the quaint old streets of Shrewsbury before going on to Oswestry, where they were the guests of 15 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. During their three-day stay in Oswestry the Band gave two concerts and played during the Annual Inspection of the Company.

The whole visit was a great success, and we hope to see more of the Band in the future.

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

Gibraltar. We have been exceptionally lucky this summer in that we have had two Royal visits in six months. Our Controller Commandant, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, arrived on September 27 and left on October 3. In spite of a very crowded programme, Her Royal Highness was to be seen walking down Main Street looking at the shops, and also discussing the merits of bananas in the market, to the delight of all the inhabitants of Gibraltar who gained the impression that the Royal visitor really felt at home among them.

The W.R.A.C. took part in the street lining for the ceremonial drives on arrival and departure. We were surprised to see in a London newspaper report that The Princess Royal was dressed in the new W.R.A.C. uniform, as Her Royal Highness was wearing a powder-blue coat and white hat.

The big day for the Corps was on Wednesday, the 29th, two years to the week since Her Royal Highness had wished us all good luck and *bon voyage* at Lingfield. The Band of the 1st Battalion D.W.R. added colour to the parade of all the W.R.A.C. at Windmill Hill, by playing for the inspection and march past. The visitors were most impressed by the quarters, and Her Royal Highness appeared thoroughly to enjoy looking at our scrapbook, which Pte. Zouch has kept up to date with many amusing drawings.

Her Royal Highness visited the site and watched an engagement from the radar and predictor angle, showing great interest in the "picture" of the Straits and shipping on the long-range radar tube.

The next item on the very full programme was the naming of the new W.R.A.C. barrack block—"Princess Royal Block." Here nine ex-Service members of the W.R.A.C. Association (Gibraltar Branch) were presented.

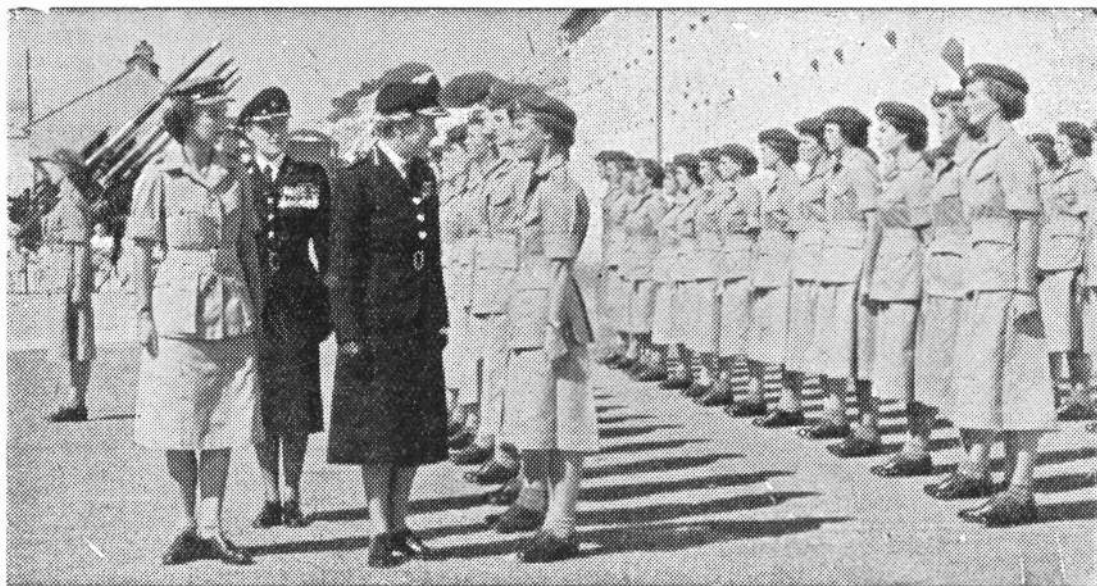
B.A.O.R. With the move from Bad Oeynhausen to our new H.Q. at Munchen Gladbach, we think that our friends at home may like to have some news of us.

The camp covers an area of about six square miles, and rather reminds one of an extremely pleasant housing estate. Although we are still having teething trouble with unmade roads and the constant banging and hammering as the buildings go up, everyone is settling down very well and looking forward to the Y.W.C.A. and Catholic League canteens opening up at the end of November.

The women's quarters are most comfortable. Each block accommodates 51 women. The ablutions and bathrooms are excellent and the central heating and constant hot water are a joy.

The Sergeants' Mess and quarters are situated in a very nice part of the camp, in a compound surrounded by lawns and trees. Each W.O. and sergeant has a bedroom, which, although small, is most comfortable and compact. The Sergeants' Mess is excellent, consisting of ante-room, games room and dining-room. For Mess functions the partitions between these rooms can be opened to make one large room. The bar is quite large and we have a pleasant, quiet sitting-room leading off it. The Mess is already very popular with the male element, both R.A.F. and Army. The Navy has not yet arrived, but we are hoping to bring them into the fold.

Unfortunately, we are not able to 'organise Christmas activities, owing to lack of accommodation, but the women are having many invitations to the military units in the Munchen Gladbach area. We were also delighted to receive an invitation for ten of the women to tea with the Mayoress of Munchen Gladbach to meet daughters of some of the German business people, which gives the girls an insight into the German way of living.



[Courtesy: Gibraltar Chronicle

W.R.A.C. in Gibraltar on Parade for H.R.H. The Princess Royal, September 29, 1954

LAST DAYS IN TRIESTE

CAPTAIN M. E. CLARKE

The Simplon Orient Express from Constantinople arrived in Trieste at 11.15 p.m. on October 5, 1954. The journey had taken three days and nights and I was returning to Trieste after an absence of three weeks. I was the only member of the W.R.A.C. left in B.E.T.F.O.R., working on the Intelligence Staff.

The railway station looked much the same as usual, but in the streets outside there was a holiday atmosphere; a mass of Italian flags and groups of young people everywhere.

I got into a taxi, and after telling the driver to take me to the Excelsior Hotel I enquired of him what was going on. With an expressionless face he told me that Trieste had been given to Italy, and as we made our way towards the Excelsior Hotel there were masses of students in the streets, singing and celebrating generally.

An announcement settling the "Trieste question" had just been made, but I could not help wondering if we should in fact leave or whether a situation similar to the one after the declaration made the previous year might arise. But, regardless of doubt, the order of the day was to pack up, and I was to leave with the first troop-train on October 20.

There was M.F.O. baggage to be packed immediately and the office to be closed. Nothing gives me more satisfaction than burning files and I felt that here was an opportunity indeed; unfortunately, my chief clerk did not share my enthusiasm and did his best to damp my ardour since he was convinced that we would never actually depart.

For the first few days after the announcement that the city of Trieste would come under Italian rule there were mild student rejoicings, but the older people did not seem to be so enthusiastic. All the hotel staff were silent and glum. They did not want the Americans and British to go because there is a dreadful unemployment problem. This situation prevailed throughout all American and British establishments where Triestines were employed and a great number of people faced unemployment with the withdrawal of allied troops.

It took every day, regardless of week-ends, to get things either packed or destroyed by the 20th, and soon one was living out of a suit-case and tossing up to find out whose turn it was to sit on the one remaining office chair.

Some Italian Army officers came to join us in the Excelsior Hotel. They were amazed to see me and asked one of my male counterparts what job I did in the Army. When he replied that my work was exactly the same as his, they found this difficult to believe. They explained that during the war they had tried the experiment of having women in their army, doing welfare work, etc., but this had to be stopped owing to the Latin temperament.

During the last week I was in Trieste the weather was perfect and as I sat on Piazza Unita after church on Sunday, drinking coffee and gazing down the square across the blue Adriatic towards the distant Dolomites, I was filled with nostalgia at leaving this Mediterranean beauty spot. But

with amazing rapidity the day for my evacuation arrived, and at six o'clock on Wednesday morning, October 20, I still had a great deal of personal packing to do, and it was only by superhuman efforts that I was ready and at the train by 1300 hours.

The train was in a siding so there was no platform, and it was so high that I found it a physical impossibility to get my foot anywhere near the lower step. I had a soldier's box full of secret documents and 11 large top-secret packages to escort to Austria, so every time I wanted to get in I had to rely on volunteers to lift me up.

Just before the train left I was leaning out of my carriage window, wishing my friends farewell, when a host of press reporters and photographers arrived. They took photographs of me at every angle as I leant down to reach flowers that were being given to me by a friend. Then amid much waving and saluting the first British troop-train left Trieste and very slowly, as if in memoriam, wound its way along the beautiful coastline to the frontier.

Absent Friends

The Lioness was proud to receive Christmas Greetings from two of her cubs on opposite sides of the globe.

Mrs. Jay V. Sperry (C. Sinclair of the W.A.A.C. A.E.F.) writes from 4538 Alta Lane, La Mesa, California. We are deeply impressed to hear that after she was demobilised she settled in California, married an American citizen, raised a family of four children, and is now, at the age of 56, a special student at San Diego State College, studying advanced gerontological psychology, zone therapy, television, and English journalism. She would be glad to hear from anyone who shares her racy reminiscences of Ste. Pierre des Corps and Bourges in World War I.

Mrs. Allen (J. Comd. Miki Allen A.T.S.) writes from 1 Northumberland Road, Pascoe Vale, W.8, Victoria, Australia. She left the A.T.S. in 1946 to become what one of her telephonists contemptuously described as "an 'umdrum 'ousewife," returned to Australia, and now has a small daughter—Berrie Cameron. She and her husband follow the news from Britain with unflinching interest, turned out staunchly to support the M.C.C., and took a wonderful snapshot of the mudguard of the Royal car during the visit of Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to Melbourne. She would like to get in touch with any old friends who knew her as a Sergeant in 539 Battery or as an officer in 462/133 (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A.

NOTICE

The following books by Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, G.B.E., are available for sale at the office of the W.R.A.C. Association:

Service with the Army (published at 7s. 6d.), 2s. 6d. (2s. 9d., post free).

Junior Leader and Other Addresses, 1s. (1s. 3d., post free).

THE PERSONNEL FEMININ DE L'ARMÉE DE TERRE

Lt.-COL. C. A. CECIL

A visit to the P.F.A.T. in France and Germany was indeed a most enjoyable and interesting experience.

The tour of duty, which lasted for three weeks, included visits to the Ministère de la Guerre (War Office), to the Headquarters of S.H.A.P.E., to Fontainebleau, to the Headquarters of the Signals in Paris, and a week spent at the P.F.A.T. Centre d'Instruction (Depot and Training Centre) at Dieppe.

After having seen the training side, a week was spent in Germany at the Headquarters of the French zone at Baden-Baden. In almost all circumstances the accommodation was of a very high standard indeed, especially where the barracks had been recently renovated, and in Germany an enormous building is being erected to accommodate 600 P.F.A.T. with all the most modern conveniences and every comfort. At present many P.F.A.T. are living in requisitioned hotels which are very comfortably furnished and almost luxurious. Here life for the O.R.s varies; in some cases it resembles ours very closely but in many stations personnel live in and feed out, wherever they like, their pay being sufficient for them to do this, although no extra allowances are drawn.

There are very few units such as we have, the personnel working more or less on the lines of the Civil Service. Only in the mixed Signals units does one really come across the unit spirit we enjoy so much, or do the officers really have the same administrative powers as our own officers exercise.

This lack of unit spirit is perhaps the most marked difference that one notices between the P.F.A.T. and W.R.A.C. and a difference which was very apparent to our French visitor, Lt. Chevallier, when she was over visiting the W.R.A.C. units here. The military code of discipline in the P.F.A.T. in many ways resembles our own, but day-to-day routine discipline is practically non-existent, and nowhere do you find drills and parades taking place. Consequently, P.F.A.T. are not accepted as an integral part of the Army, as we in the W.R.A.C. are. The uniform consists of a navy blue coat and skirt, pale blue shirt and dark blue tie, with a blue beret, flesh coloured stockings, tan shoes, gloves and sling bag. In the summer the same style is effected in a heavy beige linen with dark brown piping, a beige shirt, tie and beret. It is a very attractive get-up and personnel look nice and cool and neat in it. At no time do the P.F.A.T. have any brass cleaning to do and hair styles would probably cause our hair to stand "on end" but then one has to remember that to the P.F.A.T. "smartness" in uniform would perhaps be interpreted by the word "chic." It must be admitted that individually the girls look very nice.

The "Depot" at Dieppe is situated in a large well equipped barracks where the recruits train for three months, the training being divided into two periods of six weeks each. The first period is devoted to learning the military background and organisation, and the last six weeks to technical or

specialist work dependent on the type of work the girls will undertake. The Commandant and instructors are all male officers, but a certain amount of lecturing is done by the permanent staff N.C.O.s or "Monitrices," and a very small amount of time is given up to drill which is taken by the R.S.M.

The only basic training uniform consists of thick khaki slacks, a shirt and a form of khaki jeep coat and black beret. Thick sports boots and grey socks is the regulation footwear, but rather naturally recruits do not walk out in this garb and are allowed to wear civilian clothes to go in to the town.

The personnel selection work is almost identical with ours and the P.F.A.T. S.P. Officer is also responsible for much of the selection work in the French Army. All recruits who successfully complete their training "Pass Out" as N.C.O.s, promotion thereafter being on time and qualifications. Although increments in pay work on much the same system as ours, once P.F.A.T. have passed out of the training centre no further military training is done throughout their service.

An eight-hour journey took me to Baden-Baden, the lovely spa town in the Black Forest and the Headquarters of the French Army in Germany. Here the P.F.A.T. work on the staff and in signals and all military personnel wear uniform at work. Some of the women have been serving in this zone for six years or more.

The Headquarters and training centre of the teleprinters is situated about 30 miles from Baden-Baden, in a small village named Achem, where there are 25 P.F.A.T. living comfortably in married quarters, with a very nice Mess in the barracks where facilities exist for sports, including swimming. The Commandant spoke very highly of the work done by the girls and evidently looked after them very well. The machinery used by the P.F.A.T. is mostly American or new German material, and all very modern and up to date.

At Freiburg, a very ancient cathedral city, is situated the Headquarters of the 1st French Army, and here the P.F.A.T. number 47, all engaged on staff work, and again accommodated in married quarters and sharing the military Mess.

An extensive visit to all the Signals units in Paris, including the "pigeonry," was extremely interesting, and on these exchanges military and civilian personnel work happily together on the same shifts.

At Versailles, the Headquarters of S.H.A.P.E., the P.F.A.T. work chiefly on signals and live in the beautiful American W.A.C. quarters with the Dutch Women's Service. Fontainebleau, Headquarters of N.A.T.O., again employs signal and cipher personnel.

The hospitality and kindness shown to me everywhere was overwhelming and much admiration was expressed for the W.R.A.C. and our "No. 1 Dress," and I only hope that these exchanges may continue to take place regularly as the understanding brought about by such visits is so very well worth while.

THE WORK OF A PRISON GOVERNOR IN SCOTLAND

COL. E. I. W. HOBKIRK, C.B.E. (RETD.)

(Governor of H.M. Prison, Glasgow)

In no walk of life have things changed more during the past century than in the Prison Service. In 1849 the following inscription glowered from Holloway Gaol: "May God preserve the City of London and make this a place of terror to evil-doers." In 1949 the new edition of Prison Rules was published wherein it lays down that "The purpose of Prison is to arouse in the prisoner a wish to lead a good and useful life on discharge and to enable him/her to do so."

Prison is therefore no longer a place where punishment is inflicted; the prisoner comes as a punishment and not *for* punishment. She is punished by the Court by being deprived of all freedom—and by life more bitterly still. The prison rôle is therefore twofold: firstly, for the protection of the public by segregating dangerous criminals; secondly, it is a Training Unit with inmates ranging from 18 to 80. We like to think of it as a kind of "dry dock" where people can be prepared for their return to life in the world outside.

All this has made the Governor's work more varied and infinitely more interesting. Her duties include ultimate responsibility as industrial manager, finance officer, housekeeper, headmistress, welfare officer and Employment Exchange officer.

Training and daily work are combined, where possible, to give a girl better chances of employment on liberation. All fit prisoners must do a good day's work. Some are employed in our work-rooms, sewing or knitting by hand or electric machines. They make and repair their clothes and make shirts, jerseys, socks, sheets, pillow-cases, etc., for all Scottish prisons. Others work in the laundry or cook-house or on domestic work. An earnings-scheme provides petty cash for shopping in the canteen.

After work there are voluntary evening classes given by teachers from the City Education Department. Dressmaking and handicrafts, first aid and child care, housekeeping (and accounts linked with their own family incomes), class singing and acting in an occasional play, all combine to awaken an interest in home-making and to develop self-confidence.

I have also a small number of men prisoners who live in a separate building and are looked after by men officers. These men are employed on our heavy work, such as stoking boilers and loading stores. Here, too, we try to ensure that they get a fresh start when they go out and have interests to employ their leisure hours. Improvisation is essential in our life, and recently they wanted to learn cane-work. I had no instructor, so we solved it like Alice-through-the-Looking-Glass—a prisoner who is a skilled worker volunteered to teach an officer, and they then ran the class with great success. Very good for the man's morale and a great help to us.

Allocation of personal responsibilities is most

important in our training and our numbers are so small that we can know the inmates individually, which is the key to any hope of success in trying to solve their personal and family problems.

In the Scottish prisons we are fortunate as there is no overcrowding. Each prisoner has a room, heated and furnished, with bed, table, chair and shelves. She may have five photographs or pictures. She can have two books from the prison library.

We encourage interest in handicrafts to be done in leisure time, and often an odd piece of embroidery, or contriving a child's dress from our Aladdin's Cave of bits and pieces, has been a god-send in tiding over hours of anxiety. The officers and I are Jills-of-All-Trades and the Service training in being able to switch one's mind immediately from the serious to the ridiculous is equally essential for a prison officer.

The Governor's daily routine includes a visit to all parts of the prison where work is in progress (including evening classes). In the Orderly Room she interviews all "Admissions" and "Liberations" and takes any disciplinary cases (though these are comparatively rare). She interviews prisoners who have requests. She deals with the usual office administration, and generally has some problem to discuss with one of the chaplains or welfare workers attached to the staff. She sees prisoners' relatives. She visits the cook-house and tastes the prisoners' dinner. She visits the hospital ward and all sick prisoners, and all cases sent by the Courts for mental reports and observation. These cases provide considerable variety in a Governor's life. After a short while in the prison service, officers accept any story with equal equanimity, doubt, and quiet appreciation of the finer flights of fantasy.

There is, of course, much more to a Governor's work than these notes can indicate. She must plan training for officers as well as prisoners, and Civil Defence, too, has its problems. She works closely with the D.P.A.S. and After-Care Council and with welfare organisations, not only for prisoners but for their families. Finally, the prison service works in close co-operation with the police, and this can make life very interesting. The Governor has the privilege of an official seat in the High Court, and she should attend not only the opening of the court but whenever she can arrange to do so, for the invaluable experience to be gained there.

To sum up, I think that the qualities required in the prison service are those required of officers and warrant officers in the Corps. It is the "Silent Service" among Women's Services, but pay and allowances are good and it is absorbing work. When an ex-inmate does well it makes up for many difficulties and anxieties. One finds so much courage, great fortitude and loyalty among prisoners and their families that it helps one to put the "essentials" of life into correct perspective.

AIRBORNE ADVENTURE

One bright morning, a couple of months ago, I was seated in the office savouring a cup of coffee with Leila (my superior officer) when the telephone rang, which is not unusual.

The caller proved to be a Major "A" of the Airborne, requesting permission for one of our clerks to make an ascent in a balloon in the near future. Leila said politely that this was in order as far as she was concerned and added that she, too, would like to go up with the balloon and so would her subaltern; would that be all right with the Airborne? It was.

Garbed in slacks and sweaters we arrived at the jumping zone some days later at the uncivil hour of 8 a.m., at which time few things seem inviting and the prospect of ascending into the mist above very much the opposite; the Mess had, as one man, refused to believe at breakfast that we were about to get a bird's eye view of the surrounding countryside and it was probably only determination to show the sceptics that prevented me personally from discovering an urgent appointment elsewhere. Crowds of men in red berets were rushing or being marched across the field; an ambulance stood to one side, large containers of gas to another, various pieces of equipment to another. In the centre was the balloon.

This seemed to be a large silver one of orthodox pattern, simply enormous close to and gleaming dully in the grey light. Beneath it, dependent upon cables, swung a small wooden cabin: the balloon was held by cables to winches on a lorry and it will remain a source of perpetual surprise to me why the lorry did not go up instead of pulling the balloon down when the time came.

After we had been covertly inspected for a little while, a couple of little men bustled up and fitted us for size in parachutes; until then I had not appreciated the number of straps attached to a parachute or the queer number of places they encircle. My particular one seemed to weigh just under a hundredweight and wearing it made me adopt a crab-like gait which was no doubt highly amusing to onlookers. Shortly afterwards the silver monster heaved itself several hundred feet upwards and the first few bodies issued forth: the aerial mushrooms floated gently down and the whole exercise looked terribly easy.

A person then appeared from the cabin and made beckoning motions and I set off at my graceful shamle towards him. In picking up her parachute Leila had carefully heaved on the wrong strap and the whole contraption lay like a wilted white flower around her. The "fitters" then reappeared and began lengthening and shortening straps all over again. By this time I had reached the take off point and exchanged pleasantries with one or two bodies there who appeared to be very nicely garbed in space-suits and were also waiting for Leila so that they might make use of them. I heard a hoarse whisper on my right of, "Is she coming up on this one? How do you shout a lady officer, Jack?" Further debate and then a bellow of "Oy, Charlie!" was quickly followed by an officer's reproving "I doubt if she'll respond to that."

Once inside the cabin the R.A.F. representative present assured us that we could not possibly fall out (since one end was completely open there appeared to be no reason why we should not) and warned us that the cabin would "tilt a little" when the balloon took the strain. My own reaction was to wind myself round a metal pole in the middle and this was justified when the "little tilt" almost sent me running full speed out of the open end. Once up to the full length of the cables we swung gently in mid-air whilst our helmeted companions wished us a civil *au revoir* and disappeared, leaving us with the R.A.F. man who invited us to the open end to see the view. This was certainly well worth the wrench of leaving my comforting steel pole, although I suffered none of the discomfort felt by Leila, who had, upon entering, had her static line wound round her neck and clipped to the horizontal pole in the roof and was quite blue in the face before it was discovered that several more yards of static line, enabling her to move around in comfort, reposed in the chute carrier.

Our appetites whetted by the balloon trip, we decided to rise to greater heights, and intensified liaison with the Airborne to such good effect that in course of time we were given permission to go on the next flight from the nearby airport. For this we had to rise even earlier but fortunately did not have to wear parachutes.

This time we were in a Hastings aircraft of Transport Command, being strapped down with the rows of slightly surprised paratroopers for the take-off and freed when safely in mid-air. During the trip to the dropping-zone the air crew kindly gave us instruction on how to fly, navigate and generally maintain an aeroplane. Over a well-known plain not a hundred miles from London a variety of red and green lights appeared in the body of the plane and our escorts shuffled forward in two lines and fell gently into space. A rather bumpy landing back at the airport caused the pilot to appear in some confusion from his cabin and make apologetic noises in our direction, although this was all in the day's sport as far as we were concerned.

On our way home from the airport the aged vehicle which supplies our usual transport needs coughed gently and broke down, fortunately just outside a rather nice public house; we therefore advised the O.C. that we would be back a little later than expected, and the nearest garage that the car was outside the pub, and retired inside that place to debate on whether we knew anyone who had access to a helicopter.

Y.W.C.A. CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Y.W.C.A. Annual Fair was held at the Hyde Park Hotel on November 8 and 9, and this year the W.R.A.C. felt a special pride in its success, as Col. S. Cooke, C.B.E., T.D., was the Chairman of the organising committee.

As usual, the nursery stall was stocked by the three Women's Services. Thanks to the splendid support of the Service women, and the fine display of hand-made toys and garments which they contributed, this stall did a roaring trade and took a record total of £234 19s. 10d.

OCTOBER IN NAIROBI

MAJOR E. S. JACOBS

The jacaranda is coming out in Kenya at the moment of writing—indescribable, because it is the most beautiful blue in the world. The petals of this wonderful flowering tree retain their colour when they have fallen, so that the leafless branches, covered with blue blossom, are reflected in a pool at its foot. Even the city of Nairobi is glamorous when the blossom suddenly comes out, as the main street (called Delamere Avenue after the first man who saw the possibilities of Kenya as a white man's country) is lined with the trees, and there are many more planted on islands. But the real glory is coming suddenly round a corner and seeing a burst of colour brighter than the sky. Car routes are often planned round jacaranda trees, and a flight over the country is like floating over a bumpy lavender bed.

The flowers in Nairobi are a constant surprise and joy. To eyes accustomed to seeing "out of season" blooms exorbitantly priced in flower shops, the varieties for sale in the flower market for a few pence are still unbelievable. Some of the flowers have names unknown to the writer, but sweet peas, pansies, violets, primroses, anemones, gladioli, chrysanthemums, narcissi, freesias, lilies, carnations, roses, larkspur and delphiniums are all on sale today. Before operation "Anvil," flowers were also hawked in the streets, but this practice has now been prohibited.

Gardens are beautiful around the city. Colour runs riot with bougainvillea, countless kinds of fuchsia, and nandiflame high in the branches of the trees. Some of the flowers do not smell as strongly as the home varieties, but they are not scentless as in the Far East. Herbaceous borders sometimes make one nostalgic, and one garden visited had the most lovely lawn seen outside Britain, but gum trees, bamboo, and giant tree trunks of unknown origin, remind one that home is far away.

Mimosa and wattle fill the air with incredible sweetness at some times of the year. A mimosa tree in the W.R.A.C. compound retained its blossom and perfume for months, and the wattle forests are smelt before seen. Wattle bark is used for tanning, so that it has a real commercial use.

One of the most fascinating bushes is "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." It has a small flower with a shiny dark green leaf, and the blossom lasts three days—one-day lavender, the next a deep mauve, and the next white. It has a warm, rather sickly smell.

But the last word goes to the jacaranda. Occasionally a solitary one blossoms out of season—or even a few together on a ridge. There does not appear to be an explanation, nor is one needed when the pleasure is all for the onlooker.

DISTINCTION FOR THE W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

Lt.-Col. Lady Bowyer Smyth, O.B.E., T.D., who retired from the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) on November 10, 1954, was promoted Brevet Colonel on September 30, 1954, in recognition of her long service to the F.A.N.Y., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. (T.A.).



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NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Bath. A lot of time and hard work was put into the Jumble Sale held on November 6 in aid of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund, but we were well rewarded for our labours when the sum of £15 was forwarded to Headquarters.

The fortnightly meetings held at the Chairman's home still continue regularly, and although the attendance could be better, the few who do turn up are determined that their efforts will help to make the forthcoming sale of work successful. We do appeal to members who, for reasons of time or travel, cannot be with us to make at least one small article to help our sale. Our annual Christmas Supper was held on December 15 and proved highly successful, 22 members and friends attended, and an excellent meal of real Christmas fare was enjoyed by all.

Birmingham. Our Branch met for the Annual General Meeting in December in the transformed British Legion Headquarters. We hardly knew ourselves in such elegant surroundings.

We are sorry to say we are losing one of our most regular members, Mrs. Glover, who is going to live in Bournemouth. Also we fear that our retiring Secretary, Miss V. M. Norris, may not be able to visit us very often as she has "signed on" for 22 years. We hope both these members will join us whenever possible; we shall miss their presence very much.

In November we had a very successful dinner, attended by 56 members. Brigadier Lyall Grant was a most interesting speaker and one who took the time and trouble to read up his subject before the evening. It was pleasant to discover that one of our younger members could make such an entertaining speech of thanks, especially as she was only detailed on the way to the dinner. The one and only snag was an incurable draught, the chillness of which we hope to avoid next year by having the dinner a month earlier.

Bournemouth. The Branch was represented in the Ex-Service Associations' Parade at Bournemouth War Memorial on Remembrance Day, and 30 members and friends attended the Rally and Concert in the evening.

In spite of a thunderstorm, gales and torrential rain, there was quite a good attendance at the Annual General Meeting which was held on December 9. Our Chairman, Miss Rose, invited us to have this meeting in her flat at Boscombe and provided refreshments for us after business had been completed. We were delighted to have Miss Trotter with us again.

Bradford. The many friends of R.S.M. Suttle will be interested to know that after serving nine years in the A.T.S. she went back to the Civil Service, and for the last three years has been Secretary of the Bradford Branch of the W.R.A.C. Association. She is also a member of the Bradford Branch British Legion Executive Committee, Secretary of the W.R.A.C. Northern Area Conference, and a member of the Baildon Ladies' Section, British Legion.

The Bradford Branch celebrated Mrs. Suttle's birthday on November 15 by giving a birthday party. It was an open meeting and friends attended, many bringing gifts. Mrs. Mallinson spoke on behalf of the Ladies' Section of the British Legion, and Mrs. Madge Mitchell on behalf of the A.T.S. Mrs. Goodman who was the first Branch Secretary, and Mrs. Ward who was Secretary for seven years, also spoke. All paid tribute to Mrs. Suttle's organising ability and all spoke in affectionate terms of her ability to gather friends around her to work for the Branch endeavours. On behalf of the Branch, the Chairman then presented a huge cluster of chrysanthemums. "Happy Birthday" and "She's a Jolly Good Fellow" were then sung.

Mrs. Suttle thanked all present, and said that all the work she did was only a continuation of service. The meeting continued with dancing and games, and the members went home feeling that Mrs. Suttle had put a new meaning to "service."

Bristol. The Annual Dinner on October 19, held in St. John's Church Hall, Whiteladies Road, was not so well attended as last year. The Guest of Honour was Flight Officer M. Westover, W.R.A.F.

A varied and interesting programme has been arranged for the next six months.

Quite a new departure from our normal events is a Bulb Competition; bulbs planted in pots in September by the entrants will be judged some time in the New Year. "Christmas Gifts," the subject for November, proved very interesting. Mrs. Rolls, W.V.S., gave a demonstration of how to make soft toys for children, artificial flowers, and lamp shades.

Several members, including the Standard Bearer, took part in the British Legion Festival of Remembrance on November 6, and attended the Cenotaph Service next day.

At the Annual General Meeting and election of Officers there was little change, with the exception of Welfare Officer, now Miss E. Walker, Q.M.A.A.C., instead of Mrs. Rawlings, A.T.S., who has resigned.

We have been asked by Mrs. Burrows, who served in the Q.M.A.A.C. as Miss E. M. Edwards and was stationed at Trowbridge, Wilts, and Parkhurst, I.O.W., if anyone remembers her. She would be glad to get in touch with old comrades.

Edinburgh. Hallowe'en was celebrated at our November meeting by a party. Many weird and wonderful games were played and apples were "bobbed" for with great gusto.

The Annual General Meeting was held in December and many members were present, despite a very heavy snowfall.

The Children's Party was held on December 11. Santa appeared with a well-filled sack towards the end of the afternoon and provided a fitting climax to the party.

We were all thrilled by the news that Her Majesty The Queen had conferred the M.B.E. on one of our members, Mrs. C. W. Eckford. Congratulations and well done, Mrs. Eckford.

Hartlepool. The four of us who attended the Northern Area reunion at York thoroughly enjoyed ourselves—even though we had to leave rather early to catch our train back home.

The October meeting was well attended, one of our members bringing along a visitor who served with some of us during the early days of the war.

Our annual business meeting, held in November, although disappointing in numbers, managed to dispose of all the items on the agenda. The Chairman, President, Secretary and Treasurer were all re-elected. The new Committee elected were as follow: Miss D. Roe, Miss E. Trenchman, Miss R. Denham and Miss M. Halatt.

At the December meeting we were entertained by Miss N. McAuslan, an ex-W.R.E.N., who gave a talk on "Life in the W.R.N.S." It proved very entertaining as well as educational.

Iford. Our monthly meetings continue with a good average attendance. On November 6, 13 of us attended the afternoon performance of the Festival of Britain at the Albert Hall. It was a very inspiring occasion, and it is at such times that one feels more than usual, perhaps, the pride of being an "Old Comrade."

Afterwards we went to the Club for dinner to round off a very pleasant outing.

London. On October 7 we held our second Handicraft Competition. There were not so many entries as last year, but the high standard of the work submitted was maintained. Once again Miss McNeil and Miss Hargreaves were kind enough to come along and judge the entries. On October 21 Miss Binks was in charge of the proceedings, and we had an amusing evening playing "One Minute, Please." We held a Bring and Buy Sale on November 4, on which we made £7 10s. In response to a request from the Women's Section of the British Legion, Redhill Branch, Miss Heaney went to their meeting on November 8, and talked to them on her personal experiences in the Q.M.A.A.C. This talk was very well received by the audience of about 60, and Miss Heaney was complimented on giving them such an interesting and enjoyable evening. Our Annual General Meeting took place on December 2 with Miss E. Thompson in the chair, and on the 16th we held our usual Christmas Party. Our party went with its usual swing, thanks mainly to hard work by Mrs. Giles and Mrs. E. Richards. It is impossible to mention by name all members who helped in refreshments and thinking up competitions and games, but we thank them for their part in making the evening a success.

On October 16, 64 of us sat down to our Annual Dinner at the Service Women's Club, with Miss Edith Thompson presiding. Since our Dinner at the Club, we have come to expect nothing but the very best from Miss McNeil and her band of helpers, and we were not disappointed. The meal was excellent, cooked to perfection and served piping hot. Needless to say, there were no complaints. To Miss McNeil and all her helpers we say a very big "Thank you."

Our guests were Dame Frances Coulshed and Mrs. Lumsden, and we were very happy to have them with us. We were quite pleased to learn

that our Dinner was Dame Frances's first engagement since she left the Service, and she delighted us with her experiences when attending Clarence House for her audience with H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

As usual, by popular demand Dame Helen, Miss Ireland and Miss Druitt gave us a few cheery words. We were most pleased to see Miss Hatfield who, in spite of all her difficulties, came along to spend the evening with us.

It was interesting to note that in spite of the bus strike and accompanying travel difficulties, we had no absentees at all; a tribute to the popularity of this particular function. After the dinner, a few songs and Auld Lang Syne rounded off the evening—together a most enjoyable time.

Lonsdale. In spite of bad weather on meeting nights we had a fairly good attendance for November and December. We were fortunate in our November meeting in having Mrs. L. I. Cowper to talk to us about the life in India 40 years ago. Most of us remembered Mrs. Cowper from the war days, when she used to give us so many interesting talks at No. 4 A.T.S. Training Centre, and it was nice seeing her again.

Our December meeting was in the form of a party given by our Chairman, Col. J. M. Cowper, at her home. A good time was had by all, and at least most of us know a giraffe can be made out of a sheet of newspaper without using implements.

We can now boast a membership of 18, which is quite good, considering our Branch is so young. We would like to extend a welcome to any serving W.R.A.C., as well as ex-Service members visiting the area, to join us at our meetings and in any social activities.

Manchester. Our Branch continues to hold its meetings every alternate Tuesday.

We recently paid a visit to Cheetham's Hospital for Boys, in Manchester, and were escorted round the buildings by one of the senior boys, and the history of this ancient college explained to us. We were most interested to see the old dress which the boys wear on ceremonial occasions, and the library with its magnificent collection held us enthralled.

We held our Annual Dinner in November, and although we were sorry that a few older members could not be with us, we did have some new faces, which we hope to see more of at our meetings.

We are very happy to have with us at our meetings, Miss Jean Penny, who has after nearly eight years in hospital now fully recovered and is home for good. We wish Jean good health in the future, and hope to see her regularly at our Tuesday "get-togethers."

In December we paid a visit to the Television Studio in Manchester, where we were fortunate enough to watch the programme "Top Town Parade" being televised. This was extremely interesting, and we were all intrigued by the many cameras and microphones all over the set. It was a great pity that our members could not have been televised.

We are very much hoping that quite a few of our members will be able to attend the Reunion in London this year.



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

You may say that you find it hard enough to save in "Civvy Street" so how on earth can you do so in the Services? However, if you think about it seriously there is no better time to start—if you haven't already done so. Every unit in all the services "lays on" National Savings facilities and the Unit Savings Officer will be only too pleased to help would-be savers.

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.

Norfolk. Branch meetings have been fairly well attended this autumn. Members have supported the Raffle well—the prizes brought in are many and varied, and will be drawn for at the New Year's Party on January 5.

It is with regret that the Hon. Secretary records the passing of Mrs. I. Blackburn, *nee* Warner, Q.M.A.A.C. Mrs. Blackburn, although a victim of creeping paralysis, who spent most of her married life in a wheel chair, was a good supporter of the Branch.

Christmas greetings have been received from Molly Howes, Kenya Colony; Miss R. Batty, Australia; the late Mrs. Peachey's family, Australia; Mrs. Gordon (Smithy), Canada; Miss M. Saffey, Vancouver, B.C.; Mrs. Baker, *nee* Selva, Canada; and many others.

The Branch sends its best wishes to them and all Old Comrades for 1955.

North Staffs. The long-awaited coffee evening took place at the November meeting, when we were very delighted to have Mrs. Jupp, M.B.E., from Stafford, with us. After a racy speech by her, the sale was declared open and our goods were very quickly sold out. All our members had rallied round and brought their friends who were prepared to support us, and nearly £25 was raised in quite a short time. We sent a cheque for £20 to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund and one for £5 to the local "Meals on Wheels" fund for old people.

The party in December was great fun, Mrs. Smith as usual providing an excellent supper. It was decided to have the annual dinner and general meeting on January 14.

Nottingham. This Branch was re-formed in September, and although our numbers are at present small, our hopes are high.

In October we held a small Whist Drive, to which our members brought their friends, and a very pleasant evening it proved to be.

On November 27 we held a Bring and Buy sale, and increased our funds by almost £10. We should like to express our sincere thanks to all those who helped in any way, and we now look forward to our Spring Fair.

We are planning an interesting programme for 1955, and hope that present members will bring along many ex-Service friends.

Oxford. Meetings every first Monday in the month at 7.30 p.m. at T.A. H.Q., Manor Road, Oxford.

Southampton. Meetings of the Southampton Branch will in future be on the first Tuesday of each month instead of on the first Wednesday.

Western Area. The Western Area Committee of the W.R.A.C. Association has been resuscitated and met on November 10, 1954, at the Headquarters of the Cheshire T. and A.F. Association. Branch Secretaries in the area are asked to confirm their names and addresses to the Secretary of the Area Committee, c/o A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command, and to keep her informed of any future changes.

Wolverhampton. On the night of the October meeting, the Secretary knew how an actress feels on her first night, assailed with doubts and des-

pondency from all sides. The main worry was, would our members turn out on a wet, sticky evening sufficiently to give Mrs. G. Edwards, the Beauty Counsellor, the support that she deserved; but in the end we were not disappointed. We were delighted to see Capt. Lonsdale, the Recruiting Officer for Wolverhampton, and her sergeant arrive. It seems that Dorothy Haydon served in her platoon some time during the war. Thus a new element was introduced into the Branch, that of serving members. A very pleasant surprise for older members of the Branch was the arrival of Mrs. Snowden, our founder member, who turned up despite a long car ride from Hagley, near Kidderminster, where she now resides. We look forward to seeing her more often.

The demonstration was extremely interesting and instructive. A "volunteer," in the shape of Dorothy Haydon, was a rather amusing model, as she seemed to be overawed at the proceedings, but the result was positively enchanting, and our glamorous hussy could hardly wait to meet her spouse to show him her new beauty. We had a very nice "spread," for which a small charge was made. This is an innovation which has proved popular.

Mrs. Vizard, our President, gave a vote of thanks to our guest, Mrs. Edwards, and at the same time appealed to us to try to make our meetings a "must" each month. It seems that she has been approached to disband the Branch, but, as she pointed out, whilst only a few of us can manage the meetings, we still have our Branch.

Fog spoiled our November meeting, as only five members managed to get through and the business could not be carried out in full. We also had bad weather for our visit to the new T.A. centre, Wolseley House, which was arranged by one of our members, Capt. M. C. Miller, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), but nine brave souls splashed through the rain and mud to see this lovely building, with its lecture rooms, miniature rifle range, stores, Messes and offices. We stood in the W.R.A.C. rest room—the essence of comfort and elegance—and remembered our Nissen hut with its smoky old stove.

At the December meeting we welcomed two new members, Miss W. Jones of Walsall and Mrs. E. Plummer of Wolverhampton, and we also welcomed back to the fold Mrs. J. Rhead, of Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent.

DIDCOT REUNION

The annual tea party for ex-members of Didcot Garrison Group will be on Saturday, March 19, 1955, in "The King Charles Suite," Whitehall Court, London. Time, 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets, 5s., obtainable from Mrs. E. Wagstaff, 2 Tierney Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.2.

NOTICE TO UNIT BRANCHES

The list of Branches which is held by the Secretary of the Association is so obviously out of date that we dare not publish it. Will all unit Branches please confirm the address of the unit and the name of the Secretary to the H.Q. of the Association by March 15, 1955, in order that the list may be published in the May number.



UNIFORMS

Tailored to measure uniforms can be

supplied with rank and ribbons.

TAILORS TO THE SERVICES FOR 70 YEARS

MOSS BROS
OF COVENT GARDEN

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

NEWS FROM THE T.A.

A.A. Command. The W.R.A.C. (T.A.) has been dealt a bitter blow by the decision to reorganise the whole system of anti-aircraft defence. The mixed units of A.A. Command form a large and enthusiastic section of the T.A., and many years of devoted work have brought them to a high pitch of training and morale. The news that in a few months' time A.A. Command would cease to exist as such and the A.A. trades would be closed to the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) came as a shock from which the mixed units are only just beginning to recover.

Fortunately, in A.A. no disaster is admitted to be a knock-out blow and, after much practice in manning primitive mob-sites on wet week-ends, the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) is used to making the best of an uncongenial situation. Before the War Office had announced more than the skeleton of their policy, the units had begun their practical planning. The break-up of a long, happy partnership is bound to be a sad business, but, though 1955 will see the end of the mixed R.A. units, it will see the beginning of many new W.R.A.C. (T.A.) platoons in the Home Commands and the strengthening of many others by a sudden doubling of their numbers. The women of A.A. Command, with all their training and experience, still have a great contribution to make to the country's defences, and they are accepting their new destiny with a cheerfulness, resourcefulness and common-sense in keeping with their great tradition.

428 (M) H.A.A. Regiment R.A. (T.A.). "The Green Gunners," the Islanders name for 428th The Princess Beatrice's (Isle of Wight Rifles) (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.) conveniently draws attention to the twin traditions of Gunners and Rifles. The regiment recently staged an exhibition in Newport in order to make all Islanders even more aware of their own Regiment and to attract recruits. A historical section told of doings of the Regiment and its predecessor, the Militia, and showed the Colours presented in 1798, some uniforms of the same period, the full dress uniform worn by H.M. King George V as Colonel-in-Chief, and the Regimental Silver. The latter includes the ceremonial sword presented by the Regiment to their first Honorary Colonel, H.R.H. Prince Henry of Battenberg, who bequeathed it to the Regiment on condition that it was always worn by the Commanding Officer on Inspections. Since then the Honorary Colonel has always been a member of the Royal Family, the present Colonel being Admiral the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, whose recorded voice "opened" the Exhibition.

Other exhibits included an extensive display of photographs, all of members of the Regiment taken during the last year's activities, and many technical "side shows." A special stand was devoted to W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and the response was good, but unfortunately the policy announcement a fortnight later put an end to all W.R.A.C. recruiting.

A popular item was "Forces Favourites," in which girls or mothers came to hear records chosen for them by their boy friends or sons serving overseas.

Before leaving, spectators were given a display of "The Thing," advertised as the answer to the Flying Bedstead. A fearsome array of tubes and switches subjected a model of a Flying Bedstead to a beam which, the operator claimed, induced premature metal fatigue. Amidst a deafening uproar the model, suspended by a rope from the ceiling, was seen to vibrate in a manner no aircraft or pilot could endure for long. There were many puzzled faces.

The Exhibition obtained an excellent press as well as being featured on the B.B.C. West of England news. The results were most heartening, both from the recruiting point of view and from the interest taken by all sections of the Island in their local Regiment.

The present upheaval in the A.A. world means that the Regiment must reluctantly say good-bye to their faithful and enthusiastic W.R.A.C., even if it survives the holocaust itself.

"C" Company, 314 (Scottish Command) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.). The Company had a stall at a "Hobbies and Handicrafts" Exhibition in Dumfries, organised by the Rotary Club from September 21 to 25. The stall was arranged in three parts. In the right-hand corner was a table on which were displayed the sports, drill, and handicrafts trophies held by the Company, and also some handicrafts. Other specimens of handicraft, notably embroidery and knitting, were draped on the walls behind the table. A number of these items had won prizes at Services Exhibitions held in 1953 in Edinburgh and London.

On the table in the left corner was a display of sweets and shortbreads, repeats of those which had won certificates at a competition held at Dreghorn on the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal last May. On the wall behind this table were a number of photographs, mostly of members of the Company, showing the various aspects of W.R.A.C. (T.A.) activities both at work and at play. To the side was hanging a scarf, property of one of the sergeants, on which was a large collection of (mostly war-time) Divisional signs which attracted a lot of public interest.

The centre-piece of the stall was the cooks' masterpiece. It was a three-tier stand: on the top shelf were a selection of decorative sweets; on the second, iced cakes; and on the lowest shelf a colourful selection of savouries. On the wall at the back of this stand was a W.R.A.C. Shield, and directly below this a photograph of H.R.H. The Princess Royal inspecting the W.R.A.C. Parade at Dreghorn in which some members of the Company took part.

Considerable interest was shown in this stall, and though we hope it may be the means of attracting new recruits, we feel that its real achievement was in showing the public what the women can learn during their training in the W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

51st Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). This Squadron was indeed lucky—for the second year running—to go to Annual Camp with 11th A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. This meant travelling

to the South of England, and for several of the girls this was their first trip out of Scotland.

The Regiment gave us a wonderful welcome and an even more impressive send-off, with more people to speed us on our way than there are in the Squadron, and including the Scottish R.S.M. and Regimental Piper. For an all-female unit it is obviously a great advantage to be adopted temporarily by one with many more men than girls, and the social life was varied and excellent, particularly with Weymouth and its bright lights so near at hand. There were also invitations from H.M. ships stationed at Portland. As well as all the fun, a great deal of useful work was done, the first week mostly preparatory, with excellent refresher lectures and practical work, all leading up to a full-scale scheme. The Squadron ran its own Signal Centre within the scheme, and through trial and error learnt a great deal in a very concentrated few days. Altogether a most worth-while fortnight.

"London Gazette"

HONOURS AND AWARDS

New Year Honours:

M.B.E.: Lt. (Q.M.) E. E. Harrison, Lt. A. Ross (T.A.), W.O.II K. O. Ryan (T.A.).

B.E.M.: S/Sgt. K. N. Dicker, S/Sgt. J. B. Mounson, Sgt. M. D. Elrick, Sgt. M. E. Honeybone.

First Clasp to T.D.:

Lt.-Col. V. M. McRobert, T.D. (T.A.).

T.D.: W.R.A.C. (T.A.):

Majors M. Last, The Lady M. V. Bruce, V. Burke, M.B.E., S. M. Pemberty; Capts. G. Mc M. Bruce, M. E. Dunbavand, J. D. Whitehouse; Lt. A. J. Climo.

A.T.S.—C. Capt. J. C. T. Schwabe, S. Comd. M. F. Mather, J. Comd. M. W. Ridsdale.

First Clasp to Efficiency Medal:

Lt. G. E. Stead (T.A.).

Efficiency Medal: A.T.S.:

J. Comd. I. J. L. Bouch, Subs. G. Chamberlain, A. C. Romilly, B. E. Ford (now Capt. Clenys-Jones, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)).

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Brigadier and Honorary A.D.C. to H.M. The Queen: Col. M. Railton, C.B.E.

Colonel: C. W. Hull, O.B.E., T.D.; A. C. D. Hind, M.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel: M. M. Berry.

Major: H. Gildea, L. E. Nicholson, N. J. Pike, D. M. Holmes, C. M. Mould, M. N. Jamieson, A. M. H. Byers, B. Paget-Clarke, D. A. Crofton, P. Norman, B. M. Mercalfe.

Captain: M. Crossfield, M. A. Riley, M. P. Gordon, R. Marsh, J. Buncher, B. I. F. Adam.

Lieutenant: I. Anderson, E. E. Russell, M. Gunning, A. J. H. Hodgkinson, J. A. C. Thompson, S. A. Reid, J. M. Hayes, A. Bray, D. I. Presswell.

Lieutenant (Q.M.): M. Ashworth, E. E. Harrison.

Second Lieutenant: I. Anderson, J. C. Swann, P. A. Pleasance, J. Money, E. M. Bryant, H. M. Phillips, A. M. Dobson, F. M. Spring, G. M. C. Paton, P. A. Hopkins, A. Sunnucks, S. F. B. Proctor, E. M. M. S. D. King, A. G. Bryce, J. M. Newcombe, P. R. Bryans, G. G. Hadfield, M. H. Brailey, B. A. Rooney, B. M. Laverack, I. J. G. M. Lindsay, M. Imeson.

Short Service Commissions

Major: P. R. Adye, E. E. Ashe.

Captain: J. M. V. Howell, I. G. Bilham, L. T. Janvrin, C. A. Dean.

Lieutenant: M. Wimbury, D. M. Brampton, C. M. d'E de Charmoy, W. P. Miller.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retirements on retired pay: Brigadier Dame M. F. Coulshed, D.B.E., T.D.; Col. S. Cooke, C.B.E., T.D.

Retirement with gratuity: Major M. H. Mackenzie, M.B.E.

Resignations: Capt. M. E. Davison; Lts. B. B. Beardsworth, M. W. J. Gray, K. N. Charles, A. J. H. Burgess, A. M. E. Hurst, E. E. MacDonald; 2/Lts. A. M. Liveing, B. Sutcliffe, R. M. Harris, M. M. Franks.

Short Service Commissions

Relinquishment on completion of service: Capt. F. St. M. Blower.

Resignations: Capts. I. B. Watt, B. M. Clarke; 2/Lts. B. B. Bernacki, P. A. Brindley.

SPORT

Hockey. The first Western Command and Mid-West District Hockey Tournament of the present season was held at Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury, on Sunday, November 21. Six teams were entered from W.R.A.C. and W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Units in Mid-West District, and were divided by ballot into two sections. Two points were given for a win and one for a draw, plus an extra point for each goal scored. In order to obtain final placings, the first, second and third of each section then played against each other, and the results were as follow:

1st	329 (W. Comd.) Bn. W.R.A.C. (T.A.)	2 wins
		1 draw
2nd	16 Independent Coy., W.R.A.C.	1 win
		2 draws
3rd	69 (Salop and Hereford)	1 win
	Independent Coy, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)	1 draw
4th	15 Independent Coy, W.R.A.C.	3 draws
5th	322 (N. Wales) Bn., W.R.A.C. (T.A.)	1 win
6th	2 Independent Coy., W.R.A.C.	1 draw

At the close of play, Major Tansley Witt, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Chairman, Mid-West District (Women's) Sports Committee, who, despite the very cold weather, had been an interested spectator, presented the Western Command and Mid-West District Cups to the captain of the winning team, Lt. M. Cooke, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Netball. The Inter-Command Netball Festival was held at the Wand-Tetley Gymnasium, Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, on Friday and Saturday, December 3-4, 1954. Six teams competed, and the festival was run as an American tournament—each Command playing five matches.

The general standard of play in Command teams has risen considerably during the past year, and there were many hotly contested games.

The final result was as follows:

1st	Southern Command	5 wins
2nd	Northern Command	4 „
3rd	Eastern Command	3 „
4th	Scottish Command	2 „
5th	B.A.O.R.	1 win
6th	Western Command	0 wins

Col. E. S. Macfie, D.D.W.R.A.C., presented the cup to the winning team.

At this festival, 14 players were selected to remain in Guildford for the Army netball trials and a two-day coaching course at the W.R.A.C. Depot kindly given by Miss E. Lewis (Chelsea College of Physical Education).

The following players were selected to represent the Army in a match against the Civil Service Netball Association on Tuesday, December 7, 1954:

	Name	Command
Shooter	L/Cpl. Hawkes	Northern
Attack	Pte. Rose	Southern
Attacking centre	Cpl. Barnett	Southern
Centre	S.M.I. Marmont	Southern
Defending centre	S.I. Willard	Eastern
Defence	2/Lt. Watts	Northern
Goalkeeper	Cpl. Mills	Southern

The Army were successful in winning the first match of the season by 16—14.

PERSONAL

For charges and particulars please see Contents page.

For Sale.—British Warm. Height 5 ft. 5 in.; bust 34-36 in.; cheap. Mrs. Pooley, 52 Chancellor House, Tunbridge Wells.

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 Dress Jacket and Skirt (Simpsons). Height 5 ft. 10½ in.; bust 40 in.; waist 36 in.; hips 42 in. Hardly worn, Cost £36 10s., will accept £20. Hat size 7, £2 10s.; gloves, size 7½, £1; green satchel, £1 10s. Battle dress and skirt: height 5 ft. 10 in.; bust 38-41 in.; waist 30-33 in.; hips 43-44 in., £3. Khaki Baratheia cap, size 7, £1. All of these items are in practically new condition. Box No. 1/55.

For Sale.—£4. Khaki Greatcoat, officer's. Height 5 ft. 4 in.; bust 36 in. Write Mrs. Hurst, Frenchgate House, Richmond, Yorkshire.

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 Dress—good condition. Height 5 ft. 6 in.; bust 34 in.; hips 38 in.; waist 26 in.; cap, size 6½; gloves (new) 7½; handbag. Sold together or separately. Miss M. Smith, Croft House School, Shillingstone, Dorset.

For Sale.—Officer's Khaki Greatcoat. Height 5 ft. 7 in.; bust 36 in.; hips 38 in. Also British warm and khaki cap, size 6½. Apply Mrs. D. Druett, Cranston, St. Michaels Road, Blundellsands, Liverpool 23.

For Sale.—British Warm by Burberry, 46 in. long, good condition, £10. Regulation shoes by Tricker, size 5, nearly new, £3. Apply Mrs. G. D. Browne, Rixlade, Stoke Hill, Exeter. Tel.: 3646.

Wanted.—Sgt. Clerk—Type R—for W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Company at Aldershot. Must be ex-Regular or ex-T.A. N.C.O. Enquiries: O.C. "B" Company, 310 (S.C.) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Beaumont Barracks, Aldershot.

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 CAL 4952.

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.

Come and spend your holiday at Trelawne, Lancaster Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea. 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.

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.

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

Obituary

Miss R. S. Andrews

Mrs. E. M. Kelly writes:

Many Old Comrades will learn with regret of the passing of Miss R. S. Andrews on November 17, 1954. Bobbie Andrews will be remembered as the one-time Honorary Secretary of the London Branch. Although for some time she had been unable to take an active part in O.C.A. affairs her home was "an ever open door," especially during the Second World War. She filled a unique niche and kept alive the true spirit of comradeship. Her fortitude and courage, especially during her illness, has amazed everyone. To those who have had the privilege of knowing her intimately it is an irreparable loss, and on behalf of my comrades I shall say: "Adieu, and not good-bye."

Miss F. Whyman (Ex-W.O.II)

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Miss Florence Whyman, who passed away at her home at East Farleigh, Kent, on November 6, 1954.

Miss Whyman was one of the original Territorial members of the A.T.S. and served for a period of 15 years (mostly with R.A.O.C.) at Derby, Bordon, Donnington and Middlesbrough. She was invalided from the W.R.A.C. in April, 1954, whilst stationed at Chilwell.

The Service was her "life," and throughout it she had the affection and respect of all who came into contact with her. A number of her old comrades from Chilwell were present at her funeral, which took place at Charing, Kent, on November 12, 1954.

Births

Bell.—On September 12, 1954, to Pamela (formerly J. Comd. Pliver, A.T.S.), wife of Kenneth Bell, a son (Robert Oliver). Present address: 86 Christchurch House, Streatham Hill, S.W.2.

McCandlish.—On November 28, 1954, to Pauline (formerly Capt. Squirrel, W.R.A.C.), wife of Major-General J. E. C. McCandlish, a daughter. Present address: Merivale, Ockham Road, East Horsley, Surrey.

VICTORY PARADE 1946

Will anyone owning a copy of the Christmas card showing the A.T.S. contingent in the Victory Parade of 1946 be kind enough to present it to the W.R.A.C. Museum for inclusion in the collection of photographs.



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from Bakeries

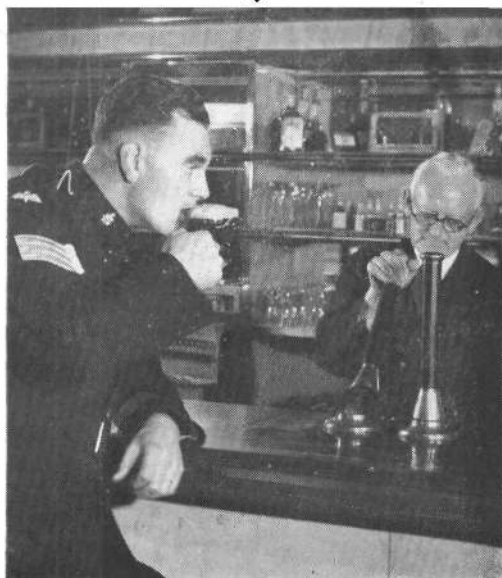
to beer

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Over 30 bakeries in the United Kingdom alone make and supply the cakes and confections delivered daily to Naafi clubs and canteens throughout the country. In London, a special experimental department studies the latest catering methods and constantly provides new recipes. Skilled staff and modern methods ensure that only the best of fare is provided for Servicemen.

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