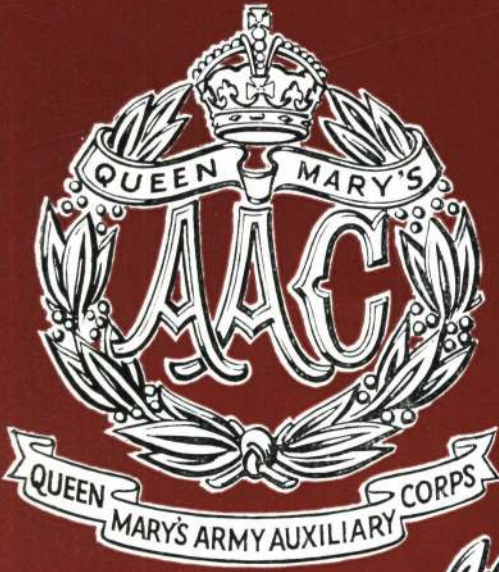


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Contents

	PAGE
Editorial	19
Farewell to Ack-Ack	20
"Detachments Rear"	20
Last of the Regular Mixed H.A.A. Regiments	21
Salute from the T.A.	21
Random Recollections of A.A. Command	22
Guest Night with the Gunners	22
Ack-Ack in Belgium, 1944-45	23
Services No Longer Required	23
Over the Water	24
Final Flourish in 4 A.A. Group	24
London to Hastings	24
Reunion Weekend	25
Annual General Meeting	25
Report of Council	26
Miss B. Ireland, M.B.E.	27
"London Gazette"	27
Danmarks Lottekorps	28
With the Norges Lotteforbund	29
Royal Signals Association, Scottish Reunion ..	30
Drum and Fife at Trent Bridge	31
Sport	32
Obituary	32
News from the T.A.	34
News from the Branches	35
Personal	38
Unit Branches	39
List of Branch Secretaries	40

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GOOD-BYE TO THE GUNS



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXVIII

May 1955

No. 2

EDITORIAL

In the days before we were personally concerned, we used to wonder why an editor should always speak in the plural—sharing that distinction, as far as we could see, only with Royalty and the brighter type of hospital nurse. We still cannot explain the other categories (“*We are not amused*,” for instance, or “*Now, off with our pyjamas and let’s look at our spots*”), but we are in no doubt at all about ourselves. Since Mrs. Sandeman-Allen was appointed as Assistant Editor, of course, there are literally two of us, but this is not the whole explanation. The truth is that an editor’s interests are so varied, his character has so many facets, he is expected to be an expert on so many subjects, that it would be an insult to regard him as a single individual.

Take, for example, our reading matter. From the limited field of the simple soldier (comics, thrillers and Army Council Instructions), it has spread over a sphere so wide and cosmopolitan that we need several brains to assimilate it. As we go to press, a strike has relieved the rest of the public of the need to read any newspapers at all, but the editorial in-tray is full of fascinating periodicals. First there is *Bellone* (Revue des Forces Féminines Françaises), forty pages produced with true Parisian chic, which comes out every two months and rivals any women’s magazine in interest and attraction. We skim the letterpress to see if it raises any subject on which we feel qualified to comment (such as “*Ou est la plume de ma tante*?”) and then turn to the fashion-articles and hair-styles which we find extremely educational. Next we take up the latest issue of *De Danske Lotte*, but as our Danish needs even more brushing-up than our French, we have to content ourselves with looking at the many delightful pictures and guessing at the captions beneath them. Why, we ask (perhaps with a touch of insularity), must the Danes go on writing selfishly in Danish, when we can see from an article in this issue of *The Lioness* that their English is rather better than our own?

Switching our mind from the A-line to the A-bomb, we open the *Australian Defence Newsletter*, published by Australia House. We speak fluent Australian and have no difficulty (at least from the linguistic point of view) in understanding the strategic, tactical and administrative problems of the Australian Defence Forces. With yet another switch of our multiple personality, we turn to the *Consumer Report*, a quarterly review of the British Standards Institution. Representing as we do the most selective and intelligent section of British womanhood, we are interested to find how much we owe to this organisation, which has planted its re-assuring standard-mark on mattresses and measuring-cups, dustbins and draining-boards,

and is now setting up a Women’s Advisory Committee to air the problems of the female shopper. We thank all the editors who have placed us on the distribution-lists of these papers, and assure them that as the result we are growing not only broad-minded, but actually hydra-headed.

Our daily reading also includes correspondence from readers all over the world. We started the Quarter with a belated Christmas card from Mrs. Gordon (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.) in Alberta, and we ended it with a letter from Mrs. Wylie (Sub. Lucas, A.T.S.) in Johore. We have not room to publish or even acknowledge all the letters we receive, but we should like all our correspondents to know how much we welcome their bulletins of news.

We have kept all our heads above water so far, except on one occasion. When a trusting publisher asked us to review a book called *Teach Yourself Judo*, we were obliged to reply that this side of our character is still too immature to be entrusted with the task. While we were still brooding over this defeat, we opened the last letter in the tray. It was from an unknown gentleman who offered (for a small consideration) to write, edit and produce *The Lioness* for us. We bravely replied that, plural as we are, we are not yet quite as plural as all that.

Forthcoming Events

May		
25	Tennis, Army v. Essex County Ladies	Colchester
June		
4	Tennis, Army v. Civil Service Ladies	Chiswick
5	Tennis, Army v. United Banks Ladies	London Area
11	Tennis, Army v. Bedford Ladies’ College	Regent’s Park
July		
1-2	Athletics, Army Individual Championships	Woolwich
10	Tennis, Army v. B.B.C. Ladies	Motspur Park
16	Tennis, Army v. Polytechnic Ladies	Chiswick
20	Athletics, Inter-Service Championships	Aldershot
23	Athletics, Triangular Match (Combined Women’s Services v. Combined Universities v. Southern Counties)	London Area
23	Tennis, Army v. Roehampton Club	Roehampton
27	Twelfth Passing-Out Parade of Officer Cadets	Hindhead

FAREWELL TO ACK-ACK

Message from the G. O. C.-in-C., A.A. Command

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR MAURICE CHILTON, K.B.E., C.B.

I wish to send a special message of appreciation to all the women who have served in Anti-Aircraft Command in the A.T.S. and later in the W.R.A.C. in both peace and war. In doing so, I know that I speak for all the men who have served together with them in the "mixed" units of the Command.

At the outset, the inclusion of women in operational units, not only in Signals and the "control and reporting system" but also in artillery regiments to work the instruments controlling the fire of the guns, was a revolutionary experiment. We all now know how immensely successful this experiment was and how very greatly the efficiency of the Command gained thereby. The keenness, efficiency and skill of the W.R.A.C. has won our admiration.

It is sad that the recent reorganisation has made it impossible for mixed artillery regiments to be included in the new order of battle. The Royal Regiment of Artillery loses thereby.

I wish to thank you all for your services to Anti-Aircraft Command in all the various arms of the Service in which you have served and, on behalf of the gunners of A.A. Command, I thank you for your service to the guns.

MAURICE CHILTON.

"DETACHMENTS REAR"

In a few weeks' time the last "fall out" will have been given for A.A. Command and the once-familiar cries will remain only as an echo in the memory of all ranks who served in it.

It has been said that a happy country is one which has no history, but I am sure that the A.T.S. who shared in the making of the history of Anti-Aircraft Command found it a happy and rewarding occupation.

At the outbreak of the war the only jobs available for the A.T.S. were as cooks, clerks, orderlies, storewomen and drivers. Gen. Sir Frederick Pile, then G.O.C.-in-C., Anti-Aircraft Command, had more ambitious ideas about the employment of women. As early as 1939 he started investigating the possibility of using women to replace men in an operational role with heavy anti-aircraft and searchlight units. War Office approval was finally obtained in March, 1941, and the training of the first (M.) H.A.A. Regiments started shortly afterwards. As a direct result of this decision, women ceased to be "camp followers" and became part of the Armed Forces of the Crown and eligible for employment on combatant duties for the first time in history.

From the very beginning the experiment was a success. The women in these units—cooks and clerks no less than instrument numbers and radar operators—felt themselves to be part of a team; they knew they were doing a worthwhile job and sharing equally with the men the boredom, dis-

appointments, dangers and excitement of a gun site in war-time. They were drawn from all walks of life and their ages varied from 18 to 48, but they had three things in common: they were volunteers, they were fit and they were keen.

In September, 1941, the Press reported that a mixed battery had been in action. This announcement was only slightly premature, as (M.) H.A.A. units did open fire on November 1 and scored a Category I success on December 8, 1941.

The employment of A.T.S. with searchlight units developed side by side with H.A.A. and Z (Rocket) Regiments and culminated in the formation of 93 Searchlight Regiment, which operated with great success in the London area and was the only women's searchlight regiment in the world.

The greatest triumph of the A.T.S. was during the flying-bomb attacks in the summer and autumn of 1944. The contribution which the mixed regiments made at that time to the final victory is a matter of history, but even before victory came their work was over and the run-down of A.A. Command began. Most of the mixed units were disbanded and their A.T.S. diverted to other employments, but their hearts were still in ack-ack and, as soon as recruiting for the Mixed T.A. Regiments opened in 1947, the women were back again in their old jobs on the gun sites. Perhaps the affection and esteem which we feel for the Royal Regiment is not entirely one-sided, for Gen. Sir Frederick Pile has honoured us both by choosing an A.T.S. auxiliary and a gunner as supporters for his coat of arms.

THE LAST OF THE REGULAR MIXED H.A.A. REGIMENTS

Anyone who has served with a unit ordered to disband will understand the feeling of anti-climax in 46 (M) H.A.A. Regiment. Courses have been cancelled, training stopped, and plans made to dispose of personnel and equipment. It is like watching a ship steam slowly to the breaker's yard.

The problem is to keep everyone occupied while postings are awaited: map-reading exercises, initiative schemes (the local paper was intrigued by the number of people wanting to know the date of its foundation and published an article about the unit) and never have the polished floors shone so brightly.

Hawk-eyed Quartermasters assess barrack damages; a demented Adjutant pores over demands for troops to assist other units in handling their equipment from A to B; snatches of conversation are overheard in the Mess: "... but I don't know which part of Germany..." "Ceylon? Oh! very good sailing..." "Gravesend...!!!" Quietly the marriage-rate soars; we have averaged eight a month since November.

The actual disbandment has been received with mixed feelings. To some who have known no other life but that of a mixed A.A. regiment, it is the prospect of a different job and a change of scenery. To others who prefer not to be parted from things technical, it is the chance of stepping up to the trade of experimental assistant in gunnery or kinetheodolite

operator. Whatever the personal reaction, sentiment is intermingled with it, as this—the last of the Regular mixed H.A.A. regiments—folds up.

The following composition, by an unknown author, beautifully embroidered in black on white linen, was substituted for the Regimental pennant outside R.H.Q. one cold and frosty morning. It will eventually be offered to the Corps Museum.

"If we left the ol' flag a flyin' t'would be a terrible shame,

So we're taking the blighter with us, and leavin' no one to blame.

And wherever the flag's a goin' an' us along with it an' proud,

The ol' spirit's never a dyin', but singing on lusty and loud.

It's flown up 'ere for many a day, an' many an evening too,

Not that we ever noticed it—until the news came through.

But it's got to keep on flyin', in spite of what they say,

So we're taking it down to hoist it as we tramp along life's way.

The spirit of the 46th will never die, though scattered,

Not while there's life in the ol' dog, and people to whom it mattered."

SALUTE FROM THE T.A.

If anyone had told me three years ago that I should be nearly heart-broken when I heard that the Royal Regiment was to lose its mixed regiments, I should have been very rude to him. During those years I have made my first contact with the T.A. and have had the honour to command a mixed H.A.A. regiment, R.A. (T.A.). It is an established fact that the older one grows the more sentimental one becomes, and ex-C.O.s have a very soft spot for the regiment which they have commanded. However, even taking this into account, I can truthfully say that the Royal Regiment is suffering a grievous loss with the taking away of its W.R.A.C.

As a C.O., I now know that I could not have asked for more efficient, more loyal or smarter soldiers than members of the W.R.A.C. Their infectious thirst for military knowledge has proved a real tonic to all who have come in contact with them. I can quote instances of girls attending three evenings a week for three months on a radar course, and in addition training one Sunday and one whole weekend a month. I know of a Sergeant Cook who has on many occasions started work at 9 a.m. or 10 a.m., prepared and cooked food all day, served a meal for 40 people in the evening, and then helped to clear up, finishing perhaps at 1 a.m. Such voluntary service is in the best tradition of the T.A.

Many R.A. (T.A.) regiments have suffered

changes in their role throughout their history through the advance of science, and all these changes they have bitterly opposed. The internal combustion engine changed field regiments from horsed to mechanised. The advent of the aeroplane turned field regiments into anti-aircraft. The increase in the air threat brought in mixed regiments to solve the man-power shortage. Now the hydrogen bomb and guided missiles have made A.A. Command redundant and mixed regiments will soon be history. Most of us who have served with the W.R.A.C. feel very sad as the moment of parting draws near. Their going will leave a gap which will be hard to fill. Efficient and enthusiastic soldiers are always welcome, and if they be decorative as well the task of training them becomes even lighter. The female form is not ideally suited to the wearing of trousers, but, in the case of the W.R.A.C., a surprisingly high percentage wore their slacks with distinction. I suppose that one experienced a certain amount of temperament, but comparatively little, and, as with a horse, a bit of temperament only made the control more interesting.

Before I was given a mixed T.A. regiment I used to wonder how C.O.s were selected for them. I am still wondering. I only know that I shall always look back on my period of command with a great pride which the years will not dim.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF A.A. COMMAND

S. COMD. JEAN STEWART, A.T.S.

I started my A.T.S. career in October, 1938, as a member of the 17th City of London Platoon, attached to the City of London Yeomanry. In July, 1939, we attended camp at Stiffkey with the Regiment and on August 25 deployed with them to sites on the Thames estuary. R.H.Q. was at Stanford-le-Hope and parties of four or five A.T.S., mostly clerks, were billeted near gun sites round about. The farthest was at Stanmore, where a small A.A. gun was prepared to defend H.Q.

My first encounter with A.A. Command H.Q. was early in the war when, after visiting the detachment at Stanmore, I was taken by my C.O. to make contacts. Having hardly ever met any A.T.S. officers, I was amazed to find how busy they seemed to be, missing meals and hardly having any sleep. My little party seemed to run themselves, with no trouble inside and very little communication about A.T.S. matters from outside.

About Christmas time I heard that we were to become "E" Company, 1st A.A. Division, and take over another small platoon across the river at Gravesend, attached to the 12th L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. In the spring of 1940 we moved to a large house near Brentwood, where the two platoons joined up. The Yeomanry was all encamped in the park, and great expansions were taking place. In the early days of the blitz the A.T.S. elected to sleep in the cellar and, by mutual consent, the Q.M. and Padre slept behind screens to boost morale. In the end, bombs were considered preferable to the rats which were disturbed by the noise of the raids.

In December, 1950, we were reorganised again and parted tearfully on Brentwood station—clerks to 3rd Division, and cooks, orderlies and myself to A.A. Command. By the autumn of 1941 I had lost sight of my original Company, which included at least one grandmother. After a brief spell in Lincolnshire, where the first A.T.S. searchlight unit was in training, I was posted to 132 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment and joined the very first of the mixed batteries. In the eyes of Command our gun site in Richmond Park was the most luxurious in the history of operational units. Soon the sand-bag command post gave way to a concrete structure, and hundreds of yards of cretonne supplied by the Duchess of Northumberland's Fund were hanging everywhere. Being a novelty, mixed batteries were visited daily by all sorts of important people. The conditions became grander and grander, until even the command post was fitted up with bunks and a W.C. Weeks and months of intensive training produced great confidence and efficiency in all ranks, but no enemy planes came near us. In the late spring of 1942 we were reported to have been the first mixed unit to fire at the enemy and, on the following morning, I had a call from a very senior A.T.S. officer at the War Office to ask if any of the A.T.S. on duty had fainted. Things had gone off

like a practice, but it had not been an enemy plane, after all.

I found a very different situation when, after a period on the Staff, I returned in August, 1944, to 184 Regiment at Orsett—three miles from where I had originally started. The invasion was under way and the flying bombs had begun. Three of our four batteries were under canvas on the Essex marshes, cretonne curtains had been replaced by duck-boards and wellingtons, mail was censored and there was mud everywhere. Thanks to good equipment, several flying bombs were destroyed and many diverted from their path to London. The excitement was intense and, in spite of the hardships, spirits soared. The sickness rate was almost nil and morale had never been higher.

Alas, it was short-lived and followed all too soon by the slow and painful process of disbandment. We were sent off in February to Portsmouth, where the sites looked just the same and life went on as before but handicrafts and P.T. replaced serious training, and the great spirit of adventure had faded. After a time I was posted to a Home Command and finally released in August, 1946. Through the years, of course, there had been disagreements, disappointments and frustrations, but I had many regrets that my service was over. I hope that the young members of the W.R.A.C. are as happy as most of their war-time counterparts.

Guest Night with the Gunners

Although the Royal Regiment of Artillery was the first to accept the A.T.S. on a truly mixed establishment, it has long been the tradition that women officers were debarred from the dining-room of the Depot Mess at Woolwich. During Exercise "Overhaul" on the weekend of November 12 to 15, 1954, however, when a special guest night was held, Lt.-Col. N. Cadden, A.D.W.R.A.C. 1 A.A. Group, was present. The break with tradition was complete when Major J. Godolphin, Capt. R. M. Turnbull and 2/Lt. J. V. Hoskin were invited to attend the normal guest night dinner on January 27, 1955.

The W.R.A.C. officers were accorded that degree of courtesy and hospitality which only the most notable V.I.P. could expect, and the late Lt.-Col. O. Geary, O.B.E., even invited each officer to select music which was played during dinner by the R.A. Band. The splendour of the Regimental silver glittering in candlelight, the brilliance of the great candelabra, the smooth efficiency of mess waiters in scarlet breeches, grey coats and powdered wigs, and of the W.R.A.C. waitresses in blue, remain as imperishably etched upon the memory as do the traditional whipping of the table runners, followed by the ceremony of the port decanters moving down the tables in their silver wheeled caskets.

To the hearty strains of "Goodnight, Ladies" sung with great fervour by the R.A. subalterns, the Garrison Commander, Brigadier M. W. Hope, D.S.O., escorted the W.R.A.C. officers from the Mess, and from a scene and experience which has probably been the most memorable their Army service can ever offer.

ACK-ACK IN BELGIUM,

1944-45

MAJOR M. S. F. MILLINGTON, O.B.E., T.D.

At the beginning of December, 1944, I was peacefully engaged in attending a course on release and resettlement when I was suddenly summoned to the War Office and, within the week, found myself en route for Belgium and 5 Royal Marine A.A. Brigade at Antwerp.

Dame Francis (then S. Comd.) Coulshed had arrived at G.H.Q., A.A. Troops, in Brussels a few days before and was the first woman ever to be posted to a mobile H.Q.

One regiment had already arrived in the theatre and four more were expected. Three were eventually to be deployed in the Brussels Diver Belt and the remaining two in the defence of the Scheldt.

Living conditions were hard and little could be done to improve them at a time when every ship-load of stores was absolutely vital to our armies in the field. Antwerp was at the receiving end of a steady stream of V. 1 and V. 2 rockets and one was quite likely to find that a building requisitioned the previous day had been destroyed by next morning. Our R.H.Q. was eventually housed in a convent school and some of my more amusing recollections are of sitting primly in the convent parlour trying to explain the functions of a mixed regiment, in French, to the Mother Superior who regarded it all with grave suspicion. "Les jeunes filles" seemed safe enough for the A.T.S. other ranks, but what, oh what, was the correct term for a woman officer? When the Regiment arrived it soon won all hearts and many were the cakes and delicacies produced by the good nuns for "Our gallant liberators."

For weeks the batteries worked in frozen snow with icicles hanging even from the insides of their nissen huts. Coal was practically non-existent, meals were prepared on "trombone" cookers and every spare moment was spent in sawing wood. When the thaw did come the roads collapsed and sites were marooned in a sea of mud.

Thanks to the Princess de Ligne Welfare Organisation a scheme for 48 hours' free leave in Brussels was soon in operation; clean sheets, comfortable rooms and hot water made a welcome break from the austerity of life on site. Brussels, at this time, was probably the gayest city in Europe, necessities were scarce, luxuries plentiful, but everything could be had at a price and English cigarettes provided a universal, if somewhat illegal, currency.

The batteries round Antwerp were not allowed to engage pilotless aircraft and were disappointed at having very few opportunities to open fire. In this respect, but this respect only, they envied the Brussels Brigade, who were deployed in a Diver role and had more chance to show what they could do, one regiment there having been credited with 19 "doodles" before the end of January, 1945.

In spite of everything the A.T.S. thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were universally cheerful and surprisingly healthy. More heartburning was caused by the breaking up of the units after V.E. Day than by all the discomforts of life under active service conditions.

Services No Longer Required

After eight years' existence, the only W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Band in the country faces the possibility of liquidation.

In the early days of the re-formed T.A. the girls of 583 (Hants) (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.) had the opportunity of watching the 17th (Hants) Cadet Battalion at band practice under the direction of Sgt. A. Frame, an ex-Drum Major of the K.O.S.B., who, apart from his cadet duties, was also a member of the Regiment. The girls quickly realised that they too could blow bugles and beat drums, so, with borrowed instruments, they started to practise. By May, 1948, they had reached a standard of proficiency which enabled them to appear in public when they led the unit to entrain for their first annual camp.

Every member of the Band was primarily an operational number and their Band training was carried out in their own time. The keenness shown by the girls and encouraged by Sgt. Frame brought them official War Office recognition in 1952 and the resulting financial assistance enabled the instruments to be brought up to a high standard. During their short life the Band gave a performance at the Albert Hall on the occasion of the A.T.S. reunion, played before H.R.H. The Princess Royal at Southern Command H.Q. and on several occasions led the girls of A.A. Command H.Q. to their annual church parade at Stanmore, Middlesex.

It is very sad that after all the hard work they have put in during the past eight years they may now be disbanded. There is, however, a chance that the Band may be taken over complete with Sgt. Frame by another unit, and should this come to pass we wish them every success.

Swan Song

471 (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (Forth) (T.A.) with headquarters in Dumfermline, Fife, was the first post-war territorial mixed H.A.A. regiment to shoot down a sleeve at practice camp, achieving this distinction at Weybourne in May, 1948, exactly a year after formation.

Six years later 496 (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), from Leeds, created a new record at Tonfanau. Not content with shooting down the sleeve, they also shot down a swan, which in its open and mistaken contempt for the accuracy of the shooting had flown too near the sleeve. This incident provided an excuse for great rejoicing and celebration, and inspired a new Regimental song with the stirring chorus:

"We've fired, we've fired, at last we've fired,
And if you haven't heard
Not only did we get the sleeve—
We also got the bird."

471 Regiment, like many others, goes out with flying colours, but 496 Regiment goes with a genuine Swan Song.

Over the Water

51 (ULSTER) A.A. BRIGADE

The small private looked at the large boat in dismay. "I've never been on a boat before," she quavered to her friend, who nodded sympathetically—it was her first journey on a boat too. An hour later the pair, in the liveliest spirits, were enjoying a hearty supper in the dining-saloon.

For many of the girls the journey to annual camp seemed quite an adventure. Many had never travelled far, and to go "across the water" seemed the height of daring. Who knew what fearful mysteries camp might hold?

They soon found out, they and their successors, in the eight years which spanned the inception of 51 (U) A.A. Brigade in 1947 until the pronouncement of the death sentence of A.A. Command. Every camp was a huge success, both socially and technically. They went to Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Dorset, Kent, Norfolk, Somerset and Yorkshire. Bus-loads would be seen leaving camp at the weekend on voyages of exploration. One unit went to London the week before the Coronation and saw all the magnificent decorations.

Now that the Bow and Arrow, which was their symbol, will take its place in history, the W.R.A.C. are entering zestfully into the plans for training in new roles, knowing that there are many other worth-while jobs for them to tackle. The body of 51 Brigade may soon be mouldering in the grave, but like John Brown, its soul goes marching on.

Final Flourish in 4 A.A. Group

All ranks of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) in 4 A.A. Group have taken the disbandment of A.A. Command in a cheerful and philosophical spirit which has proved most inspiring. The general desire has been to continue service with the Corps in any role which may be considered essential.

At the end of February a Regimental training course for W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Officers was held at Group H.Q. and attendance almost reached saturation point. By kind permission of the G.O.C., the Officers' Mess at H.Q. was available to the course on this farewell occasion for a parade dinner.

At this memorable dinner, the G.O.C., Maj.-Gen. B. P. Hughes, C.B.E., paid gracious tribute to all members of our Corps for the part they played during a long and happy association with the Royal Regiment and other arms and services in A.A. Command during war and peace. His message to those present was "Though the inevitable new turning point was sad, it was not a time for bitterness and all should go forward with belief in the Corps and the part it still had to play."



**And so The Lioness says
Good-bye to the Guns
and Good Luck to the Gunners
1941-1955**

LONDON TO HASTINGS

To celebrate the Automobile Association Golden Jubilee, the first demonstration of troop movement by mechanical transport organised by the A.A. in March, 1909, was re-enacted on March 19, when a Guards battalion was again carried from London to Hastings in veteran cars. This convoy, however, was in three parts. First the veteran cars carrying the Guards, followed by modern army vehicles led by staff and light cars with the heavy vehicles following.

W.R.A.C. members of 70 Coy R.A.S.C. (M.T.), Hounslow, took part in this rally with a driver and co-driver in four staff cars, one Land Rover and two ambulances.

Leaving Hounslow in a snow storm they proceeded to the Dover Patrol on the A2 road where they joined up with the other vehicles, both old and modern. They left Kidbrook, where refreshments were offered, at 7.30 a.m. The snow had ceased and at various places along the route people were waiting to see the convoy pass—children were waving flags, and bunting had been put up in some of the towns and villages. All this helped to give a festive feeling to the day, especially as the sun came out from behind the clouds by that time.

Hastings was reached at 12.30 p.m. without incident. Some of the veteran cars had to stop, apparently for minor repairs, after which they sped past the modern cars in order to get back into their position at the head of the column.

His Worship the Mayor of Hastings took the Salute on the Drive Past, which was held on Hastings promenade. Crowds of people were there to watch.

A very good lunch was provided for all taking part and after a short rest the return journey was made. Everyone arrived back tired but happy, and not without a feeling of pride in having been a part of such a successful day.

Honour for the Director of Music

Capt. J. B. MacDowall, director of music of the W.R.A.C. Staff Band, has been awarded an Honorary Degree by the Royal Academy of Music. This honour is reserved for past students of the Academy who have distinguished themselves in some marked way in the field of music. The award is a matter of great pride to the whole Corps, and we offer Capt. MacDowall our warmest congratulations on such a notable achievement.

THANKS FROM THE Y.W.C.A.

The Young Women's Christian Association of Great Britain wishes to extend its grateful thanks to the members of the W.R.A.C. who have been, and are being, good enough to give their time and help to the Association's centenary cinema collections in England, Scotland and Wales. It is now certain that the results of the collections will have achieved a very large part of the centenary appeal target of £100,000.

REUNION WEEKEND

Grand Reunion, 1955

H.R.H. The Princess Royal once again honoured and delighted us by taking the chair at the grand reunion on March 19, 1955, at the Seymour Hall. As always it was most successful, and Mrs. Stevenson and her committee are to be congratulated on organising such a happy evening.

This year was particularly notable because we had our President, Dame Florence Simpson, with us. It was nice that so many were able to welcome her back from South Africa and to have the opportunity of meeting her again.

The Director W.R.A.C., Brigadier Railton, gave a most interesting address, telling us about the present activities of the W.R.A.C. The short review brought home once more the immense variety in the work of the W.R.A.C. and the world-wide scope of the Corps. It must have made many think back to the rather shaky start of the A.T.S. in 1938 and, indeed, it took some of us further back than that and gave us a great pride in the achievements of our Service.

The Band, under its new Director of Music, Capt. MacDowall, W.R.A.C. (the first woman ever to pass out of Kneller Hall), played during the evening and as usual was a huge success. Military bands are always exciting, but there is something very special about the Band of one's own Corps.

Brigadier Dame Frances Coulshed appealed for the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund and, as the amount collected was £60 13s. 8d., it was clearly a most successful speech. No reunion would be complete without Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan and we enjoyed the stimulating experience of hearing her speak and the fun of talking to her afterwards. She made an appeal to everyone to write down any experience they had had during the war—amusing, exciting or just an ordinary day's work—and to send it to Col. Julia Cowper, who is writing a history of the Corps.

The speeches (though that makes them sound too pompous) were brought to a close by a cordial vote of thanks proposed by R.S.M. Hildyard, whom many were delighted to see again. She called for three cheers for The Princess Royal. The guard of honour for Her Royal Highness was formed from 140 Provost Company, W.R.A.C.

Once the formal part of the evening was over, everyone gathered together, either in the refreshment rooms or in the hall, and just talked. From all over the building came exclamations of pleasure and surprise as people met friends, others whose acquaintance was renewed after years and others (it must be admitted) whose faces were familiar but whose names were elusive. It is always interesting to find out what people have been doing since the last meeting and it is always fun to say "Do you remember . . . ?"

Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion

On Friday, March 18, 1955, the members of the Q.M.A.A.C. held their own reunion. It took place in 135 Survey Regiment's Drill Hall by kind permission of the Commanding Officer.

The 140 members who attended were thrilled to have Dame Florence Simpson with them, for, although she is President of the whole Association, the Q.M.A.A.C. feel that she belongs particularly to them. The evening was spent chiefly in reminiscences and in renewing old acquaintanceship and, as there was a piano, there were, of course, some songs—nostalgic, gay and impromptu. The food was again prepared by C.S.M. Wellsted, of 327 (County of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), a wonderful sight which was just as wonderful to taste.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, March 19, 1955, at the Duke of York's Headquarters by kind permission of the County of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association. The Chair was taken at 3 p.m. by Dame Florence Simpson, D.B.E., the president of the Association.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

1. *Apologies.* Apologies for absence were received from: Lt.-Col. M. M. K. Marsh.

2. *Minutes.* The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 27, 1954, having appeared in the May issue of *The Lioness*, were taken as read and signed as correct.

3. *Business Arising.* There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. *Election of Officers.* Chairman of Council: Only one nomination having been received, Miss B. Ireland, M.B.E., was declared to be elected. Council Vice-Presidents: Four nominations having been received for four vacancies, Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E., Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., Mrs. R. King, O.B.E. and Mrs. R. Simpson were declared to be elected.

5. *Report of Council.* Dame Regina Evans read the Report of the Council for 1954-March 1955. This was adopted and is printed at the end of these Minutes.

6. *Report of Hon. Treasurer.* The Hon. Treasurer presented her report and commented on the balance sheet. She added that there was a satisfactory balance of £509 10s. 6d.

7. *Report of the Editor of "The Lioness."* The Editor reported a profit of £12 due to the efforts of Col. Cowper, Major Berry and the General Secretary. This was an achievement and a hopeful sign for the future, but would not go far towards producing a bigger and better paper. She urged the necessity of recruiting more subscribers, and thanked Units, Branches, and individuals, who kept her supplied with contributions of a high

standard. She asked members to notify any change of address as quickly as possible to make sure that they got their copies of *The Lioness*.

8. Reports of Committees.

(a) A.T.S. Benevolent Fund. Miss Acland, on behalf of the Committee, stated that the Grants Sub-Committee met weekly and considered 1,359 applications from ex-A.T.S. members, 1,065 of whom were granted financial aid. An average of 30 cases was dealt with each week. The Employment Department worked hard and filled a very real need; 169 new applicants were registered, 45 of whom were ex-W.R.A.C., 52 were 35 years of age and over, one being 67. There had been little diminution in the support given, or in the applications received for help. The assets of the Fund were still approximately £89,000.

(b) W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Col. Morgan reported that 86 cases had been considered during the year, 72 were granted assistance and 14 rejected. Mrs. Holliss had been appointed as Secretary of the Fund.

Col. Morgan expressed appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the A.T.S. Employment Bureau and desired to have recorded in the Minutes the assistance given by S.S.A.F.A., the Forces Help Society, and the British Legion, including the Haig Fund in Scotland.

(c) Regimental Museum. Lt.-Col. Cecil reported that Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan had been elected Chairman in the place of Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, who retired. Col. Cooke had been elected on the Committee, and Major Millington continued to serve at the invitation of the Chairman.

The most important event of the year had been the visit of Her Majesty The Queen Mother to the Depot. There had been a steady flow of visitors, including personnel from the women's services in France, Denmark, Switzerland and Norway. The Museum Committee were grateful to all those who had sent gifts of all descriptions. The Museum was outgrowing the present building, there were hopes that additional space might be found. The Museum had joined the Society for Army Historical Research.

9. Council and Branch Resolutions.

Council Resolution.

It was moved by the Council and carried *nem. con.* that the first sentence of paragraph 2, Rule 10, be amended to read: "Every Area shall appoint two members of Council one of whom shall when possible be the Chairman of the Area Committee and the other an ex-service member."

Branch Resolutions:

(a) Oxford. It was proposed by Miss B. Turner, on behalf of the Oxford Branch, seconded by Miss V. Stead and carried *nem. con.*: "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."

(b) Wolverhampton. The following Resolution was moved by Mrs. Carroll, Secretary of the

Wolverhampton Branch, seconded by Miss Haynes and carried: "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 circulated."

10. Any Other Business.

Blind ex-Service Women. The General Secretary reported a letter from Mrs. M. Lees, in which she emphasised the importance of the correct procedure after discharge, for those whose sight was impaired. She asked that this should be made known to all serving Officers.

Mrs. R. King expressed the great pleasure given to all members by the presence of Dame Florence Simpson in the Presidential Chair, and thanked her for her timely arrival from South Africa.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

The big event of the year has been the decision to take responsibility for the "History of the Corps." After full discussion with the Director W.R.A.C., this was finally decided at the October meeting of Council, and Col. J. M. Cowper was invited to accept office as historian. Dame Frances Coulshed, Dame Regina Evans and Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan were appointed as a committee to whom the historian would report progress.

In view of this heavy responsibility, Col. Cowper resigned the office as Editor of *The Lioness* which she had held so successfully since 1950. Lt.-Col. S. M. Crawley has most kindly undertaken the editorship with Mrs. Sandeman-Allan as assistant Editor on the ex-Service side.

It is with very great regret that I have to record the death last April of our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Cormack. A clot developed after an operation and was fatal. She had done most valuable work for the Association, and is very greatly missed. She has been succeeded by Mrs. Hardy, who was for so long Hon. Secretary of the Edinburgh Branch and whose wide financial experience will be of the greatest value.

As Chairman of Council I had the pleasure of attending a most successful reunion in Northern Area at the Festival Restaurant, York, on September 18, 1954.

The Association was well represented in the march to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day and a wreath was laid by Miss Abbott, Chairman of Wimbledon Branch. A cross was planted on the Field of Remembrance by Capt. Watt, W.R.A.C., accompanied by C.S.M. Clulee and Q.M.A.A.C. Knox.

One new contact is of special interest. The Association has now joined the World Veterans' Federation, forming one of a group of British member associations which includes the Grenadier Guards Association, The Royal Artillery Association, the Royal Signals Association, the Royal Air Force Association, the W.R.N.S. Association and others. The World Veterans' Federation was founded some years ago to include all nations of

the second World War. It has well been described as the British Legion of the World.

Your Council has met regularly, received reports and dealt with current business.

In concluding her report of the Council, Dame Regina Evans extended a welcome to the new Chairman of Council, Miss B. Ireland, M.B.E., and expressed appreciation for the work of the Hon. Treasurer, the Chairman Reunion, the Editor of *The Lioness*, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan and the General Secretary.

Miss B. Ireland, M.B.E.

Every reader of *The Lioness* will give a warm welcome to Miss Ireland, who succeeds Dame Regina Evans as Chairman of the W.R.A.C. Association. We do not say goodbye to Dame Regina, who remains on the Council as a Vice-President.

Miss Ireland joined the W.A.A.C. in March, 1917, and her association with the Service has lasted unbroken ever since. She was on the staff of the Overseas Depot from its inception in 1917 until drafting ceased just before the Armistice, and was then transferred to Borstall Heath Training Centre, which became the demobilisation centre for Eastern Command. She reached the rank of Deputy Assistant Chief Controller, and was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours List of 1918. She applied for her release to take up a post as one of the Women Organisers for the League of Nations Union, and a year later accepted the secretaryship of the Helena Residential Clubs Council (afterwards incorporated as a private limited company, of which she is still secretary). This organisation, which was formed to provide residential and non-residential clubs for women, had been asked to administer part of the accumulated profits of the Navy and Army Canteen Board in the interests of ex-Service women and, under its auspices, the Holiday House at St. Leonards and the Ex-Service Women's Club at 5 Buckingham Gate were opened. Miss Ireland was resident secretary of the club till 1925, when her health obliged her to give up "living with her work," and she was a member of the House Committee for 25 years.

In 1925, Miss Ireland became secretary to the Right Hon. Earl De La Warr, P.C., and she is only just retiring from this post. She has been a member of the Comrades Association since its formation and was the first Honorary Secretary of the London Branch (which she was largely responsible for forming). She is a director of the Helena Clubs, Ltd., and of the Cooden Beach Hotel Co., Ltd., Chairman of the Twickenham Branch of the Women's Gas Federation and President of the St. Margaret's Branch of the British Legion (Women's Section). We are very proud of the distinguished record of our new Chairman, and wish her very good luck in her term of office.

"London Gazette"

HONOURS AND AWARDS

T.D.: Majors G. A. D. Pearson, E. W. Williams; Capt. J. A. Ellis; Capt. (Hon. Major) C. K. Price.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Lieutenant-Colonel: N. K. Cadden.
Major: J. L. Rankin, M. T. Vennard, T. G. Oxnevad.
Captain: C. M. Harris, R. M. Shaw, D. C. Powell, E. L. Burt, E. R. Denne.
Lieutenant: E. I. Millington, D. F. Proctor, M. R. Ashplant, J. C. Swann, P. A. Pleasance, M. L. Hillier, A. L. Shepley-Taylor, V. E. Castens, E. M. Bryant, H. M. Drudge, M. L. M. Watts, J. E. Walker, R. J. Holmes, J. Traynor, E. A. Herdman-Grant, E. P. Leach, M. K. Taylor.
Second Lieutenant: G. A. Sargent, M. J. Hadley, H. M. Pope, M. J. Webber, M. M. E. Bateson, H. P. Ogden, E. A. Butler, B. F. Lilley, P. K. Cox, S. M. Hartshorne, P. M. Heath, R. C. Giles.

Short Service Commissions

Major: A. D. Mackintosh, D. M. Hewett.
Captain: D. D. Marshall, R. I. Wilson.
Lieutenant: A. S. Keefe.
Second Lieutenant: E. M. Lloyd-Jones, M. M. Snowden, H. I. Nelson, J. Hands.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retirements with gratuity: Majors C. M. Mould, C. M. Butler, H. M. Lowe, C. A. Hewetson, M.B.E.
Resignations: Capt. V. Wilson; Lts. A. F. V. Scudamore, M. A. Hayes; 2/Lt. D. P. A. McKellar.

Short Service Commissions

Relinquishments on completion of service: Capts. B. C. Blod, M. F. L. White, E. Young, M. E. Haldane, G. M. Pearce, R. M. Nichols, M. Sumner.

QUARTERMASTER COMMISSIONS

W.O.1 W. D. Andrews and W.O.1 D. E. Nightingale have been selected for permanent Regular Commissions as Quartermasters (Lieutenant), W.R.A.C. They have been posted to 12 Battalion, W.R.A.C., and 3 Battalion, W.R.A.C., respectively. W.O.1 G. F. Porteous, W.O.1 G. P. Blay and W.O.1 A. Elston have also passed the Board and are earmarked for appointment in the near future.

"REVEILLE" FROM A TREE

CATHERINE WARING

Early each morn
At break of dawn
Above me, in the tall gum tree
I hear a Military bird
Sing: "Fall in A, and Fall in B,
And Fall in every Company!"

His like, before, I have not seen.
Yet for generations there
He must have been!

Tho' slightly out of tune
His time is right.
His head is black
His body black and white.

When he is saying, "Fall in A and B,"
He shakes his body and his wings at me,
Then when it's "Fall in every Company,"
He nods his "all black" head repeatedly.
This fascinating bird reveals to me
"The sounding of Reveille"
From a tree.

Queensland, Australia.

DANMARKS LOTTEKORPS

KORPSCHIEF GERDA BRUUN, *Director*

Danmarks Lottekorps was established on April 9, 1946. Its status was laid down in a contract with the Ministry of Defence on March 9, 1951, whereby, on the basis of the provisions of the Home Guard Act, the Lottekorps was attached to the defence and placed at the service of the Army and the Army Home Guard.

Women between 18 and 60 years of age, who are Danish subjects and whose national convictions are found to be all right, may be admitted. There are at present about 210 units with well over 7,000 members, all of whom have pledged themselves to work for the Army or the Army Home Guard in case of war and to undergo the necessary training in peace-time.

The Corps works on a voluntary unpaid basis. Members place themselves at the disposal of the defence in the event of a crisis or war, but all their training within the Corps takes place as a voluntary act, performed in their spare time, in the evenings, on Sundays and holidays. An increasing number of Lotters are taken in as regulars in military units and offices, but so far they are on civilian pay and have no chance of military advancements. Negotiations are going on to alter this state of affairs, however.

The national office of Danmarks Lottekorps is in Kastellet, Copenhagen. The Director of the Corps is elected by the chairmen of the regional units and appointed by the Corps and approved by the Minister of Defence. The Corps now obtains a subsidy from the State for its organisation, work and training, but the means are inadequate and the Corps is given much work in raising extra funds. It is also incumbent on the organisation to make propaganda in order to attract recruits. No entrance fee is paid by the Lotters, although an annual membership fee is paid. Members obtain a free khaki uniform issued by the State, but have to buy shirt, tie, shoes, stockings and gloves themselves.

The members of the Lottekorps must all, when joining, sign a contract with the Lottekorps pledging them to defence work. Their training consists of a basic school, followed by a special training and in certain cases further training as leaders. The basic school lasts for 46 hours and covers such subjects as organisation, discipline, citizenship, drill and military courtesy, signals, map-reading, hygiene and first-aid. This training is carried out by the Lotters in their home towns after working hours—generally from 1900 to 2200 hours.

After the basic school every Lotte has to go through at least one special course, which is arranged in co-operation with the Army or the Army Home Guard and usually takes place at some barracks after working hours. There are a number of fields in which training is given, amongst others staff work, spotting, Army catering, clerking, motor service, plotting, radio, signals, nursing and administration.

Lotters who have passed through the basic school and have taken one special course and Red Cross course may, on recommendation from their unit, be admitted to leader schools, provided there is a vacancy. Among the subjects in which training is given at the leader schools are leadership, officers' duties, accounting, the technique of organisation and meetings, the technique of command and drill, education, psychology, military courtesy and official letter-writing.

Leader School I (Non-Commissioned Officers' School) is 64 hours plus three Sunday exercises. The training is carried out either at some school in the Lotte's home town, or during weekends as far as the country districts are concerned. When a Lotte has passed this school she must work for six months in her unit as an instructor or leader of a small group and, if satisfactory, she will then be appointed gruppelotte (corporal). About 800 have passed the course.

Leader School II is 10 days' full service in camp. About 400 have passed this school and qualified as juniorlotte (lieutenant). These officers are platoon leaders and their platoons are organised in lotte-companies commanded by seniorlotters.

The students from Leader School III (four days' full service in camp) mostly consist of lotte-officers who are going to take up jobs either as districtlotte or regionlotte. There are seven regionlotters and 33 districtlotters corresponding to the military regions and districts of the country. These lotte-officers are responsible for the administration and training of the lotters within their area and are the only paid members of Danmarks Lottekorps.

The camps for leaders and special instructors are held at the School of Instruction of the Army Home Guard at Nymdegab (in Jutland, by the North Sea). Lotte-officers generally go to an annual camp for a weekend or so within their regions or districts, as a "refresher" and to learn what new material has been issued during the past year, but it is not a general rule that annual camps are arranged for all the Lotters.

Trained Lotters are not called in regularly to drill, but they come at intervals for training in their trades with the unit to which they are attached. The aim is to keep their knowledge and efficiency in their special line the highest possible, so that in case of war they do not need "brushing up."

The Lotters voluntarily carry out a great deal of social and humanitarian work of varied kinds, especially in an emergency. For instance, they collected money, clothes and gifts to help Holland after the flood last year; they help at a social school in Copenhagen where young men and women who have been in prison or for a long period out of work are trained to take up life again as good citizens; they look after summer camps arranged in the neighbourhood of garrisons for the wives and

children of soldiers; and they send Christmas parcels to old people in old-age homes and soldiers who are not able to get Christmas leave. We find that, besides being the right thing to do, this gives our Corps a goodwill in the population, which at this stage is necessary for us as a military corps—the Danish population being anything but military-minded.

In April this year the contract with the Defence Department comes to an end and for the renewal of the contract certain improvements of the organisation and financial conditions are under discussion.

WITH THE NORGES LOTTEFORBUND

S/SGT. L. HODGSON

On January 27, 1955, four of us left this country for Norway, where we had been invited to take part in a winter course as guests of the Norges Lotteforbund. Three of us are P.S.I.s with 314 (Scottish Command) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and the fourth is the W.R.A.C. recruiter from Dumfries.

We sailed at 10.30 p.m. from Newcastle and docked at Bergen at 6 a.m. on Saturday, January 29. As proud members of the W.R.A.C., we had been given special permission to wear No. 1 dress. The chairman and another member of the N.L.F. met us, and we spent the day sightseeing in and around Bergen, finishing with a "Welcome to Norway" party at the home of the chairman.

On Sunday, we caught the 8.30 train to Gol, where we joined 40 members of the N.L.F. Stonefell Hotel, our headquarters, was quite a way from the station, so we travelled part of the journey by bus and part on skis. Can you imagine ski-ing in No. 1 dress and greatcoats? After half an hour we got a lift in a weasel car—a small tracked vehicle which is the only other means of transport

in the mountains. The Norwegian girls finished the journey on skis.

The purpose of the course was to train us to live and travel as "troops" in the mountains under winter conditions. We were issued with a waterproof uniform, mess-tin, water-bottle, spade, tent part, candles and iron rations. Our uniforms were much too big for us, but we did not mind, we all looked alike. The rest of our equipment was carried in our rucksacks.

It was intensive training and we doubted if we could survive the course, but we did. Reveille was at 6.30 a.m. and breakfast at 7.15 a.m. We made up our own haversack rations for lunch, and had our water-bottles filled with tea or cocoa. We had lunch in the mountains each day except the day we built the snowhouses.

The instructors were Red Cross volunteers. We had our own instructor, and on the first day we had ski instruction from 8.30 a.m. till 4.30 p.m. while the rest of the girls went on a troop march. The course was divided into four syndicates and we were

each attached to a different one. At lunch-time we joined our own syndicate and helped to build our shelter with skis and the tent parts. We had a good fire, made with branches from fir trees and candle-grease. After lunch the girls continued their march and we had further ski instruction. Everyone returned to the hotel very tired but happy. Dinner was at 7 p.m., and we wore uniform every night, which looked very smart after our "very large ski outfits." On our first day we were glad of a very early night, but by the end of the week we



[Courtesy of The Scotsman]

W.R.A.C. on a Winter Course in Norway

were accustomed to staying out in the mountains all day.

For the remainder of the course we joined the other girls and took part in the troop marches. We were taught first aid, how to improvise sledges with skis and ski sticks, how to search for injured in the mountain with the use of the "Walkie-Talkie" and how to treat the injured. Schemes were arranged and we acted as "casualties" on two occasions. First two of us were "lost" in the mountains and the four syndicates came out to look for us. They marched across the mountains with four "Walkie-Talkie" machines and messages were sent down the line from the first person to the last. When the first "casualty" was found the four girls who found her treated her for her "injuries," improvised a sledge, and took her back to headquarters while the rest continued the search. All training was carried out on skis, which is the only way of getting about.

On the second scheme we were all "casualties." We were sent on ahead to lose ourselves, with instructions as to what our injuries were. It was a wonderful day with brilliant sunshine, and we could not help singing till we saw the troops coming. Then we lay down and waited to be rescued. We were all at different points in the mountains. After our rescue we soon "recovered" and enjoyed the party held in the evening. Being up in the mountains, we had to make our own amusements—we demonstrated the eightsome reel with the help of two English Wrens and two Norwegian girls, and they taught us some of their dances. Music was provided by one of the instructors.

Friday was the day we awaited with mixed feelings. The instructions said "build snowhouse during the day ready for sleeping in." We thought we could never do that. At 11 a.m. we had lunch at the hotel and left at about 12 noon. We were in six groups, and set off complete with rucksacks and equipment ready to build the snowhouses. One group built an igloo for nine people and the rest dug the houses on the face of the mountain. It was hard work but great fun. We collected fir branches for the floor and the entrance. We had to work on skis, or we sank in the snow almost to the waist. When the snowhouses were ready we returned to the hotel to rest before dinner. After dinner we dressed in as many clothes as possible and got ready to march to our snowhouse. We marched in the dark, in full kit, the instructors carrying lamps and the rest of us torches. It was a very effective sight.

The people who were not sleeping out came round each of our houses to say goodnight, and then we "locked" the door by blocking the entrance with snow blocks. Off came our waterproof suits, we got into our sleeping-bags, covered ourselves with the suits and settled down for the night. Some of us used our boots as a pillow. We were amazed how comfortable we were, and it is an experience we would have been sorry to miss. In the morning we were called at 4 a.m. and no one complained of feeling cold. We returned to the hotel for breakfast.

Saturday was our last training day, and once again we marched into the mountains and helped with first aid and improvising sledges. In the

afternoon we handed in our equipment and in the evening there was a special end-of-course dinner with special guests. Speeches and presentations were made and we were presented with the N.L.F. badge by Mrs. Endresen, the Chief Leader. The badges are the first to be presented to anyone other than the Norwegian girls, so we are very proud of them. After dinner we danced until midnight and then it was time to say goodnight.

The next day we left for Oslo, on the first stage of our journey home. We docked at Newcastle at midnight on February 10. During our whole visit the hospitality of the N.L.F. was overwhelming. We made many friends and hope to meet them again some day.

Royal Signals Association Scottish Reunion

The Royal Signals Association is holding a reunion at H.Q., Scottish Command (M.) Signal Regiment, Dreghorn Camp, Colinton, Edinburgh 13, on Saturday and Sunday, August 20 and 21, 1955, and ex-members of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. have been very kindly invited to attend as guests of the regiment.

The provisional programme is as follows:

SATURDAY	
Afternoon ..	Guests assemble.
6 p.m. ..	Beating of Retreat, in full dress, by the Royal Signals Band, and Pipes and Drums of other units.
8 p.m. ..	Dance.
SUNDAY	
10 a.m. ..	Drumhead Service and March Past.
1 p.m. ..	Special dinner and music.
Afternoon ..	Outdoor entertainment (Scottish and Country Dancing, P.T. Display, etc.).
5 p.m. ..	"Will ye no come back again."

The Royal Signals Band will play during the reunion.

Nos. 4, 9 and 10 buses from Waverley and Princes Street stations stop within ten minutes' walk of Dreghorn Camp. Applications for accommodation overnight should reach Scottish Command (M.) Signal Regiment by August 5 and must be marked "W.R.A.C."

ELEVENTH PASSING-OUT PARADE

The 11th passing-out parade of W.R.A.C. Officer Cadets took place at the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction on 2nd March, 1955. Sixteen Officer Cadets passed out, including the first entrant under the Universities Scheme for employment with R.E.M.E. The parade was taken by Gen. Sir Cameron G. G. Nicholson, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., Adjutant-General to the Forces. Despite the inclement weather which precluded the usual rehearsals, the parade was held out of doors and there was a large number of spectators. The Ceremonial Sash and the Certificate of Merit were awarded to Senior Under-Officer J. H. Mitchell.

DRUM AND FIFE AT TRENT BRIDGE

MAUREEN LEES

The other evening I suddenly found myself back in imagination to a day in 1943 at the Trent Bridge cricket ground, that holy of holies where, although the Home Postal Centre used the dressing-rooms as a Mess and so on, the ground itself was out of bounds. I was the R.S.M. of the Nottingham Garrison Group, and most of our companies were employed at the Home Postal Centre.

I liked the girls to join me for a cup of tea at the Y.W.C.A. and in this way I got to know quite a lot about what was a very large, scattered Group. From time to time I heard hints about "When we have a drum and fife band" and, knowing how go-ahead the musical and drama section was, I supposed in course of time a H.P.C. A.T.S. Band would appear. I did not ask questions, as I found it best to learn things from the Colonel direct.

One Sunday morning I was sitting in the Y.W.C.A., having popped over from the office, and suddenly I could not believe my own eyes. In walked two girls dressed up in the kit of a drum and fife band. I did not want to make a fuss in the crowded room, so I called the girls to my table and they told me, full of joy, that they had just come from their final rehearsal. I was in a quandary, for I did not know if my Group Commander had authorised it, or if she also was not quite sure what was afoot. I decided to wait until I reported on the Monday morning, as I normally went straight out from my billet to Bridgeford to take a drill parade for "B" and "C" Companies on a piece of ground loaned to us by the local council.

On the Monday morning, very early, I had a telephone call telling me that the parade was not to disperse as usual but was to be marched down to the Trent Bridge cricket ground. I simply took it that we had been given a very wonderful chance of parading on the cricket ground, so having arrived at my rendezvous by the council offices, I drilled the two Companies and then marched them back towards the cricket ground. Just as I was leading the girls on, Col. Ross, with a very merry twinkle and a smile, beckoned me off. I instructed C.S.M. Stanley, who was my senior W.O.2, to take over and on she marched very proudly indeed. Then the girls in the Drum and Fife Band seemed to appear from just nowhere at all. I looked at the Colonel—words failed me—and then I suppose I grinned too. Talk of an accomplished fact—it certainly was. Then I had yet another shock, for in the otherwise empty stands were not only my C.O. and the Adjt. but a V.I.P. from the War Office. I naturally thought I must be the only one kept in ignorance, while my C.O. jumped to the conclusion that, because I was taking the girls to the cricket ground to be joined by a hitherto unknown Drum and Fife Band, I had purposely kept quiet about it. Whether it was the first unit band or not, at least I am sure that it was the only one trained in absolute secrecy—and they do say "women can't keep secrets."

UNIFORM TAILORING

by



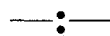
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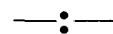
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SPORT

Hockey. The W.R.A.C. touring team, having defeated the Civil Service 4—3 in a violent blizzard on February 16, set off on the 17th for a tour of Scottish Command. The plan was to have a hockey match and a rest-day alternately, but owing to the weather the tour was comprised of very active rest-days. Shopping, coffee-drinking, postcard-sending and sight-seeing occupied the time in Edinburgh and Glasgow, while the more energetic members of the team exercised themselves (with more luck than judgment) on man-sized skis kindly lent by the Gordon Highlanders.

The inter-Service tournament was played on March 9, 10 and 11, 1955, and, for the first time since 1950, the Army triumphantly brought away the trophy. On the first day the Army drew with the Navy at Reading, in a match so exciting that the spectators hardly felt the biting east wind. On the second day the R.A.F. met the Navy at Vine Lane, on a much slower and more bumpy pitch, and defeated them 3—1. On the final day the Army met the R.A.F. at Aldershot. It was a good game from the start and the Army played together as a team should. The Army scored once in the first half, the Navy equalised in the second, and the winning goal was shot for the Army by Sgt. Powell-Price amidst wild excitement in the last two minutes before time. The cup was presented by Maj.-Gen. A. D. Campbell, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. Aldershot District. The W.R.A.C. Band played during tea, and added to the enjoyment of spectators and players.

Netball. H.R.H. The Princess Royal was present at the finals of the inter-Service tournament at Aldershot on March 5, 1955, and graciously presented the cup to the winners afterwards. The cup was won by 4 Battalion W.R.A.C. (Northern) after a sensational match against 126/46 (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (Eastern), the runners-up. The W.R.A.C. P.T. Wing (Southern) and 1 Platoon, "A" Company, 14 Battalion, W.R.A.C. (B.A.O.R.), tied for third place. The final match was watched by the Mayor and Mayoress of Aldershot, Lt.-Gen. Sir Ernest and Lady Down, and many other distinguished guests. Excitement ran very high, the supporters behind the line working nearly as hard as the players and attracting almost more attention.

The inter-Service tournament was played on March 21, 1955, at the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, and resulted in a win for the R.A.F. The individual match-results were:

R.A.F. v Navy	..	19—12
Army v Navy	..	14—13
R.A.F. v Army	..	16—12

The Army has twice played the Civil Service Netball Association during the season, and was victorious on both occasions.

Rifle-Shooting. The Women's inter-Service Rifle Meeting was held on February 12 and 14, 1955. On February 12 the W.R.A.C. shot against the Civil Service and W.R.N.S. in London. The results were: Civil Service, 1,973; W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.C., each 1,922. On February 14 the

W.R.A.C. shot against the W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F. at Portsmouth. The results were: W.R.N.S., 1,544; W.R.A.F., 1,541; W.R.A.C., 1,525.

Major G. Saunders-Davies has again been selected for the Army small-bore team. This officer scored 397 out of a possible 400 in the Army Individual Small-bore Championship.

Ski-ing. Col. E. S. Macfie won the Championship Cup (W) in the Army Ski Championships at Bad Gastein in February, 1955. The runner-up was Capt. H. Skinner, who thus wins the cup presented in 1949 by Col. Macfie for the best post-war novice.

In March, 14 W.R.A.C. Officer Cadets set off for the Austrian Alps on an experiment known as "Operation She-Ski," conducted by Capt. M. E. Clarke. Of the 14, five showed considerable promise and may well be ready to take part in the Army Ski Championships next year. Eleven entered for the Slalom set by Col. Macfie, and the winner (Cadet R. Turnbull) reached a very good standard after only a fortnight's ski-ing.

Obituary

Miss Aston

Mrs. Mitchell writes:

"Ex-members of Q.M.A.A.C. who served abroad will be sorry to hear of the loss sustained by one of their number, Mrs. Pearce ("Bunny" Aston), one-time member of the Golders Green Branch of the O.C.A., whose elder sister Elizabeth, known to us all as "Bett," passed on in February, 1953. Those of us who were frequent visitors to "Shanghai" Camp will remember the cheery little pair, for Bett was a W.A.A.C. by adoption. The sisters lived devotedly together for many years, and were only temporarily parted when Bunny travelled to Canada to marry a distant relative. Bett must have been over 65 when in 1947 she courageously journeyed out alone to rejoin her sister and to become actively assimilated into the life of a farm. The news of her passing has been delayed, as her sister suffered a bad breakdown after nursing her till her death, and is now using a wheelchair owing to a form of inflammatory arthritis. She writes with her old indomitable spirit and I am sure we shall all wish her well. Any old friend who cares to write should send to Mrs. R. Pearce, Whitelaw, Alberta, Canada."

Mrs. Bodkin

We are sorry to report the death of Mrs. Bodkin (Katherine Singleton), who served in the W.A.A.C. at Etaples and was decorated for her services in Serbia. She died at Broadstairs on December 30, 1954.

Miss Carlile

We record with regret the death of Miss Carlile, who was one of the very first officers of the W.A.A.C. Miss Carlile was cremated at Golders Green, and Miss Shearman, who attended the ceremony, writes: "There was a very thick layer of snow, but it was beautifully warm in the waiting-room where many of Miss Carlile's friends had assembled. I

did not recognise any W.A.A.C. and I think I was the only representative. Just before 4.15 we all went into the little chapel, and the coffin was brought in, followed by the mourners. We all stood, of course, and I could not help thinking of the old days when we stood upon her entrance, and thought, 'This is the last time we shall stand for her.' It was a very nice service and there were many flowers."

Miss Florence Lush

We regret to record the death at Southampton on February 24, 1955, after a long illness, of Miss Florence Lush, who served with the Q.M.A.A.C. in the A.M.F.O. Depot at Le Havre and also at Calais. Miss Lush was for many years Hon. Secretary of the Edinburgh Branch of the Comrades Association, and for some time housekeeper at the Women's United Services Club in Edinburgh. During her tour as Hon. Secretary she was untiring in her work on the Benevolent Fund, and visited and helped all those members who were ill or in any kind of trouble. She will be remembered for her willing and sympathetic help to all those who were in need of it. Tributes were paid to her memory at the General Meeting of the Branch, and our sympathy goes to her sister, Mrs. James, who nursed her during her illness and to all other members of her family and her many friends.

Births

Davies.—On July 13, 1954, to Sheila M. Davies (*nee* Wylde) at 69 Colwick Road, Nottingham, a daughter, Lynette Faith (sister to Gareth). Now living at 329 Nottingham Road, Toton.

Witham.—At Queen Mary Nursing Home, Edinburgh, on January 18, 1955, to Barbara (formerly Barbara Petrie, A.T.S.), wife of George Witham, a son. Present address: 38 Moredun Park Drive, Edinburgh.

Wylie.—On March 9, 1955, at Johore, to Diana Wylie (*nee* Lucas), a fourth child and third son (Jeremy Nigel). Present address: c/o 2/10 P.M.O. Gurkha Rifles, Majedie Barracks, Johore Bahru, Malaya.

W.R.A.C. HEADQUARTER MESS

It may not be generally realised that anyone who has held a Regular, Short Service or Extended Service Commission in the W.R.A.C. is entitled to become a member of the H.Q. Mess. The annual subscription for such members is 10s. 6d. Application for membership (which includes honorary membership of all recognised W.R.A.C. Messes at home and abroad), should be made to the Secretary, W.R.A.C. H.Q. Mess, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, Surrey.

This year the Corps dinner will be held on Monday, October 31, at the Hyde Park Hotel. H.R.H. The Princess Royal hopes to be present.



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NEWS FROM THE T.A.

321 (Cheshire) Battalion

The officers of the Battalion held a cocktail party at their H.Q. in Volunteer Street, Chester, on Saturday, January 22, 1955. The guests were received by the C.O., Major K. L'E. Moorcroft, T.D., who took over last November. They included Maj.-Gen. W. H. Stratton, C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O. (G.O.C. North West District), the Sheriff of Chester (Mr. Leonard Edwards), Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted (C.S.O. Western Command), Lt.-Col. J. M. V. Cotterell (Secretary, Cheshire T. and A.F. Association), Lt.-Col. M. H. Pine, M.B.E., T.D., and Major L. E. Weston (A.D.W.R.A.C. and D.A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command), Lt.-Col. H. L. Birch, M.B.E., T.D. (4th Battalion The Cheshire Regiment), Lt.-Col. E. H. Clarke, O.B.E. (H.Q., 62 L. of C. Signal Regiment), Major G. S. Elfer (23 (Crewe) Medium Workshop, R.E.M.E. (T.A.)) and Mrs. Elfer, Major D. S. Gray (319 (West Lancs) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)), Major and Mrs. R. Bennett, of Sandbach, and Major S. R. M. Sykes (a former C.O. of 321 Battalion).

322 (North Wales) Battalion

Major M. Fetherstonhaugh, T.D., retired from the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) on January 10, 1955, and was "dined out" by her officers on the following day at the Tabardy Hotel, St. Asaph.

Major Fetherstonhaugh had nearly 28 years of service in the F.A.N.Y., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. (T.A.). She was a well-known figure in all three Corps and her appointments ranged from R.S.M. of the F.A.N.Y. to Commandant of the W.A.C. (I.) O.C.T.U. in India. She has commanded 322 Battalion since its formation six and a half years ago, and her retirement is felt as a great loss by all ranks.

325 (Glamorgan) Battalion

"B" Company held their third Annual Regimental Dinner at Swansea on December 1, 1954. The officers present were Major D. J. Williams (C.O.), Capt. F. StM. Blower (Adj.), Capt. B. Gamble (O.C., "B" Company) and 2/Lt. Harvey. After dinner a very cheerful evening was held with impromptu skits by various members of this M.T. Company, including one outstanding effort by Pte. Gale on "A Driving Lesson."

Glasgow University Officers' Training Corps

During February, the W.R.A.C. sub-unit was approached by the University Women's Hockey Section with regard to the entertaining of the Army Women's hockey team on the 23rd of the month. Being a small unit with no funds, we could not do a great deal, but, thanks to the most kind help of W.R.A.C. Adviser, 105 Brigade Coast Artillery, R.A., refreshments were provided and a very successful social evening took place. The team, having been unable to play any hockey during their Scottish tour, owing to the weather, were duly exercised in eightsome reels and were finally seen off at Glasgow (Central) Station to the pipes. One of the most attractive features of the evening was the presence of Col. E. I. W. Hobkirk, C.B.E., T.D., J.P., who spent the evening with us.

On Saturday, February 26, we welcomed the President of the Norges Lottesforbund, Mrs. Endreson, and Miss Gulbranson, who spent the whole training morning with us.

Col. D. Thorne, C.B.E., T.D., called in on March 3, 1955, to see how the unit was getting on. It was a great pleasure to meet her again and to re-establish old links.



[Courtesy of the South Wales Evening Post

Regimental Dinner at Swansea

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Ayrshire. Last October the Branch resumed its 1954-55 season with holiday news and views. In November, Messrs. Smedleys Ltd. (canners) gave a demonstration (with free samples for all), and we also held a very successful whist drive. During December we visited the theatre and saw "H.M.S. *Pinafore*," performed by the local opera company, and also held the annual children's party for St. Leonard's School. Our reunion dinner was held in the Towans Hotel, Prestwick, on January 8. Once again a number of the Glasgow Branch members were our guests and we had a wonderful evening. The February meeting was in the form of a demonstration of floral art. Later that month we paid a very interesting visit to our local newspaper works, *The Ayrshire Post*, and saw the presses being started for the next morning's edition. Our A.G.M. was held in March and, after the business, the evening was given over to a birthday tea party for our Secretary, Miss Etta Howie, who works so hard to make our Branch the success that it is. Mrs. Helen Lunn, the President, presented her with some toilet requisites on behalf of us all, and then the big cake was cut. We have had quite a number of new members this season and everyone has helped in making our meetings enjoyable. A varied programme has been arranged until September, including a country dance, military whist, evening bus run, visit to the theatre ("Annie Get Your Gun"), visit to Auchincruive (dairy research) and finally a bus run to Edinburgh for the Tattoo.

Bath. A supper was held at "Morans" on Wednesday, April 23, after which the eighth Annual General Meeting took place. The Chairman reported that we had had a busy and successful year, members having helped with four flag days and the Round Table jumble sale. We ourselves had organised two jumble sales, one in aid of the Benevolent Fund and one in aid of Branch funds. Two donations of five guineas each had been sent to the Australian Flood Relief Fund and the Hull Trawlers Distress Fund. Miss Pratt reported on Standing Conference, and the Treasurer presented her balance sheet which showed us with quite a healthy balance at the bank. The Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer were all re-elected and Miss Double was elected to the Committee. The retiring member, Miss Evans, was thanked for her services during her term of office. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary attended the Branch Secretaries' Meeting in London on March 19 and gave an account of the Branch and our activities. They and several members attended the reunion at Seymour Hall in the evening. On March 21, several members attended the Octagon to hear Dame Florence Hancock speak on "Women and Trade Unions," and this lively speaker gave us much food for thought.

Belfast. The Annual General Meeting of the Belfast Branch was held on October 1, 1954; once again Mrs. Ogalvie Graham, O.B.E., was elected President and Miss Baird Hon. Treasurer. The

new appointments were as follows: Miss C. McIlroy (Hon. Vice-President), Miss E. A. Earls (Hon. Secretary); members of the Committee—Capt. E. A. Coleman and Sgt. Blackshaw (serving members, W.R.A.C.), Miss I. Fletcher (ex-W.R.A.C. and A.T.S.), Mrs. P. Neilly (ex-A.T.S.), Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Webb (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.), so the three Corps are well represented in the running of the Branch.

The Branch is now meeting, with the kind permission of Lt.-Col. M. Tompkins, A.D.W.R.A.C., N.I.D., and the Secretary of the T. & A.F. Association, Belfast, at the Drill Hall of 328 (U.) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Victoria Barracks. Meeting here gives us the feeling once again of belonging to the Army. When we see the old stoves which broke many a heart trying to light and clean, the inevitable fire buckets and stirrup pumps, chairs folding flat and the photographs of the W.R.A.C. on and off parade, they remind us of stories which many of us had forgotten and help to make our meetings truly an Old Comrades' affair, which I am pleased to say our young members thoroughly enjoy.

On December 17 the Branch held their Christmas party to wind up the activities of 1954. During this party a presentation was made to Miss Baird by Dr. Olive Anderson (ex-R.A.M.C. and founder member of the Belfast Branch). The presentation was on behalf of the members to show our appreciation for the work she has done for the Branch as Hon. Treasurer for the past 17 years. Miss Baird was a member of the Women's Legion, the W.A.A.C. and thereafter the Q.M.A.A.C. Her rank in the latter was a Forewoman Clerk (equivalent to a W.O.2).

The Branch would welcome all members of the Association who are visiting N. Ireland to come along and meet us at our meeting held on the first and third Friday of each month.

Brighton. We continue to meet on the third Monday of each month and we have also had some enjoyable Sunday afternoon outings into the country. One of the nicest was on October 31, when we went by bus to Shoreham and walked to Lancing College, spending some time in their lovely chapel. We then had an enormous tea at the Lancing home of one of our members, Mrs. Gardner (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.). Our annual "Bring-and-Buy" sale, held in November, raised the sum of £8, which was sent to the almoner at the Brighton General Hospital to provide Christmas gifts for the elderly sick folk who have 'nobody to visit them. One of our members, Miss Thornton, O.B.E. (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.), was then in this hospital, but she passed away on January 21. The Branch Secretary represented the Association at the cremation service. Miss Gutteridge, of Barnsley (ex-Q.M.A.A.C. Forewoman Clerk at Nottingham and Doncaster), was also there and flowers were sent by Mrs. Wooller (*nee* Mucklow), of Exeter (ex-Q.M.A.A.C. Drafting Officer).

Our Annual Dinner was held on January 10 at the Seven Stars Hotel, and was a great success.

Bristol. We have had a New Year's party and visit to the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, in January, and an interesting travel film show for the

February meeting. In March, Mrs. Cottrell, of the Bristol Flower Society, gave a very instructive and fascinating demonstration of flower decoration and judged the pots of bulbs brought by members, which for one reason or another, were few in number.

Edinburgh. In February we enjoyed a most interesting and instructive talk on seaweed and its attributes by a member of the Seaweed Research Unit at Musselburgh. In March we held a "Hat Night." The annual dinner on March 22 was held in the Royal British Hotel, Princes Street. We were honoured to have Lt.-Col. M. Marsh, (A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command), Mrs. Campbell (British Legion), Miss Thompson and Miss Kelly (Secretary and Treasurer of the Glasgow Branch) and Miss Flett (ex-W.A.A.F., President of the Women's United Services Club, Edinburgh). Mrs. M. J. Henderson introduced the guests. Lt.-Col. Marsh delighted us all by giving us an idea of the work of the Corps today, and Mrs. Campbell, who is the standard-bearer for the Eastern Branch of the British Legion, gave us a brief outline of the work of her branch. A vote of thanks was proposed by Miss M. J. Cruickshank.

Glasgow. The 1954 season restarted in September and all members who attended the visit to the Edinburgh Festival Tattoo spent a very enjoyable evening. We also paid our late summer visit to our Ayr Branch friends, always a happy affair. In October we held our Hallow-e'en party for orphan children, to which all members contributed most generously and the children had, we think, a grand afternoon. In November the Branch held its first annual dinner which, we are happy to say, was very successful. We had the pleasure of the company of Lt.-Col. M. K. Marsh, A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command, and other members who are still on active service. Two members of the Branch were very pleased to accept and enjoy the hospitality of the Q.M.A.A.C. at their annual dinner. In the New Year, some of our members attended the Ayr Branch dinner, which is now a recognised fixture to our Branch. In January we held a military whist drive and thanks are due to all who came out in such very bad weather to attend same. Our first date after the A.G.M. has been a film night—the subject, "Guide Dogs for the Blind"; this is a wonderful film and I think that everyone present was a little wet about the eyes at the conclusion of same.

Hartlepool. We have started the New Year with quite good attendances at each of our meetings. At our January meeting we had a real good party, members bringing some eats and friends. Everybody agreed that it was a jolly evening and well worth turning out for on a nasty night. For our February meeting we were entertained by our Treasurer, Miss M. McCarthy, who gave a talk on her experiences in France as an A.T.S. ambulance driver from April 1 to June 15, 1940. We were all very interested to hear these reminiscences. We had the Branch annual dinner in March, 17 of our members attending. The Secretary was indisposed and was most disappointed at not being able to

attend. The dinner was held at the Staincliff Hotel, Seaton Carew. The Branch welcomed two new members to the meetings, Mrs. M. Clarkson, who is a transfer from Durham City Branch, and Mrs. S. Shelsher (*nee* Cairns). Mrs. Shelsher is well known to a number of us, having served with us in the 6th Durhams at the Stockton Road Drill Hall, Middlesbrough.

Hastings and St. Leonards. During the last few years this Branch, as such, almost ceased to function, but its life-blood was kept flowing through the loyalty of a few staunch ex-Q.M.A.A.C. members. Most of the A.T.S. members have resigned from the Branch, as they have either moved from the district or have married and started families. Lt. Beaufre, one of our members, has graciously allowed us the use of the Drill Hall at Bulverhythe, St. Leonards, for our meetings. For this kind gesture we extend our grateful thanks. Miss Osler has resigned as Secretary of the Branch, and Miss K. J. Ash, ex-A.T.S., of 118 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea, has been elected Secretary. With the change over to a secretary of a younger generation, it is hoped that more ex-A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. members will join the Branch.

Ilford. Our January meeting was a New Year party at a member's house, which we all enjoyed. In March, Miss Parker entertained us all at her house to celebrate (dare we say it) her 60th birthday. One of our members, Miss A. Banks, is at present in hospital and we wish her a speedy return to health.

London. First and foremost, we would send the new Editor every good wish in the task she has undertaken. Miss Ivy Brown, our splendid Assistant Secretary, who has recently undergone an operation, is making good progress towards recovery and for this we are very thankful. We hope soon to have her in our midst once again. Our gatherings have been quite well attended during this dreadfully cold winter. Miss Edith Thompson held us spellbound with her talk on, and photographs of, her visit to South Africa, during which trip she visited Dame Florence Simpson. The Century House Choir gave us a very entertaining evening in February. Their singing was excellent. On this occasion a collection was taken up and the sum of £1 7s. 0d. was duly forwarded to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. On March 3, Mrs. McKenzie organised a most interesting evening on "What's My Line"—quite a new feature. We shall be delighted to welcome anyone at our meetings held on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 52 Lower Sloane Street, London, S.W.3, 7.30 p.m.

Lonsdale. Before our January meeting we paid a most interesting visit to the Regimental Museum of the King's Own Royal Regiment, conducted round by Col. L. I. Cowper. After our usual tea and biscuits, our Chairman, Col. J. M. Cowper, gave us an insight into her visit to the B.B.C. in London, where she was interviewed about her appointment as Corps historian. For our February meeting we visited our local printing works (*The Lancaster Guardian*). In March we went to the

theatre to see the famous film and TV star, Lana Morris, in "Young Wives' Tale." After the show we were thrilled to meet Miss Morris, who showed quite an interest in our Branch activities. We have gained three new members, and have held a jumble sale which proved quite a success.

Norfolk. The New Year's party and raffle were a great success this year, members supporting the latter very well indeed, both with prizes and the sale of tickets. It was nice to have Miss West with us, but we regret that, owing to continued ill health, she is leaving Norwich to live at Whitstable. Miss West is one of the old stalwarts of the Branch and is one of our staunchest supporters. How we are going to miss her! Our best wishes go with her. Miss McDermott, of Great Yarmouth, had the flood waters to the sandbags at her door in January, but fortunately none indoors this time. However, they had to be prepared, with carpets up and furniture removed for several days until the danger was passed. Most trying, with an invalid mother. Miss Howson is comfortably settled in her new flat. Mrs. Wilson has been ill with bronchitis, but is now better. Mrs. Adams has recovered from her fall, but has not been able to return to office work. Miss Wilson is not so well this cold weather, and says in her letters that the hut is very cold, but she writes cheerfully. Miss Brock visits her whenever possible. Miss Edith Thompson, C.B.E., is back from Africa, and hopes to visit us in the warmer weather.

Preston. Meetings held at 7.30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at the Stanley Street Drill Hall, Preston, Lancs.

Southampton. We still meet at the Carlton Drill Hall, but have changed our meeting night to the first Tuesday in the month. Our A.G.M. in October was well attended, and a new Committee was elected with Miss A. D. Stott as Chairman, vice Miss B. Davies, who resigned. At the annual dinner in February we were fortunate in having Col. Hull, D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command, as our guest speaker. We were also very pleased to have Mrs. Thackeray, formerly S. Comd. Barbara Fair, with us. Mrs. Thackeray is a member of the Winchester City Council, Organiser for the Red Cross and St. John's Hospital Library Service, Secretary of the Friends of Winchester Cathedral, and prospective Mayor of Winchester. We held another jumble sale and beetle drive in November and a social evening with "housey-housey" in December, the small profits being put into funds. In January we held a small "Bring-and-Buy" sale for members, and in February we had an interesting demonstration of lampshade-making. For March we had an interesting speaker from the N.S.P.C.C. The children's party in January for needy children of the town was very successful, and the "Punch-and-Judy" most popular. We catered for ourselves, and an inspector from the N.S.P.C.C. kindly acted as Father Christmas. We have also had a truly grand day at the W.R.A.C. Museum at Guildford, thanks to R.S.M. Hildyard. During the year the Chairman and Secretary have attended two Area Council Meetings, which keeps us in touch with our neighbouring Branches. We have already met both



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Salisbury and Bournemouth at half-way beauty-spots for picnic suppers. We were invited as an Association to the inaugural meeting of the Standing Council of Women sponsored by the Lady Mayoress of Southampton, and the Chairman and Secretary attended. At the second meeting we were honoured and rather surprised to find our Chairman elected as Secretary. We hope that this will put us in the town picture.

Southend-on-Sea. Although this Branch is now small, we still manage to remain active, thanks to the very loyal support of some members. At our A.G.M. last year, the same officers and Committee were re-elected. The Chairman, Miss M. Tubbs, was thanked for all the hard work she had put in over the previous year. Our summer outing, last year, was to Littlehampton, where, although the weather was not as kind as it might have been, we had no rain till we were well on our way home. We closed down over the summer months, re-opening in October. In November, our Chairman took part in the local parade to the war memorial, where she laid a wreath on our behalf. We regret that our President's father passed away towards the end of last year. Two representatives were at the funeral. We have been continuing to help needy families in the town, thanks to the assistance of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund. After Christmas, we went to see "Cinderella on Ice" at the Empress Hall. This Branch was the first organisation to be greeted by the management. A Christmas greeting was received from Mrs. Gordon (*nee* Smith) from whom we were very pleased to hear. Her present address is c/o Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Sparrow, 2314 7th Street West, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

York. The York Branch has amalgamated with Leeds Branch, whose members meet on the second Friday in the month. York members should send their subscriptions to Capt. B. Elliott, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Dewsbury Road Camp, Leeds 11.

The Girl from Rhodesia

Felicia Randolph was a civil servant in the Northern Rhodesia Government offices in Lusaka when she read in her local paper, the *Central African Post*, that she could join the W.R.A.C. and that the Army would pay the fare of the potential recruit to Nairobi, 2,000 miles away in Kenya.

She wrote for particulars and within a few days she was flying to Nairobi to be interviewed. She returned to give a month's notice to her employers, and was attested by the C.O. of the Lusaka unit of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment. Her case was unique, and the C.O. had to send to H.Q. Nairobi for W.R.A.C. attestation papers.

Her call-up came in the form of a telegram—she was to report to Nairobi and from there to fly to England. It was a good job that her enthusiasm was equal to the whirl of events, for her enlistment was handled with such dispatch that she left Nairobi on a Sunday morning and was on the square at the W.R.A.C. Depot at Guildford on the following Wednesday.

Cpl. Randolph now has two years' service and is

a typing instructor at the Drivers' and Clerks' Training Centre at Yeovil. She is making the most of her new life and is taking advantage of W.R.A.C. educational facilities. Fortunately the Education Officer in her unit is equal to the task of providing for her rather unusual needs—nothing less than requests for lessons in Chinyanja and Swahili, native languages of the Federated States of Central Africa. With this knowledge, plus the experience she has gained of Army clerical work, she hopes to be even better fitted for service in her local government when she returns to Rhodesia where her Hampshire family has now settled.

As an N.C.O., Felicia Randolph finds an outlet for her interest in people, and she says, "There isn't another job I'd rather be doing."

PERSONAL

For charges and particulars please see Contents page

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 dress tunic and skirt. Height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 36 in., hips 40 in., cap 6½ in. Two green shirts, four collars (14 in.), tie, gloves (7). Complete £25. Also battle-dress blouse and skirt (tailored Weatherill), £5. Khaki greatcoat, £3. Write Major C. M. Butler, 55 Oxhey Road, Oxhey, Watford, Herts.

For Sale.—No. 1 dress uniform, tunic and skirt. Excellent condition, made by Weatherill. Hips 37/38 in., bust 34 in., waist 26 in., height 5 ft. 3 in. to 5 ft. 4 in. Also green cap, worn twice, green satchel, shirts, collars (13½ in. neck). Write Mrs. D. F. Lawrence, 13 Victoria Road, Penarth, Glam.

For Sale.—Officer's khaki service dress (complete W.R.A.C. buttons), greatcoat, battle tunic and skirt, cap (size 7), Sam Browne. Height 5 ft. 7 in., bust 34 in., hips 38 in. All in good condition. Reasonable offer accepted. Box No. 2/55.

For Sale.—Officer's service dress in very good condition. Height 5 ft. 5 in., bust 36 in., waist 28 in., hips 40 in.; £8 or reasonable offer. Write Preston, Briar House, Three Gates Lane, Haslemere.

For Sale.—In Devon, semi-detached guest house with good connections. Five bedrooms, two reception, two box rooms, bathroom, kitchen with Beeston boiler and usual offices. Nice garden and garage. Newly decorated inside and out. Apply Beckett, 27 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex.

For Sale.—Uniforms. Size: bust 38 in., hips 38 in., height 5 ft. 6 in. No. 1 dress and cap, almost new, 20 gns. Service dress, wearable, 2 gns. Khaki greatcoat, worn, 1 gn. Battle dress, almost new, 3 gns. Or 25 gns. the lot. Box No. 3/55.

For Sale.—As new. W.R.A.C. officer's No. 1 dress tailored by Bernard Weatherill. Greatcoat, tunic and skirt (buttons complete), cap, shoes. Excellent condition, greatcoat never worn. Height 5 ft. 7 in., bust 38 in. Uniform sent on approval. Also Van Heusen collars, size 14. Box No. 4/55.

For Sale.—Officer's service dress (in excellent condition), khaki greatcoat and cap. 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.—Officer's No. 1 dress uniform. Good condition. Height 5 ft. 2 in., bust 36 in., waist 29 in., hips 38 in., cap 6½; £20. Miss R. M. Nichols, Benenden School, Cranbrook, Kent.

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 dress. Height 5 ft. 8 in., bust 36 in., hips 39 in., waist 26 in., cap (size 7). Also officer's khaki greatcoat. Mrs. V. Wilson, 1 Edgcombe Gardens, Newquay, Cornwall.

Ferring, Worthing.—For sale, by ex-Q.M.A.A.C., freehold of sunny detached house in this charming seaside village. Five bedrooms, two sitting (one with french door to garden), modern bathroom, two W.C.s, hall cloaks (could easily be reverted to second bathroom), Ideal boiler, immersion heater, garage, garden shed, delightful garden. All modernised two years ago. Would make small guest-house for which there is scope, or convert to two flats. £3,800. Box No 5/55, or phone Goring-by-Sea 42338.

Ayr, Scotland.—Bed, breakfast, high tea, supper, home baking, lounge. Mrs. J. McCaw, 9 Quail Road, Ayr. Phone: Ayr 5133.

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, 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. 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 Road, Bexhill-on-Sea. Phone: Ninfield 212.

UNIT BRANCHES

- 1 Independent Company.—Redfort Cavalry Barracks, Colinton, Edinburgh.
- 2 Independent Company.—W.O.2 D. C. Till, Venning Barracks, Donnington, Shropshire.
- 3 Independent Company.—2/Lt. E. P. Leach, School of A.A. Artillery, Manorbier, nr. Tenby.
- 4 Independent Company.—Sgt. I. T. Friend, G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F., c/o G.P.O. Singapore.
- 6 Independent Company.—Lt. B. B. Turner, Zebra Camp, Watchfield, nr. Swindon, Wilts.
- 7 Independent Company.—W.O.2 J. T. Cullen, Station Road, Didcot, Berks.
- 8 Independent Company.—W.O.2 E. M. A. Trodd, No. 4 Camp, Lower Arncliffe, Bicester, Oxon.
- 9 Independent Company.—W.O.2 M. Hope, Fugglestone Camp North, Wilton, nr. Salisbury.
- 10 Independent Company.—W.O.2 K. M. Pryor, Mandora Hutments, Hope Grants Road, Aldershot.
- 12 Independent Company.—Lt. E. M. Miseroy, Menage Lines, Old Infantry Barracks, Canterbury.
- 14 Independent Company.—W.O.2 E. Jones, Saighton Camp, Chester.
- 15 Independent Company.—S/Sgt. N. Harris, Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, Salop.
- 16 Independent Company.—Sgt. Donaldson, Wolverley Camp, Kidderminster, Worcs.
- 17 Independent Company.—Sgt. D. J. Nolan, P. & E. E. New Ranges, Shoeburyness, Essex.
- 21 Independent Company.—W.O.2 E. J. Garfield, 13 Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7.
- 25 Independent Company.—W.O.2 T. Buchanan, "Cloverlands," Newdigate Lane, Kimberley, Notts.
- 26 Independent Company.—Lt. M. E. Scott, Highfield, Carpenders Park, nr. Watford, Herts.
- 22 Independent Platoon.—S/Sgt. E. M. McDonald, H.Q. Land Forces, Hong Kong.
- 24 Independent Platoon.—Sgt. M. Trinnick, P.O. Box 4000, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 3rd Battalion.—W.O.1 C. M. Savage, M.B.E., Catterick Camp, Yorks.
- 4th Battalion.—W.O.1 E. Hadley, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Chilwell, Notts.
- 12th Battalion.—W.O.1 E. M. Clarke, Richmond Park Camp, Kingston, Surrey.
- 14th Battalion.—W.O.1 K. M. Holmes, H.Q. Northern Army Group, B.A.O.R. 1.
- 16th Battalion.—W.O.1 M. G. Fahy, W.R.A.C. Camp, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F. 17.
- 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.—S/Sgt. V. Embrow, Orsett Camp, Orsett, Essex.
- 2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.—W.O.2 Newton, Barrosa Barracks, Stanhope Lines, Aldershot, Hants.
- 3 A.A. Group Branch.—S/Sgt. Talbot, Riccarton House, Currie, Midlothian.
- 4 A.A. Group Branch.—Sgt. J. Turnbull, Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, Lancs.
- 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.—S/Sgt. D. Argo, Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, Yorks.
- 46 (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A.—2/Lt. H. M. Phillips, Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield, Surrey.
- Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment.—Capt. Rushton, Glencorse Barracks, Milton Bridge, Midlothian.
- Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment.—Sgt. V. Tresidder, H.Q. Southern Command, Salisbury.
- School of Instruction.—W.O.1 F. J. Hadley, Huron Camp, Hindhead, Surrey.
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- W.R.A.C. P.T. Wing, A.S.P.T.—W.O.1 J. Marmont, Queens Avenue, Aldershot.
- 455 (M) H.A.A. Regiment (Kent) (T.A.).—W.O.2 P. Nairne, T.A. Centre, St. John's Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
- 328 (Ulster) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).—W.O.1 Bell, Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, County Antrim.
- 54 A.A. Regiment, R.A.—W.O.2 M. W. Coombes, Windmill Hill, Gibraltar.

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- Aberdeen.**—Miss H. T. G. Donaldson, 5 Ash Hill Drive, Aberdeen.
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Derby.—Miss H. Rice, 99 Normanton Road, Derby.
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Wimbledon.—Miss C. Samuda, 25 Wordsworth Drive, Cheam, Surrey.
Wolverhampton.—Mrs. Carroll, 135 Coleman Street, Wolverhampton, Staffs.

BOOKS

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

Service with the Army (published at 7s. 6d.), 2s. 6d., postage 3d.

Junior Leader and Other Addresses, 1s., postage 3d.

W.R.A.C. PRINT

Copies of the W.R.A.C. print, depicting a recruiter in No. 1 dress, may be obtained from the Secretary, W.R.A.C. H.Q. Mess, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, price 17s. 6d. (packing and postage, 1s.).

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