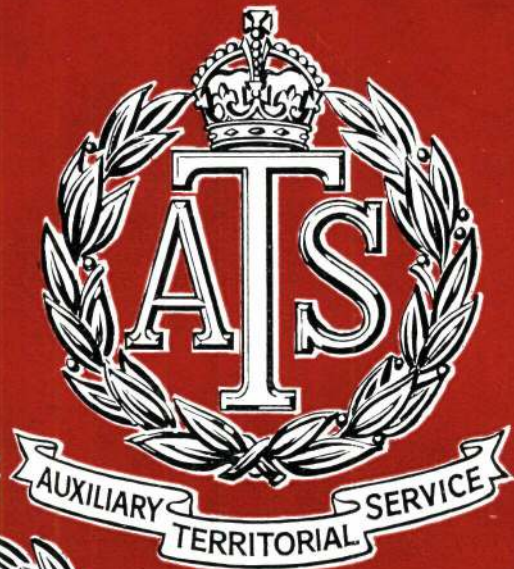
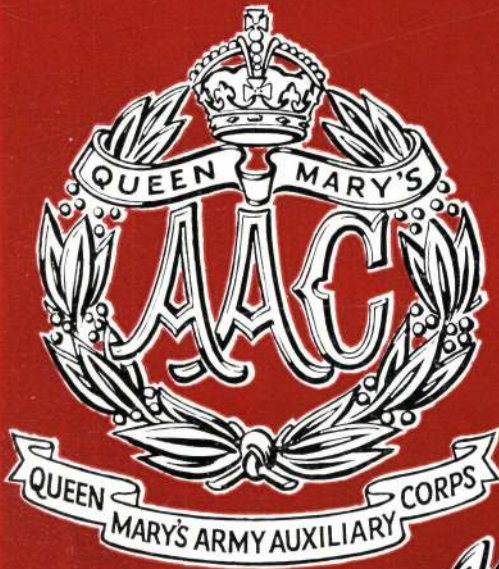
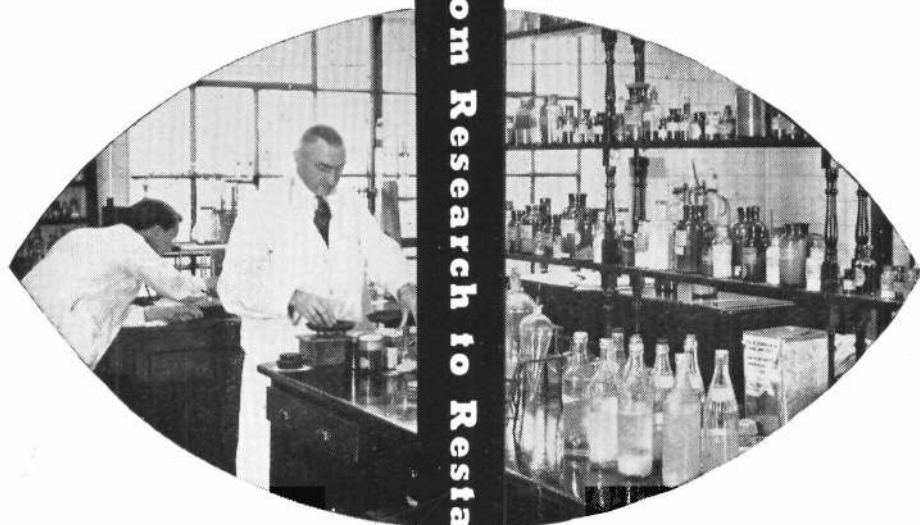


MASTER COPY

THE LIONESS



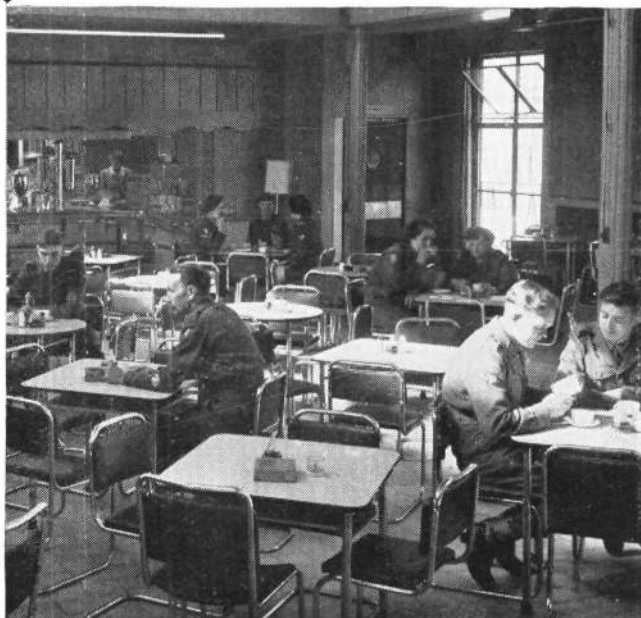


from Research to Restaurants

As the official caterers to Her Majesty's Forces Naafi meets many of the daily needs of Service men and women the world over.

To supply their requirements through its clubs, canteens and restaurants, Naafi must necessarily maintain a large buying organisation; but equally important is the maintenance of a consistently high standard of quality in its supplies. In Naafi laboratories, therefore, scientific analysis by experts is a daily task. It is one that involves not only stringent laboratory tests of purchases, but also constant research into improved methods of food production, storage and preservation.

These "behind the scenes" activities ensure that Naafi restaurants serve goods of a proven quality and excellence; while, between the research and the restaurant, is a long chain of skilled processes traditional to . . .



...this many sided

NAAFI

The official canteen organisation for H.M. Forces,
Imperial Court, Kennington, London, S.E.11.

Contents

	PAGE
Editorial	1
Forthcoming Events	1
In Memoriam	2
Association Notes	3
News from the T.A.	4
"Gun Day"	8
In the Service of the Guns	9
Leave and Liaison with the N.Z.W.R.A.C.	10
We went to Turkey	11
Forty-one Years Have Passed By	12
The B.A.O.R. 'Crossed Swords' Motor Rally	13
News from the Units	14
W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess	15
Sport	16
City and Guilds Award	17
News from the Branches	18
800 Men and One Girl	21
"London Gazette"	21
Personal	22
Obituary	22

W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK

General Secretary

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

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

Editor

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

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

Advertisement Representative

Messrs. Dayton Press Ltd.
18 Barter Street, High Holborn, London, W.C.1
CHANCERY 2413/4

Charges

Personal column: 3 lines 2s., each additional line 6d., non-members 50% more. Box Numbers 6d. Reunion notices: Notices of forthcoming reunions where admission is charged may be inserted at a cost of 3d. a line. Trade, Commercial, Official, etc.: 2s. a line, minimum 4 lines.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY
MARCH 31

A WONDERFUL

NEW Soapless Shampoo!



... WITH A FAMOUS NAME

☆ This NEW Powder Shampoo by Evan Williams contains LANOLIN to preserve hair texture!

You'll love this beautifully blended, easy-to-mix, easy-to-rinse-out LANOLIN Powder Shampoo—it's new—it's made by Evan Williams, famous for over 50 years as experts in the art of hair beauty. Your hair will never become dry and brittle, dull or lifeless, if you use this NEW Evan Williams Shampoo, because the magic of Lanolin and other hair conditioning ingredients will preserve the texture and enhance its natural beauty.

5d. per packet

IF IT'S

EVAN WILLIAMS

IT'S GOOD FOR THE HAIR

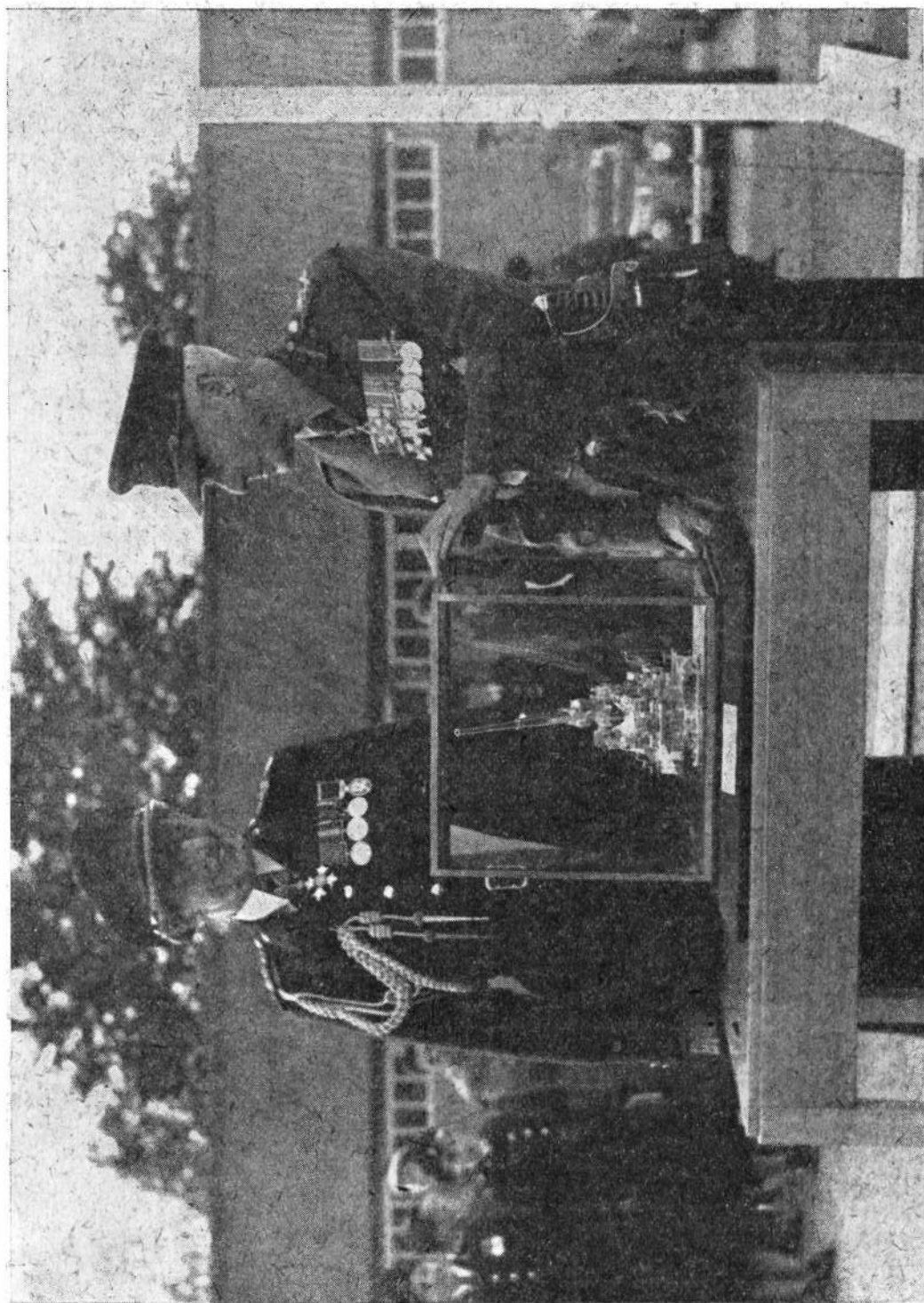


☆ Also obtainable in
LIQUID FORM Sachets 6½d—Bottles 1/6

HAVE YOU TRIED
THE MIRACLE OF

New Look

A wonderful NEW HAIR CONDITIONING CREAM by Evan Williams
ASK FOR IT AT YOUR LOCAL SUPPLIERS **2/-** per tube.



[Photograph by T. A. Wilkie, Guildford

General Sir Frederick Pile presenting the Silver Gun to Brigadier Railton



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXIX

February 1956

No. 1

EDITORIAL

THIS issue of *The Lioness* goes to press, as our punctilious contributors will have noticed, on December 31. The atmosphere in the editorial office is even more rarified than usual, for we are engaged in the uplifting task of making our New Year Resolutions. This is an exercise which, by years of practice, we have brought to a polished state of perfection—we can say without boasting that no one in the Corps makes better resolutions than we do. In punctuality, economy, tidiness and industry, 1956 finds us turning over our usual New Leaf.

IN 1956 we really are going to get up early. We shall rise at cockcrow—or rather, as cocks do not crow much in our suburban road, when the taxi-driver opposite heralds the dawn by revving up his ancient engine. No more snuggling down for another delicious ten minutes. We shall leap from our bed with a song on our lips and a smile on our shining morning face. The song will probably last only till our neighbours have time to leap from theirs, but the shining face will be with us all day, for we are renouncing make-up among the frivolous vanities of 1955. We shall cultivate a healthy natural beauty by doing P.T. for several hours in front of our open window. We hope that the taxi is going to be out a good deal.

IN 1956 every moment of our day, every penny of our earnings, is going to be turned to some useful and productive purpose. We shall start at once to embroider tapestry kneelers for the Chapel at the Depot—soon, we hope, to be turned into a Corps Chapel of which the whole Service can be proud. The materials for the kneelers (which are to be all the same in size, pattern and colour) can be obtained from the Chaplain's Assistant, W.R.A.C. Depot, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, for about 23s. each, and for another 10s. the Depot will arrange to have the finished kneeler made up. When we have made a few hundred of those we shall start on offertory-bags and book-markers, and meantime we shall be saving up for a font. This may seem a curious need in the Chapel of a sisterhood such as ours, but quite a number of the women who join the Army have never been baptised, and they often start their new life by taking this great spiritual step at the same time as the temporal one.

IN 1956 we really are going to tidy our flat from top to bottom, probing into all the unplumbed depths of horror which have lurked for decades below the surface of our drawers and cupboards. Among the accumulations of the last fifteen years

we expect to turn up many old letters, diaries and photographs, dating from the early days of the A.T.S., which we shall send off to Col. J. M. Cowper, T.D., 4 Hillside, Lancaster, to provide background material for the Corps History. Even if we find on re-reading them that we have slightly overrated their literary and historical significance, we shall send them just the same, hoping that under her expert hand some unconsidered detail may dovetail into the general pattern.

IN 1956 our mind, unclouded by riotous living and uncluttered by idle fancies, will be particularly clear and bright, and while our busy fingers fly we shall compose innumerable brilliant articles for *The Lioness*, all full of elevating moral thoughts and serious practical good sense. This time next year we shall be able to look back on achievements which will make our past life look like an arid waste of time.

OR shall we? Our New Year Resolutions are beautiful indeed, but like many other exquisite works of art they are exceedingly fragile and of very little practical use. We have a horrid feeling that by the end of 1956 we may not after all have very many kneelers, historical documents, or interesting *Lioness* articles to our credit. We do hope that other people will.

BIRTH

Thomas. On August 31, 1955, to Mabel (formerly S.Q.M.S.I. Peck, W.R.A.C.), wife of W. A. Thomas (ex-W.O.2 R.A.S.C.), a son (William Brian). Present address, 4 Brighton Terrace, Bradford Street, Shrewsbury.

Forthcoming Events

March

- 2-3 Netball: Inter-Unit Championship, Aldershot.
- 7 Hockey: R.N. v. R.A.F., Burghfield.
- 8 Hockey: Army v. R.A.F., Uxbridge.
- 9 Hockey: R.N. v. Army, Aldershot.
- 10 Scottish Reunion, Edinburgh.
- 19 Netball: Inter-Service Tournament, Halton.
- 23 Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion, Duke of Yorks H.Q.
- 24 W.R.A.C. Association A.G.M., Duke of Yorks H.Q.

April

- 20 Headquarter Mess A.G.M., Duke of Yorks H.Q.
- 22 Princess Royal's Day, Guildford.
- 27 Table tennis: Inter-Unit Finals, Guildford.

In Memoriam

MISS BLANCHE IRELAND, M.B.E.

MESSAGE FROM H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL

I have learnt with sincere regret of the illness and death of Blanche Ireland. She had for long been the active and beloved Vice-President of the London Branch of our Association, and had served on the Council since its inception. At the last Annual General Meeting she accepted the office of Chairman. In spite of her illness she carried out the duties with conspicuous wisdom and charm. She was the first Secretary of the Ex-Service Women's Club and remained Secretary to the relevant Board till the time of her death. In those capacities she was known to members of all three Services. She suffered much from arthritis but she never allowed it to get her down. What we shall always remember is her courage, her kindness, her lovable humility, her friendly outlook.

TRIBUTE FROM DAME FLORENCE SIMPSON, D.B.E.

Blanche Ireland was born on June 3, 1891. When we heard the sad news of her death on November 20, 1955, the thoughts of many of her friends must have travelled back to the days before the 1914-18 War.

There are several ex-Service women who will remember working with her in the first munitions canteen which was opened by Lilian Barker at the Tabernacle, Woolwich, in 1915, when the Women's Volunteer Reserve (among its many other arduous jobs) undertook to work the night shift. Most of these girls were occupied during the day and went down to Woolwich to run the breakfasts and dinners. The shift began about 7 p.m. and ended about 3 a.m., when they were able to rest in deck-chairs until they could travel back to London by the first workman's train.

When in February, 1917, the Army Council constituted the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps for duties with the British Armies in France and at home, Blanche was one of the first to offer her services. The first women to be enrolled in the W.A.A.C. for service in France were cooks and waitresses of the Women's Legion, Military Cookery Section, who had been working in camps since July, 1915, under the Q.M.G.'s Department at the War Office. These first W.A.A.C.s were assembled at Ingram House and were drilled by Blanche Ireland, a smart figure in W.V.R. uniform. When Connaught Club became the London Depot, she was one of the first Administrators to be posted there. Her extraordinary gift for organisation was soon recognised, and she was later put in charge first of the Drafting Depot at the Hotel Metropole, Folkestone, and then of the Training Centre for

1,200 women at Bostall Heath, both very responsible jobs. In recognition of her services she was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

On demobilisation she became the first Secretary of the Ex-Service Women's Club for all ranks in Buckingham Gate. She was indefatigable in her devoted service to all the members, and to all ex-Service women with whom she came in contact, and they showed their appreciation of her kind, unselfish and unfailing consideration for them on all occasions by a spontaneous call of "We want Miss Ireland," whether at annual dinners or at any gathering of Old Comrades. She never failed to give active and sympathetic support to all ex-Service undertakings, and was the moving spirit in making a success of any project in which she took part. From 1925 until the time of her death she divided her time between a secretaryship to Lord De La Warr (playing a large part in the successful management of his Bexhill estate) and the secretaryship to the Board of the Helena Residential Clubs. At the last Annual General Meeting of the W.R.A.C. Association (incorporating the Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Old Comrades' Association) she was elected Chairman of the Council, of which she was always a most active member, trusted and loved by all her colleagues. She was Past Grand Treasurer of the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Masonry, Chairman of the Twickenham Branch of the Gas Federation, and President of the Women's Section of the Saint Margaret's British Legion Branch.

For many years Blanche Ireland suffered from arthritis. She bore this suffering with fortitude and endurance beyond compare, and with a cheerful spirit which won the admiration of all who came in contact with her. Her friends were legion and her sympathies and interests far-reaching. Her gift for friendship was without limits, and everything she undertook went with a swing. In spite of ill-health during the later years of her life, she enjoyed much happiness from the love and devotion which flowed towards her from the hearts of the many who now feel the loss of a valued friend. She has left with us many happy memories of a life lived for others, and her memory will live in our hearts.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT TWICKENHAM

A Thanksgiving Service in memory of Miss Blanche Ireland was held at St. Stephen's Church, Twickenham, on the evening of Monday, November 28. The congregation of nearly 400 included Earl De La Warr, Lord and Lady Buckhurst, Lady Katherine Giles, The Mayoress of Twickenham, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Dame Frances Coulshed, Dame Regina Evans, Brigadier Railton,

and a great number of serving officers, old comrades, and representatives of Miss Ireland's many activities.

The service was conducted by the Rev. R. J. W. Morris and the lessons were read by Earl De La Warr and Lord Buckhurst. The beautiful choral music, the blaze of richly coloured chrysanthemums, the reading of a triumphant passage from the last chapter of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, and the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille by a bugler from the W.R.A.C. Band, all helped to create a spirit of thankfulness for a good life rather than mourning for a sad bereavement.

There were no wreaths, as Miss Ireland had

asked that all tributes to her memory should take the form of donations to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Over £130 has already been contributed in her name, by her friends and admirers and by Branches and Areas of the Association, and gifts are still being gratefully received by the Secretary, W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund, Duke of York's H.Q., S.W.3.

SYMPATHY FROM THE W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION

At the meetings of the Scottish and Western Area Committees, members asked that their sincere sympathy and sense of loss might be passed on.

Association Notes

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, March 24, 1956, at 3 o'clock.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday, March 19, 1955 (circulated in the May issue of *The Lioness*).

2. Business arising from the minutes.

3. Election of officers.

The undermentioned have been nominated:

Chairman of Council: Brigadier Dame Frances Coulshed, D.B.E., Brigadier M. Railton, C.B.E., D.W.R.A.C.

Council Vice-Presidents: Col. J. M. Cowper, T.D.

Lt.-Col. S. M. Crawley, T.D., W.R.A.C.

4. Reports of Council and Committees.

5. Report of the Hon. Treasurer.

6. Report of the Editor of *The Lioness*.

7. Branch resolutions:

"That *The Lioness* be produced on cheaper quality paper, to offset the rising cost of production." — *Hastings and St. Leonards Branch*.

"That resolutions of the General Council for submission to the Annual General Meeting should be included in the agenda published in the February issue of *The Lioness*, in order that such resolutions may be discussed by Branch members prior to the attendance of their representative at the meeting." — *Liverpool and District Branch*.

8. Date of next meeting.

9. Any other business.

A. J. LUMSDEN,
General Secretary.

December 30, 1955.

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

will take place in the Canteen of the H.Q. Club, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, on Friday, March 23, 1956, at 7 p.m.

Tickets 4s.

obtainable now from the General Secretary at the above address. Please enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply.

1956 REUNION

at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh,
Saturday, March 10, 6 to 10 p.m.

The arrangements for the 1956 reunion are well advanced, and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal has graciously promised to be present.

It is doubtful whether the W.R.A.C. Band will be able to come, after all, because of the cost of transport, but we are hoping for the best. Miss Jean Campbell, T.D., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C., has very kindly promised to sing some of the traditional Highland songs to her own clarsach accompaniment. For the benefit of English friends who may not have heard her, the clarsach is an ancient Highland harp and Miss Campbell is one of its best-known exponents. It is possible that a well-known television star who was in the A.T.S. may be able to come. It has been suggested that speech-making should be cut to a minimum so that everyone shall have all the time possible to meet their friends from all over the country and abroad. If the gathering approves, we shall finish up with Scottish country dancing.

It is now up to all members of the W.R.A.C., A.T.S. and Q.M.A.A.C. to help by writing for their tickets as soon as possible. The price is 5s. 6d., including light refreshments, and the caterers must have an estimate of the numbers expected some time before. Please send your order with the money and a stamped addressed envelope to the Treasurer, Mrs. Ogilvie, 5 Hillview Terrace, Edinburgh 4. Tickets will also be available for personal callers at the Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

AMENDMENTS TO LIST OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

Dumfries. For address, substitute: "Tweedville," Eastfield Road, Dumfries.

9 Independent Company. Substitute: W.O.2 M. Anthony.

14 Independent Company. Substitute: W.O.2 G. R. Wild.

54 A.A. Regiment, R.A. For unit title, substitute **18 Independent Company** (other details unchanged).

Delete the following branches: 21, 25 and 26 Independent Companies; 1, 2 and 5 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiments; 3 and 4 A.A. Group Branches; 46 (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A.; 455 (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.).

NEWS FROM THE T.A.

HONOUR FOR W.O.2 BLYTHAN

306 (Northumbrian) Battalion

THE women transferred to 306 (Northumbrian) Battalion from the Mixed A.A. Batteries have entered into the activities of the Battalion with the same spirit of loyalty and co-operation as they showed when working in an operational capacity with the men. One of them was W.O.2 E. Blythan from West Hartlepool. After she had been with us only a few weeks, it was announced in *The Times* that she had been awarded the B.E.M. The recommendation and citation for this award had been written by the Commander of her former unit, 463 (M) H.A.A. Regiment R.A./T.A.

W.O.2 Blythan began her Service career in 1940 as a rating in the W.R.N.S. She was rapidly promoted, and in 1941 became Chief Petty Officer in Chief in "C" Station, N.O.R.E., where she remained till her release from the Service in 1946. In 1949 she became a P.S.I. in the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) in the rank of W.O.2, and she is still a serving member.

Major-General C. H. Colquhoun, C.B., O.B.E., G.O.C. Northumbrian District, made the presentation on November 29, 1955, in the new T.A. Centre, West Hartlepool, which lent itself beautifully to the occasion. W.O.2 Blythan's late Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Pearson, T.D., was present, and her husband and a large number of her personal friends. After a great deal of active rehearsing, the women of her own Company from Sunderland and West Hartlepool performed magnificently, the parade went off without a hitch, and the precision of the drill was greatly admired by the spectators. The G.O.C. inspected and spoke to several of the women after the general salute. The medal was then presented, and

W.O.2 Blythan was invited to stand next to the G.O.C. for the march past.

After the parade the official guests were entertained in the Officers' Mess, while W.O.2 Blythan's own personal guests and fellow-sergeants rounded off the evening in the Sergeants' Mess, where the G.O.C. joined them for a short time.

316 (Scottish Command) Battalion.

Friday, July 22, 1955, was a proud and happy day in the life of the Battalion when the Director visited us in camp at Dundonald in Ayrshire. Besides touring the quarters and cookhouse, watching clerical and driver training and speaking to many of the women, Brigadier Railton (who was accompanied on her visit by Lt.-Col. M. M. K. Marsh, A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command) inspected the Battalion and took the salute at a full ceremonial parade. Afterwards the Director was photographed with the Battalion and its real Lioness-head, recently acquired by the newly-formed "B" Company. She told us that we are the only Unit to have such a mascot.

A week later we had a visit from the Band, who beat retreat and gave a concert that was much enjoyed. We were very pleased to have 10 members of the Ayr Branch of the Old Comrades' Association with us. Our one regret was that the Band had not been with us for the parade.

The proceeds of two dances enabled the Battalion to spend a day exploring Arran, the first sea journey for some people. The cooks did a valiant job under difficulties, and the move to camp (some 200 miles from North-East to South-West Scotland) was carried out in convoy with the Unit vehicles in a manner which reflected great credit on the drivers under our two M.T. P.S.I.s.



316 (Scottish Command) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.), with the Battalion Mascot, entertains Brigadier M. Railton, C.B.E., A.D.C., D.W.R.A.C., in camp. [Photo by I. P. Fraser]

I DROVE PRINCESS MARGARET

CPL. P. HOWARD, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

319 (West Lances) Battalion

ON the afternoon of July 16, 1955, I had the pleasure and honour of driving H.R.H. The Princess Margaret on an inspection of the St. John Ambulance Brigade on Haig Avenue Football Ground, Southport.

Naturally I had the usual nerves before the day, but these soon dispersed as I began preparations. The Landrover was immaculate in appearance, a credit to whoever had the job of cleaning it, and I checked the oil, fuel, water and tyre pressure more than once to make sure that nothing could go wrong. When I arrived at the ground I was refused admission at first, but when I explained the position the large gates were opened with a flourish, and in I sailed, accompanied by Cpl. S. Macauley, W.R.A.C.

The National Anthem was played and the time came for the move off. Cpl. Macauley dashed out to the front of the vehicle to attach the Royal Standard, and off we went to the Saluting Base. Her Royal Highness and Col. V. Royle of the S.J.A.B. got into the back of the Landrover, and we drove slowly but surely up and down the ranks of members and cadets, and eventually back to the Saluting Base. The Princess and Col. Royle got out, Cpl. Macauley got in, and back we went to the waiting position.

I can still feel the hot sun burning into my back as I sat there watching the rest of the proceedings, not a little relieved that things had gone off so well. My only regret is that, according to the regulations, I had to drive with my head and eyes facing front all the time, so that though I presume that the Princess got in and out of the vehicle according to plan, I had no sight of Her Royal Highness at all during the whole affair.

308 (Northern Command) Battalion

THE visit of Brigadier M. Railton, C.B.E., A.D.C., to Unit Headquarters at Leicester on September 6, 1955, will always be remembered with pride and pleasure. The Director was accompanied by Lt.-Col. T. Morris, A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, and Major H. Warden, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. North Midland District. The visitors were met by the Commanding Officer, Major W. M. Smith, Capt. D. M. Price (Adjutant), Lt. J. E. Quarrie (Quartermaster), and R.S.M. E. M. Mallard, and conducted on a tour of the Headquarters, where they saw all aspects of technical training in progress. One of the many recruiting ideas which we were able to show the Director was a scale model of a camp, complete in all detail even to miniatures of members of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) in battledress. We have a room set aside for recruiting propaganda and training photographs from our yearly camps, and hold a scrapbook of the interesting events which have occurred since the formation of the Battalion. The walls of the staircase are lined with framed photographs taken at T.A. camps from 1949 to the

present day. We are very proud of our headquarters, as it is one of the finest T.A. Centres, built specially for the sole use of the W.R.A.C. The building was opened three years ago by Lady Barnett, who was then Lady Mayoress of Leicester. She was the first person to sign our visitors' book and now the latest signature is that of the Director.

Brigadier Railton was invited to sherry before dinner in the very pleasant Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and later dined with the officers—a meal entirely prepared and served by members of the T.A. Our affiliated male units kindly loaned their beautiful Regimental silver, and enabled us to dine by candlelight. Our guests included Brigadier J. F. Snow, Deputy Commander North Midland District, Lt.-Col. H. C. L. Dimsdale, O.B.E., M.C. (A.A.Q.M.G.), Col. A. Halkyard, M.C., T.D., D.L., and Brigadier D. E. Taunton, C.B., D.S.O., Chairman and Secretary of the Hunts and Northants T. and A.F. Association, and Col. D. F. Colborn, Secretary of the T. and A.F. Association at Leicester.

322 (North Wales) Battalion

THE Battalion has now added archery to its other sporting activities. We are in touch with the archery clubs in North Wales, and hope that with a bit more practice we shall be in a position to accept their challenges.

Most of the Battalion was at Wrexham on November 20 for an inter-Platoon Netball Tournament, which was won by a very strong team from No. 1 (Tpt.) Platoon. Major M. H. Boydell (D.A.D.W.R.A.C. Mid-West District) came to watch the tournament and presented the cup to the winning team. "A" Company acted as hostesses, and Sgt. Price and her helpers are to be congratulated on the excellence of their catering arrangements.

Battalion Headquarters is now well established in the spacious Drill Hall in Rhyl. The officers of the Battalion held a sherry party on October 9, and the Sergeant's Mess had a most successful "Mess Warming" on November 12.

Cambridge University O.T.C.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY O.T.C. was formed in 1804, and is the only University Corps with Battle Honours. These were awarded for service in the South African War.

A W.R.A.C. Wing was formed in May, 1955, and Major J. Godolphin was appointed to the Permanent Staff. It was not intended to start recruiting until October, but one undergraduate from Newnham College, now Cadet L/Cpl. C. M. B. Reid, was attested in May, attended a 15-day attachment at the W.R.A.C. Depot in June, and succeeded in qualifying for the basic and supplementary bounty by the end of the training year. Although numbers are still small there is a great interest in military subjects, and two cadets are already contemplating applying for Short Service Commissions after graduating. In addition to Corps subjects, the cadets have begun to receive training in M.T., wireless procedure or photographic interpretation, and some are learning

to shoot with .22 rifles on a voluntary basis.

Two Girtton undergraduates, Cadets Elkin and Haworth, attended a court-martial at Colchester and also visited the H.Q. of East Anglian District. On Sunday, November 20, men of the R.A.C. and R.A. Wings carried out a practical shoot with field guns and armoured cars at the Practical Training Area, Stanford. Five W.R.A.C. Cadets accompanied them, and for most it was their first experience of gunfire. They watched the 25-pdrs. in

action, and then went to the target area to spot bursts from the observation post and see a smoke screen laid up the side of the hill presumably occupied by the enemy. It was a cold and misty day, but hot soup and tea brewed up under the trees in an improvised "kitchen area" helped to make the luncheon break enjoyable. The presence of the first W.R.A.C. on a normally "all-male" affair was a memorable event in the long history of Cambridge University O.T.C.

"SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING" IN THE W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

South-West District

THE South-West District W.R.A.C. (T.A.) driving competition looks like becoming an annual event on Badbury Rings, Dorset. Starting as a mild challenge issued by 2 Dorset Transport Platoon in camp in 1954, it rapidly caught the fancy of all the units there. Spurred on by the D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Major A. A. Locke, South-West District took up the idea with enthusiasm. Major-General C. L. Firbank, at that time G.O.C., presented a handsome challenge cup, and Lt.-Col. Cleasby, C.R.A.S.C., prepared and organised the entire competition. Meantime, Lt.-Col. T. F. Edwards, R.A.S.C., O. i/c Training, 15 Training Battalion (D), R.A.S.C., at Blandford Camp, arranged the overnight accommodation and feeding of the participants and supporters. About the only fine day in 1954 honoured the event, and the meals prepared and served in the sunshine under the eye of Capt. Max Allen, A.C.C., added the final touch to a most successful gathering.

With some trepidation we set out to repeat the performance in 1955. Major E. W. Gibson, now D.A.D.W.R.A.C., South-Western District, enthusiastically encouraged us, and this year all the arrangements—accommodation, feeding, organising and judging the competition—were undertaken by 15 Training Battalion (D), R.A.S.C. Keen rivalry was displayed, entrants coming from 70 (Somerset and Dorset) Independent Company, 71 (Bristol and Gloucester) Independent Company, 74 (Devon) Independent Company, and "A" and "B" Companies of 301 (Hampshire) Battalion. The hosts were 70 Independent Company, who supplied the clerks of the course, runners, waitresses, etc.

Lt.-Col. E. E. G. Lucas, O.B.E., of 15 Training Battalion (D), R.A.S.C., in presenting the prizes, urged the women to practise always to become better drivers. "B" Company, 310 Battalion, took over the cup from 70 Independent Company, "A" Company, 310 Battalion, took second place and 70 Independent Company came third. The medals for the best individual efforts were awarded to Sgt. Davis (74 Independent Company), Pte. Baker (70 Independent Company) and L/Cpl. Wallace ("A" Company, 310 Battalion).

We should like to record our sincere appreciation of all the enthusiasm and interest shown and assistance rendered by 15 Training Battalion (D), R.A.S.C., not only for this event but throughout the existence of 2 Dorset Transport Platoon. No

W.R.A.C. (T.A.) unit could receive greater co-operation and support.

Mid-West District

ON October 15 and 16, 1955, the weekend of the much-discussed driving competition, the H.Q. of 69 (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Independent Company at Shrewsbury was a hive of activity. On the Saturday, beds were made up in huts and offices and food prepared for two days. W.O.2 Cookson supervised the catering, assisted by Sgt. Price of 322 (North Wales) Battalion, and they spent Saturday afternoon making enough sausage rolls and savouries to feed a regiment. With a limited staff and working in a small kitchen, they turned out some very appetising meals.

The competition was held at Shelton Road Camp, by kind permission of Major H. C. Wace, O.C. "P" Battery, R.A. The hosts were 69 Independent Company, and 322 Battalion, 325 Battalion and 329 Battalion accepted invitations to take part. The course, laid out by Lt.-Col. S. E. Dickinson and Sgts. Cooper and Thomas, covered nine hazards and included vehicle recovery, parking and reversing. Points were scored for gear changing, driving over the course, knowledge of the Highway Code, and timed wheel-changing. The vehicles used were a 1-ton Austin on the course and an Austin Utility for wheel changing.

The cup awarded by Mid-West District was presented by Brigadier A. S. Shaw-Ball, D.S.O., to Pte. Pickering of 329 Battalion, and unit cups to W.O.2 Williams of 322 Battalion and Cpl. Bufton of 69 Independent Company. The best time over the course was S/Sgt. Green's of 329 Battalion (10 min. 24 sec.), and for wheel changing Sgt. Wolfe's of 69 Independent Company (3 min. 48 sec.).

Lt. C. R. Doyly-Mann, 69 Independent Company, organised the competition and shares the credit for its great success with Lt.-Col. S. E. Dickinson, the chief judge. Capt. J. Hanson and Major G. Mason acted as judges and gave generously of their time and experience. We also thank, for their interest and support, the Secretaries of the T. and A.F.A. for Shropshire (Col. C. W. Ridley) and Herefordshire (Lt.-Col. J. W. Hope); Lt.-Col. W. H. Bamfield; Recruiting Officer; Major M. H. Boydell, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Mid-West District; Major F. M. Harford, O.C., 322 Battalion; Major K. L'E. Moorcroft, O.C., 321 Battalion; Major W. S. Crompton, D.A.D.S.T. (T.A.), Mid-West District; and the other people who helped us in so many ways.

Try a 'TONIC' and ask for SCHWEPPE'S



Adults sometimes add gin

SCHWEPPEVERSCENCE LASTS THE WHOLE DRINK THROUGH

“GUN DAY”

A CURIOUS name for an event in connection with the Women's Royal Army Corps, and yet to many “Gun Day,” October 18, 1955, was the formal and final recognition of those thousands in the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. who played so large a part in Anti-Aircraft Command from 1939 to 1955. On this day General Sir Frederick Pile, so well known to all A.A. Command, paid his first visit to the Depot to present a silver model 3.7 Mark 2C gun to Brigadier M. Railton, D.W.R.A.C. This superb piece of craftsmanship, the outcome of 1,600 hours manual work, was chosen as a souvenir to be given to the Corps as a perpetual reminder of the spirit and comradeship between the Royal Regiment and the women of all ranks who had the privilege of serving with them, at home and abroad, in peace and in war, for sixteen years.

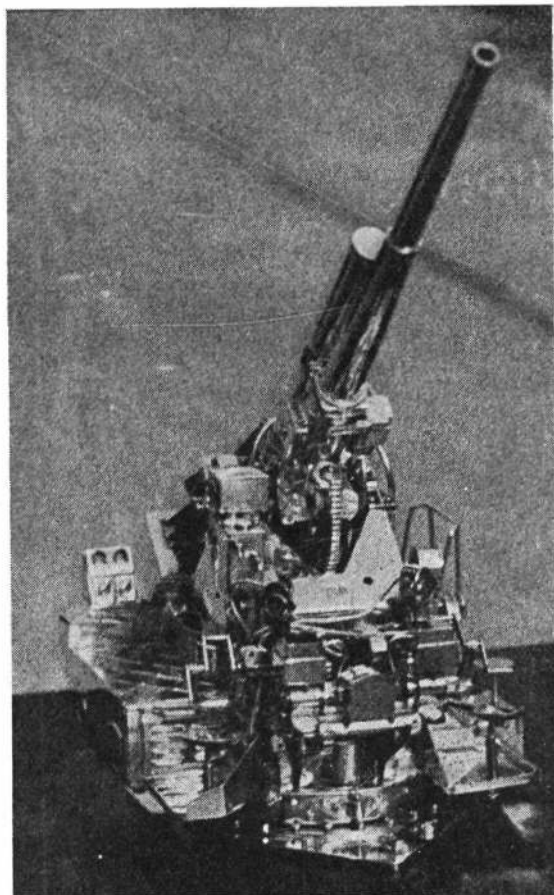
The presentation was watched by a distinguished audience of Gunners, which included Lt.-General Sir Maurice Chilton (the last G.O.C.-in-C. A.A. Command, now Q.M.G.) and Lady Chilton, Major-General R. W. Goodbody, D.R.A., and Mrs. Goodbody, Major-General B. P. Hughes, M.G.R.A., Sir Ivor and Lady Thomas, and Lt.-Colonel G. H. N. Wilson, who commanded the last of the regular Mixed Heavy A.A. Regiments until its disbandment in September. On the A.T.S./W.R.A.C. side also it was a memorable gathering. Four of our five former Directors were present (Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Lady Swaythling, Dame Mary Tyrwhitt and Dame Frances Coulshed), and many others who served with distinction in A.A. Command, including Mrs. Fraser-Tytler, Mrs. Chitty, Miss Vera Woodburn, Col. Cowper, Col. Cooke and Col. Hind.

After the inspection of the parade, which was composed of H.Q. Company of the Depot, the Recruit Training Company, and a Platoon of women who had served in A.A. Command, General Pile formally presented the Gun to Brigadier Railton. In his address he spoke of the incalculable service rendered to A.A. Command for so many years by the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. He could recall many instances when it would have been almost impossible for gun sites to carry on without the girls, and he and many others with him were proud to have had them as part of the Royal Regiment. In accepting the Gun the Director said:

“It is my privilege as your Director to accept this model gun, given to our Corps by all ranks of the Royal Artillery serving in Anti-Aircraft Command. In making this presentation General Pile has reminded us of those early days of the last war when members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service first served in Anti-Aircraft Command—the days when the Mixed Unit, which we now know so well, was a new venture. Many of us here remember those days well, and we are proud to remember that we played so full a part in the Anti-Aircraft Defences of this country. There is something else that we do not forget and that is

our gratitude to the Gunners, not only for teaching us our jobs but for accepting us as they did. We were part of the show, and that is what we were made to feel. The close association that grew up in Anti-Aircraft Command between the Royal Regiment and the Auxiliary Territorial Service, and later the Women's Royal Army Corps, has through force of circumstances come to an end, but a link has been forged and surely this model is a symbol of that link. The gun is a beautiful piece of silver which we can all enjoy, but more than that, it will remain for us a treasured possession and a tangible record of a happy alliance.

“This presentation today is in recognition of a chapter in our history, a chapter that provides interesting reading and one of which we are justly proud. The younger ones here today, some of you just embarking on a career in the Army, can only think of the War years in the terms of modern history. Do not forget that the A.T.S., our mother service, comes into that history, as does the earlier generation of women who served in World War I.



[Courtesy: Soldier Magazine. Reproduced by permission of H.M. Stationery Office.]

THE GUN

I do not need to remind you how much we owe to them. Finally, I want to say how much we appreciate General Pile's having come here to make this presentation. Many of us have served under him and are particularly pleased to see him today, and surely no one is more fitted to be here with us on this occasion. Thank you, sir, for making this presentation and for all you have said. May our thanks go to all ranks of Anti-Aircraft Command for this most generous token."

After the presentation, the parade marched past, accompanied by the Band of the Royal Artillery (Director, Capt. S. V. Hays, R.A.). The final gesture of respect and farewell came when over

500 spectators, ranking from General to Private, rose to their feet with a burst of spontaneous applause, as the Anti-Aircraft Platoon, commanded by Major S. W. Foley, the last D.A.D.W.R.A.C. A.A. Command, marched off the parade ground to the strains of the Regimental March of the Royal Artillery.

So for the last time the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. flags were seen flying proudly on either side of the famous Gunner pennant, a symbol of the unity of purpose and service among the men and women of the British Army, and many serving and ex-Service people must have given a quiet thought to this closing of a page of military history.

IN THE SERVICE OF THE GUNS

SERGEANT E. WOOD

THE Silver Gun has stirred up many memories of A.A. service, some of them very different from the brilliant peaceful scene of the presentation ceremony. My own mind goes back exactly ten years, to January 4, 1945, the unforgettable date when the Mixed H.A.A. Regiment with which I was serving left England for service in North-West Europe.

We moved first to Bristol for the routine medicals, inoculations, kit checks and final documentation (not forgetting of course our last will and testament), but troop movements were so hush-hush that we were not told either where we were going or the date of our movement. In the middle of the night of January 3 we were all roused from our slumbers and told to pack our kit and be ready to move off in an hour and a half. We were soon on the train for an unknown destination, and eventually arrived at Tilbury Docks, where we embarked. The Press as usual must have known, as there were representatives of most of the national newspapers there, taking photographs and asking questions. The following day we sailed for Ostend (which we thought at first must be Holland, as all the people around the dockside were wearing wooden clogs) and from then on we were a part of General Montgomery's 21 Army Group.

We stayed in transit at Ostend for a week, as the snow and ice made the roads impassable. As soon as the roads were considered safe enough to travel we made the journey to Antwerp in three-tonners, stopping on the way twice for meals and hot drinks. The journey took 12 hours. It was very dark and snowing hard when we finally got to the camp, but the men who had gone on in advance had got the fires in the huts going and (to our great surprise) had even made up our beds for us and prepared a hot meal.

Conditions were very hard that winter. We lived in Nissen huts which were still in the throes of erection, and things which we had taken for granted in the U.K. (such as bedside-mats, soldiers' boxes, chairs, etc.) were just non-existent. Water was strictly rationed, as there was none laid on from the mains. We had to wait for the water-truck in the mornings before we could even have a wash, or else melt the snow down, which answered the same

purpose. Once a week we travelled 20 miles in three-tonners to take a bath in the public baths at Malines—a most uncomfortable journey, but well worth it. I still remember my feeling when I saw the lovely hot water running out of the bath, and thought what a dreadful waste it seemed. The Belgian people in the village were only too ready to open their hearts and homes to us, and did much to keep up the morale of the Regiment by making things as pleasant as they could for us. Apart from this we were able to go to the leave centres in Brussels about every month for a 48-hour pass. There we stayed in hotels and had the best of everything, paid for by the Belgian Welfare.

The urgency of the job we were sent to do, which was to defend as far as we were able the port of Antwerp, soon made us forget the unimportant things. My job at that time was a radar operator, and by this time we were working on the very latest equipment which was still in the experimental stages, but it wasn't long before the workings of it were familiar to us. The hours of work were long, but at least we felt that we were doing something really worth while. The emergency lasted for about three months. The rockets were sent over at less frequent intervals, until in the end they ceased altogether and it became apparent that soon the war would be over. From this time until the war finished we kept ourselves busy helping on a voluntary basis at the hospitals where the war wounded were. When the end came we found ourselves redundant, and had to disband and sadly go our separate ways to learn different jobs. Most of the girls were posted to the hospitals, but a small handful of us became clerks and were posted to G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon in Brussels. We soon adjusted ourselves to a completely different life and a new kind of work, and I for one am still at it and enjoying it immensely.

GIFT TO THE BENEVOLENT FUND

TO round off the magnificent present of the Silver Gun, Anti-Aircraft Command has given a generous donation of £50 to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund, which we acknowledge with great appreciation and gratitude.

LEAVE AND LIAISON WITH THE N.Z.W.R.A.C.

MAJOR B. ROSENBAUM

IN July, 1955, I sailed from Singapore bound for New Zealand, via Australia, on leave to see my family. Our Director, when she visited F.A.R.E.L.F., had asked me to take to New Zealand a print of the W.R.A.C. Recruiter as a presentation to the N.Z.W.R.A.C. I had expected to pop in to Army H.Q. in Wellington on arrival, hand it over, and proceed on leave. Little did I guess what was in store for me, and how exciting it was to be.

Waiting at the docks, chatting to my mother, was a small but most impressive reception committee of Major Marjory Hardcastle, D.W.R.A.C. N.Z., and her officers. I was whisked off to my hotel to celebrate my arrival with whisky-sodas—at 10 o'clock in the morning. "Hardy," as the Director is affectionately known to all her Corps, had planned a full and varied programme. I was interviewed and photographed by the Press almost immediately, and nervously made some impromptu, and probably wildly inaccurate, statements about Service life in general (and W.R.A.C. in particular) which seemed to be well received. Then to the Broadcasting Station to receive a bombardment of questions in a 10-minute broadcast. I responded in a completely incoherent fashion, giving a quick sketch of life in the W.R.A.C. and a brief flash of my own chequered career, ending up with a booster from the recruiting angle, hastily interjected on catching Hardy's eye. I was mightily relieved when I eventually heard the programme broadcast, for it came over very well.

The first evening I was invited to a social at a nearby Army base camp, Fort Dorset—a "Make and Sell Fair" which raised about £70 for Corps funds. There I presented the print to D.W.R.A.C. and we made speeches to each other, which enormously pleased a mixed gathering of about 130 people, N.Z. Service men and women and their friends. The Service women include Maoris, working side by side with women from the British W.R.A.C. who have enlisted on a three-year engagement with the N.Z.W.R.A.C.

During my three days in Wellington I visited departments of N.Z. Army H.Q., as "Hardy" wished her male colleagues to meet me and discuss methods of training, recruitment and employment. We had interesting talks and exchanged some attractive ideas. One of these was the hoped-for "Change au Pair," and attendance at our Staff College, which has unfortunately met the familiar obstacle of finance. I also met the Directors and some officers and women of the N.Z. Naval, Air Force and Nursing Services. We had many informal and rather gay meetings, including one hilarious picnic and a very beautiful drive into the countryside surrounding Wellington.

One day a rather alarming programme arrived from N.Z. Army H.Q. I was to accompany D.W.R.A.C. on a tour of military units in North Island, to meet W.R.A.C. and to see other N.Z.

Units and their way of work and training. This was an absorbing and colourful trip lasting six days, travelling in great style in an Army staff car. It gave me an unparalleled opportunity of seeing the glorious scenery and richly agricultural countryside, and learning something of the fascinating Maori folklore.

The present strength of the Corps is about 130 women and 18 officers. O.R.s sign on a three-year engagement which may be renewed. Conditions of service, way of life, and rates of pay are comparable to ours, although in such a small Corps the scope is very limited, and there is no comprehensive training except for recruits. Categories of employment are similar to ours, but there is no service abroad in peace-time. There is no pension, but a superannuation scheme exists for women who complete an unbroken service for 12 years.

There is very little regimental life as we know it. Women are mainly employed in twos and threes in isolated "pockets," usually living at home. Except in a few large camps there are no regimental officers. A staff officer, once she has proved herself suitable, is likely to remain in her job indefinitely, and usually performs in a dual capacity, keeping an eye on all the W.R.A.C. in her area. I did visit two camps, however, where women are employed and accommodated in first-class quarters, in the Army H.Q. and Coastal Artillery Regiment. The Assistant Adjutant of the Regiment, which is mixed, is a W.R.A.C. lieutenant. Integration is no new thing in the N.Z. Army.

The present uniform is service dress, beret, natural-coloured stockings and brown lace-up shoes. A No. 1 dress similar to ours has been approved for general issue, and design for a Mess dress is a hotly controversial point.

There is an energetic Returned Servicewomen's Association, and I was guest of honour at the first reunion held in Auckland. It was a crowded, happy and successful evening. People travelled hundreds of miles from all over North and South Island to come to the party. There is no Territorial Army for women, so the Association is the only link with Service life.

At the end of my visit, D.W.R.A.C. asked me to convey a gift to the Corps. It is a most handsome presentation, a large cigarette-box made of N.Z. woods, with a badge mounted on Paua shell on the lid, and a silver inscription tablet.

Wherever we travelled on our "goodwill tour" I found the same animated, intelligent interest, and longed for up-to-date directives to meet the enthusiastic thirst for information about the British W.R.A.C. The W.R.A.C. liaison is very much alive in the hearts of these warm-hearted, sincere people, and *The Lioness* is avidly read. It was delightful to find the camaraderie of service association waiting to greet me in this distant Dominion.

WE WENT TO TURKEY

MAJOR E. MICHELL

EARLY in August, Elizabeth Connors and I decided to go to Turkey for our leave from M.E.L.F. Ten days later we were on our way. We had planned nothing beyond laying in all the travellers' cheques we were entitled to, and we knew nothing of the country apart from Turkish cigarettes, carpets, baths and delight. Unknown to us, we were starting on the most amusing, interesting, exciting and unusual fortnight that we had ever spent.

We spent two nights in Ankara (where the Assistant Military Attache took us to the Turkish War School to meet Miss Arcan, the first woman in the Turkish Army), and then went on to Istanbul by diesel train. Thanks to the second driver of the train, we spent a good part of the wonderful nine-hour run in the rear cab, with a splendid view down the line. The first sight of Istanbul was unforgettable. The train from Ankara arrives on the Asiatic side and the journey to Istanbul proper is completed by ferry. We arrived in the late afternoon, and the boat takes about a quarter of an hour, so we had a wonderful view of the old city in the evening light.

Our hotel was of the bed-and-bath-only kind, so we had to have all our meals in the local eating-houses, which gave us complete freedom to eat what and when we liked. Most of the people seem to do this, as whatever time we went into any of them they seemed to be doing a steady business. Language presented no great difficulty. The day before leaving Cyprus I had bought "Teach Yourself Turkish," and had learnt a few essential words. Our drill on going into a shop was to ask first if they spoke English; if they said "No" we tried French (which quite often worked); if that was no good I brought out my Turkish; and when it became apparent that this was not the same as theirs, Elizabeth came in again with English plus all her fingers. This nearly always achieved the desired result.

We used the normal public transport all the time. Generally this meant standing on the front platform of the tram because there was no room inside, and we got quite expert at inserting ourselves into a non-existent space. There are two classes of tram, with a difference in fare of about a penny, but there is nothing to be gained from the higher class as that is invariably full too. We explored the old city pretty thoroughly, and found it lovely. The old mosques are all that we were led to expect, except that Santa Sophia, not being used for its proper purpose, feels dead. The others, particularly Sultan Ahmet, are wonderful to go into. They have a tremendous feeling of space and peace and quietness. They are wholly uncluttered with furniture, apart from the carpet covering the entire floor (and in all those we went into, oddly enough, at least one grandfather clock).

The day of the rioting started for us with a steamer trip up the Bosphorus. It was raining most of the day, and this seemed a good way of

seeing all we could without getting wet. We got back later than we expected, and went straight to the Hilton Hotel, Europe's latest and most fabulous, where we had arranged to meet a friend for tea. We stayed on after tea to have a good look at the place, and when we tried to leave the riot was in full swing and we found ourselves, in company with a lot of others, obliged to stay where we were. We made several abortive attempts to leave, and eventually had to have dinner there, which was a pity, as we were not properly dressed for it and had not much ready money. We walked back finally under the protection of a policeman, to the accompaniment of the sound of breaking glass, past gangs of men and youths with railings and staves. Our own hotel, when we got there, was locked up and in total darkness, and the name-plate and ground-floor windows were smashed. We managed to rouse the manager and got in and, as our room was on the first floor in front, we had a very good view of subsequent goings-on. Shortly after we got in, 14 tanks arrived and we were very glad to see two of them making a road block about 50 yds. down the road and another one park itself outside our window.

The next morning we went to the Embassy to find out if they would prefer us to leave. We had heard no English news for three days, and we did not really know what the rioting was about. For all we knew it might have been directed against the British. To reach the Embassy we had to walk down the main shopping street (no public transport was running) and it was worse than the worst air-raid. Not only had all the windows been broken, but every single thing had been dragged out and destroyed, including all the fittings. Mixed with the broken glass were torn-up books, shredded material, smashed china, refrigerators and washing machines torn apart. The street was completely filled with debris to a depth of anything up to 3 ft.

The Embassy made no difficulty about our staying on, but we thought it best to get out of the town for the day, so we went to Scutari, on the bank of the Bosphorus opposite to Istanbul, about two miles as the crow flies. We went to the English Cemetery (now looked after by the Imperial War Graves Commission) and saw the Victoria Memorial with the new plaque added last year to commemorate Florence Nightingale's work. Then we went further out into the country, by tram and on foot, as we had been told there was a wonderful viewpoint from which one can see all Istanbul, the Bosphorus, the Golden Horn and the Sea of Marmara, but instead we got into conversation with a charming old man who was caretaking a house for an exiled princess. We had a most interesting and lively conversation in a mixture of English, French, Yugoslav (that was his first nationality), Turkish and Arabic, and he insisted on giving us coffee and cherry brandy, home-made and delicious.

The following day was our last in Istanbul. We

went back to the old city and the covered markets, but the heart had gone out of the traders after the riots. We left the next morning for Ankara by bus. Everyone thought us mad, as the journey takes 13 hours and only the peasants use the bus, but it turned out to be perfectly civilised and most interesting. We booked seats, so there was no question of overcrowding, and we sat well forward to get a good and unimpeded view of the lovely country. Much of it was like parts of Southern England, with rolling downlands and beechwoods, and the fields looked so ordinary, with real hedges round them, that it was quite a shock to see peasant

women in them wearing brightly coloured trousers and headscarves.

There was a sharp reminder of the riots as we approached Ankara, for we were stopped by a combined party of police and soldiers and everyone except ourselves and two others had their luggage gone through with a fine comb. Nothing was found, but we learned later that, in the two days following the riots, several million pounds' worth of jewellery had been recovered in this way.

We would both have liked to spend much longer in Turkey, and want to go again, but the wanderlust has got us and we are considering Persia next time.

FORTY-ONE YEARS HAVE PASSED BY

MAUREEN LEES

When Alan Nicholls, the first man to be blinded and lose both hands in World War I, decided to organise an unofficial visit of Old Contemptibles to revisit Belgium and France, I felt it a great honour to be asked to go along with the party. We sailed from Dover on the S.S. *Sainte Germaine*, where we were given the utmost hospitality by the captain and all his crew, and reached Dunkerque at the time of a motor-cycle race, so we got a terrific welcome from the people waiting for the contestants to appear. Throughout our whole journey people passing along the Belgian and French sidewalks stopped to salute our coach, which was carrying the Union Jack. We travelled via Poperinghe and the Cloth Hall at Ypres, through the Menin Gate and along to the town of Menin. We passed the frontiers without any difficulty, and eventually reached Courtrains, where we received outstanding hospitality at the Hotel du Nord.

With a great display of friendliness on the Monday morning, we left for Mons, where we were given an official welcome by the Burgomaster and many other officials. The oldest woman in the party, whose husband is blind as the result of World War I service, laid the official wreath at the Mons Memorial. I had taken with me a small plaque sent by air from Canada to place on the grave of a Canadian boy killed in 1927 at Vimy, but as he had no identifiable grave the plaque was placed on the memorial to the Canadians in Mons Town Hall. Alan Nicholls placed a wreath on the British Memorial, and we were then on our way to Le Cateau. At Le Cateau we stopped to eat our sandwiches at a tiny estaminet a few yards from a memorial to the man who fired the first shot on August 22, 1914. Mr. Nicholls placed a wreath on that memorial, and I was asked to place one on the Belgian Memorial in the village. We were doing this on August 22, 1955, exactly 41 years after the first Belgian shots were fired.

We then proceeded to Brussels, and here, in a very simple but touching ceremony, Alan Nicholls laid a wreath on the Unknown Warrior's grave where (I was told) the eternal flame still vividly burns. We stopped for a few minutes at Cambrai, spent Sunday night at Valenciennes (where again we received great hospitality), and then continued to Le Bourget where we met an escort to lead us

into Paris. In Paris we found that the sky-high prices put most things out of our reach, but we spent a pleasant evening sipping wine at a pavement café. Next day we were officially received by the Vice-President of Paris in the beautiful room in the Hotel de Ville where Edward VII signed the Entente Cordiale. We were again given delicious wine and many welcoming speeches were made. The blind men and I received souvenir wallets, and the six wives with the party each received pictures of the Hotel de Ville and a souvenir booklet. We then went to the French Memorial where Alan Nicholls, accompanied by many French, American and British officials and a lot of the public too, placed another simple wreath on the tomb. The blind men and I were then invited to sign the Golden Book of Remembrance, a great honour of which I personally am proud.

The American Legion offered us wonderful hospitality and here we also met the chief representatives in Paris of the British Legion, and members of the British Embassy. We visited the Headquarters of the French war-blinded veterans, and I was indeed impressed by their commonsense approach to the problems of our disability. Here we met a charming B.B.C. commentator who took us on a further tour of Paris, ending up at Radio Paris. I then realised that in answering some friendly questions I was being included in the "Distinguished Visitors to Paris This Week" feature, but what I was asked and what my answers were I really don't know. We finished up our last evening at the Folies Bergeres, where I am afraid I nearly went to sleep. Next day we left Paris at 5 a.m., after the usual French breakfast, and reached Dunkerque in time to go on board and sail almost at once.

My outstanding impression was the wonderful kindness shown to veterans, and the fact that both Belgium and France are rapidly rebuilding the devastation of the two wars. In Belgium particularly the impression is of immense progress. I feel that in laying a wreath at Le Cateau, in signing the Golden Book in Paris, and in speaking over the air, I was paying my respects to those of the W.A.A.C., the A.T.S. and the other women's Services who gave all they had in two World Wars in the cause of freedom.

THE B.A.O.R. 'CROSSED SWORDS' MOTOR RALLY

MAJOR K. I. CUNNINGHAM

ANOTHER milestone in my life has been passed. I have driven in a motor-car rally for the first time. A band of motoring enthusiasts at Northern Army Group H.Q. organised a rally to take place on December 10 and 11, 1955, and I was persuaded, or more accurately, press-ganged, into entering for the "All Ladies" event as well as for the class for small cars. There was only one other ladies' team taking part and, to add a flavour of competition, I rather diffidently agreed to enter my little Austin A30.

The first job was to find another intrepid woman as co-driver, and someone who could read a map well enough to act as navigator. After touting round among the other W.R.A.C. officers I found that Nora Pike was prepared to navigate "till the cows came home," but I drew a complete blank in my search for a co-driver, and we had to embark on the almost impossible task of doing it with only a crew of two.

Saturday dawned and we lined ourselves up for the start with about 40 other cars of all shapes, sizes and vintages. We had armed ourselves with a good torch, lots of paper and pencils, and a supply of food and sweets and flasks of coffee. To our horror, we discovered that the other ladies' team had been equipped by their husbands with picks and shovels, and a wonderfully illuminated map board complete with compasses, set squares and slide rule. The opposition was formidable, for a number of the drivers were old hands at the game. At least one had taken part several times in the Monte Carlo Rally, once in a Mini-car. Being in the class for small cars, we were among the last to pull away. Nora said that we would not have the humiliation of seeing the rest of the field pass us on the road, but, on the other hand, I had the uncomfortable feeling that there would be no one behind us to sweep up the pieces.

We were given the first part of the route and our maps half an hour before we were due to set off, and it took us all our time to find out where we were supposed to be going before we were flagged away at 1618 hours, with only half an hour's daylight ahead of us. We were making for the leave centre at Winterberg, but we were routed away up to the north through Munster and Paderborne. Each leg of the journey had to be done at a set average speed, ranging from 26 to 34 m.p.h., and in order to do this I found it necessary to push along the straight bits of road at over 50, which was fast going in a small car in the dark. We reached Winterberg at about 1 o'clock in the morning, to be met with a rousing cheer from the others and the gratifying news that we had only lost 10 points on the way—for clocking in at one of the check points one minute too soon. We had a very welcome meal of bacon and eggs, and then there was an hour which I spent flat on my back, trying to ease the pains from my neck and shoulders. Poor Nora did not have much respite, as we were given the second half of our route and she had to

get busy doing little sums, which she insisted on doing herself to allow me more time to rest.

We left the leave centre at 0403 hours for what turned out to be the worst stage of the whole journey. It was pouring with rain and as we climbed higher and higher into the mountains we ran into thick fog and a blinding snowstorm. To try to keep to a time schedule was quite out of the question under those conditions, and we decided that the best thing to do was to get home along the prescribed route as quickly and carefully as we could. At this stage I had a bit of trouble with the car, as every hour or so there appeared to be a stoppage in the petrol feed which righted itself if we sat by the wayside for a few minutes. I have since learnt from a R.A.F. officer that the same trouble is experienced in aeroplanes under similar climatic conditions. A little drop of condensation freezes and blocks the inlet to the carburettor, giving the effect of dirt in the petrol. When we stopped for a few minutes the heat of the engine melted the ice and all was well. As the morning wore on it ceased to freeze and snow, and we had no more trouble. To keep ourselves awake during the last few hours we sang carols lustily, and Good King Wenceslas's step never trod more boldly than it did that Sunday morning. We tried to think of a suitable one to sing as we got to our destination, and decided on "In the Bleak Midwinter" and "See Amid the Winter Snow."

Our route took us home through Bonn, into the northern slopes of the Eiffel country, and north again back to camp—back to familiar surroundings and welcoming friends, and above all a hot meal. Our trials were not yet over though, for after lunch we had to go through some manoeuvrability tests on the barrack square. This entailed weaving in and out, both forwards and backwards, as fast as possible, between a number of petrol cans set in line, parking in little squares representing garages, and finally accelerating to a finishing line, to stop with the front wheels between two lines only 12 inches apart. By shutting my eyes, standing on the brake, and hoping for the best, I managed to stop exactly in the right spot. I had the advantage there over our lady opponents, who were driving a Mercedes 170, as my little car can turn almost on the proverbial sixpence. When all the results had been worked out we discovered to our great surprise and pleasure that we had won the ladies' event by a fair margin and (perhaps even more gratifying) were by no means near the bottom of the overall list.

What do I feel like now that it is over? Glad to have had a shot at it, even more glad that we got back safely, and a little bit tired after driving 463 miles in 21 hours. Without Nora's magnificent map-reading we could never have done it—obviously a spell at the Staff College has borne some fruit. The first essential for success in a motor car rally may be a reliable car, but equally important are a good navigator and an equable temperament.

NEWS FROM THE UNITS

12 BATTALION

RICHMOND PARK CAMP

THE Battalion Choir, trained most excellently by the Q.M., Lt. Andrews, made their first public appearance on December 7, when they sang for the Battalion Carol Service. On December 17 they sang in Kingston for the beginning of the Rotary Club Christmas Tree collection. On Sunday morning, December 18, they took part in a beautiful carol service at Chelsea Barracks, and that evening they sang at a carol service at the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank. Afterwards they toured the wards and sang carols (many by special request) to the patients there.

AT the Y.W.C.A. Fair on December 13, four senior N.C.O.s assisted most admirably at the nursery stall. When purses (being the total amount collected during the Y.W.C.A. centenary year) were presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother at the Mansion House, S/Sgt. Beer presented a purse with the representatives of the W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F.

OUR Christmas pantomime for 1955 was "Dick Whittington and his Cat," excellently produced by W.O.2 Hooper. The Battalion was delighted to have Brigadier Railton, Col. Morgan and Col. Hind in the audience on December 16.

S/SGT. RUSSELL retired in October, after 16 years' service with the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. and former service in World War I. Before she left, a small gift from the Battalion was presented to her by Lt.-Col. Crawley, A.D.W.R.A.C. London District.

IN the Radio Luxembourg show, "Princess for a Day," at the Star Sound Studios, London, six members of the Holding and Drafting Company took part. Each had to say, in not more than 25 words, what she would like to do if she were a princess for a day. They were interviewed by Richard Attenborough and entertained to lunch, where they met Anne Crawford and Bob Monkhouse. The two "princesses" selected were Pte. Winfindale and Pte. Clarke. The exciting day began by the arrival of a large chauffeur-driven car which took them to Hurst Park races. There they were given £5 to bet with, and a sumptuous lunch at the Jockey Club. The evening found both of them racing again, but this time it was greyhounds at the White City. Here they occupied the Royal Box and were given a royal dinner and still more money to bet with. All good things come to an end, however, and after that two tired but happy "princesses" were driven back to Richmond Park Camp.

ON December 17 a large draft going to Germany was televised at Harwich. They were seen off at Liverpool Street Station by 2/Lt. Heath and, on arrival at Harwich, they appeared in the B.B.C.

television programme, "Saturday Night Out," introduced by Robert Beatty. Cpl. Queripal and Pte. Fleming were interviewed by Jean Metcalf and spoke to the viewers, and the whole draft took part in the rest of the programme, which showed the different stages of draft procedure carried out at Harwich. They were finally televised embarking on the boat that was to take them to the Hook of Holland *en route* for their tour in B.A.O.R.

7 INDEPENDENT COMPANY

DIDCOT

NEWS from this unit for the last three months concerns Company changes, hurricane "Janet," the Didcot railway disaster, the defeat of our netball team, the annual inspection, and Christmas.

THE Company has seen a complete change of administrative staff. Major M. P. Sandbach, until recently in B.A.O.R., has taken over from Capt. T. MacKowie, who is now at the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction. Miss Farrington (Jane) cross-posted with Miss King from the W.R.A.C. Depot. C.S.M. Cullen left to become R.S.M. of 303 Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and was replaced by C.S.M. Brockbank. To cheer them and the other new arrivals, we have had all the offices painted in blue and white, pink and grey, blue and grey, or blue and cream.

"JANET" was all in the day's work, of course, but this emergency issue of stores to meet hurricane requirements in Barbados and Granada brought home the magnitude of the damage caused to these islands. The ghastly train disaster on the afternoon of Sunday, November 20, saw most people away from camp, but all who were here rallied round and did a truly magnificent job of work.

OUR netball team, who last year won the District cup, were soundly beaten in the first round by 10 Independent Company. This was a great disappointment, but we congratulate 10 Independent Company on a good win and hope they survive the next rounds. We were a little more successful at table tennis, when a team from No. 2 Platoon at Chesham won their match against 6 Independent Company.

THE annual inspection took place much less than a month after all our staff changes, and we were unable to give much of a picture of the past year's activities.

CHRISTMAS started off with a Corporals' Club party, which was much enjoyed by those present. On Christmas Day the Troops had the traditional "gunfire" brought round by the O.C. and sergeants. Dinner was served by Brigadier B. D. Jones, C.B.E., and the officers, and was followed by a small Christmas tree to which we all contributed and in turn received a present.

W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

THE REGIMENTAL DINNER

THE Ballroom of the Hyde Park Hotel presented a gay and colourful scene on the occasion of the Women's Royal Army Corps Dinner on November 14, 1955. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Controller Commandant, wearing a black dress with a tiara and necklace of diamonds, presided over a gathering of more than a hundred officers. The guests included the Adjutant-General and Lady Nicholson, the Permanent Under Secretary of State for War, and Lady Turner, the Commandant of the W.R.A.C. Staff College and Mrs. Jenkins, and Major-General and Mrs. Lambert. Among the retired officers present were Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, Col. Hobkirk, Col. Hammond, Col. Cowper and Col. Macfie. A telegram of loyal greetings was sent to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Commandant-in-Chief, who was graciously pleased to send the following reply: "Received your message of loyal greetings with much pleasure and send my best wishes for a happy evening." Telegrams were also received from Major Frame and "the last ten marooned in Egypt," and from Major Muriel Gibson who was on embarkation leave in Scotland.

Dinner was served at one long table and several smaller round ones. All were decorated with bowls of flowers in the Corps colours, and certain pieces of Corps silver were to be seen on the top table. The W.R.A.C. Staff Band played selections of music during dinner and toasts were drunk to Her Majesty The Queen and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. In the drawing-room after dinner many officers were presented to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. The silver model 3.7-mm. gun presented to the W.R.A.C. by members of A.A. Command in October was displayed and admired, and also the wooden cigarette-box presented by the officers of the New Zealand W.R.A.C. to the officers of the W.R.A.C.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Second Annual General Meeting of the W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess will be held on Friday, April 20, 1956, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3., at 2.30 p.m.

Awards in F.A.R.E.L.F.

WE are proud to report two thoroughly well-deserved awards for services in the Far East.

W.O.2 J. E. Morgan has been awarded the C.-in-C.'s Certificate, and was presented with it by the C.-in-C. personally on November 1, 1955.

Sgt. E. B. Navin (*nee* Drummond) was mentioned in recognition of distinguished service in Malaya during the period January 1 to June 30, 1955. She has now left the Service and returned to U.K. with her husband, who is an officer in the police in the Federation.



BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
GOLDSMITHS & CROWN JEWELLERS

The badge of your Corps..

GARRARD & CO. LTD.
(formerly The Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company Ltd.) have for many years specialised in the production of badge jewellery.



Women's Royal Army Corps
Gold and Enamel
Home £7.7.0
Export £5.10.0



Gold and Enamel
Home £12.12.0
Export £9.7.6

Here is illustrated the badge of your Corps, fashioned into a brooch, and produced in gold and enamel. If desired, these very attractive brooches can be set with diamonds or other precious stones for which designs and estimates are submitted without charge. Great care is taken to ensure correctness of detail, and expert workmanship is assured.

GARRARD & CO. LTD.

Crown Jewellers

formerly THE GOLDSMITHS & SILVERSMITHS COMPANY LTD.

112 REGENT STREET • LONDON • W.1

TELEPHONE: REGENT 3021



From: Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,

K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.A., J.P.

Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee

To: All Serving in Her Majesty's Forces

Subject: SAVE WHILE YOU SERVE

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

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

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

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

SPORT

Fencing

ON December 28, 1955, Col. A. C. D. Hind, M.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C., attended the final of the Ladies' Junior Foil Championship as the guest of honour of the Ladies' Amateur Fencing Union. No one from the W.R.A.C. was left in the competition by this time, but the Services were not unrepresented, as 3rd Officer B. Allen, W.R.N.S., qualified for the final and was placed fifth. Col. Hind made a short speech before presenting the trophies, and greatly impressed the fencers with the amount of knowledge she had gained throughout the evening.

The Army Women's Fencing Association entered a team for the Ladies' Foil Team Championships, which were held at the London Fencing Club on December 10 and 11. The Army team (Capt. J. Tappin, Lt. G. A. Sargent, Lt. D. Nightingale and S/Sgt. Griffiths) beat the Guildford Fencing Club in the first round, but lost to the London Fencing Club "A" Team and the Ilford Fencing Club, and so did not qualify for the next round. Capt. Whitaker was unfortunately unable to take part and was a great loss to the team. Altogether 19 teams entered and the competition was won by the London Fencing Club "A" Team.

Netball

THE Inter-Command Festival was held at Aldershot on December 2 and 3, 1955. Teams were entered from all commands in the U.K. and B.A.O.R., and the tournament provided a series of very exciting matches. The result was a victory for Southern Command, with Eastern Command second. The cup was presented by Major-General A. D. Campbell, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. Aldershot District.

The Army trials were held at Aldershot on December 5. The team was selected by Miss M. Bulloch, All England Netball Association official coach and umpire, whose invaluable coaching was the greatest help and encouragement to the players. The Army team, captained by S.I. Barnett, played the first match of the season against the Civil Service on December 6, and lost by 14—18 after a very good friendly game.

W.R.A.C. "Waterborne"

CHANNEL swimming and record-breaking last summer appear to have been a popular pastime, and the fashion has spread to Manorbier, where 3 Independent Company is stationed at the School of A.A. Artillery. For nearly 24 years no swimmer had crossed from Tenby to Caldy Island non-stop. Then in July a local resident completed the crossing in one and a half hours. A few weeks later, on August 7, Capt. Anne Russell, W.R.A.C., decided to make the attempt.

The crossing of about three miles is a hazardous one, and much depends on the state of the tide. The currents flow strongly and, unless the time of entering the water is chosen carefully when the wind and tide are running together, an unlucky swimmer would be forced to battle against them

both. Local opinion on the currents and tide were sought, but no special training programme was devised. It was a cold and chilly day with overcast sky when Capt. Russell and two R.A. subalterns set off from the lifeboat slipway at 9.30 a.m., accompanied by two boats. The swimmers cut at right-angles across the currents until passing the Sker Rock (a local landmark) and then headed eastwards. Aided by the currents, they were carried in a southerly direction and were able to land on a sandy beach in front of the monastery on Caldy Island. Capt. Russell's time was one hour, fifteen minutes.

A strong swimmer, this was not her first attempt at distance swimming. During her service she has swum $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles across a lake in Austria and has also swum Lake Annecy in France, which is 2 miles wide. She represented the Army in the Inter-Service Championships in 1949 and 1950 and won the District $66\frac{2}{3}$ yds. back stroke and free style in 1955. It is thought that she is only the second woman to make the crossing from Tenby to Caldy Island.

A local underwater swimming club has been formed in Tenby and a number of Army people have joined. At weekends, armed with a pair of goggles, a pair of flippers and a schnorkel tube, underwater life is investigated a few feet below the surface. Capt. Russell has also been down with an aqualung, which is a steel cylinder of pressurised steel worn harness-fashion. To counteract the buoyancy, a belt of lead weights is worn, thus ensuring that perfect balance is maintained. Depths of 30 ft. can be achieved without any special training, and it is an interesting and unusual hobby which many other W.R.A.C. stationed near the sea might well take up.

City and Guilds Award

MISS OLIVE ASHTON, T.D., of Warrington, after a long and successful career in the Army, has now gained a rare distinction in an undeniably feminine field. She has been awarded the City and Guilds' first prize silver medal for needlework (advanced level).

Miss Ashton joined the A.T.S. before the war, served as a sergeant cook, was commissioned in 1943, and was released as a company commander in 1945. On the re-forming of the T.A., she joined again in 1947 and served in an A.A. Control and Reporting Troop in the Liverpool area. She was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1952. Later in that year she transferred to T.A.R.O. in order to embark on the long City and Guilds' needlework course.

The final examination, which is of a very high standard, is open not only to needlewomen of Great Britain, but has many entries from other Commonwealth countries. Miss Ashton's success is the fruit of years of study and practical hard work, carried out with great tenacity in spite of many domestic duties and difficulties. She passed with the highest marks of all entrants, thus being one of the few needlewomen to achieve the coveted honour of becoming a silver medallist.

3 good reasons why I bank at the Westminster

I like the friendly treatment I always get from the staff. I'm not by any means a wealthy person, yet they always make me feel that my affairs really do *matter*.

I like the efficient attention they always give me. Though many of my requirements are quite small, they're important to *me*—and they never forget that at the Westminster.

I like their helpful attitude towards my occasional problems. My account may be small, but that doesn't prevent me from using the services of the Bank's experts whenever I need them.

Thousands of women, situated just as you are, have proved the value of an account at the Westminster. We know it would be equally helpful to you. May we send you a free copy of our informative booklet 'On using your Bank'?

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Bath. A very successful Jumble Sale was held on Saturday, November 19, at the Red Cross Rooms, Bath, and the annual Christmas Supper was held at "Morans," Cleveland Bridge, Bath, on Thursday evening, December 15. Members and friends enjoyed a meal of real Christmas fare, and Miss Sayers, our Treasurer, displayed the huge box of chocolates that she had purchased on behalf of the branch to send to the Austrian Refugees Home at Bristol, as a little Christmas gift. The branch was honoured in 1955 by being asked to lay the wreath on the Cenotaph, and Miss Pratt and Miss Hood went up to London to represent the branch for the ceremony. The combined Sale of Work which took place in October was very successful, and our stall was well stocked with articles of all kinds which members had been working on all year round. Miss Chapman and Miss Smith deserve a special mention in this respect, for they really did work very hard and put a lot of us to shame! Finally, we would like to wish all members of this branch, and other branches, a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Birmingham. We started our autumn activities with a Jumble Sale organised by the President, which made a gratifying profit of £19. Our meeting in October was spent in discussing the arrangements for the Annual Dinner, which was held on October 25 and was agreed to be the most pleasant Reunion Dinner on record. Our chief guest of honour for the evening was the Director W.R.A.C., who was supported by the Chairman of the Western Area Committee. Brigadier Railton told us something of her first year in office and the journeys she had undertaken to see units at work at home and abroad. She mentioned that the Q.M.A.A.C. (of which our branch has a large percentage) and the A.T.S. were now part of the history of the Corps, and how well the foundations had been laid for the Corps as it now stood. The Chairman in her reply to the toast of the W.R.A.C. Association reaffirmed the loyalty of the Birmingham Branch of the Association to the Director W.R.A.C. Our November meeting took the form of a theatre party to see "The Captain's Lamp" by Norman Collins, played at the Theatre Royal, prior to London production. Only fourteen members turned out, but some friends from the British Legion joined us and took up the spare tickets. It was our turn to stage the Annual Meeting of the Western Area Committee on November 23, and Mrs. R. E. G. Waddell, our representative at the meeting, organised tea for the visiting branch representatives. At this meeting the news of the death of Miss Ireland reached us. The branch has sent a donation of three guineas to Western Area's Memorial Fund. Our Annual General Meeting on December 13 was taken by the Vice-Chairman in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman. We have persuaded the Chairman to continue in office, and have changed the monthly meetings to the third Monday, which we hope will suit more members.

Bristol. Several members went to Bath for the Southern Command Area reunion on September 11. Battle of Britain Sunday was commemorated on September 18 by a short service at the Cenotaph and afterwards at St. Mary's, Redcliffe. Mrs. Budd, A.T.S., carried the branch Standard, and other comrades attended. At the October meeting we held a beetle and whist drive, organised by Mrs. Skidmore, Q.M.A.A.C. In November, Mrs. Rolls, W.V.S., gave a demonstration of "Christmas Gifts," which proved very interesting and instructive. The British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Colston Hall on November 5 and 7 was well attended, and several members took part in the ceremonies. Our Standard and Bearer joined a group of ex-Service men and women at the Cenotaph Service of Remembrance on Sunday, November 6. At our Annual General Meeting in December we re-elected the same officers for the chief posts, but for various reasons the Standard Bearer and Welfare Officer wished to resign and it was found difficult to replace them. After much discussion it was agreed to share these responsibilities. Welfare is to be divided into districts, so that people can be visited by the member living nearest; and Mrs. Budd remains Standard Bearer for another year, assisted by Miss Brooks, A.T.S., and Miss Holbrook, A.T.S.

Dumfriesshire. Our annual dinner was held in the Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries, on November 3, and was a huge success. The guest of honour was Lt.-Col. M. K. Marsh, A.D.W.R.A.C., Scottish Command, who had come to meet the members personally. Those present included Lady M'Farlane, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., and members from Lockerbie, Moffat, Beattock and Wamphray. Miss E. M. Brown, the Chairman of the branch, presided, and the speaker was Mrs. Charlotte M'Nee, a journalist of repute, who was an accredited correspondent at Geneva, a lecturer at Edinburgh University extramural classes and a candidate at the last General Election. She gave an interesting talk on "The Problem of the Saar." Votes of thanks were proposed by Miss Brown and Miss A. Gibson, Honorary Secretary of the branch.

Edinburgh. In October, after a lengthy business meeting, we only had time for a cup of tea and a chat. A beetle drive was arranged for our November meeting, and this proved to be a great success. On Armistice Sunday, two of our members, one ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and one ex-A.T.S., attended the service of remembrance at St. Giles' Cathedral and later laid a wreath on behalf of the branch at the stone of remembrance. There was a very good attendance at the annual general meeting on December 6. During the past year we have had several new members and we extend to them a very warm welcome and look forward to their continued support in the New Year. On December 10, we had our annual Christmas party for the children, where once again members enjoyed themselves as much as their young guests. The singing of "Jingle Bells" with great gusto greeted the arrival of Santa Claus with a well-filled sack to conclude the afternoon's enjoyment.

Hartlepoons. The Hartlepoons Branch sends good wishes to all other branches for a most healthy and happy New Year. In October we spent a most enjoyable and educational evening at the local telephone exchange, where a very efficient supervisor showed us the intricate movements on the exchange board. We were also taken into the engineer section and the workings there were shown and explained to us. At our annual general meeting in November, the President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected unopposed. The new committee consists of Mrs. Shelsher, Mrs. Clarkson and Miss K. Hogg. We had a real party in December, each member bringing along a friend. We also invited two telephonists from the local exchange, and everyone who attended had a jolly time. Two ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and one ex-A.T.S. were visited and gifts given to them for Christmas. During November, one of our members, Mrs. Sawhill, was having an operation in hospital, and Miss V. M. McRobert visited her, taking a basket of fruit. We do urge all our members to make every effort to attend during the coming year.

Iford. Thirteen of us attended the afternoon festival of remembrance at the Albert Hall. As usual, it was most inspiring. We should like to add our tribute to the memory of Miss Ireland. In common with all who knew her, we join in thanking for her life of service.

Leicester. The Leicester Branch has been restarted and the first meeting held in the very modern and well-equipped W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Centre, Ashford Road, Leicester, kindly lent for our meetings by the Leicester and Rutland T. and A.F. Association. Major W. M. Smith, O.C., 308 (Northern Command) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), was in the chair, and the duties of Secretary were carried out by R.S.M. Mallard. There were 21 members present, comprising ex-Service Q.M.A.A.C., F.A.N.Y., A.T.S., W.A.C. (India) and W.R.A.C. We were particularly pleased to welcome our two Q.M.A.A.C. members, Miss Whitbread and her sister, Mrs. Santaney, and we feel that with such sure foundations the Leicester Branch will become once more an active and useful part of the Association. The meeting concluded with indoor sports (darts and table tennis), a get-together and the inevitable cup of tea. Our future meetings will be held on the third Wednesday in each month, and an invitation is extended to all ex-Service Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. in the Leicester area, and any serving members due for release, to come and join the branch.

London. On October 15 we held our annual dinner at the Service Women's Club, Lower Sloane Street, and were delighted to have with us as our guests this year Brigadier Railton and Mrs. Barrie. Miss E. Thompson was in the chair. We were saddened to hear that our good friend Miss Ireland was not well enough to be with us, and that Dame Florence Simpson was ill in Switzerland. We enjoyed hearing from Brigadier Railton about the activities of the W.R.A.C., as such news is always of great interest to us. We were happy that Dame Helen was able to be with us again and say a few



UNIFORMS

TAILORS TO THE SERVICES FOR 70 YEARS

MOSS BROS
OF COVENT GARDEN

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

words and, of course, we could not let such an evening pass without getting Miss Druitt on her feet as well. Miss McNeil and her staff again served us with an excellent dinner, and the evening ended all too soon with a short period of jollification and songs.

On October 6 we held our handicrafts competition, and again Miss McNeil kindly came along to judge. We rounded off the evening with a very enjoyable piano recital by Miss Still. On October 20 we tried our hand at old-time dancing, but without any great success. Our first meeting in November took the form of a visit to Thomas Cook & Sons for an evening of travel films. It was nice to see the wonderful places we could visit if we only had the money. On November 17 we held a "bring-and-buy" sale, and our annual general meeting took place on December 1 with Miss E. Thompson in the chair. Our last meeting in 1955 was, of course, our usual Christmas party, which was a very great success, thanks once again to the efforts of Mrs. Giles and her able supporters.

The year has ended on a very sad note for all of us. The death of our dear friend, Miss Blanche Ireland, on November 20 has left a gap which can never be filled, and we remember her with deep affection and gratitude for all she did for us.

Manchester. Our branch has continued to meet every fortnight throughout the year, but owing to some fall in attendances we have decided to meet only once a month in future. The club night will therefore now be on the first Wednesday of every month. Our annual dinner was held in November, and we all enjoyed a very pleasant evening together. A very successful "bring-and-buy" sale was held in December at the home of our Treasurer, Miss Joan Horsfall, and the profits were used to buy Christmas presents for those members sick at home, or permanently sick in hospital. We would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members a very happy and prosperous 1956.

Norfolk. The branch ended the year by a visit to the theatre to see "Love from Judy," arranged by the ex-A.T.S. members. Nine seats were booked, Mrs. Turner being our guest, and we had dinner afterwards at "The London House" Restaurant. The evening was such a success that we think of repeating it in the New Year. Christmas greetings were received from many members, including Molly Howes in Kenya Colony, Mrs. Gordon in Canada, Miss Molly Saffrey in Vancouver, and Mrs. Baker in Canada. We thank those members who have given gifts and sold tickets for the raffle on January 7. Will members please note that subscriptions are due as from January 1, 1956.

North Staffs. The annual dinner and general meeting was held on Friday, December 9. Twenty members were present and partook of an excellent meal provided by Mrs. Smith at the Nell Gwynne Restaurant, Newcastle-under-Lyme. It was decided to continue having monthly meetings, held on the second Wednesday of each month. The financial report was read and adopted, and our grateful thanks are due to Mr. Pratt for acting as

honorary auditor. Mrs. Clough, after 28 years of loyal service as Chairman of the branch, has now become President, and her place as Chairman is being taken over by Mrs. Emery. Some members hope to attend the Western Area Reunion if at all possible, and we hope to be able to invite Col. Cowper to visit the branch some time during the coming year.

Oxford. In March a coach trip was arranged for members and their friends to visit the ice pantomime "Aladdin." The weather was not very suitable, but we all enjoyed the show. During the summer months we were unable to use our regular accommodation in the Headquarters of the Oxfordshire T. and A.F. Association, because of structural alterations. We were very kindly offered the use of a Drill Hall, but we decided instead to hold the next two or three meetings out of doors. Our meeting in June was held at the Trout Inn, Wolvercote, a very pretty spot. We had a good attendance and a very pleasant evening, marred only slightly by the weather. Miss Nicholls took up an appointment in Addis Ababa in July. We miss her at our meetings, but hope to have her with us again in about two years' time. We held our annual general meeting on November 7, and a very interesting programme was suggested for 1956.

Sheffield. In October members made a most interesting tour of inspection of the liner *Reina Del Pacifico* at Liverpool. Also in October we held a jumble sale. Our Annual Christmas Fair in November was opened by the Lady Mayoress of Sheffield, and the total proceeds of £44 were this year given to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. We were very pleased to have Mrs. Doris Olivant with us on this occasion. We are very pleased to report that Mrs. Vy Downing is progressing favourably and has now returned home. Meetings are still held on the first and third Thursdays in the month at the Foresters Hall, Trippet Lane, at 7.45 p.m.

THE CROSS OF REMEMBRANCE

B. HEANEY

ON Friday, November 4, 1955, four members representing Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S., W.R.A.C. and W.R.A.C. (T.A.) went to the Garden of Remembrance to plant the crosses with our badge on our allotted plot. As we stood for two minutes' silence my mind went back to a cemetery in Abbeville, France, in 1917, where a funeral service was held over some of our comrades who had been killed in an enemy air-raid. I was recalled by hearing those beautiful words, "They grow not old as we that are left grow old," which we said together. A few minutes later, through the main gate walked Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Slowly she walked between the plots, most of them already marked with their regimental badges and crosses. As she turned and faced us, my two uniformed comrades gave a very smart salute, which Her Majesty acknowledged with a charming smile.

800 Men and One Girl

Translated from "De Danske Lotter," by kind permission

DURING the Copenhagen Tattoo, *De Danske Lotter* had the opportunity of a talk with 2/Lt. Heather Pope, the only W.R.A.C. officer (and the only woman) present on the tattoo staff. Heather Pope was in Denmark as liaison messing officer. She was the link between the members of the tattoo and the local suppliers of food, and thus at the same time the link between the tattoo and members of Danmarks Lottekorps who assisted in the distribution of tea and sandwiches between the two daily performances. The tattoo never brings its own supply personnel when travelling.

It was Heather Pope's first visit abroad, and she mentioned that she had enjoyed it very much. As far as she had noticed, the Danes were a happy and gay people, never in too much of a hurry to postpone till tomorrow what could not be done today. Her first impression of Denmark after landing at Esbjerg was that never had she seen so many flagpoles, and she was impressed by all the green plants in flower-pots in the windows of Danish homes.

The part played in the tattoo by the Danish Lotters in the Catering Platoons had impressed her very much, and she stressed the efficiency of the leading lotte, Capt. Agnete Lundstedt. She was quite content with the Danish autumn weather, a thing of the greatest importance for the tattoo.

"London Gazette"

HONOURS AND AWARDS

New Year Honours:

O.B.E.: Lt.-Col. J. G. Grierson.

M.B.E.: Major W. M. Smith (T.A.), Major E. V. Watts, Capt. B. Elliott (T.A.), Capt. M. S. Waugh (T.A.), W.O.2 C. M. Cheverill (T.A.).

B.E.M.: W.O.2 F. O. Shooter, S/Sgt. I. D. Dodderidge (T.A.), Sgt. M. V. Briant, Cpl. S. M. Johnson.

Mentioned in recognition of distinguished services in Malaya: Sgt. E. B. Navin.

T.D.: C. Comds. S. E. Florence (A.T.S.), E. M. Cock, J.P.; Major B. L. Holyman; Capts. J. C. Campbell, B. M. Soman, P. D. D. Southcott; Lt. S. V. Badgley.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Major: G. L. Morrish, M. E. Clarke, E. Duncan, M. B. Latham

Captain: N. M. Lycett-Gregson.

Captain (Director of Music): J. B. MacDowall.

Lieutenant: J. M. Gilling, P. A. Sunnucks, H. S. Gill, M. J. Hadley,

S. F. B. Proctor, E. M. M. D. S. King, A. R. Neat.

Lieutenant (Q.M.): G. P. Blay.

Short Service Commissions

Major: K. M. Ford, E. O. Coven, D. E. Adams, E. M. Ogle.

Captain: R. S. Rogers.

Lieutenant: R. M. Firmin, V. J. Jones, V. J. Morton, P. H. Ellenberger, B. J. White, T. K. Belcher, A. G. Middleton, K. M. M. Quigley, E. L. Ross.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retirement on retired pay: Col. E. S. Macfie, T.D.

Retirement with gratuity: Capt. A. I. Barfoot.

Resignations: Major T. G. Oxnevad; Capt. M. G. Russell (Wilton);

Lts. J. Bright, G. Page, J. P. Wythe (Castles), J. B. Primmer;

2/Lt. F. M. Ellis (Spring).

Short Service Commissions

Relinquishment on completion of service: Capt. M. Anderson.

Relegation to R.O.: Major D. M. Portway; Lts. C. M. D'E. de Charmoy, E. E. Walker.

Resignations: Capt. J. W. Abbott; Lts. P. M. Lett, W. P. Cooper, S. M. Gardner; 2/Lt. E. E. Wright (Moore).

UNIFORM TAILORING

by



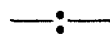
Flights Limited.

97, New Bond Street,
London,
W.I.

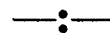
GROsvenor 5016/7/8

and at

**ALDERSHOT
CAMBERLEY
CATTERICK CAMP
CHESTER**



**SERVICE AND CIVILIAN
NYLON LADIES HOSE
ALWAYS IN STOCK**



Representatives

available on request.

PERSONAL

For charges and particulars please see Contents page.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress jacket and skirt. Height 5 ft. 10½ in., bust 40 in., waist 36 in., hips 42 in. New condition. £20 or nearest offer. Battledress, same size, new condition, £1 15s. Box No. 1/56.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress, as new. Bust 40 in., waist 33 in., hips 42 in.; cap 7½, with ½-in. gold braid. £20. Box No. 2/56.

Wanted. Greatcoat—British Warm. Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 36 in. Write: Capt. Lonsdale, 43 Princess Gardens, Codsall, near Wolverhampton.

Ex-Service Woman with M.T. Experience Required. Vacancy exists in W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Unit at Bedford for Sergeant Driving Instructor. Successful candidate to enlist in W.R.A.C. on three-year Type "R" engagement. Pay, ration, lodging and laundry allowances, approx. £8 per week. Apply to: Officer Commanding "D" Company, 301 (East Anglian) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Kempston Barracks, Bedford. Tel.: Bedford 67901 ext. 20.

For Sale. No. 1 Dress. Height 5 ft. 7½ in., bust 36 in., waist 26 in., hips 37 in. £15 or nearest. Green Greatcoat, £15 or nearest. No. 1 Dress cap, 6½, 30s. Box No. 3/56.

For Sale. No. 1 Dress and Greatcoat by Weatherill, hardly worn. Height 5 ft. 4½ in., hips 36 in., waist 26 in., bust 34 in. Also cap. Gardner, Arles House, Willersey Road, Broadway, Worcestershire.

For Sale. Officer's khaki greatcoat, red lining. Bust 34 in., hips 37 in., length 43 in., £5. Also green greatcoat, red lining. Bust 34 in., hips 37 in., length 44 in.; £15 or near offer. Will send on approval. Box No. 4/56.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress tunic and skirt, hardly worn. Bust 34/36 in., waist 28 in., hips 38 in., height 5 ft. 4 in. Also Junior Officer's No. 1 Dress cap, size 6½, two shirts by Weatherill, size 13 in., and six collars. Complete set W.R.A.C. buttons and badges. Almost new battledress blouse and skirt. Service Dress tunic and skirt, wearable. £30 the lot, or offers for separate items. Write Mrs. M. Sumner, 5 Grange Road, Sutton, Surrey.

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.

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.

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

Obituary

W.O.2 E. Anderson

It is with great regret that we report the death on January 3, 1956, in the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, of C.S.M. E. Anderson, who had been with 329 (Warwickshire and Worcestershire) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), for five years, and had made a great many friends.

Miss Joan Belsten

Many members of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. will be very sad to hear of the untimely death of Miss Joan Belsten at Keynsham, Bristol, on September 27, 1955. Jo joined the A.T.S. in April, 1939, and was called up on August 27. She was posted to H.Q., Southern Command, Salisbury, where she served for eight years, working in the Secret Registry and reaching the rank of sergeant. After demobilisation she worked for a further eight years in the same post as a civilian. During that time she was awarded the G.O.C.'s Certificate of Merit for her good work. She became Secretary and Treasurer of the local branch of the W.R.A.C. Association in April, 1955, and was a faithful attendant at all meetings. Her many friends will miss her and will always remember her cheerfulness in spite of much ill-health during the last few years.

Miss F. Berry

Comrades will be sorry to learn of the death of Miss F. Berry (ex-Sgt., A.T.S., who also served in the Q.M.A.A.C.). Those who served with her at Aldermaston (1939-42) will remember her many acts of kindness which helped to smooth the path not only of staff newly posted to the Depot, but of old-timers; her high sense of duty and her loyalty.

She will be sadly missed at reunions organised by the Aldermaston Association, of which during the past ten years she had been such a keen supporter.

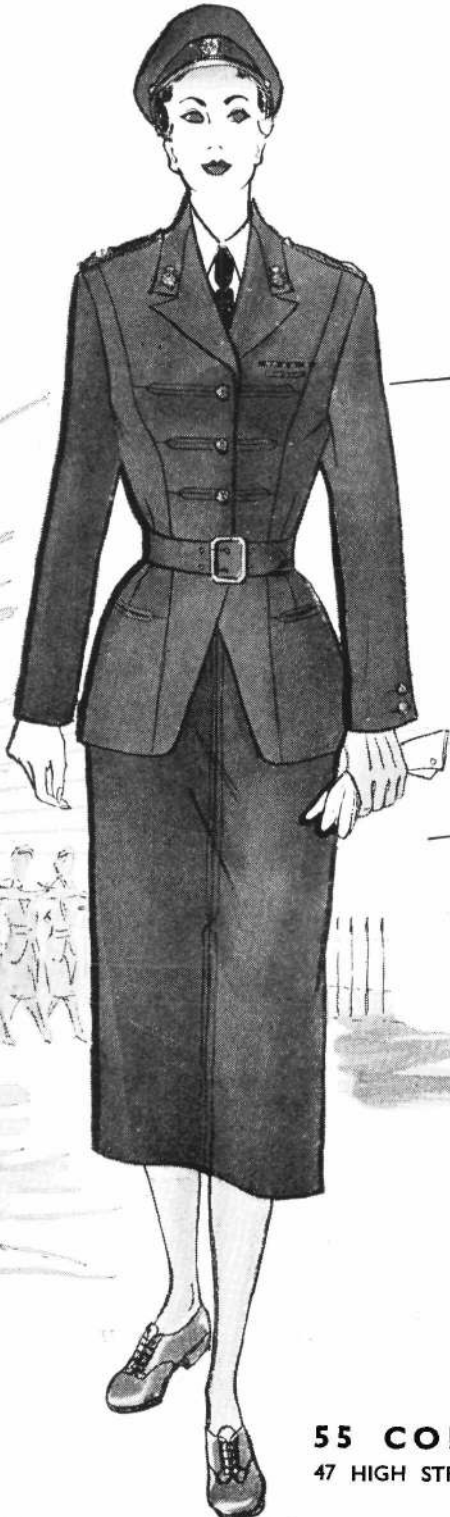
D.M.B.

Miss Dora Frances Hatfield

Comrades will be grieved to hear of the death of Dora Frances Hatfield ("Hattie"), ex-Q.M.A.A.C. For the last few years she had been living at the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, where she died on December 7, aged 76 years, after a sudden attack of pneumonia. She will be remembered for her cheerfulness in adversity and the courageous way in which she bore her affliction. She was laid to rest in Hendon Park Cemetery on December 12. Miss Watson, Miss Lawson, Miss Martin, Miss Lewis and Miss Druitt attended, and flowers were taken as from the London Branch.



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY
THE QUEEN
RIDING CLOTHES, OUTFITTERS
& LINEN TAILORS



**Bernard
Weatherill
Ltd**

*Officially Appointed
Tailor to the
W.R.A.C.*

55 CONDUIT STREET, LONDON, W.1
47 HIGH STREET, ALDERSHOT. 11 BENNETT'S HILL, BIRMINGHAM
BRIDGE HOUSE, SOUTH ASCOT

**NOW—
YOUR FAVOURITE
'UNDA-LIFT'
BRASSIERES
IN**

Nylon



Wonderful 'Unda-lift' brassieres...

now made by Berlei in NYLON! They're trimmed with lace, in pink and white, the prettiest bras you've ever seen. And of course they have the famous 3-way lift, the perfect fit of all 'Unda-lift' models, adjustable back fittings and the new self-material non-slip adjustable straps. Illustrated is 'Unda-lift' 86, in pink or white. 'B' cup, 32, 34, 36, 38, price 10/11. Obtainable from N.A.A.F.I.

Berlei
REGD.

Other 'Unda-lift' styles in nylon:—

85, brief bra. 'A' cup, pink or white, 32, 34, 36, price 10/11

95, 96, 97 bandeau brassieres in pink or white,

'A' cup, 32, 34, 36 and 'B' cup, 34, 36, 38, price 14/9,

'C' cup, 34, 36, 38, 40, 16/11.

'Unda-lift' Brassieres