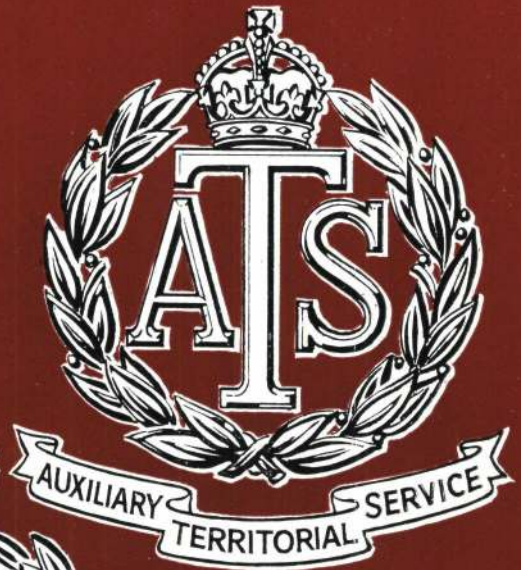
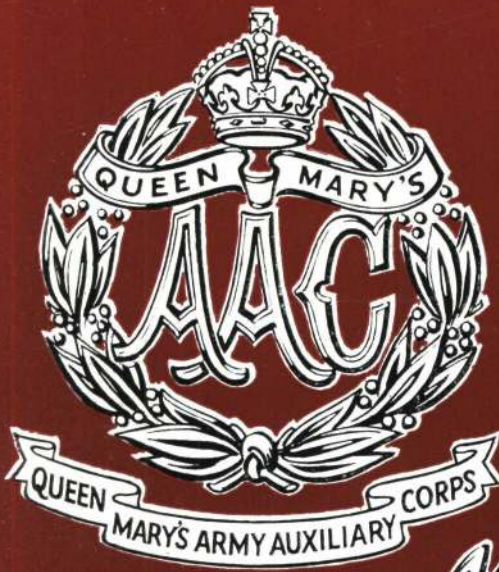
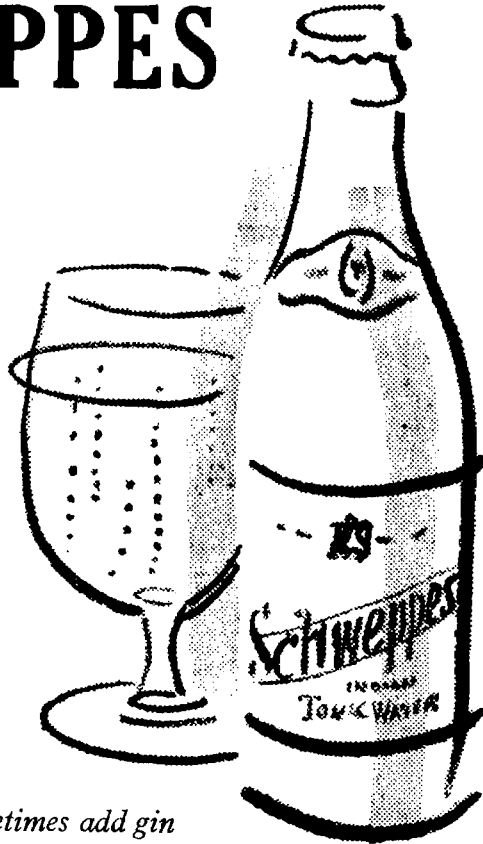


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W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK

General Secretary

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

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

Editor

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

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

Advertisement Representative

Novuev Advertising (Maj. E. O. Coven (Retd.))
2 Regent Square, London, W.C.1.

TERminus 8197

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
JUNE 30



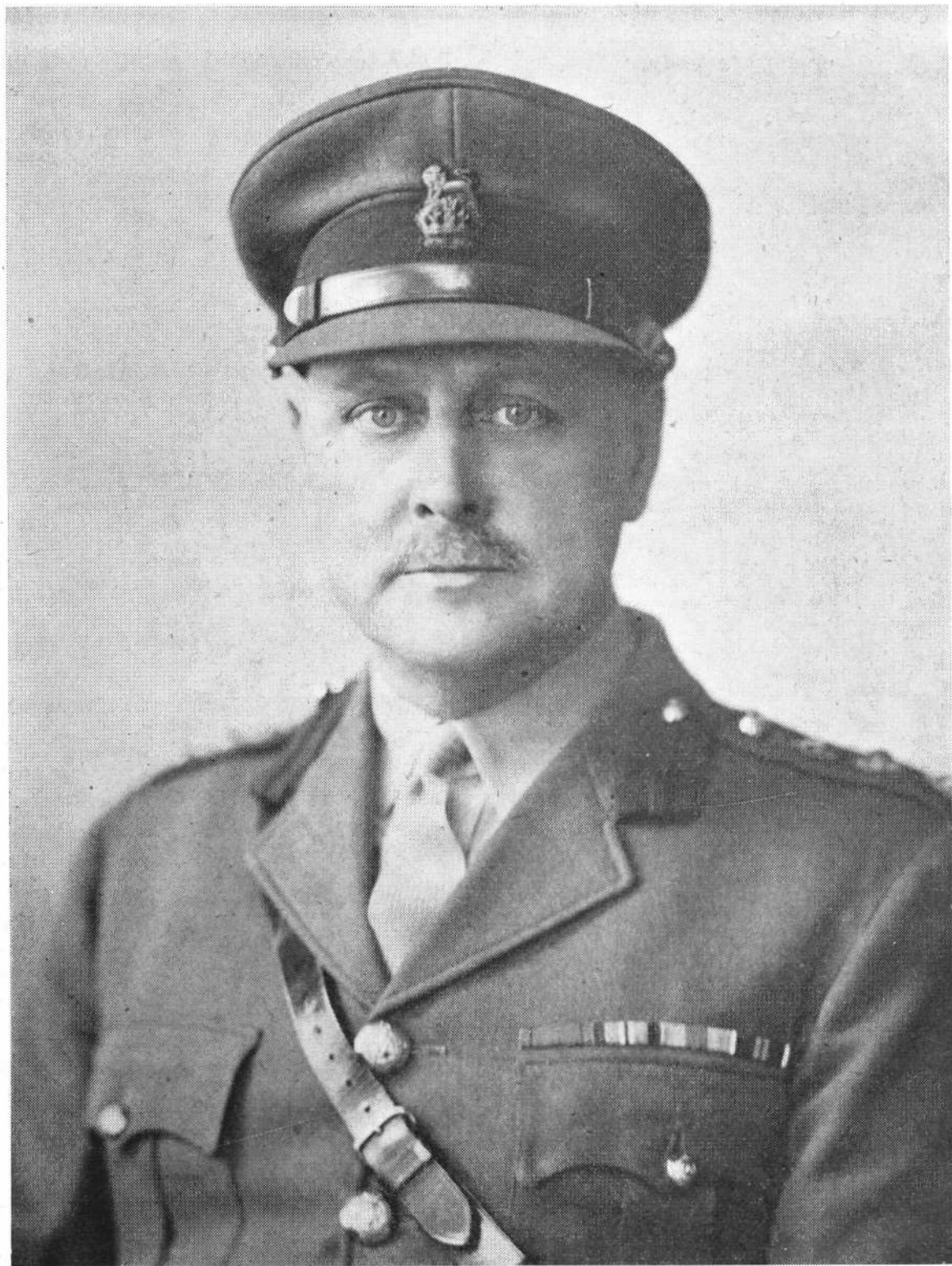
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[Photograph by H. W. Salmon, Winchester.

Colonel W. A. R. Ross, M.B., Officer i/c Medical Services and W.R.A.C. Records, 1953-1956



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXIX

May 1956

No. 2

EDITORIAL

WHENEVER *The Lioness* goes to press, it is impressive (but not, of course, surprising) to find the date ringed in red on the calendar. The last quarter began on New Year's Day, this one on April 1—Easter Sunday, All Fool's Day, and the momentous, historic date which inaugurates the new Service Pay Code. Today thousands of Service women woke to find themselves rich beyond the dreams of avarice, and thousands of ex-Servicewomen are wistfully wondering what they sacrificed when that burst of April folly carried them back into civil life so soon.

EX-SERVICEWOMEN are much in our thoughts at the moment, for this issue of *The Lioness* seems to be full of their ever-welcome contributions—giving their news, dwelling on their reminiscences and enquiring after their old associates. "Where are they all?" asks one correspondent. Where indeed? We who are still serving had formed our own ideas on the subject, based on the human tendency to glamorise all lives but our own. Struggling with our collar-stud before lining up for the morning ration of char and bangers, we imagine our sometime messmates breakfasting cosily in the sunny bow-windows of Civvy Street, on fragrant coffee and rolls as crisp and fresh as their flowered chintz house-coats. Pushing out their perambulators, cultivating their gardens, dishing up exquisite little snacks for their telly-parties—we pictured their lives as an enviable round of civilised pleasure and intellectual satisfaction. It seems, however, that we were wrong. Ex-Servicewomen (our mailbox now leads us to believe) spend their time rummaging through the relics of their service, conjuring up the ghosts of their old accomplices, and dreaming over the memories of The Best Years of Their Lives. One is tempted to ask not only "Where are they all?" but "Why?" Now that the rates of pay have been brought more nearly into line with civilian wages, why should any woman who loves the Army as they do seek her career elsewhere?

THE answer, of course, is obvious. There are the husbands, the perambulators, the home commitments and there are, alas, the advancing years. Old soldiers never die, but in time they do pass a point discreetly labelled as "exceeding the age limit for recall." There are many ex-Servicewomen who only shake the mothballs from their uniform to try it on an adventurous niece. They can do this openly now, without fear of reproaches from worldly-minded parents, for the new rate of pay for W.R.A.C. recruits (49s. a week and all

found) is not to be despised by any untrained eighteen-year-old. To the aunts who gave up well-paid civilian jobs in 1939 to join the A.T.S. at 1s. 4d. a day, the prospects offered now must seem very rosy indeed.

SOME time ago we were asked by one of our Readers to print the full scales of W.R.A.C. pay and allowances, but we found that the star system, which adjusts the rate according to proficiency as well as rank, involved too much detail for our overcrowded pages. We can only sketch in the outline by saying that a G.D. orderly, if she is a three-star private, will now earn a basic rate of three guineas a week; a corporal cook (Class II in her trade), £4 7s. 6d.; the R.S.M. £7 14s. 0d. To this is added, after every three years, an increment of 10s. 6d. a week. An ex-Servicewoman who rejoins after a break of less than five years counts all her former service towards these increments, so that the woman who served (let us say) from 1947 to 1952 can draw her first increment from the day of rejoining and her second after one year on the new engagement. Rank and trade status have to be earned afresh, but the demand for skilled tradeswomen is so great, and the N.C.O. vacancies are so many, that no experienced old hand is likely to be left for long at the bottom of the ladder.

OUR readers are beginning to expect from this column nothing but a heavily-sugared appeal for one worthy cause after another. What a beautiful surprise to find us, on this fair Easter morning, not asking for money, but offering it. Here it is, poured out by a beneficent Treasury, for any military-minded woman who cares to come and get it. Seven shillings a day for the raw recruit, £7 a week for the sergeant clerk (class 1) with six years' service, free board and lodging, uniform and leave-warrants, and bounties totalling as much as £60 thrown in at three-year intervals for those signing on a long engagement. We hope that many of our old friends who left the Service for no better reason than to get themselves settled in civilian jobs are hearing the call of the drums again and lining up at the recruiting offices to get themselves settled in the Army. The value of what they do, and the peculiar satisfaction that comes from doing it, is something of which no ex-Servicewoman will need to be reminded.

MARRIAGE

Lloyd—Drummond. On January 28, 1956, at St. Michaels, Coxwold, by the Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Selby, the Rev. Richard Leslie Harris Lloyd of Coxwold Vicarage to Pamela Muriel Drummond of Wass, York (J. Comd. A.T.S.).

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, March 24, 1956, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, by kind permission of the County of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association. The Chair was taken at 3 p.m. by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., Vice-President of the Association.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Major J. Berry, W.O.1 A. P. Hildyard, Miss E. Howie, Mrs. King, Lt.-Col. T. Morris, Lt.-Col. S. F. M. Nimmo, W.O.1 M. E. Norcott, Miss J. Perceval, Lady Margaret Sandeman-Allen, Miss V. Stead, Mrs. Warr and Mrs. Yeomans.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 19, 1955, having appeared in the May issue of *The Lioness*, were taken as read and signed as correct.

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Election of Officers

Chairman of Council. Brigadier M. Railton, C.B.E., A.D.C., withdrew, and Brigadier Dame Frances Coulshed, D.B.E., was therefore appointed.

Council Vice-Presidents. Col. J. Cowper and Lt.-Col. S. M. Crawley withdrew, and Mrs. Fraser-Tytler and Miss V. Stead were elected.

5. Report of Council

The report of the Council for March, 1955, to March, 1956 (printed at the end of these minutes) was read by Brigadier Dame Frances Coulshed and adopted. The Chairman spoke of the admirable work of Miss Ireland as Chairman and the great loss her death was to the Association. Members agreed upstanding.

6. Report of the Hon. Treasurer.

The Hon. Treasurer presented her Report. The year ended with a balance of £157 6s. 5d., and investments totalled £4,591 11s. 8d. She stressed the need for more subscriptions. Col. Morgan moved that the report be adopted. This was seconded by Miss A. Baron and carried.

7. Report of the Editor, "The Lioness."

The Editor said that *The Lioness* is still not paying its way because of the small circulation, but Major E. Coven had now undertaken the advertising and hoped to bring in more revenue. She asked members to help to keep down expense by sending in contributions early so that alterations do not have to be made after the paper is in the

press, and by keeping the Secretary informed of the correct address for delivery.

8. Report of Committees.

A.T.S. Benevolent Fund. Miss Acland, on behalf of the Committee, stated that up to December 31, 1955, 21,232 applications had been received. The total amount distributed since the inception of the fund was £180,035 (the peak year being 1947). During the year ending December 31, 1955, 1,117 cases were considered and £10,187 awarded in grants and loans. Refunds amounted to £2,152. The financial situation is still sound, but owing to the fall in the value of securities investments had again to be written down. After allowing for this, and all other outgoings, assets still amounted to £77,188. The Employment Office still served a very useful purpose, particularly for the many older women who register. The number of women placed in jobs between 1946 and 1955 was 4,452. At this point Col. D. Thorne called attention to the openings available for women with W.O. and N.C.O. experience. Such vacancies are known to Mrs. Macfie.

W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Col. Morgan reported that since the last Annual General Meeting funds had increased and £22,000 is now invested. Of this sum £15,500 had been received from the Army Benevolent Fund. Since last March, 100 cases had been considered and £558 2s. 9d. expended. Donations during the year amounted to £1,266 11s. 10d., which included £134 4s. 6d. given in memory of Miss Blanche Ireland by her many friends. £150 had been received from the Antique Dealers' Fair. Branches of the Association and serving Units had subscribed generously. £16 raised by the sale of handicrafts was contributed by 27 Independent Company during the busy period of moving from the Canal Zone to Cyprus. Covenant forms were now available.

Corps Museum. Lt.-Col. Cecil reported that there had been an increasing number of visitors, including General Sir Cameron Nicholson (Adjutant General) and several members of foreign women's services. Many and varied gifts had been made. Her Majesty The Queen graciously sent her A.T.S. uniform on permanent loan to the Museum. There was now a corner set aside for relics and trophies of A.A. Command, where the silver model A.A. gun was displayed. Lt.-Col. Cecil had attended two meetings of the S.E. Federation of Museums and Art Galleries, and two Home Counties District Military Museum meetings. Miss Hildyard, R.S.M. of the Depot, spent three days at the R.M.A. Museum, Sandhurst, where she was able to gain much useful knowledge. The Museum had almost outgrown its present room, and it was hoped to move it to larger accommodation.

9. Resolutions.

(a) Council.

THAT the annual subscription be raised to 6s., four-yearly to £1 4s., life-subscriptions to £6, and copies of *The Lioness* to serving members from 9d. to 1s.

THAT existing life-members be asked to make a donation of £1.

Col. Cowper and Mrs. Rumbold spoke in favour. It was moved by Miss A. M. Martin, seconded by Miss A. G. Brown and carried by 26 votes, that the increase be postponed for a year.

(b) Branch.

Hastings and St. Leonards. THAT *The Lioness* be produced on cheaper paper to offset the rising cost of production. As no one was present to move this resolution it was not put to the meeting, but has been noted.

Liverpool and District. It was moved by Miss A. Hayward, Secretary of the Branch, and carried *nem. con.* THAT resolutions of the General Council for submission to the A.G.M. should be included in the Agenda published in the February *Lioness*, in order that such resolutions may be discussed by Branch members before the attendance of their representatives at the meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting.

This was left to the Council.

11. Any Other Business.

The Secretary of the Bath Branch considered there was little chance of meeting old friends at the large reunions and asked for a reunion of A.T.S. alone. It was explained that the Association could only organise events including all members, but that it would be in order for any group of members to organise a separate A.T.S. reunion, just as the Q.M.A.A.C. organised theirs. All possible informal help could be given, but members were reminded that the very large size of the A.T.S. made the meeting of friends improbable except in limited reunions like that at Chilwell. Such a reunion would have the best hope of success in a year in which the Grand Reunion did not take place.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4.25 p.m.

Report of Council

The two outstanding events of the past year were the presence of our President, Dame Florence Simpson, at the Annual General Meeting and during the succeeding months, and the appointment of Miss B. Ireland as Chairman of Council. She was one of the earliest members of the Association, beloved by all who knew her, and cannot but be greatly missed.

Your Council are glad to report the formation of two new Branches, Guernsey and Leicester, making a total of 70 ex-Service and 32 Unit Branches. Twenty-four Branch Secretaries this year attended the Secretaries' Meeting.

The Association was well represented in the march past to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day, and a wreath was laid by a member of the Bath Branch. A cross on the Field of Remembrance was planted by Capt. E. Scott, W.R.A.C., accompanied by Miss B. Heaney (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.) and Mrs. E. Richards (ex-A.T.S.).

A very successful Reunion was held at Chilwell

on May 7, when between 120 and 140 of those who served at Chilwell Ordnance Depot met together. Many came from the north, and some from as far as Stirling. Dame Regina Evans was one of the five Commanding Officers present.

On March 10 the Princess Royal took the chair at the Scottish Area Reunion, which was admirably organised, well attended, and went with the usual swing. It was followed next morning by a Parade Service and a march past of Regulars, Territorials and Old Comrades, at which the Princess Royal took the salute. Your Council has met regularly, received reports, and dealt with current business.

Secretaries' Meeting

The Secretaries' Meeting held in the morning of March 24 was particularly successful. Twenty-four Secretaries attended and gave varied reports, all full of interest and showing considerable enterprise. We were able to welcome three new Secretaries, Miss Lorna Gee of Sheffield, Miss B. Lincoln of Southampton, and R.S.M. E. Mallard (former Secretary of the Gibraltar Branch) of Leicester.

Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion

The Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion was held on Friday, March 23, in the Canteen of the H.Q. Club, Duke of York's H.Q., by kind permission of the Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, County of London. Dame Helen read the following telegram from Mrs. Johnston of Whickham Lodge, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne:

"Good wishes, Dame Florence, Dame Helen, Etaples Signallers Minnie Davies, A. G. Brown, and all Old Comrades."

A most enjoyable evening was spent; it was splendid to see so many Old Comrades from the provinces. Mrs. Buckingham was home on a visit from Canada, and Mrs. Bessie Taylor (*née* Hogarth) from South Africa. Our Mrs. Giles, Secretary of the London Branch, as usual led the "Vitality Squad," and many thanks were expressed to Mrs. Smith for her indefatigable piano playing for the dances and songs. We were all delighted to see Dame Helen so very fit again after her accident. Mrs. B. Richards, Mrs. E. Richards, and Miss Cridland (ex-A.T.S.) once again gave valuable assistance with the refreshments.

Reunion Luncheon

H.R.H. The Princess Royal honoured the ex-Service and serving senior A.T.S./W.R.A.C. officers of Scottish Command at their annual reunion luncheon, which was held at the North British Hotel, Edinburgh, on March 11, 1956. Among the ex-senior officers present were Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Dame Regina Evans, Mrs. Fraser Tytler, Lady Maud Baillie, Miss V. H. C. Stirling, Miss C. E. Aymer, Mrs. Russell Simpson, Col. E. S. Macfie (retd.), Col. J. M. Cowper (retd.), Miss C. H. Service, Miss Helen Nimmo, Miss A. C. Maconochie, Miss M. W. K. Finlay and Miss E. E. Knox.

The Scottish Reunion

H.R.H. The Princess Royal presided at the Grand Scottish Reunion in the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, on Saturday, March 10, 1956, which was indeed a most memorable occasion. A guard of honour of Old Comrades from the 1914-18 war was formed for Her Royal Highness, who was received by Mrs. Russell Simpson (chairman of the reunion committee and newly appointed Hon. Colonel of 314 (Scottish Command) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)) and Brigadier M. Railton, C.B.E., A.D.C., D.W.R.A.C. Also present were Lt.-Col. M. K. Marsh, A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E., Lady Maud Baillie, C.B.E., Miss V. C. H. Stirling, C.B.E., and Mrs. Fraser Tytler. The party on the platform included Lt.-Gen. Sir Horatius Murray, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command, and Lady Murray, and Maj.-Gen. R. Delacombe, C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. Lowland District.

Messages were read from H.M. The Queen and from H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. H.R.H. The Princess Royal, addressing the gathering of four to five hundred ex-Service and serving women, expressed her pleasure at meeting so many old friends and, in particular, welcomed Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, who had not long been released from hospital. Brigadier Railton gave a description of the activities of the Corps in all commands, at home and overseas, and Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan (who was received with vociferous cheers) looked back over the history of Service women, now nearly 40 years long. Thanks were expressed to Her Royal Highness by R.S.M. Murray. The rest of the evening was filled with a programme of supper, songs by Miss Jean Campbell, T.D., to her clarsach accompaniment, and an eightsome reel in which Her Royal Highness's set was made up by Lt.-Gen. Sir Horatius Murray, Maj.-Gen. R. Delacombe, their A.D.C.s, an Old Comrade, and serving members of the W.R.A.C. and the W.R.A.C. (T.A.). The W.R.A.C. Staff Band played during the evening.

A special word of credit must be given to Mrs. Hook, whose exceptional organising ability made such a success of all the reunion arrangements, and to Mrs. Ogilvie, the Treasurer. The smooth running of every detail contributed greatly to the enjoyment of everyone present.

On Sunday, March 11, a blessedly fine warm morning, H.R.H. The Princess Royal attended a parade service at St. Andrew's Church, accompanied by the Army Commander and many members of his staff, D.W.R.A.C., and representatives of the W.R.A.C. Association Branches in Scotland. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. A. Williamson, A.C.G. Scottish Command, and the Very Rev. Dr. D. Davidson. The parade, 460 strong, led by the W.R.A.C. Band and commanded by Major S. Heaney, W.R.A.C., consisted of detachments from Regular and W.R.A.C. (T.A.) units, with a grand little party of Old Comrades (mostly with service in World War 1) bringing up the rear. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal took the salute from the steps of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

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Guildford Cathedral

As a permanent record of our long association with Guildford, the Corps has undertaken to provide a window in the nave of the new Cathedral. The sum of £1,000 has been guaranteed for the main window and, if a further £1,000 can be raised, we can also provide the two small windows below and a sculptured figure outside. Regular and Territorial units in U.K. and overseas are planning many different and ingenious ways of raising the money, and several have already collected more than £100 by their efforts.

The campaign was fittingly opened by a concert given in the Cathedral itself after Evensong on Sunday, March 25, 1956, by the W.R.A.C. Staff Band and the combined choirs of the School of Instruction and the Depot. The congregation numbered about 400, including our Director, the Deputy Director, the G.O.C. Aldershot District and Mrs. Campbell, and many other friends—some still serving, some ex-Service and many civilians. The Band's performance was excellent, and the choir earned much admiration from the visitors, many of whom had never seen or envisaged this side of life in the W.R.A.C. before. The generous collection raised £30 towards the W.R.A.C. window.

If anyone would like to be associated with this undertaking, donations may be given through any unit or sent direct to D.D.W.R.A.C., The War Office, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, W.I. Cheques should be made payable to the Cathedral Window Fund.

RETIREMENTS

Col. M. K. Crewe-Read, T.D., who retires on May 25, 1956, has served with the Corps since the formation of the A.T.S. in 1938. For the first five years she served in Western Command, and will be remembered as O.C. No. 12 A.T.S. Training Centre at Wrexham from 1942-43. Between 1943 and 1946 she commanded G.D. Groups, mostly in East Anglia and in London, with a few months as A.D.A.T.S. South Wales District and, in January, 1947; she was appointed A.D.A.T.S. 2 A.A. Group. Since 1948 she has been D.D.W.R.A.C. London District and Western Command, Commandant W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, and D.D.W.R.A.C. Eastern Command from 1952 till her retirement. During all this time she has taken an unflagging interest in all the activities of the Corps and, as President of the Army (Women's) Lawn Tennis Association and Chairman of the Headquarter Mess, she will be much missed on both the sporting and the social side.

Lt.-Col. M. M. Bell, who retired on April 2, 1956, was one of the great sportswomen of the Corps. She played hockey for Derbyshire for fifteen years before the war, and reserve for the Midlands for one season. She was a pillar of the Army women's hockey team as long as she was serving in the U.K., and was also an enthusiastic cricketer. She joined as a F.A.N.Y. and was commissioned in 1941, served throughout the war in M.T. Companies, and commanded the Chilwell

C.O.D. Group from 1946-47. From 1948-50 she served in B.A.O.R. and was A.D.W.R.A.C., M.E.L.F., from 1952-54. Her last appointment was A.D.W.R.A.C. 5 A.A. Group, which she held from 1954 till the disbandment of A.A. Command.

The retirement of Lt.-Col. D. C. M. Hingston is mentioned in an article on the Record Office on another page. To all these officers we send our warmest good wishes for their happiness and success in civil life.

Appointments

D.D.W.R.A.C. Eastern Command. Lt.-Col. M. K. R. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D. (on promotion to Colonel).

Inspector of Recruiting, W.R.A.C. Lt.-Col. S. F. M. Nimmo.

A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Army Group. Major L. E. Baldwin (on promotion to Lt.-Col.).

Commandant, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction. Lt.-Col. J. G. Grierson, M.B.E.

Medical Services and W.R.A.C. Records. Lt.-Col. A. D. S. Hurburgh.

Passing-out Parade of Officer Cadets

THE Thirteenth Passing-Out Parade of W.R.A.C. Officer Cadets took place at the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, Huron Camp, Hindhead, on Friday, December 16, 1955. Major-General A. D. Campbell, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. Aldershot District, took the salute, accompanied by Brigadier M. Railton, C.B.E., A.D.C. The Chapel Service was conducted by the Rev. I. D. Neill, C.F., Warden of the R.A.Ch.D. Depot, Bagshot Park. The choir, trained by Major M. E. Clarke, sang particularly well.

Nine Officer Cadets of the Senior Term were passed out. The Ceremonial Sash and Certificate of Merit were awarded to Junior Under-Officer B. M. Bowen, who was formerly a member of 327 (County of London) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.). Eleven Junior Officer Cadets, 27 members of the Permanent Staff, and 24 students from the N.C.O.s' wing were also on parade. The Staff Band, conducted by Capt. J. B. MacDowall, A.R.A.M., played for the chapel service and the parade.

The thirteenth passing-out parade was a day to be remembered, for as the parade waited for the Inspecting Officer a thunderstorm of spectacular violence broke out. The precious Band instruments were rushed under cover, but the parade stood without a tremor while icy rain beat down, drenching through immaculate No. 1 Dress, soaking shoes and dripping dismally from cap-brims. After the first march past, the fine weather parade was abandoned and the wet weather ceremonial substituted in the drill-shed.

ENGAGEMENT

The engagement is announced between Colonel F. S. Morgan, C.B.E., D.L., and Lieut-Colonel M. H. Pine, M.B.E., T.D., W.R.A.C.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Christmas in the Far East

WHEN this article is printed Christmas 1955 will have been almost forgotten, but Christmas in Singapore bears so little outward resemblance to the festival at home that some people may not think it unseasonable to read about it. The climate prevents one from "Dreaming of a White Christmas" and, because most of the people are not Christians, they have no interest in the feast, and shops, cinemas, cafes, etc., remain open throughout.

THE season began with the Service of Nine Carols on the Sunday before Christmas, when one of the lessons was read by Lt. Wooldridge and Pte. Powell sang in the choir. On Wednesday, December 21, the Company gave a party to 52 children from the local Salvation Army Home. To "deprived" children more than most, a party is a tremendous event, and the enjoyment shown by these small Chinese and Indians more than rewarded the organisers for their hard work. Party games, a conjuror, a puppet show and an enormous tea filled the afternoon up, and each guest was given a present, a balloon, some sweets and an orange. After rides in the red sports-car belonging to Mrs. Russell (formerly Capt. Wilton), the children went home thoroughly excited and tired.

CHRISTMAS DAY started with midnight Mass at the Church of England and R.C. churches, and the fact that there were over 500 communicants in the Garrison Church over the festival gives some idea of the size of the congregations. Carol singing by senior members of the Salvation Army Home led up to Christmas dinner, served traditionally by officers (including all the W.R.A.C. Staff officers) and sergeants to a very enthusiastic Company. A very good meal was prepared under the capable supervision of Cpl. Savage, and the Asian cooks, not really understanding what was happening but as usual only too anxious to please, were cheered round the dining hall. The Chief of Staff, Major-General Colville, and the D.A.G., Brigadier Price, together with Padre Gwinnett, paid the Company a visit and wished everyone a happy Christmas and they, too, were heartily cheered.

BOXING DAY festivities included a comic hockey match, where the three Company officers and the W.O.s and sergeants in fancy dress took on the rest of the Company. Unfortunately, it was not possible to produce a result. In the evening the W.O.s and sergeants had their Christmas dinner, and the other ranks had an informal dance.

FINALLY, on New Year's Eve, a wedding was celebrated at the Garrison Church, followed by a reception in the W.R.A.C. N.A.A.F.I. This in itself is not an unusual happening out here where the marriage rate is very high, but the bridegroom was Lt. Cpl. Speakman, v.c., and the bride Pte. Rachel Snitch, W.R.A.C., and consequently the Press was strongly represented. The bride looked quite lovely standing beside her six-foot-four

husband, who was dressed in the No. 3 dress of the Royal Scots Fusiliers. The honeymoon was spent in Singapore, and the bride has now gone to join her husband in Ipoh where he is stationed.

Gibraltar

AFTER a very confused period owing to the break-up of A.A. Command, 18 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., was formed in September, 1955. The severing of connections with the Royal Artillery after so long and happy a union was a sad blow, but we are still attached to the Gunners for messing purposes, and the feeling of being "mixed" does in fact remain. The long-awaited move into Princess Royal block took place just before Christmas, but even this upheaval did not dampen the festive spirit. We have now settled in and, despite "teething troubles" (including a leaking roof), we are very happy in our new surroundings. We have already used our spare rooms to house an American W.A.V.E. who was in Gibraltar for one night, and five members of the W.R.N.S. who were detached from Malta, G.C., for ten days to take part in the Spring Exercise. It was a change to hear barrack rooms referred to as "cabins" and the cookhouse as the "galley," but we made friends very quickly and trust they will remember us and return some time in the future.

BRANCH meetings are invariably held in unit lines, and the fact that we are now on a bus route helps immensely with the attendance of ex-Service members. Several tombola evenings have been held to increase Branch funds, and unit and Branch are now combining Corps Day activities in the hope of raising money towards the Cathedral Window Fund.

SPORTS

.22 Rifle Shooting

THE Women's Inter-Service Smallbore Match took place at the War Office Rifle Range, Metropole Buildings, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2, on Monday, February 13, 1956. The result was a win for the W.R.N.S. with a score of 1,548 points, with the W.R.A.F. only one point behind, and the W.R.A.C. third with 1,350 points. During tea at the Nuffield Centre, Brigadier M. Railton, C.B.E., A.D.C., D.W.R.A.C., presented the cup to the captain of the W.R.N.S. team and a silver spoon to Cpl. Stone, W.R.A.F., who scored 199 points, the highest individual score of the day. The W.R.A.C. team was selected by a qualifying card shoot and was coached for a week before the match at the School of Infantry (Small Arms Wing), Hythe, under arrangements kindly made by the Commandant, Col. L. A. B. Robinson, O.B.E. The team shot against the Civil Service Ladies on Friday, February 10, at the War Office Rifle Range, and the result was the usual win for the Civil Service. This very enjoyable annual match is of particular value, as the W.R.A.C. team is able to see the scores consistently put up by a really first-class team.

Netball

THE semi-finals and final of the Inter-Unit Tournament were held on March 2 and 3, 1956, at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot. For the first time a team from Northern Ireland District competed, so that there were seven teams to take part. It was encouraging to see the improvement in the general standard of play. The semi-finals were played off in two sections in an American Tournament, and the winners met in the final match before a large number of spectators on the Saturday afternoon. The result was a win for the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, who beat the 12th Battalion W.R.A.C. by 17 goals to 11 in a very exciting match. Gen. Sir George Erskine, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C. presented the cup and medals to the winning team, medals to the runners-up and the Individual Shooting Cup to Cpl. J. Merrifield.

The Inter-Service Championship, which was played at the R.A.F. Station, Halton, on March 19, 1956, was won by the W.R.A.F., with the Army second and the W.R.N.S. third. Two days later a team representing the three Services played the Australian Touring Team, who gave a beautiful display of fast and graceful netball, and defeated the Services by 32 goals to 6.

Badminton

THE Inter-Command Badminton Championships were held at Aldershot on February 6 and 7, 1956, after a lapse of several years. Unfortunately, for various reasons (mainly Admin. Inspections), only two Commands were represented. Eastern and Southern each produced six players of a good standard, and though the result was a clear win for Eastern by 27 points to 9, every match was hotly contested and the majority taken to three games. An individual singles competition was won by Capt. M. MacLagan, Eastern Command. It is hoped to continue these competitions next year, although finance still prevents us from making badminton an inter-Service event.

Fencing

ON Wednesday, February 8, 1956, during the W.R.A.C. Fencing Course at the Army School of P.T., two international fencers, Miss Gillian Sheen and Mrs. Mary Glen-Haig, visited the course to give a demonstration to the students. They first gave a most interesting talk on the history of fencing, illustrated by some amazing-looking old weapons which they had brought with them. They followed this with a bout of foil fencing (with modern weapons of course), and then gave the students the opportunity of fencing with them. This was a very great thrill for beginners, particularly as they will be able to say that they once fenced with the reigning British champion (Miss Sheen) or the runner-up (Mrs. Glen-Haig). Everyone on the course greatly appreciated the trouble taken by these two fencers, especially as they are both training hard for the world championships which are being held in London next August.

Servicewomen's Sewing Competition

A COMPETITION was organised in July 1955, under the auspices of the National Needle Arts Bureau, which aimed at rousing an interest in a high standard of sewing craftsmanship among women of all ranks in the Army. The competition was open to members of Regular and Territorial Units, Q.A.R.A.N.C. and W.R.A.C., and women from Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western and Scottish Commands and Northern Army Group took part.

There were three classes: Class I for Blouses, Nightwear and Lingerie; Class II for Dresses, Sportswear, Beachwear, and Playclothes; and Class III for Garments for Boys and Girls under 12 years old. Entries were judged first by Commands, and a large well-filled workbasket valued at £5 was awarded as a Command first prize in each class. There were also two consolation prizes of souvenir spoons in each class in each Command. The entries winning first prizes were sent by Commands to the offices of the National Needle Arts Bureau, and the final judging took place on Tuesday, November 29. The judges were Lt.-Col. A. D. S. Hurburgh, W.R.A.C., Major E. Quinton, A.R.R.C., Q.A.R.A.N.C., Miss M. Holt, Fashion Adviser, Le Roy Patterns, and Miss P. Willoughby, Fashion Adviser, National Needle Arts Bureau Ltd.

The final cash prizes of £10 each were awarded as follows:

Class I: L/Cpl. C. G. Robertson, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Aberdeen University O.T.C. (Primrose and white spot silk pyjamas.)

Class II: Lt. R. M. Firmin, W.R.A.C., Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment. (Blue-grey wool jersey dress.)

Class III: Major L. M. Tibbs, Q.A.R.A.N.C., Hamburg, B.A.O.R. (Baby's white lawn christening robe.)

Special prize (Class II): Major D. Hunt, Q.A.R.A.N.C., Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich. (Grey worsted coat and skirt with covered buttons.)

After the final judging, all the prize-winning garments submitted by Commands were displayed for a week in the windows of the Singer Shop, Old Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, by kind permission of the Manager, and the display created quite an interest among the Christmas shoppers.

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL AND CATERING EXHIBITION

In a cookery competition open to cooks of the three women's Services held during the exhibition at Olympia from January 25 to February 3, 1956, members of the W.R.A.C. excelled themselves by taking first, second and third prizes. S/Sgt. Elliott, No. 8 C.I.C., was awarded the Maison Prunier Silver Challenge Trophy and Miniature, and the Gold and Silver Medals went to Sgt. Mackenzie, 6 Independent Company, and Sgt. O'Connor, 12 Independent Company.

ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS

THE spring of 1956 sees the departure of three old friends from Medical Services and W.R.A.C. Records. Their going, within a few weeks of each other, turns the limelight on an office which we tend to take for granted, although we depend on it so much for the smooth administration of the Corps.

Among people who have never dealt directly with a Record Office, that august institution is often maligned and misunderstood. It is pictured either as a vast storehouse of dusty documents, where spectacled clerks burrow like moles among the archives, or as a soulless machine which posts away cooks, drafts the orderly-room clerk overseas, and pesters Unit Commanders with a carping commentary on Establishments, Strength>Returns, and Part II Orders. It is true that an Officer i/c Records is a powerful authority who controls the destiny of thousands and is entitled under Queen's Regulations to demand instant obedience from everyone. It is also true that he is the custodian of the original authentic Record of Service for every member, past or present, of the Corps he administers—a responsibility which justifies a certain niggling insistence on accuracy. In spite of this, the relationship between W.R.A.C. Units and their own Record Office has long been one of trust and co-operation, without tyranny on one side or grievance on the other.

In a nostalgic article in this issue, S.S.M. Evelyn Hall, A.T.S., revives memories of the great days of A.T.S. Records, when the office employed 29 officers and nearly 600 clerks. In those days Division I, which had the gigantic task of controlling, distributing and accounting for woman-power all over the world, as well as watching the individual career of every serving auxiliary, held cards for nearly a quarter of a million women. Before the introduction of machine accounting in 1950, these cards were kept up by hand, with patient accurate entries of postings, promotions, trade-tests, and other day-to-day occurrences. The clerk who "worked a box" of those cards was as familiar with the Unit it represented as the C.O. herself, and took very much the same proprietary interest in it. Division II, which deals with enlistments, records, and casualties affecting service, was coping with huge intakes of women called up for compulsory service and a small outflow of miscreants who persisted in going A.W.L. into Southern Ireland. The Discharge Section, later transferred to Division III, was returning about 100 women a day to civil life through more regular channels, on medical, compassionate and family grounds. Even before the great run-out on release began, the "dead" documents of over 400,000 ex-A.T.S. were held in the non-effective library.

As the Service ran down after the war, the Office shrank till it could no longer justify its separate identity, and in 1947, under its first and last A.T.S. Officer-in-Charge, it was amalgamated with R.A.M.C. Records on its own ground at Bushfield

Camp, Winchester. Amalgamation can be a painful business, and many on both sides viewed it with great foreboding, but thanks to the skill and tact of Col. A. E. Woodward, the first Officer i/c Medical Services and A.T.S. Records, the operation was carried out without any friction or clash of personalities. We now saw the wisdom of the rather irritating War Office policy which had insisted on identical procedure, lay-out and filing system in every Record Office in the U.K., for the two offices were dovetailed smoothly together without any drastic change in the methods of either.

A great deal of history has been made since then. The reconstitution of the T.A. and the formation of the W.R.A.C. as a regular Corps brought new tasks and new interests to the Record Office. With the mechanising of the office, the hand-written cards were replaced by a cryptic system of punched holes, and the sympathetic human clerks by a few almost-human and apparently equally sympathetic machines. The remaining clerical posts were civilianised. Through these changes the spirit of the Record Office remained unshaken, and visitors from Units (who are always encouraged to come and talk over their problems with Officer i/c Records and his staff) still find the same personal interest, the same detailed knowledge, and the same understanding of the Unit's point of view.

Col. W. A. R. Ross, M.B., who has just been appointed A.D.M.S. Singapore, was the third officer to command the amalgamated office. He succeeded Col. T. I. Dun in 1953, after a distinguished medical career which included service in Egypt, Sudan, India and B.T.A. From the first he identified himself completely with the interests of his adopted Corps, and his hand was felt as firmly in the administration of the W.R.A.C. as in that of the Medical Services. During his three-year tenure he visited every W.R.A.C. Unit in the U.K. and B.A.O.R., and a great number of W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Units as well. On his visits he made a point of talking to women of all ranks wherever he met them, so that his face (which appears as the frontispiece to this issue) is familiar throughout the Corps. In the long struggle to meet our commitments from an ever-declining strength, he has fought our battles with vigour, determination and unquenchable humour. He has steered us through three difficult and frustrating years, and his powerful personality has left its mark on our organisation in a way for which we shall always be grateful. He is succeeded by Col. P. T. L. Day, O.B.E., who has served in the R.A.M.C. since 1931, in India, France, North Africa, North-West Europe, West Africa, B.A.O.R. and M.E.L.F. His last appointment was D.D.M.S. H.Q. B.T.E., where he held the temporary rank of Brigadier. We offer him a warm welcome and hopeful (but not very confident) good wishes for a calm and carefree tenure of office.

Lieut.-Col. D. C. M. Hingston, T.D., W.R.A.C., second-in-command of the Record Office, will also

have left us before this article appears. She joined the A.T.S. in November, 1938, and was commissioned on September 4, 1940. For the next ten years she served in the U.K., mostly with General Duties Units, and in February, 1950, she was posted to the Canal Zone as A.D.W.R.A.C. M.E.L.F. and O.C. 16th Battalion W.R.A.C. This long experience of Regimental duty at home and abroad made her an ideal selection for her present appointment, which she has filled since August, 1952. Her wide knowledge of Unit administration and ready appreciation of Unit difficulties has done more than anything else to keep the Units and the Record Office working in partnership, and her unruffled common sense has been a bulwark of strength to Unit Commanders. She is followed by Lieut.-Col. A. D. S. Hurburgh, who is no stranger to the Record Office, as the A.T.S. clerks employed there were under her command, as O.C. Hants Group, from 1947 to 1948. Lieut.-Col. Hurburgh is to fill the post of Officer i/c Division I (the Administrative Division) instead of second-in-command of the Office, but her influence over the running of the Corps will be no less great.

The third famous character to leave the Record Office during the last quarter is Mr. H. S. S. Amos, who joined the Civil Service in 1919 and has served with R.A.M.C. Records, with one short break, since 1941. He moved to Bushfield Camp when the two offices linked up in 1947, and was appointed Officer i/c Division II. He adopted his new Corps with a volcanic enthusiasm which quickly endeared him to Units, and has since established himself as one of our most loyal and devoted friends. In his place we greet Mr. W. J. Foord, who comes to Winchester from Combined Records, Bournemouth.

We say goodbye with great regret to the departing members of this tried and trusted team, and wish them all happiness and good luck in the future. We are glad to think that under their successors the tradition will go on, and we shall still meet with the unfailing friendliness and help which they have taught us to expect from Medical Services and W.R.A.C. Records.

Where Are They Now?

E. HALL

I WONDER how many ex-A.T.S. let their thoughts wander back over the days of their service and ask themselves that question. How many remember the busy days at the A.T.S. Record Office—the job many girls did not like as there was no male Unit to work with and the work often seemed routine and boring? Remember the days of rapid expansion and the weekly arrival of anything up to fifty clerks straight from Training Centres? Remember how we blessed the classification of some of them as clerks? I can remember one outstanding auxiliary who went the rounds of all Divisions and returned to Central.

Remember our Colonels i/c? Col. Morris, retired to his farming, and Col. Orwin to his fishing; Col. Marriott returned to his liberated Channel Island; Col. Fielder posted to M.E.L.F.;

not forgetting Lieut.-Col. Golding who was 2IC for so long. What of the A.T.S. officers? Lieut.-Col. Crawley and Major Pooley are still serving in the W.R.A.C., but what became of S. Comds. Buckle, Croft, O'Leary, Mack, Craker, Marris and Cadman? Is S. Comd. Vincent Townsend still in the West Indies? Sub. Fowden back in the U.S.A.? Sub. de Courcy Williams in Eire? Remember our Company Officers—J. Comd. Way, Sub. Biddlecombe, J. Comd. Coleman? And our women M.O.s—Capts. Purdie and Ellis, and tiny auburn-haired Capt. Brown with the soft brogue of the Emerald Isle?

Remember Cpl. Di Lucas? Her appearance on television with her recently born son, greeting her husband on his return from Mount Everest, sent memory back to the days at King Alfred's College. Remember Sgt. Bushnell transferring to the glamorous U.S. Forces and Sgt. Sparkes sailing for her home in Australia? Did Q.M.S.I. Peen return to Denmark, Cpl. Chirnside to Australia, Pte. Moseley to Austria and Pte. Cornish-Simpson to Chile? Did all the Scottish contingent return north of the Border? Remember S.Q.M.S.s Gordon and Wood, the Sgts. Malone, and Cpl. Morrison, the soft Gaelic-speaking lass from the Isle of Lewis? Remember Sgt. Reeves of Northern Ireland? Sgt. Banyard? Sgt. Scammell? Remember our smallest auxiliary, Pte. Joan Kirk from Manchester? What of the auxiliaries who gave no trouble, and more especially those who never seemed to be out of it?

Remembering, one asks, "Where are they now?"

(No need to ask "Remember S.S.M. Evelyn Hall?" Where is she now? Employed as Mental Health Worker for West Cumberland, and living in her own lately-purchased bungalow, "Vale View," Distington, Workington, Cumberland.)

"London Gazette"

HONOURS AND AWARDS

T.D.: Capt. M. M. Salt.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Major: J. Cornelius, E. E. Connors, J. T. Crooke.

Captain: H. T. Skinner, P. M. Mangin.

Lieutenant: J. V. Hoskin, M. M. Bateson, E. B. Chadwick, H. P. Ogden.

Second-Lieutenant: R. P. Smart, B. M. Bowen, S. A. Hilton, M. R. Allen, B. M. Hickey, E. Welford, J. D. Gordon, L. J. Edlin.

Short Service Commissions

Major: L. A. Manning, M. E. D. Stein.

Captain: E. Graham, D. M. Brampton.

Lieutenant: D. Heatly-Spencer, I. J. B. G. M. Lindsay, E. Munn, J. Bown, B. E. Rigby, B. E. MacKinnon, A. M. Harle.

Second-Lieutenant: A. M. Alderson.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retirements with Gratuity: Major K. Cooper.

Resignations: Majors L. E. Nicolson, E. O. Coven; Capt. B. Kearney; Lts. E. P. Martin (Leach), M. L. Glaskin (Hillier), J. M. Hayes, M. K. Taylor, E. I. Chapman (Bramston).

Short Service Commissions

Relinquishments on completion of service: Capts. A. M. Drummond, M. Cook.

Relegation to R.O.: Capts. P. E. Urban Smith, J. Loft; Lts. A. P. Harris, S. E. D. Harries, F. E. Thomas.

Resignations: Major K. M. Tooley (Ford); Capts. M. A. Fletcher, P. J. Weir (Harben); Lt. P. S. McRorie.

INSTALLATION OF H.M. THE QUEEN MOTHER AT LONDON UNIVERSITY

DAME HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN, G.B.E.

LAST summer I had the honour to be one of the twelve members of the University of London who nominated Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother as our Chancellor, in succession to Lord Athlone. The office of Chancellor is the highest in a University, but like many high offices it demands interest in well-being and representative dignity rather than administration. The Queen Mother was duly elected, and at 0930 hours on November 24, I found myself, in my scarlet and yellow robes as a Doctor of Science, seated in the Festival Hall to watch her installation. Next to me was General Sir Ronald Adam, who was A.G. in 1941.

Soon trumpets sounded and we watched the entry of the representatives of other Universities, all most gorgeously and variously robed. Twenty British Universities, led by Oxford, were represented, 34 from the Commonwealth, 30 from the United States, 43 from other countries. Then, after officials of the University had entered, the new Chancellor was conducted to the hall and took the chair. She wore the black and gold robes of her office and a mortar-board with a golden tassel. She affirmed her intention "loyally to uphold and maintain the privileges and rights of the University" and to promote the purpose for which it exists. After Her Majesty had addressed the assembly and had conferred a number of honorary degrees, some 800 of us, still in our academic gowns, lunched at the Guildhall.

In the evening we, and our visitors from other Universities, were entertained by our new Chancellor at St. James's Palace. In the morning she had been a most awe-inspiring figure, speaking to us of our great responsibilities and duties; now, in white tulle and diamonds with the blue of the Garter across her breast, she was the complete fairy-tale princess. I noticed how appropriately she greeted each delegate from the visiting Universities, and you can see the delightful smile with which she said "Oh, Dame Helen," as I approached.



Photo by B.I.P.P.A. Courtesy "The Queen"

IN THE GUARD OF HONOUR

CADET/W.O.II B. E. C. BANKS

REPRESENTATIVES of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Sub-Unit of the University of London Officer Training Corps were privileged to be members of the Guard of Honour which lined the entrance and stairs of the Festival Hall for the Installation of H.M. The Queen Mother. The Guard was composed of 10 W.R.A.C. cadets, 40 men of the O.T.C., and 50 members of the University of London Air Squadron. The Queen Mother, escorted by the High Sheriff of London, the Vice-Chancellor of the University and other notable civic and academic figures, passed up the steps between the ranks, and paused at the top to speak to one of the W.R.A.C. cadets. After the ceremony Her Majesty returned, wearing the black and gold robes of her new office, attended by a page in scarlet tunic.

BEATING ABOUT THE AFRICAN BUSH

CAPT. J. BOWN, M.A.

I HAVE a brother newly arrived as a District Officer in Barotseland Protectorate in Northern Rhodesia, and I went there on my leave from Kenya to laze away four weeks in the sun, either in the garden or on the bank of the Zambesi River. Unfortunately, the garden was embryonic, as the first planting had been eaten by ants, and the river bank was jealously guarded by crocodiles. We therefore decided that we might just as well be more active, and we went out on tour through an area of green forestland, scattered with flowering shrubs, brightly-coloured wild flowers and many orchids.

We had to visit 85 villages and cover about 180 miles of bush country in about three weeks. Although we were to be cut off from any communication with the outside world the idea did not seem too bad, but I had forgotten that we would be walking on sand and in a temperature sometimes over 100°F. The sand often burned the soles of our feet and one day even the African carriers started jumping about and complaining. We had 25 carriers, all recruited locally, who rushed about with bundles of tent equipment on their heads which I would not have been able to lift. I thought them immensely tough and never dared lose face by any halt out of turn. Afterwards I discovered that it was "one upmanship" of a most misguided kind. They had not dared lose face either.

This was the first tour in the area for some time and, although most of the adult villagers had seen a white man before, a number had never seen a white woman. The youngsters kept touching us to see if we were real, and often followed us for miles of their own free will. In any case, as a matter of courtesy, all the women of a village came out and escorted us into the village—a scattering of round huts built of reeds, in some cases reinforced with a concrete mixture of sand and cattle-urine. On reaching the approximate centre the women withdrew and the men gathered round us in a large circle for the business. We were officially collecting taxes, compiling tribal statistics and listening to complaints. There were always many complaints, and the villagers who said they had none always complained the most.

The business over, the men knelt on one knee and clapped a farewell while the women gathered round to escort us to the next village. They always moved along beside us to a kind of polka step, and sang and clapped in a syncopated rhythm. It was very stirring, but they were not great washers and on a hot day the smell was overpowering. They mostly wore attractive coloured blouses and long, heavily-gathered skirts—a style of dress introduced at the end of the 19th century by French missionaries. The skirts had a fashionable bouffant effect, as all the old ones are worn under the newest. Very few wore European clothes, but some wore less than the average with only a strip of coloured cloth to keep them decent.

There was a tremendous lot of sickness and there was always a large crowd at our camps who wanted medicine. A lot thought bandages on their blisters rather decorative, but there were a great many serious cases. The nearest Mission Hospital was over 50 miles away, and with only a first-aid box we had to cope with TB, smallpox, leprosy, V.D., malaria, innumerable skin diseases and fevers. Luckily the psychological effect of a pill or potion was amazing.

One night we witnessed one of the African cures—a witch-doctoring ceremony for a woman who could not have a child. The patient sat beside a fire surrounded by the villagers, and four drummers, their dark skins glistening with sweat, drummed through the hours of darkness. Three women danced in turn, and the witch doctor muttered a dirge-like get-well-quick incantation. It was rather uncanny, but in the daylight I felt that, if I was getting what could only be psychological medicine, I would think a 12-hour ceremony better value than a dose of salts.

The only ailment that we ourselves suffered from was lack of food. Although we had a large fire outside the tent at night with four Africans sleeping by it (presumably so that they got eaten first), we never saw any large game. The villagers eat raw tapioca, which is practically indigestible to a European, so after our tinned stores were exhausted we lived on monkey nuts, rice and potatoes. We bought a goat, but the major portion was taken by a dog at night. We bought a cock, but it had had such a hard life that even the dog could not manage it. We were finally saved by an Agricultural Officer with a large store-cupboard, who suggested that we combined camps for our last few days in the bush. I shall never forget his face when our veneer of civilisation completely deserted us and a large mixed grill disappeared without ceremony in five minutes dead.

On my return journey I took perhaps the only opportunity I shall ever have to see one of the greatest natural wonders in the world—the Victoria Falls. Livingstone said of the Falls, "Scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight." At the maximum, 75,000,000 gallons a minute pour into a narrow chasm 50 yards wide and 350 feet deep, and the spray is hurled hundreds of feet in the air to fall again in heavy rain on the surrounding cliffs. It was a magnificent finale to a month with many natural and few civilised phenomena.

BIRTH

McAllister. On December 26, 1955, to Estella (formerly Sgt. Garrett, W.R.A.C.), wife of S/Sgt. A. E. McAllister, R.A.S.C., a daughter (Margaret Cooper). Present address: Field Records H.Q., B.A.O.R. 60.

NEWS FROM THE T.A.

Weekend Course at Chester

On Saturday and Sunday, March 17-18, a most successful officers' course was staged by 321 (Cheshire) Battalion, commanded by Major K. L'E. Moorcroft, T.D., W.R.A.C. This is believed to be the first occasion on which such a course has been run for W.R.A.C. officers in North West District. It was attended by some 30 officers, not only from the Cheshire Battalion but from Liverpool, Lancaster and Barrow-in-Furness. Visiting instructors included Mr. G. W. Guthrie-Jones, a barrister practising on the northern circuit, who talked on current affairs, and R.S.M. Hadley from the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction. Col. A. C. D. Hind, M.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C. War Office, gave a talk on the overall picture of the W.R.A.C., which was followed by a lively discussion. Lt.-Col. M. H. Pine, M.B.E., T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command, also visited the course.

Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment

It is seldom that occurrences west of Bristol find their way into print in *The Lioness*, so it is with pleasure that we bring to notice the fact that a Plymouth member of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List. The proud and happy recipient was Staff Sgt. I. Doddridge, of No. 4 Squadron of this unit, who has been a valued and tireless N.C.O. in the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) since 1948. Staff Sgt. Doddridge, who is a shorthand-typist in civil life, served with the R.A.O.C. and R.E.M.E. during the war, and all who know her share in the pride of this recognition of her services. She has received many messages of congratulation, among them a letter from our Director, Brigadier Raiton. Apart from our personal interest in the award, it is an encouragement to all members and potential members of our service.

308 (Northern Command) Battalion

Members of "A" Company and their friends from "B" Company held a Christmas party on December 10, 1955, for 30 children, aged four to ten years, from the Countesthorpe Cottage Homes. Nothing was missing to mar a perfect afternoon. A huge Christmas tree, kindly lent by 595 Company, R.A.S.C., was laden with presents. There were games (boisterous and otherwise), Christmas carols, crackers, balloons and paper hats. The tables literally groaned under the weight of good things, including a beautifully iced Christmas cake and, after tea, Father Christmas himself appeared, to distribute the presents. The happiness on every small face was ample repayment for all the work and planning necessary for a wonderful party.

On December 20, No. 3 Platoon held their Christmas party, and the lecture room taken over for the occasion was bright with decorations and evergreens. Many amusing games were played, refreshments were served, and presents from the

Christmas tree were distributed by Santa Claus, complete with white beard and red gown. This was the first platoon party, but it will not be the last.

The Sergeants' Mess had their annual outing to London on January 28 (dinner at the Cumberland Hotel and the evening performance of "Kismet") and on February 24 they held a very successful social evening. At this party we said goodbye to our Adjutant, Capt. D. M. Price, and welcomed her successor, Capt. J. E. Quarrie, who has been with the unit for five years and Q.M. for the last year.

March 24-25 was our training weekend for the whole Battalion, when a very comprehensive and interesting programme was arranged. After the lecture by Mr. Cherry, of the Hinckley Fire Service, on fire hazards and precautions, our fire-fighting teams tackled the pre-arranged fire with great zest and put up a very creditable performance.

The Battalion dance was held on March 24 in the Leicestershire Yeomanry Drill Hall, and was a great success. We are very grateful to R.S.M. O'Connor, M.M., and his staff of the Leicestershire Yeomanry for all their help in the preparation of the Drill Hall.

Cambridge University O.T.C.

The Easter term has brought three new recruits and a high average attendance of the old ones. One innovation has been regular Sunday training devoted to schemes and exercises, which has been well attended.

At the O.T.C. annual dinner on February 17, 1956, the first in the history of the Corps at which ladies were present, we had the pleasure of entertaining Col. A. C. D. Hind, M.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C. War Office, who later met and talked with all the members of the W.R.A.C. Wing.

An applied map-reading and signals exercise intended for the Gog Hills was "snowed off," but we were luckier on March 4. After a preliminary exercise in the Cambridge Area we joined men of the Infantry Wing at the Practical Training Area, Stanford, for lunch. We then watched them advance under "fire" through a wood and over open ground. Local colour and sound effects were produced with mortar support and thunder flashes, which gave us an impression of what an infantry battle would be like in earnest.

Afterwards the W.R.A.C. divided into two parties with a vehicle and wireless set apiece. Each party was led to an unknown position, told to find itself and proceed to various points on wireless instruction. Owing to mistaking the words "howling gale" for "towering rage" one party proceeded with great alacrity. Finally the two sections were facing each other across a stream from which the bridge had been swept away, but they surmounted this obstacle by crossing on foot and exchanging vehicles. They were then given orders to conceal themselves and the vehicles, which they did to such

effect that "control" landed unobserved in a ditch. Major M. Hickson, D.D.W.R.A.C. Eastern Command, kindly acted as safety officer, a very necessary duty, as the Infantry Wing was using live ammunition. Next term we plan to train in watermanship and to carry out an amphibious exercise up the Cam.

The highlight of this term has been the visit of the Director and Col. M. K. Crewe-Read to the O.T.C. on March 6, 1956. Although few cadets were able to be present, the Director met and chatted to the Permanent Staff of the male Wings and showed a great interest in their equipment, methods of training, and the help they all give to the W.R.A.C. cadets.

Queen's University O.T.C.

Queen's (Belfast) University Officers' Training Corps has for many years been a power to be reckoned with in the Army shooting world of small-bore and full-bore shoots. The women of the W.R.A.C. sub-unit follow in the footsteps of their male counterparts, and have kept up the fine tradition of the Corps by winning, for the fourth consecutive year, both the Queen's Westminster Cup (individual shoot) and the Kolar Cup (team of four). They also reached the semi-finals of the N.I.D. League, in which they were placed third in 1954-55. The results in the Queen's Westminster (full bore) since 1952 are as follow:

First:	(Possible 105)
1952 L/Cpl. E. A. Sawyer ..	97
1953 Cpl. H. Gorman ..	91
1954 Cpl. A. E. J. Bennett ..	97
1955 Cpl. E. M. McCormick ..	97

This, with the winning of the Kolar Cup in all four years, is indeed a fine record for a sub-unit formed in 1950. We hope that in future years it will continue to have "good shooting."

Honorary Colonels

H.M. The Queen has approved the following appointments of Honorary Colonels to W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Units:

Lt.-Col. Nancie Hughes-Reckitt, to 301 (Eastern Command) Bn.

Col. Anthony Charles, T.D., M.B., F.R.C.S., to 304 (Surrey and Sussex) Bn.

Senior Commander Lady Belper, J.P., to 307 (Northern Command) Bn.

Lady Barnett, M.B., J.P., to 308 (Northern Command) Bn.

Chief Commander Dorothy Russell-Simpson, to 314 (Scottish Command) Bn.

The Countess of Derby, to 319 (East Lancashire) Bn.

Major Lucy Croft, to 323 (Staffordshire) Bn.

The Countess of Plymouth, to 325 (Glamorgan) Bn.

The Viscountess Brookeborough, to 328 (Ulster) Bn.

The Duchess of Abercorn, to 351 (Ulster) Bn.

"F.A.N.Y. INVICTA"

By Dame Irene Ward, D.B.E.

Reviewed by COL. J. M. COWPER, T.D.,
Official Historian

DAME Irene Ward has produced a book worthy of the Corps whose magnificent story she seeks to record. Although she was never a F.A.N.Y. she has been intimately connected with them for many years, and as a Member of Parliament she has on several occasions come to their aid. Her account of F.A.N.Y. services in the First World War is vivid, marred only by the repetition of Mrs. Beauchamp's error in an earlier book when she claims that F.A.N.Y.s were at Hell Fire Corner on the occasion of the first gas attack. It was in fact about the fourth time that the Germans used gas. Her account of the F.A.N.Y. Corps Units employed on Special Operations in the Second World War has to be read to be believed. The heroism and self-sacrifice of the F.A.N.Y.s concerned is beyond praise.

Unfortunately Dame Irene gives much space to what she unashamedly called the "F.A.N.Y. row." Her facts are presumably taken from files available at F.A.N.Y. Headquarters, but the inferences she has drawn and some of her implications rather do harm to her general thesis. The fact of the matter is that there were two irreconcilable points of view, and that feeling naturally ran high so long as there was little national danger.

It was as early as 1934 that Lady Londonderry received her charter from the War Office for a new Women's Legion which was to comprise all existing Services. Not unnaturally the F.A.N.Y.s resisted absorption into a newer organisation which had no more official status than their own, but when it was proposed to form the Auxiliary Territorial Service on an official basis within the framework of the Army, successive Adjutant-Generals looked to the F.A.N.Y. to provide the officer material. Few people outside the F.A.N.Y. Corps could understand their passionate belief that their ability to mobilise as a thoroughly efficient Transport Service was of more value than providing officers for a new and untried organisation. On the contrary, those who had the task of trying to find officers for the A.T.S. in 1938 had some difficulty in sympathising with the young women who appeared to prefer the carefree life of a driver to the responsibilities of an officer. Unpardonable things were said on both sides until Great Britain had her back to the wall after the evacuation from Dunkirk, when differences were sunk in the great expansion of the A.T.S.

No useful purpose is now served by going back over the ground. It is better to remember the spirit of the post-Dunkirk days, and the co-operation of all members of the A.T.S.—F.A.N.Y. and non-F.A.N.Y. alike—which built up the great service to which we are all proud to have belonged. Dame Irene Ward's book, which is published by Hutchinson's at 21s., contains a good deal which contributes to this object.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was turning out a cupboard the other day when I came across a file of notes I made 15 years ago when I was part of the S/L experiment—one of the original S/L.A.T.S. in fact. I wonder where Grandma, Tussie, Paddy, Dizzie, Scottie, Micky, Charlie, Randy, Rita, Twinkle, Wendy, Miki, Dickie, Georgie, Ellie, Jackie, Mad Miles and the rest have all got to, and if they have all turned into sober matrons like me.

I found a copy of a song we made up on site and sang to the tune "It's Foolish but it's Fun," and a map of the camp which I probably drew when I wasn't doing tasks on the lorry or guard duty on the gate. How I hated the Lister, and the fact that an A.T. half my size could start the beastly thing on her own and I couldn't, when it was alleged that it took eight men to get it going in the winter. Any S/L.A.T.S. reading this will by now know that the writer was "Stink" Walford, one of the number nines who enjoyed taking the troop to Blidworth Bottoms at the top of a steep hill.

Yours sincerely,
JOAN ROGERS.

28 Foley Road, Pedmore,
Stourbridge, Worcestershire.

Dear Editor,

In the early hours of Saturday, March 24, I returned from a very pleasant social evening with Old Comrades of the Q.M.A.A.C. Next year it will be 40 years since we all first met, and to my mind it is very commendable (if just a little mad) that such a large number should still gather together, some from as far away as Yorkshire, just to natter over past experiences. I myself am of the "Rouen" group, and would have liked to see many more from my old billet or from the Arche-veche. Miss Winter is the mainstay of those from Cauchoise, and Mrs. Marshall of 60 Overton Road, Sheffield, of "Casualties." We are trying to arrange a luncheon-party on June 6 at the Club in Lower Sloane Street, when we hope many more Rouen (and other) Old Comrades will be with us.

We saw a very beautiful photograph of dear Miss Ireland, who was very much missed by us all, but Dame Helen expressed the views of all present when she said what a blessing it was that Miss Ireland's long years of suffering were over. Dame Helen and Miss Edith Thompson continuously moved among us. May they both be spared to us for many years yet to come.

If this should be seen by the member from Newcastle who came to our last luncheon-party, we hope she will get in touch, as we have mislaid her address.

Yours truly,
A. STOCKER.

36 Belvedere Road,
Bournemouth.

Dear Editor,

I learned with regret of Miss Ireland's death. What memories it recalled of the Connaught Club in 1917 and the early Reunion Dinners. She was an idol to us. I, too, was in Abbeville Cemetery in 1917 and never forget the scene. How many old Abbevillites are left I wonder? "Pip" Hall died on March 17, 1955. She was very well known at Camp III as the kind and tolerant Hostel Forewoman with the foggy voice. "Dot" Hastings is in Seattle, U.S.A., and cannot get back to England, though she is not an American subject and too old at 65 to get decent employment there. I would welcome news of old comrades. Surely there are a few of us left?

Very sincerely yours,

KATHLEEN BOTTOMLEY
(Q.M.A.A.C., 2365 White, K., "Pearly").

1, Oakfield Drive,
Fernehurst, Baildon,
Shipley, Yorkshire.

Dear Editor,

I have noted with regret in *The Lioness* the death of Miss Ireland. My sister and I both knew her very well. We were at the Hotel Metropole with her before going on to Dover. She was a wonderful woman—always so willing to help to make everyone as happy as possible. Best wishes to all Old Comrades.

Yours sincerely,

J. E. MURTON (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.)

2 Gas Cottages,
Harleston, Norfolk.

Dear Editor,

As an ex-A.T.S. Ack-Ack, I was thrilled and deeply moved to read about the presentation of the Silver Gun to Brigadier Railton by Sir Frederick Pile. Having been out of touch for two years, because of ill-health and moving from Yorkshire to Northamptonshire, I was without knowledge (as many others must have been) of that generous acknowledgment of service. Can't something be done to let us all see the Gun? Is it possible to hold an open day at various T.A. Units over the country, with plenty of advertisement beforehand?

Sgt. Wood's article was very interesting, and brought back many happy memories. The Regiment she mentions was founded mostly on two disbanding Regiments, 139 and 172, and smatterings from others who had gained experience in action in this country, battling with V1s and V2s in the Doodle-bug era.

Whatever happened to us afterwards we were always proud of having been "Gun Girls." I had a letter only last Christmas from one of my old girls, which ended "Up the Ack-Ack"—after 14 years.

Yours sincerely,

IDA LEE
(C.S.M. Lee, B.E.M., A.T.S.).

The Village Store, Farthingstone,
Nr. Towcester, Northants.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES

Bath. Our annual general meeting was held on Thursday, March 22, at "Morans," Cleveland Bridge, Bath. The meeting was preceded by a supper, after which the Chairman spoke of the excellent year we had had. We had helped with four flag days including Poppy Day, had two successful coach trips, a visit to the theatre, and a coffee party, the proceeds of which had been put into Branch funds. Our next jumble sale would be held in April, a visit to the theatre in May, and an evening trip to Cleveland and Portishead in July. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary attended the Branch Secretaries' Meeting and the Annual General Meeting in London on March 24.

Birmingham. Our January meeting was a farewell party for Mrs. E. C. Hudson, a very lively member who sailed for Australia in early February and will be much missed. A small presentation was made to her by our Chairman, Capt. E. E. Mapp. During the evening it became known that our Treasurer, Miss D. Hardstaff, had fractured a knee-cap in a fall on her way to our December meeting. A kneeler for the W.R.A.C. Chapel was on view for members, and now we can report that two are completed, two are under way, and another two are being ordered. In February, our Vice-Chairman, Mrs. R. E. G. Weddell, and her husband gave us a most pleasant evening with a selection of their travel films, most of which were in colour and all well photographed and very interesting. One of our members, Miss M. Morgan, brought a friend, Mr. L. Worral, to our March meeting. He had a stock of stories of customs of "the good old days" and told us quite a lot about our city that we did not know.

Bournemouth. Our dinner at the Gardens Restaurant in January was well attended and a great success. A supper at the restaurant's new premises was also popular and is to be repeated in April. Several outdoor activities are planned for the summer, including a picnic lunch on the Hog's Back and visit to the Regimental Museum at the W.R.A.C. Depot at Guildford on the last Sunday in May. Six of our ex-A.T.S. members paraded with the 23rd Hants Home Guard Battalion at the stand-down parade in January, and a Dorset member attended her unit's dinner in Blandford.

Bradford. We started 1955 with our A.G.M., when Miss Gummersall was re-elected as Chairman and Mrs. Suttle as Secretary. Mrs. Suttle is also the Secretary of Northern Area. Two of our members, Miss Cocksedge, Q.M.A.A.C., and Miss Garrett, A.T.S., attended the London reunion in March, and on the following day they were privileged to visit the Depot at Guildford. They were made very welcome by Lt.-Col. Cecil and R.S.M. Hildyard, taken on a tour of the camp, and given



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lunch and tea in the Sergeants' Mess. In April the Branch visited the theatre and had a fish-and-chip supper which was very enjoyable. On Sunday, June 12, we had an outing to Chatsworth, where we were joined by a few of the Sheffield Branch. Although the day was very wet, this in no way damped our spirits. In August, taking advantage of the hot weather, we went to Manningham Park for our meeting and afterwards were invited by Miss Julian and her friend to a most delectable meal. We attended the Festival of Remembrance in Bradford on Sunday, November 6, and many of our members took part in the march of the units. Three appeared in the festival itself, representing "Women Through the Ages" (Miss Hennegar as Boadicea, Miss Reel as Queen Elizabeth, and Miss Brett as Florence Nightingale). Also in November we were invited to a whist drive at Mrs. Hemm's, where a real party spirit prevailed. In December we held a whist drive at Bursley House in aid of the British Legion funds, and the magnificent sum of 10 guineas was handed over. Our members also assisted in preparing the boxes and selling poppies. We were sorry that illness marred the attendance of many of our stalwarts throughout the year, including Mrs. Ward, Q.M.A.A.C., who was taken ill in Blackpool while on holiday.

Bristol. Because of adverse weather conditions, the whist and beetle drive planned for January had to be abandoned. A Christmas outing to see "Me and My Girl" at the Little Theatre, organised by Miss Lloyd, Q.M.A.A.C., on January 9, was well attended. This year we combined our annual dinner and New Year party on February 2 at Legion House, when 21 members sat down to tables well spread with good things, provided under a collective effort. Some good staff work had gone into the preparations. Our President, Mrs. Bernays, J.P. (A.T.S.), Vice-Presidents Miss Martin (Q.M.A.A.C.) and Miss Clarke (A.T.S.) and other officers were present. Several Comrades, including our oldest member, Mrs. Webb (Q.M.A.A.C.), could not attend. For our March meeting we held a bring-and-buy sale.

Edinburgh. The members of the Branch thoroughly enjoyed an evening out in January when they went to see Evelyn Laye star in "Wedding in Paris." In February we had a most interesting talk and film show by Mr. H. J. Fraser on "The Story of Tea." Our annual dinner on February 21 in the Royal British Hotel was indeed a great success. We were honoured to have with us as our principal guests, Lt.-Col. M. K. Marsh, A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command, and Lady Murray, wife of the G.O.C. Scottish Command. Miss Roberts, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., most ably introduced the guests, and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. J. J. Lyall, ex-A.T.S.

Hartlepool. Attendances at meetings since the New Year have been rather disappointing, due to illness and "no baby-sitters." Two of our members are unfortunately still on the sick-list, Mrs. M. Clarkson who had a short spell in hospital and is still recuperating, and Mrs. E. M. Murrell who is ill

at home. At our January meeting we had a most interesting talk by the Matron of the local hospital, who spoke of her life in India as a nurse and as a Q.A. from 1937 to 1948. At our February and March meetings tea and biscuits were enjoyed with games. At the March meeting the proposed Northern Area Reunion at Harrogate on the first Saturday in September was discussed, several members expressing the desire to go. Will any others who wish to go please contact the Secretary.

Leicester. The January meeting took the form of a whist drive, which must have been a nightmare for the one or two really orthodox players present. The prizes were won by Capt. Price (never played before in her life), Pte. Austin (haven't got a clue), and Sgt. Grisat (what are trumps?). February produced a very entertaining evening in the form of "Those were the Days," memoirs of members' service life. Entertaining stories were told by Miss N. Whitbread, Q.M.A.A.C., Capt. J. Hayr, F.A.N.Y., Miss Doswell, A.T.S., R.S.M. Mallard, W.R.A.C., and Miss Austin, who brought us up to date with the W.R.A.C. (T.A.). On March 21 Sgt. Grisat was our Disc Jockey when we all brought our favourite records and enjoyed a musical evening to suit all tastes. We offer our congratulations to our Chairman, Lt.-Col. W. M. Smith, M.B.E., on her promotion and award of the M.B.E., and send our best wishes for success in civilian life to our Adjutant, Capt. Price, who has left the area and taken up residence in East Anglia. We meet on the third Wednesday in each month at the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Centre, Ashford Road, Leicester, and we invite any serving or ex-Service member who may be in the area to join us.

London. We are happy to say that Dame Frances Coulshed has now become our Vice-President, and we welcome her most heartily. In accordance with the decision made at our A.G.M., we have had a photograph of the late Miss Ireland enlarged and framed, and this will be kept in the Games Room where we hold our meetings. The bad weather at the beginning of the year kept our numbers down somewhat, but in January we held a whist drive, though we only had three tables. We have also had a visit from the Century House Choir, which was smaller than usual because of illness, but what they lacked in quantity they made up for in quality, for the singing was excellent. On March 1 Miss Martin brought along her friend, Miss M. Norman, who gave us a most interesting talk on the Holy Land, illustrated by beautiful coloured photographs. Our thanks to both of them for providing us with such a pleasant and instructive evening. Our beetle drive on March 15 was well attended, and we were able to have five tables. We were very sorry to hear early this year this Miss Shearman was ill in hospital. Before we were able to send any visitors to her, she was sent to a convalescent home outside London, where we trust she is making good progress towards a quick recovery.

Lonsdale. Armistice Sunday saw Miss Agnes Smith bearing our new Standard on the Civic Parade held in the city. We are very proud to



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possess this Standard, which has been painted for us by Mrs. L. I. Cowper and made up by Sgt. J. Ginns. Our thanks to both of you for your splendid effort. Our meeting in November at the Drill Hall was most interesting and thoroughly enjoyed by all present, when Miss Jackson, who has been Secretary to the Mayor of Lancaster for the past 38 years, came along and gave us a talk on "Lancaster and its History." Later in the month she very kindly invited us to the Town Hall and showed us old Charters and other points of interest relating to the history of our city. December saw us again at the home of our Chairman, Col. J. M. Cowper, where as usual we were delightfully entertained.

Norfolk. Branch meetings have been well attended except in February, when the snow and blizzards defeated all but two stalwarts. The raffle in January was a great success, clearing £11 0s. 9d. for Branch funds, and the New Year Party was a jolly affair enjoyed by all present. An interesting air-mail has been received from Miss Rose Batty, who represented us for several years on the Council in pre-war days and was a friend of our dear Miss Ireland. Miss Batty is now happily settled with her brother, the Bishop of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, and her sister-in-law, and does not expect to return to this country again.

Sheffield. In February we held our annual dinner and discovered a wealth of hitherto hidden talent. After a most enjoyable meal, entirely spontaneous and unrehearsed entertainment was provided by our two ex-Q.M.A.A.C. members, Mrs. Parkinson (soloist), accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Marshall, and we all had a delightful evening. In March a party of members paid a most interesting visit to the Rotherham Railway Control Room. We continue to hold our meetings on the first and third Thursdays in the month at the Foresters' Hall, Trippet Lane, Sheffield.

Southampton. It is quite a while since news of our Branch appeared in *The Lioness*, but meanwhile we have managed to keep up our monthly meetings despite the fact that some of our old-established members are not able to attend so regularly as in the past. In January we held our annual party for children under the care of the N.S.P.C.C., the funds for which were raised partly by a very successful bring-and-buy sale just before Christmas. Unfortunately, owing to illness among the children, there were almost more helpers than guests, but as usual everyone had a very good time. At our annual dinner in February the Rt. Worshipful The Mayor of Winchester, Mrs. F. S. Thackeray, who is also a member of our Branch, very kindly came along and talked to us about her very interesting and eventful term of office. We have a varied programme arranged for our forthcoming meetings, and hope later on in the year to arrange for a reunion in Southampton for some of the south of England Branches, when we look forward to meeting many old friends.

Torbay. At the A.G.M. held in January, Mrs. Fletcher resigned from the post of Secretary and

was unanimously elected to the Chairmanship of the Branch. Miss Margaret White became our Vice-Chairman and Miss Norma Brown our Secretary. It is hoped that the Branch's second annual dinner and social evening will be held during April and, judging from our first effort, this should be quite a successful evening. The dedication of the standard is to be held on April 15, the Archdeacon of Totnes performing the ceremony. We hope to repeat last year's delightful visit to our President, Miss Stanley, at Dartmouth during June. The members of the Branch will be most happy to welcome at their meetings any ex-A.T.S. and others visiting Torquay, so if you are contemplating a holiday in Devon, please contact the Secretary or Chairman at the Torquay Combined Ex-Services Club, Market Street, Torquay.

WESTERN AREA REUNION

Branches of the W.R.A.C. Association in Western Area will hold a Grand Reunion at St. George's Restaurant, Lime Street, Liverpool 1, on Saturday, September 15, 1956. Tickets will be 6s. per head and can be obtained from A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command, Chester, on receipt of remittance and stamped addressed envelope. Any Association member will be welcome.

A.T.S. (1938-45) REUNION

It has been suggested that there is a feeling among members that a reunion of A.T.S. who served between 1938 and 1945 may prove popular. Several Secretaries have already said that they are willing to assist. If there is sufficient support for this idea, it is hoped it may be possible to arrange this in 1958 when there will be no W.R.A.C. Association Reunion in London. Anyone interested should please contact their Branch Secretaries, or the Secretary of the Bath Branch, Mrs. J. Ferguson, 16 Lime Grove Gardens, Pulteney Road, Bath.

Obituary

Miss Marjorie Bilbrough

Comrades will be grieved to hear of the death of Marjorie Bilbrough ("Bil") ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and ex-A.T.S. She had been living at Clacton-on-Sea with Miss Freeman and Miss Thorpe for the past few years. She will be remembered for her good work as Secretary of the London Branch. She was taken ill on December 26, 1955, and never really recovered her health. She died on March 23, 1956, aged 59 years, and was cremated at Ipswich on Tuesday, March 27. Flowers were sent from the London Branch and Miss Druitt attended the service.

Miss Mabel Cochrane, Q.M.A.A.C.

We regret to report that Mabel Cochrane, late of Signals Etaples, 1917, died very suddenly on March 11, 1956, after only two weeks of retirement from the Post Office.

Miss M. S. Frood, M.B.E.

Miss M. S. Frood, M.B.E., of Riverside, Topsham, near Exeter, died suddenly of influenza on March 7, 1956, at her home. She was one of the earliest members of the Q.M.A.A.C. in France, and served first as Unit Administrator of the big A.M.T. Depot. Soon she was promoted Area Controller and did invaluable work in Abbeville at the time of the retreat in 1918. From 1936 onwards she helped in the training of potential Officers in Emergency Service, and joined the A.T.S. as soon as it was formed, later becoming Inspector of Catering under Q.M.G. and serving as a member of the A.T.S. Council. She was experienced in all that concerned rations and quarters, a most loyal and devoted officer, kind and wise and friendly. She will be greatly missed.

Mrs. McEwen (Jean Innes)

Lady McFarlane (No. 1286, Kerr, J. H.) writes from Cairnyard, Lochanhead, by Dumfries:

I read in the *Glasgow Herald* last January the notice of the death in Salisbury, Rhodesia, of Jean Innes, wife of Alex McEwen.

Jean Innes was one of the original members of the W.A.A.C. from Glasgow early in 1917. After the initial training at Connaught Club she was posted to Le Havre, where she served till the Corps was disbanded in 1919. During that time she was secretary first to Area Administrator Miss Parker and then to Miss Alice Low, and for her work there I think I am correct in saying that she received an M.B.E. Like myself during the twelve months I was stationed in Le Havre, she was privileged to be a resident in the small "select" Hostel presided over by Miss Allen of sculpture fame, a privilege which was much envied by many of the other W.A.A.C.s in Le Havre.

After demobilisation Jean, with other Glasgow friends, emigrated to Rhodesia, where she eventually married and had lived ever since. She had no family. I had only met her once in all these years, when she was home on holiday in Glasgow but I shall always remember her as a grand person and a true friend.

If this should meet the eye of any of our Old Comrades of the Le Havre days, I should be so glad to hear from them.

Miss May Norval

Rouen friends of May Norval will be sorry to hear of her passing on February 28, 1955, after some months of illness. She worked during 1917-19 as a typist in "Casualties," Rouen, and was a keen and conscientious worker. Shortly after her demobilisation she returned to France to work with the War Graves Commission and gave them valiant service until her retirement two years ago. At the beginning of World War II she had to make a hurried exit from France, narrowly escaping with her life and leaving her home, bank savings, and all her possessions behind, but as soon as the Commission set up offices in England she started working for them again. It is sad that after a very hard life she did not live long to enjoy her retirement.



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Alliance with the W.R.A.A.C.

An alliance between the Women's Royal Army Corps and the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps has now been approved by Her Majesty The Queen. To mark the occasion, a telegram of greetings and good wishes was sent to the Director Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, and the following reply was received:

"We are delighted and proud that The Queen has been pleased to approve the alliance between our two Corps. All members of the W.R.A.A.C. send their greetings.—Director, W.R.A.A.C."

In a letter to D.W.R.A.C., D.W.R.A.A.C. adds: "On behalf of all members of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps I desire to express our sincere pleasure and pride in our alliance with the Women's Royal Army Corps. We feel that, wherever in the future members of the two Corps meet or serve together, there they will find friends. Our Hon. Colonel, Col. Sybil Irving, was tremendously pleased to hear of the alliance, which fulfils her deep desire to see the two sister Corps of those great war-time women's Services, the A.T.S. and A.W.A.S., related in fact. We send you our greetings and good wishes."

PERSONAL

For charges and particulars please see Contents page.

For Sale.—A.T.S. Officer's Khaki Greatcoat, tailored Wm. Anderson, Edinburgh. Perfect condition. Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 34 in. £8 or near offer.—Box No. 5/56.

For Sale.—No. 1 Dress. Height 5 ft. 8½ in., bust 37 in., waist 26 in., hips 38 in. £10. Green Greatcoat, as new, £15.—Box No. 7/56.

For Sale.—Officer's Khaki Greatcoat in excellent condition. Very well tailored. Small size Reasonable.—Box No. 8/56.

For Sale.—Khaki Service Dress and Greatcoat. Height 5 ft. 7 in., bust 36 in., hips 38 in. Price £3.—Miss Ward, South Ormsby, Louth, Lincolnshire.

For Sale.—Khaki Service Dress (two skirts), Greatcoat, British Warm, Cap, shirts, collars, nylons, ties. Height 5 ft. 2 in., bust 34 in., waist 26 in., hips 38 in. £15 or would separate. Approval against cheque.—Lake, Southview, Pulford, Chester.

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 Dress Jacket and Skirt (£15), Green Greatcoat (£15). Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 34 in., hips 37 in. Weatherill tailored. No. 1 Dress Hat (£2 10s.), 6½, three green shirts, six collars (£1 10s.). Will send on approval.—Box No. 9/56.

For Sale.—Officer's Greatcoat and Service Dress (Khaki), battle blouse and two skirts. Bust 35 in./36 in., hips 38 in., height 5 ft. 9 in. Good condition. Reasonable offer accepted.—Box No. 10/56.

For Sale.—Officer's Khaki Greatcoat, two Service Dresses, all £3 each. Height 5 ft. 8 in., bust 36 in., waist 28 in., hips 38 in. Very good condition.—Mrs. MacCulloch, 16 M.O.Q., Old Park Barracks, Dover.

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 Dress. Height 5 ft. 8½ in., bust 36 in., waist 31 in., hips 41 in. Also Cap, 6½. Good condition. £15 or nearest offer.—Box No. 11/56.

For Sale.—Green Greatcoat with scarlet lining, No. 1 Dress and Cap, both complete with buttons and badges (three pips). Two green shirts with four collars. Three khaki shirts, some matching, and some Van Heusen khaki collars. All by Bernard Weatherill, in good condition. No. 3 Dress and buttons, one tropical dress. Height 5 ft. 8 in., bust 38 in., hips 40 in., collars 14½. Prices by arrangement. Any article sent on approval.—Miss A. P. Harris, Dunic, Upper Park Road, Camberley.

For Sale.—British Warm, very good condition, £10 or nearest. Weatherill No. 1 Dress Uniform and Cap, 6½. Almost new. Height 5 ft. 4½ in., bust 36 in., waist 28 in., hips 40 in. £18 or nearest.—Box No. 12/56.

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 Dress tunic, skirt and greatcoat by Weatherill, all in very good condition. Bust 36-38 in., waist 28 in., hips 39 in., height 5 ft. 6½ in. Also Junior Officer's No. 1 Dress cap (size 6½), two shirts (size 12½ in.) and six collars. Complete set W.R.A.C. buttons and badges. Almost new tailored battledress blouse and skirt. £30 the lot or offers for separate items.—Mrs. J. B. Taylor, 7 Glencorse Park, Milton Bridge, Midlothian.

For Sale.—No. 1 Dress (Weatherill), £12. Green greatcoat (Weatherill), £15. Green cap (Scott's), £2. Two green shirts, 5s. each. All practically unworn. Khaki Service Dress (Huntsman), £8. Khaki felt cap, £1 10s. Four khaki shirts, 5s. each. Two green collars, six khaki collars, 1s. each. Khaki shirt (unworn) for shirt-sleeve order, £1 10s. Height 5 ft. 5 in., bust 36 in., waist 26 in., hips 38 in. Cap size 7, collar size 14. Offers considered.—Mrs. L. M. Stever, 57 Marlborough Place, N.W.8. (Maida Vale 4349.)

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

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

By the glorious Thames and Clivedon Woods.—Holidays at the Court Hotel, Maidenhead (Tel. 2400). From 4½ gns. bed/breakfast, 6 gns. full board. London 45 minutes.

The Sutton Platoon of the Territorial Army situated at Stonecot Hill, Sutton, Surrey, requires volunteers to fill vacancies as Clerks and Cooks before proceeding to Camp in June. Will any ex-Service women interested apply on Thursdays between 8 and 10 p.m.

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.

LIST OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

- Aberdeen.**—Miss H. T. G. Donaldson, 5 Ash Hill Drive, Aberdeen.
Ayrshire.—Miss E. Howie, 5 Alton Terrace, Monkton, Ayrshire.
Bath.—Mrs. J. P. Ferguson, 16 Lime Grove Gardens, Pulteney Road, Bath.
Bedford.—Mrs. E. Hayman, 9 Cardington Road, Bedford.
Belfast.—Miss N. McCullough, 28 Sandhill Gardens, Neill's Hill, Belfast.
Birmingham.—Mrs. J. Rogers, 28 Foley Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge, Worcs.
Bournemouth.—Miss J. Lunniss, "Lamorna," Stapchill, nr. Wimborne, Dorset.
Bradford.—Mrs. E. M. Suttle, 9 St. Anne's Terrace, Baildon, nr. Shipley, Yorks.
Brighton.—Miss J. A. Durndell, 38 Toronto Terrace, Brighton, Sussex.
Bristol.—Miss K. M. Cottrell, 435 Fishponds Road, Fishponds, Bristol.
Canterbury.—Mrs. R. Closier, 5 Cherry Avenue, Canterbury, Kent.
Cardiff.—Mrs. D. Pucknell, 11 Kyveilog Street, Cardiff, Glamorgan.
Carlisle.—Miss E. Wightman, 11 Orfeur Street, Carlisle, Cumberland.
Chelmsford.—Mrs. M. Bragg, 11 Chaucer Road, Chelmsford, Essex.
Chester.—Mrs. Coathupe, 12 Filkins Lane, Chester.
Chesterfield.—Miss E. M. Cleary, 543 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield, Derby.
Derby.—Mrs. A. R. Jones (Treasurer, Acting Secretary), 17 Monyash Close, Chaddesden, Derbyshire.
Dumfriesshire.—Miss A. Gibson, "Tweedville," Eastfield Road, Dumfries.
East Africa.—Mrs. M. Ewing, P.O. Box 619, Nairobi, Kenya Colony.
Glasgow.—Miss M. McNair, 4 Crown Terrace, Glasgow, W.2.
Glasgow (Q.M.A.A.C.).—Mrs. W. Young, 127 Hatton Gardens, Glasgow, S.W.2.
Edinburgh.—Miss M. Cruickshank, 16 Riversdale Road, Edinburgh, 12.
Gibraltar.—W.O.2 M. W. Coombes, 18 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Princess Royal Block, Europa, Gibraltar.
Guernsey.—Mrs. M. Brett, Amberley, The Green Lanes, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, C.I.
Hartlepool.—Mrs. M. Jewell, 21 Whitfield Drive, Foggy Furze, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham.
Hull.—Miss D. Reeder, 11 Cliff Terrace, Hornsea, East Yorks.
Ilford.—Mrs. Curtis, 293 Mawneys Road, Romford, Essex.
Ipswich and Suffolk.—Miss J. Brett, 403 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.
Leeds.—Sgt. E. Raper, W.R.A.C., 41 University Road, Leeds, 2.
Leicester.—W.O.1 E. Mallard, W.R.A.C., T.A. Centre, Ashford Road, Leicester.
Liverpool.—Miss A. Hayward, 163 Greenhill Road, Liverpool, 18.
London.—Mrs. N. Giles, 4 Arlington Drive, Carshalton, Surrey. Miss I. Brown, 40 Salisbury Road, Manor Park, E.12.
County of London.—Capt. A. Keefe, W.R.A.C., 327 Battalion, W.R.A.C./T.A., Duke of York's H.Q., King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3.
Lonsdale.—Mrs. J. Lindsay, Brooklands, Scotforth Road, Lancaster.
Maidstone.—Miss N. Court, 32 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent.
Manchester.—Mrs. Yeomans, 51 Orchard Road, Northenden, Manchester.
Middle East Group.—Miss C. B. Healey, Shermanbury Grange, Shermanbury, nr. Horsham, Sussex.
Newbury.—Miss C. Rashbrook, 5 Chesterfield Road, Newbury, Berks.
Norfolk.—Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 2 King's Head Terrace, Great Witchingham, Norfolk.
Nottingham.—(Chairman) Mrs E. Cole, 6A Gordon Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.
Omagh.—Mrs. M. Roulston, 16 Rodgers Villas, Omagh, N. Ireland.
Oxford.—Mrs. M. A. Paton, 6 Napier Road, Cowley, Oxford.
Peterborough.—Miss L. Beeken, 42 East Street, Crowland, Lincs.
Plymouth.—Mrs. O. Foster, "Coryton," Elburton Road, Elburton, nr. Plymouth.
Portsmouth.—Miss Imogen Bray, 153 Clive Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.
Preston.—Mrs. A. E. Bucklee, 346 St. George's Road, Preston, Lancs.
Reading.—Miss E. B. Ridley, 4 Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading.
Salisbury.—Mrs. A. Harris, 7 St. Andrews Road, Salisbury, Wilts.
Sheffield.—Mrs. L. Gee, 17 Ducksett Lane, Eckington, nr. Sheffield.
Singapore.—c/o A.D.W.R.A.C. G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F., c/o G.P.O., Singapore.
Sleaford.—Mrs. B. Futter, Red House, Fleet Road, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincs.
Southampton.—Miss B. Lincoln, "Woodspen," Ashurst, Southampton.
Southend.—Mrs. T. Johnston, 48 Claremont Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex.
Southern Ireland.—Miss E. Lloyd, 4 Gledswood Close, Clonskeagh, Dublin.
Staffordshire North.—Mrs. S. M. Hampson, "Sandymount," Baldwins Gate, Newcastle, Staffs.
Tees-side.—Miss O. Hart, 18 Tibbersley Avenue, Billingham, Co. Durham.
St. Leonards-on-Sea.—Miss K. Ash, 118 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.
Torbay.—Miss Norma M. Brown, 62 Victoria Park Road, Babbacombe, Torquay.
Tunbridge Wells.—Miss D. Scott, Park House, Kingswood Road, Tunbridge Wells.
Wimbledon.—Miss C. Samuda, 25 Wordsworth Drive, Cheam, Surrey.
Wolverhampton.—Mrs. J. M. Carroll, 135 Coleman Street, Wolverhampton, Staffs.

UNIT BRANCH SECRETARIES

- 3rd Battalion.**—W.O.1 C. M. Savage, M.B.E., Catterick Camp, Yorks.
4th Battalion.—W.O.1 E. Hadley, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Chilwell, Notts.
12th Battalion.—W.O.1 E. M. Clarke, Richmond Park Camp, Kingston, Surrey.
14th Battalion.—W.O.1 K. M. Holmes, H.Q., Northern Army Group, British Forces, P.O. 40.
1 Independent Company.—W.O.2 M. Tindall, Dreghorn Camp, Colinton, Edinburgh.
2 Independent Company.—W.O.2 D. C. Till, Venning Barracks, Donnington, Shropshire.
3 Independent Company.—2/Lt. E. P. Leach, School of A.A. Artillery, Manorbier, nr. Tenby.
4 Independent Company.—Sgt. I. T. Friend, G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F., c/o G.P.O., Singapore.
5 Independent Company.—Up Park Camp, Caribbean Area, Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.
6 Independent Company.—2/Lt. A. Neat, Zebra Camp, Watchfield, nr. Swindon.
7 Independent Company.—S/Sgt. D. Jones, Station Road, Didcot, Berks.
8 Independent Company.—W.O.2 E. M. A. Trodd, No. 4 Camp, Lower Arncliffe, Bicester, Oxon.
9 Independent Company.—W.O.2 M. Anthony, Fugglestone Camp North, Wilton, nr. Salisbury.
10 Independent Company.—W.O.2 K. M. Pryor, Mandora Hutments, Hope Grants Road, Aldershot, Hants.
12 Independent Company.—Lt. E. M. Miseroy, Menage Lines, Old Infantry Barracks, Canterbury, Kent.
14 Independent Company.—W.O.2 G. R. Wild, Saighton Camp, Chester.
15 Independent Company.—W.O.2 I. M. Butterfield, Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, Salop.
16 Independent Company.—Sgt. E. Richards, Wolverley Camp, Kidderminster, Worcs.
17 Independent Company.—Sgt. D. J. Nolan, P. & E. E. New Range, Shoeburyness, Essex.
18 Independent Company.—W.O.2 M. W. Coombes, Princess Royal Block, Europa, Gibraltar.
27 Independent Company.—British Forces Post Office 53.
22 Independent Platoon.—Sgt. E. M. McDonald, H.Q., Land Forces, Hong Kong.
24 Independent Platoon.—Sgt. M. Trinnick, P.O. Box 4000, Nairobi, Kenya.
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment.—Capt. Rushton, Glencourse Barracks, Milton Bridge, Midlothian.
Southern Command (M) Signal Troop.—S/Sgt. D. M. G. Argo, Fugglestone Camp, Wilton, nr. Salisbury.
W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.—W.O.1 F. J. Hadley, M.B.E., Huron Camp, Hindhead, Surrey.
W.R.A.C. Depot.—W.O.1 A. P. V. Hildyard, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, Surrey.
W.R.A.C. Staff College.—S/Sgt. G. N. Beer, Frimley Park, Frimley, nr. Aldershot, Hants.
Drivers and Clerks T.C.—W.O.1 M. E. Norcott, Houndstone Camp, Yeovil, Somerset.
W.R.A.C. Detachment, Army School of Education.—W.O.2 Taylor, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Bucks.
W.R.A.C. P.T. Wing, A.S.P.T.—A/W.O.1 J. M. Roberts, Queens Avenue, Aldershot.
328 (Ulster) Battalion, W.R.A.C./T.A.—W.O.1 Bell, Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, County Antrim.
319 (West Lancs) Battalion, W.R.A.C./T.A.—W.O.1 M. M. Evans, St. George Building, Lime Street, Liverpool 1.

Forthcoming Events

- June**
 6—23 Royal Tournament, Earls Court.
 16 Athletics: T.A. Championships, Aldershot.
 19—21 Cricket: Inter-Command Championships, Camberley.
 22 Cricket: Army Trials, Aldershot.
 23 Cricket: Army v. Miss A. Collins' XI, Aldershot.
 29—30 Athletics: Army Individual Championships, Aldershot.
July
 18 Athletics: Inter-Service Championships, Uxbridge.
 30— Lawn tennis: Army Championships, Aldershot.
Aug. 4
 1 Athletics: Inter-Unit Championships, Aldershot.
 8—9 Lawn tennis: Inter-Service Championships, Wimbledon.
 15—17 Swimming: Army Championships, Aldershot.
 18 Cricket: Army v. Sussex, Chichester.
 28—30 Swimming: Inter-Service Championships, Eltham.
 31 Cricket: Army v. Civil Service, Camberley.

W.R.A.C. Regimental Museum

Exhibits received since September, 1954

1. The A.T.S. uniform of Her Majesty The Queen.
2. Inspector of Gunnery's S.D. Cap, belonging to the first I.G., A.T.S., the late J. Comd. Wareham.
3. Programme for the prizegiving at Kneller Hall for the course attended by Capt. MacDowall, A.R.A.M., W.R.A.C., showing her numerous awards.
4. Three albums of newspaper cuttings relating to the women's Services.
5. "Book of Remembrance" showing names of officers and O.R. killed or died on active service during the 1939-45 war.
6. A copy of the *Canal Zone News* featuring the A.T.S. A chart of the British Army Formation signs in use on May 8, 1945. Set of Belgian newspaper cuttings, chiefly articles on the A.T.S. stationed in Belgium.
7. A.T.S. Christmas card (1946) with photograph of the Victory Parade.
8. Photograph of the Victory Parade, A.T.S. contingent.
9. Original A.T.S. brooch, belonging to the late Miss Hollie.
10. Miscellaneous papers, presented by Mrs. D. Humphries.
11. Aiguillettes, badges of rank and Royal Cipher worn by Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, D.B.E., as first D.W.R.A.C., Honorary A.D.C. to the Sovereign (King George VI).
12. The first W.R.A.C. drum-major's sash to be used.
13. W.O.'s badges of rank made by Egyptian labour, as worn by all W.O.s in M.E.L.F. when no others were available. Presented by W.O.2 Whitaker.
14. Original copy of the *Huron Herald*, published by the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction during the newspaper strike, 1955.
15. Q.M.A.A.C. flag, W.A.A.C. uniform, Canadian W.R.A.C. pennant and Australian Women's Army Corps pennant.
16. Medal bearing coats of arms of the city and port of Le Havre, presented to the W.R.A.C. on the occasion of the visit of the Staff Band to France in July, 1955.
17. Temporary flag made by a member of 46 (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., and flown outside the W.R.A.C. quarters after the official disbandment of that Regiment, when it was no longer authorised to fly the W.R.A.C. flag.

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