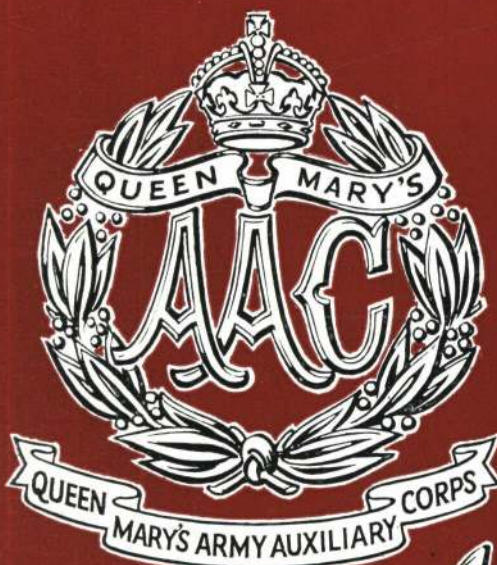


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THE LIONESS

Vol. XXIX

August 1956

No. 3

EDITORIAL

SUMMER is at its height. In civilian offices all over the country the clerks, unfamiliar in their well-pressed battledress, cover their typewriters and go off to their W.R.A.C. (T.A.) camps. In military offices the clerks, unfamiliar in their colourful drip-dry skirts, cover their typewriters and go off on leave. As our readers thumb through the brochures of shipping companies and travel agencies, the Editor thumbs through the in-tray and finds it equally full of holiday suggestions.

WHAT shall we do with our summer leave? We are ashamed to spend it quietly with our family in our usual economical and unenterprising fashion, when everyone else (as the pages of *The Lioness* prove) sets off in a matter-of-fact way for Turkey, New Zealand, Bangkok, Barotseland or Zanzibar. Shall we too strike out for the North Pole or the South Sea Islands, or shall we enrol ourselves in one of the many organisations which cater for the Army's leisure? Shall we join the Forces Motoring Club, which exists (according to the prospectus issued from 2 Charterhouse Mews, E.C.1) for the promotion of motoring and motor sport among past and present members of the armed forces? For an entrance fee of 5s. and an annual subscription of £1 we could take part in rallies, treasure hunts, competitive skilled driving tests, social events and sporting entertainments, as well as sharing in a long list of economic privileges. Moreover, we could amuse ourselves by sitting at home and reading the very diverting illustrated Newsletter published by the club at incalculable intervals, and this would save us the expense of running a car. Or what about the Army Cycling Union, run by the War Office (A.S.C.B.), Stanmore, Middlesex, and open to all serving officers and other ranks for an annual fee of 4s. for men and 2s. for women? We rather fancy ourselves crouched over the handlebars in our cycling shorts, speeding to victory in a road race or track event. Or shall we join the W.R.A.C. Saddle Club, which is being formed under the chairmanship of Col. M. K. R. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D., H.Q. Eastern Command, Hounslow, to promote equestrian activities in the W.R.A.C. and W.R.A.C. (T.A.)? The proposed subscription for active riding members is 10s. a year, for non-riding members 2s. 6d. We would gladly pay 10s. to be televised flying over jumps at the Royal Tournament or the Aldershot Horse Show, but unluckily the club cannot guarantee to mount its members and, since our dairy was mechanised a few months ago, we have not had a horse on our visiting list.

SHALL we go off on a Forces' mountaineering course, organised by the Central Council of Physical Recreation, 6 Bedford Square, W.C.1? Sgt. Coultard, Sgt. Wright and L/Cpl. Lenderyou have recently explored this field, and sent us an inspiring description of their week's rock climbing and canoeing in Snowdonia. The C.C.P.R. runs courses in all kinds of sport and physical activity at the recreation centres, usually at a charge of about £6 or £7 a week. On the girls' courses run by the Outward Bound Trust at Bisham Abbey, Marlow, and Capel Curig, North Wales, a W.R.A.C. officer is often invited to join the staff and help with organising the indoor and outdoor activities. Several public-spirited officers have devoted their leave to this excellent cause, and have found it a valuable and rewarding experience.

THERE are plenty of other possibilities. Capt. V. Fisher spent her last leave building igloos and practising "Rescue and Survival" with the Red Cross in Norway. L/Cpl. Lenderyou of 17 Independent Company, after finishing the C.C.P.R. mountaineering course, spent a week learning judo at Maidenhead. Pte. Haddesley, who is doing her basic training at the W.R.A.C. Depot, has asked for a few days off to swim Lake Windermere. We are ready to try anything once, but on the whole we think it might be less trouble to go to Zanzibar.

WHATEVER we finally decide, we hope to return (if at all) with mind refreshed and powers strengthened for the new tasks awaiting us, for we have received our posting orders and *The Lioness* office is on the move again. Our address from September 6, 1956, is published on the contents page, and we hope that our readers will have time to make a note of it before they catch the night train to Moscow or the banana boat to Peru. We should hate the account of their adventures to go astray.

Forthcoming Events

Sept.

- 1 Cricket: Army v. Miss Noel Smith's XI, Camberley.
- 3 Inter-Service Cricket: Army v. R.N., Chatham.
- 4 " " R.N. v. R.A.F., Uxbridge.
- 5 " " R.A.F. v. Army, Park Royal.
- 7 Lawn Tennis: Inter-Unit Finals, Aldershot.
- 15 Western Area Reunion, Liverpool.
- 29 Northern Area Reunion, Harrogate.

Oct.

- 13 London Branch Dinner, Victory Club.

PRINCESS ROYAL'S DAY

At Home

The W.R.A.C. Depot

HR.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL honoured us by attending the Corps Day celebrations at the W.R.A.C. Depot on April 22. Her Royal Highness lunched in the Officers' Mess and then visited the cookery demonstration in the Cookery Instruction Centre, a wonderful display of meat pies, vegetable salads, dressed hams and decorated cakes, all made by W.R.A.C. cooks from Army rations. The other activities of the Corps were on show in the Hall of Trades, where R.A.O.C. storewomen packed their stores, stencilled the cases and prepared them for despatch all over the world, girls from the Home Postal Centre dexterously sorted letters into mailbags, a chief clerk answered the telephone in a model orderly room, an attractive blonde had a shampoo-and-set from the camp hairdresser, and experimental assistants in gunnery, in their distinctive blue battledress blouses and slacks, demonstrated the mysteries of their highly technical trade to an uninitiated audience. At the

door of the hall a lady in very unmilitary turnout demonstrated the off-duty occupations of the Corps at a handicraft stall, selling (among other things) delicate floral buttonholes made from old nylon stockings and silver wire. Her Royal Highness watched the rhythmic hoop dancing carried out by the recruits, and a drill display by the Permanent Staff, and then had to leave to fly to Paris that evening.

At six o'clock the Rev. Canon V. J. Pike, Chaplain General to the Forces, took up his stand on the parade ground behind the piled drums covered with the Union Jack, and the music of the Band and choir echoed across the square, to be taken up by hundreds of voices in the great congregation. After the drumhead service the Band beat Retreat and, as they played "Sunset" and the evening hymn in the soft golden light of the spring evening, the Corps flag was slowly lowered from the flagstaff and another memorable Corps Day was brought to its close.



[Courtesy: "Surrey Times"]

At the Depot. H.R.H. The Princess Royal in the Hall of Trades

16 Independent Company

PRINCESS ROYAL'S DAY, which coincided this year with the Regimental Weekend, was celebrated in glorious sunshine at Wolverley Camp, Kidderminster, and many parents and friends took the opportunity of visiting the camp to see what life in the W.R.A.C. is really like. On the Saturday the officers and N.C.O.s beat the other ranks in a curious hockey match for which both teams dressed in elegant garden-party clothes, and a dance was held in the evening. On Sunday morning the whole Company, including No. 2 Platoon from Kineton, marched to Wolverley Parish Church, led by the Band of No. 1 Training Regiment, R.E. The service was conducted by the Rev. H. L. O. Davies, A.C.G. Western Command, who preached a most inspiring sermon, and the lesson was read by the Unit Commander, Major B. Rosenbaum. At the march past after the service, the salute was taken by Brigadier J. L. Brind, Commander 159 Infantry Brigade. A netball match was played in the afternoon, resulting in a win for No. 2 Platoon. During the weekend over £12 was realised for the W.R.A.C. window in Guildford Cathedral.



[Courtesy: "Surrey Times"]

At the Depot. H.R.H. The Princess Royal at the Handicraft Stall

And Abroad

CYPRUS

CORPS Weekend started with a very good P.T. display under the guidance of Cpl. Hampton, performed and watched with some difficulty on a piece of ground roughly levelled out of the hillside. The grandstand was a pile of crates which had brought stores from Egypt, and visibility depended on whether a sea breeze blew in to disperse the clouds of chalky soil raised by the feet of the performers. While this was going on we were asked whether four of our women would record a message for Jimmy Edwards, the radio star, to take home to U.K. and play over the air for us, so by now you may have heard Sgt. McMurde, Cpl. Hampton, L/Cpl. Mills and Pte. Farrell talking from Cyprus. The next event was a cocktail party given by the W.O.s and sergeants in their Mess, which temporarily includes about 20 Royal Signals sergeants whose own Mess had been burnt down. These new members were much in evidence and helped enormously at this most successful party. We were all very pleased that a number of the employing officers and their wives had managed to be present, although under the present security restrictions it is difficult for them to be away from Berengaria village married quarters, 17 miles from the cantonment. After the cocktail party everyone was in the right mood to move on to the big event of the day, the all ranks' dance. No. 3 G.H.Q. Signals Regiment kindly gave us the use of their O.R.s' dining hall, and Sgt. Burns and her com-

mittee had been busy all afternoon with bunting and old theatre-curtains disguising the hot-plates, placing the stage for the Band and trying to give a more festive air to the place. Sgt. Leworthy and her cooks provided a magnificent buffet, and everyone had a wonderful time.

The church parade next morning was held at All Saints' Church and was conducted by the A.C.G., the Rev. J. Good, M.B.E., B.A. We wore No. 1 dress, as we did not officially go into K.D. till the next day. Lt.-Col. M. M. Berry, A.D.W.R.A.C. M.E.L.F., took the salute from a stand erected beside the road, as we have no parade grounds in Episkopi yet. The women as usual looked very smart and created quite an amount of critical interest among the other troops and speculation among the few watching Cypriots.

In the afternoon we had a treasure hunt. The clues, written very splendidly in verse by our last Adj., Capt. S. W. Whitworth (who has now returned home to the School of Instruction) led to all the points of interest in the cantonment. The teams turned out in fancy dress and, after a great deal of heart-searching, the prize for the best-dressed team went to No. 1 Platoon as "Storyland Characters." The team entered by the Sergeants' Mess came in first and won the treasure. Then in the early evening we had our birthday tea. Everyone in the Company was there, except for the few on duty, and Lt.-Col. Berry was our guest of honour. A most wonderful birthday cake had been



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made for us by Sgt. Leworthy and the cooks (on the old oil burner which is the only form of cooking stove we have) and iced for us by the A.C.C. Everyone sat down to a colourful and appetising meal and, afterwards, when the seven candles had been lighted, Lt.-Col. Berry cut the cake and we all sang "Happy Birthday to Us."

So ended our first official Corps Weekend in Cyprus. Sometimes life here seems very restricted and we feel cut off from the rest of the world. We are far from home, and in this island there is a bitterness and fear which is hard to understand in relation to ourselves. During the weekend, however, we remembered all the other W.R.A.C. throughout the world also celebrating the formation of our Corps, and we were able to put our job into its right perspective.

NAIROBI

THE weather was against us this year and we could not go on the proposed Corps Day tour. We had intended leaving at nine and having "elevenses" at the prehistoric site of Olorgesailie and then going on to the salt lake of Magadi for lunch. It is a lovely outing and we should have passed round the Ngong Hills, where buck abound, ostrich bury their necks in the sand, wildebeest bend their necks and cavort, zebra eat their way complacently through the meagre grass and then thunder across the plain, and giraffe have the disconcerting habit of filing across the road. However, the rains had made the road impassable (or at least unpredictable) for our welfare bus, so we

decided we must stay on tarmac most of the way and chose to go to Fourteen Falls, which is about 15 miles past Thika.

The main road itself is not particularly interesting, but some of the vegetation is typical of East Africa. There is a certain amount of scrub, some pineapple plantations, fields of sisal lamentably going to seed and acres of the money-making product of the Colony—coffee. On clear days the range of the Aberdares is seen in the distance with Mount Kenya towering her snowclad summit above the whole scene. Turning off at Thika, the country changes little, except that Donyo Sabuk becomes the mountain well in evidence, and African tribesmen are met with their herds and flocks—a colourful scene with green background, red murram track and brightly clothed Africans.

The Fourteen Falls are unexpected in their suddenness and their splendour. Just off the track we heard the falling of water and then saw the muddy cascades falling. The river was very swollen with rain and, although the sight was most impressive because of the volume falling, it is far more beautiful when the water is clear and the fourteen falls can be separately counted. The beauty spot is generally frequented by Asians picnicking, and Sunday was no exception.

Supper was very welcome on our return, and both the room and the food had been splendidly prepared under the supervision of W.O.2 Lillistone, to whose efforts and those of the cooks and B.O.R. who volunteered to help we owe a vote of thanks.

GIBRALTAR

THIS was the first Corps Day since the formation of 18 Independent Company and we wanted to "show the flag" on April 22, 1956, in some particular way. It also seemed a good opportunity to raise some money towards the window in Guildford Cathedral, so we decided to start with a jumble sale on the Saturday and give the proceeds to the Window Fund. We were kindly given the use of the King's Chapel Club Room, which being central was a great help. Apart from an ample and varied supply of jumble, we were given nearly 200 bottles for a "bottle stall," which proved very lucrative and contributed half the final takings of £22 10s. 6d.

On Corps Day itself we began our celebrations by having a church parade at King's Chapel. Unfortunately it was pouring with rain and we had to cancel the march to the chapel from the Alameda Gardens, which was particularly disappointing as the Band of the Seaforth Highlanders had dressed in all their finery to play us there. Our numbers were too few for a separate parade service, but the D.A.C.G. kindly adapted the morning service to include us. We had an excellent congregation, which included H.E. The Governor and Commander-in-Chief with Lady Redman. The chapel flowers had been artistically arranged by the O.C.'s mother, who was on a short visit here. We could not have wished for a more beautiful service, and

the collection was generously given to us. On leaving the chapel we found that the rain had stopped, and we were able to carry out the rest of our morning's plan by assembling in the garden of the Convent (the Governor's residence) where His Excellency inspected the unit and gave us an encouraging talk. Then, preceded by the Band, the unit marched off round the English Cathedral, up Main Street and back to Alameda Gardens, where the parade dispersed.

In the afternoon the unit was "At Home." In the A.K.C. Cinema opposite our Accommodation Block we showed the film "Greensleeves" which had been flown out from the U.K. especially for the occasion. To fill out the programme, the manager also kindly showed an excellent travelogue in colour and a cartoon. In spite of competition with the Seville Fair and a nearby bull-fight, we succeeded in filling the cinema, and the collection afterwards brought in another £9 for the Window Fund. After the film show, members of the audience were shown round the block, an exhibition of photographs was displayed in the sitting room by two N.C.O.s, and an excellent tea was provided in the games room by the A.C.C. Throughout the afternoon we were honoured by the presence of H.E. The Governor and Lady Redman, accompanied by Miss Sally Redman, which was most encouraging and greatly appreciated.



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News From the T.A.

317 (Scottish Command) Battalion

THE Battalion went to Camp in May at Donald, Troon, where we were visited on May 23 by the Director and the Army Commander, Lt.-Gen. Sir Horatius Murray. Parents and friends visited us on the middle Sunday, which was also sports day. We had 100% success in the drivers' trade test, and clerks, storewomen, R.E.M.E. tradeswomen, orderlies and cooks worked equally hard. The officers will never forget Exercise "Drip," when our new D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Major E. R. Robinson, and the Adj., Capt. C. H. Leese, masqueraded as staff officers of various degrees and uncertain temper and the telephone was engaged from morning to night.

322 (North Wales) Battalion

ON Sunday, April 22, 1956, the Battalion held its annual cup competition at the Drill Hall, Rhyl, the culmination of weeks of hard work by everyone concerned. The contesting Companies were "A" Company from Rhyl and Wrexham and "B" Company from Llandudno and Caernarvon. After the parade for inspection, two members of each platoon had to undergo a scrupulous uniform inspection. This was followed by a pay parade. After lunch contestants competed in a quiz in their particular trade or employment, followed by a kit layout competition, "group activity" and finally a short table-tennis tournament. The judges, Lt.-Col. M. H. Pine, M.B.E., T.D., and Major M. H. Boydell, T.D., expressed themselves very pleased indeed with the events of the day, and particularly with the bearing and turnout of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) members. The cup was presented by Lt.-Col. Pine to No. 2 Caernarvonshire Platoon (Llandudno) under the command of Lt. P. Petters. C.S.M. Bostock and S/Sgt. Meredith are to be congratulated on their arrangements for tea under difficult circumstances.

325 (Glamorgan) Battalion

AN officers' sherry party was held at the new A.H.Q. of the Battalion, Penylan Court, Cardiff, on June 1, 1956, to celebrate the appointment of Lady Plymouth (the first Commandant in Glamorgan when the A.T.S. was formed in 1938) as Honorary Colonel. We have now, after six years, welcomed back into the fold the members from West Wales, who, since the disbandment of 68 Independent Company, belong to "B" Company with H.Q. at the new T.A. Centre, The Grange, Swansea.

The Battalion entered four teams for the Western Command Inter-Unit W.R.A.C. Postal Shoot and, of the 17 teams competing, our "A" team came first and "B" team third. Sgt. E. E. Joseph, of Swansea, won the Western Command Medal, the C.O.'s "Coronation Cup" and the Adj.'s Cup for the best O.R. shot. The Battalion now holds the Western Command Cup, the Mid-West District Cup and the Glamorgan T.A. Cup, all for .22 shooting.

327 (County of London) Battalion

ON Saturday, May 5, 1956, 327 (County of London) Battalion was honoured by a visit from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. In brilliant sunshine, we, together with the County of London Branch of the W.R.A.C. Association, formed up for inspection on the sports ground of the Duke of York's Headquarters, and afterwards marched past, Her Royal Highness taking the salute. The W.R.A.C. Band was in attendance. We were delighted to be supported on this great occasion, not only by the Director, W.R.A.C. and the Director, T.A., but also by the mayors and mayoresses from boroughs to which sub-units of this Battalion are affiliated.

After the parade and march past, a squad drawn from all companies, trained by R.S.M. S. Glover, W.R.A.C., gave a magnificent display of shadow precision drill. Her Royal Highness then inspected our accommodation and opened our Association club room which was afterwards thrown open to our many friends and relations who attended the function. After tea Her Royal Highness inspected 142 Provost Company, who had done stalwart work in being everywhere that was required at the right moment.

Both B.B.C. and I.T.V. television cameras took shots of the parade and we were delighted to find ourselves on television newsreel on Monday, May 7. Thanks to the generosity of the B.B.C. Television Service, we are now the proud possessors of the film "Princess Royal's Visit" and can see ourselves as others see us.

Cambridge University O.T.C.

IN spite of "examination fever" the cadets turned out for four Sunday exercises. The first, being Corps Day, consisted of a visit by five of them to the W.R.A.C. Depot, where they took part in the celebrations and had a preview of their annual camp. The other three Sundays were spent in camping and watermanship on and around the river. The last was on June 3, a rather perilous river-crossing on a ferry rig, in which Col. M. D. Morgan (who was up for an official visit to the unit on June 4) nobly took part. Everyone was under the orders of a cadet that day, and Col. Morgan spent most of the afternoon fishing up a wet and muddy rope from the bottom of the Cam, but she survived both the "trial by water" and a camp brew which the cadets call "tea," and duly paid her official visit the next day.



Watermanship on the Cam

[Courtesy: "Cambridge Daily News"]

Oxford University O.T.C.

THE great event of the term was our annual dinner on May 4, 1956. This was attended by Field Marshal Lord Alexander, our Honorary Colonel, and a large number of distinguished guests including the Director, Col. C. W. Hull, O.B.E., T.D. (D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command), and Col. M. D. Morgan, T.D. (A.A.G., A.G. 16). Lord Alexander had a special word for Sgt. P. B. Beuzeval, who has been the W.R.A.C. P.S.I. for 4½ years. Her experience, enthusiasm, and happy relationship with the cadets have been invaluable to successive administrative officers since 1951.

As a number of cadets face their finals in June, the main training exercise for this term was held on May 31, 1956. After lectures on road movement and the organisation of a convoy, the W.R.A.C. contingent set out in all available vehicles including a Daimler scout car. Senior cadets were in charge of each vehicle. Wearing headsets they received instructions from Control (Major S. C. Puckle in the back of a truck) and followed the route on marked maps. The standard of R.T. procedure was remarkably high, especially in the case of this year's recruits who had no previous experience of wireless. The column reached the dispersal point exactly on time, which impressed the male P.S.I.s whose enthusiastic co-operation had made the exercise possible.

Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment

MEMBERS of the Regiment (including 1 Squadron from Reading) spent this year's camp at Bulford working on live equipment, manning local Army Telephone Exchanges and Signal Offices with the Regular Army. Although this was not the usual pattern for a T.A. camp, it was agreed to be a great success. Sports day was held with great enthusiasm on the middle Saturday, and on the Sunday Lt.-Col. P. G. Gambier, O.B.E., Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, took the salute at a march past which followed a drumhead service. The W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Band which belongs to the Regiment was a great asset on such an occasion.

69 (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Independent Company

THE annual driving competition was held at Shrewsbury on Sunday, June 10, 1956, on Frankwell Recreation Ground, kindly lent for the occasion by Shrewsbury Corporation. The course was a little stiffer than last year, and the driving showed an improvement. The ten hazards again included wheel-changing, verbal answers to questions on the Highway Code, competence to drive, parking between two vehicles, drawing up on the white line, vehicle recovery and reversing. The local military units co-operated to the full, providing independent judges, members of the Provost, medical orderlies (fortunately not required) and helpers of all descriptions. Cpl. J. Bufton, of the Herefordshire Platoon (one of last year's cup winners), came first by a short head. Col. A. W. Turnbull, C.B., M.C., T.D., D.L., chairman of the Shropshire T. & A.F.A., presented her with the

silver cup, which she holds for a year, and the medallion which she retains as a permanent record. The cooks and orderlies provided the meals for the day, and tea for the distinguished guests.

Obituary

Miss H. I. Baird

Dr. Olive Anderson writes:

Irene Baird served with the Q.M.A.A.C. and was one of the original members of the Northern Ireland Branch of the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association. A chance meeting of three of us many years ago at a British Legion meeting was the beginning of the local branch of the Association. Miss Baird became our Treasurer and right on through the years has looked after our finances. She was loved and respected by her Old Comrades of the Q.M.A.A.C. and by her new friends of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. She died in hospital on May 27, 1956.

Mrs. Clarkson

It is with regret that we report the death of Mary Ann Clarkson (formerly Roddy), ex-A.T.S., who died in hospital after a few months' painful illness on April 10, 1956, aged 37 years. Mrs. Clarkson was a well-respected and friendly member of the Hartlepoons Branch, having been transferred from the Durham Branch in November, 1954. Flowers were sent from the Branch, and five members attended the funeral.

Miss A. M. Lyttle

Old Comrades will read with deepest sympathy of the death in hospital of Miss Ann Margaret Lyttle, ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., who passed away on May 13, 1956, aged 68 years. Miss Lyttle had been a most faithful member of the Hartlepoons Branch since its formation in 1947 and will be sadly missed. Flowers were sent by the Branch, and four members attended the cremation service.

Mrs. Shardlow

We regret to report the death of a member of the London Branch, Mrs. Jessie Shardlow, of 318 Alexandra Park Road, Wood Green. She died on June 16, 1956.

NORTHERN AREA REUNION

The Northern Area Reunion will be held on Saturday, September 29, 1956, from 6.30 to 10 p.m. at Beechwood Court Hotel, Cold Bath Road, Harrogate. Tickets at 6s. each, to include a buffet supper, may be obtained from Major A. Carswell, W.R.A.C., H.Q. Northern Command, York, or from the secretary, Mrs. E. M. Suttle, 9 St. Anne's Terrace, Baildon, Shipley, Yorkshire. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope and remittance when making application for tickets. Any Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. Comrade will be welcome.

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WITH THE THAILAND WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS

MAJOR P. RILEY, W.R.A.C.

MANY will remember Capt. Paob Poshakrishna of the Thailand Women's Army Corps, who visited various W.R.A.C. units in July 1955. When I was posted from the Depot to Singapore six months later she invited me to visit Thailand and stay in her home, and on May 31 I set off by air and rail on the two-day journey to Bangkok.

Capt. Paob met me and took me to a house of typical Thai design, of teak with a tiled roof, where I met Mr. Paob and the four children. The eldest girl spoke reasonable English, which was lucky for me. Almost as soon as I set foot in the house (having remembered to take my shoes off as is the custom) I was told I was to be interviewed on television that night wearing my No. 3 dress. I discovered that there was considerable prejudice against women in uniform in Thailand, and they wanted by means of this interview to show that England had employed women in the Forces successfully for some time. When the time came, I managed to survive 15 minutes of questioning, but I could see myself in a set opposite and wished I were more photogenic.

Sunday I spent in sightseeing—the market, the national museum, and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. This temple contains a magnificent Buddha dressed in different suits of clothing according to the season. The king worships here and changes the Buddha's suits himself. The buildings are some of the finest in the land, with the typical Thai roofs, walls and ceilings hand-painted inside, and doors guarded by statues of giants in many colours.

On Monday I visited the War Office and began to find out about the Women's Army Corps. There are at present 97 officers and 400 O.R.s working in the War Office and other large military establishments. The service approximates to our local service, as there are no barracks for women and as yet there is no training centre for recruits. The uniform for officers is a biscuit-coloured suit with gold American-type badges of rank; the O.R.s wear a blouse and skirt of similar colour with a forage cap. The officers also have a white outfit, but the O.R.s are still awaiting a No. 3 dress. Capt. Paob is anxious to have a dark-green skirt the colour of our No. 1 dress.

The officers are all graduates and have direct commissions. Their numbers include doctors, dentists, scientists, nurses, personal assistants and a large number of instructors. The O.R.s are mostly clerks, but there are draughtswomen and signal trades, and I was waited on by a charming little private, first class, in the Officers' Mess. There are two specialist majors, but Capt. Paob is really in charge of the Corps, and she has two sisters serving with her. The pay ranges from about £8 a month to £40 for an officer. It is not the same as the men, and the position concerning

pensions and terms of service does not yet seem very firm.

During the week I had a tour round the Military Academy and was shown the instruction blocks, the hospital and the cadets' quarters. I met the Assistant Commandant (a charming brigadier) and many of the 37 women officers who instruct the male cadets. The cadets themselves are smart and extremely courteous. The poor lads have to learn English before anything else, as nearly all their textbooks are in English. So many of them go to England and America for further training that they are encouraged to learn English as soon as possible. I was given a wonderful lunch at a city restaurant with nine officers, visited more temples and saw Thai classical dancers in costumes like those in "Anna and the King of Siam." I visited a trade exhibition, and was shown their newest hospital where one bed is provided for the patient and one for the relative to keep her company. I paid a visit to the Infantry Training Centre at Lopuri, about 150 miles from Bangkok, where all the training is now carried out on American lines and an American colonel is attached as technical adviser. Everywhere I met with charm, courtesy and wonderful manners, limitless hospitality and unbelievable kindness. I had a military car and driver all the time, and an official photographer was attached to us.

On the last day I was granted the honour of meeting the Premier's wife, a very cultured lady who has travelled extensively and visited Great Britain often. She was very interested in our Corps, asked many pertinent questions, discussed the uniform, and greatly admired my No. 3 dress. She is, of course, a lieutenant-colonel and Hon. Commandant of the Thai W.A.C. She presented me with a Thai silk stole and I gave her a Crown Derby ornament as something particularly English. As I left I was fortunate in seeing the King of Thailand drive by—he is young and has a most beautiful wife and three little children. The Thai are intensely royalist and deeply interested in our Royal Family. It is only 20 years since their king was an absolute monarch.

My final engagement was to visit a big gathering of 400 W.A.C. where, by invitation of the General in Charge of Field Forces, I had to go on to the platform to be introduced and say a few words. This was all quite without notice, but I hope I said the right things. In the afternoon I regretfully left Bangkok, hoping to return one day to this land of charming, courteous and friendly people, where the old and new are scarcely divided. We are obviously welcome in this country and well liked as a race, and our Corps is held in great honour and respect. It may be that they have American instructors for the men, but most of the women's ideas are British, and I know that other visitors from the W.R.A.C. will always be made as welcome as I was.

“PRO PATRIA”

THE NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS

MAJOR M. J. HARDCASTLE, Director N.Z.W.R.A.C.

IN April 1948, as a tribute to the thousands of women who had served during the war and a proof that they will have a part to play in peace, it was decided that the New Zealand Women's Army Auxiliary Corps should cease to be "Auxiliary" and become "Regular." As a result, a number of young women have been quietly serving their country as Regular soldiers of the New Zealand Army for the past eight years. They have proved their worth as general clerks, typists and shorthand-typists. The Royal N.Z. Corps of Signals employs them as teleprinter and cipher operators, telephone switchboard operators on military exchanges and signal clerks. Their employment by the Royal N.Z. Army Service Corps has resulted in a vast improvement in the preparation and serving of meals in every unit to which they are posted. The Royal N.Z. Army Dental Corps uses them as chairside assistants, and what a difference they make to nervous patients when the drill begins to whirr or a tooth has to come out. Education and welfare is not overlooked, and they are used by the N.Z. Army Education Corps to bolster up its staff of education assistants and librarians. In Army stores they are responsible for checking and issuing an infinite variety of equipment, ranging from intricate mechanical parts to items of clothing or the day's ration of food for a camp.

What does the N.Z. Women's Royal Army Corps require of its members apart from their ability to work at an Army trade? First it needs those with an ambition to play a part in helping to keep New Zealand and the British Commonwealth secure. It needs women who are healthy, loyal, dependable, cheerful and willing, who are intelligent and who are prepared to stick to the task and see it through. There are many with these important attributes, some of them ex-Service women from the United Kingdom, already giving valuable service through the Army to the Commonwealth. They join for an initial period of three years and may re-engage for either one or two years or until retiring age. The average length of service is for five years, which means that there is a continual need for replacements. Especially is there a need for recruits who have the qualifications for commissioned rank. In New Zealand it is not normal to commission officers who have not served in the ranks, as it is considered that the experience gives them a much better understanding of the problems and difficulties. For girls of good education, particularly if they have a sense of leadership, there are many prospects of advancement. Besides the command and administration of N.Z.W.R.A.C. units, which is a highly specialised job requiring all the attributes of leadership and tact, officers of the N.Z. Women's Royal Army Corps carry out

important staff duties at District and Army H.Q.s. As an example, a great deal of the success of the visit of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to New Zealand, from a military point of view, was due to the painstaking staff work of an officer of the N.Z. Women's Royal Army Corps.

Although New Zealand is separated from the United Kingdom by 12,000 miles, distance does not affect the feeling that is held for the Motherland, so often referred to as "home" despite the fact that the majority have never set foot on English soil. The alliance between the Women's Royal Army Corps and the N.Z. Women's Royal Army Corps has drawn even closer the bonds that unite Great Britain and New Zealand. The gift of the W.R.A.C. print, in the hands of a W.R.A.C. officer, created tremendous interest, and everyone was thrilled with the little ceremony of presentation which took place before a representative gathering of all ranks in Wellington. The beautiful piece of craftsmanship will always be treasured by the N.Z. Women's Royal Army Corps as a symbol of the close link with the W.R.A.C. in the mother country.



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The Birthday of Danmarks Lottekorps

CAPT. B. M. GODIN, W.R.A.C.

AT 5 a.m. on Saturday, April 7, Capt. Charters and I left Dusseldorf station on our way from H.Q. B.A.O.R. to represent the W.R.A.C. at the tenth birthday celebrations of Danmarks Lottekorps.

We were met at Copenhagen at 8.45 p.m. by Capt. Neilsen and taken to our hotel, where we were joined on Sunday morning by Col. Gerda Bruun, the Lottechef, and the other guests: Lottechef Endresen (Director of the Norwegian Lottekorps), Lottechef Steiback and Vicechef Garsten (Swedish Lottekorps) and Lt.-Col. Milligan and 1/Lt. Polk representing the W.A.C. After breakfast, Capt. Esther Ovesen and Capt. Louise Neilsen took us in three Danish Army staff cars on a most comprehensive tour of Copenhagen, where we saw many beautiful buildings and places of historical interest and were just in time to see the King's Guard with all its colour and pageantry marching to the royal palace.

The birthday parade in honour of H.M. Queen Ingrid was held in the afternoon at Kastellet, the Danish Army H.Q. There were over 500 women on parade with their own Band. They had come from all the Danish islands, and it was the first time they had all been on parade together, as they are a volunteer organisation like our W.R.A.C. (T.A.), working unpaid in the evenings and at weekends and attending annual camps. It was interesting to see that the Danish ceremonial parade differs greatly from ours. The women were formed up in a hollow square, the Colour was carried round in front of them, and all gave "eyes right" and followed the Colour with head and eyes as it passed. H.M. Queen Ingrid walked round the square to inspect the parade, and then took up her position at the saluting base with senior officers of the Army, Navy and Civil Defence, male and female. We were privileged to stand just at the side of the saluting base. The parade was followed by a large reception in the Tekniske Hjskole, a very fine modern building. I had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty, who expressed her approval of our No. 1 dress, which she had not seen before. In the evening we were entertained to a magnificent dinner in the private house of Capt. Michaela Smith, Chief-of-Staff of Danmarks Lottekorps, where we truly tasted Danish hospitality and many toasts were drunk and friendships made.

April 9, the actual birthday of Danmarks Lottekorps, is the date which the Danish people observe as Remembrance Day. At 9.30 a.m. we went to the memorial monument to the resistance movement, and wreaths and flowers were laid by a representative of each country. This was a very solemn and moving ceremony. Then we visited the Lottekorps H.Q., a most attractive one in the very old barracks at Kastellet and, after a short and informative talk by Col. Bruun, we had a typically Danish lunch of *smørrebrød*, their famous open

sandwiches. After lunch we were taken out to see women at work in an operations room and to a mixed A.A. site where women were working on the radar. In the evening we attended a regimental dinner, where we found the customs and traditions rather different from our own. We concluded the evening by attending the Copenhagen region celebrations in the Tekniske Hjskole. The speeches and singing were in Danish, but our thoughtful hosts had prepared English translations so that we could understand.

We said goodbye to many new friends that evening and left next morning with much to think about and remember. Never will we forget the kindness and hospitality of Danmarks Lottekorps, nor the wonderful spirit existing within the Corps.

Display of Corps Silver

IN the military exhibition at the Aldershot Horse Show this year, the W.R.A.C. stand displayed various items of silver lent by the Museum, the W.R.A.C. Depot, the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction and the W.R.A.C. Staff College. Some of the cups, salvers and rose bowls arranged round the A.A. gun were presented by members of the Royal Family, including Her Late Majesty Queen Mary and the Princess Royal. Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester visited the Horse Show and took a great interest in the W.R.A.C. stand. They admired the gun, and were much amused by a cup presented to Aldershot Command in 1918 for "Q.M.A.A.C. Bakers' Tug-of-War."

Inter-Command Cookery Competition

THE Annual Inter-Command Cookery Competition was held at Aldershot on June 14 and 15, 1956. Teams of one N.C.O. and two privates, representing Eastern, Northern and Scottish Commands, prepared and cooked a lunch for 25 men. For the first time the Challenge Cup found its way over the border, brought back to Dreghorn Camp by Cpl. Buchanan, Pte. Reekie and Pte. Bradder of 1 (Independent) Company, W.R.A.C., representing Scottish Command. They had all enjoyed the trip to Aldershot, and said that there was a keen competitive spirit throughout. Lady Chilton, wife of the Q.M.G., presented the cup, and each member of the team also received an engraved plaque.

HONORARY COLONELS

Brevet-Col. Lady Bowyer-Smyth, O.B.E., T.D., has been appointed Honorary Colonel of 326 (City of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

C. Comd. C. V. Woodburne, O.B.E., has been appointed Honorary Colonel of 318 (Cumberland and Westmorland) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Queen's Birthday Parade in Singapore

ON May 31, 1956, two officers and 50 other ranks of the 4th Independent Company, W.R.A.C. took part in the Queen's Birthday Parade on the Singapore Padang. At 05.45 hours, while it was still dark, we assembled by the Company lines to check that everyone was present, correctly dressed and awake. Deprived of the C.S.M. by illness at the last moment, we fell back on our senior W.O. clerk, W.O.2 James, for the organisation of the parade, confounding those who say that chief clerks are not capable of regimental duties. At 06.18 hours we debussed and, as dawn slowly rose, we waited in the road and watched the troops assemble. Then at 06.55 hours the bugles sounded and we knew that in five minutes we should be on parade.

The ceremonial detachment and the Massed Bands came on first, each detachment marching magnificently in the national costume or No. 3 dress; and then the supporting troops, bringing the numbers on the Padang to 2,000. At 07.25 hours the Colours of the Singapore Volunteer Corps were marched on parade for the first time in history with the standards of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and Police. At 07.30 hours His Excellency The Governor arrived on parade and, as the sun broke through the trees, the National Anthem was played by the Massed Bands and the Governor's standard was broken at the mast-head. The Governor inspected the parade, an impressive figure standing in his Land Rover in his plumed helmet, white uniform and glittering medals. Then the Royal Standard was broken, an R.A.F. fly-past took place, a 21-gun salvo and *feu de joie* were fired, and the perfectly timed ceremony moved to its close.

Our turn came to march past, and off we went round that vast area in our new No. 3 dress, No. 1 dress caps and gleaming gold buttons and rank badges, to the accompaniment of applause from the 30,000 spectators and the firm beat of the Massed Bands. From the Padang we had to march through the streets, so closely lined with people that Lt. Shepley-Taylor had to step over a small Malayan boy at one point. The sun was well up by now, and it was a very warm contingent that came finally to a halt at Collier Quay at about 08.25 hours, feeling that we had indeed waved the flag and shown to all the strength and stability of British troops.

DAME MARY RAILTON

A CONGRATULATORY telegram was sent from all members of the W.R.A.C. Association to the Director W.R.A.C., who was made a D.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List. In her reply, Dame Mary thanked all members of the Association for their good wishes and congratulations, adding: "I feel very proud to be the one to receive this great honour for and with the Corps."

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TEA WITH W/I.

M. A. CARTER (J. COMD. M. A. GARRAD, A.T.S.)

THE other day I was invited to a tea party. It was a very pleasant one, and (to outward appearances) not unusual. Our hostess had invited my mother, my two small children and myself. Her home was charming, with flowers everywhere and gay rugs and chair-covers. It was long and thin and made entirely of wood. Once inside, except for the brown linoleum gleaming in tell-tale fashion along every inch of passageway, there was little hint of Army occupation, but a small card on the front door gave the game away. It said simply "Major E. W. Gibson, W.R.A.C." Our hostess, in civilian clothes, was giving us tea in her quarters at Sherford Camp, Taunton, where she is the only woman on the staff of H.Q. South West District. I had served under her as a junior officer in the Central Mediterranean in 1946 and we had not met since then, but this was more than a normal reunion for, on the sofa, entertaining her baby grandchild, sat my mother, no less a personage than W/I Senior Leader Garrad, M., of the A.T.S.

In September, 1938, my mother received a telegram from the Commandant of the Somerset A.T.S., herself only appointed that day, saying simply "Will you be my Senior Leader?" She succinctly replied "Yes." The Commandant and her Senior Leader toured the county together, starting the first A.T.S. units in Somerset. As yet there was no pay and no uniform, and many recruits signed for local service only. W/I recalls how she smuggled herself into an A.T.S. officers' training course at the Duke of York's H.Q. in London. The ladies taking part wore furs or tweed according to their kind, and their shoes varied from brogues to the highest of high heels. One wonders what the Guards' sergeant thought when faced with such a drill squad. At last, uniforms were issued, and I well remember first seeing the glittering W.O.'s badges worn by my mother on her forearms. I was a schoolgirl then, and with my brother and sister used to chant "Kiss me goodnight, Sergeant-Major" at bedtime. W/I often tells of a luncheon party which the Commandant and she attended in uniform. The maid would insist on handing the dishes to the Senior Leader first, because "that lady's gold was so much brighter."

Today Major Gibson encourages, supervises and inspires the work of the W.R.A.C. in Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Devon and Cornwall, consolidating in peace-time the work that was started 18 years ago.

BIRTH

Lenham. On April 26, 1956, at Leicester, to Amy Barbara (Lt. A. B. Jones, W.R.A.C.), wife of Capt. R. C. Lenham, R.A.P.C., a daughter (Diana Jane).

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Belfast. The Branch has suffered a great loss in the death of Miss Baird, who served us long and faithfully as our Treasurer. The garden party arranged on June 16 turned into a house party because of the pouring rain, but we had an enjoyable day and raised the goodly sum of £13 7s. 6d. towards the window in Guildford Cathedral. We start our meetings again after the summer break on the first Friday in September, when we hope to see many old and new friends.

Birmingham. One June 18, 19 members went for a ramble on Clent Hills. It was very nice to see several members who are not able to attend meetings often. The whole party (the Chairman, it must be confessed, under some pressure) reached the target, which was the site of the Four Stones on the top of the hill. After their efforts the party gathered at the Secretary's house for tea. Members assisted with contributions towards the meal, which was eaten in a very happy atmosphere.

Bournemouth. A coach trip at the end of May was a great success. We had a picnic lunch on the Hog's Back and then visited the W.R.A.C. Depot, where Lt.-Col. Cecil and R.S.M. Hildyard welcomed us and showed us round the Corps Museum. After tea in the very comfortable Sergeants' Mess we went to see the new Guildford Cathedral, with R.S.M. Hildyard as a most interesting guide. We finished up with a late tea at Hindhead, and returned via Petersfield and Winchester. On the first Wednesday in June, 20 members, including five of our new ones, went to Miss Carr's and Miss Parrett's picnic supper, which has now become an annual event. After a stroll round the delightful grounds of Dean Court, we all squeezed into the Lodge for the usual wonderful spread—everything home-made, even the wine (dandelion) in the trifle. During the year the Branch has collected quite a large quantity of tinfoil, etc., for the local Appeals Committee of the Forces Help Society.

Bradford. We had our New Year's party on January 9 and the A.G.M. on January 16, when Miss Gummersall resigned as Chairman but was elected as President. Miss L. Garrett (ex-A.T.S.) was elected as Chairman, with Mrs. Hemms (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.) as Vice-Chairman. Mrs. Suttle remains our Secretary and Miss Hennegan our Treasurer. In February we had a white elephant stall for Branch funds and, although the weather depleted our numbers, those present dipped deep into their pockets. In March we had a general meeting to discuss our programme, and in April a very interesting visitor in the person of Mrs. Le Bertillier from the Ministry of Pensions, who spoke to us of the war orphans of Yorkshire who are in her care. Members of the Ladies' Section of the British Legion attended this meeting as our guests. Our whist drive in May was held at the British Legion H.Q. in Bradford. We should like to pay a tribute to the Limbless Association which allowed us the use of their premises for so many years, but now that the site has been sold we are without

a permanent meeting place and the Legion have been very kind in lending us their rooms. On June 17 we had our annual outing, which took us to Southport, and were fortunate in having a fine day.

Brighton. Our annual dinner was held in January and, in February, we were entertained to a sketch by two friends of a member. On Sunday afternoons we have enjoyed trips to Ashington, Ditchling Common, Henfield and Rottingdean. One of our Q.M.A.A.C. members, Meg Body (Gay), has had an operation in Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, to straighten two hammer toes, and is now convalescing at Lancing. She hopes soon to be back in form for our country walks.

Bristol. "A Holiday in Italy" was the subject chosen by Miss Pool (A.T.S.) for our April meeting. On Sunday, April 22, the Anzac Day service at St. Thomas's Church brought back memories of that historic day of the First World War. On May 3 "Twenty Questions" were soon disposed of by the team of experts, led by Miss Morgan (A.T.S.). On May 6, Old Comrade Day, we were invited by the British Legion to join other Comrades' Associations at a service at St. Mary Redcliffe, and on May 27 our standard was ably carried by Miss W. Brooks (A.T.S.) at the Empire Day church parade at the same church. Our annual visit to our President, Mrs. Bernays, J.P., and her mother at Winterbourne, always a popular event, took place on June 7, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

Edinburgh. The "Hat Night" arranged for our March meeting had to be postponed because of lengthy chats about the Grand Scottish reunion and our annual dinner, both of which were a great success. "Tried Recipes" for April proved a most enlightening and entertaining evening, the recipes ranging from fudge to a macaroni dish, rounded off with a sample of home-made sherry. In May, Lt.-Col. M. M. K. Marsh, A.D.W.R.A.C., showed us the films "Greensleeves" and "Why Not You?" and a ciné film of the W.R.A.C. church parade after the Scottish reunion. Our bring-and-buy sale in June made over £6. On Saturday, June 23, a bus tour was arranged to Auchencastle Hotel, where we were joined by the members of the Dumfriesshire Branch. We left Edinburgh in the early afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed a delightful run via Biggar to Auchencastle. After tea we came home by Moffat, with a short stop at the nurseries of Messrs. Dobbie & Co. to see the splendid show of lupins. We have to offer our congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. John Curtis (Miss Isobel Brown) on her marriage in March.

Hartlepool. We have had a sad time for the last few months, having suffered our first loss of members through death. They were Miss Ann Margaret Lyttle and Mrs. Mary Ann Clarkson (née Roddy), who will both be greatly missed. We have lost a third member by removal from the town, in Mrs. J. Armstrong. A new member is Mrs. Ada Shipley (née Wilson), ex-A.T.S., who served from 1941 to 1949 at Ripon, Knightsbridge, and Harrogate.

Leicester. At our April meeting Mrs. Miles, of Market Harborough, gave a most interesting talk and demonstration on floral decoration. On Corps Day, 29 members went by coach to the Depot, a lovely ride through the beautiful shires of Leicester, Northants and Bucks, with a meal halt at Windsor.

At Guildford we were met by Pte. Dix, of 308 Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), who had just joined the Regular Army, and whose mother had joined our trip to see her daughter. We all enjoyed the wonderful display put on by the Depot, and send our grateful thanks to the Commandant and her staff for a very happy day. Our meeting in May was our public service night, and the members visited the City General Hospital and performed various duties to help the nurses. We regret that our first Chairman, Lt.-Col. W. M. Smith, M.B.E., is leaving us to take up residence in Rhodesia. We send our best wishes to her and her husband in their new sphere, and thank her for her services as Chairman and her loyal support in getting our Branch restarted. Our new Chairman will be Capt. the Hon. V. V. Kitson, to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

Liverpool. Our party for patients in the local Ministry of Pensions Hospital has now become a regular feature of our activities, and thanks are due to our members and friends who provide the necessary funds by supporting our annual bring-and-buy sale. Our other activities included whist drives, tombola and a beauty demonstration. Branch meetings have been fairly well attended. We resume after the summer break on September 5.

London. Our meetings lately have mostly been reunions, but we held a successful bring-and-buy sale in April and raised £5. The attendance on June 8 was so low that we could not hold our spelling bee, but on June 21 there were enough to make up three tables for the whist drive and we had a very enjoyable evening. Our Secretary, Mrs. Giles, had to go into hospital in May for an operation, but we are glad to report that she is making good progress. We all wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

Lonsdale. Our January meeting was in the form of a theatre party at the Royalty Theatre, Morecambe, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the few who braved the bitterly cold night. In February, Major Hirst, ex King's Own Royal Regiment, came and talked to us about "The British Soldier." In February also we were very busy sorting out jumble for our jumble sale. Our March meeting was in the form of a gas cookery demonstration at the Drill Hall, with the dishes raffled afterwards, and in April Col. V. Stead, O.B.E., T.D., kindly gave us a most interesting talk on her life as a magistrate. Our annual dinner was held at the Alexander Hotel, Lancaster, and we were most fortunate in having as our guest of honour Brigadier M. Railton, D.W.R.A.C. We hope she enjoyed being with us as much as we enjoyed having her. The June meeting was held at the home of our Treasurer, Miss K. N. Gosselin, where we were most delightfully entertained. Our programme for the year will end with a visit to Levers Hall, near

Kendal, and we hope to see all our members present at the annual general meeting on September 3 at the Drill Hall.

Norfolk. Our "red letter" event was the visit of Dame Frances Coulshed, Chairman of the Council and President of the Eastern Area, on April 4. A good number turned up from our scattered Branch, including several ex-A.T.S. members who remembered Dame Frances from their Service days and enjoyed having a personal chat. Refreshments were served and the evening passed all too quickly. Our thanks to Dame Frances, and we hope that we may look forward to another visit one day. Members will learn with regret that Mrs. Adams, of North Walsham, who is a polio victim, lost her husband in June and is left with four young children. The Branch send her their sympathy.

Oxford. At the Branch meeting in April we had a talk on "Youngsters in Trouble" by a local magistrate, which was very interesting and gave us some surprising facts and figures. In May we held an out-of-door meeting at the Trout Inn, Wolvercote, and spent a very pleasant evening in spite of poor weather. Members were invited by O.C., 7 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., to a farewell concert at Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot, on May 26, followed by Beating Retreat by the Staff Band of the W.R.A.C. It was very sad to see the W.R.A.C. flag taken down, as A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. have done service at the C.O.D. Didcot since 1939. On May 27 we were invited by O.C., 8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., to a concert given by the W.R.A.C. Band in the Garrison Theatre, Bicester. We certainly appreciated these invitations, and the concerts were much enjoyed. On June 11 our former President, Mrs. Thompson, who commanded the 1st Oxfordshire Group A.T.S. in 1938 and has been a good friend to A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. in Oxfordshire ever since, invited us to a supper party at her home. Again the weather was not too kind, but nothing could spoil our evening and the 18 who attended will remember the party for a long time to come. Capt. M. K. Jeffcoat, W.R.A.C. Recruiting Officer in Oxford, invited us to a strawberry tea at her home in Dorchester on June 23, and this time the weather was glorious and the 14 members present enjoyed it so much that we did not want to leave for home.

Sheffield. Meetings were held as usual on the first and third Thursdays in April at the Foresters' Hall, Trippet Lane, at 7.45 p.m., and in May a party visited the B.T.H. glass works in Chesterfield. In June we paid a visit to Manchester Airport, had tea in the airport restaurant and went to a show in Manchester. At our last meeting till September 6 we were the guests of our Chairman, Mrs. Tannett, and her husband at their home at Bamford and, after a delicious buffet supper, were shown a ciné-film of the family's holiday in France. We chose this occasion to make a presentation to Mrs. Tannett in appreciation of all she has done for us during her nine years of office. Altogether it was a most enjoyable evening with which to round off the season.



[Courtesy: "Torquay Times"]

Annual dinner of the Torbay Branch

Torbay. Early in April we held our second annual dinner and dance, which in fact was a very successful buffet supper and social evening. Many old friends from other organisations were with us, and everyone joined in the games and dancing. On April 15 our Branch standard, very generously presented to us by Miss J. Richman, our Vice-President, was dedicated at Upton Church by the Archdeacon of Totnes, jointly with the standard of the local Branch of the Burma Star Association. There was a really splendid muster on parade, including some 30 W.R.A.C. (T.A.) girls from various parts of South Devon who gave the parade a truly military air. The salute was taken by Maj.-Gen. C. Cowan, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., of the Burma Star Association. In May we paid a most interesting and instructive visit to the local Head Post Office. Several of our friends came with us, and we were happy to welcome some Nigerian students who are in Torquay for a period of study. Our June meeting was at Kingswear, the

home of our President, Miss G. Stanley, O.B.E. To our great surprise Miss Stanley chartered a boat to take us up the River Dart, and we cruised along in warm sunshine enjoying the beautiful surroundings, with a wonderful picnic to complete the evening. We have been glad to welcome four new members to our ranks during the last three months.

Wimbledon. Our meetings, beetle drives, whist drives and bring-and-buy sales are regularly attended by the "faithful few," whom we are always pleased to see, but we would also welcome some of our other members whom we know mostly by correspondence. A very successful social was held in April, to which we were very glad to welcome R.S.M. Clarke and Sgt. Honeybone from 12 Battalion, W.R.A.C., at Richmond Park camp. We also held a handicrafts competition, with varied exhibits of such high standard that selection of the winner was very difficult. In May a party of members visited Wimbledon Theatre to see Kathleen Harrison in "Night Must Fall."

A.T.S. REUNIONS

3rd Glamorgans

Former members of the 3rd Glamorgan Company, A.T.S., held their annual reunion at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, on Saturday, May 5, 1956. It was a most enjoyable evening and we were delighted to have Miss Stanley and Miss Aymer with us. For particulars of these reunions write to Mrs. Walters, 80 Uley Road, Dursley, Gloucestershire.

2nd Wilts

Ten members of the 2nd Wilts A.T.S. who were attached to the Rifle Brigade at Tidworth in 1939 held a very happy and successful reunion at the Service Women's Club on Saturday, April 28, 1956. After the excellent meal always provided by the club, the party went to the New Theatre to see "The Remarkable Mr. Pennepacker."

SPORT

Cricket

A TEAM representing Southern Command (selected at a cricket course on April 5 and 6, 1956) took part in the six-a-side tournament organised by the Women's Cricket Association on Sunday, April 29, in the lovely surroundings of Beddington Park. The tournament proved to be most interesting, as we had not played six-a-side cricket before and the additional rules kept us on our toes with quick thinking. Over 30 teams took part, and we were placed in Section G. We won three of our four matches and drew with Kent Nomads II. As they had also won their other three matches we decided to play again. We won this match, and so became the winners of the section. We went on to play the winners of Section F and, after a very keen game, the W.R.N.S. came out the winners.

Fencing

THE women's event of the Army Championships was held at the Army School of P.T., Aldershot, on April 24, 1956. The 17 entries had dwindled to nine by the date of the competition, but this was an improvement on last year's entry of only five. The winner was Capt. J. Tappin, H.Q. Northern Command, with eight victories. Cpl. E. Thomas and Cpl. J. McClatchkey, both of "A" Company, 3 Battalion, W.R.A.C., came second and third.

The Inter-Services Fencing Team Competition was held at the Army School of P.T. on May 2, 1956. After a very close battle which was not decided till the very last fight, the W.R.A.C. with 11 victories regained the cup that had last year been won by the W.R.A.F. The Navy was second with 9 victories, and the R.A.F. third with 7. The men's event, in which the Army was also victorious, was again decided in the last fight, and altogether this was a most exciting competition which has probably never before been quite so evenly matched.

The Women's Services Individual Foil Championships at Earl's Court on June 14, 1956, were won by Capt. J. Tappin, W.R.A.C., with five victories. Sgt. B. A. A. Longmuir, W.R.A.F., and L/Wren J. H. Henning, W.R.N.S., were second and third.

A Combined Services match against a Ladies' Amateur Fencing Union team took place on June 15, 1956. The L.A.F.U. team proved too strong for the Combined Services and won by 14-2, but the match was most enjoyable and very good experience for the fencers.

Hockey

THE 1955-56 season opened with an Inter-Command Festival at Aldershot at the end of October, which was won by Eastern Command with Southern a close second. Immediately afterwards Miss G. Flew, official coach of the All England Hockey Association, ran a very enjoyable

advanced coaching course at the W.R.A.C. P.T. Wing at Aldershot. The tour planned for the Army team in February was cancelled because of the snow, but the weather in March was kinder and the inter-Service matches were played in bright sunshine. In spite of pressing hard in both matches, the Army lost 1-2 to the R.A.F. and 2-3 to the Navy. The Navy won the championship, having beaten the R.A.F. 5-0, and the Challenge Cup was presented to them by the D.C.I.G.S., Lt.-Gen. Sir Dudley Ward, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., at Aldershot on March 9. The Army played four other matches during the season, losing two and winning two. There were five new players in the team. The high standard of play, particularly at the inter-Command Festival, is encouraging and bodes well for future years.

Table Tennis

THE semi-finals and finals of the third W.R.A.C. Inter-Unit Table Tennis Tournament were held at Guildford on April 27, 1956. Each Command sent up its winning unit team of six players—two doubles couples and two singles players. B.A.O.R. was also represented. In the finals, "H.Q." Company, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction (Southern Command), gained a victory of six matches to two matches over the Western Command team, which was composed of Permanent Staff from 322 (North Wales) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). Southern Command undoubtedly produced the strongest team, although both finalist teams included brilliant individual players.

Choice of Weapons

TWELVE members of 17 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., have joined the Southend British Legion Darts Club and, after playing in various matches throughout the winter, distinguished themselves by winning the Civilian League Cup. A reception and dinner was held at the Middleton Hotel, Southend, on May 5, 1956, at which the cup and individual medals were presented to the team. The veteran civilian players thought this a fine achievement.

The Company, having won the Rifle Shooting Shield for 1955 (Sgt. Ainley winning the Individual Cup), has now taken up archery as a spare-time occupation. The bow-women are very keen, but not yet highly qualified. There are also two enthusiastic javelin throwers in the Company, so altogether, with arrows and javelins, the sports field will soon be scheduled as a danger area.

LONDON BRANCH DINNER

The London Branch dinner will be held at the Victory Club, 73-79 Seymour Street, London, W.2 (nearest Tube station and bus stop, Marble Arch) on Saturday, October 13, 1956. Tickets, 12s. each. Application to Mrs. Giles, 4 Arlington Drive, Carshalton, Surrey, on or after Thursday, September 6. Early application is essential. Please enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply.



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

When the Ministry of Pensions organised a sale of work and exhibition at the Bon Marche, Liverpool, I was invited to do a demonstration of rug loom weaving. It was a chance of meeting old gunner friends, as well as repaying in a small way some of the kindnesses which the M.O.P. Welfare Branch shows to us 100% disabled. On my first day I was delighted when an officer with whom I had worked in the earliest days of the war arrived with his wife, and over lunch I was given thumbnail sketches of what had happened to all the men in the Battery. Next I returned from morning coffee to find a Ministry official bringing up a man and woman who had given me hospitality in those first few days before our Company was called up, when otherwise I and my section leader would have had to sleep on the greasy sidewalk.

As I wove a row on Wilberforce, my rug loom, stopping now and then to chatter with an old Service pal who had heard I was demonstrating in town, my thoughts wove a tapestry of memories. Blitz, storm, muddle, working through the night, general alarm every evening, called back when going on leave, no rations through, someone's husband killed in action—these were the darker part of the picture which make the friendlier memories more vivid and bright. I shall not forget that morning at the War Office when I received a letter from an erstwhile recruit clerk, to whom (as a member of the teaching staff at the Clerical School at Lancaster) I had stressed that the chief clerk is the most important person in the Army as far as the junior clerks are concerned. The letter said briefly: "I took your advice about the chief clerk. I am marrying him on Saturday."

Yours sincerely,
MAUREEN V. LEES.

23 Ben Nevis Road,
Birkenhead.

Dear Editor,

For some years I have looked forward to receiving *The Lioness* with news of my good comrades with whom I served in both world wars at home and in France. I felt very sad to read the obituary notices in the May issue, for I knew dear Miss Ireland, Miss Bilbrough and Miss Mabel Cochrane, working with them for short periods. It was a joy to have such a grand officer and kind friend as Miss Ireland at the Connaught Club in 1917. From there I was sent to Folkestone for two weeks, and then one Sunday morning 500 of us W.A.A.C.s with hundreds of Tommies embarked for Boulogne. Then we women marched to Wimereux, slept in an old skating rink till dusk, and then proceeded very slowly in cattle trucks (oh, the awful bumps) to Abbeville—Camp 3 for me. After some months surviving all that happened there, I and two of my chums were sent to St. Omer and St. Valery on the Somme, and in June, 1918, we landed up in

Etaples in time for the terrible raid which completely destroyed the large Y.W.C.A. canteen and killed most of the people in it.

I served from September, 1939, with 345 A.A. Company, R.E., at Ely, then at Royston, St. Neots, Shifnal (Shropshire) and finally Hounslow. I was invalided out of the A.T.S. at Christmas, 1942, with chronic spinal arthritis and asthma, so I have not been able to attend many functions or reunions. I sometimes feel very lonely, and would love a good natter with some of my dear comrades in either of the two wars.

Yours sincerely,
PETA FAIRALL,
Cpl., Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S.

33 Elgin Crescent,
London, W.11.

Dear Editor,

I noticed the letter from "Pearly White" enquiring about "late Abbevillites," and would like to say that I am still alive and kicking. I remember Miss Wellsford, our administrator at Camp 3, and how she used to wave and smile to the village children as we returned in the early morning from sheltering in Crecy Forest from the air raids. I knew Miss Ireland at the Depot at Hastings—a wonderful inspiration with her smile and understanding manner—and Miss Frood, giving us a simple direct address of welcome at Camp 2. "Pip Hall," too, the roll-caller, with her beaming smile and mop of curly hair—how tolerant she was when we came in late. I hear from Ruby Russell at Christmas. My own adventures since I came to the States have been very hectic indeed.

Yours sincerely,
FLORENCE M. WARREN ("Bunny").

53 West 8 Street,
New York 11, U.S.A.

Dear Editor,

I am another Abbevillite who heard with great regret of the death of Miss Ireland. We dearly loved our administrator at Camp 3, Miss Wellsford, too. She lent me a very lovely nightdress to wear with a velvet sash when I sang a soprano solo in a concert at Abbeville Theatre. No one in the audience ever guessed that it was not an evening dress. I remember Pearl White very well. My name was Thurlow in those days.

Yours very sincerely,
E. HARGREAVES.

3 Alden Crescent,
Mill Hill Lane,
Pontefract.

Dear Editor,

May I say how sorry I was to read of the death of Miss Ireland. She was so very charming, and loved by all who were privileged to serve with her. I should like to pay a tribute to a very great lady.

Yours sincerely,
E. WARD (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.).

Bradford.

Dear Editor,

I, too, have very happy memories of the S.L.A.T.S. at Newark and Larch Farm. It would be fine to have a reunion of the old gang and, if the proposed A.T.S. reunion comes off in 1958, that would be a good opportunity for a subsidiary S.L.A.T.S. do. I should be glad to have the addresses of any old S.L.A.T.S. with a view to organising something.

Yours sincerely,
BARBARA MARSHALL.

126 Lexham Gardens,
London, W.8.

Dear Editor,

I was delighted with the May issue of *The Lioness*—so much news of Old Comrades and letters from well-remembered friends. The picture of the Queen Mother receiving our Dame Helen was grand. Dame Helen belongs to all of us. She formed the pattern of the Q.M.A.A.C., she formed the A.T.S., and her past experience was sought when the W.R.A.C. was started. When H.M. The Queen reviewed ex-Service units in Hyde Park I was present, sitting with the disabled, and saw Dame Helen march past my chair with all the pride of a conqueror. God bless her.

Sincerely yours,
ADA GUMMERSALL.

32 Basil Street,
Great Horton,
Bradford, Yorkshire.

"London Gazette"

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Birthday Honours:

D.B.E.: Brigadier M. Railton, C.B.E., A.D.C.

C.B.E.: Col. M. K. Crewe-Read, T.D.

M.B.E.: Major W. M. Backhouse, T.D., Major A. M. Hine-Haycock, W.O.1 A. Hildyard, W.O.2 O. A. Rutter.

T.D.: Lt.-Col. M. G. I. Levett, Major P. Dieck, S. Comd. E. M. Eastcott, A.T.S., Capt. I. C. C. Vaughan-Morgan.

Mentioned in recognition of distinguished services in Malaya: Major B. Rosenbaum.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Colonel: M. R. K. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D.

Lieutenant-Colonel: J. E. R. Rivett-Drake, M.B.E., C. A. Cecil, L. E. Baldwin.

Major: M. Crossfield, K. M. Foggitt, N. M. Pyke, E. M. Davies.

Lieutenant: M. J. Webber, E. A. Butler, B. F. Lilley, P. K. Bachelor, S. M. Hartshorne, A. G. Bryce, J. M. Newcombe, P. R. Bryans, G. G. Hadfield, M. H. Brailley, B. A. Rooney.

Short Service Commissions

Major: C. V. E. De Bourbel, M.B.E.

Lieutenant: E. A. Evans, B. M. Laverack.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retirements on retired pay: Col. M. K. Crewe-Read, T.D.; Lt.-Cols. M. M. Bell, D. C. M. Hingston; Majors L. E. Holt (with hon. rank of Lt.-Col.), L. E. Weston.

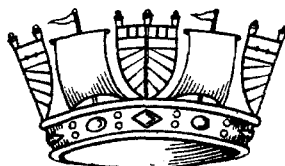
Resignations: Capts. R. Marsh, T. Palmer (MacKowie), B. Moffitt (Whitaker); Lts. P. Watson (Wooldridge), N. A. Sharland, E. M. Seckerson, L. P. Bestley (Dakin), M. J. Webber, G. G. Picken (Hadfield).

Short Service Commissions

Relinquishment on completion of service: Majors P. R. Adye, L. A. Manning; Capt. W. M. Sim; Lt. J. S. McLeman.

Relegation to R.O.: Lt. Y. Charters.

Resignations: Lts. R. M. Yersin (Firmin), L. M. Purse, P. L. Merish.



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Exhibition of Work by the Physically Handicapped

AN exhibition of work by the blind and slightly disabled, and equipment used in the training of crippled and handicapped children, will be opened by Lord Leverhulme on Monday, October 22, 1956, at 11 a.m., at the Demonstration Theatre, Gas Show Rooms, 4 Argyll Street, Birkenhead. The exhibition will be open for five days from 9.30 a.m. (11 a.m. on Monday) till 5 p.m., and will give the people of Birkenhead a chance to buy their Christmas presents, as well as showing them the crafts being carried out by the physically handicapped. Enquiries to Maureen Lees, The Coach House, 52 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead (enclosing stamped addressed envelope) or by telephone after 4 p.m. at Rock Ferry 4851.

APPOINTMENTS

A.A.G. (A.G. 16). Lt.-Col. S. M. Crawley, T.D. (with the rank of colonel).

A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command. Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil.

A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command. Major M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D. (with the rank of lieutenant-colonel).

A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command. Major M. H. Boydell (with the rank of lieutenant-colonel).

A.D.W.R.A.C. London District. Major E. M. Sykes (with the rank of lieutenant-colonel).

A.D.W.R.A.C. F.A.R.E.L.F. Major D. D. Pooley (with the rank of lieutenant-colonel).

Commandant W.R.A.C. Depot. Major E. W. Gibson, M.B.E. (with the rank of lieutenant-colonel).

MARRIAGES

Bousfield—Taylor. On June 23, 1956, in London, Capt. M. J. Bousfield, R.A.S.C., to Sgt. E. Christine Taylor, W.R.A.C. (ex-M.E.L.F.).

Curtis—Brown. On March 12, 1956, at Musselburgh, John Curtis to Isobel Brown (ex-A.T.S.). Present address: 20 Bryce Avenue, Edinburgh 7.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LIST OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

Glasgow Branch. Substitute: Miss L. MacKenzie, 3 Churchill Drive, Glasgow, W.1.

Maidstone Branch. Substitute: Miss E. Fenner, 18 Douglas Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Southampton Branch. Substitute: Miss B. Lincoln, 73 Jacobs Lane, Hounslow, nr. Totton, Hants.

14 Independent Company. Substitute: W.O.2 W. M. Thornton, Saughton Camp, Chester.

15 Independent Company. Delete all detail.

27 Independent Company. Insert: W.O.1 M. G. Fahy, Episkopi, British Forces Post Office 53.

PERSONAL

For charges and particulars please see Contents page

Ex-A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. N.C.O. required Tuesday evenings for Admin. Section of T.A. M.T. Platoon. Apply O.C., "A" Company, W.R.A.C., T.A. Centre, Sydenham Road, Croydon.

Ex-A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. personnel with instructional experience required by T.A. Training Centre Platoon. Apply O.C., No. 7 Platoon, W.R.A.C., T.A. Centre, Chart Lane, Reigate, Monday evenings, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress tunic and skirt, green shirts, collars (size 14), tie, complete set buttons and badges, No. 1 Dress cap (size 6½). All by Weatherill. Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 36 in., waist 28 in., hips 40 in. £30 the lot, or offers for separate items. Write: The Adjt., W.R.A.C. Depot, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, Surrey.

For Sale. No. 1 Dress tunic and skirt in good condition, tailored by Weatherill. Height 5 ft. 8½ in., waist 28 in., hips 39 to 40 in., £10 or near offer. Greatcoat £10 or near offer. Apply Mrs. E. Martin, 21 Belle Vue Gardens, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

For Sale. No. 1 Dress, worn only few times. Height 5 ft. 7 in., bust 38 in., waist 31 in., hips 42 in. Cap size 7. One shirt with two collars, size 14. Tie and green satchel. Shoes, 5½, if required. £17 10s. complete. Good bargain. Mrs. Ruffle, Tudor Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent (Tel.: Kennington 431, any evening).

For Sale. Officer's green greatcoat, No. 1 Dress tunic, skirt and cap. Height 5 ft. 6½ in., bust 36 in., hips 36 in. As new. Tailored by Weatherill. Mrs. Lett, 14 Newlands Avenue, Radlett, Herts.

Wanted. Khaki service dress, bust 38 in., waist 30 in., hips 42 in., height 5 ft. 8 in. Must be in good condition. State price. Mrs. Cain, Cherrihurst, Laureston Grove, Douglas, I.O.Man.

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.

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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.

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