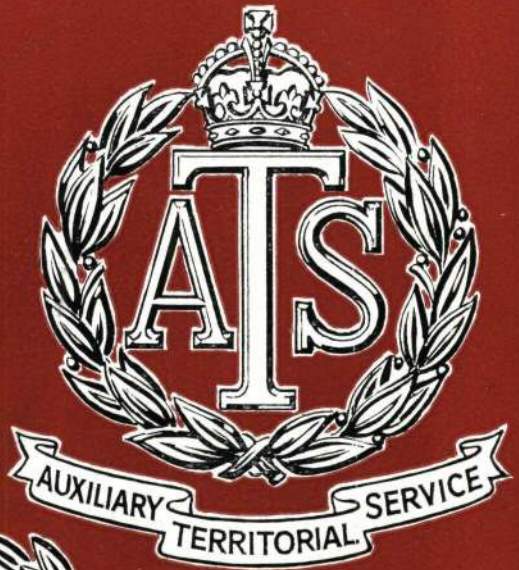
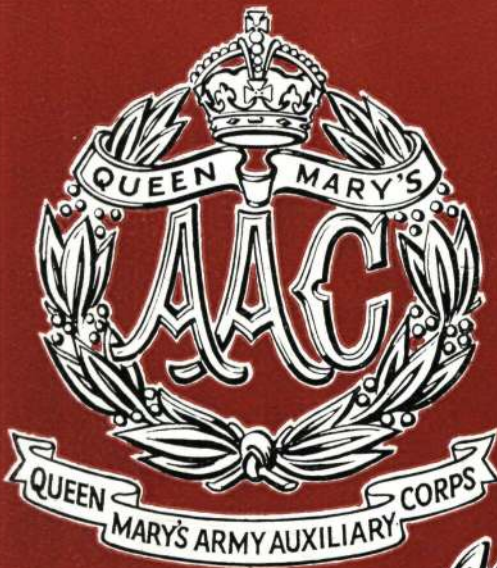


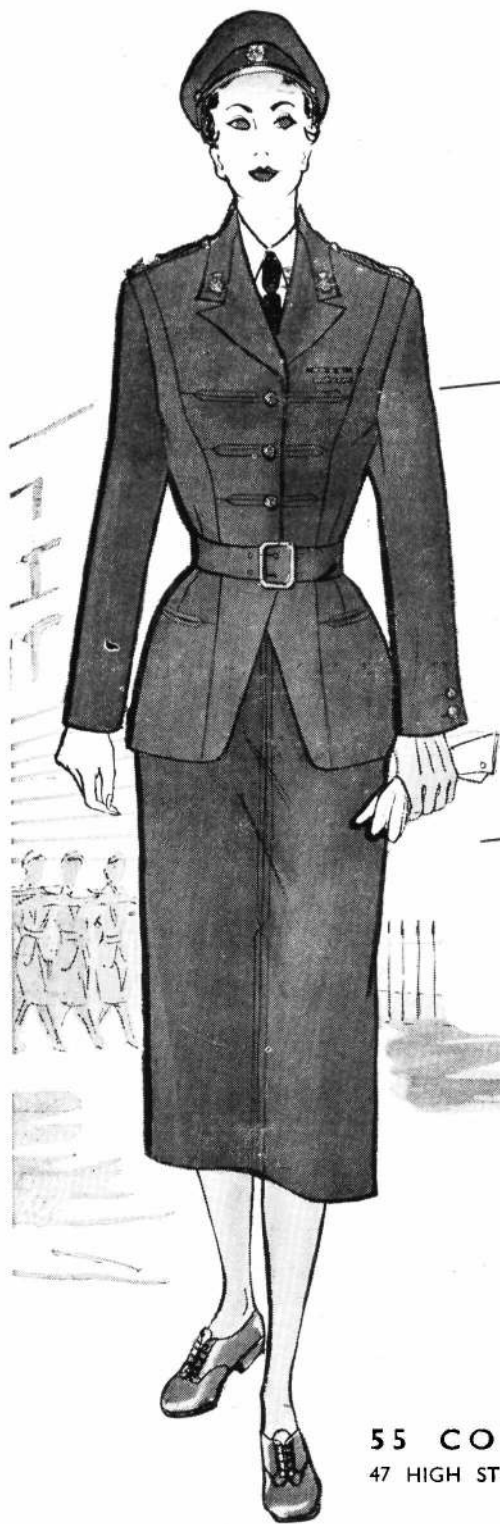
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THE LIONESS





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W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK

General Secretary

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

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Editor

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

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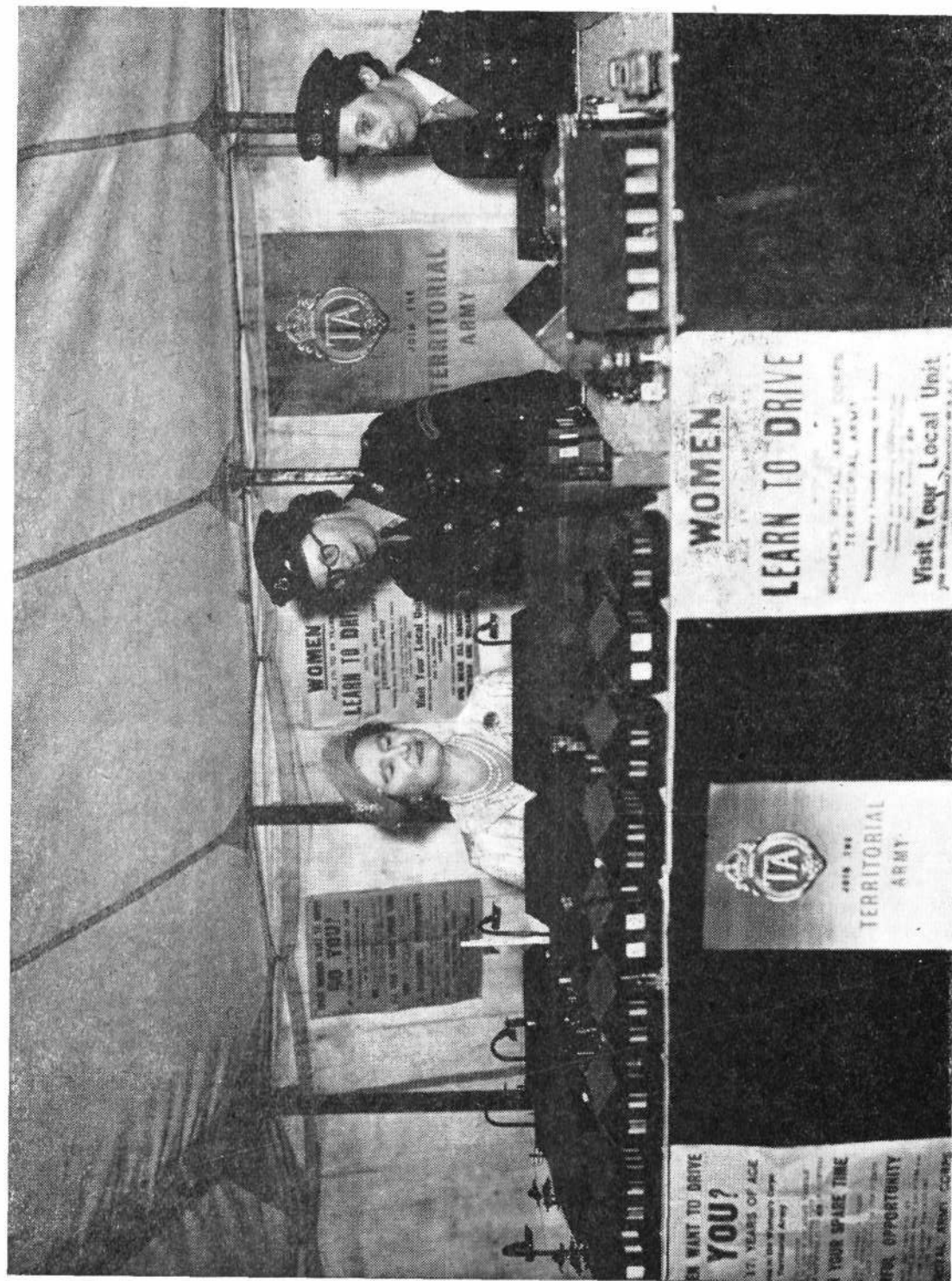
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Royal Inspection of a W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Camp (See page 71)
 [Photograph by Peterborough Citizen and Advertiser]



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXIX

November 1956

No. 4

EDITORIAL

IN this Christmas issue of *The Lioness*, we miss for the first time the message of good wishes and encouragement sent out to the members of the Association every year by our President, Dame Florence Simpson. Her death on September 5, 1956, less than a year after the loss of Miss Ireland, is felt by every one of us, from the contemporaries who knew and loved her personally to the youngest W.R.A.C. recruits who think of her only as a great figure in their Regimental history.

AN anonymous correspondent from Northern Command has asked us in these November days to remember particularly all those men and women who laid down their lives in the two World Wars, and the families and friends who still mourn them in silence on Remembrance Sunday. The death of those two great ladies reminds us also how much we owe to the many hundreds who came safely

through the War years and retired to live out long lives of usefulness and public service, meeting the problems of a post-war world, private difficulties, sickness and finally death, with the same courage and unselfishness which distinguished their Army careers. Some of these are famous names to us, others are little known outside their own circle, but we honour them all, knowing what honour they bring to the Corps in which they served.

CHRISTMAS is nearly here, however, and Christmas is a season of hope and promise, a time for looking forward and not for looking back. At this, the fortieth Christmas since the founders of the Corps first put on Army uniform, *The Lioness* sends a greeting to every reader, young and old, serving and ex-Service, wishing them a happy and festive Christmas and a New Year in which their hearts at least will grow no older.

Association Notes

HER Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Honorary President of the W.R.A.C. Association, has graciously accepted the office of President in succession to Dame Florence Simpson, D.B.E.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, March 23, 1957, at 3 o'clock.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 24, 1956 (circulated in the May issue of *The Lioness*).
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. Reports of Council and Committees.
4. Election of Vice-Presidents and Chairman of Council.
5. Resolutions.
6. Any other business.

A. J. LUMSDEN.

General Secretary.

October 1, 1956.

In order that Resolutions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting may be printed, they should reach the General Secretary by December 30, 1956.

GRAND REUNION

THE GRAND REUNION will be held on Saturday, March 23, 1957, in the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, W.1, from 7 p.m. to 10.30 p.m., and will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the arrival on active service of the first women, other than nurses, to serve with the Army. This fact will be recognised in special ways, and branches are urged to bring their members for a great occasion.

Price of tickets will be 5s., obtainable in advance with effect from the date of this issue, from: The Reunion Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3.

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

THE Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION will take place in the Headquarter Club Canteen, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3, on Friday, March 22, 1957, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., recalling the events of 40 years ago. Tickets 4s., obtainable as above.

When applying for tickets, please enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Obituary

DAME FLORENCE SIMPSON, D.B.E.

MESSAGE FROM HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL

In Dame Florence Simpson we have lost one of the earliest of our pioneers. She was President of our Association since its formation in 1919. Those who served with her will not easily forget her charm, her kindness and her unfailing interest, which extended also to the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C.

Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan writes:

Dame Florence Victoria Simpson, D.B.E., died on September 5, at the age of 81. She was born on October 9, 1874, the daughter of Col. W. Fitz-Alan Way; she married first Capt. Burleigh Leach and, in 1922, Edward Percy Simpson, who died three years later. As a young wife she accompanied her husband to many military stations and acted as hostess to her uncle when he was in command in Gibraltar.

In 1915 the food of the armies was good and plentiful, but they suffered from a very natural lack of cooks. The Women's Legion, of which Lady Londonderry was President, offered to provide women for this duty; the Quartermaster-General approved, and on August 3 a contingent took over the cookhouse of a convalescent camp. Among these first cooks was Mrs. Burleigh Leach, the beautiful and elegant wife of a Brigadier-General. By the end of 1915 she was Commandant of Cooks in the Women's Legion and, with her sister Mrs. Long, was responsible for staffing many cookhouses and messes. When in the beginning of 1917 the Army Council formed the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, to replace soldiers in background duties, she not only joined it but brought with her 7,000 cooks and orderlies.

The Corps grew, Queen Mary honoured it with her name, and in 1918 Mrs. Leach became the senior officer of the 57,000 women who served in Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps both at home and overseas. In the New Year's Honours List of 1919 she is shown as one of the first Dame Commanders—and in the Military Division. She retired in 1920. Through the many years since her service ended she has never ceased to be interested in those

with whom she served and to do what she could on their behalf. On demobilisation she helped to form the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades Association which, under her Presidency, welcomed first members of the A.T.S. and later of the W.R.A.C. It is now the Women's Royal Army Corps Association.

Recently Dame Florence has lived with her step-daughters on their farm in South Africa. When she recognised the beginning of serious illness, she flew to the Klinik, Arlesheim, in Switzerland, deter-

mined to give no trouble to her friends. There she spent her last months amid constant care and kindness. She had many friends. No one who has known her can forget her personal charm, her exceptional good looks and her graceful bearing. Even in old age she carried herself beautifully straight.

(Reprinted by courtesy of
"The Times.")



Miss Edith Thompson writes:

When Mrs. Burleigh Leach (as she then was) joined the W.A.A.C. in 1917, she was already well known among the several thousand women who joined with her. Before she became Commandant of the Cookery Section of the Women's Legion in 1915 she had served an apprenticeship as a working cook in an army cookhouse, and the experience gave her a valuable knowledge of the women's outlook and their difficulties.

Her sympathy and understanding, as well as her personal charm, made her immensely popular with all ranks. She was appointed Controller of Inspection, and in 1918 became Controller-in-Chief. As Controller of Inspection she had a chance to visit most of the units in France and at home, and got to know many of the members. This personal contact had the effect of welding the Corps together as it was gradually building up, and created a strong sense of *esprit de corps* which has lasted to the present day. Faithful groups of Q.M.A.A.C. meeting up and down the country still, after nearly forty years, cherish the memory of their much-loved C.-in-C.

As a soldier's wife Mrs. Burleigh Leach had followed the drum to many parts of the world, and her familiarity with the Army and all its traditions

and taboos, combined with her charm of manner, did much to avoid friction in the early days. It was pioneer work for women, and the old Army "regulars" sometimes found it difficult to adjust themselves to the new circumstances. She could be a strict disciplinarian and had a very high standard of efficiency, but she was always essentially feminine and never became in the least "soldierly." Old W.A.A.C.s will remember with a smile her persistence in wearing earrings with uniform, which shocked some of the more rigid though she herself did not at all mind being "improperly dressed."

After the end of the war Dame Florence busied herself with schemes for civilian employment for the demobilised women, and various plans for their welfare. The Benevolent Fund and the Service Women's Clubs in London and Edinburgh owe their origin to her initiative, and to her success in obtaining a proportion of the profits from the canteen fund for these purposes. Recently she had taken a great interest in the forthcoming history of women in the Army which is being written by Col. Julia Cowper, and had made many contributions to the Museum at the W.R.A.C. Depot. In March last year she arrived in England on a visit from South Africa, and at once threw herself into all the activities connected with the W.R.A.C. Association's Annual General Meeting, the Reunion, the reception after the meeting, and the Q.M.A.A.C. party the night before. Everyone was delighted to see her looking so well and little changed, and many A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. who had not met her before were gratified to find their President so charming and distinguished. A few months later she returned to South Africa, and from there went for treatment to Switzerland, where she died. We shall be able to remember her happily as she was at the W.R.A.C. meetings last year, and as Q.M.A.A.C. knew her during the First World War.

Memorial Service

A Memorial Service, arranged by the W.R.A.C. Association in honour of their President, took place at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, on Friday, September 21, 1956. The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. B. Carver, M.A., T.D., C.F. (T.A.), and Master Paul Boyle, grand-nephew and godson of Dame Florence, sang a solo from *The Messiah*.

H.R.H. The Princess Royal was represented by Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E., D.W.R.A.C. Several of Dame Florence's relatives were able to be present, including her sister, Mrs. Robert Nainby, and her stepdaughter Miss V. Simpson. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E. (Vice-President of the Association) and Miss V. Druitt (Chairman of the London Branch) were present, with a large gathering of members of the Association, friends, and representatives of the other organisations in which Dame Florence was interested. Dame Frances Coulshed, D.B.E. (Chairman of Council) and Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E., were among those unable to attend.

MISS BATTY

Sad news has been received of the death of Miss Batty, who was living with her brother, the Bishop of Newcastle, New South Wales. She was a delightful woman with wide interests and many friends. She used to say that her only claim to fame was that she had three brothers all bishops at the same time, and it surely is a unique record. She was well known and much liked by many who will deeply regret her loss.

MISS BEATRICE DAVISON

Mrs Crompton writes:

We have to pass on the sad news of the death in Australia of Beatrice Davison, who will be remembered as "Goody Two Shoes" of Impasse du Nord, Rouen, 1917-19. She worked at Casualties in the Archevêché, and would persist in wearing Army issue shoes; clumsy in those days. She went to Australia at the end of the war and remained there ever since. Her niece, Mrs. Sykes, tells us that she died very suddenly on July 27, 1956, and was laid to rest in Riverton Cemetery among gum-trees and singing birds, a lovely spot of quietness and beauty in the Australian countryside she loved.

MRS. LIONEL FOSTER, M.B.E.

Edith Mary Foster died at St. Leonards-on-Sea on July 18, 1956. Judy Sandberg, as she then was, was one of the earliest to join the Corps for home service and was posted as a Deputy Administrator to the Connaught Club, then the London Depot. From there she was sent to the Guards Cadet Battalion at Bushey Hall as U.A., and finally to the Kandahar Barracks at Tidworth. Soon after she was demobilised she married Lionel Foster, in the Colonial Service, whom she had known since childhood. With him she had many homes in Uganda and Tanganyika, where he served as District Commissioner and Provincial Commissioner. She was one of those who could make even a Nissen hut look cosy and homelike, and must have been a wonderful wife for a man who was continually on the move in distant parts of the Empire. After his retirement they lived at St. Leonards, where he died a few months before his wife. They had two sons, one in the Royal Navy and one who followed his father into the Colonial Service. Much sympathy will be felt for Edith Perrot, Q.M.A.A.C., who served under Judy all through their Army career together, followed her throughout her tours in Africa, shared her retirement, and was with her when she died.

MRS. MILLS

Those who served during the war with Subaltern Wallbridge, A.T.S., will learn with sorrow of her death on August 26, 1956, at the early age of 47. She joined in 1940 and after training at Northampton was posted to 466 (M) H.A.A. Battery at Newcastle. She attended No. 1 A.T.S. O.C.T.U. at Edinburgh, took her commission, and served till 1943 in 587 (M) H.A.A. Battery at Chepstow. Her passing is deeply regretted by all who knew her.

W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

IN order that serving and retired members may keep in touch with the Headquarter Mess, items of interest will in future be published in this column. A separate News Sheet will not be sent to retired members.

As there are now no W.R.A.C. Officers' Messes in F.A.R.E.L.F., B.A.O.R. or East Africa, money grants were made to the senior W.R.A.C. officers in these theatres, to enable them to entertain staff officers and heads of Services on Corp's Day. Letters of appreciation have been received from these officers.

The Georgian silver goblets presented to the Mess by Lt.-Col. L. E. Holt were included in an exhibition of Corps silver at the Aldershot Horse Show in July. Silver and cutlery were loaned to the Officers' Mess of 301 (East Anglian) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) for Annual Camp, and as a mark of appreciation the officers have agreed to make a donation to the Headquarter Mess Fund. A gift of silver cigarette-boxes, table-lighters, etc., was received from the W.R.A.C. officers in M.E.L.F. on the disbandment of their Mess.

The Mess Library, which is housed in the W.R.A.C. Depot, has received some additions during the past year, but gifts or loans of books would still be welcomed.

The number of retired officers who have joined the Mess is now over twenty. Retired officers wishing to join should apply for Bankers' Order Forms to the Secretary, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, Surrey. The annual subscription is 10s. 6d.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS

September 1—November 30, 1956

Col. S. M. CRAWLEY, T.D., A.A.G., A.G.16.
Lt.-Col. E. M. SYKES, A.D.W.R.A.C., London District.
Major M. M. BISHOP, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., W.R.A.C. 1.
Major S. E. BOWDEN, S/Capt., "A" Tripoli M.E.L.F.
Major M. COVERDALE, 6 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Major K. CUNNINGHAM, 306 Battalion, W.R.A.C./T.A.
Major E. DUNCAN, D.A.Q.M.G. (Qtr.), North-West District.
Major P. E. GARRARD, 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Major B. LATHAM, D.A.Q.M.G. (Mob.), H.Q. Western Command.
Major P. LIPSCOMB, D.A.Q.M.G. (Mob.), Home Counties District.
Major P. NORMAN, 71 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
Major N. J. PIKE, S/Capt., "A" Malaya Command, F.A.R.E.L.F.
Major (T/Lt.-Col.) D. L. POOLEY, A.D.W.R.A.C., F.A.R.E.L.F.
Major R. STRIDE, S.P.S.O./D.W.R.A.C. (M.P. 3(b)).
Capt. L. E. ALLARDYCE, Transit Section, Hook of Holland.
Capt. C. M. L. BALLANTYNE, W.R.A.C. Trg. Centre.
Capt. E. J. BOWLES, G.S.O.3, War Office, S.D. 1.
Capt. N. J. COMYN, 14th Battalion, W.R.A.C., B.A.O.R.
Capt. F. M. COOK, G.S.O.3 (Int.), M.E.L.F.
Capt. C. I. COOKE, Instr., W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
Capt. E. R. DENNE, S/Capt., "Q" H.Q. Eastern Command.
Capt. A. FIELD, London University, O.T.C.
Capt. B. I. FORBES ADAM, S.O. to Q.M.G.
Capt. A. HERDMAN GRANT, W.R.A.C. Trg. Centre.
Capt. M. MATHEWS, Adj., W.R.A.C. Depot.
Capt. A. M. METCHER, S.O. to D.C.I.G.S.
Capt. E. L. MILLINGTON, W.R.A.C., School of Instruction.
Capt. M. A. PEACHEY (née Riley), S/Capt., War Office, Sigs. 7.
Capt. A. S. RUSSELL, G.S.O.3 (Int.), F.A.R.E.L.F.
Capt. M. F. TOWNSEND, S/Capt., War Office, A.G. 16.
Capt. M. U. WALKER, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.
Lt. (T/Capt.) P. A. APPELBERG, S/Capt., "Q" F.A.R.E.L.F.
Lt. M. E. BATESON, 27 Independent Company, M.E.L.F.
2/Lt. P. BLAKLEY, att. D. and C. Trg. Centre for M.T. Trg.
Lt. A. G. BRYCE, Holding and Drafting Company (Permanent Staff).
Lt. (T/Capt.) A. B. CAIN, S/Capt., "Q" F.A.R.E.L.F.
2/Lt. A. M. M. CLISSITT, 2 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Lt. (T/Capt.) H. S. GILL, Army Team of Lecturers.

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Lieutenant-Colonel: E. M. Sykes.
Major: G. E. Prosser, E. Scott, E. G. Joynt, S. H. Cooke, P. M. Shilton, M.B.E., C. H. Leese.
Captain: P. D. T. D. Nelson, J. Melville.
Lieutenant: T. M. Spurling, M. L. S. Read, A. M. Beale, M. I. Best, J. H. Mitchell, J. M. F. S. Tait, B. M. R. Sims.
Second Lieutenant: L. M. Bennie, G. J. Holmes, C. G. Parsons, C. S. McFarlane, M. G. Garrett.

Short Service Commissions

Major: M. S. Smithwick, C. L. Harling.
Lieutenant: F. A. Crick, E. M. Lloyd-Jones.

RETIREMENTS, ETC. REGULAR ARMY

Retirement on retired pay: Lt.-Col. M. H. Pine, M.B.E., T.D.
Resignations: Major K. M. O'Kelly de Conjera (Meredith); Capt. P. M. Mangin, J. M. Mackinder (Giffen), H. M. O'Donnell (Drudge), J. K. Allison; Lts. E. M. Wood, S. A. Macalpine-Downie (Reid), R. Beck, A. R. Neat, A. Forestier-Walker (Willans).

Short Service Commissions

Relégation to R.O.: Lts. E. M. Seckerson, J. S. Buchanan.

Depot News

The Band

TWO post horns have been presented to the W.R.A.C. Staff Band by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and the rank and file of the Permanent Staff of the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction. Both these instruments are suitably engraved with the names of the donors, and the gift is very much appreciated.

The Chapel

KNEELERS for the Chapel have already been completed by Lt.-Col. T. Morris, Major M. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., Capt. M. Leatham, Major G. Fleetwood-Jones, Lt. P. Hopkins, Capt. J. Hawtrey-Williams, Sgt. J. Meredith, Bt. Col. V. Stead, O.B.E., T.D., Miss Hayward, and four by the Birmingham Branch of the W.R.A.C. Association (including three by Mrs. Weddell, Snr.). Many others are now in hand.

The Museum

WILL any reader contribute one of the following copies of the *Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Magazine* or *The Lioness*, to complete the set held in the Corps Museum?

Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S.

1945: January, February, March, April, May.

1946: March, April, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

1947: March, April.

The Lioness.

1952: May, June, July.

Continued from the previous column

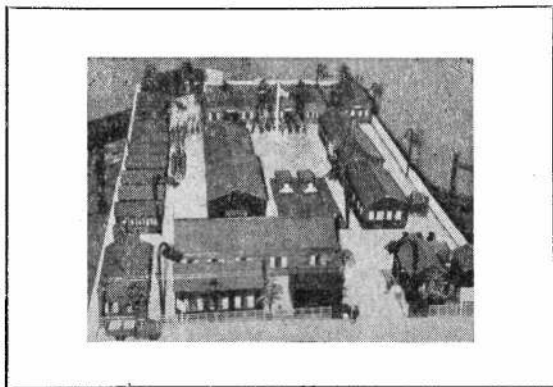
2/Lt. M. G. GARRETT, 16 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Lt. (T/Capt.) M. A. INGLIS, S/Capt., H.Q., Eastern Command.
2/Lt. J. L. JOAQUIM, W.R.A.C., Trg. Centre.
Lt. E. M. KING, 4 Independent Company, F.A.R.E.L.F.
Lt. B. F. LILLEY, W.R.A.C., School of Instruction.
Lt. A. S. NICHOLSON, 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lt. D. V. PALMER, 3 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Lt. S. F. B. PROCTOR, 7th K.T. Det., School of A.A. Artillery.
Lt. M. E. SCOTT, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.
2/Lt. DA M. STEWART, Edn. Unit, R.A.E.C., Western Command.
Lt. J. C. SWANN, 70 M.T. Company, R.A.S.C.
Lt. J. H. WAYCOTT, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.

A Royal Inspection

AMONG the many W.R.A.C. (T.A.) camps of 1956, only one can claim to have been inspected by H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. This is the model camp made early in the year by Sgt. Phillips and Sgt. Broughton of the Peterborough Platoon of 308 (Northern Command) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). They spent several months over the work, which is done with great artistry and true in every detail down to the miniature coke-dump outside the O.R.s Cookhouse. There are garages, P.O.L., store, M.R.S., gym, N.A.A.F.I., offices, sleeping-huts, messes, sports field, and a lighting system which can be run either from battery or mains. The occupants of the camp can be seen smartly marching across the parade ground. As the only figures obtainable were uncoloured marching A.T.S., a good deal of touching-up was necessary, and the officer taking the salute was obliged to have a severe surgical operation to bring her legs and arms into approximately the right position. Lt.-Col. W. M. Smith (who has now, sad to say, left us to take up residence in South Africa), officially opened the model camp in May, and it was on show for the first time in the Recruiting Tent at the Peterborough Agricultural show on July 17, 18 and 19.

We had heard that H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother intended to visit the show on Wednesday, July 16, and we felt that, as Commandant in Chief of the Corps, Her Majesty might be interested to see this model. We were thrilled when the news reached us that The Queen Mother would be delighted to visit the display, and when Her Majesty duly arrived it was a moment of great excitement for all concerned. Lord Spencer presented our new C.O., Major the Hon. V. V. Kitson,

who in turn presented the Adjutant, Capt. Quarrie, the W.R.A.C. Recruiting Officer, Capt. Hagan, Capt. Jolliffe Q.A.R.A.N.C., and Capt. Rasen, Recruiting Officer for Northampton. The Queen Mother then spoke to the two N.C.O.s who made the camp, saying how beautifully it was all laid out and congratulating them on having made such an excellent model. During the visit a record of *Greensleeves*, made by the W.R.A.C. Band, was softly playing. Her Majesty took a great interest in all she saw, and we were indeed sorry when the time came for her to leave.



Courtesy: Hotpoint Bulletin

We shall always be proud of the honour paid to us by the visit of our Commandant in Chief, and look forward to the many occasions when we can say with pleasure, "The Queen Mother paid a special visit to see this model camp."

Europa Point Lighthouse

W.O.2 M. W. COOMBES, W.R.A.C.

MANY readers must have wondered sometimes what actually goes on inside a lighthouse, what makes the light revolve, and how the different lights are identified by mariners. To satisfy this idle curiosity, 10 members of 18 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., paid a visit to Europa Point Lighthouse, Gibraltar, on August 1, 1956.

This lighthouse is the first to be built entirely as such. The Spaniards, many years ago, used the spire of a chapel known as "Our Lady of Europa" as a beacon wherein lamps were lit throughout the hours of darkness for the safety of shipping. This chapel was destroyed during the capture of the Rock in 1704, and from then until 1838 no known beacon was used. The foundation stone of the present tower was laid on the same site on April 7, 1838, and on October 17 the Dowager Queen Adelaide, widow of William IV, laid another stone on the twelfth course. That stone still bears the

inscription "Placed by Adelaide, Queen Dowager of Great Britain and Ireland, 17th October, 1838." The tower was completed in 1841 and named "Victoria Tower" in honour of Her Majesty. That same year the "light" was declared into service—really a group of oil-lamps, each having silvered parabolic reflectors behind the wick burner. The keeper on watch was kept fully occupied with the constant adjustment of the wicks as the flames rose and fell with the variations of draught caused by changes of wind velocity outside.

The first change took place 23 years later, when the group of small lamps was replaced by a single multi-wick burner surrounded by a magnifying lens shaped like a beehive. At a distance of 10 miles the "light" had now been increased tenfold by magnification, as against the previous reflecting system. Another innovation was the metal screen, which, by being raised and lowered over the lamp by means of a new clockwork mechanism, produced a light

"blinking" twice in 30 seconds instead of the old fixed one. The next change came in 1896, when the light was further modernised to incandescent pressurised oil-vapours, with a group of three small mantles, like the gas-mantles still being used in many places. Another important addition at this time was the setting of a red sector on the lantern glass to cover the area of the treacherous "Pearl Rock," which lies submerged approximately one mile from the Spanish coast and no more than 8 ft. below the surface. The third change took place in 1923, when the light was replaced by a new type of oil vapour burner having only one burner, 4 in. in diameter, which was to remain till the oil-burners were superseded by electricity in 1954. Then, as a temporary means of warning during the period in which the main light was being replaced, a small trellised pylon was erected, carrying an electric lantern which had a time character identical with that of the old light.

Slowly but surely innovations have taken place in the tower, which has itself been extended 9 ft., with a window in the masonry. This shows a fixed red light on the same bearing as the sector above

on the lantern. The beehive lens has been dismantled and is to be used again at Cromer, after exactly 90 years at Europa Point. The new light is electric, fully automatic, with self-changing gear to replace fused bulbs and automatic starting for the stand-by generator which takes over in the event of a mains failure. The main light is now a bulb of 3,000 watts, and the new lens, embodying a combination of fixed and flashing prisms, makes one complete revolution round the light every 40 seconds. The clockwork mechanism for turning the lens remains, but the light time character, which varies with every lighthouse and is charted in order to guide shipping, has changed to 5 seconds darkness and 5 seconds light, with an intensified flash of 430,000 C.P. to seaward at the end of the light.

The change has now been completed and has created the only lighthouse of its kind in the world. So, from a stone tower upon the solid Rock which once emitted a flickering flame of light, a magnificent beam of light now cuts through the inky blackness of the night to safeguard the ships on the high seas and the men who sail therein.

The Norges Lotte Forbund

CAPT. E. B. SINCLAIR, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

ON Sunday, July 22, the 2nd Dorset Transport Platoon, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), had the pleasure of a visit from Frøken Gerd Berbom, who is Chairman of the Aasgårdstrand group and Vice-Chairman of the Vestfoldkrete of the Norges Lotte Forbund. The first corresponds to our Platoon and the second to our Company. Frøken Berbom was looking very smart in her grey flannel uniform and side-cap, though she says that it is a less serviceable colour than khaki. On her jacket she wore a badge signifying her chairmanship, and on one shoulder was sewn the title of her group.

The Norwegian organisation was founded on the Finnish Lotte, which, to the great sorrow of the Finnish women, had to disband as a condition of the peace treaty with Russia—surely a high tribute to the quality of their work. Frøken Berbom explained that the Norges Lotte Forbund is an entirely voluntary organisation, receiving neither Government recognition nor grant. Each member buys her own uniform and subscribes to the upkeep of her group, amounting to 3s. a year as far as the Aasgårdstrand group is concerned. They also raise money by whist drives, dances and other functions to support their next highest formation. The "Lotte" is not part of any military organisation. Each group has a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, who act as a committee to organise the work of the group. The "Platoon" and "Company" committees meet fairly frequently, and every year the Chairmen of all the groups meet together.

Frøken Berbom's group works with the Navy and Air Force as plotters, cooks and drivers. Last year, as a sign of recognition, the Vestfold District had an island in Oslo Fjord placed at their dis-

posal, where Lotter may spend a week-end or holiday. Plans are now being worked on to hold a summer camp next year on this lovely island. Week-end courses are held on drill, programme planning, and field training. Field training includes various exercises, such as first-aid, transport of wounded personnel, measuring distances, observation, and bivouacking. In winter the same exercises are carried out on ski with drill. One interesting scheme, in which several members of the W.R.A.C. have been allowed to take part, involves a week in the mountains in either summer or winter. There the Lotter have to follow a course by the aid of map and compass, and to build a snow house and spend a night in it (a very reliable way of ensuring that they know how to build it).

The 2nd Dorset Transport Platoon was holdign a day's training on the day of the visit, and Frøken Berbom joined the drivers at lunch when they returned to eat the meal prepared by the Platoon's cooks.

Don't let Your Lioness Stray

A GREAT many copies of *The Lioness* are being returned after each issue as "Not known" or "Gone away." It would be appreciated if members would notify the General Secretary of any change at an early date, as correction lists have to be at the printers by the 30th of the month, previous to the issue of the magazine. If notified after this date, members will not receive the current issue at the new address. If serving members could have *The Lioness* sent to their permanent address, this would ensure that it is not returned to H.Q. when they are posted.

THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES

MAJOR-GENERAL J. M. L. GROVER, C.B., M.C.

"**H**AVE you heard about poor . . . ? She has had such a worrying time since she left the Corps. I wish I knew of some way to help her"; or again, "Well, I shall be out next year. I wonder what on earth I shall find to do to keep the wolf from the door." Such questions and thoughts are not so uncommon. If they came from a friend of yours, would you be able to offer any ideas? The purpose of this article is to suggest the name of one ex-Service organisation which might be able to help your friend, or even you yourself. It is the Officers' Association, 28 Belgrave Square, S.W.1, and it exists to help ex-officers and their dependents; indeed, to help anyone who has held a commission in the Armed Forces, in which of course are included the Women's and Nursing Services.

The Association is not any form of professional or trades union. It is solely a voluntary organisation, and has no membership in the ordinary sense. Anyone eligible for assistance within the general definition given above may apply for advice or practical aid. It owes its origin to Field-Marshal Earl Haig, who led our armies to victory in World War I. As soon as he had laid down his command in the field, he devoted himself to the service of those who had served under him, and of the families of those who did not return. Everyone knows of him as the founder of the British Legion, but he also founded the Officers' Association, which handles the benevolent work for officers and their families on behalf of the Legion. For this reason the Association receives contributions from the annual Poppy Day Appeal, as well as from the Services' Benevolent Funds, from Regimental and Corps Associations, and, of course, and by no means least, from private subscribers. Out of these funds it spends some £170,000 annually in the direct relief of distress, or towards the other purposes for which the Association exists.

The Charter is a wide one, to try to help any former officer who may need a helping hand out of some difficulty. Obviously, the Association cannot itself always do this, but it does aim to direct applicants to some source where the help they need may be found. The field may range from the direct relief of distress due to misfortune, ill-health, old age or infirmity, to such special questions as pension appeals, house purchase, legal advice, the representation of claims to Government or other authorities, the education of children, and help in finding a job. For example, a former A.T.S. officer started an hotel business with her husband, neither had any previous experience and before long they found themselves in financial difficulties following a bad season. They were helped to get

going again. A woman officer compelled by illness to live a country life was helped to start a dog kennel. Another, stricken with T.B. at a time when there were long waiting lists for all T.B. hospitals, was helped to secure immediate treatment in Switzerland, where she recovered. The tale is a long one, and is not confined to our own country, for the Association has representatives not only throughout the United Kingdom and Southern Ireland, but also representatives or contacts in all Commonwealth and many other countries. Thus help or advice can often be obtained for officers living overseas, or who intend to seek a livelihood in some other land.

But to most serving officers who are approaching the date of retirement, or the end of their contracts, probably the thought that is uppermost in their minds is how to find a suitable job in civilian life. And with it naturally goes the further question, what to do by way of preparation before leaving the Service. The Army of course has its own Resettlement Advice organisation, but it also encourages officers to seek the advice of the Officers' Association Resettlement and Employment Department, Windsor House, 46 Victoria Street, S.W.1 where enquiries are welcomed and interviews can be arranged. Not a few former members of the Women's Services have found congenial employment in this way. The important thing is to make up your mind well ahead what it is that you hope to do, and if possible to get some training for your future career before you finally leave the active list. The Association's Employment Department may be able to offer some helpful advice on that subject.

Each year since World War II, the Association has helped, in one way or another, some 25,000 to 30,000 cases; and in the course of that period has placed over 9,000 officers in employment. Naturally it works in the closest co-operation with Corps and Regimental Associations, and with other ex-Service organisations, with the single purpose of trying to find some solution to each person's particular problem. In this brief account it has only been possible to touch the fringe of the varied scope of its work, but the article will have served its purpose if it has suggested a possible answer to the questions posed at the beginning.

A Grandson for the Corps

Grandmothers are rare among serving officers, but we are happy to announce that this distinction has been achieved by Capt. L. T. Janvrin, W.R.A.C., whose daughter Jeanette (Mrs. Henry Brandon) gave birth to a son, James, on September 30, 1956.

MAYOR OF WINCHESTER, 1955

BARBARA THACKERAY (S. COMD. B. G. FAIR, A.T.S.)

IF during my service in the A.T.S. anyone had told me that I would be Mayor of Winchester in 1955 I should have thought them quite mad, as my knowledge of Local Government was confined to a few vague ideas about street lighting and refuse disposal. However, in 1950 I was invited to stand for the City Council and was elected unopposed. I found the work absorbingly interesting, particularly anything to do with housing, so that in 1953 and 1954 I was Chairman of the Housing Estates Committee. The wastage of Councillors is so high that by 1955 I had become sixth in seniority of 18 (in addition we have six Aldermen), but even so I was overwhelmed to be invited to be Mayor in 1955. It was a particularly important year, as we were celebrating the 800th anniversary of our Henry II Charter of 1155, and a visit from Her Majesty and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh was arranged for July 25. Hoping that my husband would not be too horrified, I accepted.

On assuming office the Mayor also becomes a J.P. and ranks as senior magistrate, but fortunately is no longer Chairman of the Bench. I did attend the Bench occasionally, but there was not time to go nearly as often as I should have liked. In Winchester we have our own Quarter Sessions taken by the Recorder; the Mayor attends wearing full ceremonial robes, and afterwards entertains members of the Bar to an informal lunch. Ceremonial robes are also always worn when the Mayor pays a courtesy call on the Judges of Assize who visit the city three times a year, and on Assize Sunday and some other occasions when the whole Council attend services at the Cathedral.

The Mayor is automatically a member of nearly all Council Committees, and I attended some 60 Committee meetings during my year, as well as taking the chair for the monthly meetings of the Council. I think I found this the most difficult thing I had to do. Council meetings start at 7 p.m. and usually last three or four hours, and to follow all the debates and give everyone a chance to speak, but at the same time to keep within the rules of debate, does require a great deal of concentration. I also found that I had a good deal more office work than I expected. The Mayor has to sign a great many documents, and although they are first signed by the Town Clerk, I felt that I must at least get the gist of the agreements and orders that I put my name to. The Town Clerk is of course a qualified solicitor, and senior paid officer of the Corporation. He seems to be Chief of Staff and Adjutant combined, as he is Chief Executive Officer, daily adviser, and Officer i/c all ceremonial duties. Another person of great assistance is the Mayor's secretary. Ours has held the position for over 20 years and was invaluable in many ways.

Since the War the calls on the Mayor have

multiplied enormously, and altogether, including receiving certain official calls, I had no less than 312 social engagements. The visits paid to the many organisations in Winchester are very important and give one the feeling of the city more than anything else. Usually the Mayoress would take part in arranging the dinner-parties and receptions, and doing the flowers, helped of course by the City Engineer. As my husband is a retired Brigadier-General I did not think he would like to be Mayoress (though our first woman Mayor was supported by her husband). I thought it easier to combine the offices of Mayor and Mayoress and to have my husband's help as my host and escort when required. As far as possible I liked to arrange my own parties and do the flowers myself.

Naturally the Royal visit was the high light of the year, and we were very lucky in having a fine day. Her Majesty's first engagement was on the playing fields at Wolvesey, where, surrounded by the ancient walls, some 5,000 children and old people were gathered to greet her. I was presented by the Lord Lieutenant, the Duke of Wellington, and after making some further presentations escorted Her Majesty round the ground. This was a delight-



fully informal beginning, and made it much easier for me when we came to the formal reception on the Guildhall steps later in the day. Here I had to tender the city's mace, which is about 300 years old, 5 ft. long, and weighs 36 lb., so I was grateful to the A.T.S. for having taught me some drill. I have not space to describe in detail the visits to the College, the Cathedral, and the exhibition of ancient treasures (including the Henry II Charter), or the magnificent parade put on by the K.R.R.C. in the afternoon to celebrate their bi-centenary. As Mayor I had the privilege of attending The

Queen throughout the day, and of entertaining Her Majesty and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh to lunch.

Altogether it was a year of great interest. I had tremendous support from members of the Council and the many organisations in the city, but at the back of it all I feel that I owe everything to my service in the A.T.S. and the administrative training which has been invaluable in council work. Therefore, if members of the W.R.A.C. are unlikely to have a Field-Marshal's baton in their knapsack, they can truly claim to have at least a mace.

NAIROBI TO UGANDA AT 15 MILES AN HOUR

CAPT. P. CAMPBELL, W.R.A.C.

A 400-MILE train journey in an African train at a speed of about 15 m.p.h. may not sound a very attractive proposition, but opportunity only knocks once, so one hot sunny morning found us at Nairobi station setting forth into the unknown. As the train steamed in, people of a dozen races swarmed towards the gleaming aluminium carriages, some with bundles in bright-coloured wrappings, others with huge stems of bananas or a pair of chickens tied by the legs, some proudly wheeling new bicycles and all surrounded by their shouting children. We settled ourselves into our sleepers, which, with their fans and attractive washable plastic furnishings, surpass the London-to-Edinburgh standard. The bed makes a comfortable sofa during the day and the whole of one side of the carriage is window. The train steamed out of Nairobi and began to climb up towards the Highlands.

At first the countryside was cultivated, but in a gloriously haphazard manner. Each family merely digs up a bit of Africa and plants corn-on-the-cob, while their small herds of sheep or goats graze at will, tended by the youngest and smallest members. Soon we were really climbing, travelling along a single-line track through forests of mahogany and pine with an occasional flash of bright crimson or yellow flowers. Suddenly we were out on the top of a high ridge with the wonderful panorama of the Rift Valley spread out 9,000 ft. below in colours ranging on this golden morning from white through every shade to deep purple. Coming down from the heights we looked into the crater of an extinct volcano which is a great centre of animal life, but it was too early in the day for any animals to be abroad. Eventually we came down into the heat of the valley, where we came across a herd of giraffe grazing on the sparse vegetation, apparently unmoved by the shining monster puffing through their pastures. Then we passed along the edges of three large lakes, their quiet beauty a perfect setting for thousands of flamingo, spread like scarves of pale pink gauze across the blue expanse. We puffed along over the dusty plains, passing herds of zebra and wildebeest. We were attentively waited on by an Asian steward, who told us proudly about his nine years in the Ghurkas, mingled with hair-raising stories of encounters with lion and leopard on this particular railway line.

Towards evening we began to climb again, crossing the range of mountains between Kenya and Uganda. We went through the jungle among trees of immense height, some with exotic tropical flowers and some with fierce spikes, and all about us brilliant birds flitted from the gloom of the jungle to the bright sunshine outside. It grew colder as we reached the top, nearly 10,000 ft., and sitting back with our evening drink we suddenly saw a sign on the side of the track saying "North of the equator to the right, south of the equator to the left." Darkness fell suddenly and after an excellent dinner we retired to bed. The train travelled slowly enough for us to sleep well, and by 6 a.m. we were up again looking out at Uganda. The well-kept acres of cotton, sugar cane and banana plantations, green and fresh in the early morning light, were a refreshing sight after the dusty plains of the Rift Valley. In the middle of this green rolling expanse the train stopped at a small wayside station and we saw a notice saying "Change here for the Congo, the Sudan and Egypt." Even a hardened traveller must have felt something of a thrill.

By 9 a.m. we were drawing into Jinja, where all was bustle and activity. We were enchanted to find that our hotel was on the shores of Lake Victoria. We strolled up to see the mighty Owen Falls Dam, the source of the River Nile, and as dusk fell we wandered back to the lake edge to watch the hippos come out for their evening meal. Next day we left for a five-day stay in a village about 125 miles north, and then made the 200-mile road journey to Kampala, where we spent two busy days in the swiftly developing town. At the end of our stay we travelled back by road, leaving at 8 o'clock one morning and reaching Nairobi in about 10 hours. The roads are wide and straight and we made very good time, but we were far from regretting our railway journey. Looking back on it, I cannot praise the railway highly enough, and will have no hesitation in repeating the journey if I have the chance.

CATHEDRAL WINDOW FUND

By the end of October 1956, the collection for a W.R.A.C. window in Guildford Cathedral had reached a total of £2,414 15s. 3d.

THREE MONTHS IN CYPRUS

CAPT. P. D. SOUTHCOTT, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

THE plane taxied along the runway and we came to a halt. We had arrived. Three days ago Capt. Sellwood, Sgt. Conway and I had been civilians in London. Now we were in uniform in Nicosia, temporarily transformed into regular W.R.A.C.

What were we doing there anyhow? Our Territorial Unit, Port and Travel Control Group, has no counterpart in the Regular Army, so when it was decided to form a similar Unit in Cyprus, a small T.A. team was sent out to set it up and train the Regulars to take it over. Five male officers of our Unit had already been for a month in the island, carrying out a general reconnaissance, finding out local conditions and deciding how the work was to be done. Our troops were to be posted at various ports round the island and at Nicosia Airport, and all these places presented quite different problems. At Famagusta, for example, all except the largest ships can come right into the harbour (which is partially enclosed on the landward side by the wall of the old city), and tie up alongside the quay. At Limassol, on the other hand, all the ships must lie out in deep water and goods and passengers are brought ashore in launches and lighters. At Larnaca there are ships unloading petrol and oil, at Vasilikos and Xeros minerals, and at Paphos there are only small fishing boats and caiques, the sailing craft which are the coastwise traders of these parts. Then of course there is the Airport, where people come and go from England, Turkey, Israel, Syria, Greece, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and other nearby lands.

When we arrived (at 6 o'clock in the morning), Sgt. Conway was taken to the R.A.F. Camp on the Airport, as she was to live in the W.R.A.F. accommodation and help in the control of passengers. Capt. Sellwood and I, who were to set up and run a headquarters office in Nicosia, were taken to the Signals Camp at Kykko West. Here we were made very welcome by the only W.R.A.C. officer in Nicosia, Capt. Molly Cavanagh, who was the soul of kindness to us throughout our stay. After breakfast we went in to Nicosia to set about our work. Our Headquarters consisted of our Colonel and ourselves, our office in the Secretariat was an empty room, and our equipment was a suitcase of papers which the Colonel was carrying about from place to place. We definitely had to begin at the beginning, but eventually we managed to acquire tables, chairs, a telephone, a typewriter and some stationery from various sources, and even sorted out the papers from the suitcase and started a filing system. This filing system, Capt. Sellwood's achievement, worked surprisingly well, considering that we started without knowing what was going to go into it.

Two days after we arrived our regular troops came out from England, having had a month's

course and their embarkation leave. They looked slightly bewildered at first to find themselves under a group of T.A. officers (even though we were at the moment holding regular short-service commissions), but we soon shook down into a team. As soon as we had safely dispatched the troops to their stations, we at H.Q. had to decide what we wanted them to report back to us, and where to send on the information. This involved getting to know a number of people and finding out precisely what they did. We went on learning more and more as our circle of acquaintances grew. We did feel sometimes that a bit of staff-training might have helped us to find our way about on the Army side, but then, dealing with a Main and Rear G.H.Q. and H.Q. Cyprus District (all on the same island) did not bear any resemblance to the days I spent at Corps H.Q. at the end of the War. Anyhow, nothing could have prepared us for the Secretariat, which was a polyglot collection of people from the Colonial Service, the Army, the Navy, the Police, the Immigration Service, Press relations officers, and countless liaison officers.

Communicating with our detachments presented quite a problem, even to Capt. Sellwood, who was in Signals during the War. We mastered the intricacies of the Signals Despatch Service and even got to know that we could not really expect to receive anything from Paphos under 2½ to 3 days (though there was, of course, an operational signals network in case of emergency). As for the heavily-overloaded telephone service, anyone who has been in Cyprus will understand our feelings towards it. There are three kinds of switchboard and lines (civil, government, and Army and R.A.F.), and getting from one to the other is like climbing some large wall. Generally speaking, we found it quicker to get into a car and go and call.

We did not feed, house or clothe our personnel, as they were all attached to the Units where they were living, but there always seemed to be plenty of other things needed, and we spent a lot of the time on their administration. Life was never dull, and every day produced a fresh problem. The last month of our stay was mainly spent in training staff to carry on when we went home, and towards the end we were only standing by to help when necessary. We were in a bigger office and life was more orderly, if not quite so much fun. We never quite returned to the hilarious early days. We could never hope to repeat the day when our Colonel and three others were in conference in our room (which normally held four people with some difficulty). Capt. Sellwood and I were working on two different jobs, the tea-boy was banging at the window, the telephone was ringing, and the Administrative Officer of the block was "just measuring" the room by pacing to and fro right across everything.

We enjoyed the work very much, but found other aspects of the life there more trying. We longed to go for a good long walk, and to go shopping in the old city, but troops on foot were supposed to go out in fours, two of these armed, so W.R.A.C. spent their time in transport of one kind or another. The old city of Nicosia remained out of bounds for the entire period of our stay, and whenever we managed to visit the ports there seemed to be a curfew, an out-of-bounds rule, a strike, or the shops were closed for the Greek or British Easter. We did not care much for living and working behind barbed wire, either, but then, who does? There were compensations, though, for the sunshine was beautiful, the sea delightfully blue, and for the first

six weeks or so the flowers and flowering trees were magnificent. Later, when it started to become very hot and dusty, there was the fresh orange juice that we drank outside the Secretariat each morning.

When we left Cyprus the W.R.A.C. element of the Unit came to an end. We left Sgt. Conway behind us, as by this time she had married a regular R.A.F. Sergeant and had decided to stay on as a civilian wife. Capt. Sellwood and I returned to our normal jobs after this unusual and exciting interlude—just in time to put on uniform again and join our T.A. Unit at Annual Camp. Looking back, we consider ourselves most fortunate to have had the opportunity (rare indeed in the W.R.A.C. (T.A.)) of three months' soldiering overseas.

WORK WITH THE W.V.S.

IT is hardly surprising that women who have experienced and enjoyed the friendliness of communal life in the Army should be drawn to join the service which has won a reputation for its friendliness and helpfulness to Service men in their off-duty hours. Twelve years ago Women's Voluntary Services began to co-operate with N.A.A.F.I. by staffing its lounges and games room, and organising all the amenities of a W.V.S. Club in unit canteens, in the town centres and in leave camps. In that time many women have doffed the Army khaki, the Navy blue or the horizon-blue of the W.A.A.F., and donned the green and red uniform of the civilian Service. They have brought to it, as W.V.S. gladly admits, a right understanding of life in the Services and of what is needed from the friendly woman who presides over the W.V.S. club. From their own experience they know that the main job is not merely overseeing well-equipped rooms, providing gay decorations for rather plain barrack walls, or planning outings and tournaments. They know the value of having a friend with whom one can swap yarns, talk of home, show snaps of Mum and the girl-friend, and let fly about the inevitable irritations of service life—a friend who can be gay and amusing, can stand up to service chaff, and yet, when there is a real worry, can help if only by patient listening.

W.V.S. are urgently needing more women to help them, and the presence of a recent recruit proudly claiming a record of service with the W.A.A.C. in the First World War is an indication that the appeal is not only to those in the twenties. They are welcome if they have the right outlook and understanding, but equally welcome are the thirties, the forties and the early fifties, provided that they have sympathy with youth, have a friendly way with them, and can organise whatever is needed to keep leisure hours from dragging. Indeed, they must know when to organise and when not—something that the ex-Service woman should sense through her memories of Service life. The other quality for which W.V.S. ask is to be able to live communally and enjoy it. In some cases the members live in the Officers' Mess, in some there is a

separate W.V.S. Mess, and in Germany now one of the houses in the Officers' Families roads is often allocated to the W.V.S. All the rooms are well-furnished; the housework and cooking is done by local women. Members sign on a contract for 18 months, and usually the first period is served in Germany, but those who have had overseas experience in the Services stand a better chance of the early opportunity to go further afield. The W.V.S. uniform is provided free; there is an adequate out-of-pocket allowance, and a bonus at the end of the contract and at the end of every completed successive year.

The list of Service women working with the W.V.S. is a long one. Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, D.B.E., a former Director of the W.R.A.C., is the Civil Defence Officer, Southern Region, Miss Helen Nimmo, O.B.E., T.D., is the Administrator for Scotland, and Mrs. Fraser-Tytler is working in Inverness. Of those at the moment wearing the overseas flash on their uniforms about a third have a Service record, and about a tenth have been with the A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. Sgt. C. T. M. Neilson, whose home is in Glasgow, has been in W.V.S. since 1947, has worked in Tripoli, Egypt, Kenya and Hong Kong, and is now at Kuala Lumpur. Sgt. Joan Dyson of Liverpool, who joined in 1951, is just coming home from Famagusta, and Mrs. R. Coman of Swansea, also an ex-Sergeant, is now at Bunde in Germany. Others include Miss Joyce Daysh, Miss F. M. Huggard, Mrs. L. M. Halsey, Mrs. Grace Petrie, Miss Doris Newton, Miss Rosemary Evans, Miss Brenda Bone, Miss E. P. McNair, Miss Pamela Matthews, Miss Jean Foad, Miss Diana Gibson, and Miss Barbara Manning.

An Opportunity to Serve Again

If there are any former members of the Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. who are longing to get back to the pleasures of Service life, here is their opportunity, not only to see other countries again, but to serve the young men who are finding their first experience of life with the Forces a little different from home.

The National Radio Show, 1956

(WITH ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO "WIRE")

THE Army Stand at the National Radio Show, held at Earls Court from August 21 to September 1, 1956, was entirely staffed by Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. The chief exhibits included a representation of a suggested layout for an underground Brigade Command Post in nuclear warfare, which the public viewed from a darkened tunnel, giving the impression of a dugout underground. The 1st Training Regiment staged a demonstration of the training of a Royal Signals radio mechanic, Comcan Signal Regiment provided facilities for the public to send messages to their relatives overseas, and the W.R.A.C., under the command of Lt. Senior, manned the teleprinters and the latest telephone exchange, the CB20 (which really worked). Towards the end of a four-hour shift it becomes quite difficult to answer queries good-temperedly, but everyone seemed to enjoy the work, the show functioned smoothly, and the few troubles were mostly sources of amusement. The visitors, including a long series of V.I.P.s from the Ministry of Supply to the children of an Eastern Sultan, all seemed very interested, and those on the stand certainly got a great deal of interest and enjoyment out of their encounters with the public.



Canterbury Chronicle

DURING the summer, 12 Independent Company W.R.A.C. at Canterbury was the scene of many changes and much activity. In March we said good-bye to Major Gribble and C.S.M. Day and welcome to Major Balmer and C.S.M. Brain. Major Balmer left us after a short but pleasant stay, and we welcomed in Major Gildea. Needless to say, the Sergeants' Mess made these farewells and welcomes the occasion for suitable celebrations.

A W.R.A.C. Dance was held in the Garrison Theatre on June 15, and was voted a huge success both by members of the Company and by the P.R.I. On July 7-8 we had a Regimental Week-end for R.A.P.C. and W.R.A.C., with a church parade on the Sunday. The salute was taken by Brigadier H. C. B. Milling, O.B.E., who afterwards congratulated the W.R.A.C. on their turnout and marching.

Sport has been a great feature of the last few months. A team consisting of Ptes. Stoddart, Chamberlain, Markham and Bishop entered for a relay race at Hawkinge, by invitation of the W.R.A.F., and came in second after a very good race. We had a return match at the Sports during

our Regimental Week-end, and this time the W.R.A.C. won the race, their first big success of the season. On July 18 the team, this time including Cpl. Attwell, supported by 20 members of the Company, went to Chatham to take part in the Command inter-unit relay race, and qualified for the Army Finals on August 1. At tennis, Lt. Miseroy and W.O.2 McInnes were runners-up in the inter-unit competition at Hounslow, a very encouraging first attempt. We also play netball, table-tennis and hockey, and Major D. Montgomery, Commanding Depot The Buffs, has been most co-operative in making facilities for rifle-shooting and swimming available to us.

This report concludes on a sad note, as it has been decided to withdraw the W.R.A.C. pay-clerks from Canterbury to meet the shortages in other Pay Offices, and the Company goes into suspended animation on November 2, 1956.

HONORARY COLONEL

Lady De L'Isle and Dudley has been appointed Honorary Colonel of 303 (Kent) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

IN SEARCH OF THE SUN

Lt.-COL. S. F. M. NIMMO, W.R.A.C.

FEELING sunstarved by this miserable English summer, my sister and I set forth for Trieste in a thunderstorm which continued till we left France. We awoke in Italy to brilliant blue skies and bright sunshine which continued throughout our holiday. At Trieste we boarded a Yugoslav cargo-boat for our journey down the Dalmatian Coast to Athens. It was a most comfortable ship with excellent food and a charming Yugoslav crew. The other passengers were mostly French.

We went ashore for a varying time at each port and managed to see all the places of interest. Yugoslavia is trying to build up its tourist industry, and the people could not be more helpful or interested. In each town there is a government-controlled Tourist Office (Putnik) where there is always an English-speaking member of the staff. Their ideas on accommodation in hotels and public transport seem to be "the more the merrier." The coast has over a thousand islands and is beautiful all the way. Much of the country is volcanic and barren-looking, but every available inch is cultivated. There is not much to buy, but there are tourist shops in most places showing local pottery and embroidery. Dubrovnik, well named the Pearl of the Adriatic, is situated right on the coast and surrounded by a Roman wall on which one walks.

There is no mechanised transport inside the city, so it is wonderfully peaceful.

The journey to Greece took us through the Corinth Canal, a superb feat of engineering, and with canals much in mind we took a special interest in the pilot and the organisation. As we got nearer Greece there were more signs of vegetation and it was really lovely. We fell in love with Corfu, where oranges and lemons can be picked, and we saw cactus trees with figs growing on them. Rather apprehensive of our reception in Athens, we were delighted to find the people most kind, but they spoke no language except their own and their streets were named in Greek characters. The Acropolis is even more lovely than we imagined and completely dominates Athens from every angle. On our return we hugged the coast and visited such interesting places as the Oracle at Delphi, an unforgettable figure.

Lying in deck-chairs sunbathing, or with the thinnest possible clothes on after dinner, we passed many happy hours. When at the end of our fortnight we found ourselves back in Paris in pouring rain, and crossed the Channel in a howling gale covered in coats and waterproofs, we realised even more how lucky we had been.

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NEWS FROM BRANCHES

Bath. The Branch, in co-operation with Toc H, manned a sweet stall during Abbey Week and raised £32 in the two days they were in charge of it. The weather was fine and the Abbey Churchyard looked very attractive with its gaily-coloured booths and girls in Breton costume selling balloons. In July members went over to Tudor Lodge, home of the Austrian refugees, and were entertained by them to tea. At the end of July Mrs. Bunyar, of Wellow, very kindly invited members over to a picnic supper, and a grand supper it was. The small charge she made was put into Branch funds, and we thank her very gratefully for giving us such an enjoyable evening. A farewell party was held in August for Miss Double, a staunch supporter of the Branch, who has now gone to New Zealand. A travelling clock was presented to her as a small token of appreciation.

Birmingham. Since the holidays we have had one general meeting, when we were very pleased to welcome a new member, Mrs. Ridding, who travelled from Coventry to join us. At the end of the month we held a jumble sale and made roughly £10 profit in an hour. We are proposing to hold a party in Birmingham on February 23, 1957, for all Q.M.A.A.C.s who can attend, whether members of the W.R.A.C. Association or not, as our special celebration of the 40th anniversary.

Bournemouth. We have been lucky in having fine weather for our outdoor activities this year. It was warm enough to have tea in the garden when members visited the Secretary's home on St. Swithun's Day. The sun shone again when we were guests of our Treasurer (Mrs. Palmer) for tea at the Haven Ferry Cafe, Sandbanks, followed by a delightful boat trip round the islands in Poole Harbour. The next Sunday we went by coach to Winchester for the Area Reunion, and enjoyed our visit to the city very much. Nine new members have joined our branch this year, which brings our total to over 50 for the first time since 1951.

Bristol. We visited the house of our Secretary, Miss Cottrell, at Fishponds on July 5. Several members made a special effort to come, from quite long distances. After a very happy beetle drive, refreshments were kindly provided to wind up the evening. There was no meeting in August because so many people were on holiday, but a quarterly meeting and bring and buy sale was organised by Mrs. Morgan on September 6. Several members attended the Battle of Britain Service at St. Mary's, Redcliffe, on September 16, where our Standard was carried by Mrs. Budd, A.T.S. We remind all ex-Service members of the Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. that our meetings are held on the first Thursday in each month at 7 p.m. at British Legion House, Portland Square, Bristol.

Cardiff. We had a very enjoyable evening at our Annual Dinner on January 6, when the members surprised and delighted the Secretary by presenting

her with a pretty brooch. We carry on our meetings at 11 Kyveilog Street, although we only number 12 or 14. Our Chairman, Mrs. Sargent, is busy trying to find new members and has begun a birthday campaign, presenting each one with a little present and a birthday card. One of our members, Miss Tucker, has just come back from a tour in France, Holland and Belgium, and another, Miss Bray, had a very nice tour in Scotland. Eight of us are going down to Portsmouth and then by steamer to the Isle of Wight, so we hope the weather is kind to us on the day.

Gibraltar. The last three months have been extremely interesting. On the evening of July 3, instead of holding the normal meeting, 20 serving and ex-Service members went by car into Spain for a meal at the Meson Sancho, a restaurant situated on the Tarifa Road. On August 7 the general business of the meeting was followed by an enlightening talk by Mrs. R. E. Topp on "What is Archæology?" At our meeting on September 7 the general business was again followed by a talk, given this time by Mr. Barnett, the local Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A.

Hartlepool. We have had a fair attendance at our summer meetings, members enjoying talk and tea. In August Mrs. Douglas, Miss Denham and the Secretary had a nice day out at Newcastle, enjoying good weather. On September 20 seven members enjoyed an interesting conducted tour round the bakery of the local Co-operative Society. We are sorry to read in the Northern Area report that the Tees-side Branch of the W.R.A.C. Association has disbanded. Any members of that Branch will be made welcome at our meetings, which are held in the Sergeants' Mess, 426 (Durham) Coast Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), Ward Street, West Hartlepool, on the first Wednesday in each month at 7.30 p.m. Buses run from Billingham, Stockton areas very frequently and the meeting place is one minute from the West Hartlepool bus station. We are pleased to hear that Mrs. Enid Murrell, who has been so ill, is at last on the way to good health. We send her our kindest regards and hope she will soon be among us again.

London. We are very happy to report that Mrs. Giles is now much better and is attending our meetings regularly once more. On July 5 we played "One Minute, Please," and Miss Sycamore kindly took the chair in the unavoidable absence of Miss Binks. In September we had a visit from Sgt. McIntyre, of the Women Police, who gave us a most interesting insight into the life of a member of this admirable body—the hard work involved and the advantages to be gained. Quite a few of us wish we were a few years younger, to see if we could make the grade as women police officers. We have also had another visit from our old friends, the Acton Male Voice Choir, who again delighted us with their lovely music and seemed to enjoy singing to us as much as we enjoyed listening.

Lonsdale. After the summer break our Annual General Meeting was held on September 3. We have changed our meeting night from the first Monday to the first Wednesday in each month and a varied and interesting programme has been drawn up for the year. Col. J. M. Cowper, Miss K. N. Gosselin, Miss M. Rookes and Mrs. J. Lindsay attended the Reunion at Liverpool on September 15.

Norfolk. In spite of the poor weather members seem to have had an enjoyable time on their summer holidays, and their talks on their happy memories have been enjoyed by all. Miss Lorna Saffrey (better known, perhaps, as Molly), of Vancouver, British Columbia, is coming to England to settle down after living abroad since just after the First World War. She sails on the *Queen Mary* from New York on October 31, and hopes to meet some Old Comrades at the next Reunion. Tickets for our New Year raffle are now available and can be obtained from the Secretary.

Sheffield. We are holding our Christmas Fair this year on December 1 at the Y.W.C.A. and the proceeds are to be given to B.L.E.S.M.A. We hope everyone will make a special effort for this worthy cause. Tickets for our pantomime party at the Empire Theatre on January 3, 1957, can be obtained from the Secretary.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I should like to get in touch with members of the 7th Surrey Company (later "F" Company, 5th A.A. Group, Staines and Reading) to see if some of us could arrange to meet at the Grand Reunion next March. Some must still be living near Croydon where the Company started, and could get up to London quite easily. I expect they will remember the Senior Leader who used to chase them round. Also, if any 1944-45 Longtown "Rosebuds" see this letter, "Adjy" would like to have news of them.

Yours sincerely,

JOYCE LUNNISS.

"Lamorna,"

Staplehill,

Nr. Wimborne, Dorset.

Dear Editor,

I was most interested to read the letter from "Pearl White" and the spate of letters from old Abbevillites. I remember nearly all of them, and we all of us greatly admired Miss Ireland. I remember Dame Florence Simpson coming to Camp III at Abbeville and inspecting us when she took over from Dame Helen. That must be nearly forty years ago. What a lot of water has flowed under London Bridge since then.

Yours sincerely,

W. CLARK, Q.M.A.A.C.

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Ryde, I.O.W.



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REUNIONS

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNIONS

E. GARRARD

ONE wonders what the reaction would have been in those strenuous days of 1917, when we began our service with the British Expeditionary Force in France, had Jordan (now Mrs. King) said, "I will see you at my house for tea and talk 40 years hence." Yet in June last, on the threshold of our fortieth anniversary, a number of the B.E.F. administrators of those days met as her guests, as we have done every year except during the war. This year it was a glorious summer day and her garden was full of colour, with a wonderful display of delphiniums among other lovely things. Several of those who usually attend were on holiday in foreign parts, but each year sees some coming for the first time. It was good to see that Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan had made such an excellent recovery from her accident, and Mrs. Gibbons (Reid), too, was looking much better and as cheerful as ever. Mrs. Newton (Betts) was a trifle sad, as her only daughter was shortly marrying and going to live abroad. We were glad to see two newcomers, Mrs. Eraut (Pargiter) and Mrs. Vyvyan (Leacock). Among others present were Miss Bertrand, Miss D. M. Johnson, Mrs. Grundy (Sanders), Mrs. Jones (Clifton), Mrs. Coombe (Van Der Wegden), Miss Baker, Mrs. Clough (Lightfoot), Mrs. Garrard (Barr) and, of course, our hostess, Mrs. King. There were many letters of regret and telegrams of greeting. Mrs. Samuel (Elkin) and Mrs. Marsden were unable to come because of illness, and Mrs. Copleston (Francis) was prevented at the last moment by the serious illness of her daughter-in-law.

Mrs. Mayhew and the Committee of the Dinner Club are now hard at work organising our next Annual Dinner, which will be held in November. The Dinner Club is open to all ranks and grows in strength from year to year. It is quite an excitement to go, wondering who one will meet this time. It is difficult to express one's gratitude to those who make these annual gatherings possible, but we do say a very real "thank you" to Mrs. King on behalf of all administrators B.E.F. and to the Dinner Club Committee on behalf of all ranks.

NORTHERN AREA REUNION

THE Northern Area Reunion took place on September 29, 1956, at Beechwood Court Hotel, Harrogate. Lt.-Col. T. Morris was in the chair. After a silent tribute to Dame Florence Simpson, telegrams were read from H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, and the W.R.A.C. Association Council. Apologies for absence were received from many friends, including Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan and Dame Frances Coulshed. Our speakers were Col. Toft and Col. Crawley. Col. Toft paid a tribute to our part of England and went on to make a most amusing speech about her reminiscences of early

days with the Forces. She spoke of her service in various training centres, at Chilwell, and in B.A.O.R. She gave us tidings of many friends (among them Dame Leslie Whateley) that she had recently met in connection with her work for the Girl Guides. Col. Crawley made an appeal for the Benevolent Fund, and gave us details of the way in which the money we have given over the years is being spent. We were pleased to hear that the sons and daughters of past serving women are turning out to be worthy of the money granted towards their education, and that they show every indication of becoming good citizens of the future. A vote of thanks to both speakers was proposed by Miss Garrett (Chairman Bradford Branch) and seconded by Miss Blanchard of York.

After the speeches we enjoyed a buffet supper, and then went about having a word with friends from other branches. Among those present were Mrs. Lumsden (the General Secretary), Col. Cowper, and two serving R.S.M.s in Miss Savage and Miss Mallard. The Chairman paid a tribute to Miss Stead and the Committee, without whom no Reunion would be possible. Then we gradually drifted away to catch our buses, coaches and trains to the various parts of the north from which we came, and so the Northern Area Reunion was over for another year.

SOUTHERN AREA REUNION

THE Southern Area Reunion was held in Winchester on September 16, 1956, and a most interesting programme was arranged by the Southampton Branch. Over 70 members from Bath, Bournemouth, Oxford, Newport, Salisbury and Southampton met at King Alfred's statue at 2 p.m. and were taken through the Abbey Gardens to the Cathedral, where expert guides pointed out the architectural features and told us of its history. As Winchester was the ancient capital of England, it contains tombs of several early kings. From there we walked up through the old archway to the Rifle Depot, where Major C. Wilson showed us round the K.R.R.C. Museum and told us the background story of many of the exhibits. We finished up with high tea at Westgate Lodge Hotel, where Col. C. W. Hull (chairman of the Southern Command Area Committee) expressed our thanks to Southampton Branch for the excellent arrangements they had made.

SHARED MEMORIES AT THE LIVERPOOL REUNION

MAUREEN V. LEES

AT the Grand Reunion in London, in a large hall filled with many people, I find it difficult to meet those with whom I associated during the long war years. The Liverpool Reunion, at a rendezvous familiar to me, in a room full of well-remembered voices, with seating at small tables surrounded by

chairs, gave me a much better opportunity for friendly talks and shaking of hands. I met a pre-war colleague whose Army number was next to my own, and who worked with me at the old Clerical School at Lancaster, and we exchanged memories of shared troubles, difficulties and vivid funny incidents. And I learned without shadow of doubt, through hearing the happening recounted by a member from Birmingham, *who* had really been the brain behind a brilliant piece of initiative on the never-to-be-forgotten day when a V.I.P. visited the school. On that occasion I had assembled all the clerical students in No. 1 Hut (which had been smartened up with blue linoleum and newly-cleaned equipment) and was instructing them in "Daily Orders," a subject which they probably knew by heart. The Royal lady arrived, thrilling everyone by her keen and real interest in everything. Then, to my horror, she said: "I will now visit the second-to-fifth-week clerks." I ushered her to the door with

a sinking heart, but when I turned back—where were the students and the folding chairs? An A.T.S. figure stealthily closed the emergency door, and when the visitors reached No. 2 Hut they found an attentive class of clerks listening to an N.C.O. on some subject of which to this day I am in ignorance.

I am glad to hear that the 1917 folk are to have a reunion. I hope that I may meet Sergeant Lee of Liverpool, who served with the little organisation which foreshadowed the W.A.A.C., and later with the West Lancs T.A. in 1938 and in charge of the Officers' Mess orderlies at the Lancaster Depot. Also, for many years, I have wanted to meet a staunch pal of those old days—a Devon girl, Nora Swain (Billie), who was working with the R.A.F. at Uxbridge when I last heard of her in 1938. These small reunions do much to keep alive the real ex-Service spirit of loyalty and comradeship, and I am glad I heard of the Liverpool meeting in time to attend.

SPORT

Athletics

THE Army Individual Championships were held at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, on June 29 and 30, 1956. Cpl. K. M. Parker created a new Army (Women's Services) Record of 13.2 seconds in the 80-metre hurdles, beating the record of 13.4 seconds made by Pte. M. Jones in 1951. In the javelin, Pte. Norris's throw of 99 ft. 11 in. was only 1 ft. below the record made by Cpl. R. Slade in 1951.

The Inter-Service Championships were organised by the R.A.F. at the R.A.F. Stadium, Uxbridge, on July 18, 1956. The final result was: 1st, W.R.A.F., 71 points; 2nd, W.R.N.S., 47 points; 3rd, W.R.A.C., 32 points.

The Army (Women's) Inter-Unit relay race was included in the Army Unit Team Championships at Aldershot on August 1, 1956, and was won by 3 Independent Company W.R.A.C., Western Command.

Swimming

AT last the Army women swimmers have exploded what was almost becoming a tradition. In the Inter-Services Swimming and Diving Championships at Eltham Baths on August 29 and 30, 1956, they tied for first place with the W.R.N.S., who had won the contest every year since it was inaugurated in 1946. Both teams scored 57 points, and the W.R.A.F. 35 points. We were lucky this year to have an outstanding performer in Cpl. M. Barnes of 2nd Independent Company W.R.A.C., who easily won the 100 yds. free-style with a time of 69.1 seconds, but it is emphasised that this contest is essentially a team event, with every individual's efforts contributing towards the final result. The team is trained in a gruelling 12-day course at Aldershot, where our invaluable coach, S.M.I. Tom Kennedy, goes all out to see that they are "water fit" when the great day comes. The team got their own back on him at the end of this year's

course by throwing him in at the deep end with his clothes on, but we have to admit that he came up smiling. When the team finally went to Eltham they had reached such a high pitch of enthusiasm and physical fitness that they could not fail to do well. Interest in swimming and diving is certainly increasing in the Q.A.R.A.N.C. and W.R.A.C., but owing to poor publicity and the eternal difficulty of getting time off for training and competitions, it is still limited to too few people. However, things are looking up and we are very grateful to all those who took an interest and helped and encouraged us this year. The Inter-Services Swimming and Diving Challenge Cup, held by the W.R.N.S. for a whole decade, is now in our hands for six months, and we hope that next year it will be won outright by the Army. If so we shall do our best to keep it for the next 10 years.

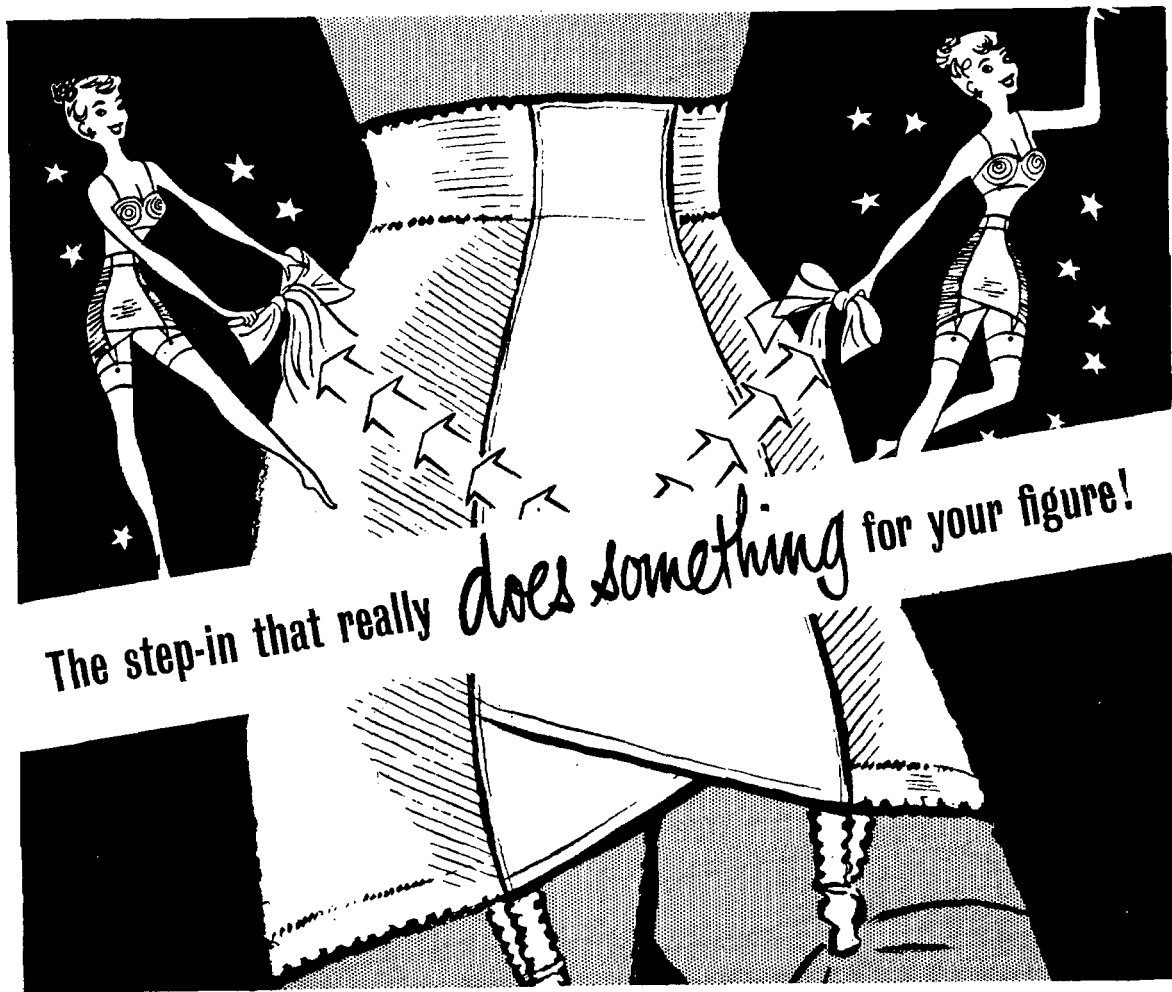
Tennis

IN spite of the weather only two matches had to be cancelled during the season. The standard is really very good and one or two younger players have shown great promise. In the Army (Women's) Championships there were 16 entries for the singles and 9 couples for the doubles. The ladies' singles were won by Lt. E. King, the ladies' open doubles by Capt. M. E. MacLagan and Capt. N. J. Comyn, the ladies' plate by Cpl. Bonner, and the open mixed doubles by Major M. Dewar and Capt. N. J. Comyn.

The Inter-Service Championships were won by the W.R.N.S. with 9 matches. The W.R.A.C. came 2nd with 6 matches, and the W.R.A.F. 3rd with 3. The Inter-Unit Competition was held on September 7 and was completed in spite of a heavy wind and the disturbing effect of the Farnborough Air Show. The tournament was won by H.Q. Eastern Command, with 14th Battalion from B.A.O.R. as runners-up.

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NEWS FROM THE T.A.

Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment

THE unit returned from camp on June 30, having spent a most enjoyable fortnight at the Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, the camp situated at the back of the Depot, Gordon Highlanders.

A ceremonial parade was held on the Gordons' square on Saturday, June 23, and we were fortunate to have the services of the Gordons' Military Band for the occasion. After the march past a drill competition was held for both Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. Both cups were won by the Glasgow Squadron.

Our annual Sports Day on Wednesday, June 27, was most ably organised by the Padre, the Rev. J. Simon, and Capt. M. S. Waugh, M.B.E., W.R.A.C. (T.A.). L/Cpl. Anderson, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), from Edinburgh, was awarded the cup for the best all-round woman athlete. The prizes were presented by our Honorary Colonel, Sir Harold Mitchell, J.P., D.L., who expressed his appreciation of the efforts made by both organisers and competitors to make the day a success.

A most enjoyable dinner-dance was held in the first week at the Bon-Accord Hotel, Aberdeen, organised by the two Edinburgh squadrons, but attended by almost the whole Regiment. On Wednesday of the second week an all ranks' dance was held in aid of the Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. Benevolent funds. This dance was well patronised and we were very pleased to welcome some members of 316 Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), to it.

During camp we were visited by the G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command, Lt.-Gen. Sir Horatius Murray, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., and Lt.-Col. M. K. Marsh, A.D.W.R.A.C. Other visitors included the Chief of Staff, Maj.-Gen. V. D. G. Campbell, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., and the C.S.O., Brigadier J. C. Hardy. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Commanding Officer and officers of the Depot Gordon Highlanders and the Camp Commandant for their help and co-operation, which made our stay in camp so enjoyable.

Western Command (M) Signal Regiment

HAVING had an interesting camp at Chester this year, we are now planning our winter training, and hope to continue the liaison established in camp by having inter-Squadron exercises with the aid of wireless.

Members of No. 2 Squadron attended the ceremony of the laying up of the Colours of the 6th and 7th Battalions, The Manchester Regiment, on September 23, in the Regimental Chapel in Manchester Cathedral. Although unofficial guests, they were invited to sit with the troops who had taken part in the parade. It was impressive to see the number of Old Comrades who had come to see their own Colours laid up, among them members of the original Colour Party which received the Colours from King Edward VII in 1909. This service at the Cathedral made a fitting end to a Sunday training-day.

307 (Northern Command) Battalion

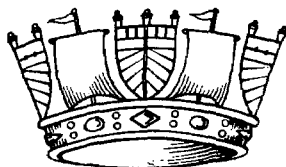
ON Saturday, June 16, 1956, the three companies of the Battalion gathered together from Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to converge in a body on Newcastle Station on their way to Blackfell Camp, Washington. There we were joined by 318 (Cumberland and Westmorland) Battalion, who were to share with us the trials, tribulations and rewards of the next two weeks.

On Sunday afternoon most of the camp went off by coach to Sunderland, where they had a very good time in spite of the weather, and on Monday training started in earnest. From the parade ground every morning squads of clerks, drivers, R.A.O.C. storewomen, and the N.C.O.s' Cadre, marched off to their various wings, while the cooks and orderlies were already hard at work busily preparing lunch. During the day vehicles could be seen creeping round the square and crawling along the A.1, clerks pounding on the typewriters, storewomen organising their model stores, and the N.C.O.s' Cadre marching back and forth to their lectures. One evening the drivers went on a night scheme, moving off in convoy and map-reading their way to a rendezvous on a distant beach, where they found Q.M.S.I. Atkinson and her cooks preparing a hot-dog supper for them. The R.A.O.C. wing spent an interesting and instructive day at Longtown C.O.D., and the N.C.O.s paid an educational visit to Wills tobacco factory. The trade tests on our second Thursday, though nerve-wracking at the time, showed excellent results and proved the success of all this training.

The G.O.C. Northern Command and Brigadier Railton, D.W.R.A.C., both visited the camp, inspected training and showed extreme interest in the work being done. Our third visitor was Major Jamieson, W.R.A.C., from the War Office (T.A.1).

As a break from serious training, parties paid Saturday afternoon visits to Durham, Newcastle and Sunderland to see the Cathedral, cinemas and shops, and to Seaburn, Whitley Bay and Tyne-mouth to enjoy the sea breeze and the fun fairs. On the second Wednesday we held a sports afternoon on a nearby ground, with a close and exciting inter-company netball match, which was won by "A" Company. One of the features of the afternoon was the Chain of Command race, in which some of the officers looked very captivating in the latest millinery fashions created out of newspaper. Some of the younger officers looked rather less charming when being stuffed with huge slices of N.A.A.F.I. cake layered with gaudily-coloured cream. An all ranks' dance rounded off an energetic and happy day and, though there was a noticeable absence of the stronger sex, the evening was a great success.

Our last day was spent on a grand map-reading exercise, which took us to Lindisfarne or Holy Island, where stand the ruins of an early monastery on the site of St. Cuthbert's even earlier one. After eating our haversack rations and buying our souvenirs we returned across the sands to the main-



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land and proceeded on our way to Banburgh, a former Royal borough with an imposing castle standing high above the town overlooking the sea. From there we followed the coast road through Seahouses to Whitley Bay and back for the last time to camp. Last-minute packing, farewells, a crack-of-dawn start, and back to the hustle and bustle of Newcastle Station with our kitbags now a good deal heavier with souvenirs. The Permanent Staff waved what we hoped was a fond farewell as the train took us on our way to our various home stations, and camp was over for 1956.

316 (Scottish Command) Battalion

THIS Battalion, with the addition of the W.R.A.C. element of the disbanding 412 (M) Coast Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), and two N.C.O.s of Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., camped this year at Glencorse. The cooks were 100 per cent. successful in their trade tests after the special course run for them by No. 5 C.I.C., and the drivers also did well under a strong team of P.S.I.s and civilian and W.R.A.C. (T.A.) instructors. Unfortunately, Brigadier Hutchinson, D.D. A.E.R./T.A. at the War Office, was prevented by illness from visiting us, but we were very pleased to welcome our A.D.W.R.A.C., Lt.-Col. Marsh, and Major Jamieson, W.R.A.C., from the War Office (T.A.1). We were most grateful to O.C. the Depot Royal Scots, who not only arranged for us to visit the Regimental Museum and use their field for our sports, but allowed us the privilege of marching to church behind the pipes and drums of the First of Foot.

70 (Somerset and Dorset) Independent Company

ON Sunday, August 26, by courtesy of the Chief of Wiltshire Police, members of the three Dorset Platoons (from Dorchester, Blandford and Poole) visited District No. 9 Police Driving School at Devizes to learn how police-car drivers are taught the meaning of road safety. After Inspector Williams had given a talk on the work of the school and explained the basis of police-driver training, the women were driven in police cars through the surrounding country by instructors who gave running commentaries to show how great a part observation and anticipation play in the matter of safe driving. Braking time, and the calculation of feet travelled per second, took on a new significance, especially when travelling at 80 m.p.h. The instruction ended with a visit to the skid pan, where police instructors demonstrated the results of uncontrolled, over-controlled and controlled skidding, with the women as passengers in the cars performing the evolutions. Driving back from Devizes to their units, the women were able to put the training into immediate practice, with (no doubt) considerable benefit to themselves and other road users.

72 Independent Company

THE Independent Company, with 304 (Sussex and Surrey) Battalion, camped at Shorncliffe from June 2 to 16. On the training side everything

went well. Several cooks and R.A.O.C. storewomen passed their trade tests, and three learner drivers passed their driving tests. One officer and one sergeant represented the Company on a most strenuous first-aid course, which included the bringing-in of casualties from the battlefield. Everyone—even the casualties—enjoyed this, and it is pleasant to record that the women brought in quite as many wounded as the men, and dealt with them just as efficiently. We were visited by the D.W.R.A.C.; the Deputy Commander Salisbury Plain District, Brigadier R.M.N. Jones, C.B.E., A.D.C.; the D.D.A.E.R./T.A., Brigadier G. F. Hutchinson, D.S.O. (accompanied by Major M. N. Jamieson, W.R.A.C.); Col. M. K. R. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D., D.D.W.R.A.C. Eastern Command; Col. C. W. Hull, C.B.E., T.D. D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command; and Major M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., D.A.D.W.R.A.C. Salisbury Plain District.

We made the most of our fortnight by the sea, and one or two hardy souls actually went sea-bathing. We had a very successful Company dance on our first Thursday, and in the second week, while some went to London to see the Royal Tournament, the rest went on a day trip to France. We had a smooth crossing from Folkestone to Boulogne, and spent our six hours ashore in exploring Boulogne and eating an enormous and delicious French lunch. A few daring people visited the Casino, and one was kissed on both cheeks by a Frenchman in true continental style (or so she says). On the last night of camp we had our camp concert, of which the high light was "Cinderella—T.A. Style" magnificently performed by the Sergeants' Mess. Altogether, despite the weather (which damped our uniforms but never our spirits), we were sorry when camp was over, and are already looking forward to next year.

MARRIAGES

Bagwell Purefoy—Watts.—On September 15, 1956, at Beckenham Parish Church, Lt. P. R. Bagwell Purefoy, R.A., to Lt. Leslie Watts, W.R.A.C.

Bennison—Pickersgill.—On June 16, 1956, at St. Simon and St. Jude's R.C. Church, Middleham, Yorkshire, William Henry Bennison to Mary Pickersgill, ex-W.R.A.C. Present address: "The Bungalow," Heslerton, Bedale, N. Yorkshire.

Scott-Watson—Smith.—On July 27, 1956, at Darley Dale, Lt.-Col. W. Scott-Watson, M.C., R.A. (retired), to Capt. M. Smith, W.R.A.C. (retired) ("Smithy"). Present address: Burnhead, Hawick, Roxburghshire.

BIRTHS

Coombes—On September 18, 1956, at B.M.H., Kinrara, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, to M. E. M. Coombes (ex-R.S.M. Carter), a daughter.

Hudson.—On May 27, 1956, at Sydney, Australia, to Clare, née Birch, A.T.S., wife of Arthur Hudson, a son, Christopher Martin. Present address: 94 Caledonian Street, Bexley, Sydney, N.S.W.



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Retirements

IN this issue of *The Lioness* we have to say good-bye to two familiar figures who have just left the Corps on retirement. Col. M. D. Morgan retired on October 14, 1956, after almost exactly eighteen years in the Service. She served in Scottish Command for the whole of the war, and was then appointed in succession as A.D.A.T.S. East Central, East Anglian, and North Midland Districts. She was well known to travellers abroad as A.D.A.T.S. M.E.L.F. from 1947 to 1950, and to units at home as Second-in-Command, Medical Services and W.R.A.C. Records, from 1950 to 1952. After nine months in command of the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction she was appointed A.A.G. (A.G. 16), and held this appointment until her retirement. In private life she is a keen sportswoman, an experienced traveller and a fluent linguist, with the unusual distinction of being sometime tennis champion of the Balearic Islands. As President of the Army (Women's) Athletic Association and Chairman of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund she made a great contribution to Service activities. We wish her many further successes and achievements in civil life.

The marriage of Lt.-Col. M. H. Pine, M.B.E., T.D., on August 15, 1956, gave great happiness to all her friends in the Service. She was commissioned in November 1938, and for the next ten years filled Regimental, Staff and Education appointments in the U.K. and Middle East. She was A.D.A.T.S. East Anglian District from 1948 to 1950, A.D.W.R.A.C. Aldershot District from 1950 to 1952, and A.D.W.R.A.C. 1 A.A. Group from 1952 to 1954. Her last appointment was A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command. She was married to Col. F. S. Morgan, C.B.E., D.L., at the Church of St. Mary's in the Wall, Chester, given away by the G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, and a reception was held afterwards at the Grosvenor Hotel. We send her many congratulations on this happy ending to her military career, and many good wishes for the future.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF BRITISH SERVICE AND EX-SERVICE ASSOCIATIONS

PROBABLY few members of the W.R.A.C. Association have heard of this Committee, which was originated in 1949 by the R.A.F. Association and has met four or five times a year ever since. Its purpose is to further co-operation between Service and ex-Service organisations, and to put up a united front on welfare topics of importance to ex-Service men and women. It now has 22 members, representing such organisations as the British Legion, St. Dunstan's, British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association and South African War Veterans' Association, as well as Old Comrades' Associations of all three Services. The W.R.A.C. Association has been represented since 1954 by Mrs. A. J. Lumsden.

PERSONAL

We very much regret that, in order to meet the rise in printing costs, it is necessary to increase the charge in future for notices in this column. The revised rates are shown on the Contents page.

Ex-A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. personnel interested in Signals Training required by No. 2 Squadron, Western Command (M), Signal Regiment (T.A.), Palm Court, Park Lane, Salford 7, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 9.30 pm..

For Sale.—No. 1 Dress. Height 5 ft. 4 in.; bust 38 in.; waist 26 in.; hips 39 in.; cap (6½). £10. Box No. 13/56.

For Sale.—Khaki Service Dress and Greatcoat. Height 5 ft. 2 in.; bust 34 in.; hips 36 in. Price £3 10s. Miss Coffey, Stonebeck, Middleton, Ilkley, Yorks.

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 Dress Jacket and Skirt, £15. Green Greatcoat, £15. Height 5 ft. 6 in.; bust 36½ in.; waist 27 in.; hips 40 in. Weatherill tailored. Also No. 1 Dress Hat (7½), £2. Will send on approval. Mrs. E. J. Beale, c/o Major E. J. Beale, A(M.P.A.) Branch, H.Q. B.A.O.R., B.F.P.O. 40.

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 Dress Tunic and Skirt, green shirts, collars (size 13½), tie, complete set buttons and badges, No. 1 Dress cap (size 6½). All by Weatherill. Also new green satchel. Height 5 ft. 7 in.; bust 36 in.; waist 26 in.; hips 36-38 in. £6 the lot or offers for separate items. Write: Capt. M. H. Plant, W.R.A.C. Depot, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, Surrey.

For Sale.—Officer's Service Dress, cap and khaki greatcoat. Height 5 ft. 7 in.; bust 36 in.; hips 40 in. Miss Daborn, Kenward, Yalding, Kent.

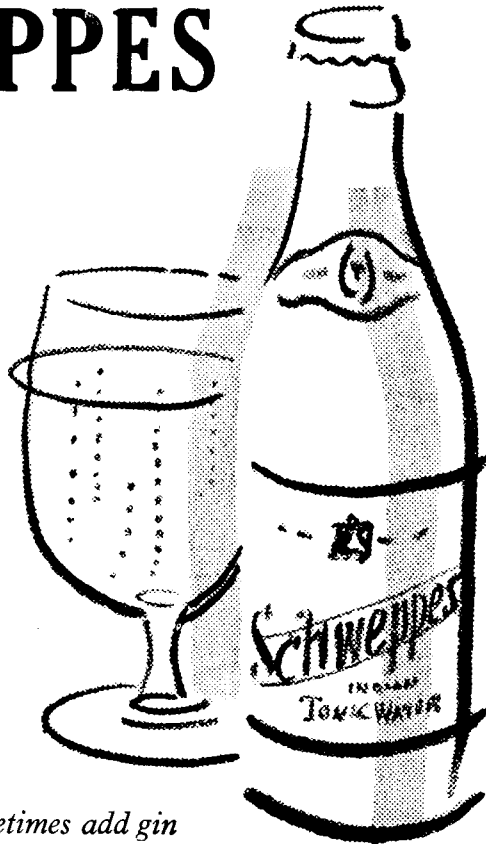
The Service Women's Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, S.W.1, exists for the comfort and convenience of Service and ex-Service women of all ranks. It provides accommodation and the usual amenities of a ladies' club at most reasonable rates and new members are always welcome. For full particulars and brochure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

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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.

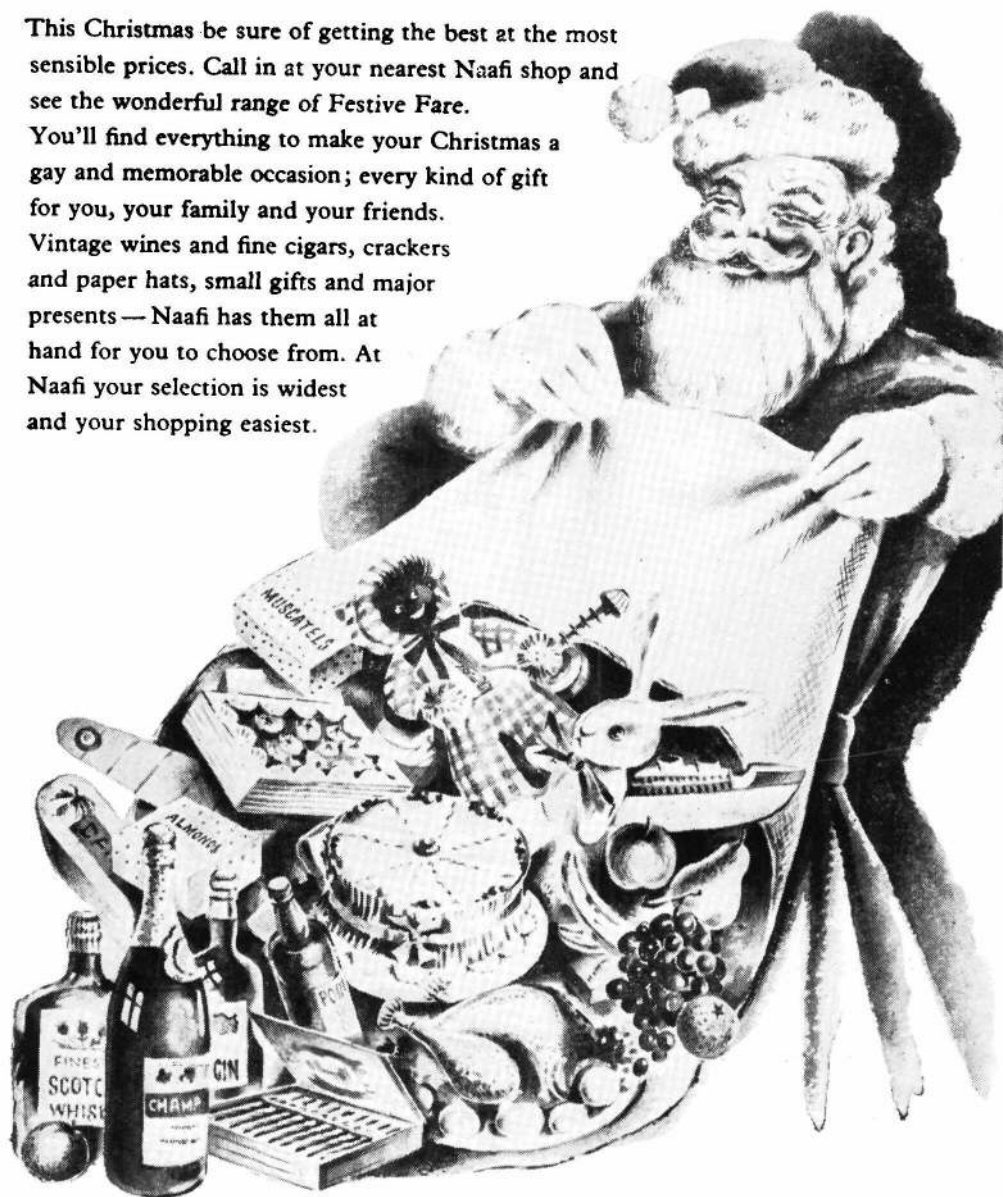
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