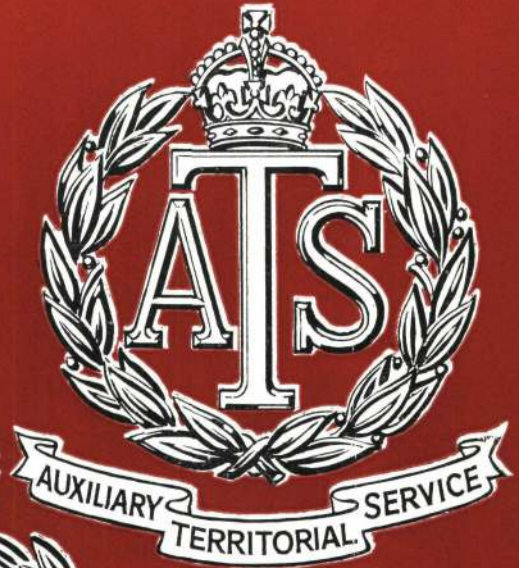


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(to whom all communications should be addressed
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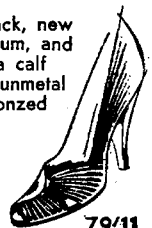
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GRAND REUNION, 1957



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXX

May 1957

No. 2

EDITORIAL

THE LIONESS goes to press in the full flush of excitement after one of the best reunion weekends that anyone can remember, and we make no apology for the fact that our pages, like our thoughts, have room for little else. Over 1,100 serving and ex-Service women attended the Grand Reunion, but there are many thousands of others who could only be with us in spirit, and we want them to share our memories in the fullest possible detail. We publish the speeches in full, for those who heard them on that memorable night will be glad to read them again at leisure, and those who did not hear them must not be allowed to miss an inspiring and invigorating experience. Those speeches brought home to us once again that never was a Corps more magnificently led, and we hope their reception convinced the platform party that never were leaders more devotedly followed.

WE also print, by special request, the script of the *Flashback* narrative, although we can never conjure up in cold print the beautiful and expressive voice of Capt. Rhona Marsh as she spoke it on the night. Neither can we reproduce the effect of the tableaux themselves, which, having been rehearsed only on the day of the performance and in broad daylight, provided the originators as well as the audience with a few unexpected scenes. Only those who saw it with their own eyes can envisage an air-raid over rural England with half the landscape spread out underfoot and the other half floating upside down in the sky. This is one of those great emotional experiences which, we are afraid, can never be shared.

THE emphasis during the whole weekend was on service—service in the past and service still to come—and it was impressive to realise how many of those who took part are still making their contribution in one form or another. The instinct to serve, once it is planted, dies very hard. The ranks of the active W.R.A.C. are continually augmented by a steady trickle of ex-Service women who come back to the Colours after a sample of civilian life. They are always welcome, and their knowledge and experience is a valuable strength to the Corps.

MANY ex-officers whose family responsibilities make it impossible for them to give their whole lives to the Army have taken jobs as recruiting officers where they can live at home and devote their days to building up the Corps of the future. There are always openings for these invaluable officers (five could be placed at this moment) and they make a double contribution by giving their

own services and securing those of the new recruits. Others on "consolidated rates of pay" serve in their home areas as adjutants and quartermasters to W.R.A.C. (T.A.) units. In the ranks there is the "Type R" engagement, which offers a woman full-time work in the area of her choice, with no liability for posting except in war, as a recruiting sergeant or on the permanent staff of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

EVEN when a woman has a full-time civilian job or the more than full-time duties of a home and family, it does not seem to dim her enthusiasm for Army service. Many of those who took part in the *Flashback* tableaux were members of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.), giving up their evenings and weekends to zealous and indefatigable Army training. No one watching could have identified them, by appearance or bearing, from the smartest and more highly trained Regulars, and their standard of efficiency off-stage is equally high. Behind them there are, we know, great reserves of trained women who can no longer spare the time even for T.A. service, but who keep us still in their thoughts and would be back with us at once in any emergency.

AND what about those who have passed the age limits and persist in speaking of themselves (very unconvincingly) as the has-beens of the Service? They are playing a part which in one way is the finest of all, because it brings them no material reward whatever. The Annual General Meeting on the day of the Grand Reunion reminded us, if we needed reminding, of the great stream of voluntary service—enthusiastic, imaginative, untiring and laced with human sympathy—which flows into the branches of the W.R.A.C. Association and into the work of the Benevolent Funds. No one who continues to give her time and effort to this great side of Service life need ever feel that her Army service is behind her or that her value to the Corps is a thing of the past. Among the Not-so-old Comrades we have an outstanding example in the Chairman of the Reunion Committee, Mrs. Stevenson, who devoted months of hard work to the organisation of the evening, and whose efficiency, energy, tact and cheerful good-humour were in keeping with our best traditions.

THIS thrilling and satisfying reunion weekend answered once and for all the heart-searching question which outsiders sometimes ask us: *What do we get out of it?* It would mean very little if we did not feel that the rewards are earned, and will continue to be earned, by a shared service lasting to the end of our lives.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, March 23, 1957, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, by kind permission of the County of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association. The Chair was taken at 3 p.m. by the President of the Association, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 24, 1956, having appeared in the May issue of *The Lioness*, were taken as read and signed as correct.

2. Business Arising

Increase in Subscriptions. Mrs. Rumbold moved the following resolution: "That the annual subscription be raised to 6s., the four-yearly to £1 4s. 0d., life subscriptions to £6 and copies of *The Lioness* to serving members from 9d. to 1s." This was seconded by Miss Roberts of the Edinburgh Branch. After discussion the resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority.

3. Election of Officers

Chairman of Council. As there was only one nomination, the President declared Dame Frances Coulshed to be elected.

Council Vice-Presidents. There were five nominations and a ballot was taken. Dame Regina Evans, Mrs. Fraser-Tyler, Mrs. V. Rumbold and Miss V. K. Stead were elected.

4. Reports

Report of Council. The report of the Council (printed at the end of these minutes) was read by Dame Frances Coulshed and adopted.

Report of Hon. Treasurer. The Hon. Treasurer dealt with the accounts for the year ending October 31, 1956, and proposed their adoption. This was seconded by Mrs. Holliss and carried.

Report of the Editor, The Lioness. The Editor reported that *The Lioness* had not covered expenses during the year, but the advertisement revenue had gone up and the circulation had slightly increased, so the outlook for 1957 was rather more hopeful. The Editor thanked the Q.M.A.A.C. and the serving W.R.A.C. for many interesting articles, and asked for more from the A.T.S.

The Business Manager, Major J. Berry, was being posted to B.A.O.R. Col. Crawley was glad to have this opportunity of thanking her for all she had done in the past.

5. Report of Committees

A.T.S. Benevolent Fund. Miss Acland, on behalf of the Committee, reported that 1956 had been a busy year and over £10,000 had been expended. Since the formation of the fund the number of

individual applicants reached nearly 22,000 and £200,000 had been distributed. An increasing number of middle-aged and elderly women came to the fund for assistance. No report would be complete without mention of the invaluable work given by Mrs. Macfie of the A.T.S. Employment Office, especially among the older age group.

W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Mrs. Holliss reported the illness of the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer of the fund and expressed their regret at being unable to be present. Since March 1, 1956, 95 applications had been considered by the joint Grants Committee and the sum of £641 2s. 8d. expended, £40 of which it was hoped would be repaid. £1,004 11s. 10d. had been received in donations. Two anonymous donors had given £52 3s. 6d. and £43 9s. 6d. Lt.-Col. J. G. Grierson had become Chairman of the fund in place of Col. Morgan, who had now been elected to serve on the Committee.

Museum. Lt.-Col. Gibson reported that a number of gifts had lately been received for the Museum, including the insignia of Dame Florence Simpson's D.B.E., the first D.B.E., Military Division, to be awarded. Numerous visitors, both military and civilian, had visited the Museum during the past year and one branch of the Association had kindly sent a donation afterwards. Col. Cooke had accepted office as part-time Hon. Curator. The chief items of expense during the year included £15 for a figure showcase purchased from the Museum at the R.M.A., Sandhurst, for the uniform of Her Majesty The Queen, £49 for two filing cabinets, £15 for folders and mountings and £12 insurance, which included two-thirds of the cost of insuring the silver gun presented by A.A. Command to the Corps in 1955.

6. Garrison Church

Lt.-Col. Gibson hoped that the Church, which had been built from a disused rifle range, would be completed in April. It was agreed that a list should appear in *The Lioness* of ways in which help might be given, together with a list of those things that had already been received. Miss Harvie-Anderson suggested that branches might make kneelers as a joint effort.

7. Council Resolution

It was proposed by Miss Acland, seconded by Brigadier Dame Mary Railton and carried "That the resolution authorising a reunion in alternate years passed at the Annual General Meeting of March 15, 1952, Minute 8 (e) be rescinded and that in future a W.R.A.C. Association reunion be held annually." Mrs. Stevenson suggested that the Grand Reunion should alternate with an afternoon assembly following the A.G.M.

8. Branch Resolution

Mrs. Paton, Secretary of Oxford Branch, moved "That the annual subscriptions for old age pensioners be reduced." Mrs. Rumbold, Norfolk

Branch, felt that branches should look after their own members. After much discussion the resolution was put to the meeting and lost.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was left for decision by the Council.

Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan moved a vote of thanks to the President, which was carried by acclamation.

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

Report of Council

DURING the early part of the year there was little to report. The Benevolent Funds continued their invaluable work, some new Branches were considered and plans were made for area reunions.

Members had been anxious about the illness of Dame Florence Simpson, their President, and learnt with profound regret of her death on September 5. She had been President since the formation of Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades Association in 1919. A memorial service was held at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, on September 21.

At their meeting on October 22, the Council submitted to the Princess Royal a request that she would accept the Presidency of the Association. This Her Royal Highness graciously consented to do.

The preparations for the 40th anniversary of our Service have involved much activity.

Very successful reunions were held by Northern, Southern and Western Areas.

The Association was well represented in the march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day, and a wreath was laid by a member of the Reading Branch. A cross was planted on the field of remembrance by Capt. A. Keefe, W.R.A.C., accompanied by Miss E. M. Winter (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.) and Miss B. Helsby (ex-A.T.S.).

Although no new Branches have been formed this year, a great deal of activity and added interest in the Association has been shown by existing ones. Thirty-five Secretaries attended the Branch Secretaries meeting.

Secretaries Meeting

THE Secretaries Meeting this year was attended by 35 Secretaries and three assistants, who gave varied and interesting accounts of their Branch activities during the year. Many Branches had gained new members.

LOST

The Chairman of the Oxford Branch, Miss M. V. Frost, of 55 Holywell, Oxford, left a brown-and-white check mackintosh in the chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Sunday, March 24, after the service. If any member has found it will she kindly return it to Miss Frost?



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Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion

THIS popular reunion, which takes place every year at the Duke of York's Headquarters the night before the Annual General Meeting, was very well attended and a number of members came who had not been for some time. It was, of course, a very special occasion, as we were celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the formation of the Corps and H.R.H. The Princess Royal honoured us by being present. This is a very friendly party, for as the years go by almost everyone knows everyone else and has some memory in common, and the presence of the Princess, daughter of our late Commandant-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Mary, though adding greatly to our pleasure in no way altered the happy and informal atmosphere.

Her Royal Highness, with her Lady-in-Waiting, Mrs. Francis Balfour, arrived early in the evening and was received by Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan. A number of members were presented and afterwards Her Highness chatted informally to many more, including some of those who remembered her day with the Q.M.A.A.C. on a visit to the B.E.F. in 1914. This visit, when the Princess was a young girl, has been a never-forgotten episode in the history of the Corps, and it transpired that the Princess too had vivid recollections of her experiences and remembered every detail.

No fixed entertainment had been provided, but Mrs. Giles, who is always the life and soul of any party, had organised an amusing little sketch, and

the old familiar 1914-1918 songs, together with a slightly altered version of "Forty Years On," were sung with great zest. Her Royal Highness joined in the singing and stayed with us almost till the end. It was a very happy evening and will remain as another outstanding event in our history. We are all grateful to the Princess for sharing our celebrations and adding so much to their success, and we should like to thank Dame Helen, Mrs. Lumsden and the charming members of the A.T.S. who did so much to help. E.T.

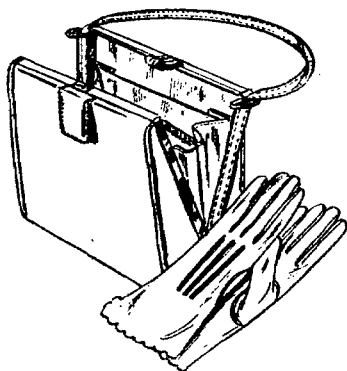
The Reunion Service

THE Service at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on the morning of Sunday, March 24, made a fitting ending to a wonderful week-end. The beautiful and historic Chapel was a perfect setting for a service which was in part a thanksgiving for forty years of association with the Army and in part a dedication for the years of service still to come. H.R.H. The Princess Royal read the lesson, a stirring passage from the first chapter of Joshua, and Canon V. J. Pike, Chaplain General to the Forces, gave a moving and inspiring address which went straight to all our hearts. It was so clearly delivered that, as one member of the congregation put it, "even the deafest W.A.A.C. could hear him."

After the Service Her Royal Highness attended an informal little coffee-party given by Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan at the Duke of York's Headquarters.

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THE GRAND REUNION

ON the unforgettable evening of Saturday, March 23, 1957, over 1,100 members of the Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. mustered at the Seymour Hall to celebrate the fortieth birthday of the Women's Service. To an onlooker in the gallery, the first thing that struck the eye was the extraordinarily pleasing kaleidoscopic effect of the gay hats and clothes of the assembled comrades as they waited for the arrival of H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and H.R.H. The Princess Royal. From this great herbaceous border rose a hum of animated talk as old friends spotted each other in their respective zones. There seemed to be an atmosphere of enjoyment from the very start of this Reunion, and it was clear that great efforts had been made by many to attend from long distances. World War I members were particularly well represented, and there were many personal reunions, in some cases the first for 30 years or so.

As the sound waxed louder and louder, suddenly there was a hush, and almost before we were aware of it The Queen Mother and the Princess Royal were in our midst. Heralded by a fanfare from the W.R.A.C. Band, they came up through the hall and took their places on the platform, supported by Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, Dame Frances Coulshed, the Director, the Secretary of State for War, and the Mayor and Mayoress of St. Marylebone. H.M. The Queen Mother looked radiant and obviously pleased to be with us. Her lovely powder-blue dress and the darker blue one of the Princess Royal made a striking and satisfying focus for the whole assembly.

The speeches, which are fully reported on another page, were received with an overwhelming ovation. After the vote of thanks (ably proposed by R.S.M. Glover) and three hearty cheers for the royal guests, Her Royal Highness read aloud the following message which had been sent to H.M. The Queen: *All ranks of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Auxiliary Territorial Service and the Women's Royal Army Corps, assembled at their Grand Reunion*

on the fortieth anniversary of the inauguration of their Service, offer to Her Majesty The Queen their most loyal duty, affectionate devotion and heartfelt good wishes, proudly recalling that Her Majesty also served.

Her Majesty had replied:

Please convey my sincere thanks to all ranks of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Auxiliary Territorial Service and the Women's Royal Army Corps for their very kind and loyal message sent on the occasion of their fortieth anniversary. I send them all my best wishes.
ELIZABETH R.

Among the many other messages received were telegrams from East Africa, Gibraltar and the R.N. Association.

Then followed the "Flash Back," a most original and well-planned series of tableaux symbolising our history from 1917 to the present day. The coloured lantern-slides of actual scenes cast onto a backcloth, with living figures posed in front of each one, made a moving and effective panorama of the past and its continuity with the present. The narrative, beautifully spoken by Capt. Rhona Marsh, and the gentle nostalgia of the old songs so sympathetically played by our own Band directed by Capt. J. M. MacDowall, made it easy to think of those we particularly

Photo by United Photographers

wanted to remember on this their fortieth anniversary.

As soon as the tableaux were over the hall was partially cleared and the crowd surged into the empty space. Everywhere friends were hailing each other, little knots of old comrades gathered and dispersed, greetings and reminiscences rang in the air. H.M. The Queen Mother and H.R.H. The Princess Royal moved freely through the throng, talking to one little group after another in a gracious and informal way which gave untold pleasure. Then another silence fell, when the Band marched in to beat Retreat; and finally, with the last flicker of strength in our over-worked voices, we joined wholeheartedly in the familiar melody of Auld Lang Syne. This brought to an end what everyone will surely remember as one of the red-letter days in the history of the Corps.



THE REUNION SPEECHES

H.R.H. The Princess Royal

IT is a very great pleasure to welcome Your Majesty to our reunion tonight in celebration of the fortieth year of our existence. I would like to say how delighted we all are at your presence, and to assure you of our deep appreciation of the honour you bestowed upon our Corps by consenting to become Commandant-in-Chief.

When I look back it seems a long time since the formation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Although women as nurses had been serving with the armed forces for many years, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps were the pioneer Corps of women employed by the War Department for service with the fighting forces. Her Majesty Queen Mary, my beloved mother, from the beginning of its work took a personal interest in the Corps and on her visit to France conferred upon it the title of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps in recognition of their fine work and the gallant behaviour of all ranks. Until the day of her death Her late Majesty took a keen interest in all matters concerning the Old Comrades' Association and in everything affecting ex-Service women.

During World War I, I served in a Voluntary Aid Detachment, but I had the pleasure of visiting France and seeing something of the work of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. Ever since those days I have felt the greatest admiration for their work and bearing as our first soldier women. On the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service it was a great pleasure for me to join the new organisation, and after mobilisation to serve throughout the hostilities.

In 1939 the new Service was called upon to undertake duties and responsibilities not imagined heretofore to be suitable for women. The admiration I had always felt for the original Q.M.s was sustained and increased by the performance of what we might call "their daughters." I saw all sides of their work at home and abroad, from the smallest gun site to the largest camp, named after Your Majesty. I recall with pride and pleasure the good discipline, devotion to duty and, above all, the high morale which has distinguished our Service. I have spoken about the past because on occasions such as this we do well to remember.

Now to the present and future. Today what would never have been visualised in 1917 has come into being. The Women's Royal Army Corps, a Regular Corps of the Army, is a permanent part of our armed forces. Today they are serving at home and abroad, taking their part in the defence of our Empire and Commonwealth with the same spirit of loyalty and the same patriotism as their predecessors. The honour of the Corps is safe in their hands; they would be the first to acknowledge that that loyalty and patriotism is a priceless inheritance from those who served before. I would like to tell Your Majesty that tonight you are seeing a reunion of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Auxiliary Territorial Service and the Women's Royal Army Corps, who, under three different names, are bound together as Old Comrades inspired by the spirit of

past and present friendships founded on our loyalty to the Crown and country.

H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

I AM so very glad to be here at your reunion this evening, and to have this opportunity of meeting many past and present members of your Corps. This great experiment, which started 40 years ago, gave to the women of our country and Commonwealth the opportunity of new and important service and brought to our fighting forces a supporting arm of immense value. The story of its evolution and development over the years is well known to you all. Tonight I would say a special word of welcome to the members of Queen Mary's Auxiliary Corps, who I am delighted to know are with us at this reunion, and our thoughts go out to their fellows in many parts of the Commonwealth.

When, in 1938, I became Commandant-in-Chief of the newly formed Auxiliary Territorial Service, it was my earliest care to invite the Princess Royal to make it her special interest. All of you know well the devoted service and wonderful example which Her Royal Highness has given, and we rejoice tonight in the high military rank which has been granted to her and in the honour thereby done to the Corps.

During the war I came to have an even closer interest in the Auxiliary Territorial Service as the mother of one of its officers. From that vantage point I learnt something of the hopes and anxieties, of the achievements and disappointments, but most of all of the loyalty and enthusiasm of those who were serving at that time. I think I learnt, too, a little of the measure of forbearance and patience which is demanded and which is so loyally given by the parents of those in your Service.

Since the war, as Commandant-in-Chief of the Women's Royal Army Corps, I have watched with pride the maintenance in peace time of those qualities of efficiency and good discipline which were so constant during the war. Over a period of 40 years, under different titles and in varying roles, you have given your service gladly. In two wars and in times of peace, so often fraught with anxiety, your standards of loyalty and devotion have never varied. In the future I know that this splendid tradition will be upheld, and I would like to offer my warm good wishes to those who are maintaining it so worthily.

The Rt. Hon. John Hare, Secretary of State for War

YOUR Majesty, your Royal Highness, Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen. A 40th anniversary is bound to be an important occasion. Indeed those responsible for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps back in the desperate days of 1917 probably had little idea that they were inaugurating a great tradition of service by women in the Army. But the occasion has been made even more important by the presence tonight of Your Majesty as Commandant-in-Chief of the Women's Royal Army Corps and your Royal Highness as President and Controller Commandant. What was bound to be

a memorable evening will now become infinitely more so.

As Secretary of State for War I have the honour and pleasure to be making history, since no predecessor of mine has ever had the opportunity of attending such an anniversary as this. Doubtless as the years roll on the Women's Royal Army Corps will hold similar celebrations when I hope my successors of the day will be given the same pleasure as I have tonight.

I am sure that the pioneer women who were the first to serve the Army must feel proud that the service which they started should have grown so strong and flourished so widely. We are delighted that many of them have been able to come tonight. They will remember their own achievements. They also will have seen how 20 years later the A.T.S. played a vital part in achieving the victory which after six long years was ours in 1945.

Today the Army finds the contribution made by the Women's Royal Army Corps quite invaluable. In the few months I have been at the War Office I have been able to see for myself something of the work being done by members of the Corps in the Middle East, in Home Commands and in the War Office itself. They are now, of course, an integral part of the Army, enjoying exactly the same status as men, and everywhere doing the work just as well. I very nearly said better, but I had better be careful, or I will get into trouble. Women are making a most important contribution to the Army now and I hope that they will continue to do so.

Your Royal Highness, I know everyone here would like me to refer to your recent promotion to Honorary General. This promotion has brought joy and pride to all of us here tonight who deeply appreciate the great and continuous interest you have shown in this Corps. Your close connection is very real and we are indeed grateful for all the time and trouble you give to keep in touch with the Corps and encourage its members.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the ladies here tonight who have served in the two world wars or since 1945. By their achievements they have built up a tradition which has won for the Women's Royal Army Corps of today the high standing which it so rightly enjoys.

Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, G.B.E.

YOUR Majesty, your Royal Highness, my very dear Old Comrades of two wars and of three Corps, I know that I speak for you all in thanking Her Majesty for her most gracious words and in acclaiming the Princess Royal as our President and so, indeed, as one of us. As to ourselves, our feeling today, whether we quite realise it or not, is of thankfulness that we had the opportunity to serve. Our service has made us members of a great fellowship, it has strengthened us with the steady experience of discipline, and it has given us memories, serious, frivolous, comic and proud, which come out on such days as this and when we meet one another. These things can help you who have the honour to share in the guardianship of peace. As for us poor civilians, they can enable us, even in civil life, to be of more service to our country. And so God bless you all.

3 good reasons why I bank at the Westminster

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

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

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

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

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FLASHBACK

(shown at the Grand Reunion, 1957)

The instructor to the recruits:

Now, are you ready? All your pencils sharp?
Your notebooks open? Private Brown, wake up.
You're always far away among the clouds—
I don't believe you hear a word I say.
Today I want to try and tell you all
A little of the story of the Corps,
And how it all began, and how it grew,
And how we earned the badge you wear today.
It takes us back exactly forty years,
To those grave moments of the first world war
When Britain's back was up against the wall
And man-power stretched beyond the breaking
point.

The Army Council looked for fresh reserves
And found them ready, eager to be called,
A wide uncharted field of volunteers—
The wives and sisters of the fighting men.
From quiet homes and safe civilian jobs,
From war work long and faithfully performed,
With all their powers of hand and brain to give
And nothing asked except the right to serve,
Disproving doubts, disarming prejudice,
They flocked to fill the gaps behind the lines.
It seems to you a page of history,
Yet those recruits of nineteen seventeen
Were young and keen and spirited like you
And wore their uniform with equal pride.
The first contingent drafted overseas
Set foot in France on March the thirty-first.
I want you, if you can, to travel back
And picture to yourselves that wartime scene.
The channel boat—the harbour at Boulogne—
That misty morning, forty years ago.

THE FIRST PICTURE

Boulogne, 1917

That little band of eager pioneers
Has set a standard that we follow still,
Of zeal and loyalty and faithful work
And bravery and cheerful hardihood.
In long dark years of war they proved themselves,
And proved how readily a woman's hand
Can turn from arts of peace to crafts of war
And steel its gentleness with fortitude.
So when the war clouds gathered once again
And England's strength was mustered for the fight,
The women came unquestioned with the men
To serve their country in her hour of need.
The A.T.S. of nineteen-thirty-eight
Was small in size and simple in its scope,
But as the struggle grew more desperate
The field enlarged, the calls were multiplied.
With each new task proposed, new powers were
proved,
New skills were learnt, new powers proudly borne.
At home, abroad, in offices and stores,
At wheel and switchboard, bench and pigeon-hole,
As clerks and fitters, cooks and kennel-maids,

The women confidently played their part,
While on the gunsites, trained and vigilant,
In perfect partnership with guns and men,
They met the lurid menace from the air
And barred the way that led to England's heart.

THE SECOND PICTURE

Somewhere in England, 1942

The nightmare ended and the work was done.
The black out lifted, bells rang out for peace.
The war-scarred nations laid aside their arms
And weary warriors turned their steps for home.
But still the peace time army soldiered on,
The guardian of the peace so hardly gained,
And in that force the women held their place,
Tested and proved by two exacting wars.
In February nineteen forty nine
The seeds were harvested, the dream came true.
The Women's Royal Army Corps was formed
Within the standing armies of the crown.
Now far and wide where British Colours fly
You find the women serving with the men,
And showing by their steady will to work
And cheerful readiness to take what comes,
We do not need the stimulus of war,
The spice of danger or the threat of doom,
To bring out all the best we have to give
Of character and brain and craftsmanship.
In tropic rains and Scandinavian snows,
Jamaican storms and dismal British fogs,
In unfamiliar places, far from home,
Through calm and crisis, strain and tedium,
They meet the daily hazards of the job
With that same courage, zeal and common sense
Which earn the nation's trust in stormier days,
And earns it still, and proves it justified.

THE THIRD PICTURE

Singapore, 1957

So you, who joined the Corps a week ago
Take on the heritage of forty years,
The lasting work of those who blazed the trail,
And served their time, and stood aside for you.
The spirit of the Corps will never die
While year by year the torch is carried on
By younger hands, as brave and firm as theirs,
Pledged to the same unswerving loyalties.
This page is yours to write, in such a way
That those who read it forty years from now
May feel as proud to claim descent from you
As we are proud of those who built for us.
We are not judged by single daring deeds,
But by the verdict of the proving years,
The watching eyes that see us come and go
"Strong in our purpose, gentle in our ways."
If men in years to come, remembering us,
Give honour to the Corps we represent,
Then we, who live and die unknown to fame,
Still have our share of immortality.

THE FOURTH PICTURE

The Corps of the Future Takes Over

The Singer

I give you a toast, Ladies and Gentlemen.
I give you a toast, Ladies and Gentlemen.
May this young Corps whose badge we wear
In glory grow from year to year,
That men may praise in Peace and War
The Women's Royal Army Corps.

We'll play our part for England
As long as bugles blow
To stir the blood in duty's cause
Where'er her armies go.
We'll play our part for England
As long as flags shall fly
To show where men in freedom live
And men for freedom die.
Head, heart and hand
Vowed to our native land,
Proud of our skill,
Firm in our will,
We follow the drum.
In danger brave,
True to the oath we gave,
Ready to serve,
Steady of nerve
Whatever may come.
We'll play our part for England
Who wear her martial green
While England needs what we can give
As soldiers of the Queen.

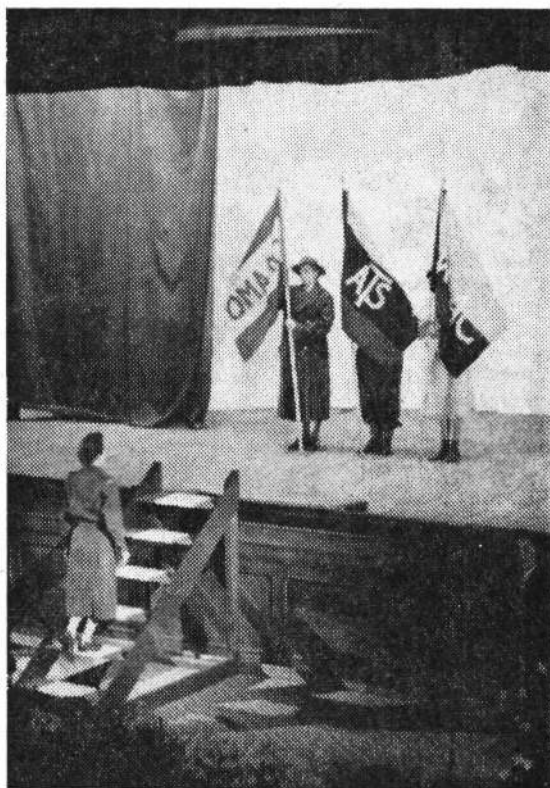


Photo by Universal Photographers

THE DEPOT CHURCH

THE new Church being built at the W.R.A.C. Depot is practically finished. The Sappers have excelled themselves by converting a hutted rifle range (fortunately disused) into a Church. It will hold nearly 400, and considering that the strength of the Depot has been over 700 for some weeks past it will certainly not be too large.

There is a great delay over securing certain items of furnishings, and some will not be available until next year or after. Other items are not catered for at all by the W.D. We should therefore be most grateful for gifts or contributions to help buy certain items. The following have already been given or promised:

Altar curtains, Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E., A.D.C.; illuminated collect, Dame Frances Coulshed, D.B.E., T.D. (cheque); cross and candle sticks and brass vases, Miss Acland; cruet, Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil; pictures, Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E. and Col. C. W. Hull, O.B.E., T.D.; silver chalice, Miss Mapp; silver communion box, Lt.-Col. D. Hingston; offertory bag, Mrs. Rumbold; two chairs ecclesiastical, 26 Indep. Coy. W.R.A.C., A.A. Command; family Bible, Helene Margaret Hutton and family through Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil; altar frontal, made

and presented by Sgt. Meredith; two plaques, Major A. A. Locke; Bible for lectern, Major K. Cooper.

We should now like contributions for the following:

Five offertory bags (approximately 38s. each); pictures to complete the set; a carpet for the chancel and aisle; a hymn board (approximately £9 10s. 0d.); an offertory plate (approximately £2); two desk hangings (if bought, approximately £8 10s. 0d.); small desk (light oak), for altar book (approximately £7).

A number of tapestry kneelers have already been made or are being worked now. We would particularly like to mention that the Birmingham Branch of the Association has made a magnificent total of six. We require many more and should be very grateful if more people would start working the tapestry. The cost of the materials with full pattern and instructions is 32s. 6d. Will those who are willing to help please write to the Chaplains Assistant, W.R.A.C. Depot, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford. Perhaps some non-needlewomen would like to give a kneeler, in which case other helpers are prepared to work the tapestry.

The Union Jack Services Clubs

ADMIRAL SIR WILLIAM JAMES, G.C.B., PRESIDENT

JULY 1, 1957, is the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Union Jack Club by King Edward VII as a national memorial to soldiers and sailors who had lost their lives on active service. His Majesty accepted the Club on behalf of the Navy and Army, and entrusted it to the two fighting services to be their London Club. Since that day the doors of the Club have never been closed, and today the Club is also the London Club of the Royal Air Force and of members of the Commonwealth and Colonial forces visiting this country. The Club buildings have been greatly extended and now include a Families Club and a Women's Services Club.

It was a Miss Ethel McCaul, R.R.C., who conceived the idea of a London Club for the men of the fighting forces. That was in 1902, when 200,000 soldiers and sailors were passing through London annually, most of them strangers to the city and many of them arriving at Waterloo too late to continue their journey until next day. The accommodation available in the vicinity of the station was meagre and of a low standard; on and close to the site now occupied by the Union Jack Club were no less than eight public houses. Many young Service men were wiser and poorer when they eventually reached their homes. Miss McCaul, when nursing in field hospitals in South Africa, had heard first-hand accounts of these mean streets from her patients and she returned to England after the war fired with determination to remedy this sorry state of affairs. Her enthusiasm soon bore good fruit. At a great gathering at the Mansion House on February 25, 1903, the Lord Mayor launched a scheme to build a Club, and so good was the response to his appeal for funds that the foundation stone was laid by the Prince of Wales (afterwards King George V) on July 1, 1904.

Though the resources of the Club were fully extended during the first world war, the peak years in its history were those of the second world war. Of that period the Secretary of State for War said: "*The Club carried on its work under the shadow of death from German bombs, but like other institutions over which the Union Jack presides, it has survived and will survive.*" The Union Jack Families Club (originally the Union Jack Hostel) was completed before the first world war from funds donated by the South African Garrison Institutes, a wing was added in 1940 through the generosity of the Nuffield Trust and, in 1956, 61,573 beds were booked for men, women and children. In 1945 another appeal was launched at the Mansion House to repair bomb damage, modernise the Clubs and improve the amenities, and the good response enabled the Council and Committee to embark on a six-year programme of work which has brought the Clubs up to a high standard in keeping with their tradition. When in 1949 the W.R.N.S., Q.A.R.A.N.C., W.R.A.C. and W.R.A.F. became an integral part of the armed

Services, the Club accepted the responsibility of providing a residential club for them too and, on November 5, 1951, on a site adjoining the Families Club, H.R.H. The Princess Royal unveiled a tablet commemorating the foundation of "The Union Jack Women's Services Club." The new Club was officially opened on October 30, 1952, by H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester and, since that date, an average of 10,000 Service women have been accommodated each year.

Throughout its history the policy has been to keep the prices charged within the purse of the lowest-paid Service man and Service woman, and it has been possible to adhere to that policy because capital expenditure has largely been met by subscriptions, grants and funds bequeathed in memory of those who have died on active service, but the cost of maintenance is always rising and the current revenue falls short of what is required to keep the Clubs up to date in all respects. For this reason, an appeal for additional funds is being launched within the Services in this jubilee year, and the Council and Committee hope that all men and women of the fighting forces will welcome the opportunity of supporting their London Clubs. A shilling a head for every man and woman would go far towards establishing financial stability and make possible many further improvements.

Forthcoming Events

June

- 11 Fencing, Individual Championships, Royal Tournament.
- 17-19 Cricket, Inter-Command Festival, Aldershot.
- 22 Cricket, Army v. Essex, Woolwich.
- 23 Tennis, Army v. Officers' Club, Aldershot.
- 27 100th Passing-Out Parade, W.R.A.C. Depot.
- 28-29 Athletics, Army Championships, Aldershot.
- 30 Tennis, Army v. B.B.C., Mottspur Park.

July

- 13 Tennis, Army v. Roehampton, Aldershot.
- 17 Athletics, Inter-Service Championships, Plymouth.
- 20 Tennis, Army v. Officers' Club, Aldershot.
- 25 Afternoon Party, Marlborough House.
- 28 Tennis, Army v. United Banks.
- 31 Athletics, Inter-Unit Championships, Aldershot.

August

- 12-13 Tennis, Inter-Service Championships, Wimbledon.
- 14-16 Swimming, Army Championships, Aldershot.
- 27-29 Swimming, Inter-Service Championships, Aldershot.
- 27 Cricket, Army v. Northumberland and Durham, Durham.
- 28 Cricket, Army v. Yorkshire, York.
- 30 Cricket, Army v. Civil Service, Camberley.

Life in a Workhouse

C. R. LEECH, Q.M.A.A.C.

THE W.A.A.C. who served in France 40 years ago have been much in the limelight lately, but one or two old soldiers who spent those earlier years on this side of the Channel could also produce a few lively reminiscences.

Having joined the W.A.A.C. in London as a general clerk in the summer of 1917, with the full expectation of going to France in khaki, I found myself stationed, to my chagrin and disappointment, in a workhouse right up in the north of England, without any uniform at all. (It was to follow.) The workhouse had been taken over as a W.A.A.C. Receiving Depot, and I was installed as a "forewoman clerk" (staff sergeant). I was then in my twenties, with little experience of any kind and no training whatever for the job, so it was lucky that I had particularly patient administrators. Recruiting was going on around Tyneside, and I soon found myself surrounded by "Geordies." Being a bred-in-the-bone Cockney, I also found that we did not speak the same language. Whether the food was scarce or otherwise, they were always "starved," and it was a long time before it dawned on me that they were merely *cold*—as we all were up in that northern workhouse in the winter of 1917-18. If I seemed a bit snooty over this, they got even with me when I went on my first leave by calling after me, "Don't miss your trine at New-car-sle, Leechie," and I realised with a shock how the speech of a Londoner sounds to the ears of her countrywomen up north. But how I learned to appreciate their natural kindness and hospitality, and how I should like to grasp the hands of some of them now. I still write to one who settled in New Zealand, and recall the food parcels she sent so regularly all through the last war.

We continually received requisitions from H.Q. York, chiefly for "Cooks, Waitresses and General Domestic" to staff the various camps in the Northern Command. Periodically we would send a draft of General Domestic to Andover for six weeks training and they would return to us as fully fledged cooks or waitresses according to their particular bent. We had on the strength of the Depot, kicking her heels week after week, a tinsmith whom nobody seemed to want, so eventually she was called to the Orderly Room and asked if she would like to train as a cook or waitress. She readily agreed, so off she went on the next draft to Andover. Needless to say, she had no sooner turned her back than York sent a requisition for a tinsmith. The return of the Andover draft was awaited and the tinsmith informed that she was off to York next morning, but by the time her travelling warrant was prepared the tinsmith had absconded. She was posted A.W.L. and in due course the police traced her to her home. There they found two sisters, one a tinsmith who, fired by the eloquence of the W.A.A.C. Recruiting officer, had joined up.

When her calling-up papers arrived she got cold feet (remember, we were the *first* Women's Service), so her sister, who was no tinsmith, presented herself at the Depot without disclosing that her Christian names were not those on the papers. She quite enjoyed her sojourn at the Depot and her excursion to Andover, but when on her return she found herself posted to York as tinsmith, she simply took fright and scooted back home.

Also kicking her heels at the Depot was a little general domestic who informed everyone that she had joined up for France and *nowhere else would she go*. It was very carefully explained to her in the Orderly Room that no drafts were sent to France from Northern Command, and moreover, she had signed that she would go where she was sent. This all rolled off like water from a duck's back. She was sent off to a Northern Command camp, but although this camp was some distance away, she very soon turned up again at the Depot. This happened several times, each camp being farther away than the last one, but the "Bad Penny" turned up again every time. Then, all at once, we missed her. She too was posted A.W.L. and her case put into the hands of the police, but she seemed to have vanished into thin air. Then one morning a communication came to hand from H.Q. London, making certain enquiries about a W.A.A.C. bearing this lady's name and number. She had actually got to France and had been promptly escorted back to London. A W.A.A.C. already serving in France whose home was in the North had been sent home on sick leave and given a return travelling warrant, but before returning to France she had been instructed to report to the sick-bay at the Depot, and it was found that she would never again be strong enough for service abroad. So far all was clear enough, but it is beyond me to say how these two worthies got together and exchanged notes, and the one passed her return warrant on to the other, who promptly sailed off to France with it. Perhaps my administrators had more information on the subject.

Do things like that still happen, I wonder, or is the modern Army too carefully trained?

W.R.A.C. Depot

Six Burmese officers stayed at the Depot for six days in March. They came on their way back from America where they had been attending an Officers' course. We anticipated some difficulty, quite unnecessarily as it turned out, over catering to their tastes, especially when we found the party consisted of one Roman Catholic, two Moslems and three Buddhists. All were quite charming and spoke excellent English. Their Eastern "civvies" were most attractive, and greatly added to the colour in the Mess in the evenings.

News From the T.A.

307 (Northern Command) Battalion

SGT. BLACKBOURN of the Permanent Staff represented the W.R.A.C. in the Badminton championships held recently in London.

At the end of a series of Civil Defence First Aid lectures given during the winter training period, members of "A" Company and of the Permanent Staff took the qualifying examination. In spite of attacks of "exam" nerves, all those taking the exam. gained their certificate.

The knowledge gained during these lectures is not being allowed to remain dormant. On Sunday, March 24, the Driving Platoon—on this occasion, joined by members of other Platoons in the Company—had a day scheme. The morning we devoted to the rendering of first aid to casualties in mock road accidents. The victims had their injuries diagnosed and were then effectively bandaged and splinted.

After a break for lunch the Company set off in two vehicles for a map reference. Here, half the Company dropped off and set off by foot over the hill and dale to another map reference. From this second map reference the remainder of the Company had been dropped to do the trek in reverse. Although the two parties did not actually meet half way they did pass by on opposite sides of a field. The crossing of two streams whose banks had been churned up by thirsty cattle caused amusement to the watchers and mud to the shoes of the crosser. The sun, which had been behind cloud all day, broke through on the return journey and the day ended with a very pleasant run back to base.

326 (City of London) Battalion

A Battalion Parade was held on Saturday, November 24, 1956, at the Headquarters of No. 8 (City of London) Platoon in Wenlock Street, to celebrate the appointment of Brevet-Col. Lady Bowyer-Smyth, O.B.E., T.D., as Honorary Colonel. Lady Bowyer-Smyth commanded the Battalion from its formation in 1948 until October, 1954, when she was succeeded by the present Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. M. G. I. Levett, T.D. After inspecting the parade and addressing the Battalion, the Honorary Colonel took the salute at the March Past. A tea-party followed, and a display of photographs and models showing the type of training and other activities carried on in the Battalion. The guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Shoreditch, Col. S. M. Crawley, T.D., Lt.-Col. E. M. Sykes, A.D.W.R.A.C., London District, the Chairman and Secretary of the Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association of the County of Middlesex, and the Secretary, City of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association. Several members of the Battalion brought personal friends, hoping to persuade them to join the Unit. Photographs and a cinematograph film of the afternoon's proceedings were taken by a member of the Battalion, Cpl. K. Hilborne.

Gallantry of a W.R.A.C.(T.A.) Officer

Lt. Mary Hibbert of 310 (Hampshire) Battalion W.R.A.C.(T.A.), was awakened at 3 a.m. on December 27, 1956, by hearing her father telephoning 999. He told her that the large block of flats opposite their house in Southsea was on fire. She immediately went to the blazing house and hustled out two girls who lived in the basement. As soon as they were out of danger both Lt. Hibbert and her father attempted to reach an elderly couple on a higher floor. The wife, aged 76, had already warned the other tenants and had then returned to try and save her deaf and crippled husband. Flames were leaping the whole height of the house from the ground floor to the roof. The Hibberts made repeated efforts to get to the trapped couple, but without success, and the two old people were not seen alive again. Lt. Hibbert has been highly commended for her prompt action and complete disregard for her own safety.

News of Old Comrades

DOES anyone remember, we are asked, a troublesome pair of bosom friends called **Hood and Wood** who served 40 years ago in Folkestone, Tours, Bourges and Wimeroux? **Hood**, who married **Wood's** brother, writes to us from 32 Rochelle Road, Binghampton, New York, and gives us news of many of her friends. In spite of the arthritis which makes it impossible for her to do more than "peck at the typewriter," she still keeps up with her W.A.A.C. Commandant, **Mrs. E. V. Lloyd**, with **Mrs. McKay (Leeson)**, **Mrs. Wilson ("Little Bit" Graham)** and **Mrs. Miltner (Molly Hinkle)**. **Mrs. Wood** herself has four sons, one in the Navy, one in the Air Force, and two with Army service in Korea. **Mrs. Miltner** (the first of the W.A.A.C. in France to marry an American) has three daughters who all served in World War II. The eldest (now the wife of an Air Force captain and the mother of five boys) was much in the news as the first girl to join the American women's service; and the other two were Army nurses. As for the original **Wood**, she is now **Mrs. Carley**, lives at Blackpool, and is, we are informed, "as addle-headed as ever, thank goodness."

Mrs. Buckingham (Towner) is home again at Vermilion, Alberta, Canada, after a visit to England, during which she attended the 1956 Q.M.A.A.C. reunion as the guest of **Miss Billington**. She keeps in touch with **Miss Ballard**, **Miss Ashton** and **Miss Vasey** (who lost her mother last year, we are sorry to report) and tells us that **Mrs. White (Meg Newnham)** has just been staying with her at Vermilion while on a year's visit to Canada.

Another resident in Canada is **Mrs. Simpson (Forewoman Ada McCluskey, W.A.A.C.)**, better known as "**Mac**", who wrote from Suite 203, 912 Heywood Avenue, Victoria, B.C., to send her good wishes for the reunion and say that she would be with us in spirit on March 23. She would very much like to hear from any of her old Rouen comrades ("the best girls in her life") who remember her at Cauchoise and Rue St. Maun billers.

Obituary

Mrs. Barrett (Betty Peeke)

Friends of Mrs. Barrett (Pte. Betty Peeke, W.R.A.C.), both in U.K. and B.A.O.R., will be sad to hear of her tragic death in November, 1956. Pte. Peeke served in 23 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., 1953-55, and was posted to B.A.O.R. She took part in the swimming competitions at Aldershot in 1955. She married in September, 1955, and lived at 96 Bampton Drive, Ruislip, Middlesex. On November 5, 1956, Mrs. Barrett met with a car accident at Uxbridge, which fractured her skull, and she died two hours later. She leaves a baby daughter, Hazel Irene, aged five months. The sympathy of her many friends goes out to her husband in his loss.

J.R.

Mrs. Willetts (Lily Mallin)

Lily Bertha Willetts, of 40 Grantham Road, Birmingham 11, joined the Q.M.A.A.C. in 1917 as Lily Mallin and served at Halton until demobilisation. She joined the A.T.S. in 1938, having meantime become Mrs. Robert Willetts. On mobilisation she was posted to Wythall as a Sergeant and was one of the few who transferred with her unit when it changed to W.A.A.F. She remained there till demobilisation in 1945. Lily Willetts joined the Birmingham Branch on its formation and was a loyal and faithful comrade. She also joined the Central Branch of the British Legion (of which all the members are ex-Service women) on its formation 10 years ago. She became its first standard-bearer and remained as such until her death on March 19, 1957. She was cremated on March 25, and members of the Birmingham Branch and Central Branch, British Legion, headed by their respective chairmen, formed a guard of honour as the coffin was carried into the chapel preceded by the standard she herself had so proudly carried. There was a mustering of 50 to say farewell to one who had only thoughts for others. Although she suffered greatly, she never spared herself; her courage was a lesson to us all and her loss will be deeply felt.

E.E.M.

Miss Lewis

We report with great regret that Ann Elizabeth Lewis, Q.M.A.A.C., who served at Boulogne as a Forewoman Cook, died in October, 1956, at her home, High Street, Ingatestone, Essex.

FORTY YEARS AFTER

THE W.A.A.C. Overseas Drafting Depot was transferred from Connaught Club, London, to Warrior Square, Hastings, in July, 1917. Some old Hastingsites are hoping to gather outside No. 64 Warrior Square (the old Orderly Room) on Saturday, July 27, 1957, at 3 p.m. "for the sake of Auld Lang Syne." Anyone who served at, or passed through, this Depot—will you join us? If interested, send a line to Miss M. Druitt, 74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.

DO YOU WANT A JOB?

EX-MEMBERS of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C.

*Looking for a new job or needing
advice regarding employment?*

THE A.T.S. BENEVOLENT FUND EX-SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

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Interviewing hours

MONDAY to THURSDAY
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Write to or Call at

**73 ELIZABETH STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.**

or Telephone SLOane 8984

Retirements

THIS spring the Corps has to say good-bye to two very well-known figures. **Col. A. C. D. Hind, M.B.E.**, left the War Office, where she has held the appointment of D.D.W.R.A.C. since 1955, on April 29, 1957. She has served since 1939, and was one of those who came into the A.T.S. from the F.A.N.Y. She will be remembered as A.D.A.T.S. A.G.19 during the formation of the W.R.A.C., A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command, and the last D.D.W.R.A.C. A.A. Command. She is a keen gardener, renowned throughout the Corps for her green fingers, and wherever she has served she has left a legacy of blossoming gardens behind her. **Lt.-Col. T. Morris** began her career as an A.T.S. convoy-driver in 1939 and ended it as A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command on March 25, 1957. She is a great sportswoman and has done much to encourage games in the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. She played hockey in turn for Northern, Western and Southern Commands and was a reserve for the Army (Women's) team. She has fenced for the Army at the Royal Tournament, and for the last eight years of her service she was President of the Army (Women's) Fencing Association. She also is an enthusiastic gardener, and on her retirement to her home in Cumberland she hopes to indulge this taste to the full. We wish these two officers very good luck, and hope that their paths will always continue to be flowery ones.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Bath. Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 12, at "Movans" Cleveland Bridge, Bath. The Meeting, which was well represented, was preceded by a Dinner. We welcome three new members to the Branch, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Cobb and Mrs. Matthews. It is with very great regret that we have accepted the resignation of our Chairman, Mrs. Mant, who has been a most able and loyal Chairman for over nine years. Our new Chairman is Miss Mold (Q.M.A.A.C.) and I am sure in her we shall have one who will serve us as ably as Mrs. Mant always did. Our Christmas Supper was held towards the end of December and proved a most enjoyable evening. In January several members went to Tudor Lodge, Bristol, for tea with the refugees. The language difficulty is being overcome and we feel now that we are old friends. Our Jumble Sale is being held on March 30, and part of the proceeds is being dispatched to the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund.

Birmingham. We seem to be having a fairly hectic year so far, with our Annual General Meeting in January, and a general meeting in February at which we discussed arrangements for our party to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Corps. This took place on February 23. The weather was most unkind and for that reason several members were unable to join us, but 48 were present, 25 of whom were Q.M.A.A.C., including seven who served in Rouen and seven who served in other parts of France. Many photographs and souvenirs of 1917-1919 were on view, including a pair of original W.A.A.C. shoes issued in 1917. Did anyone really wear these hard unlined leather shoes? One member produced 14 copies of the Gazettes 1926-1933 which were passed round. How active we were in those days, and how interesting we found these Gazettes. We had a buffet supper and an iced cake which was cut by the President to the accompaniment of "Happy Birthday." In March we had an exhausting evening, holding a draw on the Grand National in an endeavour to increase our funds—and those of the lucky few. The chairman has put in many hours of hard work, and we hope that the result will be worth her effort.

Bradford. We had our Annual Meeting in January when the existing Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected. During the past year we have met monthly and were well represented at the Northern Area Reunion in Harrogate last September. Four of our members attended the Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion on March 22, and the same number were at the Grand Reunion at the Seymour Hall the following evening. Miss Garrett attended the Secretaries Meeting and the Annual General Meeting in place of our Secretary, Mrs. Suttle, who was unable to attend, and was fortunate to meet old friends and make contact with other Branch secretaries. An ex-A.T.S. correspondent would like to pay tribute here to the good work done by Q.M.A.A.C. Comrades, both in Branches and in the formation of the Corps. Now it is up

to ex-A.T.S. to carry on in the steps of their first war comrades who did the spade work, and keep the Branches going until they, in turn, hand over to the W.R.A.C.

Bristol. Our New Year Party and American-style supper was held on January 24. The games were very successfully organised by Mrs. Dunstan, Miss Wilma Smith and Miss Gwen Hayward. A very enjoyable time was spent, and came to an end all too soon. On February 7 we had a film show of the Royal visit to Bristol and the opening of the Chew Magna Reservoir by H.M. The Queen. March 7 was our quarterly meeting and Bring and Buy Sale. The Branch was well represented at the Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion and the Grand Reunion in London on March 22 and 23. At the secretaries meeting held in the morning of March 23, Miss Clark (A.T.S.) represented Bristol and in the afternoon at the A.G.M., Miss Lloyd (Q.M.A.A.C.).

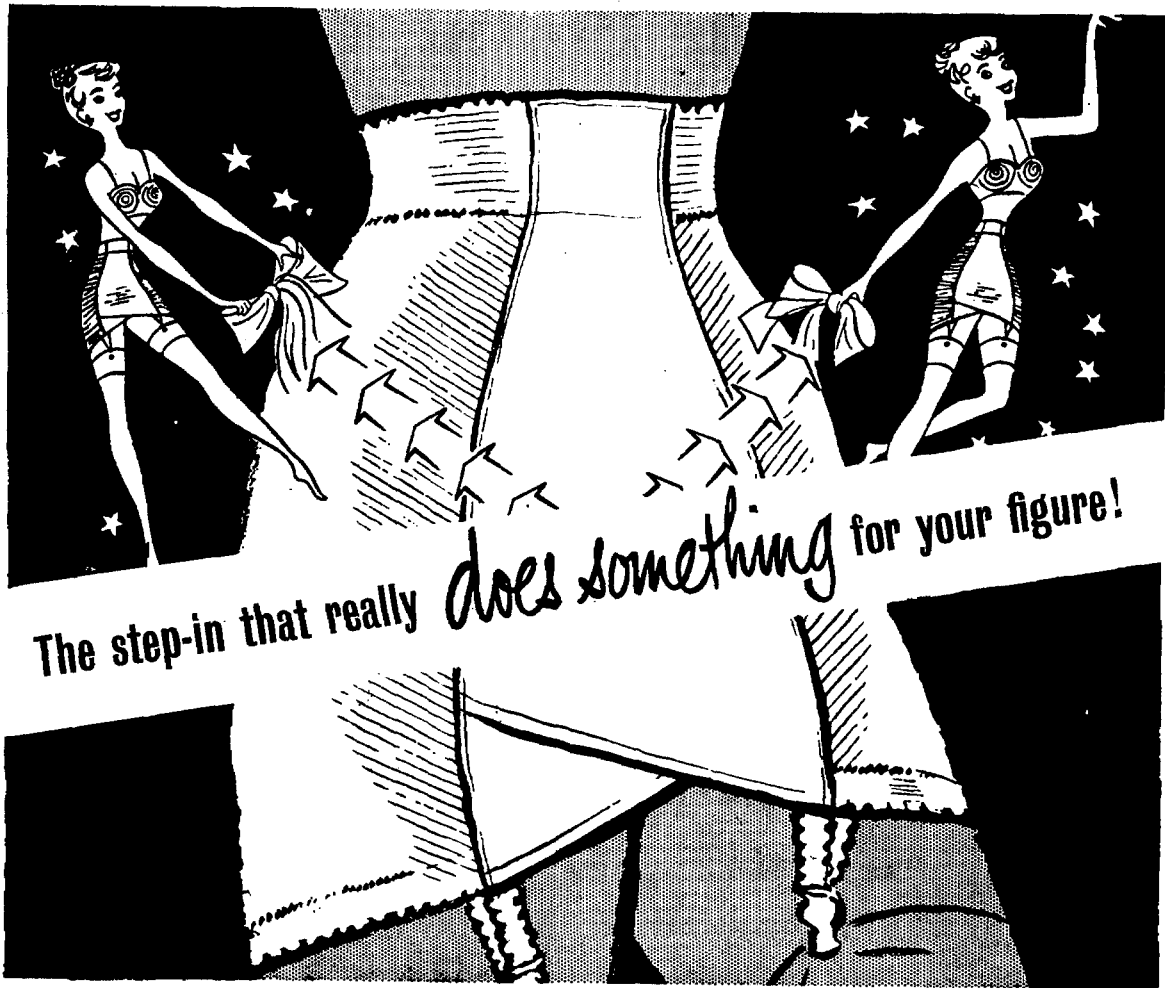
Edinburgh. We had no meeting in January, but a Hat Night in February was very well attended. Our Annual Dinner on Friday, March 1, was again held in the R.B. Hotel, Miss Mary Innes, B.E.M., presiding. We were very pleased to have Lt.-Col. Cecil, A.D.W.R.A.C., Scottish Command, as guest of honour, along with Miss L. MacKenzie, Secretary of the Glasgow Branch. Our dinners are always very happy occasions and this one proved no exception. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Whitham, ex-A.T.S. In March we were pleased to have Councillor Hedderwick as our speaker. Mr. Hedderwick gave a brief and interesting resume of the various aspects of the work of Edinburgh Town Council and afterwards invited questions. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Wilson.

Gibraltar. At our meeting in November the office of Treasurer changed hands, and Mrs. Burbridge, who is going home to the U.K., has been succeeded by Mrs. Stephens. After the general business of the meeting a record-concert was held, and members enjoyed an hour of classics and modern dance music. Instead of the normal meeting in December, a tombola evening was arranged. The local A.C.C. Cookery School prepared a large variety of refreshments on a repayment basis, and the evening proved to be a great success. After the business at our meeting on January 8 we were entertained by our Chairman (Major R. M. Green, W.R.A.C.) with an account of some of her experiences during her holiday in Portugal, illustrated by a series of colour transparencies taken there. This was indeed an interesting hour, and we were left feeling that we must see this colourful country before we return to the U.K.

Glasgow. On Saturday, October 27, we gave a Hallowe'en Party for 24 orphan children. After tea the children played games, sang and recited, "Ducked for Apples," and went away at last each with a small gift and a bag of sweets. We were delighted to see so many members at our Annual Dinner on November 17. Miss V. Stirling, C.B.E., our Guest of Honour, gave a very interesting and amusing address, and we also had a few words from Mrs. Weir, President of the Edinburgh Association.

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After dinner the evening was spent in song and dance. Our first meeting of the New Year was a Burns Supper, held in the Club on January 23. This was well attended by members and friends, and proved a very enjoyable evening. After the Toast to The Queen and the Selkirk Grace given by our President, Mrs. Crawford, the haggis was piped in by Piper Fraser and duly addressed by Miss M. S. Mackenzie. The Immortal Memory was proposed by the Rev. W. Thomson Revel, and The Sassies by Mr. Powell. The reply to The Sassies was given by Miss F. McGraham.

Guernsey. We held our first Annual Dinner on December 12, 1956, at the Hermitage Hotel and it was a great success. Twenty-eight members and friends were present and the guests were invited to draw the tickets for the Christmas draw, which proved a great financial success.

Hartlepool. We had a very good party in January, which was attended by members and friends. We were also pleased to entertain at our party two ex-A.T.S. who are unfortunate enough to be in a poor state of health. They were brought and taken home by taxi and seemed to spend a good time with us. In March 10 members went along to the Staincliffe Hotel, Seaton Carew, where a table was booked for dinner. It was an excellent dinner enjoyed by all. We are hoping that more members will be able to attend the future meetings. New members would also be made very welcome.

Leicester. It would seem from the lack of news that the Leicester Branch had gone to sleep, but that is not so, for we have been so busy doing that there has been little time for writing. Our programme for June, 1956, was a mystery night with fish and chips—and truly mysterious indeed it was. In July we had a treasure hunt with remarkable clues, which produced some amusing comments and interpretations. A party was held at the pleasant old Cock Inn at Peatling Parva during August, with a buffet supper and a great deal of chat. While there it was decided to have a coach outing to Coventry in September to see "The King and I." It was a grand show and we all felt on top of the world when we came out. At our Annual General Meeting in October our Secretary, Miss Mallard, tendered her resignation, as she was posted to Nottingham in June and found it impossible to carry on. We were sorry to lose her, as she was such a driving force and had put in so much work in forming our Branch. Miss Doswell was appointed as the new Secretary. For our first birthday in November members decided that a bonfire and fireworks would be topical, and to warm our insides while standing around the fire there were savoury roast potatoes, hot sausages and hot spiced wine. At Christmas, from a list supplied by the Leicester Welfare Committee, members visited 20 old and needy people in the city, taking with them parcels of Christmas fare. The old people were most grateful and we have now befriended them and paid many more visits.

London. Our meetings in January consisted of a Reunion, and then a whist drive, and in February

we heard from a member of the W.V.S. of the very useful work performed by this organisation. In March we again had Miss Norman visit us to repeat her talk on the Holy Land, illustrated by the very fine coloured photos she had taken out there. Her previous talk with these photos had proved so popular last year that many members had asked to hear it again. At our last meeting in March Miss Thompson gave us an amusing and interesting talk on her early days and experiences with the W.A.A.C. and Col. Cowper brought along many photos and also the prized D.B.E. which had belonged to Dame Florence Simpson. We would like to thank Col. Cowper for giving us the opportunity to see all these interesting things.

Norfolk. The New Year party and raffle on January 2 was a great success. The Hon. Secretary thanks all members for their support and for the gift of prizes. Quite a good number were present and the evening was much enjoyed. The Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion in London on March 22 will never be forgotten and those who did not make an effort to be present have missed a wonderful memory. No less than three of our members had the honour of being presented to H.R.H. The Princess Royal on that occasion. The Grand Reunion on March 23 will also be a never-to-be-forgotten night for many and Norfolk was well represented. The Hon. Secretary would like to thank those old Norfolk members who have transferred to other branches throughout the years, and many ex-Service members who had interests in the county in the past, for contacting her during the evening.

Nottingham. The New Year session began with two debates, the first subject being "Conscription for Women" and the second "Should Washing be Hung Out on Sunday?" The result was in favour of hanging out the washing, but against conscription for women. In February we entertained the members of the Nottingham ex-Service Women's Club to a film show. After several technical hitches, including the wrong size films and the wrong size projector, we eventually enjoyed the showing of various films, including the 307 (N.C.) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), unit film taken during their annual camp at Glencorse, and the coloured film of the visit of Her Majesty The Queen to Nottingham (kindly lent by 350 Regiment, R.A.). Music Night was held in March and we all listened without prejudice to Rock 'n' Roll, Brahms, Beethoven and the wonderful renderings of the singer Kathleen Ferrier. One of our members, Sgt. Woodthorpe, who served at Chilwell during the war, is making slow progress in the Manchester Royal Infirmary, where she has been for some months suffering from arthritis. May we of the Nottingham Branch take this opportunity of thanking the Reunion Secretary and all those who in any way helped to make the Reunion of 1957 such a memorable one.

Sheffield. In January a party of members and friends went to the pantomime in Sheffield. In February we paid a visit to the City Library which proved most interesting and enlightening. Also in February we held our Annual Dinner and, after an excellent meal, entertainment was provided by

an ex-Q.M.A.A.C. member, Mrs. Parkinson, and two of her friends who literally sang for their suppers. The only complaint seemed to be that the evening went far too quickly. At our Annual General Meeting in March all officers were returned *en bloc*. We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Joan Wood (*née* Williams) and Mrs. Joan Whittles (*née* Harrop) each gave birth to a son in February.

Singapore. This Branch was started by Lt.-Col. Holt in May, 1954, and was revived by Lt.-Col. J. Rivett-Drake in September, 1955. It is now a flourishing branch of the Association with about 30 members. Meetings are held once every two months in the Church Hall of Tanglin Garrison. For the first few months these meetings were of the "come and talk of the old days" variety, where many ex-Service members like myself were happy to renew old acquaintances and discuss our experiences in all parts of the world since 1939. Since many of the members of this Branch are serving members we also kept up to date with the latest W.R.A.C. news from home. When the number of members increased, it was decided that we should try to arrange some form of entertainment for our meetings. At the October meeting an officer from the Intelligence Branch, G.H.Q., gave a most interesting lecture on China and its Customs, and for our next meeting in April we are hoping to have a lecture and possibly a demonstration from the Elizabeth Arden representative here. The Christmas meeting took the form of a party to which husbands were invited. Mrs. Douglas very kindly lent her house and garden for this occasion and all members voted it a most successful evening, whilst some of the husbands were heard to ask when "the girls" would be doing this again.

Southampton. Our monthly meetings have taken place as usual and have included a beetle drive in November, bring-and-buy sale in December (quite successful from the point of view of funds and Christmas presents), a social evening in January, and a demonstration on making artificial flowers in February. In March we had a visit from a manicurist from Tyrell & Green Ltd., Southampton, who gave a most interesting talk on the care of our nails together with a manicure for one of our members. Another highlight of the winter was the wedding of one of our members on January 12, Miss Betty Lincoln, now Mrs. J. Rash. The members of the Branch presented Mrs. Rash with a set of fish eaters and a cookery book. A successful jumble sale was also held in February.

Torbay. At the end of March we held our third annual social evening and buffet at a local hotel. This was shared with us by the Far Eastern P.O.W. Association. It proved a very successful and enjoyable evening, and time passed very quickly in games and dancing. Our Branch, although not very large in numbers, still continues to progress, all members being very keen and we have some very happy times together. Recently one of our members left to live in Birmingham and we presented her with a travelling clock as a parting present. We wish her and her family every happiness in their new home.



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SPORT

Army (Women's) Badminton Championships

THE Army (Women's) Badminton Championships were held at the Wimbledon Squash and Badminton Club on February 20 and 21, 1957. Judging by the number of entries this year and the standard of play, it would seem that interest in badminton in the Corps has very much revived. It is hoped that it will be possible to hold the championships annually at Wimbledon where club facilities are much enjoyed and appreciated by everyone.

Five Commands entered two couples each for the inter-Command championships and 21 competitors entered for the individual singles championships. The doubles event was run in the form of an American tournament and the singles as a knock-out competition. Eastern Command retained the inter-Command cup in spite of wider opposition. Northern Command came second and B.A.O.R. third. The individual championship was won by Capt. M. MacLagan, with Sgt. Lovell as runner-up. Unfortunately Lt.-Col. J. G. Grierson, O.B.E. (President of the Army (Women's) Badminton Association) was unable to be present owing to illness. Lt.-Col. E. Sykes, A.D.W.R.A.C. London District, very kindly came down to present the cups and medals.

On Thursday afternoon the W.R.A.C. were fortunate in being able to watch a very instructive practice game between Miss Heather Ward (one of England's best players) and Mr. Ian Palmer, a national coach.

Inter-Service Rifle Shooting, 1957

ON February 7, 1957, the W.R.A.C. smallbore team assembled at the War Office range, Northumberland Avenue, for two days' coaching by Major G. Saunders-Davies, T.D., W.R.A.C., and Capt. J. A. Teague, M.C., Royal Fusiliers. A friendly match against the Civil Service and the W.R.A.F. was held at the London G.P.O. range on February 9. On Monday, February 11, the inter-Services match was held at Uxbridge with the R.A.F. as hosts. It was a great blow to the team that Major Saunders-Davies was unable to be present, but in spite of that handicap they scored 12 more points than last year. Scores were: W.R.A.F., 1,569; W.R.N.S., 1,565; W.R.A.C., 1,542 (out of 1,600). The highest scorers in each team were Cpl. Simmons (W.R.A.F.), 200 (highest possible score), P.O. Wren Williams (W.R.N.S.), 199 and Sgt. Ainley (W.R.A.C.), 198. The cup was presented to the W.R.A.F. team by Group Officer D. L. A. Conan-Doyle, O.B.E., W.R.A.F., on behalf of their Director. The Director W.R.A.C. was represented at the prize-giving by Lt.-Col. S. F. N. Nimmo, W.R.A.C.

Fencing

CAPTAIN J. TAPPIN has been selected to play for England in the Quadrangular Match (England v. Ireland v. Scotland v. Wales) at the London Fencing Club on April 27-28, 1957.

Netball

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS The Princess Royal was present at the finals of the inter-unit netball tournament, which were held at Aldershot on Saturday, March 16, 1957. The semi-finals were played off in two sections on March 15 and the morning of the 16th, and the winning teams (3rd Battalion W.R.A.C. and 2nd Independent Company W.R.A.C.) met in the final match in the afternoon. The tournament was won by 2nd Independent Company, 26-10. Her Royal Highness also watched the final round of the individual goal-shooting competition (which was won by Sgt. Merryfield, with L/Cpl. Walsh as runner-up), and presented the cups and medals for both events at the end of the afternoon.



Courtesy: Aldershot News

The Inter-Service matches were played at Aldershot on Monday, March 25, and resulted (for the first time since the formation of the W.R.A.C.) in a glorious victory for the Army. In the first two matches the Army beat the Navy 12-8, and the R.A.F. beat the Navy 21-9. There followed a struggle between the Army and the R.A.F. which was so close and thrilling that the spectators could hardly control their excitement, ending amidst a tremendous outburst of enthusiasm in a win for the Army 18-16. The cup was presented by Gen. Sir George Erskine, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., who was supported by Maj.-Gen.

R. A. Bramwell Davis, C.B., D.S.O., and Mrs. Bramwell Davis. The afternoon ended (rather unexpectedly) in a very select individual shooting competition in which Gen. Erskine defeated Maj.-Gen. Bramwell Davis 1—0.

The Army team played five matches during the season, beating the Civil Service 14—8 and Lincoln's Inn Fields 19—13. The match against Buckinghamshire was drawn (16—16). Against Middlesex the Army won the first match 19—15 and lost the second 11—22.

Reunion Impressions

Dear Editor,

I am sure there are many like myself who would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make the Reunion weekend successful and enjoyable, particularly for the very real interest shown in us by H.M. The Queen Mother and H.R.H. The Princess Royal. The miniature pageant was very pleasing, and I shall long remember the beautiful playing of the W.R.A.C. Band, both at the Reunion on the Saturday and in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital on the Sunday. The Service was a most satisfying and complete finish to a memorable weekend. Now, on to our Jubilee.

Yours sincerely,

A. STOCKER (Patterson Q.M.A.A.C.).

36 Belvedere Road,
Bournemouth.

Dear Editor,

What a wonderful weekend, starting with the visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal to the Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion on Friday evening and culminating in the beautiful service on Sunday morning at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Two vivid impressions of Saturday evening will remain with me. First, the impressive hush in the crowded Seymour Hall as The Queen Mother and The Princess Royal moved to the platform—a gathering of well over 1,000 people standing motionless, everyone strictly at attention. Secondly, the flashback so ably staged by the W.R.A.C. It was beautifully done, and I should like to put on record how much we older members of the Q.M.A.A.C. appreciate the hard work and thought put in by those responsible.

Yours sincerely,

A. G. BROWN, Q.M.A.A.C.

2 Siward Road,
Bromley, Kent.

"ROUENITES" LUNCHEON

ALL "Rouenites" and other Old Comrades unable to join an evening reunion will be welcome at a luncheon at the Service Women's Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, Chelsea, S.W.1, on Wednesday, June 5, 1957, at 1.30 p.m. Please contact Miss E. M. Winter, 28 Seymour Gardens, Ilford, Essex, enclosing P.O. for 4s. 6d. and stamped addressed envelope.

W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

THE following gifts have been received during the past two months and are very welcome additions to the Mess.

Sheffield plate mustard pots and spoons and an antique silver spoon: Col. M. D. Morgan, T.D.

Silver teapot, cream jug and sugar basin: Lt.-Col. T. Morris on her retirement.

Sheffield plate tea tray: Col. S. Cooke, C.B.E., T.D.

Silver ash-tray: Col. C. W. Hull, O.B.E., T.D.

Ronson table lighter: Major E. V. Watts, M.B.E.

Ronson table lighter: Major G. G. Morrish.

Cut glass decanters: Major J. Cornelius.

Brass-bound coal-scuttle: Lt. M. Brailey.

Silver ash-trays: 2/Lt. B. J. Douglas.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS

(Up to May 31, 1957)

Lt.-Col. (T/Col.) J. E. R. RIVETT DRAKE, M.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C., War Office.

Major (L/Lt.-Col.) J. E. HENDERSON, att. G.S.O.2, W.R.A.C. Staff College.

Major (T/Lt.-Col.) M. D. M. HUMPHERY, Commandant, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

Major E. E. CONNORS, O.C. 2 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

Major D. B. D. LANCE, 70 Car Company (M.T.), R.A.S.C.

Major B. PAGET CLARKE, Adjutant, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

Major D. M. HOLMES, O.C. 5 Independent Company, Jamaica.

Major A. M. MCILWRAITH, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., East Anglia District.

Major G. J. GIBBS, M.B.E., W.R.A.C. Adviser, H.Q. Port and Travel Control Group.

Major D. STROUD, O.C. 3 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

Major K. A. WATERWORTH, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., North-West District.

Major W. G. MERRELLS, O.C. 315 (Sc. Comd.) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Major H. A. CAMPBELL, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Lowland District.

Major M. COVERDALE, Medical Services and W.R.A.C. Records.

Major A. ALEXANDER, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Northumbrian District.

Major E. M. OGLE, O.C. 16 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

Major M. E. SMITHWICK, D.A.D.M.E., M.E.6, War Office.

Major B. ROSENBAUM, D.A.Q.M.G. (Maint.), G.H.Q. M.E.L.F.

Major R. B. L. PUXLEY, O.C. 8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

Major K. W. SAMUELS, Bristol University W.R.A.C. Sub-Unit.

Major E. M. H. SEEMAN DE BARCAYE, S/Capt. ("Q"), H.Q. Eastern Command.

Capt. A. S. N. RUSSELL, S/Capt. ("Q"), H.Q. Northumbrian District.

Capt. A. C. M. RHODES, Administrative Officer, Holding and Drafting Company, W.R.A.C.

Capt. E. S. COWPER, O.C. "H.Q." Company, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

Capt. D. RICHARDSON, 27 Families Camp, Shoeburyness.

Capt. A. M. HUGHES, Adjutant, 322 Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Capt. H. MATTHEWS, Salisbury Plain (M) Signals.

Capt. P. J. B. CAMPBELL, att. W.R.A.C. Recruiting Van.

Capt. M. WATERS, S/Capt. ("A"), G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.

Capt. A. G. VIVIAN, S/Capt., H.Q. Amphibious Warfare.

Capt. B. E. RIGBY, S/Capt., W.R.A.C. Branch, H.Q. Scottish Command.

Lt. (T/Capt.) B. D. WATTS, Instructor, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

Lt. (T/Capt.) A. E. WRIGHT, S/Capt. ("Q") (A.E.), G.H.Q. M.E.L.F.

Lt. (T/Capt.) A. M. HARLE, G.S.O.3 (Int.), G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.

Lt. (T/Capt.) B. M. MACKINNON, S/Capt. ("A"), H.Q. Cyprus District.

Lt. (Q.M.) C. P. BLAY, Q.M., 14 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

Lt. (Q.M.) D. E. M. NIGHTINGALE, Q.M., Drivers' and Clerks' T.C.

Lt. P. BLAKELEY, 70 Car Company (M.T.), R.A.S.C.

Lt. J. M. GRIEVE, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

Lt. K. M. WILLIS, 14 Battalion, W.R.A.C.

Lt. S. M. HARTSHORNE, 12 Battalion, W.R.A.C.

Lt. M. L. S. READ, 10 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

Lt. J. NEWCOMBE, "A" Company, 14 Battalion, W.R.A.C.

Lt. H. M. PHILLIPS, N.I.D. (M) Signals Squadron.

Lt. D. I. PRESSWELL, 2 Signals Squadron, M.E.L.F.

Lt. M. GUNNING, S/Lt., H.Q. Mid-West District.

Lt. H. A. OGDEN, Joint School of Photographic Interpretation (long course).

2/Lt. S. R. TURNBULL, att. 8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

Afternoon Party

H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and H.R.H. The Princess Royal will be present at the afternoon party to be held in the gardens of Marlborough House on Thursday, 25th July, 1957. Serving officers of the W.R.A.C. and W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and retired officers who are members of the W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess, will be eligible to attend.

News from F.A.R.E.L.F.

THE beginning of the New Year was overshadowed by the very untimely death of Mrs. Arbuckle (*née* W.O.2 Dann) in the B.M.H., Singapore. W.O.2 Dann had considerable service in the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. and had only recently married W.O.1 Arbuckle and left the Service. A large party of officers, W.O.s and sergeants from G.H.Q. and 4 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., attended the funeral and the G.H.Q. W.O.s and sergeants acted as pall bearers. The service was conducted by the A.C.G., the Rev. R. C. Oliver, O.B.E., M.A., C.F., and the church was quite lovely with the wreaths and flowers contributed by the many friends of the Arbuckles.

The Company was invited to provide a contingent of W.O.s and O.R.s for the Enquiry Bureau set up by the War Graves Commission to look after relatives and friends attending the unveiling ceremony of the Krangi War Memorial. The Bureau was placed in a luxury suite of the famous Raffles Hotel and the girls attracted great interest in their No. 3 dress. A party from the Company attended the unveiling ceremony by the Governor, Sir Robert Black, which took place in the early morning of March 2, 1957, and was attended by thousands of people of all races. The memorial is for all those soldiers and airmen who died between 1939 and 1945 in this part of the world and who have no known graves; it is magnificently situated overlooking the Johore Straits and is striking in its simplicity of line and economy of colour, being white with the minimum of gold. The memorial was dedicated by the Chaplain-General, assisted by priests of all denominations, including a Muslim and a Buddhist. We remembered those of our sister Service, Q.A.I.M.N.S., who died in Singapore

during the invasion, and the Australian nurses who were drowned on their way from Malaya and who are commemorated on this memorial.

The marriage rate continues to be high. L/Cpl. Lincoln, who married an Australian bandsman, was given away by the Master-at-Arms, Major Crosby, A.P.T.C. On April 3, 1957, Lt. Carroll marries Capt. Gibson, of the R.E.M.E., at the Garrison Church.

Celebrations at Birmingham

M. ROBINSON ("SMITHY"), Q.M.A.A.C.

ALTHOUGH I really belong to Norwich, it was my great privilege as an early W.A.A.C. to attend the fortieth anniversary celebrations arranged by the Birmingham Branch on Saturday, February 23. About 24 Q.M.A.A.C. were present, making a total with the other Old Comrades of 44. We were each welcomed by the President and ladies of the Committee and at once made to feel one of a family. After the usual photographs (which appeared in Sunday's paper) we had a wonderful buffet tea, with a great variety of sandwiches and home-made cakes and a beautiful celebration cake iced with the wording, "W.A.A.C., Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C., 1917-1957." Afterwards there was a great swapping of yarns and "Do you remember . . . ?" "our unit . . ." or "our Officers' Mess . . ." was heard everywhere. A table was provided for "treasures" of service days and included many photographs, "Orders of the Day," "Ten Commandments," shoes of 1917, hat of the present day. These caused much comment and amusement. Long-lost friends were reunited and I myself met one I had not seen for about 15 years. Smiling and happy faces were to be seen wherever one looked. At the end of a day to be long remembered the Chairman, Miss Mapp, crowned the kindness of the Branch by taking four W.A.A.C.s to Snow Hill Station for their train, saving them an hour's wait for a later one. On behalf of three friends and myself—M. Everall of St. Omer and Le Touquet, McAskill (Tremble) of Rouen, Mollie Baillie (Unit I) and Smith (Unit II) of Wimereux—I say "Thank you, Birmingham, for your welcome and for all the self-sacrificing work which must have been entailed."

LIST OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

- Aberdeen.**—Miss H. T. G. Donaldson, 5 Ash Hill Drive, Aberdeen.
Ayrshire.—Miss E. Howie, 5 Alton Terrace, Monkton, Ayrshire.
Bath.—Mrs. J. P. Ferguson, 16 Lime Grove Gardens, Pulteney Road, Bath.
Bedford.—Mrs. E. Hayman, 9 Cardington Road, Bedford.
Belfast.—Miss N. McCullough, 28 Sandhill Gardens, Neill's Hill, Belfast.
Birmingham.—Mrs. J. Rogers, 28 Foley Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge, Worcs.
Bournemouth.—Miss J. Lunniss, "Lamorna," Stapehill, near Wimborne, Dorset.
Bradford.—Mrs. E. M. Suttle, 9 St. Anne's Terrace, Baildon, Shipley, Yorks.
Brighton.—Miss J. A. Durnell, 38 Toronto Terrace, Brighton, Sussex.
Bristol.—Miss K. M. Cottrell, 435 Fishponds Road, Fishponds, Bristol.
Canterbury.—Mrs. R. Closier, 5 Cherry Avenue, Canterbury, Kent.
Cardiff.—Mrs. D. Pucknell, 11 Kyveilog Street, Cardiff, Glamorgan, South Wales.
Carlisle.—Miss E. Wightman, 11 Orfeur Street, Carlisle, Cumberland.
Chelmsford.—Mrs. M. Bragg, 11 Chaucer Road, Chelmsford, Essex.
Chesterfield.—Miss E. M. Cleary, 543 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield, Derby.

Derby.—Mrs. A. R. Jones (Treasurer, Acting Secretary), 17 Monyash Close, Chaddesden, Derbyshire.
Dumfriesshire.—Miss A. Gibson, "Tweedville," Eastfield Road, Dumfries.
East Africa.—Mrs. M. Ewing, P.O. Box 619, Nairobi, Kenya Colony.
Edinburgh.—Miss M. J. Cruickshank, 16 Riversdale Road, Edinburgh 12.
Gibraltar.—W.O.2 M. W. Coombes, 18 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Princess Royal Block, Europa, Gibraltar.
Glasgow.—Miss L. Mackenzie, 3 Churchill Drive, Glasgow, W.1.
Guernsey.—Mrs. M. Brett, "Amberley," Green Lanes, St. Peter Port, Guernsey.
Hartlepool.—Mrs. M. Jewell, 21 Whitfield Drive, Foggy Furze, West Hartlepool.
Hull.—Miss E. G. Williamson, Gallaway Lodge, Hornsea, Yorks.
Ilford.—Mrs. Curtis, 293 Mawneys Road, Romford, Essex.
Ipswich and Suffolk.—Mrs. J. Clarke, 34 Anglesea Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.
Leeds/York.—Sgt. E. Raper, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), 41 University Road, Leeds 2.
Leicester.—Sgt. D. Dodswell, W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Centre, Ashford Road, Leicester.
Liverpool.—Miss A. Hayward, 163 Greenhill Road, Liverpool 18.
London.—Miss M. C. Cockburn, 70 Highbury Gardens, Ilford, Essex;
 Miss I. Brown, 40 Salisbury Road, Manor Park, E.12.
County of London.—Major E. G. Joynt, W.R.A.C., Duke of York's H.Q., King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3.
Lonsdale.—Mrs. J. Lindsay, Brooklands, Scotforth Road, Lancaster.
Maidstone.—Miss N. Court, 32 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent.
Manchester.—Miss K. M. Woolley, 6 Ciss Lane, Urmston, near Manchester.
Middle East Group.—Mrs. P. C. Walter, 85a Lower Addiscombe Road, East Croydon, Surrey.
Newbury.—Mrs. C. Jones, 3 Priory Road, Newbury, Berks.
Norfolk.—Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 2 King's Head Terrace, Great Witchingham, Norfolk.
Nottingham.—W.O.1 E. M. Mallard, W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham.
Omagh.—Mrs. M. Roulston, 16 Rodgers Villas, Omagh, Northern Ireland.
Oxford.—Mrs. M. A. Paton, 6 Napier Road, Cowley, Oxford.
Plymouth.—Mrs. O. Foster, "Coryton," Elburton Road, Elburton, near Plymouth.
Portsmouth.—Miss Imogen Bray, 153 Clive Road, Fratton, Portsmouth, Hants.
Preston.—Mrs. A. E. Bucklee, 346 St. George's Road, Preston, Lancs.
Reading.—W.O.2 V. E. Kensett, W.R.A.C., "Inniscarra," 53 Bath Road, Reading, Berks.
St. Leonards-on-Sea.—Mrs. J. Street, 118 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.
Salisbury.—Mrs. A. Harris, 7 St. Andrews Road, Salisbury, Wilts.
Sheffield.—Miss L. Gee, 17 Ducksett Lane, Eckington, near Sheffield.
Singapore.—Capt. D. J. Adams, 4 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F., c/o G.P.O., Singapore.
Sleaford.—Mrs. B. Futter, Red House, Fleet Road, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincs.
Southampton.—Miss G. O. Davies, 21 High View Way, Bitterne Park, Southampton.
Southend.—Mrs. T. Johnston, 48 Claremont Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.
Southern Ireland.—Miss E. Lloyd, 4 Gledswood Close, Clonskeagh, Dublin.
Staffordshire North.—Mrs. S. M. Hampson, "Sandymount," Baldwin's Gate, Newcastle, Staffs.
Torbay.—Miss J. I. Babbage, "Rockwood," 82 Coombe Lane, St. Marychurch, Torquay.
Tunbridge Wells.—Miss D. Scott, Park House, Kingswood Road, Tunbridge Wells.
Wimbledon.—Miss E. A. K. Abbott (Chairman, Acting Secretary), C5 Queen Alexandra's Court, Wimbledon, S.W.19.
Wolverhampton.—Miss M. Davies (Treasurer, Acting Secretary), 33 Clifton Street, Wolverhampton, Staffs.

UNIT BRANCH SECRETARIES

12th Battalion.—W.O.1 C. M. Savage, M.B.E., Richmond Park Camp, Kingston, Surrey.
14th Battalion.—W.O.1 K. M. Holmes, Northern Army Group, British Forces Post Office 40.
1 Independent Company.—W.O.2 M. Tindall, Dregghorn Camp, Colinton, Edinburgh.
2 Independent Company.—W.O.2 D. C. Till, Venning Barracks, Donnington, Salop.
3 Independent Company.—2/Lt. E. P. Leach, School of A.A. Artillery, Manorbier, near Tenby.
4 Independent Company.—Capt. D. J. Adams, G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F., c/o G.P.O. Singapore.
5 Independent Company.—Up Park Camp, Caribbean Area, Kingston, Jamaica.
8 Independent Company.—W.O.2 E. M. A. Trodd, No. 4 Camp, Lower Arncliffe, Bicester, Oxon.
9 Independent Company.—W.O.2 M. Anthony, Fugglestone Camp North, Wilton, near Salisbury.
14 Independent Company.—W.O.2 S. S. Brown, Saighton Camp, Chester.
16 Independent Company.—Sgt. E. Richards, Wolverley Camp, Kidderminster, Worcs.
17 Independent Company.—Sgt. D. J. Nolan, P. and E.E. New Range, Shoeburyness, Essex.
18 Independent Company.—W.O.2 M. W. Coombes, Princess Royal Block, Europa, Gibraltar.
20 Independent Company.—S/Sgt. S. Dudley, Hooge Lines, Catterick.
27 Independent Company.—W.O.1 M. G. Fahy, Episkopi, British Forces P.O. 53.
22 Independent Platoon.—Sgt. E. M. McDonald, H.Q., Land Forces, Hong Kong.
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment.—Capt. Rushton, Glencorse Barracks, Milton Bridge, Midlothian.
Southern Command H.Q. (M) Signal Centre Troop.—S/Sgt. D. M. G. Argo, Fugglestone Camp, Wilton, near Salisbury.
W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.—W.O.1 F. J. Hadley, M.B.E., Huron Camp, Hindhead, Surrey.
W.R.A.C. Depot.—W.O.1 A. P. V. Hildyard, M.B.E., Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, Surrey.
W.R.A.C. Staff College.—S/Sgt. G. N. Beer, Frimley Park, Frimley, nr. Aldershot, Hants.
Drivers and Clerks T.C.—W.O.1 M. E. Norcott, Houndstone Camp, Yeovil, Somerset.
W.R.A.C. Detachment, Army School of Education.—W.O.2 Taylor, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Bucks.
W.R.A.C. P.T. Wing, A.S.P.T.—A/W.O.1 J. M. Beasor, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, Hants.
328 (Ulster) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).—W.O.1 H. Bell, Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, County Antrim.
319 (West Lances) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).—W.O.1 B. E. Gratton, Militia Camp, Aigburth Road, Liverpool 17.

PERSONAL

(For charges and particulars see Contents page)

For sale.—Officer's complete khaki uniform, etc. Excellent condition. Bust 36 in., hips 37 in. Nominal price for immediate sale.—Coaker, Madresfield, Malvern, Worcs.

For sale.—Officer's No. 1 dress, jacket and skirt (Weatherill's). Height 5 ft. 9 in., bust 34 in., waist 25 in., hips 37 in. Hat 21½. Ties, shirts and collars. £15. Also green greatcoat (Flight's), £15. Owner commissioned '55.—Lt. J. H. Mitchell, Officers' Mess, 20 Independent Company, Hooge Lines, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

For sale.—Officer's uniform (green). Height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 36 in., hips 38 in., with accessories. Also khaki raincoat. What offers?—Miss B. Roberts, 171 Gloucester Place, N.W.1. AMB 9631.

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London Gazette

HONOURS AND AWARDS

T.D.: Major N. W. Clark, Capt. N. Cheyne, Capt. V. E. Powell, Capt. E. B. Sinclair.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Major: M. K. Cavanagh, R. M. Engel, E. J. Nolan, J. T. Crooke.
Captain: M. M. Sims, P. A. Applebee.
Lieutenant: A. R. Pugh, V. C. Jones, D. J. Temple, R. A. Martin, S. P. Richards, K. M. Willis, S. M. Case, B. Carroll, S. J. Burgess.

Short Service Commissions

Major: J. W. Butcher.
Captain: M. Waters.
Lieutenant: J. Oliver, J. M. Addison, M. E. Rogers.
Second Lieutenant: M. Moore.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retirements on retired pay: Lt.-Cols. M. M. K. Marsh, T. Morris; Major E. R. Robinson.
Resignations: Lts. A. G. Bryce, P. A. Pleasance, J. H. Smith (Waycott), E. Jones (Maxwell-Laddy), B. F. Fowler (Lilley).

Short Service Commissions

Relinquishments on completion of service: Majors J. L. Beer, R. L. Kemp; Capt. H. Lyster.
Relegation to R.O.: Majors M. G. Fforde, C. M. Gausson; Capt. M. L. Tilburn.

APPOINTMENTS

(Taking effect during 1957)

D.W.R.A.C.: Col. M. K. R. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D. (as Brigadier).
D.D.W.R.A.C., War Office: Lt.-Col. J. E. R. Rivett Drake, M.B.E. (as Colonel).
D.D.W.R.A.C., Southern Command: Lt.-Col. S. F. M. Nimmo (as Colonel).
D.D.W.R.A.C., Eastern Command: Lt.-Col. J. G. Grierson, O.B.E. (as Colonel).
A.D.W.R.A.C., M.E.L.F.: Major L. M. Davies (as Lieutenant-Colonel).
Inspector of Recruiting: Major R. D. Allerton, M.B.E. (as Lieutenant-Colonel).

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