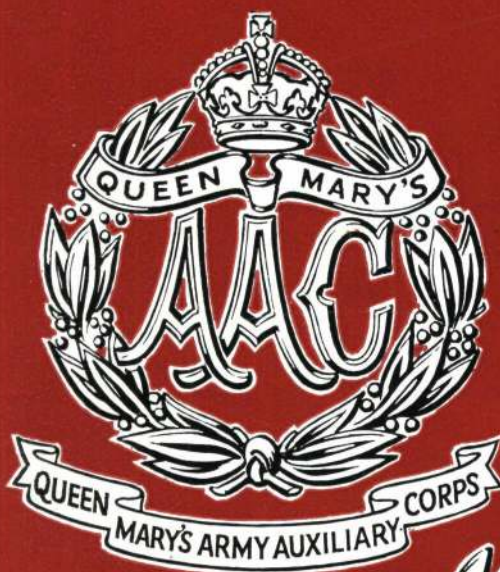


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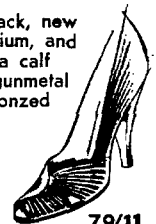
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(Photo by Lotte Meitner-Graf)

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



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXX

August 1957

No. 3

EDITORIAL

AN Editor, operating at the very fountain-head of publicity, is seldom envisaged against a cosy domestic background. An officer, traditionally, is on duty except when on leave. Anyone serving, as we do, in both capacities, is doubly devoid of private life, yet even for us there are occasions when personal preoccupations impinge on official duties, and one of these occurred just after the last *Lioness* went to press. We moved house.

For some time our distinguished position on *The Lioness* has encouraged a tendency to swelled head, and we were further demoralised by our promotion last autumn and consequent pay-increase (believe it or not) of 6d. a day less income-tax. Our suburban flat was no longer good enough. We aspired to a London house—one of those bijou residences featured in the women's papers, peppered with window-boxes and lined with built-in cupboards. Confidently we cashed a lifetime's savings and set out on a round of the house agents.

Of the 47 we visited, about 35 shook their heads in pity or contempt. The others took down copious particulars of our requirements and showered us with desirable properties. We were offered a 14-bedroom bargain in Eaton Square, a grocer's shop in Pimlico, a Kensington warehouse ripe for conversion, and a number of profitable investments with vacant possession of the basement.

One day, when hope was nearly dead, we wandered down a shabby little street in an unknown backwater and came upon a derelict cottage which was clearly unoccupied. As the front door had long ago mouldered away, we did not wait for an order to view, but picked our way over the rubble and went inside. It was the smallest house we had ever seen. It had no floorboards, no ceilings, no window panes, no water pipes. It had none of what the Army delicately calls Ancillaries. In some places it had no walls. Fired with a sudden creative zeal, we hurried round to see the agent.

The agent was a man of vision. He swept aside our comments on the existing structure. With shining eyes and expressive gestures he sketched in the dazzling potential. In our mind's eye we saw the house transformed, the neighbourhood developed, a garden burgeoning in the grimy backyard. He quoted a price rather higher than the mansion in Eaton Square. We bought it.

The workmen made some more large holes in the walls, tore out the window frames, and pulled down most of the staircase. When the whole house was in heaps on the pavement, they gave us a firm date for the final completion of the work.

We went home and started to pack, feverishly destroying everything for which we could see no future. This included a file of *Lioness* copy which we had begun to despair of ever publishing, so anyone who sent us a contribution before 1957 and has not yet seen it in print would be wise to abandon hope and start writing us another. Then we boldly gave notice to terminate our lease and ordered the removal vans. On D-Day minus 1, when we went to view the builders' progress, we realised that we had been a little optimistic, but by then it was too late.

The contractors certainly spared no effort to make up for lost time. When the van drew up before our 14-foot frontage, the house was occupied by two carpenters, two painters, a plasterer, three electricians, the gas-fitter, a telephone mechanic, and a man laying the drawing-room floor. Later we were joined by the sanitary inspector. It was altogether the most sociable house-move of our experience.

We grew very friendly with the workmen during the weeks that followed. They arrived before breakfast, stayed till dusk, took in our parcels, dealt with our callers, and gratefully shared our elevenses on Saturday mornings. Gradually out of the chaos a semblance of order began to emerge. Our furniture, looking rather blitzed, is finally in place. We have taken up the dust-sheets and cleaned the windows. The window-box is still empty, the built-in cupboards are much too full, and every ashtray contains a mysterious little collection of screws, tin-tacks, pieces of wire, and fragments of some unidentified electrical appliance, but otherwise our move is complete and we can turn our attention once more to *The Lioness*.

As a London property-owner we are rapidly taking on a veneer of city culture, and would soon begin to deny that civilisation exists outside the Metropolis if we were not continually recalled by our *Lioness* readers to a broader viewpoint. Why, we have been asked by a number of angry Scots-women, did the script of the Reunion *Flashback* refer so often to "England"? Why not "Britain"? Londoner as we are, we admit the justice of this protest, and can only plead the poetic licence which allowed us to choose the most melodious words in our vocabulary. Anyone who has tried to sing the word "Britain" will appreciate our point, and so, we think, would Shakespeare if accuracy had compelled him to write of "*This earth, this realm, this Britain*." We offer our apologies to the Servicewomen of Scotland, Ireland, Wales and the countries of the Commonwealth, and assure them that they were all in our minds when we wrote. We cannot answer for Shakespeare, of course—but he, after all, was a mere provincial.

Princess Royal's Day Overseas GIBRALTAR

ON Friday evening, April 26, the W.R.A.C. officers entertained H.E. The Governor and Commander-in-Chief, with various leading members of the three Services and civilian population, at a cocktail party. The lovely club-room of the Naafi Employees' Club, overlooking the harbour, was kindly lent by the management for the occasion. Members of the local Unit acted as waitresses, and in order to stimulate the interest of the guests a scale model of the Depot was displayed. This had been drawn by our "Q" Sergeant and made in plasticine by our C.S.M.

Corps Day itself was celebrated by a church parade at King's Chapel in the morning, and in the afternoon members of the Unit invited their own friends in to a buffet tea in Princess Royal Block, prepared by the local A.C.C. Cookery School.

NAIROBI

THE detachment in East Africa, which has been running down since the campaign against Mau Mau was officially terminated last November, was withdrawn on July 1, 1957, leaving only one staff officer (Capt. Appelbee) to represent the W.R.A.C. south of the Equator. The detachment has done a good job and most of its members have enjoyed their service and appreciated the opportunities which it offered for seeing a new part of the world.

On Corps Day, 1957, when the strength of the detachment stood at three officers and eighteen other ranks, a special service was held in the Garrison Church of St. George. At this service the Chaplain dedicated a hymn-board presented by all ranks of the W.R.A.C. to commemorate their stay in the Command. The board is made of the local hardwood, a beautifully coloured light wood, and the crest has been backed into the wood as an integral part of the board.

SINGAPORE

CORPS Day celebrations began on Wednesday, April 24, 1957, with a cocktail party in Tanglin Officers' Mess, where 11 of the W.R.A.C. officers stationed in Singapore (and the husbands of two of them) entertained heads of employing branches. Unfortunately General and Lady Festing were unable to attend.

An Other Ranks' Dance was organised by the Entertainments Committee on Friday, April 26, on the premises of 4 Independent Company. The scene was like an illustration from a travel brochure, with floodlit palm trees and lightly-clad guests sitting out under the tropical sky. The C.S.M.'s office was transformed into a bar, and fairy lights disguised the building. Potted plants decorated the dining-room. Sgt. Fuller, our new N.C.O. Cook, made many tempting snacks with the assistance of the Chinese cooks, and a rich and fruity Corps birthday cake.

On Sunday, April 28, the Annual Church Parade took place at St. George's Garrison Church. The service was conducted by the Garrison Chaplain, the Rev. J. R. P. Baggeley, M.C., M.A., and the lesson was read by the A.D.W.R.A.C. After the service the Company in No. 3 Dress marched past the Chief of Staff F.A.R.E.L.F., Major-Gen. L. H. O. Pugh, C.B.E., D.S.O., to the Band of the K.O.S.B. After the parade the Chief of Staff and D.A.G. were entertained to coffee in the Officers' Mess, while 4 Independent Company entertained the Band.

Director Designate

Col. M. K. R. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D., who takes up the appointment of D.W.R.A.C. in September, 1957, comes to her new post with an unusually wide and varied experience of the Corps in all its aspects. She joined the F.A.N.Y. in 1938, was commissioned just before the outbreak of war, and served until 1942 with M.T. Companies in Southern Command. The rest of her war service included the command of an A.T.S. Company at Southend, command of a C.O.D. Group at Weedon, and a year with A.A. Units and formations. In 1945, having taken a Civil Affairs Course, she was posted to Germany and served for two years in first-grade appointments on the staff of Military Government, Hamburg. She was awarded the O.B.E. for her work there.

In 1947 Col. Colvin returned to the U.K., and after a few months as a Group Commander in Northern Ireland, was appointed to command the A.T.S. O.C.T.U., which later became the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction. In this capacity she gained a close knowledge of the officers of the Corps and their problems, and this knowledge was later extended to the other ranks during a year at the War Office as Inspector of Recruiting (Women's Services). Three years as A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command and one as D.D.W.R.A.C. Eastern Command, combined with the earlier experience in N.I.D., have given her a very complete picture of the U.K. organisation, Regular and T.A., and have made her a familiar and respected figure all over the British Isles.

In private life Col. Colvin is a noted horse-woman, hunting with the Blackmore Vale hounds as regularly as her military duties permit and appearing frequently as a judge at horse-trials and training events all over the country. She has done much to encourage riding in the W.R.A.C., and is also keenly interested in tennis, squash, and other forms of sport. The Corps offer her a warm welcome to her new appointment, and many good wishes for a happy and successful tenure of office.

HONORARY COLONEL

Miss Rose Heilbron, Q.C., LL.M., has been appointed Honorary Colonel of 320 (East Lancs) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

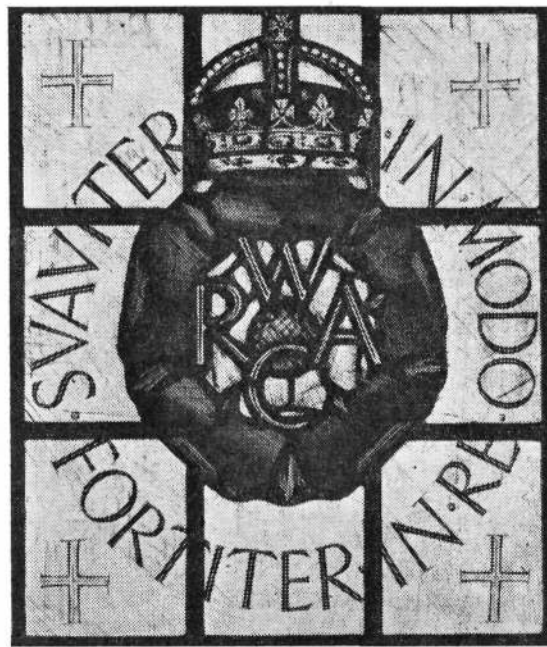
The Guildford Window

A SHORT ceremony was held at Guildford Cathedral on Saturday, June 1, 1957, to mark the occasion of the presentation of a cheque from the Women's Royal Army Corps. This cheque for £2,537 2s. 6d. represented the amount of money collected for the W.R.A.C. Window.

W.R.A.C. window. Each of the windows on the south side of the Nave is being donated by groups or professions and the W.R.A.C. are the first to hand over their cheque. It is hoped that the Scottish group, who are providing the window next to the W.R.A.C. one, will soon achieve their total.



(Photo by Wallace Heaton)



(Photo by Wallace Heaton)

The ceremony which was held in the Chancel took the form of a short concert by the W.R.A.C. Staff Band. In an interval the cheque was presented by two Privates from the W.R.A.C. Depot and received by the Provost, the Very Rev. Walter Boulton. After the concert W.R.A.C. visitors and their friends were escorted round the ancillary rooms and the Chapter House and were shown the Cathedral treasures by Miss E. Iredale, Secretary to the Guildford New Cathedral Council. The treasures included vestments, fine linen for the altar, kneelers beautifully worked by needlewomen of the diocese, gold and silver plate vessels given by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, and a beautiful alms dish given by the Master Mason of Surrey.

Also on view were the coloured glass panels of the W.R.A.C. window, designed by Miss Moira Forsyth. These very beautifully coloured panels, one representing the Corps badge and the other the collar badge surrounded by the Motto, will form the base of the long double window, which is one of the 14 windows in the Nave. Outside each window there will be a statue representing one of the virtues. Faith, the one presented by the W.R.A.C., will be immediately outside the

The glass for the Corps window, which is on exhibition in the Chapter House, may now be seen by visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE

DEAR EDITOR,

A little while ago I attended a lecture on "Colonialism" at the English Speaking Union here, given by Earl De La Warr. Recollecting that he had been Miss Ireland's employer, I mentioned my association with her, and as the result I was introduced to him and told him that I had trained under her at Hastings many years ago.

My W.A.A.C. experiences seem to be a cause of great interest and amusement to the women over here—one told me that she was astounded to know that such a Corps ever existed. Their attitude towards me has changed entirely since they realised that it was the war that had made me a displaced person. I am regarded as a citizen now, and not an intruding Englishwoman.

Yours truly,

FLORENCE M. WARREN ("BUNNY").

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

W.R.A.C. Depot

CORPS Day, April 28, 1957, was a great occasion. H.R.H. The Princess Royal honoured us by her presence and about 2,000 people visited the camp. They saw a programme which included a wheel-changing competition in which several Regular and T.A. Units took part, the winners being 70 Company R.A.S.C. (M.T.)—time 1 min. 45 sec. The competition was followed by a silent drill display, and then by gay Italian dancing scenes.

ON May 9 the B.B.C. recorded, in the Gym, an excellent Variety Show which was broadcast in the Light Programme on June 27 in "Stars on Parade."

THE 100th W.R.A.C. Recruit Passing Out Parade took place on June 26. The Director of Personnel Services at the War Office, Major-Gen. R. F. Johnstone, C.B.E., took the salute at the parade which included contingents from Headquarters Company, Holding and Drafting Company and the Cookery Instructional Centre. There were 80 recruits on parade. The Director W.R.A.C. and other distinguished members of the W.R.A.C. were present and had lunch in the Officers' Mess. Before the parade the usual Passing Out Parade Service was held in the Depot Church, which is now in regular use and is to be dedicated on July 28. The whole party was entertained to tea in the Sergeants' Mess after the parade.

WHEN Her Majesty The Queen and H.R.H. Prince Philip visited Guildford on June 27, the 700th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter to the town by King Henry III, nearly 300 women took part in various items included in the programme. In addition to lining the route up to the Cathedral, the W.R.A.C. acted as stewards at the pageant and took part in the pageant itself. The W.R.A.C. Staff Band also took part in the pageant, which lasted for nearly a fortnight. Many compliments have been received from the civilian population on the smartness and helpfulness of the W.R.A.C.

IT may interest readers to know that the strength of the Depot has been over 700 at least once this year and now averages approximately 600. Many official visitors have come to the Depot, including the Adjutant-General, Gen. Sir Charles F. Loewen, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who paid a most "morale raising" visit on June 18.

THE W.R.A.C. Staff Band has been very busy indeed since March. They played for the International Hockey Final at Wembley on March 9, spent ten days in Germany, and in May played at the Diocesan Thanksgiving Service outside Guildford Cathedral. In June they played at Manobier for five days, and from June 19 to 22

played to a most appreciative variety of audiences in the Royal Counties Show, Guildford. The new Drum Major, Sgt. Davey, made her début with the Band at the 100th Passing Out Parade.

THE following gifts have been made or promised to the Depot Church since the last list was published: **An offertory bag**—Col. J. E. R. Rivett-Drake, M.B.E. **A pair of brass vases**—Col. S. Cooke, C.B.E., T.D. **A flower bowl**—Lt.-Col. E. W. Gibson, M.B.E., W.R.A.C. **A credence table**—Retired W.R.A.C. Officers. **A prayer desk**—The Cookery Instructional Centre. **Offertory plate, hymn and psalm boards**—Sgt. I. E. M. Howe, W.R.A.C. **A Bible**—Mrs. R. Parker. **Bible marker and scroll card painted motto**—W.O.2 M. Tindall. **Pulpit fall**—Mrs. H. P. Gibson. **Brass crucifix**—An ex-A.T.S./W.R.A.C. member. **Songs of Praise hymn book**—The Depot Church Fellowship. **Cross for outside Church**—Mr. C. Prentice. **Pedestal**—Mrs. A. Grief and Mrs. L. Everitt (both ex-A.T.S.), in memory of C.S.M. E. L. Digweed. **Picture**—Capt. M. Mathews. **A silver cross** (instead of a chalice)—Miss E. E. Mapp. **Cheques**—Lt.-Col. R. King (ret'd.), Mrs. Barnes (J/Comdr. Hedges, A.T.S.), Mrs. Marsden-Smedley, 318 Independent Company W.R.A.C. (T.A.), 3 Platoon 9 Independent Company W.R.A.C. and 306 Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) The cheques have provided some handsome curtains, two offertory bags and pictures. Fifty-one kneelers have been completed, and at the time of going to press 50 more are being worked. Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil has worked a beautiful tapestry cushion and has a second one in hand. W.O.2 Tindall has worked the Corps Badge on a special kneeler. Needless to say, we are most grateful for the very kind interest being shown in the Church and for so much generosity.

SPORT

Fencing

THE Army Women's Fencing Championships were held at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, on Thursday, April 25, 1957. There were ten entries for the competition, which was won by Capt. J. Tappin. Pte. A. V. Janman was 2nd and W.O.1 J. Beasor 3rd. The prizes were presented by Brigadier F. P. Barclay, D.S.O., M.C., Inspector of Physical Training.

The Inter-Services Team Fencing Tournament was held at the R.A.F. Station, Halton, on Wednesday, May 15, 1957. The Army, represented by Capt. J. Tappin, W.O.1 J. Beasor and Pte. A. V. Janman, came 1st in the Women's Foil event with 12 victories. The Royal Navy was 2nd with nine victories, and the R.A.F. 3rd with six. The president (referee) for this event was Miss Gillian Sheen, British Ladies' Foil Champion and winner of the Gold Medal for the Ladies' Individual Foil

event at the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956. The trophies and medals were presented by Wing Commander C. L. de Beaumont, Chairman of the Amateur Fencing Association.

The Women's Services Individual Foil Championship was held at the Royal Tournament, Earls Court, on June 11, 1957. Four W.R.A.C. fencers took part—Capt. Tappin, W.O.1 Beasor, Cpl. Thomas and Pte. Janman—and Capt. Tappin and Pte. Janman qualified for the final. The championship was won by Capt. Tappin with four victories, 3rd/Offr. Joll (R.N.) and Wren Brooks (R.N.) coming 2nd and 3rd, and Pte. Janman 4th. This victory wound up a highly successful season, of which Capt. Tappin and the other Army fencers may well be proud.

Table Tennis

THE fourth W.R.A.C. Inter-Unit Table Tennis Tournament was held during the season 1956-57. Commands ran their own eliminating rounds and the winning team from each Command took part in the finals at Guildford on April 26, 1957. Each team comprised one doubles couple and two singles players. B.A.O.R. again sent a team, and Northern Command was represented for the first time. The finals were run as an American tournament, and the results were as follow: 1st, 17 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. (Eastern), 12 matches; 2nd, W.R.A.C. P.T. Wing (Southern), 11 matches; 3rd, 322 (North Wales) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.) (Western), 10 matches.

The cup was presented to 17 Independent Company and medals to the winning team and runners-up.

London Gazette

HONOURS AND AWARDS

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

O.B.E.: Lt.-Col. N. K. Cadden, Lt.-Col. M. Tompkins, Miss M. McLellan, W.T.S. (F.A.N.Y.).

M.B.E.: Major D. M. Hewitt.

B.E.M.: Sgt. F. Pearson, Sgt. C. M. Samuda.

Efficiency Medal (Territorial): Sub. G. M. Evans, A.T.S., Sub. W. M. Keilty (now Ruston), A.T.S.

Mentioned in recognition of distinguished services: W.O.1 M. F. Cullen, W.O.2 L. M. Aston.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Lieutenant-Colonel: M. S. F. Millington, M. H. Boydell.

Major: S. W. Whitworth.

Captain: H. Powell, A. B. Cain, J. M. Lester.

Lieutenant: R. P. Smart, D. M. M. Stewart.

2/Lieutenant: A. E. Beloe, B. J. Stone, B.A., J. A. Jeffree, B. E. Horner, M. J. Hancock, J. F. Sherman, A. M. Downs, F. M. Macdonald, J. M. A. Armstrong.

Short Service Commissions

2/Lieutenant: D. M. Athoe.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retirements on retired pay: Col. A. C. D. Hind, M.B.E., Major B. M. Balmer, M.B.E.

Retirements with gratuity: Major E. B. Drake.

Resignations: Capts. N. M. Lycett-Gregson, V. N. A. Barlow (Fawcett-Barry), C. I. Baron (Cooke); Lts. J. G. Higgins (Smith), D. Wilson (Mitchell), E. M. W. Townsend (Roach), S. M. Reed, B.A. (Aitken), D. P. Chandler, M. J. McCarthy (Hadley), J. H. Birmingham (Mitchell), H. M. Phillips, D. T. Jordan (Crane); 2/Lt. M. R. Phillipson (Turner).

Short Service Commissions

Relinquishment on completion of service: Majors M. E. D. Stein, D. M. Hewitt; Lt. D. H. G. Saxon.

Relegation to R.O.: Lts. M. A. Sibbald, A. S. Keefe.



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WITH THE ARMY

AT WORK

A" COMPANY, 14th Battalion W.R.A.C., is for the most part a clerical Company, supplying clerks and office-machine operators for H.Q. Northern Army Group and H.Q. B.A.O.R. W.F.A.C. cooks and orderlies staff the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess there, and W.R.A.C. batwomen work in the W.R.A.C. officers' quarters in the various Headquarter Messes. A Platoon of the Company works at Field Records and is housed in barracks in the nearby town of Moenchen Gladbach. Detached from the Company are four clerks who work in Q (Movements) at the Hook of Holland, and one Warrant Officer who is P.A. to the Corps Commander, H.Q. I Corps, at Bielefeld.

From time to time normal routine duties in the Headquarters are enlivened by Exercises, which may involve sleeping under canvas or going out into "the field" during the day. Although these Exercises entail a lot of hard work, they are usually very much enjoyed by those concerned.

In the New Year Honours List this year, Sgt. Pearson, Chief Clerk to the A.D.W.R.A.C., was awarded the B.E.M. This was presented to her by Her Majesty's Ambassador, Sir Christopher Steele, at a ceremony held in the Headquarters on Monday, April 1, 1957. After the ceremony there was champagne all round. Among the guests was Sgt. Pearson's niece, a member of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. stationed at B.M.H., Hostert.

THE W.R.A.C. drivers in B.A.O.R. form one Platoon of a truly "mixed" Company, the remainder consisting of one R.A.S.C. and three German Service Organisation Platoons. The W.R.A.C. are all staff-car drivers, and almost half drive senior officers at H.Q. Northag and B.A.O.R. Their duties vary from local details around the vast camp to tours of several days in the British Zone of Germany, in Belgium and in Holland.

EMPLOYED with Royal Signals are women doing three jobs. In the telephone exchange they work side by side with German civilians, manning those trunk lines on which English-speaking operators are predominantly required, and in the crypto-centre and the signal centre they work with men of the Royal Signals, mainly on secret work. Recently this signal centre has been involved in a large-scale communications exercise, during which the entire W.R.A.C. Squadron almost disappeared under the mounds of tape which piled up on all sides.

As usual the W.R.A.C. Signals are on shift work, and do not get much opportunity to take part in 14th Battalion activities as they are frequently working when everyone else is playing, but they are lucky in that the 19th Army Group Signal Regiment has a very lively Families' Club at which the W.R.A.C. are always made most welcome.

ALSO stationed at the Joint Headquarters is 145 Provost Company, W.R.A.C. The camp is like a small town, with its own schools, churches, shops, Naafi clubs and other amenities, so that the role of a W.R.A.C. policewoman is partly military and partly comparable to that of a civilian policewoman in a provincial town in U.K. Apart from their patrol duties, they are responsible for traffic control and the safe crossing of children outside the local school and the children's cinema. They collect and care for small children who stray from their parents, and assist the Special Investigation Branch in taking statements from women and child witnesses.

The Provost also man an Information Post at the main entrance to the Garrison, and direct many visitors of various nationalities. Somehow, with English, one or two German words and a considerable use of sign language, all enquirers are satisfied. The most popular duty of all, however, is to attend the many big Allied parades which take place at frequent intervals outside the Joint H.Q. building, and control the crowds of German and British who gather to watch the spectacle. This means a ring-side view for the W.R.A.C. Provost, who have been able to see the Prime Minister, the British Ambassador, and other distinguished visitors at very close quarters in this way.

IN Berlin, that "divided city" a hundred miles inside the Russian Zone, 4 Independent Platoon keeps the W.R.A.C. flag flying, with a party of clerks working in the Independent Brigade Headquarters (built by Hitler as a magnificent stadium) and a little team of administrative and mess staff. Their excellent living conditions and outstandingly good facilities for swimming and sport, the interest and beauty of their surroundings, and above all the sense of doing a valuable job, provide ample compensation for the restrictions of life on the edge of the Iron Curtain, and service there is very popular.

OFF DUTY

APART from the usual Unit team games of cricket, hockey, netball and stoolball, there are facilities at H.Q. B.A.O.R. for riding, archery, fencing, badminton, tennis and squash. Pte. Scott, W.R.A.C., on the recommendation of the Chairman of the B.A.O.R. Sports Board, has just been presented with the B.A.O.R. Badminton Colour, having won the Women's Singles in the B.A.O.R. Championships. This was no mean feat, as she has only recently taken up the game and beat the holder for the last two years.

The Riding School which flourished for so many years no longer exists, and all the horses in the H.Q. stables are now privately owned, but some of the W.R.A.C. still manage to ride. One member was able to buy her own horse, and others help to exercise other people's. There are many pleasant rides in the country round about the Headquarters, and the riders enjoy helping the grooms to look after the horses at the stables.

ON THE RHINE

In the H.Q. Northag R.A.S.C. Car Rally, the Ladies' Prize was won by the two W.R.A.C. officers from 68 Company, R.A.S.C. (M.T.), Capt. Godin and Lt. Griffiths. This was a gruelling test of 500 miles in bad weather, driving through the night and covering every type of road in Western Germany. The test included driving round the famous "Nurburg Ring," where the Grand Prix motor races are held with such stars as Fangio and Stirling Moss driving.

For the enterprising, the whole of Western Europe is within reach, and the women are great travellers on continental and short leave. Many have visited France, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Luxemburg and Austria, as well as all parts of Western Germany itself.

The drivers have found one more use for their spare time. They have "adopted" 11 orphan children at a convent in Moench Gladbach. They visit them and take them out, bought them Christmas presents and Easter eggs (raising the money by raffles and bring-and-buy sales), and hope to arrange an outing in the summer.

D.W.R.A.C. VISITS RHINE ARMY

AT the end of March the 14th Battalion was very pleased to welcome D.W.R.A.C. on a short farewell visit to B.A.O.R. For once the Battalion was able to parade with the W.R.A.C. Band, which was in Germany at the same time.

Dame Mary was entertained in the Sergeants' Mess, where she met a very large number of senior ranks, including the two Dutch Sergeants who are attached to the Battalion and are great supporters of the W.R.A.C. Later in the week the W.R.A.C. officers gave a cocktail party for her, and all had the opportunity of a personal chat.

The Director met the Commanding Officers of the Signals and R.A.S.C., and had many conversations with the girls themselves on their various jobs. She travelled to Berlin, where she talked to every girl and saw their exceptionally good quarters, and finished her trip with a visit to the small but lively contingent at the Hook.

THE W.R.A.C. STAFF BAND

THE visit of the Band was all too short, but they were very well received wherever they went, particularly as there had been great disappointment when their original tour in November, 1956, had to be cancelled owing to illness. One of the most successful concerts was held in the grounds of the Opera House in Moench Gladbach and was attended by thousands of Germans. They were all very intrigued with the idea of a Women's Army Band, and most appreciative of the music. Capt. MacDowall received great applause when she announced the programme in German. The Band also gave a concert in the theatre in the Garrison, and surprised many people by the variety and scope of the music they played.

APRIL IN PARIS

EACH April for several years now, staff cars and drivers have gone from B.A.O.R. to S.H.A.P.E. H.Q., just outside Paris, to drive senior officers of all Services and leading scientists taking part in the NATO Exercise. This year for the first time W.R.A.C. drivers from 68 Company R.A.S.C. (M.T.) were among those selected for this duty.

On Wednesday, April 10, Capt. B. M. Godin, Sgt. Austin and seven W.R.A.C. drivers formed part of the convoy of 23 vehicles which swept out of H.Q. R.A.S.C. Army Group Troops at 0730 hours. The convoy consisted of R.A.S.C., W.R.A.C. and R.A.F. drivers, with R.E.M.E. personnel in a breakdown vehicle at the rear. The drivers were split up into sections without regard to sex or Service, and their team spirit and happy co-operation played a large part in the success of the Exercise.

The journey across Belgium into the north-east of France was not without its funny incidents, as 23 military vehicles crossing the frontiers caused great consternation. At Senlis the convoy was met by the Royal Military Police and escorted round Paris to S.H.A.P.E. H.Q. Half of the W.R.A.C. stayed in great luxury with the American W.A.C., and the rest were kindly given exceedingly comfortable rooms by the Naafi.

The next morning was spent on maintenance, and in the afternoon a lecture was given by the R.M.P., and then the drivers were let loose in Paris and thrown on the tender mercy of the French traffic. The great test was the Place d'Etoile, where 13 roads converge on L'Arc de Triomphe and no one gives way to anyone else. Drivers were given three days of driving in Paris, learning routes to airports, to the residences of the Supreme Commander and other V.I.P.s, and to the hotels where their passengers were staying. Most of the W.R.A.C. were allotted to the Navy, and two Admirals were among their passengers, although the Army (with the V.C.I.G.S.), the Air Force and the Ministry of Supply were all represented.

On Sunday, April 14, the Exercise began, and all drivers went off in No. 1 Dress to the various airports to collect their passengers. From then until the end of the Exercise, when they took them back to catch their planes, drivers worked individually for long hours, operating from a central transport office which was open day and night. At the end of the Exercise on April 18 the drivers had two days to get themselves and their cars ready for the return journey, and also had the opportunity for a little sight-seeing. The convoy finally left the S.H.A.P.E. H.Q. at 0930 hours on Easter Sunday, to return to Germany with the feeling of a job well done, and with the words "The W.R.A.C. will be asked for again next year" ringing in their ears.

PIN-UPS

HAVE you ever taken a flat which has a clause in its lease preventing the tenant from driving nails into the walls?

I was brought up in a house full of pictures and I hate to be without them—they bring to my rooms colour, life, friendliness and a feeling of home, and they radiate atmosphere and association. Each one has a history for me—one was bought at a village jumble sale 30 years ago, another hung in a beloved room in my old home, another is of a foreign city where I spent two exhausting but intensely interesting years, several depict the hazards and discomforts of a favourite pastime; animals, cleverly drawn, remind me of an incident or a friend, a vivid patch of colour in one picture brings to life a room, a personality and much kindness.

Of course I hang them in my flat. Is it the same with members of our Corps who love to surround themselves with pin-ups? Is it just as annoying for Jenifer Smith to be told that she can only have three pin-ups above her bed in her barrack room when she wants to have the Duke of Edinburgh, Gary Cooper, Prince Charles and Pat Smythe as well as three others? Do large numbers of pin-ups bring to her what my pictures bring to me?

Remind her of an incident at home—a lovely evening at a wonderful film—do they kindle hopes of a glamorous future and set a superlative standard in her mind? If so, of course she will put them up.

When I leave my flat I shall have to make good the damage my nails have done in the walls. When Jenifer Smith is posted to Singapore at short notice she may get away with it, although the wall above her bed is mutilated with pin-holes and bits of sticky paper. The person who won't like it is Mary Jones, who now occupies Jenifer Smith's bed with an entirely new set of pin-ups of H.M. The Queen, Gregory Peck, Marilyn Monroe and the Princess Anne, and nothing but holes and dirty paper to put them up on.

Eight beds and eight bits of mutilated wall, and, of course, the room, so recently painted a nice pastel shade, begins to look a bit shabby.

What can be done about pin-ups? What about an addition to the schedule of barrack accommodation stores of one 2 ft. by 2 ft. cork bath mat, pin-ups for the use of, complete with hanging facilities? And, of course, a Gallup poll to see who receives the pin-up accolade?

M.K.R.C.

INTRODUCTION TO MACAU

SGT. S. E. ALLPRESS, W.R.A.C.

WHEN S/Sgt. Christina Cornwell and I went on leave from Singapore to Hong Kong, friends of ours in the W.R.A.C. there told us that a visit to Macau, a small Portuguese colony situated at the mouth of the Pearl River on the South China mainland, is a "must". It is the oldest colony in the world, founded by the Portuguese over 500 years ago and still in their possession. It differs from other parts of the Far East in that the architecture is European in style. Besides the Portuguese population there are many Chinese, including refugees from China, living there. Needless to say it has a long and interesting history.

A few days later we embarked on the ferry *Takshing*, which sailed at midnight. We were too excited to sleep, so we sat on deck and watched Hong Kong slip away behind us. The brilliant, many-coloured lights of Hong Kong and Kowloon on the mainland, twinkling away, getting smaller and smaller, left a never-to-be-forgotten picture in our minds. We reached Macau at 4 a.m., but were allowed to remain on board till 8 o'clock. Then we started walking in search of the Golden Gate Café which we had been told provided a good breakfast. After a few yards one of the many Chinese trisha riders appeared beside us and persuaded us to get into his trisha—a combination of cycle and side-car with a movable hood and seats for two passengers. Always willing to try anything once, we seated ourselves and in a few minutes alighted at the Golden Gate. After breakfast more trisha riders were eager to offer their services, but we declined

until one who could speak a little English produced a map of Macau and said he could take us round the island for \$10. That did it, and we were soon riding along in the morning sunshine.

Our rider was a good guide and, true to his word, pointed out all the places of interest and gave a brief history of each. The tour included walks round public gardens, visits to Chinese Temples and the swimming-pool. In due course we came within a few yards of the Barrier Gate on the Chinese frontier, but armed guards prevented us from getting too close, so we are still wondering what lies beyond. A few minutes later it started to rain heavily, but our rider, undaunted, raised the hood, fixed a waterproof cover over the front, placed a large hat on his head and carried on. For the next half-hour he pulled us slowly along narrow cobblestone streets, the view almost obliterated owing to the heavy rain and to the fact that there was only a tiny window in the waterproof cover to see through. Eventually we stopped outside a heavy door which led to a church and graveyard. Our rider insisted that we must see them in spite of the rain, especially the grave of an ancestor of Sir Winston Churchill who was buried there in 1840. By the time we reached our last point the rain had ceased and the sun shone again. This call was at Government House, where we signed our names in the visitors book and were presented with a map of Macau. Then, feeling hungry, we proceeded to the Ruby Restaurant for lunch, where we paid our rider, wrote a few words of appreciation in his "little book for the purpose" and bade him farewell.

Time was then getting short, so we sauntered slowly back to the ferry. On the way we passed a closed shop which sold materials. On the outside hung two columns of Chinese fire-crackers just being lit, causing an ear-splitting noise as they exploded. Immediately this ceased the shop doors opened and customers entered. We could not find anyone who understood English, but we gathered that a new shop was just opened and the fire-crackers signified good luck and prosperity. We

tried to imagine the chaos in a busy English street if it happened there, but in Macau there is very little traffic.

The ferry sailed at 3 p.m., and we regretfully watched Macau disappear from view. We passed many Chinese fishing-boats and junks sailing gracefully on their way. We were back in Hong Kong at 6.45, a little lighter in purse but richer in knowledge and experience.

SHRIVENHAM REMEMBERED

J. B. REVELL

I WAS most interested to read the account in *The Lioness* about the Farewell to Shrivenham, for it brought back the time nearly 15 years ago when another farewell was said by the A.T.S. of the 133 O.C.T.U., R.A.

I well remember my first sight of the place in January, 1940, when our little crowd arrived by train from Aldermaston, where we were some of the very first trainees. The camp was in process of being built, and although the barrack blocks were finished, and most of the main buildings, the roads were not. Thick yellow mud was everywhere, and lorry drivers seemed to take a delight in splashing the "lady soldiers." Some of us had full uniform, others bits and pieces. Our accommodation was really quite wonderful—four of us in a newly-built married soldier's quarter. We only had midday dinner in Mess, and collected very generous tea, supper and breakfast rations daily from the store. We lived well and had great fun getting our own meals and generally keeping house. We had not been there very long before the worst-ever winter I remember started. Most of the houses were without water for days, and though we managed to keep ours longer than most, there came a night when my room-mate and I were awakened by a scraping and giggling noise and rushed out to find water pouring down the stairs and our two house-mates trying to scrape it up in a dustpan.

We soon settled in to camp life, and I had an interesting job with the R.A.S.C. We all jogged along happily until the time of Dunkirk, when the camp became a reception centre for the lorry-loads of weary men. This made extra work for everyone, and many of us volunteered to help out the cooks and orderlies at the end of our own day's work. At that time no passes for Swindon were allowed and we were all confined to barracks, but thanks to the efforts of the entertainments officers we did not lack amusement, and many concerts and outdoor sing-songs were arranged at very short notice by the men who had so recently been in danger.

Many things happened while the A.T.S. at Shrivenham grew from the 3rd Warwicks T.A. (who were there before us) to a Group of over 400 commanded by Mrs. Jagger. One highlight was the visit of H.M. Queen Mary—a glorious hot June day and Her Majesty wearing a white lace dress

and a toque and carrying a brilliant peacock-blue parasol. I watched the march-past from the N.A.A.F.I. window with Sgt. Smith, and we felt very proud of our girls.

As we grew, and conscription was brought in, our way of life changed. We no longer drew our own rations, all meals had to be taken in Mess, and a parade was taken each morning by the C.S.M. on duty that day. We became a very smart and keen Company, and the "conscripts" soon settled down like old hands and became the best of friends. Competition for the brightest buttons and shiniest shoes became very keen, and quite a number of my friends eventually went up for commissions and left us for the O.C.T.U.

Our camp was considered an important one, as the 133 O.C.T.U. had as many as 3,000 officer-cadets at one time. Many very good E.N.S.A. shows came down to visit us, and on one Sunday the caste of the Windmill Theatre came and gave us their usual good show free. There was also a flourishing Dramatic Society amongst the cadets. Dances were held, usually twice a week, with the Camp Band, in which one of our A.T.S. (Pam Reeve) played the saxophone. We had pleasant bicycling-picnics by the river at Lechlade, went on organised trips to the theatre in Oxford, and consumed innumerable meals and gallons of tea with our escorts at McIlroys Café in Swindon. P.T. and games were enjoyed by everyone, and thanks to the coaching of Sub. Haynes—later to become 'D.D.A.T.S. Eastern Command—we won many hockey matches. Altogether Shrivenham was a very happy camp, with something about it that made us into a very close-knit community.

I think it was about the middle of 1942 when the rumour went round that we were leaving the camp because the U.S. Army wanted to take it over. The rumour proved fact, and plans were made for the move to Tonfanau in Wales. I thought that I should be left behind, as I worked for the R.A.S.C. and not for the O.C.T.U., but alas, after much discussion and deliberation it was decided that the responsibility of five A.T.S. amongst several thousand Americans was too much. So it was farewell to Shrivenham, and some of the happiest and most hard-working days of my five-and-a-half years' service with the A.T.S.

Reunions

Q.M.A.A.C. Overseas Officers

ON one of the hottest days of the year, Saturday, June 29, a number of Q.M.A.A.C. overseas officers spent a delightful afternoon with Mrs. King (Jordan) at "Trequites," Streatham Hill. This was the ninth reunion party given by Mrs. King. In spite of the dry spell the garden was full of colour and much admired; a friendly squirrel drank water from the lily pond. Everybody was delighted to see Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, who alone managed to look cool. Mrs. Samuel (Elkin) and Mrs. Parsons (Haythorne) were present for the first time. Others present were Miss Baker, Miss Bertrand, Miss Cliff, Mrs. Clifton (Barbara Jones), Mrs. Coumbe (Van der Weyden), Miss Douch, Mrs. Garrard (Barr), Mrs. Grundy (Sanders), Miss D. M. Johnson, Mrs. Newton (Betts) and Miss Wotzel. Telegrams regretting absence were received from Mrs. A. E. B. Johnson and Mrs. Gibbons (Reid).

This tea party made a pleasant finale to the 40th anniversary celebrations held during the year, and a happy afternoon concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. King for her kind hospitality, which included transport back to the station.

Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Dinner Club

THE 8th Annual Dinner of the above club was held on May 25, 1957, at St. Ermin's Hotel, Westminster. Mrs. Grundy, M.B.E., was in the chair, supported by Miss E. S. W. Harrison. The 162 members attending made the evening a gala one to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of their Corps. Appropriately, the hotel had been a recruiting centre during those early days of the 1914-18 War. One of the members brought along an original recruiting poster advertising the fact. This poster has since been presented to the Museum. The ballroom where dinner was served presented a gay scene, sparkling silver cups on view at the top table, lovely floral decorations and a well served meal. As one member wrote, "The best ever."

Two octogenarians were present, one of whom was celebrating her 86th birthday the next day and was greeted with "Happy Birthday to You" by the company. Spritely Miss Leeming will be 90 this year and it was grand seeing her again. Many interesting souvenirs and photographs of billets and groups in France were on view, with a most amusing book of skits and sketches of life in the Corps by M. Onions, and an original telephone directory used in France. A telegram was sent to Her Majesty The Queen, and a gracious reply was received. Many other telegrams and messages were read during the evening. A member asks, "Dare we hope for the half-century?" Well, here's hoping.

3rd Glamorgan Company A.T.S.

THE 3rd Glamorgan Company A.T.S. held their annual reunion on the evening of May 11 at 176 Newport Road, the home of Mrs. Smith, one

of the Company's original members. Everyone had a happy evening and many times the sentence "Do you remember?" could be heard. All were pleased to see the Rev. Phillips of Brecon, Padre of the 77th H.A.A. Regiment to which the 3rd Glamorgan Company A.T.S. were attached from 1939 until the Regiment went abroad, and also Mr. Clatworthy, one of the officers of the 77th. Miss Stanley, commanding officer of the Company, was also present. Refreshments were served during the evening, Mrs. Smith being responsible for the catering. All left well satisfied with the evening and look forward to the next "merry meeting."

ANNUAL RECEPTION OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS of the Co-ordinating Committee of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations, and principal members of their councils, met informally with representatives of Her Majesty's Forces and Ministries at the Committee's annual reception, held this year at the Royal Naval Association headquarters on Empire Day, May 24.

Mr. G. R. Boak, General Secretary of the Royal Air Forces Association, the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, received the guests.

They included the Rt. Hon. John Boyd-Carpenter, M.P., Minister of Pensions and National Insurance, Mr. J. K. Vaughan-Morgan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, representatives of the Board of Admiralty, the Army Council and the Air Council, Directors of the three Women's Services, and representatives of member organisations of the Co-ordinating Committee.

The Co-ordinating Committee consists of those responsible for the administration of the member organisations, and meets regularly to exchange views, ensure a uniform application of the policies of their councils, and preserve a spirit of friendship, co-operation, and unity of purpose amongst all concerned.

LONDON BRANCH DINNER

The London Branch Dinner will be held at the Victory Club, 73-79 Seymour Street, London, W.2 (nearest tube station and bus stop, Marble Arch), on Saturday, October 12, 1957. Tickets 13s. each.

Application to Miss M. Cockburn, 70 Highbury Gardens, Ilford, Essex, on or after Thursday, September 5. Early application is essential. Please enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Obituary

MRS. MOIR

We regret to report the death on April 9, 1957, at 42 Marchburn Crescent, Northfield, Aberdeen, of Elizabeth Moir, ex-Staff Sergeant, A.T.S.

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OFFICERS' POSTINGS

(Up to August 31, 1957)

Lt.-Col. (T/Col.) J. G. GRIERSON, D.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q. Eastern Command.

Major (T/Lt.-Col.) R. D. ALLERTON, Inspector of Recruiting.
Major M. E. SNOWDEN, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q. North Midland District.

Major J. BERRY, S/Capt. ("Q") Qtr. H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Major I. M. SMITH, O.C. 301 (East Anglian) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Major D. D. W. BROUSSON, Salisbury Plain (M) Signals.
Major S. M. COLMER, C.O.D. Bransford.
Major M. K. CAVANAGH, Home Counties District (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Major M. T. VENNARD, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Western Command.
Major A. ELLISON, O.C. 319 (West Lancs) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Major B. M. RIDLER, D.A.A.G. A.G.16, War Office.
Major E. C. MITCHELL, 2IC W.R.A.C. Depot.
Major M. M. POWER, S/Capt. "Q" Wks., G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F.
Major B. W. W. BASS, C.O.D. Chilwell.

Capt. J. M. V. HOWELL, S/Capt. A.G.16, War Office.
Capt. J. BUNCHER, S/Capt. A.G.16, War Office.
Capt. B. M. GODIN, Adjutant 12th Battalion W.R.A.C.
Capt. P. D. T. D. NELSON, S/Capt. M.I.3, War Office.
Capt. J. D. M. RAVENSCROFT, O.C. 1st Training Company, W.R.A.C. Depot.
Capt. E. G. PRITCHARD-DAVIES, O.C. 68th Company (M.T.), R.A.S.C.
Capt. C. M. BALLANTYNE, S/Capt. H.Q. Mid-West District.
Capt. E. L. BURT, N.I.D. (M), Signal Squadron.
Capt. J. RODWAY, Admin. Officer, Liverpool University O.T.C., W.R.A.C. Sub-Unit.

Lt. (T/Capt.) J. M. LESTER, Salisbury Plain (M) Signals.
Lt. A. M. DOWNES, Aldershot (M) Signal Squadron.
Lt. S. P. RICHARDS, 8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Lt. F. A. CRICK, District Pay Office, Cyprus.
Lt. J. TRAYNOR, 140 Provost Company, W.R.A.C.
Lt. D. S. LOCKWOOD, 14 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

2/Lt. D. M. ATHOE, Command Education Pool, Eastern Command.

News From the T.A.

North-West District (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.)

THE Western Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) has now been divided into the "North-West" and "Mid-West," but we have combined for two week-end traffic exercises. The climax was a week-end traffic exercise involving all the Commands—a very useful experience. It is to be hoped that the operators had time to digest their hard-won extracts from *Staff Duties in the Field*, *Manual of Military Law*, *Soldier*, and *The Lioness*.

305 (East and West Riding) Battalion

WHEN H.R.H. The Princess Royal visited the Leeds National Savings Group recently, Her Highness inspected a detachment from 305 (East and West Riding) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.), formed up inside Leeds Town Hall under the command of Capt. G. D. Edwards, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). Later the unit provided the escort for the "Queen's Candle," a National Savings Group award, and marched down the centre aisle. The local population greeted this parade with great applause, and showed great appreciation of their own "Women in Khaki."

NEW T.A. CENTRE AT BODMIN

On Saturday, June 1, 1957, Gen. Sir George Erskine, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, opened a new T.A. Centre at Bodmin for the 4/5th Battalion The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (T.A.) and 73 (Cornwall) Independent Company W.R.A.C. (T.A.). The T.A. Centre is one of the newest in the country and is very modern in design.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall and President of Cornwall T.A. & A.F.A., Col. Sir Edward Bolitho, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.; the Chairman of Cornwall T.A. & A.F.A., Brigadier H. H. V. Christie, O.B.E., M.C., T.D.; Major-Gen. V. Eveleigh, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., Colonel of D.C.L.I.; Brigadier A. R. Fyler, O.B.E., commanding 130 Infantry Brigade T.A.; Lt.-Col. E. E. Mulock, O.B.E., M.C., Secretary, Cornwall T.A. & A.F.A.; Lt.-Col. P. C. Buchanan, M.C., T.D., commanding 4/5th D.C.L.I.; Major M. E. Crawford, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. South West District; Capt. A. J. Climo, T.D., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), O.C. 73 (Cornwall) Independent Company W.R.A.C. (T.A.); 2/Lt. E. M. C. Forsythe, W.R.A.C. (T.A.); and their friends who were afterwards escorted around the new Centre and entertained in the Officers', Sergeants' and O.R.s' Messes.



Photo: Ellis of Bodmin

A detachment of 73 (Cornwall) Independent Company W.R.A.C. (T.A.), under Lt. J. S. Mathieson, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), paraded with a guard of honour of the 4/5th Battalion D.C.L.I. and a detachment of the 4th Cader Battalion D.C.L.I., and was inspected by the G.O.C.-in-C. The Band of the 4/5th Battalion D.C.L.I. provided the music. The women had travelled overnight from annual camp at Stiffkey, Norfolk, to enable them to attend this opening ceremony. A hot breakfast was waiting for the women on their arrival in Bodmin, provided by the Depot D.C.L.I., and they spent a very busy morning preparing for the parade. The afternoon was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and was a very pleasant finale to annual camp.

The Unit now looks forward to week-end training at the T.A. Centre, a facility they have never had since the inception of the Company.

307 (Northern Command) Battalion

THE members of "A" Company rifle team, Lt. Dathan, Cpl. Mallen, L/Cpl. Bird, L/Cpl. Higham, Pte. Parr and Pte. Denholm, were successful in winning the Northern Command Rifle Shooting Competition, scoring 1,497 out of a possible 1,800 points. Lt. Dathan and L/Cpl. Bird were 2nd and 3rd in the Individual Shooting Competition.

On May 28 the newly formed 6th Notts Platoon held a dance at the Drill Hall, Newark. The guests included the C.O., Major L. M. Stephens, and members of the Sherwood Foresters and the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, and we were pleased to welcome members of 306 Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) who were at annual camp at Proteous.

On June 15 the various platoons of the Battalion converged for the second annual camp at Blackfell, Washington, Co. Durham. There we renewed the acquaintance of our friends from 318 (Independent) Company who were joining us in camp again this year. Training got off to a flying start and the steady stream of W.D. vehicles bearing "L" plates was again to be seen in the Washington area. The members of the Sergeants' Mess were soon receiving visitors from local units and the Mess took on an air of gaiety, helped by the extra furnishing brought by 318 (Independent) Company. Their social and dance proved so popular that a second one was held in the second week at the visitors' request. We enjoyed excellent weather until the day of the visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal. That day dawned very dark and cloudy and raining hard, but to everyone's surprise and relief the weather cleared on the arrival of Her Royal Highness, and remained fine for the period of the visit. Her Highness toured the camp, visiting technical training, barrack rooms and cookhouses, saw a demonstration of the latest mechanical toys in the Naafi, and watched a drill squad on the Square instructed by W.O.2 Swift, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). After sherry in the Sergeants' Mess, Her Royal Highness lunched with the officers and then saw a demonstration of country dancing by members of both units.

This was followed by the finals of the M.T. Hazard Competitions. Cpl. Nicholson of 318 (Independent) Company and Cpl. Warren of "C" Company, 307 (Northern Command) Battalion, both members of the T.A., gave a fine display with a minimum of faults. Her Royal Highness left the camp amid cheers from the girls who lined the camp road.

72 Independent Company

THIS scattered unit, with headquarters at Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, and platoons at Slough, Bicester, Newbury, Swindon, Chippenham and Trowbridge, is fortunate in having a week-end training centre at Chippenham where members of all platoons can meet for training once a month. We had a particularly interesting and exciting week-end on March 30-31.

On the 30th we spent a most thrilling and instructive afternoon at the Wiltshire Police Driving School in Devizes. We were taken out in police cars to see the system of driving in operation, and were green with envy, so beautiful were the cars

and so skilled were their drivers. On the skid pan—a piece of tarmac so covered with oil and water that we wondered how even the most experienced driver dare venture on it—they speedily proved that getting out of a skid is the easiest thing in the world, and we are hoping that their explanations on how it is done will stay with us in case it is ever needed.

On the 31st, we had a map-reading exercise, in which members of the Company were dropped in small groups in out-of-the-way places and invited to map-read their way back to camp. The exercise had been planned by Major B. Fisher and Lt. E. I. Gill, who felt they had made the whole thing rather difficult. Despite this, the map readers returned to camp in record time and are threatened with a much more complicated exercise next time.

We were sorry to say good-bye to our Admin. officer, Lt. C. R. D'Oyly Mann, who left us on April 30, 1957.

308 (Northern Command) Battalion

WE returned to last year's site, Blackfell Camp, Washington, Co. Durham, for our annual camp in May. We found many old friends, notably the camp permanent staff, Miss Hesp running the Naafi and Q.M.S.I. Atkinson in the cook-house. We also made some new ones, including S/Sgt. K. Elliott and W.O.2 K. Bailey, who, with the help of the attached W.R.A.C. cooks and telephone operators, did much to ensure the success of our camp.

The sea breezes (ozone and coal-dust), sun, and excellent food resulted in high spirits and good health, and the women settled down to camp life as if they had known no other. Our newly-formed Saddle Club was a great success. Four horses were hired and kept at a farm close to the camp, looked after entirely by members of the club. Riding classes were held from 6 to 7 a.m. and 5 to 8 p.m., and were always full. Lady Barnett, in her dual role of Honorary Colonel and President of the Saddle Club, spent an hour with the horses and showed no mean ability to "gallop on." She also saw the final of the Netball Competition—an exciting draw between "B" and "C" Companies which even extra time could not decide. Other visitors were Major-Gen. R. Younger, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. North Midland District, accompanied by Lt.-Col. I. S. Bissett; and Major M. N. Jamieson, W.R.A.C., who gave two most interesting talks to the officers and senior ranks. Visits to Durham and Whitley Bay, a trip down a coal-mine and a night-driving exercise lent variety to the programme, but in spite of these distractions 20 women passed their trade tests before the end of camp.

We had a perfect day for our church parade to Old Washington (led by the Band of 346 (Tyne-mouth) Squadron A.T.C.), where we joined in the splendid "Miners' Sunday" Service. The church was filled with miners and their families and two large colourful banners. And surely we have a guardian angel—for how else would the organist, not knowing its particular significance, choose "Greensleeves" for his voluntary?



A MESSAGE

from the Chairman of **HER MAJESTY'S FORCES** **SAVINGS COMMITTEE**

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY started saving, you should try to develop the savings habit while you are in the Services.

There are excellent facilities for saving in all Units of the Services in every part of the world—in fact the slogan of H.M. Forces Savings Committee is "Wherever you serve, you can save."

We have an excellent series of leaflets (as illustrated above) which tell in simple language all about Forces Savings.

Why not write for a copy of the leaflet which applies to your Service? Write to me personally:—

Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Saunders,
GCB, KBE, MC, DFC, MM.

Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee,
1, Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

Issued by H.M. Forces Savings Committee

315 (Scottish Command) Battalion

IN March 1957 Major O. Dowson, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), retired and handed over command of the Battalion to Major W. G. Merrells, W.R.A.C. It was a pleasure to see Major Dowson and another of our former C.O.s, Major S. S. P. Stenhouse, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), at a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess in April. Later that month Capt. D. Richardson, W.R.A.C. (Adjutant), left for No. 27 Families Hostel at Shoeburyness.

On May 4 the Battalion Sergeants' Mess was officially opened by Brigadier C. B. Mackenzie, D.S.O., O.B.E., Deputy Commander Lowland District, and a most enjoyable and successful social evening followed.

W.O.2 J. Mansell, "C" Company, gave a series of lectures on military law to male officer cadets of Glasgow University O.T.C., and it was heartening to hear that all the cadets passed the Military Law paper of their Certificate "B" examination. Sgt. M. G. D. Dalzell and Sgt. E. P. Lyle, formerly recruiters in London District, have recently joined the permanent staff of "B" Company. Ten members of "C" Company took part in No. 1 Independent Company W.R.A.C. and Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron Sports Day in Edinburgh on May 4, and gained four 1st and six 2nd places in various events. 2/Lt. K. Ferguson, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), of "C" Company entered an embroidered linen tablecloth in the Scottish Command Arts and Crafts Exhibition, and obtained a Certificate of Merit.

Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil, W.R.A.C., A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command, has visited all the platoons in the Battalion during the last few months.

Aberdeen University O.T.C.

THE W.R.A.C. Scottish country dancing team from Aberdeen University O.T.C. was awarded the silver cup for the Inter-Unit Scottish Country Dancing Competition of 1956-57, having gained first place in the finals at Edinburgh on March 10, 1957. In Glasgow on May 4 the same team won the trophy for first place in the Inter-Universities Pipe Band and Scottish Country Dancing Competition, 1957.

Cambridge University O.T.C.

OUR red letter day was the second Sunday of the term when the Director, accompanied by the Commandant and O.C. Officer Wing of the School of Instruction, came to a tea-party in the O.T.C. Mess for heads and tutors of the women's colleges and afterwards attended chapel at Girton.

Two members of the Signals Wing co-operated with us in an amphibious exercise involving watermanship, field cookery and wireless procedure.

Our first regular candidate joins the Cadet Wing at the School in August and we have two W.O.S.B. successes, including the President of the Women's Union.

Our Administrative Officer, Major A. A. Locke, W.R.A.C., brought her share of academic honour to the W.R.A.C. Wing by deserting to Oxford for a week-end and there taking her M.A.

PERSONAL

(For charges and particulars see Contents page)

For sale.—Officer's No. 1 dress, jacket and skirt, price £10. Officer's greatcoat, price £12. Both in good condition. Height 5 ft. 7½ in., bust 35 in., waist 25 in., hips 38 in.—Lt. D. T. Jordan, 187 Grange Road, Gillingham, Kent.

Ex-A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. personnel.—Driver Instructors required for duty as Sergeants with W.R.A.C. (T.A.) in York and Sheffield. Must be ex-W.R.A.C. or A.T.S. N.C.O.s, between 20 and 35 years. Enlisted on to a Type R engagement (living out) and entitled to ration and lodging allowances, in addition to basic rate of pay (total, from £9 a week); 42 days leave a year.—Apply: C.O. 305 (E. & W.R.) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Bishopthorpe Road, York.

For sale.—Officer's No. 1 dress, little worn; jacket, skirt. Height 5 ft. 4½ in., bust 37 in., waist 28 in., hips 38 in.; hat 21½ in., £10. Greatcoat, £10. All Weatherill's and in good condition, with buttons and pips.—Capt. Laverton, R.A.O.C. Officers' Mess, Donnington, Wellington, Salop.

For sale.—Officer's khaki greatcoat £2, Sam Browne £1. Both in good condition. Height 5 ft. 8 in., bust 36 in., hips 39 in., waist 28 in.—Box No. 3/57.

For sale.—Officer's No. 1 dress, jacket and skirt complete, £10. Green greatcoat, scarlet lining, £10. Height 5 ft. 5½ in., bust 36 in., waist 26 in., hips 38 in. Also hat, 6½ in., and various other items. All in excellent condition. Offers considered for quick sale.—Box No. 4/57.

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

Come and spend your holiday at Trelawne, Lancaster Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. All Comrades and friends welcomed. Every attention and comfort with good food. Small hotel run by ex-A.T.S. Write as above or phone Clacton 979.

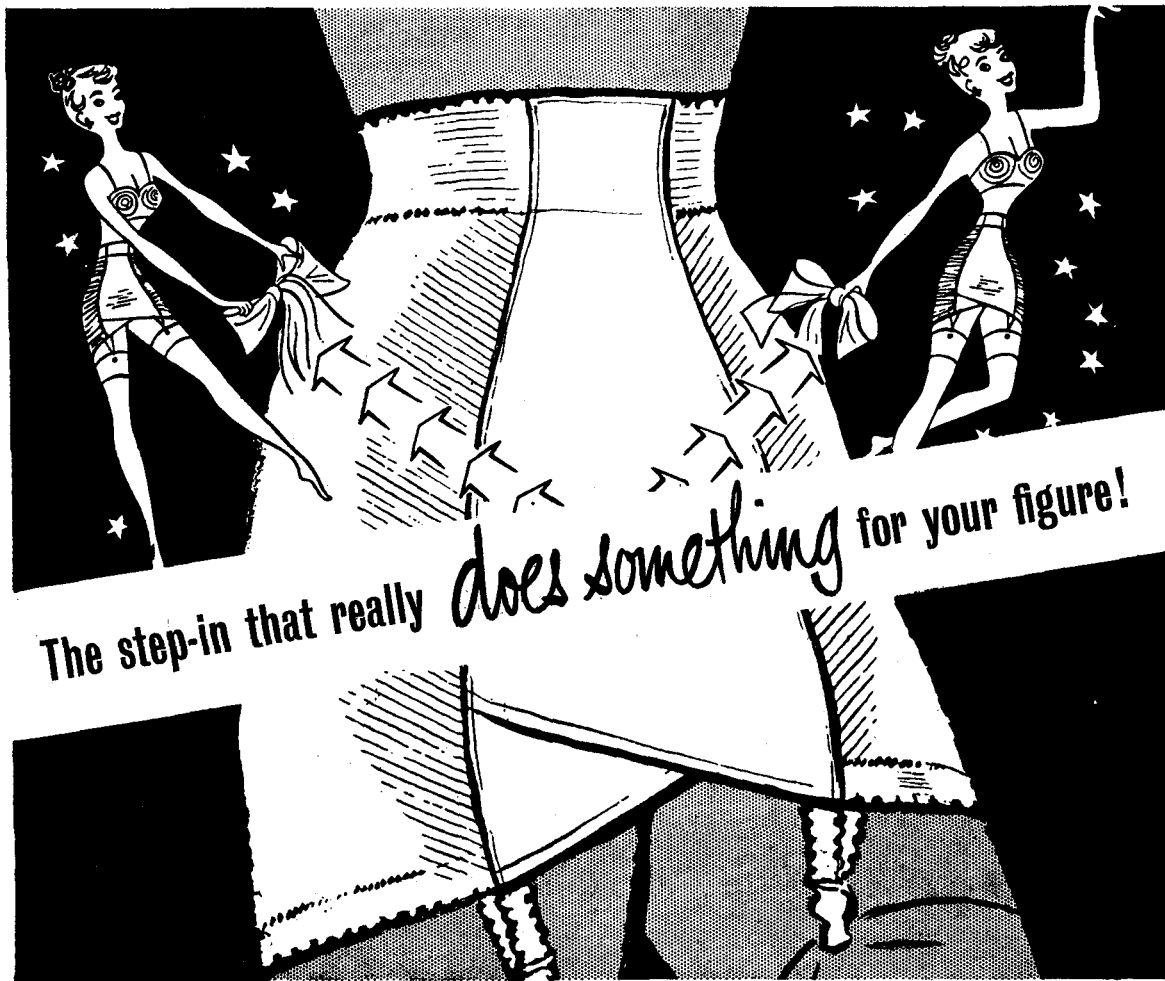
By the glorious Thames and Cliveden Woods. Holidays at the Court Hotel, Maidenhead (Tel. 2400). From 4½ gns. bed/breakfast, 6 gns. full board. London 45 minutes.

Edinburgh. When in Edinburgh stay at the Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens. All ex-Service women welcomed. Special terms for serving W.R.A.C. Write for the brochure to the Secretary. Phone No.: Edinburgh CAL 4952.

"Craigston," Knaphill, near Woking. This Rest Centre for Service and ex-Service women of H.M. Forces provides the comfort of a private home in country surroundings for those on leave or needing convalescence. All applications to the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts' Workshops, 122 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3.

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NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Bath. A successful jumble sale was held in March which enabled us to send £10 to the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund. In April members and friends went to the theatre to see the local youth operatic production. A combined sale of work was held in May—we were one of nine organisations taking part and our stall raised about £25, which we thought was quite a good effort, considering the time of the year. Our retiring Chairman (Mrs. Mant) held a sherry party at her home for members and a most enjoyable evening it was too. In recognition of her most loyal and long service to the Branch, members presented her with a table-lighter. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary held a coffee party also in May for members and friends—a small charge per head was made and the proceeds went into branch funds. In June the refugees from Bristol came over for tea at Mrs. Mant's home. They were first taken round the Abbey and Roman baths and then sat down to a delicious strawberry tea. This proved a most enjoyable afternoon for us all. Finally, on Sunday, June 23, members and friends attended the Southern Area Reunion in Oxford. We had a most enjoyable day and our thanks go to the Oxford Branch for making this possible.

Birmingham. On Saturday, May 11, we gave our annual party for old people, which originated as a Christmas party but seems to be preferred in the warmer weather. The guests certainly let themselves go in the sing-song this year. On May 20 thirty members and friends visited Hagley Hall. Members had previously had no idea of the treasures to be seen in the Hall and enjoyed being taken round by a guide who made every effort to make the visit interesting, in complete contrast to the parrot-like performance too often experienced. On Monday, June 17, at our general meeting the Chairman announced a profit of nearly £29 on the draw on the Grand National. We are very sorry to be losing the company of Mrs. R. E. G. Weddell, who has been our Vice-Chairman for five years and was Chairman for two years. We shall miss her, especially at party times, for she is the sort of cook who produces "five dozen smalls" or a trifle without batting an eyelid. Brighton members, look out for her.

Bournemouth. Our summer programme opened with a supper party at the Gardens Restaurant, Bournemouth, in May. On June 12 we had a lovely evening in Wimborne as guests of Miss Carr and Miss Parrett, who produced the usual wonderful supper which we had out on the lawn. Before the feast the owners of Dean Court invited us to wander round their grounds, and Miss Hanham supervised an exciting game of golf croquet for some members, while Sir Henry Hanham conducted the rest round the gardens. On June 23 we went by coach to Oxford for the Southern Area Reunion. We spent a very interesting afternoon touring round the colleges, and we appreciated very much the excellent arrangements made for us at the University Air Squadron Club.

Bristol. At our April meeting Mrs. Walker, Q.M.A.A.C., gave a talk on "Holidays Abroad." In May, instead of meeting at our usual rendezvous, Legion House, we visited the new Council House, Park Street, opened last year by H.M. The Queen. In spite of the austere outward appearance of this building, one could not be but struck with admiration for the beautiful workmanship of the interior rooms and Conference Hall. It was pleasing to note how Somerset bricks had been utilised in its building, making it a thing of beauty, worthy of the highest tradition of Bristol. On Comrades' Day, Sunday, May 26, we joined the British Legion Old Comrades for their annual service at St. Mary, Redcliffe, Miss W. Brook (A.T.S.) carrying our Standard. On June 6, we paid our annual visit to Mrs. Bernays, President of our Branch, at her home at Winterbourne. Nearly twenty members converged by various means of transport to Winterbourne Park and spent a very pleasant evening with our hostess.

Dumfriesshire. On Sunday, June 2, members and friends set off after lunch for a bus tour to Culzean Castle, on the Ayrshire coast. The outward journey was through Moniaive and Bonny Galloway and the countryside was at its loveliest, but unfortunately there was a sea mist and rain when we arrived at the Castle. However, the party partook of an excellent high tea in the Castle tea-rooms and some of us looked over the Castle, which is owned by the National Trust for Scotland, and has the flat in it for President Eisenhower's use. There were so many historical and interesting things to see that there was not nearly enough time for us. Returning via Ayr and Prestwick, everyone voted it an excellent and enjoyable outing.

Edinburgh. On the first Tuesday in April we of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. entertained the "pioneers of our Corps," the Q.M.A.A.C.s, to a musical evening celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Corps. We were delighted to have Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., as our Guest of Honour. Dame Helen, after being welcomed by our Chairman, Mrs. Henderson, was called upon to say a few words. This she did in her usual capable manner. After a most enjoyable musical evening with items provided by Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Gallagher and Mr. Johnston, followed by community singing, a vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Wicks. In May we had a talk on beauty-culture by Mrs. Petty, the Coty representative from Holland. Mrs. Petty had many useful suggestions for the care of our skin, and these were demonstrated by Mrs. Barbour of Jenners' cosmetic department on one of our members. After this demonstration we were each the recipient of one of Coty's newest lipsticks. Our annual bring and buy sale was held in June, and as well as the fun we got from running this, once again a substantial sum was raised towards Branch funds. Saturday, June 22, was the day arranged for our bus tour. This year 28 of our members thoroughly enjoyed a tour to Crieff, travelling up Loch Earn

to Lochearnhead, returning to Edinburgh via Callander.

Ilford. We very much appreciated a visit from Miss E. Thompson at our February meeting—we hope she enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did. In May we held a very successful whist drive at Miss Druitt's house and everyone voted it a very pleasant evening. Needless to say, we were well represented at the March reunions and also at the showing of the War Office films in June.

Gibraltar. On February 5, Lt.-Col. A. R. Hamilton, R.A.P.C., spoke on "Music in the Making," delighting us all by starting from scratch and working his way right through the composition of an orchestra. On February 23 we held a cake stall in order to support our ever-decreasing funds, and this proved a tremendous success. Cakes of many shapes and sizes were produced by ex-Service members and friends and rapidly sold by serving women. We also staffed a "coffee shop" which did a roaring trade in refreshing tired and thirsty shoppers. After "General Business" on March 5, another gramophone record concert was held, and before the meeting on April 2 Mrs. Forbes-Johnson entertained us immensely with an illustrated talk on some of her experiences and discoveries whilst living in Mexico.

Hartlepool. We had rather an anxious time for a while as the Drill Hall where we have held our meetings for the past few years has closed, but now we have been fortunate to get a room in the Avenue Road T.A. Centre. At the June meeting two members brought some old-time snapshots and photographs which caused much amusement. Members are all looking forward to holidays now, and to the Northern Area Rally at Harewood House in September, where we will most certainly be represented.

Liverpool. During the first six months of 1957 the Liverpool Branch has met regularly. In February we had our Annual General Meeting at which the general position of the Branch was reviewed. At our March meeting we had a very interesting talk by the Honorary Organiser of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in Liverpool. As a result of this talk several of our members helped with a collection at Aintree Racecourse on Jump Sunday (the Sunday before the Grand National), and they have also helped with other collections at stores in the city. In April we tried a new venture in the form of country dancing which proved to be both energetic and enjoyable, if not particularly graceful. A visit to the Joint Trunks Telephone Exchange in June was extremely interesting. As this is a very large exchange and deals with an immense number of calls they were still busy during the evening, and our members were able to appreciate just how hectic it would be during the day. We also had further "inside information" from one of our members who had once worked in the exchange. This year several of our members attended the Grand Reunion in London and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. We will be starting our autumn programme on Wednesday, September 4.



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London. For our first meeting in April we were entertained by the Mullard House Singers (the new name for our old friends the Century House Choir) who provided us with a very pleasant evening of music. Our next meeting was a bring and buy sale, when we raised £5 for funds. In May, Dame Helen gave us another of her interesting talks, this time dealing with our knowledge of the stars, and after her talk Dame Helen was presented with a basket of fruit from the Branch. On June 6 Miss Druitt arranged for us to go to the cinema at the Ministry of Agriculture to see a showing of the 1917-18 films of the W.A.A.C. at work and play during that war period. A very good crowd attended, and it was a most interesting and amusing show. We saw Dame Florence at the Connaught Club (now the Victory Club) inspecting a draft just leaving for France, many recognised Smart (now Mrs. Billers) and we thought we had a glimpse of our dear old Blanche Ireland. We saw the W.A.A.C. working on car maintenance, baking, on clerical duties, and bathing at Paris Plage, and we could hardly believe it was 40 years since we were jumping around in those good old coat-frocks. The programme included the A.T.S. film and showed Dame Helen inspecting at Shoeburyness in December 1940, and concluded with a thrilling film on the Siege of Tobruk. Our grateful thanks are due to the Director-General of the Imperial War Museum for giving us this grand show. Later in June a beetle drive was arranged and we had quite a jolly evening, although we were only able to make up four tables. We were sorry to hear from Mrs. Giles that Miss Douglas has been ill, and wish her a speedy recovery.

Lonsdale. In October of last year we had a most interesting film show at the Drill Hall, when, for a couple of hours, Mr. Entwistle took us on a visit to the U.S.A. At our November meeting Miss B. M. Sewart took the chair in the absence of Col. Cowper, and seven of us related happenings from our Service days which higher authority never found out about. Also in November we were represented in the Armistice Parade. We paid our third annual visit in December to the home of our Chairman, Col. J. M. Cowper, and once again we spent a most pleasant and jolly evening. January saw us enjoying another cookery demonstration, given to us by the Home Service Adviser of the N.W. Gas Board. In February, Col. Cowper gave us a most interesting talk on the history of the Corps. Councillor Miss Openshaw, J.P., came along in March and talked to us on the work of a county councillor. April saw us at the Drill Hall playing our favourite gramophone records, and later in April on the 29th we held our annual dinner at the King's Arms Hotel, our guest of honour being Dame Leslie Whateley, D.B.E., and very pleased we were to have her with us. The dinner was a huge success and our evening finished with refreshments at the Officers' Mess, Bowerham Barracks. In May three of us represented the Branch on the Mayor's Parade and June saw us enjoying a demonstration of flower decorations given to us by Mrs. L. I. Cowper.

Nottingham.—In April the members visited

the Head Sorting Office of the Nottingham General Post Office. The visit proved most interesting and instructive and all members came back promising to address their letters more clearly and so help the Post Office sorters. At the May meeting Mrs. Goodacre, B.Sc., of Ilkeston, delighted the members with the talk on her visit to the Scandinavian countries. She illustrated her talk with photographs and pictures and proved a very good advertising agent for those parts. It is with pleasure that we report that our member, ex-Sgt. Woodthorpe, has been transferred from Manchester Hospital to the Devonshire Hospital, Buxton, and is making good progress after having been so desperately ill.

Sheffield.—First of all may we introduce Benjamin, an addition in April to the family of our chairman, Mrs. Helen Tannett. In April we held ordinary meetings, followed, as usual, by coffee and gossip at Davy's Café. A visit to a brewery is always popular (particularly as all sampling has to be done on the premises), and in May, with our "Men's Section" to the fore, we were conducted on a most interesting tour of Tennants Brewery in Sheffield. Also in May we were very pleased to welcome a new member, Mrs. Vera Mitchell (*née* Bolton). Mrs. Mitchell is ex-A.T.S. and was stationed in Bradford 1942-46. In June we paid a visit to the Weston Park Meteorological Station, Sheffield, which proved most enlightening—some of us even managed to pronounce "meteorological" afterwards. For our last meeting in June a coachload of members and friends had a trip into Derbyshire, calling at Eyam for a meal. We were pleased to have Joan Wood with us on this occasion, and also to welcome back to the fold Mrs. Muriel Bagnall, whom we hope will continue to join our informal gatherings. Our next meeting will be on September 5, 1957, as usual at the Foresters' Hall, Trippet Lane, at 7.45 p.m.

Singapore.—The Branch has been most happy to welcome such an encouraging number of new members of all ranks. We have been most fortunate also in securing the services of some very interesting speakers and demonstrators for our meetings, and always finished up the evening with coffee, biscuits, and much friendly chatter. For our June meeting Lt.-Col. Hipkin, our Chairman's husband, gave an excellent account of his wartime experiences in Malaya, and it is hoped that in the future we will be able to have more topical talks about this fascinating part of the world.

AMENDMENTS TO LIST OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

Hastings. Miss Brett, 14 Duke Road, Hollington, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

14th Battalion, W.R.A.C. W.O.1 A. P. V. Hildyard, M.B.E., H.Q. N.O.R.T.H.A.G., British Forces P.O. 40.

W.R.A.C. Depot. W.O.1 H. Sanders, M.B.E., Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, Surrey.

"WOMEN IN THE FIGHTING SERVICES"
(reprint from Brassey's Annual 1957)

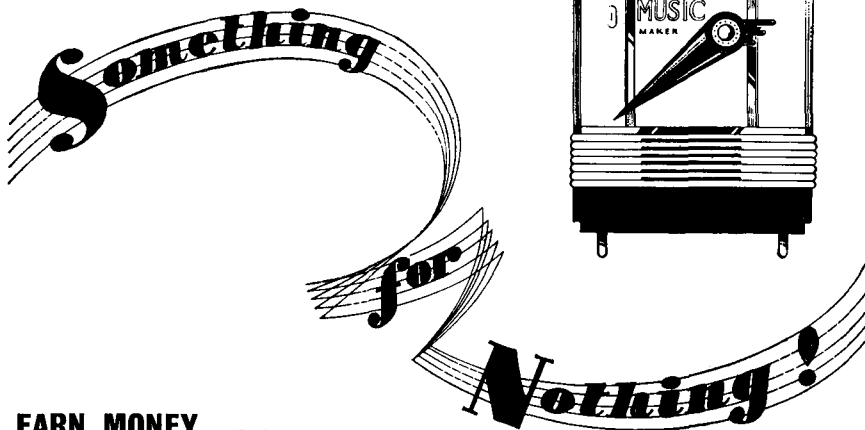
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The share of the takings credited to the Canteen Improvements Fund may be spent by the PRI or PSI Committee, in consultation with the Naafi District Manager, on a wide variety of additional amenities: newspapers, indoor games, re-decoration, improved heating and lighting, cushions, rugs, loose covers, bar frontages, reading lamps, standard lamps and so on.

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