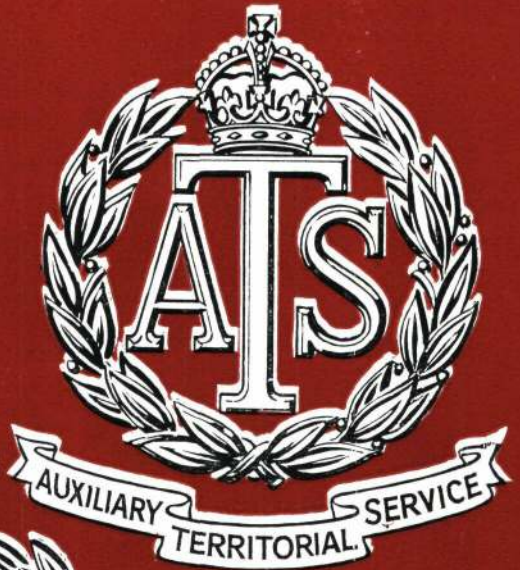


MASTER COPY

THE LIONESS



Try a
Tonic-



and ask for Schweppes

SCHWEPPERESCENT LASTS THE WHOLE DRINK THROUGH

Contents

	PAGE
Editorial	59
Association Notes	60
The Church of St. Mark	60
London Gazette	60
The Sovereign's Parade	62
Retirements	62
News of Old Comrades	63
The W.R.A.C. Staff College Closes	65
Far Eastern Panorama	66
The Gipsy Caves of Granada	68
Correspondence	68
W.R.A.C. Depot	69
"Les Stagiaires"	70
The Nijmegen Marches	71
The British Chess Championship	71
Reunions	72
W.R.A.C. Afternoon Party	72
Obituary	74
News from the Branches	74
Personal	76
Sport	76
W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess	78
Officers' Postings	78
News from the T.A.	79

W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK

General Secretary

(to whom all communications should be addressed re Membership and Distribution of *The Lioness*, Personal Column and Box Numbers)

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

Editor

(Contributions to the Journal, except the Personal Column.)

Colonel S. M. Crawley,
War Office (AG. 16), Stanmore, Middlesex

Advertisement Representative

Nuview Advertising (Maj. E. O. Coven (Retd.))
22 Cadogan Court, Draycott Avenue, London, S.W.3
Phone: KENSington 8286

Charges

Personal column: 3 lines 3s., each additional line 1s., non-members 50% more. Box Numbers 6d. Reunion notices: Notices of forthcoming reunions where admission is charged may be inserted at a cost of 1s. a line.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY
JANUARY 1**

MODERN NON-LAUNDRY COLLARS

*Collar sense
at last Bill...
that certainly is
smart!*



Ladies please note that these wonderful collars are on sale at Your Naafi or Service outfitter

KHAKI 3s. 3d. WHITE 2s. 11d. each

In small sizes if required.

Made by

H. R. DENNE

2/54 Whitepost Lane, London, E.9

CANDY

A gay 'Springtime' in black suede, or black, blue, stone or white kid.



69/11

PLATO

In black, new geranium, and platina calf and gunmetal or bronzed kid.



79/11

Latin classics

from the **Van-Dal** range

VAN-DAL SHOES are obtainable at Swan & Edgar, Piccadilly, and at highclass Stores and Shops throughout the country. In case of difficulty, please enquire of **VAN-DAL SHOES LTD., SALHOUSE ROAD, NORWICH**

CHICO

Black suede or black, stone, white and pale blue kid.



69/11

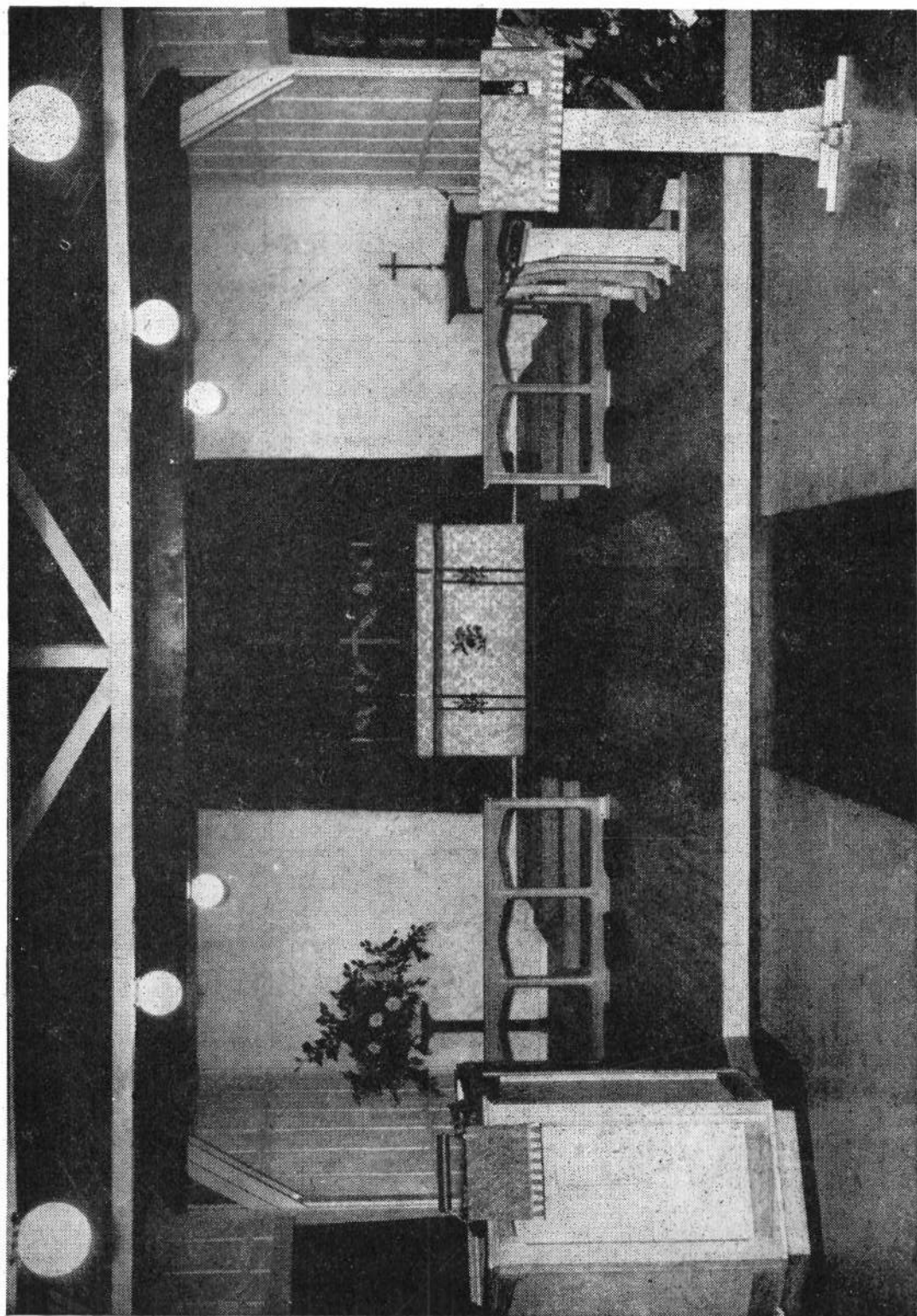


Photo by Fox Photos Ltd.

The Garrison Church of St. Mark, W.R.A.C. Depot, Guildford.



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXX

November 1957

No. 4

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

H.R.H. The Princess Royal

At the close of this memorable year, in which we celebrated the fortieth anniversary of our first formation as a Women's Service, I send to every member of the W.R.A.C. Association, serving or ex-service, my Christmas greeting and good wishes for the New Year.

MARY

EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS 1957 comes, for much of the Army, at a time of most unseasonable despondency. Periodical reform and reshaping is part of the healthy development of any organisation, especially in a fighting machine which can never afford to be out of date, but this drastic operation, necessary as it may be, strikes a heart-breaking blow at regimental traditions and individual career prospects. The W.R.A.C. is part of the Army and grieves with the rest for the end of so many famous Units and so many hopeful careers. We are not less sincere in our sympathy because the manpower cuts, which limit the Army to 165,000 men, offer an unparalleled opportunity for expanding our own service to fill the gaps.

IN one way, of course, we shall feel the harsh effects like everyone else. Our officers retiring during the next five years, and our women discharged at the end of their engagements, will inevitably go out into a labour market overloaded with ex-Service men looking for employment. In all the fields open to both men and women, the competition is bound to become more keen, and anyone approaching the end of her service will be wise to make full use of the various ex-service employment organisations. The Employment Bureau of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund is well known to us all, and the Officers' Association Resettlement and Employment Department, 46 Victoria Street, S.W.1, was described in *The Lioness* a year ago. The Officers' Pensions Society, 171 Victoria Street, is offering copies of its journal *The Pennant*, full of interest and good advice on resettlement problems, to serving officers likely to retire in the near future (1s. 6d. each, from the General Secretary of the Society). For other ranks, the Regular Forces Employment Association, 62 Victoria Street, has 52 branches all over the U.K. and a local "job-finder" in every area. During 1956 this organisation placed 8,616 ex-soldiers in employment, including 46 from the W.R.A.C.

FOR those who are not compelled, by private commitments or the relentless pressure of age-limits, to go out and seek their fortunes in civil

life, the future takes on a very different colour. In the spring, when the Defence cuts were first made public, one or two of our contemporaries immediately and authoritatively announced that the Women's Services were to be disbanded. Others published impolite articles showing that if we weren't we ought to be. Before we had time for panic or despair, it was made clear that this was not the view of the Government. On May 15, at the end of his speech on the Defence estimates, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for War said: "*We think that the ending of National Service makes it more important than ever that there should be recruitment into the W.R.A.C.*" and this was emphasised by the Secretary of State a few weeks later when he said in answer to a parliamentary question: "*The Women's Royal Army Corps will become more important than ever as National Service comes to an end, and we wish to attract as many recruits as we can, both officers and other ranks. . . . The Corps has a proud tradition and a great record of service. . . . I hope that we shall recruit sufficient personnel because they will be of great value to the Army of the future.*"

AS detailed planning proceeded, it became more and more clear that in order to make the best use of an Army of 165,000 men, as many as possible must be fighting men, and the administrative jobs which cannot suitably be done by civilians should be handed over where practicable to women. The need for women in the Army will soon be as vital and urgent as ever it was in war, since every W.R.A.C. clerk, signals operator, driver, cook, releases one of the 165,000 men for a fighting role. Far from disbanding or reducing the W.R.A.C., the plan is to increase it by 75 per cent. over the next five years.

MANY people, inside and outside the Corps, will dismiss this plan as a fantastic exercise in wishful thinking. They will point to the rundown of the Corps since the end of the war and the depressing recruiting figures of the last few months, and ask how we can hope to arrest the downward trend, reverse it, and build up to our new target before the end of 1962. Wishful thinking is, we know, an unforgivable crime, high among the seven deadly sins in the eyes of a disillusioned generation,

but battles are not won by the fearless recognition of difficulties unless there is also the fearless resolution to overcome them. If in our reaction against false optimism and smug complacency we ever allow pessimism to be glorified among the martial virtues, we shall end by undermining the confidence and courage which have brought the British Army so often to victory against overwhelming odds.

THE Lioness of the W.R.A.C., linked as it now is with the Winged Lion of St. Mark, is a symbol of strength and soaring purpose. It is not for nothing that the statue of Faith has been chosen to stand outside the W.R.A.C. window in Guildford Cathedral. It was an act of faith, splendidly justified, which first called women to Army service in 1917. In faith the A.T.S. was raised to meet the need of 1939, and in faith the W.R.A.C. was formed as part of the Regular Army, ready for the time when, sooner or later, in some form or other, the need would come again. Now the need is here, and the appeal goes out again to the women who have never failed us yet. It is not wishful thinking, but faith and hope, based firmly on our 40 years of history, which make us certain that they will not fail us now. We shall live, we know, to be as proud of the new little volunteer Army as ever we were of the old one. It is our Christmas wish and our New Year resolution that the Army may live to be equally proud of us.

Association Notes

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, March 15, 1958, at 3 o'clock. On the completion of the meeting, tea will be available in the canteen, and the hall (101 Field Engineer Regiment, R.E.) will remain open until 8 p.m. for an informal reunion. Members are organising a bring-and-buy sale in connection with the reunion, and hope for cordial support.

In order that resolutions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting may be printed, they should reach the General Secretary by December 30, 1957.

The Secretaries' Meeting will be at 11.30 a.m. in the same hall. It is hoped that as many Secretaries as possible will attend, as Members of Council look forward to meeting them for lunch at 1 o'clock as their guests.

The Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion will take place in the Headquarter Club Canteen, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3, on Friday, March 14, 1958, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Tickets 4s., obtainable from the General Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3. When applying for tickets please enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply.

AMENDMENT TO THE LIST OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

Wimbledon. Miss M. V. Davey, 114, Glen Albyn Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19.

The Church of St. Mark

ON July 28, 1957, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, accompanied by her lady-in-waiting, the Hon. Mrs. Francis Balfour, attended a moving ceremony of Dedication at the Garrison Church of St. Mark, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford. It was one of the happiest occasions at the W.R.A.C. Depot. The nave of the church was dense with visitors (including a number of retired officers and civilians) and members of the Permanent Staff of the Training Centre. The Rev. R. Yale, A.C.G. Eastern Command, dedicated the church, the Rev. D. D. Lloyd Evans, D.C.G. War Office, gave a memorable address, and the Garrison Chaplain, the Rev. B. Vaughan Parry, conducted the inspiring service. The lesson was read by Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, D.W.R.A.C. The W.R.A.C. Staff Band played some very appropriate music, and Pte. Ferris sang a beautiful solo, *How Lovely are Thy Dwellings*. Her Royal Highness presented an exquisite silver chalice to mark the dedication.

There has already been one adult baptism in the church, and a lovely Harvest Festival service. The harvest gifts were beautifully arranged by willing volunteers, and later delivered to old folks in Guildford, one basket of produce going to a sprightly old lady who will be 100 in December.

Many new gifts have been gratefully received, including **Ink-well and Stand**, Sgt. Donald; **Lectern Fall**, Mrs. Peter Gibson (S. Comd. Balfour, A.T.S.); **Picture**, Major G. F. Fleetwood-Jones; **Garden Plants**, Major R. B. L. Puxley; **Silver Paten**, Holding and Drafting Company, W.R.A.C. Generous donations towards an oak prayer rail and a carpet for the lower chancel and aisle have been given by Lt.-Col. L. E. Holt (retd.), Col. C. E. Hammond (retd.), Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. Ellingsen, Mrs. Taylor (J. Comd. Hutchinson, A.T.S.), Mrs. Sharland, Mrs. Hughes Recketts, Lt.-Col. M. D. M. Humphery, and "Anonymous."

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Colonel: J. E. R. Rivett-Drake, M.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel: D. L. Pooley.

Major: N. J. Comyn, J. Wilson, M. U. Walker.

Captain: A. E. Achurch, I. Anderson, B.Sc., N. G. Hartland, J. M. Grieve.

Lieutenant: D. S. Lockwood, S. R. Turnbull, P. Blakeley, D. M. Beckett.

2/Lieutenant: P. A. Van der Beeck, R. A. Carpenter, N. M. Simpson, J. M. Dicker, P. M. Rees.

Short Service Commissions

Major: P. L. Tebbitt.

Captain: W. E. Armour.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retirements on retired pay: Major H. M. Warden.

Retirements with gratuity: Major E. S. Beedle (Jacobs).

Resignations: Capts. M. Croft (Matthews), M. A. Peachey; Lts. B. J. Thomson, J. V. Hoskin, M. Gunning, J. M. Fruin (Gilling), A. E. Ward.

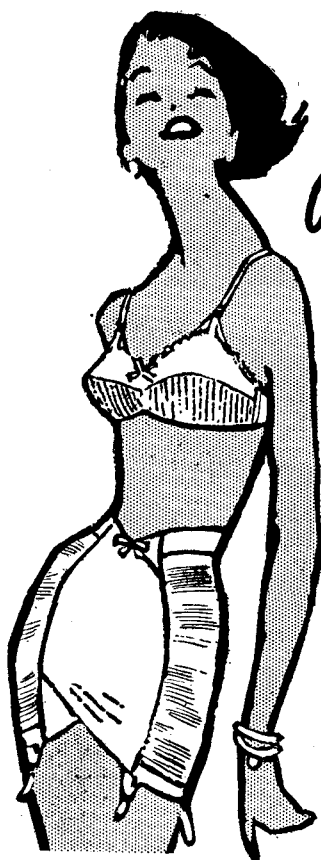
Short Service Commissions

Relinquishment on completion of service: Capt. P. A. Laverton.

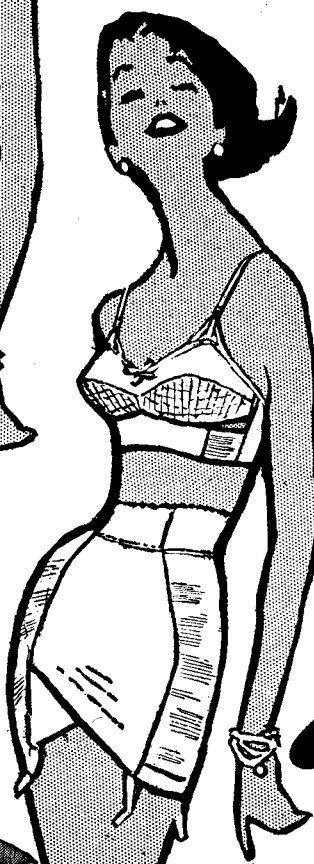
Relegation to R.O.: Capts. L. T. Janvrin, M. E. L. N. Becher.

sarongster

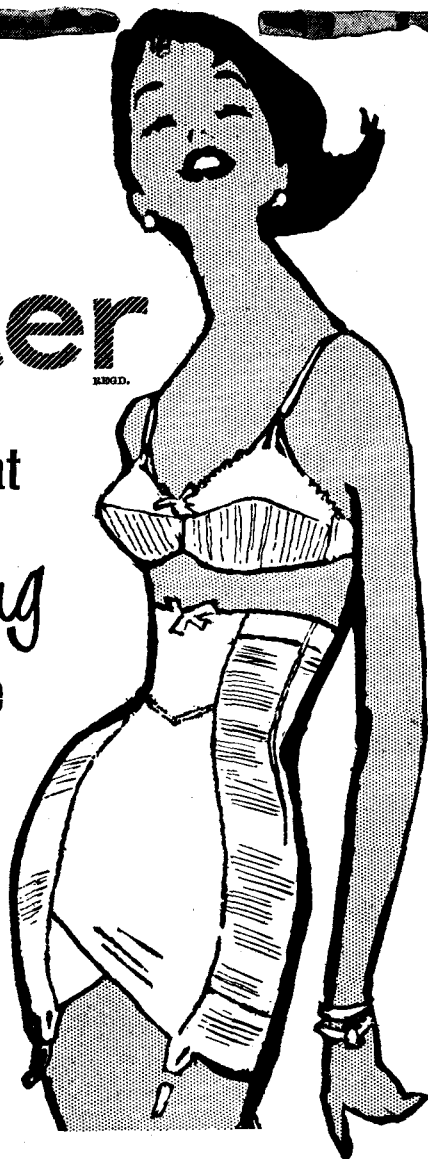
the step-ins that
do something
for your figure



LEFT: Dip-front 28/6



CENTRE: Popular 37/6



RIGHT: High-line 42/-

They're little, they're light—but, by golly, 'Sarongster' step-ins do beautiful things to your figure! The famous 'Sarong' criss-cross front gives wonderful lift and free-stride. In white nylon and nylon-covered elastic net. Small, medium, large. Your favourite 'Unda-

lift' bras in cotton or nylon also available from Naafi.

Berlei
REGD.

THE SOVEREIGN'S PARADE

AT the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst on August 1, 1957, H.R.H. The Princess Royal appeared for the first time in the uniform of a full General. This new uniform is made of navy blue cloth, cut on the same lines as the W.R.A.C. No. 1 Dress except for the stand-up collar, curved at the front, which carries the scarlet gorget-patches and is fitted with a white inset. The cap, of navy blue fur-felt, is the same design as the No. 1 Dress cap.

On this occasion Major B. M. Metcalfe, W.R.A.C., was detailed as Orderly Officer, and drove with Her Royal Highness from Fort Belvedere to Sandhurst. The parade, at which Her Royal Highness took the salute from 800 officer cadets, lasted for three-quarters of an hour. It was followed by the presentation of over 100 guests in the famous Indian Army room, and lunch in the great dining hall. As the royal car drove slowly away from the main building, the cheers of the cadets lining the route kept pace with its progress. Her Royal Highness, obviously touched at this demonstration of affection and loyalty, acknowledged it sitting upright at the salute.



H.R.H. The Princess Royal in General's Uniform

Retirements

Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E., A.D.C.

IN this issue we say farewell with deep regret to Dame Mary Railton, Director W.R.A.C. from 1954 to 1957. She will be remembered (among other things) as the first Director to have served in the ranks, for she joined the F.A.N.Y. as a driver in 1938 and was serving as a Section Leader at the M.T.T.C. Training Centre when she was selected for a commission in 1940. She continued to work with M.T. companies till 1943, when she was promoted Senior Commander and posted to command an A.T.S. Group in Scottish Command. In March 1945 she was given her first staff appointment at the War Office as D.A.D.A.T.S. (AG19), and in October 1946, after a few months as a Chief Commander in Aldershot District, she returned to the A.T.S. Directorate as A.D.A.T.S. (AG15). She held this appointment, dealing with M.S. matters for the A.T.S., during the two vital years in which terms of service were worked out for the permanent Corps. On the formation of the W.R.A.C. she was appointed Vice-President of the Regular Commissions Board, perhaps the most important appointment she had so far received. Her wisdom and judgment in the selection of officers helped to establish the new Corps on a firm basis, and all those who went through the R.C.B. have reason to be grateful for her encouragement and for the confidence she inspired in them. In 1950 and 1951 she held appointments at H.Q. Eastern and Northern Commands, and in September 1951 she came back to the War Office as D.D.W.R.A.C. Before she became Director she spent two years as D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command.

Dame Mary held the office of Director during three difficult and uncertain years, when the run-down of the W.R.A.C. made it increasingly hard to meet commitments and keep up morale. Her tenure ended with six months of new problems and anxieties arising out of the cuts in the defence forces. The W.R.A.C. looked to her continually for a lead, and the War Office for advice. During all this time her inspiring personality and practical understanding of the issues involved did more than anything else to hold the Corps together and build up trust and confidence in the future.

Dame Mary has always taken a personal interest in everything concerning the members of the Corps, both past and present. She has done much to encourage sport (she was President of the Army (Women's) Netball Association until her appointment as D.W.R.A.C.) and is an active supporter of the W.R.A.C. Association. Wherever she may go or whatever she may do in the future, she will take with her the very best wishes of all who have ever known and served with her, and we hope that we shall see her at many Corps and Association functions after her retirement.

Col. C. W. Hull, O.B.E., T.D.

Col. C. W. Hull, who retired on September 30, 1957, has 27 years' service to her credit, for she joined the F.A.N.Y. as a trooper in 1930 and had risen to the rank of Ensign by the time the A.T.S.

was formed in 1938. She continued to serve with M.T. units till the end of 1942, and then spent five years in command of A.T.S. Groups in Northern and Southern Commands. She was A.D.A.T.S. Salisbury Plain District from December 1947 till March 1949, and then successively A.D.W.R.A.C. London District, A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, and D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command. In private life she is a keen and knowledgeable ornithologist, and we wish her many years of care-free bird-watching in the Westmorland cottage to which she has retired.

Lt.-Col. M. Tompkins, O.B.E.

Lt.-Col. M. Tompkins was commissioned in 1942 and served till the end of the war at regimental duty in A.A. Command. After three months in Canada on an exchange with the Canadian Women's Army Corps, she was posted to the Control Commission in Germany, and remained in B.A.O.R. till 1949. She was Second-in-Command of 326 (City of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), from 1950-52, and D.A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command from 1953-54. She finished her service with three years in Northern Ireland District as A.D.W.R.A.C. and O.C. 328 (Ulster) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and was awarded the O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1957. Our best wishes go with her when she leaves N.I.D. on terminal leave on October 31, 1957.

News of Old Comrades

MRS. FRED THOMPSON (Jessie Davies, W.A.A.C.) writes from 918 Kootenay Street, Nelson, B.C., Canada, sending greetings to all and saying how much she would welcome letters. She married a Canadian, had four children, and is now a grandmother. She has never been back to England, but still dreams of London and hopes to see us again one day.

Miss Janet Payne, who is now in Adelaide, Australia, expects to sail for home on December 4. She was the first hospital-trained almoner at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and held the same post at the Adelaide Hospital during the last war. She still does voluntary social work in Adelaide. She has clearly lost none of her spirit and hardihood, for at the time of writing she was just off with the Field Naturalist Society on a thousand-mile trip by bus to Alice Springs, Ayers Rock and Mount Olga, camping by the roadside in sleeping-bags and taking a cook and food for 45 people for 16 days.

Mrs. Michael Speed (Paddy Allen of Camp 4, Quevilly, Rouen), sends her good wishes to all Old Comrades from 14 Cambridge Road, Westmont, New Jersey, U.S.A. Among her other activities she is a Life Member of the New York Branch of the British Legion, and an adopted daughter of the American Legion. She is now serving her third (elected) two-year term of office as Regent of the Duke of Connaught Chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire in Pennsylvania, whose project is the maintenance of the Victoria Home for British aged men and women.



BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
GOLDSMITHS & CROWN JEWELLERS

The badge of your Corps..

GARRARD & CO. LTD.
(formerly *The Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company Ltd.*) have for many years specialised in the production of badge jewellery.



Women's Royal Army Corps
Gold and Enamel
Home £8 . 5 . 0
Export £6 . 5 . 0



Gold and Enamel
Home £14 . 7 . 6
Export £10 . 5 . 0

Here is illustrated the badge of your Corps, fashioned into a brooch, and produced in gold and enamel. If desired, these very attractive brooches can be set with diamonds or other precious stones for which designs and estimates are submitted without charge. Great care is taken to ensure correctness of detail, and expert workmanship is assured.

GARRARD & CO. LTD.

Crown Jewellers

formerly **THE GOLDSMITHS & SILVERSMITHS COMPANY LTD.**

112 REGENT STREET · LONDON · W.1

TELEPHONE: REGENT 3021



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY
THE QUEEN
RIDING CLOTHES OUTFITTERS
& LINEN DRAPERS

**Bernard
Weatherill
Ltd**

*Officially Appointed
Tailor to the
W.R.A.C.*

55 CONDUIT STREET, LONDON, W.1

Telephone: REGent 1344

47 HIGH STREET, ALDERSHOT.

11 BENNETT'S HILL, BIRMINGHAM

BRIDGE HOUSE, SOUTH ASCOT

THE W.R.A.C. STAFF COLLEGE CLOSES

IT seems a short time ago that Frimley Park was bought for the W.R.A.C. Staff College. At the beginning of July 1951 twelve students assembled for the first course; since then sixteen courses of varying lengths have been held and 209 Regular, Short Service and T.A. officers have studied there, not forgetting three officers of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, one French officer and one from the Danish Lotteries. Unfortunately, the number of officers now being commissioned does not justify a permanent W.R.A.C. Staff College, and so it was regrettably decided to close down Frimley Park.

At a short closing ceremony held at Frimley Park on Friday, August 23, Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard A. Hull, K.C.B., D.S.O. (D.C.I.G.S.), praised the work of the W.R.A.C. and stressed the increasing importance of the Corps in filling the gaps created by the cuts in military manpower. He gave an assurance that there would always be vacancies for staff-trained W.R.A.C. officers and spoke of the future intention to run courses every two or three years under the guidance of the Commandant of the Staff College, Camberley.

Col. J. P. Lloyd, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., Commandant of the W.R.A.C. Staff College, then handed the "Ladybird" flag of the W.R.A.C. Staff College to D.W.R.A.C. for safe keeping until such time as it could again be flown.

D.W.R.A.C. thanked Gen. Hull for all he had done for the Corps. She expressed the sincere thanks of all officers who had had the privilege of studying at Frimley Park to all past and present male members of the Directing Staff, for the cheerful way in which they had accepted their "unusual" posting and for all the work they had done towards making Frimley Park such a successful establishment.

Owing to rain the ceremony was held in the Crocker Hall, which had been hastily transformed in ten minutes from a Civil Defence discussion room to an indoor parade ground. It was a fitting setting for all past students, for it held sadly mixed



Dame Mary Railton turns the last sod at the W.R.A.C. Staff College

Courtesy: Camberley News

memories of many hours of study, demonstrations, lectures and cinema shows.

After tea, Dame Mary Railton and the Commandant planted cedar trees in front of the house and were presented with inscribed spades contributed by the Second T.A. Officers' Course (which ended on that day), and by members of the Staff College Club present.

Forthcoming Events

1957

November

12 **Hockey**, Inter - Command Tournament. Aldershot.

December

2 **Rifle Shooting**, Inter-Unit Championship. Hounslow.

6-7 **Netball**, Inter-Command Festival. Aldershot.

14-17 **Squash-rackets**, Army Championships. London.

17 **Commissioning Ceremony**, Hindhead.

1958

February

10 **Rifle Shooting**, Inter-Service Championship.

Far Eastern Panorama

ON DRAFT FOR HONG KONG

A POSTING to the Far East. A sea-voyage around the Cape to Hong Kong, crossing three oceans and dipping into the Southern Hemisphere finally to land up 14,000 miles from home in the heart of the Orient. The very suggestion conjures up pictures of warm tropical nights, strange lands and different races. This interesting and dramatic experience has just happened to me.

First there was the cold of Southampton Docks, the unfamiliar routine of the customs, the steep gangway, and the troops embarking company by company with the Regimental Band playing on the quay. As the ship drew away and the gap of dividing water widened, I leaned over the rails, a miserable, bewildered W.R.A.C. private, looking kindly on the dreary grey buildings of Southampton slowly disappearing into the evening light, thinking favourably of Guildford for perhaps the first time, and wishing I had never volunteered for overseas service. I little realised or appreciated the great experience before me.

As the ship heaved through the Bay of Biscay seasickness overtook us, and later storms, when we reeled and tumbled across the deck like ninepins. Then there were the electric storms of the Cape, the silver-bellied flying fish of the Indian Ocean, the graceful leaping porpoises, the innocent appearance of a shark's fin, the lights of the coast of Malacca and the harsh animal calls from the jungle. At Colombo I rode in a rickshaw behind a barefooted runner, saw the jewels and the Buddhist Temple, bought ivory elephants pulled up over the side of the ship in dirty canvas bags from the bumboats below. Then there was the humidity of the monsoon, the deep gutters of Singapore, the snake-charmers with their mystic powers, the terror and devastation of a typhoon. From the heat of the equatorial sun, there was the freshness of the South China Sea and the indescribable beauty of Hong Kong by night, the piteous sight of the refugees newly escaped from the Communist regime, the leper colonies, the pigtailed women with almond-eyed children strapped to their backs.

Of all the crowded experiences of the voyage, none made so great an impression on me as the Woman of Durban. I am told that Joan of Durban a great opera-singer whose husband and three sons were killed during the war, has sung every troopship in and out of this port of South Africa since the beginning of the Second World War. The first impression the troops get of Durban is the operatic strains of "Rule Britannia" reaching them as a welcome to South Africa, and as the ship drew away in the sunset, her voice came lilting over the water, bringing us the immortal "Land of Hope and Glory." In time I may forget the filth and poverty of Las Palmas and the beauty of the Valley of the Thousand Hills, but this is an indelible memory which will stay with me always.

IN SINGAPORE

WE have seen many changes recently in 4th Independent Company. The Unit is expecting its first R.S.M., W.O.1 Clarke, who is on her way by sea, and our welcome reinforcements also include Sgt. Bridger, the first W.R.A.C. P.T.I. to serve in the Far East. The Kuala Lumpur detachment has been regretfully withdrawn, the clerks quickly absorbed into the busy branches at G.H.Q., and their comfortable accommodation given up to the Federation Army. Capt. Cain has moved to a new cantonment in Kuala Lumpur where the Garrison H.Q. has been reformed as Central Malaya Sub-District, and Major Pike has come to Singapore to take over from Capt. Williamson (who announced her engagement to Major Brian Mitchell, R.A.S.C., on the eve of her departure for U.K.). The only two O.R.s left in Malaya are W.O.2 Powell and S/Sgt. Hunter at Slim School for Service children. The former takes an active part in the school life and finds it very interesting.

Members of the Company are still managing to go on leave to interesting places. S/Sgt. Rodgers saved enough money to travel on a luxury air-liner to spend leave with her sister in Australia (no mean effort), and Cpl. Wickens and Cpl. Taylor spent an exciting week in Bangkok. In sport, the W.R.A.C. in Singapore have had some notable successes, including the winning of the Clarke Netball Shield for the second year and the defeat of the Singapore Women's Army Corps in .22 Rifle Shooting. Individual successes have been obtained by Lt. King in several tennis tournaments and 2/Lt. Hickey in Singapore Swimming Club Championships. After steady and enthusiastic training the W.R.A.C. team put up a very good performance against the W.R.A.F. in the Inter-Service Swimming Championships, but were beaten on points in the last relay event. (Final score: W.R.A.F. 39 points, W.R.A.C. 35.)

COOKERY COMPETITION

IN common with the rest of the units in the W.R.A.C., 4th Independent Company in Singapore has to participate in the Annual Cookery Competition, but there the similarity ends. Our cook-house is staffed by one redoubtable and well-known W.R.A.C. Sgt. Cook (famous for her terrific standards and her beautiful Scottish accent), three Chinese cooks and various Malay kitchen boys. We have to compete against cook-houses manned by experienced A.C.C. cooks, working with good equipment, far newer than our dilapidated coal ranges installed many years ago. On the credit side we have only our enthusiasm and Sgt. Fuller.

The day before the competition the water is suddenly cut off for an indefinite period, and the C.S.M.'s office has to be filled with tubs of water, to be locked away for safety sake. The cooks in panic, their Scottish accents now becoming more

pronounced, say despairingly, "The competition next week?" and for the hundredth time the Sergeant replies, "No—tomorrow." "Och Aye" say the Chinese cooks and rush round in one more circle, muttering, "Menus for cleem potatoes" and other dishes far away from their usual "Flieed Lice."

The day dawns, the rains come and we now bale out the water desperately in order to prevent floods on the beautiful floor. The cooks, subdued by threats of being sent away and not allowed to compete in the competition, appear in white chef's hats which they have forgotten to starch and which consequently hang despondently round their large ears. The Malayan boys work hard to clean the equipment once more and then dress in their best shirts (preferably an old W.R.A.C. pyjama-top given to them for rags).

The judges come. They test, question and do all the usual things. Even their faces crinkle a little when they come upon the vegetables sized and lined up from the right by Mohamed, the kitchen boy, who says proudly "Like Misses on parade." Perhaps we do look like those parsnips to him.

It is over. The caps come off and we heave a sigh of relief, for no one panicked and put the food into the swill tub instead of the oven, and the food looked and tasted lovely. We may not win, but we did our best.

CHANGE-OF-AIR-STATION

MAJOR M. YEATES, W.R.A.C.

I SAILED from U.K. in July 1956, *en route* for Malaya to take up an appointment as "O.C. Change of Air Station, Cameron Highlands." None of my fellow-passengers on board the trooper had ever heard of such a unit, and it was not till I reached the bustling metropolis of Singapore that I learnt what my queer-sounding new task was. My Change of Air Station turned out to be a holiday centre in the hills of Malaya, to which British troops and their families are sent for a change from the moist steamy heat of Singapore Island and the Malayan lowlands.

The rail trip from Singapore takes two days, with an overnight stop at Malay's capital city, Kuala Lumpur. At about 12.15 in the afternoon of the second day I found myself deposited on the baking hot little siding of Tapah Road Station, the nearest rail point to the Camerons which lie some 40 miles further on into the mountains. Because of the danger of Communist terrorist activities, all military traffic travels in convoys protected by escorts of the most fearsome-looking little armoured cars. The road passes through delightful mountain scenery, steep cliffs on one side and even steeper drops on the other, all matted and tangled with thick green forest. The sparkle of the many waterfalls, together with the gradually cooling air, gives an air of freshness to everything, and one's spirits rise with the road as it winds on and on, up and up. Finally, when the vehicles were panting and bubbling and hissing like large kettles, we rounded the last bend and I had arrived.

The Cameron Highlands, some 5,300 ft. above sea-level, on the main divide of the Perak-Penang State borders, is the most extensive and best developed hill resort in Malaya. It has the most delightful climate imaginable—sunny, bright days, cool nights and the crisp mountain air which is quoted as worth "a guinea a breath." The station consists of a central long valley with lots of little offshoots, the hills being covered with a mass of vivid green tropical vegetation, high-lighted here and there by the multi-coloured gardens of the bungalows. The Leave Centre is a splendid building with polished floors, brightly painted and curtained rooms, and everywhere masses and masses of dahlias, gladioli and flowering shrubs. This hotel, the "Eastern," is divided into three blocks, one for single soldiers, one for O.R. families and Women's Services, and the third for W.O.s and Sergeants and their families. There are two officers' bungalows, "Wings" and "Mundells."

Military personnel become eligible for change-of-air vacancies after one year's service in Singapore or Malaya. The two weeks count as duty and are not deducted from the leave entitlement for the year. The parties change over every second Friday, the outgoing people by the morning convoy down, the newcomers by the evening convoy from Tapah Road, so Friday evening is our busiest and most harassing time. Children are fretful after the long journey and many of them (and their parents too) feel the cold very much indeed after the plains. Eventually, however, all are settled, bathed, fed, and gratefully sink to rest, either in comfortable arm-chairs in front of a blazing fire or in an early bed with three blankets. Opinions differ as to which is the greater pleasure.

Throughout the fortnight there is plenty to do. The troops play a variety of games—tennis, badminton, table-tennis, billiards, and of course their beloved soccer. There is also a nine-hole golf course on which many beginners disport themselves and many "golf fiends" are started off. Whist drives, tombola, all-ranks dances, form the main part of the evening's pleasure, and it is fair to say that there are very few dull moments. The games and entertainments are organised by the military staff, which consists of one Staff Sergeant, one Sergeant and one Lance-Corporal. Cooks, amahs, waiters, storekeepers are, in the main, Chinese, and most of them have been with us for many years. Both military and civilian do a fine job, and take a very real pride in looking after and entertaining the visitors.

I have been here for over a year now, and I feel that in lots of ways I and my staff have been doing the most rewarding job of our military service. To see tired wives perk up, and children become noisier and full of beans, eating voraciously and waiting impatiently for meal-times, is ample reward for our labours. The future of my little kingdom is uncertain, but I sincerely hope that as long as there are British and Commonwealth forces in this country the scheme will continue. It is of tremendous value to the morale of the troops and their families, and it provides a wonderful holiday which, in a country where prices are high, would normally be out of the question for the junior ranks.

The Gipsy Caves of Granada

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

GRANADA, built on three hills along the banks of the River Genil and standing under the shadow of the snow-capped Sierra Nevada, became the capital of the diminishing Moorish realm in Spain after the reconquest of Cordoba by the Christians in 1236. There still exist some very interesting and magnificent monuments of this past age—the Alhambra, which is the red-walled palace of the Moorish kings with the Alcazar containing a series of open courts and rooms, the Alcazabar which is the old fort and the Generalife with its beautiful terraced gardens.

One cannot say one has seen Granada or even feel that one knows it unless one has visited the gipsies. As one looks out from the Alhambra across the river to the Monte Sacro, one sees the opposite hillside as a white-washed rabbit warren. The approach is by a narrow road winding from the centre of the town with its large shops, bars and stately buildings to the Albaicin with its narrow lanes winding between small white-washed, flat-roofed dwellings. Here there is no glamour to be offered—only poverty, ragged children all clamouring for “moneda” or “Caramellos,” and the simplicity of the gipsies themselves.

These gipsies are not the raggie-taggle gipsies that one sees travelling along the roads in their brightly painted caravans but remarkably clean-looking people dressed in their gaily coloured and flounced flamenco costumes with a flower in their hair. A red rose may not be obtainable, but an artificial flower will serve the purpose or even a sprig of gypsophila. Admittedly they mostly have dark skins and black hair, but that is natural to Spaniards as a whole.

The caves, although hewn out of the hillside, are not just dark, dank hovels, but are white-washed throughout and are lit electrically by small attractive wrought-iron lanterns. The walls and ceilings are decorated with bric-a-brac typical of the land—miniature copper paella pans, brass bowls and water pots, pottery plates depicting the story of Don Quixote, wrought-iron brackets for holding plant pots or frames for painted tiles, castanets, possibly a fan or a guitar and various other oddments. The floors are set with red tiles which are cracked and have been worn uneven with the constant stamping of the dancing feet (and in particular the heels). Against the three walls of the main “room” are placed small chairs of light wood with the seats made of plaited grass and leading out of it are other rooms which go deeper into the hillside.

Every guide has his own particular cave which he frequents, and so it was that we went to the one right at the end of the community—the end furthestmost from the town. It so happened that we went along at about 7.30 p.m., and on arrival the gipsies willingly posed for their photographs. We (a party of seven) were then invited in and asked to sit at the top end of the cave while the

gipsies themselves sat along the other two walls. I should, perhaps, mention that this “room” could not have been more than about 180 feet square and that there were no doors. It was a very picturesque scene, looking out from this cave alive with colour and movement through the white arched doorway across the ravine to the red-stoned buildings of the Alhambra which were reflecting the glow from the setting sun beneath a turquoise sky. That, then, was roughly the setting.

These gipsies are not ballet stars—they would be lost and unappreciated on a theatre stage—but people inborn with a fervent passion, who are best able to express their interpretation of life and love through the medium of dancing. Each dance unfurled its own story, and even the youngest dancer (a girl aged five) was able to render a most complicated dance unaided and as well as her elder sisters. The only accompaniment to this tableau was the spirited plucking of a guitar string, the clicking of castanets and the rhythmical clapping of hands. The graceful movement of the bodies and the swirling of the dresses was most moving and exciting, but the noise in such a confined space was just a little overpowering.

The best way of showing one's appreciation is by sharing a bottle of wine with them and, while the *fino* (sherry-type wine) may not be agreeable to the uninitiated palate, we were only too happy to do so. The gipsies had, of course, already been paid by the guide, and after a full hour of this enthralling entertainment we took our leave. We were escorted back to our cars amidst much care and attention, while the gypsophila was divided amongst us so that each of the ladies could leave with a piece in her hair. And so after a brief insight into another world we retraced our steps along the gorge to our pensions.

Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

It was recently mentioned to me that although American and Canadian and other overseas visitors to Europe like to include in their tour a visit to an exhibition where they can see British methods of handloom weaving, they seldom can get authentic details of the dates, times and places of these exhibitions. I was told that if I could collect these particulars early in the New Year they could be included in the potential itineraries drawn up for transatlantic tourists. I would be more than willing to pass on information about any exhibition which has a section devoted to handweaving, spinning and allied crafts, or about any place of interest where weaving can be seen, provided that it reaches me by January 1958. I cannot promise to acknowledge every letter I receive, but I would be very grateful for any co-operation forthcoming.

Yours sincerely,

MAUREEN V. LEES.

The Coach House,
52 Hamilton Square,
Birkenhead.

W.R.A.C. Depot

A RECRUIT passing-out parade in August was taken by Dame Mary Railton, whom we afterwards "dined out" in the Officers' Mess. The parade on September 19 was taken by Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, who was accompanied by Lady Trenchard. It was a great pleasure to have Dame Mary, Dame Helen and Lady Trenchard with us on those two occasions.

WE have had many visitors, including two leading W.V.S. County Organisers, several Youth Employment Officers, Mlle. Claire Lesieur from the P.F.A.T. Training School at Dieppe, Major Cruickshank, W.R.A.A.C., Sgt. Rabieeb Punnepayak of the Thailand Women's Service, and Sgt. Emmen, Dutch Women's Army. We must also mention the naval officer who arrived by helicopter on the parade square and spent a Saturday afternoon landing and taking off to his heart's content—all part of a local Army manoeuvre.

THE Under Secretary of State for War, Mr. Julian Amery, M.P., spent the day with us on July 12, and the following statement was issued afterwards:

"Mr. Julian Amery, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for War, visited the W.R.A.C. Depot at Stoughton yesterday. After his tour of the camp he said of what he saw that the excellent living conditions and the training facilities made the Depot a wonderful start to a girl's life in the Army. The decision to abolish National Service meant the need of more women in the Services than ever before in peacetime."

THE women have continued to take part in all sorts of displays and parades, and have earned many compliments. They appeared at the Battle of Britain Parade and Service at Westminster Abbey, and gave an intricate drill display at a R.A.F. Tattoo at Sevenoaks. The W.R.A.C. Staff Band has been fully occupied. During July they spent three days at the Bedford Show, and on July 25 they provided the music for the W.R.A.C. Afternoon Party at Marlborough House. On July 31 Capt. McDowall, the Director of Music, had the great honour of being invited as guest conductor at a concert at Kneller Hall. In August they undertook three highly successful engagements of a week each, at the Embankment Gardens, in Jersey (very popular with the Band themselves), and in Folkestone. On Sunday, September 29, they played at the Chelsea Hospital (now an annual fixture), and on October 19 at the Royal Naval Association Reunion at the Festival Hall.

OUR new Cookery Instructional Centre has been opened, a most attractive single-storey building gleaming inside with blue and white, and was visited by H.R.H. The Princess Royal after the Dedication of the Church on July 28.



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.

"LES STAGIAIRES"

MAJOR A. A. LOCKE, M.A., W.R.A.C.

ON Monday, October 1, 1956, I arrived in No. 1 Dress at the Gare de Ville, Dieppe, where I had last detrained 16½ years before in khaki, with full equipment, a Volunteer in the A.T.S. M.T. Contingent with the B.E.F. The station, like the rest of Dieppe, has recovered from its war damage, and apart from its Frenchness might have been Guildford on an intake day. Young women were being shepherded into lorries and driven off up the hill overlooking the old seaport town to the barracks a few hundred yards beyond our former billet. "Les Stagiaires," recruits to the Personnel Feminin l'Armée de Terre, were arriving at the Centre d'Instruction for their six weeks' course.

Intake procedure is much like our own, except that clothing (khaki canvas tunic and slacks, navy beret, thick boots and socks, shirts, etc.) is only issued for the duration of the course. Recruits finally leave the Training Centre in plain clothes, and complete their six months' probationary service before receiving the outfit allowance which enables them to obtain the navy blue tailored uniform of the P.F.A.T. After satisfactory completion of the course and the probationary period, graduates are gazetted as P.F.A.T. Third Class (Second Lieutenants) and the large majority are given staff appointments at home and abroad. Non-graduates become P.F.A.T. of the fifth category (Sergeants). During probation all hold the rank of Corporal.

Usually a whole intake has been enlisted for employment with a given Arm or Service—staff duties, signals, recruiting and record-office duties, ordnance, etc. The course is a stiff one and leads to the Certificate of Technical Aptitude which is essential for retention in the Service. Subjects studied include Discipline, Ranks and Badges, Army Organisation, Life on Active Service, Map-reading, Gas, Hygiene and First Aid. Some drill is done, games are played occasionally, and there is daily P.T. Instruction is carried out mainly by lectures to the whole course, given by officers or monitrices (P.S.I.s). Training films are used a good deal. There are periods of supervised study, and the recruits spend a good deal of time writing up notes and learning *précès*. Apart from lectures and study the days are full, as besides looking after their own barrack-rooms, which are large and well-furnished and hold four women each, recruits are responsible for cleanliness of stairs and corridors and do cookhouse fatigues on a roster. The women receive the same pay as men, and pay about 7s. a day for their messing while at the Training

Centre. The food is good, of the normal French kind, with a wine-ration at lunch and dinner.

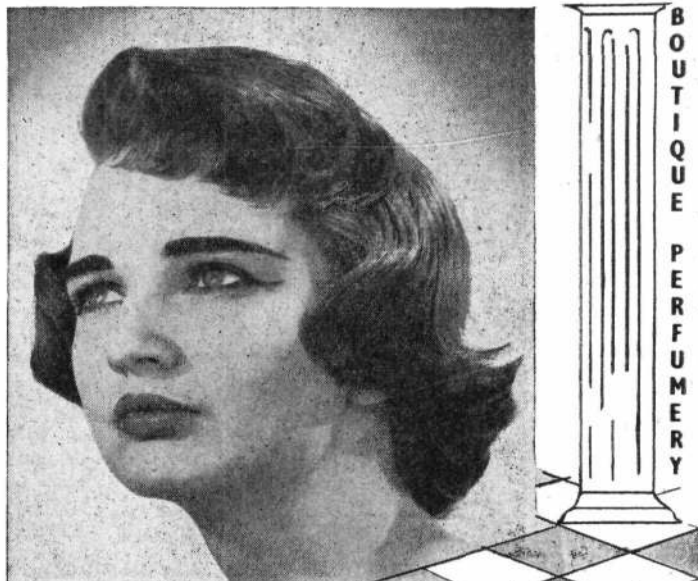
The Centre d'Instruction, the only one of its kind, has a male Commandant and a mixed establishment of officers and N.C.O.s and a few civilians. The P.F.A.T. Second-in-Command gained the Croix de Guerre for ambulance-driving at the front in Italy. I found manners more formal than with us, Christian names are seldom used in Mess, and there is a great deal of hand-shaking at night, in the morning, and on entering the office. Meals took longer and there was a great deal of interesting general conversation. I left with the strong impression that while the P.F.A.T. may be rather behind us regimentally, the individual standard of work and responsibility is very high, fostered by experience of invasion and post-war active service.

CHRISTMAS LIST

GIFT tokens for one year's subscription to the Association, which make excellent Christmas presents to ex-Service friends, can again be obtained from the General Secretary, price 6s. 3d.

Alexandre Francke

HAIRDRESSER



Casual and carefree because Alexandre Francke is an artist with scissors. The well cut head be it short or mid length needs less attention and a minimum of perm waving

The Salon with a reputation at

73 GROSVENOR STREET LONDON W1

Telephone MAYFAIR 3229 . 3220

THE NIJMEGEN MARCHES

IN 1957, for the first time, a detachment representing the W.R.A.C. took part in the International Four-day Marches held once a year at Nijmegen, in Holland. The marches are not competitive, but the set distance (40 kilometres for women) must be completed each day in under 11 hours. A medal is awarded to each individual who completes the four marches successfully, and a team medal is given to any detachment losing not more than 10 per cent. of its members.

Knowing very little about long-distance marching, but armed with a great deal of enthusiasm, about 25 volunteers from 14th Battalion W.R.A.C. in B.A.O.R. started training for the marches. Our first training march was at the end of April, 5 miles, and at the end of this several people had blisters and sore feet. By the middle of July, in spite of the fierce heatwave which sent temperatures into the nineties, we had 16 people who had completed the training by marching 25 miles on two consecutive days in two different weeks. This comprised our detachment for Nijmegen.

We arrived in Nijmegen on Sunday, July 21, and were accommodated in a school with the female detachments from the Dutch Women's Air Force and Army and the Israel Women's Army. We slept in double bunks with straw mattresses (more comfortable than they looked) and washed from half a dozen cold-water taps in a trough screened off in a corner of the school yard. The Royal Netherlands Air Force was responsible for the administration of the 8,000 troops of 10 different nationalities, and did it with amazing efficiency. There were also 5,000 civilians taking part, and a large number of visitors as spectators, so the town was very full.

The marches were officially started with a flag parade on the Monday evening. Representatives of every country taking part marched round the great stadium, and then the flag of each country was broken while its national anthem was played. The next morning we were up at 4 a.m. and taken by truck to the marshalling centre, ready to set off at 5.15. Each day's march was on a different route, beginning and ending at Nijmegen. Most of the time we went along very pleasant roads, often beside rivers, and saw some lovely country. Two halt places were arranged, and a rest centre in the middle where coffee and sandwiches were provided and medical orderlies were available for massage and foot-treatment. All the way along the road were people cheering us, and at points we were given free samples of soup, sweets and cigarettes and sprayed with eau-de-cologne. No doubt we needed it, as the rest centres were in farmyards, the massage section in the chicken pen and the first-aid in the cowshed.

The weather was not very good, but we escaped getting really wet and the spirit of our team never flagged. We sang most of the way, usually in time with the detachment in front or behind us. The first and second days seemed relatively easy, and by the third day no one had yet fallen out. This

was the hardest march, on a road which went up and down about seven fairly steep hills. When we survived that with our team still complete, nothing was going to hold us back on the last day. Every member of the squad was determined to finish and take back a medal to Germany.

The last day had a special quality of its own. The end was in sight and every mile brought us nearer success. All the 12,000 remaining participants felt the same way, and the watching crowds were much larger. Five kilometres from the end we changed into No. 1 Dress and formed up to march into the town. We were behind a Canadian band, a Canadian contingent, some U.S. troops, and a R.A.S.C. detachment. From end to end the procession must have stretched for several miles. All the way into Nijmegen the road was lined with large crowds, and at intervals children ran into the road and thrust flowers into our hands. At the town centre was a special stand for senior officers and important civilian spectators from all the countries taking part. As we marched past we forgot all the blisters and sore feet, in the glorious realisation that we had actually finished.

That evening the whole town celebrated, and we had invitations to parties showered upon us by the many friends we had made during the week. The streets were full of people self-consciously hobbling and wearing their medals, but everyone had energy left to enjoy the magnificent Dutch hospitality and to dance for the rest of the evening.

THE BRITISH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

EVERY year, under the auspices of the British Chess Federation, chess players from all over the country compete for four titles—British Champion, British Lady Champion, British Boy Champion and British Girl Champion. The holders of the first two titles are automatically selected to play in the British team and are given the opportunity to represent the country in any events organised by the International Chess Federation, such as the preliminary qualifying tournaments for the World Championships.

In 1957 Lt. Anne Sunnucks, W.R.A.C., made her third attempt at the women's championship, having missed the title in 1953 by half a point. In 1954 she made her debut in the British team in a match against the U.S.S.R. in London, and also gained further experience in Yugoslavia, but for the last two years she has been stationed overseas and unable to take part in tournament chess.

The 1956 champion and runner-up were not competing in this year's championship, as they were representing Great Britain in an international team tournament in Holland, but Lt. Sunnucks was faced with the Irish champion and the 1955 British woman champion, Mrs. Bruce. She drew with the one and defeated the other, and was certain of the title before the final round. This achievement has brought glory to the W.R.A.C. in quite a new sphere, and we offer our heartiest congratulations to the British Woman Champion of 1957.

REUNIONS

Warrior Square

IN November 1917 the first draft of W.A.A.C. from the Overseas Drafting Depot at Hastings marched out of Warrior Square behind a band, on their way to France. On July 27, 1957, 16 "Old Hastingsites," supported by other members of the W.A.A.C., assembled from places as far afield as Chester, Boston (Lincs), Cambridge and Leeds, to take a sentimental look at the tall Victorian houses which held their earliest Service memories. They stood in the rain recalling the old Orderly Room at No. 64 through which they had passed as recruits, Queen Victoria's statue near which they had drilled in the knee-high grass, the Elite Cinema up the hill which was then the Mess hall. Some had brought cuttings and photographs from the local newspapers of the period, and many reminiscences were exchanged over tea at the White Rock Pavilion. Before they left they were photographed against the almost-unchanged background of their old billets, adding another historic picture to the record of "Forty Years After."

Rouenites Luncheon

AT the Rouen luncheon party in June there were members who had served at G.H.Q. 3rd Echelon with "B" Office, "C" Office, Central Registry, Casualties, B.M.T.D., Signals, Quai St. Sever, Camp 4 and Camp 6. We are hoping to arrange another luncheon on Thursday, June 5, 1958, so that we can continue to keep in touch.

Southern Area

THE Annual Rally of the Southern Area was held at Oxford on Sunday, June 23. The sun shone brightly as 104 members from the seven branches converged on the Oxford University Air Squadron Club which had been kindly lent for the occasion. With its pleasant lounge and grounds running down to the river bank, it was a delightful rendezvous in which to gather for picnic lunches and cups of tea before splitting into parties for the afternoon tours. Some of us explored the colleges with great interest, members of the Oxford Branch acting as guides, others were taken on a tour of the city and its lovely parks and gardens, several of the Southampton Branch spent the afternoon on the river, and there were a number who were content just to sit in the sun and talk of old times.

On the return of the various parties, tea was served in the Air Squadron's large hall. Everyone was pleased to see Col. C. W. Hull, D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command, and Mrs. Lumsden, General Secretary of the Association. Before the end of the meeting the Secretary of the Southern Command Area Committee, on behalf of the Area, thanked Col. Hull for her work and help, and wished her every happiness in her retirement. A vote of thanks was also proposed to the Oxford Branch for their wonderful hospitality.

Northern Area

NORTHERN AREA held its Annual Rally at Harewood House (by kind permission of H.R.H. The Princess Royal) on Saturday, September 21, 1957. In spite of the bad weather 168 members attended, representing all the 11 Northern Area Branches. We were welcomed at the entrance by Lt.-Col. Millington and Col. Stead, and were taken on conducted tours of the house with its wonderful collection of furniture, china and pictures. The rain damped the enthusiasm of even the keenest gardeners, but a steady stream of umbrellas could be seen bobbing across the park as members braved the elements in order to see the church.

Although the rally was primarily intended for local branches we were delighted to welcome Miss Acland and the General Secretary, Mrs. Lumsden. A special mention must also be made of our oldest member, Miss Gummersall, who sets us all an example by her tireless work for the Association. An excellent high tea and a gossip with our friends brought the afternoon to a pleasant close. There were no formal speeches and we had no opportunity of thanking Lt.-Col. Millington, Col. Stead and Mrs. Suttle for the work they had done in running a reunion of this nature. We take this opportunity, therefore, of expressing the thanks of all the Northern Area members.

W.R.A.C. Afternoon Party

HER Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Commandant in Chief Women's Royal Army Corps, was present at an afternoon party given by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Controller Commandant, and officers in the gardens of Marlborough House on July 25, 1957. Before the arrival of Her Majesty, H.R.H. The Princess Royal received all the guests, who included Lady Templer, Gen. Sir Richard and Lady Hull, Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, Gen. Sir Charles and Lady Coleman, General Sir Robert Mansergh, General Sir Neville and Lady Brownjohn, Dame Regina Evans, the Honorary Colonels of a number of W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Battalions, representatives from War Office Directorates, Home Commands and London District and friends and relations of officers, past and present.

Her Majesty, accompanied by H.R.H. The Princess Royal and the Director, Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, spoke to a great many of the guests and a considerable number of officers, past and present, were presented to Her Majesty. Everyone was captivated by Her Majesty's gracious charm and lively interest, and the Corps was greatly honoured by her presence at the party. The weather was fine, but rather cool, while a strong wind created a problem for wearers of large garden-party hats.

We are much indebted to many people who helped over arrangements, decorations, catering and organisation and gave valuable advice and practical help, among them Mr. Hill of the Lord Chamberlain's Office, Major Hobkirk, Bailiff of the Royal Parks, H.Q. London District, N.A.A.F.I. representatives and many others.

THE WOMEN OF WARRIOR SQUARE



1917



Courtesy: Hastings & St. Leonards Observer

1957

Standing: Miss E. K. Brown, Miss Richardson, Mrs. Taylor (Burchell), Mrs. Cook (Butterfield), Miss Druitt, Miss Harvey, Miss Fenwick (Jacobs), Miss Suggate, Mrs. Bryers, Mrs. Bowers, Miss Arney, Mrs. Ambrose (Waller), Miss Fordham. Kneeling: Miss Doris Jones, Miss Baron, Mrs. Hodgson.

Obituary

MRS. CRASK

WE are sorry to report the death of Julie Ida Crask, who served with the W.A.A.C. at G.H.Q. in France and was Mentioned in Despatches for her work. In later years she was well known in Weymouth as a prominent welfare worker. At her funeral her medals and her W.V.S. hat, resting on her coffin, bore witness to her services to her country.

MISS ELIZABETH MOLYNEUX

ELIZABETH LINDSAY MOLYNEUX, who died on July 15, 1957, after a comparatively short illness, served in the A.T.S. during the years 1943-1946. She was commissioned from the A.O.E.R. at No. 1 A.T.S. O.C.T.U., Edinburgh, where she won the Belt of Honour in her entry. A fellow cadet writes of "her outstanding leadership, which was chiefly so because it was unconsciously wielded." Most of her war service was spent in Western Command; in Chester, with a platoon of "L" Company, in command of the Isle of Man Independent Company, and as Staff Captain to A.D. A.T.S., North-West District.

She returned after the war to her work in the Parents National Educational Union and a year or two later succeeded, as Director of the Parents Union School and Editor of the *Parents' Review*, the late Miss Elsie Kitchin. Elizabeth Molyneux proved herself, in the 10 years she worked in that capacity, to be a worthy follower of that great educationalist Charlotte Mason who founded the P.U.S.

Elizabeth's death will be a profound loss to many, including countless parents and children working in home school-rooms in many countries throughout the world; but in the midst of our sense of loss is a deep thankfulness for her life, and those who were closest to her remember with gratitude the joy which her rare gift for friendship brought to each to whom it was given.

C. A.

L/CPL. M. WILSON

THE B.A.O.R. regretfully announce the death of L/Cpl. M. Wilson, who was posted to 14th Battalion, W.R.A.C., in September 1956 and served as a clerk in the Ordnance Directorate of H.Q. B.A.O.R. She died in Hostert Hospital at the age of 23, having contracted a very serious liver complaint. Her friends in B.A.O.R. generously contributed towards the expense of bringing out her young married sister from England, who was able to see her before she died.

L/Cpl. Wilson was given a military funeral, with a bearer party consisting of male members of her own branch, an escort from members of her own Company, and a firing party provided by the Coldstream Guards from Krefeld. She is buried in the Military Cemetery at Rheindahlen.

DR. ELEANOR BOURNE

WE have heard with regret of the death of Dr. Eleanor Bourne, who was Medical Controller, Northern Command, in the First World War. She had lived in Australia for many years, but still kept in touch with several old friends in the Q.M.A.A.C. She died at Brisbane on May 23, 1957, aged nearly 80.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Birmingham. About a dozen members and several friends visited Aston Hall on July 20. When you are in this seventeenth-century house which was built by the Royalist Sir Thomas Holte, it is difficult to realise that you are within three miles of the city centre. On September 16 we invited our husbands and sweethearts to join us in watching a film show of their travels in America and on the Continent, given by Mr. and Mrs. Neill. This show was very much enjoyed and the photographers urged to go on further journeys, but very few men were brave enough to join us.

Brighton. We have had very enjoyable meetings on the third Monday of each month at the R.N.A. Club, Kings Road Arches, and will be very glad to see as many members and friends as possible on November 18 when we are holding our Annual Bring and Buy Sale. On a Sunday afternoon in July we went to a place advertised in the National Gardens Scheme leaflet as Bentley Farm, Halland. This proved to be a beautiful house and garden (converted from a farm), complete with stables containing very fine racehorses. We had a long walk from the bus stop, across fields and through woods in order to get there, but we enjoyed it as it was a lovely day. Another Sunday afternoon we went by train to Berwick (the busmen being on strike), and walked to "Drusillas" for tea. There was a short, sharp thunderstorm while we were having tea and all the lights went out, but it was fine for the walk back to the station. A party of members and friends went to the Hippodrome to see "The Big Show," starring Winifred Attwell and David Nixon. Several members attended the Battle of Britain Service in the Dome on September 15. We have received a card from Mrs. Lythgoe, who is on a visit to America, and we are looking forward to hearing all about her holiday when she returns. We hope to meet shortly Mrs. Weddell, who has transferred to us from Birmingham Branch on moving to Pyecombe.

Bristol. A whist drive was held on July 4 at the home of Miss Cottrell, 435 Fishponds Road. The prizes were given by Mrs. Edwards (A.T.S.). There was no meeting in August, but a quarterly meeting and bring and buy sale took place in September. About 14 members attended. On September 15, Battle of Britain Sunday, our Standard, carried by Mrs. Budd (A.T.S.), joined with other Old Comrades Associations, led by the British Legion, in the Commemoration Services at the Bristol Cenotaph and St. Mary Redcliffe. Several of our members took part.

Gibraltar. Following the general business on May 7, 1957, we had a very interesting talk on the British Red Cross Society given by Miss E. Till, B.R.C.S., who is the representative of that organisation at the British Military Hospital here. Instead of the normal meeting for June we held a beetle drive which proved to be very popular with all members. Although it was not meant to be a profit making evening, the drive did, nevertheless, pay its own way, with a little money in hand at the end. On July 2, 1957, the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. C. H. Stephens, departed for the U.K. and was replaced by Capt. J. M. Addison, W.R.A.C. After the general business had been discussed we were entertained with an illustrated talk by W.O.I. Luker, R.A.O.C., one of the world's renowned phillumenists (match-box collectors), which was most enlightening to all present and proved what a fascinating hobby this can be.

Hartlepool. Attendance at our meetings still shows room for improvement. We have the faithful few who come regularly each month, but we would be delighted to see some of our other members and to have all their news. Our congratulations go to Mrs. Gladys Angus on the birth of her fourth child, Judith. We hope she will be able to get the required baby sitter to enable her to come along to our meetings once more. We are still hoping to see members of the Teesside Branch. Will they note that we now hold our meetings in the Avenue Road T.A. Centre, just up the path by the side of the War Memorial. In spite of the very depressing and damp weather, the seven of us who attended the Northern Area Rally at Harewood House had an enjoyable time. We hired a brake and had a good journey, stopping for a short break on both journeys. May I take this opportunity to remind members that our November meeting will be the Annual General Meeting.

London. Our meetings have continued twice a month, but the only activities to report are "Bedlam" in July, a whist drive on September 5, and another visit from the Acton Male Voice Choir on September 19. This last event was a most enjoyable evening of stirring music from this fine choir. We also have to report the marriage of Miss Pat Fetherston, which took place on August 24 and we extend to her our very best wishes for her future happiness. The wedding present from the Branch took the form of a cheque, which was presented to her by our Chairman, Miss M. Druitt. We are sorry to hear that Miss Meg Callaghan has had to have an operation, but it is good news to hear that she is now away convalescent, and we send our best wishes for a speedy return to complete health.

Norfolk. Members will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Murton has undergone a serious operation in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, but we hope that by the time this issue appears all will be well. Our thanks to Miss Howson, who has undertaken to visit her for us during her stay there. Raffle books for the New Year Draw are now ready. Applications from members will be greatly appreciated by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. L. W. Chilvers. Prizes for the draw will also be very acceptable.

Nottingham. In reply to an advertisement which opened our session in September, we had three enquiries from would-be members who had never heard of the Association. One of them was our first Q.M.A.A.C. member, Mrs. Lawrence (R. E. Beal). Derby Branch joined with us on the coach tour to Harewood House for the annual Northern Area Rally held there by gracious permission of H.R.H. The Princess Royal. May we say how grateful we are to the organisers and what a wonderful day we all enjoyed. The highlight for Nottingham was that our member ex-Sgt. Woodthorpe (now discharged from hospital) was able to walk round the rooms under her own steam and on her own two feet, which is nothing short of a miracle after her long and painful illness. A full winter programme has been arranged and we look forward to seeing our old friends on the first Wednesday of each month at the Derby Road Drill Hall.

Preston. We are very pleased to report another successful year. Although fewer in numbers we were able to donate £6 6s. to charities at our last general meeting. A full and enjoyable programme was planned. Our Annual Reunion was held in January, taking the form of a dinner and pantomime show. Our meetings are now held on the last Tuesday of the month at W.R.A.C. T.A. H.Q., Stanley Street, Preston. Any member whose birthday falls during the month supplies the refreshments for the next meeting. Other branches may like to note this idea.

Salisbury. We have had a very pleasant and successful season, which included area reunions at Winchester and Oxford, both of which we enjoyed immensely, thanks to the hospitality shown by our hostesses, the Southampton and Oxford Branches. Meetings have been held as usual every month at members' houses and attendance has been good and regular. Our last meeting of the season was held at the charming country cottage in Hampshire of Col. E. S. Macfie. We had our annual Christmas dinner as usual last December, at a local hotel, and this was much enjoyed.

Sheffield. After our summer break our meetings commenced again in September. Despite the fact that influenza caught up with a number of our members, a party of 11 managed to attend the Northern Area Rally at Harewood. Arrangements are now in hand for our Christmas Fair which is to be held in the Y.W.C.A., Sheffield, on November 23, 1957, and the proceeds are to be given to the British Red Cross Society. On January 2, 1958, we pay our annual visit to the pantomime.

Singapore. The Branch continues to enjoy its friendly getting together every second month. At our August meeting Mrs. Whitehead, the wife of one of the G.H.Q. officers, gave an enchanting talk and demonstration on the arrangement of flowers. She surprised us all by saying how difficult it is to obtain certain flowers, even in this lush tropical land. During her talk the lights in the hall failed, but she turned what could have been a disaster into a delightful candle-lit world of flowers.

PERSONAL

(For charges and particulars see Contents page)

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress, jacket and skirt. Bust 35 in., waist 26 in., hips 36 in., height 5 ft. 7 in. £15 or nearest. Green greatcoat, £10 or nearest. Box No. 5/57.

For Sale. Good condition: 1 greatcoat, 1 S.D. tunic and skirt, 2 B.D. blouses, 3 shirts, 2 ties. Bust 38 in., hips 40 in., waist 30 in., height 5 ft. 2 in. Offers to Lt. C. E. Vine-Stevens, W.R.A.C./T.A., 8 Glan Aber Park, Chester.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress (Weatherills), little worn, excellent condition, complete with shirts, collars, ties, also hat 21 in. £10. Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 36 in., waist 28 in., hips 38 in. Also British warm, very good condition, £8. Capt. P. Lonsdale, 43 Princes Gardens, Codsall, near Wolverhampton, Staffs.

For Sale.—Officer's No. 1 dress uniform. Height 5 ft. 3 in., bust 34 in., waist 24 in., hips 35 in., £15. Green greatcoat, £15. Owner commissioned October 1956.—2/Lt. A. Hayllar, W.R.A.C. Depot, Guildford.

For Sale.—Officer's greatcoat, Service dress, £4 each. Height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 36 in.—Tilleard, Grape Vine Cottage, Holly Lane, Margate.

METROPOLITAN WOMEN POLICE

A good career in LONDON is offered to women (married or single) of good physique and education. Aged 20 to 35, minimum height 5 ft. 4 in. Duties of Women Police offer a field for valuable public service. Basic starting pay £440 a year, plus £20 per annum London allowance, with free quarters or rent allowance. Full particulars from the Recruiting Office (W.P.66), New Scotland Yard, S.W.1.

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.

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.

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.

"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.

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.

SPORT

Athletics

THE Army Athletic Championships were held at Aldershot on June 28 and 29, 1957 (two of the hottest days of the year). There were six women's events for which 43 athletes competed. Sgt. Parker and Pte. Hester gave outstanding performances in the track events.

The Inter-Service Athletic Championships were held at Devonport on July 17. With the usual contrariness of an English summer, the day was wet and the ground sodden. The team, however, were in good heart and training, and gained second place from the W.R.A.F. The points scored were: W.R.A.F. 62 points; W.R.A.C. 47 points; W.R.N.S. 35 points. This is the first time since 1953 that the Army (Women's) Team has gained second place. Two new inter-Service records were set up, one by Pte. Hester, who won the 220 yds. in 26.5 secs., and one by Sgt. Parker, who won the 80 metre hurdles in 12.4 secs.

Four teams competed in the 4 x 110 yds. inter-unit relay at Aldershot on July 31. The winning team was from the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction representing Southern Command.

Cricket

ONCE again the Army Women's Cricket Association were fortunate in having three fine days for the Inter-Command Festival, played on June 17, 18 and 19 at Aldershot. For the first time the W.R.A.C. played on the very pleasant grounds used by the cadets at Mons Barracks, and this proved an excellent site for the Festival. Spectators were able to keep in touch with the excitements on both grounds, and players of the four teams (Southern, Scottish, Eastern, and a combined Northern/Western XI) were able to meet during the tea break when a N.A.A.F.I. travelling canteen visited the site. The matches were full of interest and there were many highlights. Eastern Command emerged an undefeated team, though the finish against Southern Command was an exciting race between time and wickets. Brigadier Dame Mary Railton watched the matches on the final day, and presented the trophy to Eastern Command.

This was almost the only "cricket weather" we had during the season, but in spite of rain, cold winds, slippery grounds and a wet ball, the Army team maintained a great team-spirit and showed considerable talent. In June the team defeated

TOYS and CHILDREN'S PARTIES



Christmas time . . .

children's toys, stockings and the Christmas tree all combine to make a child's Christmas one to remember. If you will visit your Naafi shops you will see a wonderful range of Christmas toys and Festive Fare. Naafi are specialists in catering for all occasions and will help you when planning your children's parties.



NAAFI

The official canteen organisation for H. M. Forces

IMPERIAL COURT · KENNINGTON LANE · LONDON · S.E.11

Essex by 68 runs, and in August they travelled north and enjoyed a stay at Catterick. From there they played Northumberland and Durham County team at West Hartlepool, and Yorkshire at York, losing both matches but gaining in practice. They drew against the Civil Service team at Camberley, making 118 for 8 and getting 7 of the Civil Service out for 73 before stumps were drawn. Since the Civil Service side included four England players, this was a good effort.

The inter-Service matches against the Navy and the R.A.F. were both drawn, but the R.A.F. defeated the Navy and won the cup. Brigadier Dame Mary Railton spent her last day in the Army watching the Army v. Navy match, which was felt by the Army team as a great honour.

Rifle Shooting

THE high spot of the small bore year is the National Small-Bore Rifle Association Bisley Meeting, which was held this year in the week beginning June 29. Some of the W.R.A.C. in Mid-West District, led by Major F. St. M. Blower, decided to puff a little of the summer dust out of their rifles by attending it. The members of the party besides Major Blower were Sgt. E. Williams and Cpl. W. S. Wilkes, also of 325 (S. and W. Wales) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Sgt. Bell of 60 (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Independent Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), L/Cpl. R. Ridley and Pte. K. B. Rooney of 3 Independent Company, Manorbier, and Lt. J. Tait who was at Manorbier but is now stationed conveniently on the Bisley borders at the W.R.A.C. P.T. Wing.

The other competitors realised we had not seen an assemblage of W.R.A.C. at Bisley before, and it seemed that all 1,300 men entrants and 102 women entrants appointed themselves as our guides and rapidly became our friends. The target changers were from the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, and they too were especially helpful. The general system was that a siren-whistle combination announced the commencement of each seven-minute firing period. During that time all one's 10 shots had to be fired, and a practice, sweepstake or competition ticket handed to the target changer for the next card. Another strange noise indicated the end of the firing periods, rifles were laid down and the target changers had three minutes in which to dash down the range to replace cards and sometimes to return to adjust them. Then the sequence started again.

We gained a lot of shooting knowledge in a short time by watching the experts and listening to advice. It could be a little alarming to fire next to people wearing Olympic and every variety of international badge. Major Blower, however, was picked for the Welsh team for the Home Counties match, so now she too has an international badge.

Sgt. P. Price of Nottingham University O.T.C. has been selected to shoot for Nottinghamshire and for the Territorial Army at Bisley. She also captains Nottingham University Rifle team of which she is the only woman member.

The "Forces Day" .22 Rifle Shooting competition is a postal competition organised annually

by the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts' Workshops. The winners of Group VI, the Women's Services section, for 1956-57 were:—1st: Sgt. H. McCurdy, W.R.A.C., Queen's University (Belfast) O.T.C., 296; 2nd: Sgt. M. McDougall, W.R.A.C., 317 (Scottish Command) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.), 295.6; 3rd: Third Officer J. Bolton-King, W.R.N.S., H.M.S. *Dauntless*, 295.5.

Tennis

ALTHOUGH, on the whole, the match results were not very good, by the end of July the team had improved considerably and won the Inter-Services Cup. The result was: W.R.A.C. 7; W.R.A.F. 5; W.R.N.S. 4; two matches unfinished.

In the Inter-Unit Competition held on September 6, 1957, the winners were H.Q. Eastern Command.

W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

SINCE the last notes were published Col. J. G. Grierson has assumed the chairmanship of the Mess in place of Brigadier M. R. K. Colvin. The committee of management consists of Col. J. E. Rivett-Drake (representing officers overseas), Lt.-Col. N. K. Cadden, Lt.-Col. M. D. M. Humphrey and Lt.-Col. E. W. Gibson. The half-yearly meeting of the committee was held on September 13, and a meeting of the sub-committee, to consider applications for grants from units, was held at the end of July.

ON her retirement from the Service, Brigadier Dame Mary Railton presented the Mess with a mahogany knee-hole writing table which is in use in the Ante-room. Gifts of a grand piano, money, National Savings certificates, silver, etc., have been received from the Staff College on its disbandment. Arrangements have been made with Messrs. Christie's to auction the embroidered furniture from the Staff College during their autumn sales. A bedroom has been furnished in the Mess for visiting officers.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS

(Up to November 30, 1957)

Lt.-Col. (T/Col.) S. F. M. NIMMO, D.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q., Southern Command.
Major (T/Lt.-Col.) L. M. DAVIES, A.D.W.R.A.C., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Major (T/Lt.-Col.) D. H. I. WILSON, A.D.W.R.A.C., N.I.D.
Major R. M. GREEN, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., W.R.A.C. 1(b), War Office.
Major C. de GARIS MARTIN, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Aldershot District.
Major M. E. BEALE, D.A.D.O.S., Ord. 2, War Office.
Major N. CHRISTY, G.S.O. 2, A.E.R./T.A. 1, War Office.
Major M. N. JAMIESON, O.C. 18 Independent Company W.R.A.C., Gibraltar.
Major E. SCOTT, Adj. 327 (County of London) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.)
Major E. B. DIXON, O.C. Holding and Drafting Company, W.R.A.C.
Major E. M. DAVIES, Officer Cadet Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
Major C. L. HARLING, 4 Independent Platoon, 14 Battalion W.R.A.C., B.A.O.R.
Major E. ASKHAM, D.A.A.G. A.G., 16, (a) War Office.
Major S. A. E. HEANEY, 140 Provost Company, W.R.A.C.
Major J. E. HENDERSON, O.C. 1 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Edinburgh.

News From the T.A.

City of London

A VISIT to the Mansion House is one of the events visitors to London hope to include in their sightseeing tours. On the evening of September 10, 1957, All Ranks of 326 (City of London) Battalion and No. 1 Special Communications Squadron W.R.A.C. (T.A.) were entertained to cocktails at the Mansion House by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, Col. Sir Cullum Welch, O.B.E., M.C.

We were received individually by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, who afterwards, with their family, moved among us and spent almost two hours talking to members of the two units. We were shown the famous Egyptian Hall where many State banquets are held, and were entertained in the reception rooms where the walls are hung with tapestries and which are lit by unbelievably beautiful chandeliers. We were privileged to hear a wealth of fascinating information on the history of the Mansion House itself and also regarding the office of Lord Mayor. The City Marshal showed parties round the Magistrates' Court, which has its own cells beneath the Court and is the only surviving court in this country which is situated in a private house.

Among those present at the party, in addition to the members of the two units, were the Chairman and Secretary of the City of London T. & A.F.

Association, the President, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Middlesex T. & A.F. Association, Brevet Col. Lady Bowyer-Smyth, O.B.E., T.D., Hon. Col. 326 (City of London) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and Lt.-Col. E. M. Sykes, A.D.W.R.A.C. London District.

Such a unique honour, and all the splendour and excitement of a truly wonderful occasion, will long live in the annals of the City W.R.A.C. (T.A.) and in the memories of those of us lucky enough to be present.

307 (Northern Command) Battalion

MEMBERS of the Unit were invited to form a guard of honour at the wedding of Lt. S. Dathan, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and Lt. G. R. Gibson, R.N., at the Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich, on July 27. We arrived at the College by devious means of transportation from Nottingham and were shown to a very luxurious room kindly placed at our disposal by the W.R.N.S. officer. Here we made our last-minute adjustments and polishings and brushings, for today we were on "combined ops" with the Royal Navy.

The ceremony was held in the College Chapel. The bride looked radiant in a gown of shimmering gold brocade and the bridegroom handsome in his naval uniform. The bridesmaids were dressed in blue nylon lace and carried fans of gold georgette trimmed with red roses. The boy attendant was dressed in full naval dress (tropical).

After the ceremony the couple passed through the guard of honour of W.R.A.C. and then through the archway of swords provided by the Royal Navy officers. The reception was carried out in true Navy style in the Officers' Ante-room, and will long be remembered by those who were privileged to attend. The couple left for an unknown destination with the usual car trimmings, and the "combined ops" exercise had well and truly started.

304 (Surrey and Sussex) Battalion

THIS year, much to our delight, the Commander of 131 Infantry Brigade (T.A.) suggested that we should camp with the Brigade Group at Castle-martin from June 1 to 15. Pembroke-shire was then only a name to most of the Battalion, but now this "Little England beyond Wales" is a very definite spot on the map.

The Battalion pulled its weight by providing cooks and mess-orderlies for the combined Officers' Mess and the Sergeants' Mess, and also loaned clerks to every Unit in the Group, thereby giving the women an opportunity to do the sort of job which might well be theirs on mobilisation. The training of drivers was undertaken by the Battalion from its own resources, with such success that at the end of camp two unclassified drivers passed the Trade Test for B IV and eight drivers B IV were upgraded to B III.

As in past years, our visitors were numerous. Besides our Honorary Colonel, Col. A. H. Charles, T.D., we were happy to welcome Lt.-Gen. Sir Charles Coleman, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E., G.O.C. - in - C. Eastern Command, Maj. - Gen. W. F. R. Turner, D.S.O., G.O.C. Home Counties District, Major T. A. Roberts, M.B.E., T.D., Chair-

(continued from page 78)

Major D. J. N. WILKINSON, O.C. Drivers and Clerks Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
Major J. E. PARKER, 21C W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
Major J. L. RANKIN, D.A.Q.M.G. (Ops) and (A.E.) H.Q., Southern Command.
Major M. CROSSFIELD, O.C. 4 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., F.A.R.E.L.F.
Major G. F. FLEETWOOD-JONES, Sen. Edn. Offr., W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
Major S. N. COOKE, O.C. 17 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Shoburness.
Major D. C. POWELL, S.O.P.T., Southern Command.
Major M. M. FURRY, O.C. 69 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Shrewsbury.
Major M. J. ALLEN, 21C 305 (East and West Riding) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
Major J. WILSON, Adm. Officer, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
Major M. E. GRIBBLE, Adj. 328 (Ulster) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
Capt. J. CATO-SYMONDS, S/Capt., W.R.A.C. 1(a), War Office.
Capt. M. MORLEY, S/Capt. to A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q., Scottish Command.
Capt. J. MELVILLE, O.C. 22 Independent Platoon, W.R.A.C., Hong Kong.
Capt. E. I. MILLINGTON, S/Capt., "Q" (M) 3, War Office.
Capt. M. M. SIMS, S/Capt., "Q" Mov. H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Capt. G. A. SERGANT, S/Capt., M.E. 7, War Office.
Capt. J. M. ALLEN, W.O.s. and N.C.O.s Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
Capt. P. J. E. C. CAMPBELL, Adm. Officer, Nottingham University O.T.C. W.R.A.C. Sub-Unit.
Capt. M. F. CARTER, Recruiting Officer, Sheffield.
Lt. (T/Capt.) A. M. DOBSON, G.S.O. 3, H.Q., A.F.C.E.
Lt. (T/Capt.) D. J. TEMPLE, S/Capt. H.Q. Amphibious Warfare.
Lt. (T/Capt.) C. A. F. SMITH, Adm. Officer, Manchester University O.T.C. W.R.A.C. Sub-Unit.
Lt. (T/Capt.) M. R. ASHPANT, S/Capt. M.P. 6, War Office.
Lt. (T/Capt.) F. SAFFERY, G.S.O. 3 (Int.), H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Lt. A. S. NICHOLSON, S/O Independent Company, W.R.A.C., M.E.L.F.
Lt. P. M. FARWELL, 68 Company (M.T.), R.A.S.C., B.A.O.R.
Lt. P. HOPKINS, 145 Provost Company, W.R.A.C., B.A.O.R.
Lt. H. P. OGDEN, Intelligence Officer, A.P.I.U., B.A.O.R.
Lt. S. M. POWELL, Drivers and Clerks Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
Lt. P. A. SUNNUCKS, 12 Battalion W.R.A.C., Kingston-on-Thames.
Lt. R. P. SMART, 4 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., F.A.R.E.L.F.
Lt. M. MOORE, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
2/Lt. M. A. ALLEN, H.Q. Company, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

man of the Surrey T. and A.F.A., Gen. Sir Lashmer Whistler, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., representing the Chairman of the Sussex T. and A.F.A., and Major E. V. Watts, M.B.E., D.A.D.W.R.A.C. Home Counties District. On the middle Sunday a Drum-head Service was held for all Units of the Brigade Group. We paraded to our positions, and the band of 119 Field Engineer Regiment (T.A.) duly played us on to the tune of our own Regimental March. The salute at the march past after the service was taken by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier G. A. Rimbault, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

The camp amenities were excellent, and the social side for all ranks was well looked after by a very energetic Entertainments Committee who catered for all tastes. The Battalion had a sports afternoon when companies competed for the Honorary Colonel's trophy, and Col. Charles, who was at the meeting, presented the cup to "C" Company for the second year running. The weather was good throughout and, unlike 1956 when we were almost washed away, we had sunshine all the way. This, together with wonderful co-operation from the Camp Permanent Staff and the friendly spirit shown by 131 Infantry Brigade Group, made Castle-martin a memorable camp indeed.

314 (Scottish Command) Battalion

THE Battalion had a very happy and successful camp at Buddon, near Dundee, with perfect weather for eleven days and everyone in shirt-sleeve order. Training took the form of assisting the 155 Brigade in clerical, M.T. and Mess duties, and the experiment was an undoubted success.

Our big day was July 8, when D.W.R.A.C. spent the day with us and the G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command, Lt.-Gen. Sir Horatius Murray, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., visited us in the afternoon. Luckily the weather held, and the visiting party, which included our A.D.W.R.A.C. and the representatives of the T. and A.F.A., spent the afternoon watching the Sports Meeting with the Pipe Band of the 7/9th Royal Scots playing in the intervals.

The highlight for the qualified drivers was a two-day exercise to the West Highlands. They set off with rations and sleeping bags and returned with enthusiastic reports of self-produced four-course meals and washing in a burn. This year's camp was voted second only to Ballykinlar among the nine we have attended, and one young woman enjoyed it so much that she has left us to join the Regular Service.

316 (Scottish Command) Battalion

OUR annual camp this year was at home in Aberdeen, from May 4 to 18, as Ballykinlar Camp was still in use for Hungarian refugees. Naturally we were all disappointed, as we had been looking forward to Northern Ireland, but "B" Company (which covers from Huntly to Thurso) and "C" Company (from Dundee) were exploring new territory, and "A" Company (located in Aberdeen) were able to entertain relations and friends at our At Home afternoon. Camping with us were 322 (Western Command) Battalion from North Wales, and so well did the two units get on together that on the last morning many

Welsh tears were shed on Scottish shoulders.

In spite of bitter weather (we started in a snow-blizzard and finished in a deluge) everyone kept very fit and our medical orderlies staffing the W.R.A.C. ward of the camp reception station had very little to do. On the training side everything went well, thanks to the help we received from H.Q. Highland District and the staff of the Gordon Highlanders Depot. A number of cooks, clerks and drivers were able to pass trade tests, and medical orderlies, telephone orderlies and storewomen were given practical instruction. Visits of inspection were paid by Maj.-Gen. E. C. Colville, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. Highland District, and by Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil, A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command, who gave us a most interesting address on the role of the W.R.A.C. A joint coach expedition was made round Royal Deeside on the first Sunday, and one Saturday was completely free. Altogether it was a highly successful camp which everyone seems to have enjoyed. We were greatly indebted to the Camp Commandant and staff of No. 47 W.E.T.C., and to Q.M.S.I. Laister, W.R.A.C., who kept everything ticking over.

319 (West Lancashire) Battalion

THIS year the Battalion spent a fortnight's annual camp from June 15 to 29 at 47 W.E.T.C., Bridge of Don, Aberdeen. Unfortunately our Commanding Officer, Major B. M. Ridler, W.R.A.C., was unable to accompany us, and Major K. Waterworth, W.R.A.C., assumed command.

The "Granite City" welcomed us with open arms and we received great kindness on all sides. Accommodation was good and Capt. J. Dickie, the Camp Commandant, has made many friends. The food was excellent and training was satisfactory, culminating in trade tests at the end of the second week. Even our tailor found a niche and was busily engaged in pleating kilts and altering spats under the watchful eye of the Master Tailor of the Gordons.

Official visits were paid by Brigadier I. L. Wight, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. A. C. Cecil, A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command, Lt.-Col. M. H. Boydell, T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command, and Major P. Sandbach, W.R.A.C. We were delighted also to welcome Mrs. Wight to our guest night.

On the middle Sunday there was a coach trip to Royal Deeside and Ballater, the grounds of Balmoral Castle being open especially for us. We had two "All Ranks" Dances and on both occasions a piper and dancers performed during the evening; the Sassenachs contenting themselves with dancing vigorous "Gay Gordons." The rifle shooting team recorded one victory and one defeat at the hands of teams from the Gordons Depot. A visit was paid to the Regimental Museum of the Gordons where we paused before the array of V.C.s awarded, and admired the massive silver plate hidden from the Japanese during the last war.

The fortnight passed in a flash and on Friday, June 28, we travelled back overnight, armed with white heather, Aberdeen rock, shortbreads, a selection of clan ties, dolls blowing bagpipes, a tam o'shanter, and very happy memories.



UNIFORMS

TAILORS TO THE SERVICES FOR 80 YEARS

MOSS BROS
OF COVENT GARDEN W.C.2 & CO. LTD

Nearest Station Leicester Square
Temple Bar 4477

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'?

WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED

OLIVIER

Tipped Cigarettes



You'll enjoy this successful cigarette. Blended from fine tobaccos and specially tipped for coolness and flavour, Olivier cigarettes maintain the Benson and Hedges tradition for quality at an economical price.

20 FOR 3/4 | 10 FOR 1/8

BENSON AND HEDGES LTD.