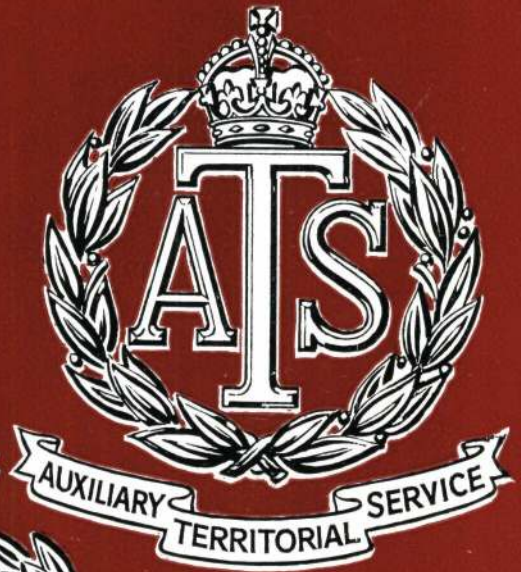
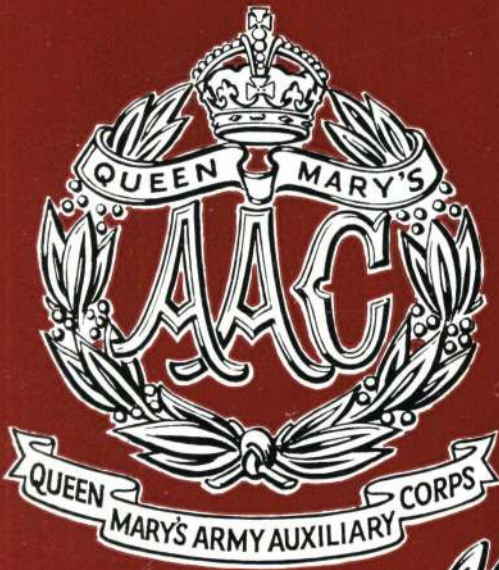


THE LIONESS



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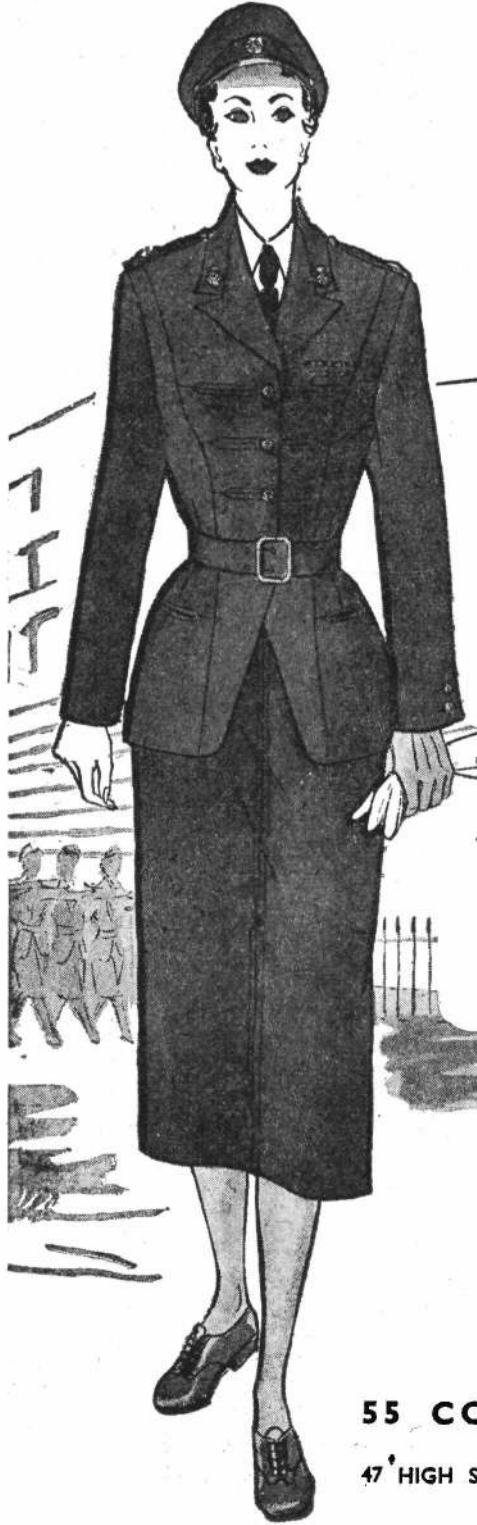


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W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK

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

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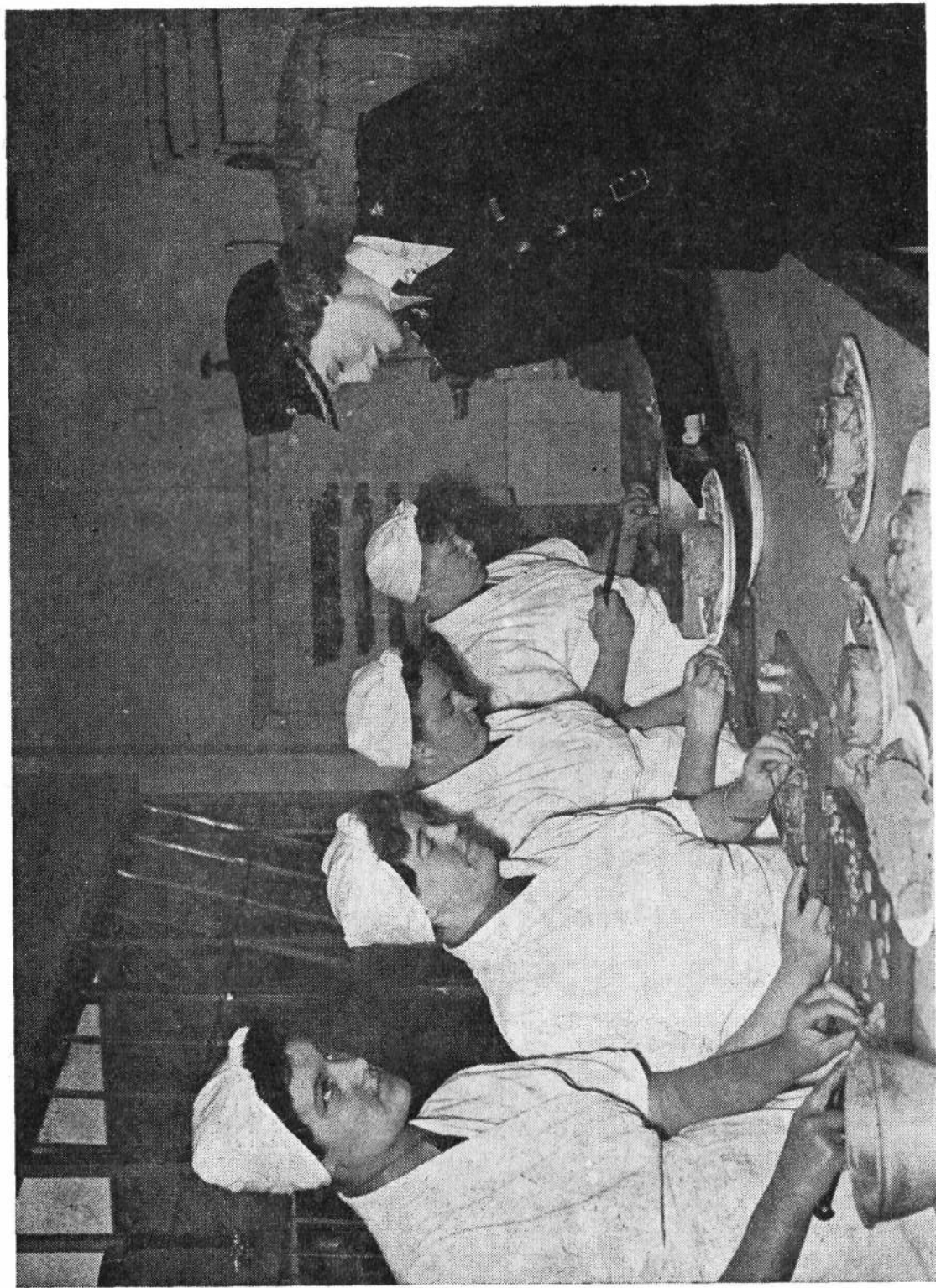


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THAT'S OUR LINE

Lady Barnett, Hon. Col. of 308 (Northern Command) Bn. W.R.A.C. (T.A.) visits the Cookery Instructional Centre, Guildford.



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXI

February 1958

No. 1

EDITORIAL

ABOUT a week before *The Lioness* goes to press, the Editor is overwhelmed by her quarterly attack of panic. The cardboard folder which now represents the Editorial Office only contains a few out-of-date items received too late for the last number. Can we rely on that spate of illegible script which normally comes pouring in at the last possible moment? If so, we need fear nothing worse than a couple of sleepless nights spent in cutting, polishing, rearranging and re-typing an embarrassing wealth of material. If not—if press-day comes and the folder is still empty—a chasm yawns over unimaginable disaster.

FORTUNATELY there is one source of supply which never fails. Whatever the pressing counter-claims of Christmas, spring-cleaning or summer holidays, we can be quite sure that Branch Secretaries all over the country are sitting down conscientiously at the office desk or the kitchen table and recording the local activities of the W.R.A.C. Association. Too often these contributions appear towards the end of the magazine, crowded together under an insignificant heading. This time we are printing them in a prominent position among the feature articles, partly as a gesture of gratitude to the most faithful of our contributors and partly in recognition of the importance of these scattered little branches which together are building up the life-history of the W.R.A.C. Association.

WHAT a pleasant picture these reports conjure up, with their lectures and demonstrations, summer outings and Christmas dinners, children's parties and old folks' teas. Reading them, it is impossible to imagine that their comfort and harmony could ever be ruffled by worries or difficulties. Everything goes with the smoothness of well-worn routine. "*Miss Belinda Butterscotch, who has been our Secretary since the Branch was formed ten years ago . . .*" we read, or "*Our indefatigable Chairman Mrs. Battleaxe made all the arrangements, as she has done every year since 1948. . .*" "*The officers and committee were re-elected en bloc. . .*" "*Our little band of Old Faithfuls still attends regularly every month. . .*" What continuity, what contentment, those phrases must reflect.

BUT do they? Miss Butterscotch and Mrs. Battleaxe are mythical characters, but this, I am sorry to say, is a genuine extract from our in-tray. "*I have resigned from the Committee after being on it since 1947—quite long enough,*" the writer says, and how wise she is. "*Time for someone else to do a share. I must say that*

the W.R.A.C. don't take any notice of our Branch. After all the fuss about a combined Association, no one ever comes near us or offers to do anything. Who will be our President when the present one has to give up, goodness only knows. Why do not some of your retiring people come along and give a hand?"

CAN this hideous accusation be true? We know that it is not a universal complaint, but it gave us food for some very uncomfortable thoughts. Does the gentle Miss Butterscotch plod on with her dreary labours year after year because, among all the hundreds of ex-Service women in her neighbourhood, there is not one public-spirited enough to take her turn of office? Does the indomitable Mrs. Battleaxe organise everything single-handed because otherwise nothing would be done at all? Do the few original Branch members continue to meet in an exclusive little circle because the spirit of service and comradeship died after the First World War? Perish the thought.

OR is it possible that the long-standing, smooth-running success of the Branch discourages newcomers from putting their fingers in the pie? Miss Butterscotch has always been the Secretary, one can't imagine anyone else doing it, her feelings might be hurt if another nominee was put forward for election. Mrs. Battleaxe believes that if you want a thing well done you should do it yourself, and the clumsy but well-meaning helper fears that her efforts would never come up to standard. The younger ex-Service woman hesitates to break into the close-knit circle of 1917 unless she is assured of a friendly welcome. The zealous new broom sees no scope for her labours where everything is going along so nicely without her. If the moment ever actually comes when Miss Butterscotch is led blushing to the altar and Mrs. Battleaxe is confined raging to her bed, we are convinced that other personalities will spring up from somewhere to fill the vacant posts, and the Branch may even prove the better for the change.

EVERY Association needs three things if it is to flourish in perpetuity—a continual flow of new blood through its membership, a frequent injection of new blood among its officers, and the team-spirit which brings everyone into the arena, members and Committee alike, whenever there is a job of work to be done. We can tell from the reports how many of our branches triumphantly fulfil these conditions. If there are any others, who read these words with a faint stab at the conscience, we hope that they will take a look at their organisation while there is still time. As for those retiring W.R.A.C. on whom the Association must come in the long run to depend, we hope that their consciences will give them no rest till this slur on their generation has been wiped out.

Association Notes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at The Duke of York's Headquarters, on Saturday, March 15, 1958, at 3 o'clock.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 23, 1957 (circulated in the May issue of *The Lioness*).
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. Election of officers.

The undermentioned officers have been nominated.—Chairman of Council: Dame Frances Coulshed, D.B.E. Council Vice-Presidents: Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E.; Mrs. C. H. Fraser-Tytler, C.B.E.; Miss V. K. Stead, O.B.E., T.D., J.P.; Mrs. V. Rumbold.

4. To receive the Report of Council.
5. To receive the Report of the Hon. Treasurer.
6. To receive the Report of the Editor of *The Lioness*.
7. To receive Reports of Committees.
8. Council Resolutions:

"THAT Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, as the senior of the original Vice-Presidents, be appointed a permanent Member of Council."

"THAT Capitation-fees for Life Members be paid for not more than 20 years."

9. Branch Resolutions:

Proposed by Bournemouth Branch; seconded by Portsmouth Branch:

"THAT while appreciating the necessity for increased expenditure at Headquarters, it is noted that the cost of running a Branch has risen also, and it is proposed that 50% of the increase in the subscription should be allotted to Branches, thus raising their share to 2s. per member."

10. Date of next meeting.
11. Other business (if any).

BRANCH SECRETARIES' MEETING

The Secretaries' meeting will be held in the 101 Field Engineer Regiment (R.E.) Drill Hall, at 11.30 a.m. (the same Hall as usual). Members of Council look forward to meeting secretaries for lunch at 1 o'clock. It will be appreciated if secretaries will notify Mrs. Lumsden by March 1 if they are able to attend.

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

The Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion will take place in the H.Q. 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 Reunion Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3. When applying, please enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply.

REUNION TEA

After the Annual General Meeting, tea will be available in the Canteen, and the Hall will be open until 8 p.m. for an informal Reunion. Members are organising a Bring and Buy Sale, and it is hoped that this will be well supported.

SCOTTISH REUNION

THIS is Scottish Reunion Year, and it has been decided by way of a change to hold a Garden Party. The G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command has very kindly granted us the use of "Craigiehall," South Queensferry, the Headquarters of the Command. This is a fine house, in beautiful grounds, with the additional advantage that there is a room indoors if the weather plays us false. Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal has graciously informed us that she very much hopes to be present at the reunion, and the Director has given her consent to the Band visiting us on this occasion. We hope very much that all our friends from over the Border will make a special effort to come, particularly those who have served in Scottish Command.

The date is Saturday, May 31. Tickets (4s., including refreshments) may be obtained from the Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. Ogilvie, 5 Hillview Terrace, Edinburgh. Please send a postal order and a stamped addressed envelope. Special buses will also be provided, tickets for which must be purchased before May 14. Full particulars will be available later through branch secretaries. For those who wish to use public transport, the Queensferry bus stops at the gates of "Craigiehall," and the walk up the avenue to the house is about a quarter of a mile.

Forthcoming Events

March

- 5 Hockey—Army v. R.A.F., Uxbridge.
- 6 " Navy v. R.A.F., Portsmouth.
- 7 " Navy v. Army, Aldershot.
- 13-14 Netball—Inter-Unit Finals, Aldershot.
- 14 Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion, Duke of York's Headquarters.
- 15 A.G.M., W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's Headquarters.
- Reunion Tea, Duke of York's Headquarters.
- 17-19 Badminton—Inter-Command Championships, Wimbledon.
- 24 Netball—Inter-Service Championships, Portsmouth.

April

- 11 Table-tennis—Inter-Unit Finals, Guildford.
- 27 Princess Royal's Day, Guildford.
- 28 A.G.M., Headquarter Mess, Duke of York's Headquarters.

May

- 14 Commissioning Ceremony, Hindhead.
- 31 Scottish Reunion, Edinburgh.



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NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Bath. Two tea parties were held in September at the home of our Chairman, when members of the Bristol Branch came over to join us and we had most enjoyable afternoons. In October another successful Jumble Sale was held and proceeds went to help towards the Christmas festivities. Our annual Christmas supper was held on December 11 and over 20 members and friends sat down to an excellent meal of turkey, plum pudding, etc. We sent our usual gift of chocolates and Christmas cards to our refugee friends at Bristol.

Belfast. Our Annual General Meeting was held on October 25, 1957, in "B" Company Drill Hall, Victoria Barracks. Miss K. Ryan, M.B.E. (Chairman), presided in the unavoidable absence of our retiring President, Mrs. M. Webb. Mrs. L. Scott (Q.M.A.A.C.) was elected President and Mrs. Archer Vice-President. Members heard with regret of the serious illness of Mrs. Webb. All who visited her in hospital and during her convalescence admired her courage and cheerfulness. It was, therefore, a delight to us all that she was able to be present at a Hallowe'en Party held on November 1. On November 10, at the Cenotaph in the Garden of Remembrance in the grounds of the City Hall, the City of Belfast paid tribute to the memory of those who died in both wars. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Branch by Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Archer and Mrs. McComish. We congratulate Dr. Olive Anderson, a former Vice-President, and for a great many years a loyal member of the Branch, on being installed as last year's President of the Ulster Medical Society. This is the first time in the Society's 150 years' existence that a woman has held the office. To Miss Elsie Neill, our retiring Secretary, we extend our very best wishes in her new career. Miss Neill has joined the Royal Ulster Women's Constabulary, and reported for training on December 16.

Birmingham. The October meeting was spent in making final arrangements for the 40th Anniversary Dinner which was held on Friday, November 1, at the Imperial Hotel, in the centre of the city. We were delighted to welcome as our guests, Brigadier Dame Frances Coulshed, D.B.E., Lt.-Col. E. W. Gibson, M.B.E., Commandant W.R.A.C. Depot, and Mrs. N. Neale. Of the 49 members present, 17 were ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and seven were serving W.R.A.C. Following the Loyal Toast, Dame Frances gave us a very inspiring address, and then proposed the toast of the Birmingham Branch. As she replied, our Chairman handed over to Lt.-Col. Gibson a plain silver cross which our Chairman and members have presented to the W.R.A.C. Depot Church of St. Mark, in memory of comrades of the two World Wars. The cross was made in Birmingham, the home of the silver-smith, and was much admired by all present. After Lt.-Col. Gibson had acknowledged the gift, our Chairman presented an antique silver sweet dish to Mrs. R. E. G. Weddell, who is a past chairman and has been vice-chairman since 1953. Mrs.

Weddell was an energetic and helpful member of the Branch for ten years and we are all very sorry that she and her husband have left the district. Many letters and telegrams were received from guests and members who were unable to be present, and these were very much appreciated. The Chairman once again organised a Poppy Depot with the help of the President, Miss E. I. Dipple, and her sister. Many members helped, and between them they collected £577, which was £50 up on 1956. On November 12 we held a draw for the November Handicap, and this very interesting race added considerably to our funds. The Branch began to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of our Corps in February, continued throughout the year to the dinner, and finished with a very jolly Christmas party on December 16.

Bradford. In June we had a bring-and-buy sale for Branch funds, and we met again in August and September. In August one of our Q.M.A.A.C. members, Miss Cocksedge, returned to us after a year's visit to Canada and the United States of America. Our October meeting consisted of an evening's work preparing boxes for the sale of poppies, which our members then proceeded to see were duly filled by a generous public. In November we attended the yearly Festival of Remembrance organised by the Bradford Federation of ex-Service Associations, and our members again took part as programme sellers, in the march of the Units and as members of the tableaux. Our Treasurer was a most imposing Queen Elizabeth the First. Also in November we had a successful whist drive, the proceeds of which are donated to the British Legion. In December we had a most interesting talk on Switzerland by a member of the Legion, which was illustrated by coloured slides.

Bristol. A very happy evening was spent at the beetle drive held in October. About 24 members and friends took part. Our Annual Dinner was held on November 7 when 23 members, including our President, Mrs. R. Berneys, J.P. (A.T.S.), sat down to a sumptuous meal and an evening of laughter and talk. It would be invidious to mention names, but thanks are due to all those who subscribed towards making the evening a success. Five members took part in the British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Colston Hall on November 9 and 11, and the Civic Service at the Cenotaph on the Sunday. Our standard was carried during the week-end celebrations by Miss W. Brooks (A.T.S.), who was undeterred by the cold and bleak weather. Miss Clark (A.T.S.) placed the wreath of poppies for us at the Cenotaph. At the Annual General Meeting on December 5, the present officers were returned unopposed. Miss Cottrell (Secretary) gave her report for the past year, and mentioned a prayer kneeler which had been worked by Mrs. Budd for the W.R.A.C. Depot Church at Guildford. Through failing health, our oldest

member, Mrs. Webb (W.A.A.C.), has rarely been able to attend our activities throughout the year, but her heart is with the Association and she likes to hear all the news and remembers the time when she could take a more active part.

Canterbury. On Sunday, October 27, 1957, just ten years after the Branch was formed, the Branch standard, provided by two years of strenuous money-making efforts, was dedicated in the Garrison Church, Canterbury, at a special service conducted by the Rev. N. S. Metcalf (Senior Chaplain, Shorncliffe) and the Rev. J. R. Berry (Canterbury), the Branch Padre. Among the twenty members attending (the prevalence of 'flu prevented others who would have been there) were representatives of the Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S., W.R.A.C., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and two who, after serving in the W.R.A.F. in the First World War, joined the A.T.S. immediately on its formation in 1938. The Band of the 1st Battalion, The Buffs, played during the service, and afterwards led the march past, when the salute was taken by the Garrison Commander, Col. G. R. Stevens, supported by Major J. Watts, W.R.A.C. (Shorncliffe), and the President of the Canterbury Branch, Miss Machin. The standard-bearer was Mrs. Wells, and she and her escort received many congratulations on their smart appearance. The parade included a detachment of The Buffs, and one of the R.A.P.C. After the parade, the members of the Branch entertained both chaplains and the officers to coffee and sherry. All members are most grateful to the military authorities for their great kindness and co-operation in this, the most ambitious event the Branch has ever attempted; and also to their Hon. Secretary, who was responsible for the arrangements, and on whose shoulders the brunt of the work fell. On Remembrance Sunday, November 10, members of the Branch, with the standard, took part in the Service of Remembrance at the Garrison Church, and followed the parade of Past and Present Buffs in the march past after the service; and later the same day, the standard-bearer (Mrs. Wells) and her escort took the standard to two Festivals of Remembrance at the Marlow Theatre, Canterbury. The Branch Annual Supper was held on Wednesday, December 11, at Slatter's Restaurant, Canterbury; 18 members were present and the members were delighted to welcome Major Watts, W.R.A.C., and Major Lipscombe, W.R.A.C., both from Shorncliffe. At an informal meeting after supper, it was agreed to hold quarterly meetings, and members living in or near Canterbury most kindly offered hospitality. The March meeting will take the form of a games party, when Mrs. Brassington will be hostess; and in June, Miss Jackson has invited the members to a garden meeting at her home.

Dumfriesshire. Members of this Branch and friends enjoyed a most unusual and interesting event on Friday, November 22, in the Drill Hall, Dumfries. The local unit of the K.O.S.B. held a Military Tattoo that evening and, among the Service units taking part, "C" Company, 314 (Scottish Command) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), were asked to arrange a tableau of uniforms worn by the women in the Forces. It was of special interest to



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us all because the President of our Branch commands this Company, the C.S.M. is our Secretary, and five senior N.C.O.s are members. Lady McFarlane kindly lent the W.A.A.C. uniform which she wore in 1917, and the Depot lent 1939-40 A.T.S. uniform, so we were able to see nine different uniforms, dating from 1917 up to the present day. Everyone voted the evening a huge success and we were happy to get a new member for the Association through this event.

Edinburgh. In July, Mr. Lowe of Musselburgh brought along his lantern slides of his tour of Italy, Capri and the South of France and gave a most interesting talk on them. During August we had a small informal get-together of members who were not on holiday, and also paid our annual visit to the Military Tattoo of the Edinburgh International Festival, a most spectacular display. Our president, Miss Innes, filled the bill for our September meeting by telling us about her travels in France during the summer. A varied record recital was given by Mr. Craigie for our October meeting and was thoroughly enjoyed by members and friends. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Rattray. On Tuesday, November 5, members participated in a whist drive. On Armistice Sunday, two of our members attended the Service of Remembrance at St. Giles Cathedral, and later laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch at the Stone of Remembrance. Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 3, and in spite of inclement weather there was a good attendance. Our Christmas party was again a great success; 46 children attended and each received a gift from Santa Claus.

Gibraltar. Our activities during the past three months have been varied and interesting. Following the general business on August 13, 1957, we had an interesting illustrated talk on Morocco, given by Capt. A. E. Achurch, W.R.A.C. The meeting on September 10 opened with a very interesting talk on Fiji, given by W. G. Bryce, Esq., Q.C. Our next meeting opened by Major R. M. Green, the Chairman, introducing her successor, Major M. N. Jamieson. The Branch Dinner was held at the La Venta, Gibraltar, on Friday, October 4, 1957, and was attended by 27 members. On October 26, a very successful Sale of Work was held in the Command Education Centre, from which we hope to forward a subscription to Headquarters. Several tombola evenings have been held during the past quarter, which have proved very successful.

Glasgow. Our summer outing in June to the Falls of Clyde was much enjoyed, in spite of the inclement weather. There were no meetings in July or August, but in September we paid our annual visit to the Festival Tattoo in Edinburgh, an evening to which we all looked forward. On Saturday, September 14, we were the guests of the Ayr Branch, and a very happy time was spent with our friends. On October 26 we entertained 24 children from Gryffe Homes to a Hallowe'en Party at the Club, and the willing help given by friends and the Committee was amply rewarded by the appreciation of our young guests. The Annual Dinner in November was well attended, and Lady

Warren, our guest of the evening, interested us in the work of Girls' Clubs. We were also delighted to have our friends from Edinburgh and Ayr with us on that evening. On December 13 we held a Quiz Night, and this proved to be a very popular entertainment. We were most fortunate in having on the Panel Miss Betty Harvie Anderson, Miss E. Dunn, Mr. Ian Rosslyn Mitchell and the Rev. W. T. Revel. The very efficient Quiz Master was Mr. D. Robertson.

Hull. At last this Branch is getting on its feet again. Owing to the kindness of our Territorial Association, we have the use of the Canteen of "E" Company, 305 (East and West Riding) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), for our meetings each month, a most comfortable room. We now have 20 members, but would like to hear from some of the ex-Service women who were members of this Branch in 1950.

London. We continued our 1957 programme with a visit on October 3 by Mr. Eaton, husband of one of our Committee members, who showed us some most interesting colour pictures taken in Britain and proved once and for all that there is no real need to go abroad to take beautiful pictures. On October 17 Dame Frances Coulshed was our speaker, and her subject was the story of Wines. The writer did hear one complaint about this talk—there were no samples. However, the question of samples was put right on November 7, when Walls Ice Cream Co. gave a demonstration on how to make the best of their products—and members afterwards ate the fruits of the demonstrator's efforts. This was quite a popular evening. We held a Bring and Buy Sale on November 21 and raised 10 guineas. Our Annual General Meeting took place on December 5, with Miss Thompson in the chair. After having served us so well as Chairman of our Committee for nine years, Miss M. Druitt announced that she would not seek re-election to the Committee. We were glad to hear, however, that she hopes to be seeing us just as frequently at our meetings, and she was also elected as a second area representative, in case Mrs. Giles was unable to attend meetings at any time. Our Christmas party took place on December 19, and was this time held at the Duke of York's Headquarters. By courtesy of Lt.-Col. Drake, O.C. 327 (County of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), we were able to have the Recreation Room. The party was quite a success, with community singing and games, and a play-reading, "Taking the Chair," which Mrs. Lumsden kindly arranged, was very much appreciated. We were happy to be able to give small Christmas presents to a few of our older Q.M.A.A.C. members. We have to thank Mrs. Giles, the Tea Committee and helpers for arranging the refreshments which were greatly enjoyed.

Norfolk. This year closed on a sad note. Members will learn with regret of the passing of Miss Grace West on December 14, after many years of suffering, at Whitstable, Kent. Miss West joined the Branch in 1928, and left Norwich for health reasons in 1955. One of her last thoughts was to send her subscription for 1958 and to ask for tickets for the New Year Raffle. Our sympathy

goes out also to Mrs. Paston on the death of her father in November. We remember him so well on our happy visits to Tasburgh before the War. We are glad to know that the news from Mrs. Murton is better and she is slowly recovering from her operation.

Nottingham. The October meeting was on the theme "Were those the days?" Mrs. Lawrence (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.), Major Stephens (F.A.N.Y.), and Capt. Rainsbury (A.T.S.) convinced us that "those really were the days" in their particular branch of the Corps. However, the younger generation, in the form of Cpl. Marshall (W.R.A.C.) and Cpl. Bird (W.R.A.C., T.A.), over-persuaded them that "THESE ARE THE DAYS" now, in our present Corps. Mrs. Lawrence delighted us with her stories of the W.A.A.C. and produced wonderful photographs of the W.A.A.C. hockey team stationed at Newark during the First World War. We held our Annual Business Meeting in November. The new Nottingham Branch has had a very successful year and now has 32 members. Despite the heavy fog and frost, the beetle drive held in December proved not only exciting and entertaining but also helped to swell our bank balance to the tune of £3. Sgt. Burton and Mrs. Loewenthal provided the refreshments and the prizes were very kindly given by members. For our Christmas dinner 18 members met at the Little John Restaurant in Nottingham, where the Christmas menu, good wine, and good fellowship ensured a very happy evening. We were in a private room and ended with the inevitable sing-song. We were pleased to welcome Sgt. Lewis, the new W.R.A.C. recruiter for Nottingham, and Mrs. Statham (*nee* Henson, ex-Chilwell), who are both newcomers to the Branch. Our Christmas "good turn" was to collect, sort out, and pack up all the different sorts of groceries we had collected, into parcels for old age pensioners and lonely people. The Drill Hall looked like a well-stocked grocery store while W.O.2 Swift and her committee were on the job. The members had supplied the Christmas wrapping and cheery labels, the scribes addressed them all and the members set forth to deliver the goods. Some of the addressees were invalids living alone, some ex-soldiers from the First World War. The members were amply rewarded for their kindness and hard work, by the gratitude expressed by the recipients.

Sheffield. We had our annual jumble sale in October, and although we all ended up nervous wrecks, financially it was worth it. We must say a special thank you to our many friends who came along to help us. Without them we could not possibly cope, and this is the only source of income for our own funds. Our Christmas Fair in December once again proved very successful and we were able to give the whole of the proceeds, £60, to the British Red Cross Society. Our best wishes go to Mrs. Nellie Parker (*nee* Mills) who recently gave birth to a daughter.

Singapore. In October the Branch was most happy to welcome two Indian ladies who gave us a talk on saris. We were shown how to put them on, what goes underneath, etc., and were all quite enchanted by the lovely "lengths" that we were



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shown—so very much more elegant than our beige linen uniforms or cotton dresses. For our December meeting we again had a cocktail party to which husbands and friends were invited. Mrs. Hipkin, our Chairman, very kindly lent her house for the occasion, and a most happy time was had by all.

Wimbledon. In June last a party of us went to the Royal Tournament and thoroughly enjoyed it. We suspended our monthly meetings in July and August, and started off again on September 20 with a Social, when we had as our guest of honour Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan. She spoke to us of the Women's Services over the two wars, and was most interesting and inspiring. The Branch has been without a Secretary since February, when Miss Samuda resigned after eight years hard work for the Branch. We are now fortunate in being able to appoint Miss M. Davey. Meanwhile we have found it a good plan to divide the work of the Branch as far as possible among the members, so that each one takes an active share in it. This greatly lightens the work of the Secretary, as well as spreading the interest and responsibility among the individual members. On October 18, we had a very enjoyable and hilarious beetle drive, when we had the pleasure of a visit from the General Secretary of the Association, Mrs. Lumsden.

Y.W.C.A. CHRISTMAS FAIR

THE following message, signed by the Chairman of the Christmas Fair, was received at the end of November from the Young Women's Christian Association of Great Britain.

"Through you may I convey to all Officers and Other Ranks of the Women's Royal Army Corps the very grateful thanks of the Y.W.C.A. for the extremely generous help they gave to the Christmas Fair. The donation of £292 17s. 3d. which your Service was good enough to raise is an outstanding achievement, and we particularly appreciate it, coming as it has from Units throughout Great Britain and from overseas. It is in no small measure due to the Women's Services' combined donation of £635 8s. 3d. that for the first time the total for the Fair has reached over £5,000. On behalf of my Committee I do send warmest thanks to your Service for their very valuable and practical help through the Christmas Fair with the work of the Y.W.C.A."

REMEMBRANCE DAY

REPRESENTATIVES of Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. attended the Service of Dedication at the Field of Remembrance, and a cross was planted on behalf of the Association by Lt.-Col. N. K. Cadden, O.B.E., who, after one minute's silence had been observed, recited the poem "To the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon.

THE Association was well represented in the march past the Cenotaph and more Branch representatives than usual were present. Miss Edwards of the London Branch, aged 80, and an ex-Q.M.A.A.C., courageously supported the parade.

The wreath was laid by a member of the Oxford Branch.

JUNGLE JOURNEY

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

IN August, 1956, I organised a trip to the British Colony of North Borneo, and while there visited the independent State of Brunei, which is under British protection. By courtesy of the R.A.F. I flew, free of charge, to Labuan, an island off the mainland which contains one of the biggest air strips in the country, large enough to take big planes from all over the Far East. From there I flew to Anduki, the landing ground of the Shell Company. What a truly magnificent set-up this Shell organisation is—a complete township cut from the jungle, with clubs, shops, and every possible facility available for the employees. The night is disturbed by the flares which burn up the waste gases from the installations, and which seem to come from the jungle itself.

One day I motored to Brunei, the capital of the State. There is no through road, so one travels by jeep along the beach, going swiftly to avoid the tide. In the middle of nowhere we got a puncture, and having no jack were delighted to see a friendly native, clad in an Olympic village shirt, produce one from the depth of the jungle.

Brunei is a lovely town situated on the river banks, consisting largely of a huge mosque and a village on stilts far out into the water. Since oil has come to the State, people have become very enthusiastic about education, and the new schools would stand well anywhere in the world. The staff is obtained from the U.K., and given six weeks' leave and a free passage home every year. In contrast there are few roads, and transport is by boat and on foot. Every now and then one comes upon *kampungs* (villages) on the river banks, where the famous "long houses" are—the best example of communal living. Dyaks are common in this country, although I have yet to see a woman. The men have long hair, their ears are weighed down by earrings, and they have tattoos on their necks and arms. The "Iban" are another aboriginal people living here.

The British, who still occupy many administrative posts, live quite well and seem to be liked. The local population, mainly Malayan, is friendly and still pleased to see one. The country has great resources and is developing fast, many new buildings are appearing and roads are being built rapidly. It is lovely now, but will all too soon become civilised and like everywhere else. I flew back to Singapore glad to have seen this beautiful country while it is still completely unspoilt.

VETERAN SOLDIERS

THE first women to earn the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal are W.O.I M. Manley, on the permanent staff of 326 (City of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.) and Sgt. J. Vaile of Salisbury Plain (M) Signal Regiment. The qualification is 18 years' service and the C.O.'s recommendation, which may be given only to "such soldiers as are in every way worthy of the distinction and whose character has been irreproachable."

RECREATIONAL TRAINING ON THE ROCK

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

MOST overseas stations have some curiosity or place of interest to offer the tourist or temporary resident, and it is only natural that 18 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., stationed in Gibraltar, should organise a visit to the famous caves. These are not smugglers' caves at sea level, but caverns of various sizes, the largest being St. Michael's Cave which is 1,000 ft. above sea level. It has acquired its name through the supposed similarity of its appearance to that in the Mountain "Gargano del Apulla" where St. Michael is said to have appeared.

The entrance to the Upper Cave is small, but when inside and accustomed to the darkness, one finds oneself in a lofty "hall" 220 ft. long, 90 ft. wide and 70 ft. high, supported by stalactite pillars. (Stalactite grows in three different forms, "curtain" which give the appearance of draped curtains, "pillar" where stalactite has joined stalagmite, and "flow" which is self-descriptive, as it has the appearance of having flowed at some stage.) Subdued coloured lighting has been installed which presents a most beautiful effect, for some of these pillars are 30, 40 and 50 ft. high, and on top of them arches are formed, so that the whole resembles the interior of a Gothic cathedral. It is easy going for the tourist since there are paved paths, wide concrete steps and even a bridge with wire-netting sides. The lower portion of the cave, however (discovered in 1942), proved to be a somewhat different proposition.

Leaving the majority of the unit in the Upper Cave in the safe hands of the C.S.M. and the Sapper guides, the O.C. and five adventurous members of her Company set off in denims to see what else St. Michael had to offer. The entrance to the Lower Cave was gained not by walking (or even stooping) through a door, but by descending vertically through a hole in the "floor," down a ladder with two slimy, rusty iron handrails. Tripping over a stalagmite, hitting one's head on a stalactite, and the constant fading of the dim lighting, were the least of the hazards. Clambering through a hole feet first or squeezing through a chink in the queer formations sideways was difficult enough, but the first horror struck when we looked down a fairly steep drop with no steps cut in the smooth slightly-rounded rock, and the guide informed us that "that was the way." Then he handed me a rope with the simple instruction: "You just walk down that backwards, with your feet flat against the side, and keep leaning outwards." I had popped a bottle of smelling salts in my pocket, lest anyone was overcome by claustrophobia—but perhaps a brandy flask would have been of more use.

The second hazard was a wide, well-sloping, smooth stretch of "flow," which had to be crossed by sliding one's hands along a horizontal rope, slightly higher than shoulder level. It just didn't do to look behind. Then we descended an angular confine with the aid of a rope, having our "swing"

broken by a small aperture framed with stalactites through which one had to squeeze and quickly grab another rope before completing the descent. Oh, for that third eye that we used to have, and a useful monkey-tail instead of only the vestige of one—though in fact, for the next and greatest hazard, it would have helped more to be descended from a goat.

A few yards of comparatively "easy going" brought us standing before a fairly large, 20-ft. deep lake. A small plank was just visible on the far side as though floating, and as there was no sign of a handrail or rope on the smooth side wall of the lake, one thought this must be the turning point of the journey. This was just wishful thinking, for the guide ordered "shoes and socks off; trousers rolled up." Just below the level of the water was a natural ledge; at the most four inches wide, often no more than one inch, and sometimes non-existent. One shuffled very gingerly along this with one's back to the water, holding on as best one could to nothing but a flat surface. Going along the "straight" wasn't too bad, but then there was a wide stretch across a corner which brought one face to face with a pillar too wide to wrap one's arms round. Doing the "splits" on the nursery floor as a youngster is easier than trying to do them in later years across water. When almost round the pillar on to the plank, a big splash resounded round the cavern and the leading guide (whose small size must have been deceptive) was left holding on with one hand to a 10-stone Major dangling in the lake. A gentle titter echoing across the water encouraged the hope that the sight of the O.C. in this predicament was more amusing than unnerving to those who were to follow.

One might well ask whether these two hours constituted recreational training, an assault course, or a physical efficiency test, but on looking back and forgetting the bruises, the muscles discovered seemingly for the first time, the shiver down one's spine and the leaping of one's heart into one's mouth, one cannot help but be impressed by the fantastic sights which rewarded us and by the fact that these were of a known age of 250,000 years. Neither can one help wondering "what is time?" when one looks at a "pillar" some 50 ft. high, knowing that stalactite grows at the rate of approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ in. in 100 years. Whatever that afternoon should be called officially, it certainly gave the six of us a memorable experience.

PRINCESS ROYAL'S DAY

On Corps Day, Sunday, April 27, all serving and ex-Service members and their friends will be most welcome at the W.R.A.C. Depot from 2 p.m. onwards. Admission and tea tickets will be sent on application to the Adjutant, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford. There is no charge.

Mother and Daughter

IT is not unusual to find a father and son serving in the same Corps, but it is a long time since a mother and daughter appeared at the same time in the Army List. Major Elsie Williams, M.B.E., T.D., was commissioned into the A.T.S. in June 1942, 2/Lt. Jill Williams into the W.R.A.C. in December 1957. They are seen here before the commissioning ceremony at the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction on December 17. Major Williams is Recruiting Officer at Liverpool and 2/Lt. Williams is serving at the W.R.A.C. Depot. The latest bulletin is that mother and child are both doing well.

REMINDER

New Subscription Rates:—

Annual 6/—, Life £6,

Four-year 24/—



Courtesy: The Star

All in the Day's Work

AT Chippenham on October 19, 1957, members of 72 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), were taking part in the weekend training, when a motor-cycle ran into a marching squad of women and injured three, one seriously. There was no officer present, but in spite of the alarming nature of Cpl. Whittaker's injuries, there was no panic. Under the direction of the P.S.I., W.O.2 Pryer (herself one of the injured), Pte. Middleton applied digital pressure to the femoral artery of the injured leg, Pte. Lee prepared and applied a tourniquet, L/Cpl. King found a telephone and called the ambulance, Pte. Holt ran half a mile back to camp to get help, Pte. Barnes borrowed rugs and cloths to make the patient comfortable and covered the wounds, and Cpl. Keepence and Pte. Bovingdon took over traffic control on either side. When the Commanding Officer, Major Fisher, and the Administrative Officer arrived, the former coped with the police and inquirers, and the latter gave more skilled attention to Cpl. Whittaker and accompanied her to Chippenham and on to the Royal United Hospital, Bath.

Under the instruction of Lt. Gill, this unit have been enthusiastic pupils in first-aid classes and practical work, and when their real test came there is no doubt that all passed with flying colours. The surgeons found that, due to the prompt and sensible

action taken, Cpl. Whittaker's general condition was excellent, and instead of amputating the foot as appeared necessary at first sight, they were able to embark on a long and complicated operation to save it. Throughout the ordeal and the operations which have followed, Cpl. Whittaker has remained calm, cheerful and uncomplaining. So impressed was General Sir George Erskine, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., Commander-in-Chief, Southern Command, that he wrote to the Commanding Officer:

"I am very much impressed by the presence of mind and coolness displayed by those concerned in calling the Unit Officers, the ambulance and police, and in rendering first aid to the injured. It shows a high standard of training. I would like those concerned to be informed that I highly commend their actions. At the same time I would like to express the hope that the injured will soon be fit again, and that Cpl. Whittaker's injury will not prove to be so serious as to leave her with a permanent disability."

Having regard to the fact that these women are not professional soldiers, that several have not been in the T.A. for many months, and that after the accident they returned quietly to camp and continued their training in accordance with the programme, their discipline, common sense and soldierly behaviour are qualities of which their Commanding Officer and, indeed, the whole Corps, can be justifiably proud.

It Went With a Swing

ON October 31, 1957, 24 girls from 4 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., made history by taking part in a display of lighted club-swinging in the Searchlight Military Tattoo, held on the Pedang in Singapore. Never before have women taken part in a similar activity in the Far East and great interest was caused by their appearance.

The exercises were arranged and the instruction carried out by Sgt. Bridger and S.S.I. Mobbs, A.P.T.C., and the clubs were adapted by District Workshops, R.E.M.E. The girls were all volunteers, coming from all offices and branches of G.H.Q. and Singapore Base District, and the training was carried out almost entirely in their free time. Music was provided by the Band of the Far East Air Force, and the white shorts, shirts and shoes were specially made for the girls by N.A.A.F.I.

The display, lasting for 15 minutes in all, was watched by thousands of people of all nationalities. Many of them had never seen a performance like it, and were vastly intrigued by the intricate patterns woven by the lighted clubs. Six thousand dollars for the Polppy Day Fund was raised by the Tattoo, which included Massed Band performances, the Pipes and Drums of the K.O.S.B. and Gurkhas, and a display by the A.P.T.C.

London Gazette

HONOURS AND AWARDS

New Year Honours:

M.B.E.: Major M. M. Anderson, W.O.1 G. Baylis.
Second Clasp to T.D.: Major K. M. Tee, T.D. (T.A.).
First Clasp to T.D.: Major M. J. Abrahams, T.D. (T.A.).

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Brigadier and Honorary A.D.C. to H.M. The Queen: Col. M. K. R. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D.
Colonel: J. G. Grierson, O.B.E., S. F. M. Nimmo.
Lieutenant-Colonel: E. W. Gibson, M.B.E., L. M. Davies.
Captain: A. M. K. Schofield, S. M. Powell, F. Saffery.
Lieutenant: L. M. Bennie, A. E. Beloe, G. J. Holmes, C. G. Parsons, S. A. Hilton, M. R. Allen, B. M. Hickey, E. Welford, J. D. Gordon.

Short Service Commissions

Major: J. Hawtrey-Williams, E. M. Shields, C. M. L. Ballantyne, I. F. Hill, A. M. Metcher, D. E. Rothwell, M. B. Walmsley, D. Atkinson, V. J. Voller, D. L. Job, M. Yeates, D. J. Adams, E. Cannan.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retirements on retired pay: Brigadier Dame M. Railton, D.B.E., Col. C. W. Hull, O.B.E., T.D., Major (Hon. Lt.-Col.) M. Tompkins, O.B.E.
Retirement with gratuity: Major P. M. Grundy (Shilton), M.B.E.
Resignations: Lt. D. F. Walters (Proctor), Lt. H. M. Fuller (Pope), Lt. R. A. Luckraft (Martin), Lt. R. M. Turnbull, Lt. S. M. Case, Lt. P. K. Batchelor.

Short Service Commissions

Relinquishment on completion of service: Lt. K. E. Griffiths.
Relegations to R.O.: Majors J. W. Butcher, C. V. E. De Bourbel, M.B.E.; Capt. A. G. Vivian; Lts. T. K. Belcher, P. H. Parker (Ellenberger), B. J. White.

Honorary Colonel

S.Comd. Lady Belper, J.P., has resigned from the appointment of Hon. Col. 307 (NC) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Starlight YOUR hair with the sparkling DYROXIN in Hi-Glo

See the highlights shimmering in your hair when you use Hi-Glo—the lovely Shampoo that contains Dyroxin for extra glamour. See how this Evan Williams wonder-ingredient adds glorious, healthy brightness. Only Hi-Glo contains Dyroxin, the miracle glow ingredient ... so only Hi-Glo can give your hair such new, exciting beauty.

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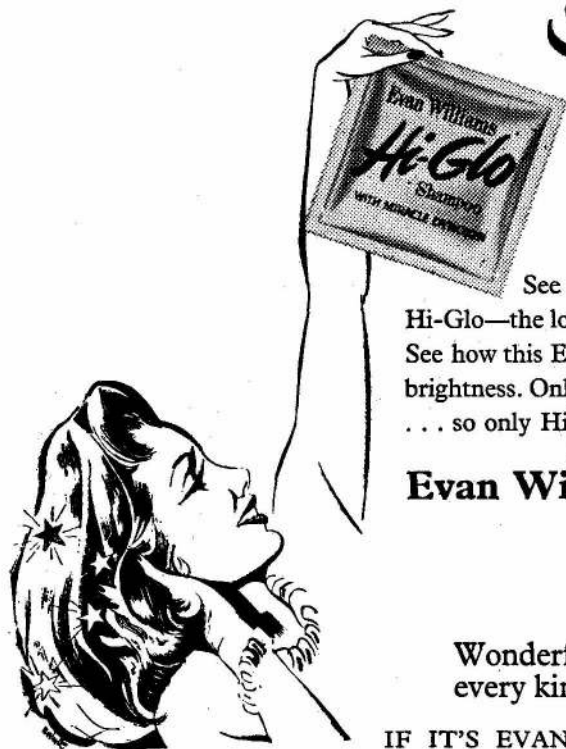
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Wonderful for hair of
every kind and colour

GIANT SACHET 9d.
4-SHAMPOO BOTTLE 2/3d.

IF IT'S EVAN WILLIAMS — IT'S GOOD FOR THE HAIR!



REUNIONS

CHILWELL REUNION

THERE was a great gathering of old Chilwellians on October 19, 1957, at the Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham, which the younger generation (represented by 307 (Northern Command) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)), had prepared with flowers, bunting and flags, for the arrival of the "old soldiers." Amongst those present were Dame Regina Evans, Chief Commander Toft and many other officers. A speech of welcome was made by Mrs. White (ex-W.O.2 Broadfoot). There was a great wagging of tongues and many stories were told.

Refreshments were served by the W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and it is hoped that those who were unable to be present will hear what a grand meeting it was and will be able to come next time. Any refreshments that were left were taken by the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) to the Nazareth House, a home for old people and orphans, and they send thanks and greetings to the Chilwellians for their kind thought. Thanks are due to ex-W.O.2 Broadfoot for the hard work she put in to enable the whole thing to be such a success.

LONDON BRANCH DINNER

THE London Branch Dinner took place on October 12 at the Victory Club. Miss Edith Thompson was in the chair, and introduced our guest, Dame Rachel Crowdy-Thornhill, the head of the Red Cross Society. In her very interesting speech, Dame Rachel told us of her early career as a V.A.D. prior to World War I, and how the Q.M.A.A.C. came into being. Dame Rachel proposed the toast of the Health of the W.R.A.C. Association, to which Dame Helen replied, recalling her early association with Dame Rachel.

Miss Thompson voiced the thoughts of all of us when she said how much we regretted the absence of Mrs. Giles, who was unable to attend in view of her trip to Malta, but who had nevertheless borne us in mind and sent a message. Numbers were down this year, as there were only 53 present, but we are pleased to report that the whole evening was a vast improvement on the 1956 dinner. The different arrangement of the tables gave more room, and the food was excellent and well served. Tea was served after the dinner while members were sitting round the tables chatting, and this proved very popular indeed.



Chilwell Reunion, 1957

Photo by F. W. Stevenson, Nottingham

Retirement

Lt.-Col. N. K. Cadden, O.B.E.

Lt.-Col. Cadden, who retired in January 1958, joined the A.T.S. in Northern Ireland in March 1940 and reached the rank of C.S.M. before she was commissioned in October 1941. She was awarded the G.O.C.'s Certificate for her work in charge of the Isolated Platoon which served with 51st Divisional School at the Giant's Causeway. She continued to serve in Northern Ireland District as a Regimental Officer till January 1948, when she was posted to 2 A.A. Group Company A.T.S. Later in the year she was appointed O.C. Northumbrian Group A.T.S. (redesignated 5th Battalion, W.R.A.C.). Between 1949 and 1954 she served as W.R.A.C. Adviser 63 A.A. Brigade, 21C W.R.A.C. Training Centre, and D.A.D.W.R.A.C. Salisbury Plain District. On promotion to Lt.-Colonel she was appointed A.D.W.R.A.C. 1 A.A. Group, and filled that post during the difficult period covered by the disbandment of A.A. Command. For the last three years she has commanded 12th Battalion W.R.A.C., an appointment which proved more than usually exacting during her tenure, as Richmond Park Camp was used in the Suez crisis as a refugee camp for families evacuated from the Canal Zone. The smooth running of this emergency hostel, and the credit which it brought to the W.R.A.C., was largely due to the hard work and capable administration of the Unit's Commanding Officer, and the O.B.E. awarded to Lt.-Col. Cadden in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1957 was felt by the whole Corps to be well and truly earned.

Lt.-Col. Cadden was an active supporter of the W.R.A.C. Association, and indefatigable in promoting the sale of *The Lioness* in her Unit. She served on the Executive Committee of the Association, the Grants Committee of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, and the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund Committee of Management. She returns on retirement to her native ground in Northern Ireland, but we hope that through the Association her link with the Corps will remain a strong one, and we wish her every happiness and good fortune in civil life.

Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

When I read the November Editorial I thought of the handful of women who volunteered for France in early 1917, and whose work so impressed the Army Council that the W.A.A.C. was increased to nearly 60,000. Then in the Second World War the women manned the Coast Defence and A.A. Batteries. Now they are helping to keep the manpower figures down and doing the job with their usual efficiency. If a mere woman of 81 years is permitted to praise the War Office, may I say that I think they are acting wisely, and express the hope that your Editorial will bring in many volunteers.

With good wishes,

ADA GUMMERSALL.

32 Basil Street,
Great Horton,
Bradford 5.



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.

News From the T.A.

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

LT.-COL. K. D. PATTERSON, Royal Signals, took over Command of the Regiment in September on the retirement of Lt.-Col. H. Clark, O.B.E., Royal Signals. With the disbandment of the R.A.F. Fighter Control Units in Lancashire, with effect February 1, a large number of R.Aux.A.F. and W.R.A.A.F. have intimated that they will join this Regiment. The W.R.A.A.F. have been cooking, clerking, driving and doing technical work, so we hope they will soon feel at home with us. They do not relish the thought of changing their "colour," losing their No. 1 Dress, and being able to choose between raincoats or greatcoats, but we hope they will find compensations. Those joining us from Fazakerley are going to the T.A. Drill Hall, Everton Road, Liverpool, and those from Ringway will be going to No. 2 Squadron, T.A. Centre, Palm Court, Salford, Lancs. We shall still have vacancies for all ranks, particularly W.R.A.C. officers and those with Signals training. Training nights at Woolton Camp, Liverpool, and Palm Court, Salford, are Tuesdays and Thursdays, and we should be pleased to see or hear from any ex-members of the Service.

307 (Northern Command) Battalion

THE Battalion carried out the duties of "Hostess," at the great Chilwell Group A.T.S. Reunion held at the Drill Hall in September. The young members of the T.A. were delighted to help at such a wonderful gathering and in such an atmosphere of comradeship, friendliness and jollity. At the two recruiting cocktail parties organised by the Derbyshire T. and A.F.A. for the employers at Derby and Chesterfield, the T.A. Units had display stands and "C" Company's display of handicrafts and "Situations Vacant in the T.A." caused considerable interest. In his speech at Chesterfield, His Grace The Duke of Devonshire gave us a special mention. We submitted a large

selection of handicrafts for the exhibition at Catterick, and Capt. Rainbury, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), won the first prize in the Basketry section.

All Northern Command units were well represented at the week-end course organised by Northern Command at Blackfell Camp.

During her visit to the Battalion, Lt.-Col. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, presented the Northern Command Women's Shooting Trophy to the members of "A" Company at the Drill Hall, Newark. The team was Cpls. Mallen, Bird and Higham, and Pte. Parr. News has just been received that Cpl. Marshall of the Permanent Staff has been chosen to attend the coaching of the Army (Women's) Rifle team at the Small Arms School at Hythe, and we congratulate Cpl. Marshall in having reached such a high standard in her first year of service.

"B" Company ran a week-end camp at the Drill Hall, Lincoln, and the platoons from Grimsby and Scunthorpe were accommodated and fed at the Drill Hall. The T.A. cooks prepared and cooked the meals, including breakfast for some members of the 16th Independent Parachute Company. The purpose of the week-end was to receive instruction in emergency feeding, and training was carried out under the supervision of Mr. Rawlinson, the Civil Defence emergency feeding instructor. The W.R.A.C. (T.A.) took part in the building of the ovens and the preparation and cooking of the mid-day meal on Sunday. On the Saturday evening the Lincoln T.A. Association held a social and sports evening and the catering for the 350 guests was done by the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) as their contribution towards the event.



Courtesy: Derbyshire Times

Cpl. Wyllie's handiwork is admired at Chesterfield

314 (Scottish Command) Battalion

ON Wednesday, October 23, a ceremony was held in the Drill Hall, Dumfries, for the presentation of Territorial Efficiency Medals to two members of "C" Company, 314 (Scottish Command) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). The medals, awarded to Sgt. Muriel Hodgson, w.e.f. November 21, 1956, and to C.S.M. Annabella Gibson, w.e.f. January 13, 1957, were presented to them by Col. Sir John Crabbe of Duncow, H.M. Lord Lieutenant for the county of Dumfries. Among those present at this ceremony were Mrs. Russel Simpson, Hon. Colonel of the Battalion, Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil, A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command, Major H. A. Campbell, D.A.D.-W.R.A.C. Lowland District, and Major G. A. D. Pearson, M.B.E., T.D., O.C. 314 Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). A third member of "C" Company completed the qualifying service for the Efficiency Medal on October 18, 1957.

In the inter-Unit drill competition held in Edinburgh on October 6, the squad from 314 (Scottish Command) Battalion (trained by Sgt. Hodgson) won the Marsh Cup which was given by Lt.-Col. M. M. K. Marsh, formerly A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command. The cup was presented to the winners by Brigadier J. Sorel-Cameron, D.S.O.



Courtesy: Dumfries & Galloway Standard

C.S.M. Gibson, Sgt. Hodgson, and the Marsh Cup

301 (East Anglian) Battalion

THE main job of our large Battalion (six companies spread over the same number of counties) is to teach women to drive. The majority of our platoons are transport platoons and we have 46 vehicles on our strength. Our annual R.E.M.E. inspection has just been completed and resulted in our overall grading of "Excellent." Even the men tell us this is an achievement and almost unheard of in male units.

We had our first Battalion Week-end at 114 W.E.T.C., Vange, on October 12 and 13, 1957, attended by 22 officers, 30 W.O.s and sergeants, 130 rank and file, and all our roadworthy vehicles. The majority of the T.A. drove down on Friday evening after business, in order that training could start first thing on Saturday morning, some of them travelling between 80 and 90 miles through fog and mist, but all arriving without mishap or incident. "E" Company from Norwich were the last to get in, at 0230 hrs. on October 12. The weather was ideal and a tremendous lot was achieved. We planned various routes to give practice in all aspects of driving to the unclassified drivers, the more experienced drivers were used as instructors in addition to the officers and P.S.I.s, and our W.R.A.C. testing officer was kept very busy putting through their paces those considered ready for their

driving test. When the trainees were not actually at the wheel they were to be found under a vehicle, learning about servicing and maintenance or in the lecture room coping with M.T. documentation or watching an instructional film. A word of praise must go to those classified drivers who cheerfully helped in the cookhouse and quarters, as owing to the shortage of cooks and orderlies we have had to call on drivers to do the "chores."

Since October we have taken part in quite a number of joint exercises, with male units. During the week-end of October 19 and 20, five of our companies took part in Exercise "Footslog." This was a Combat Survival Exercise with the R.A.F., U.S.A.A.F. and the civil police. Our task was first to lift the 1st Herts and Suffolk Regiment (T.A.) up to the battle area, which covered the county of Norfolk, and thereafter to drive them wherever required at whatever the time of day or night. On November 30/December 1 we were again in the Norfolk area, but this time we were with 54 Infantry Division (Transport Column), R.A.S.C. (T.A.), taking part in Exercise "Every-time." Our role on this occasion was to act as Divisional Transport and collect supplies from three commodity points, manned by R.A.S.C., out in the wilds near Thetford Warren. The women were given their detail and map references only two hours before they were due to leave for the control point

and were then left to study the map and work out their routes. The first vehicle left West Tofts, where we had set up camp, at 2100 hrs., and the last got back to base at 0200 hrs. It was a very cold frosty night and those taking part had to drive over completely strange country with side lights only, accompanied by a co-driver who acted as mapreader.

After both these exercises we were congratulated by our male counterparts on the way our drivers handled and manoeuvred their vehicles in confined spaces, their cheerfulness at whatever hour they were called out for a detail, and above all, their turn-out, bearing and smartness at all times during the exercise.

No. 1 Special Communication Squadron

"IS this London, or have I joined the Antarctic Expedition?" you might have wondered a few weeks ago, on entering the T.A. Centre in Worship Street, E.C.2, shared by the Royal Signals and ourselves. The scene was our second three-day Public Exhibition, and we were lucky in having as our guest of honour Sgt. C. F. Le Feuvre, Royal Signals, who had spent over a year as a radio operator with the Royal Society's advance party at Halley Bay. The entrance hall was transformed into a cinema showing films of the expedition, and Sgt. Le Feuvre, in full Antarctic kit, attracted a lot of interest with his own coloured slides of life below zero. The Unit's own activities were not forgotten and City workers thronged in during their lunch hours and in the evenings to inspect our equipment, operate some of the sets and working models and amuse themselves by recording their own voices. These exhibitions have proved a great success and we hope to see many readers of *The Lioness* at the next one, which takes place on February 25, 26 and 27.

The winter social programme opened with a most successful dance in November and another is planned for January. As we go to press we are just recovering from our exertions at the Christmas Party, which was enjoyed by over 50 children of members of the Regiment, not to mention the younger members of our newly formed Cadet Squadron. The W.R.A.C. Squadron still has room for recruits and has welcomed several new members during the past few months.

South-West District Driving Competition

ON Sunday, October 6, South-West District held the fourth Annual W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Safe and Skilled Driving Competition in Blandford Camp. Competitors from South-West, Aldershot and Salisbury Plain Districts took part, and the team which scored the highest marks and won the Firbank Cup came from the 1st (Bristol) Platoon of 71 Independent Company. 70 (Somerset and Dorset) Independent Company, twice winners of the cup, were the runners-up. Three competitors tied for the individual championship. L/Cpl. R. M. Read of Southampton, member of 310 (Hampshire) Battalion, was declared the winner, beating Pte. E. G. Lee of Berkshire by one second

and Cpl. I. Morgan of Exeter by a minute and a half.

The usual hazards were included, which demand no little skill and judgment in reversing and manoeuvring in confined spaces, and for the first time a short but distinctly steep hill-climb and descent were also added. Turn-out and knowledge of the Highway Code also formed part of the contest. The cup and prizes were presented by Brigadier F. Stephens, D.S.O., Deputy Commander of South-West District, and he was welcomed by Col. S. F. M. Nimmo, Deputy Director W.R.A.C., Southern Command.

Competitors and supporters stayed the night in Blandford Camp and all arrangements in the way of accommodation, messing and the organisation of the competition were made by 15 Training Battalion, R.A.S.C. (Dvr.). So helpful and notable over the years has been the assistance of 15 Training Battalion, R.A.S.C. (Dvr.) to the W.R.A.C. (T.A.), particularly to the Dorset Platoons, that the disbandment of the Battalion is contemplated with considerable dismay. The instruction which has so readily been given to enable drivers to qualify for the various trade tests has, in addition, taught them how to pass on their knowledge to others, and the three Dorset Platoons—in Poole, Blandford and Dorchester—look forward to training many more drivers for use in case of emergency.

Repeat Performance

MAUREEN LEES

WHEN, after some years of planning and working out details, I finally organised my first exhibition to show (and sell, I hoped) the work of local disabled people, I thought it would be my first and last effort. It entailed a great deal of mental work, but the final results were so overwhelming that I have formed the idea of organising a second one and maybe laying the foundation for annual exhibitions in my own town. There are in Wirral many disabled and handicapped people who have no means of showing their handiwork to the public. It encouraged many to try what they could do, and it brought everyone together in a spirit of comradeship.

Early in the New Year I hope to know definitely where in Birkenhead the exhibition will be held. I am already promised the friendly backing of the local Council officials, and many disabled are, I believe, already aware that their best work is wanted for exhibition and sale in 1958. I hope to have even more demonstrations than last time, and I hope, too (for the comfort of everyone), to have about four times as much space.

On the last occasion I raised the expenses by means of a guessing-table. I supplied most of the prizes from my own work, and bought some at full price from other disabled. I was given two lovely cakes; one was generously given back by the winner and divided between the Crippled Children and the Spastic School, the other was not claimed so I gave it to the old people at the County Hospital. I had no interest in the sales side of the exhibition, except at my own stall, as the individual exhibitors handled their own cash and made their own profits.

All I wanted to know was that the exhibition had been worth while to them.

Next time I am going to try to raise as much as I can well in advance, so that I can borrow tables, get the printing done, and know how far we can go with advertising the event. I did ponder about making a small admission charge, but I ruled that out, realising that the many old age pensioners who attended last time might, if they had to pay even sixpence to come in, be prevented from buying their little half-crown item from the stalls. I have decided to raise as much as I can of the expenses in my own workshop, advertising the type of work for which I can take a limited number of orders, and setting aside 5 per cent. from any such orders towards the overhead expenses of my second exhibition.

It is my great hope that, in my lifetime, we shall have a real centre at Birkenhead for handicapped people. Many of the disabled do first-class work, but the trouble is that the public generally have few chances of seeing it. I know that my many old colleagues will be interested, and anyone who is willing to help my ideas forward is a friend for ever. I am not asking for pennies, as I am sure that if one believes firmly enough in anything, the means will be found somehow. I shall welcome any supporters at the exhibition, and I know that voluntary help will be needed at the stalls. My first great practical need is for an old but working duplicator, so that I can do most of the circulars myself. If anyone feels she can help in this or any other way, please do write to me (Coach-house, 52 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead).

News of Old Comrades

Mrs. J. V. Sperry (Carol Sinclair, W.A.A.C.) sends greeting from 4538 Alta Lane, La Mesa, California, and news of her active and enterprising family. Her youngest daughter is a sophomore at State College, where the eldest also received her training before going on to U.C. Medical in San Francisco for her B.Sc.D.H. degree. Her son is doing his army service in Korea, and she herself, a physiotherapist specialising in geriatrics, feels free (at 60 next birthday) to pursue her own education. She studies speech arts, English composition, sociology and psychology at San Diego State College, and has received a "much better than a passing grade" in radio and T.V. She is associate editor of a tuberculosis magazine and weekly columnist in the local paper, a supporter of the San Diego Senior Citizens' Lounge, and a member of the U.S. Overseas League.

Miss Mary Breakwell, A.T.S., sends a sad account of her long illness, which has kept her away from work for 2½ years and given her two spells in hospital during that time. She is keeping house for her bachelor brother at 5 Hill Street, Heath Town, Wolverhampton, and hopes soon to be well enough to go back to work. She keeps up with several old friends from A.T.S. Records, Winchester, including **S.Comd. Buckle** and **Mrs. Lingfield (Coomber)**.

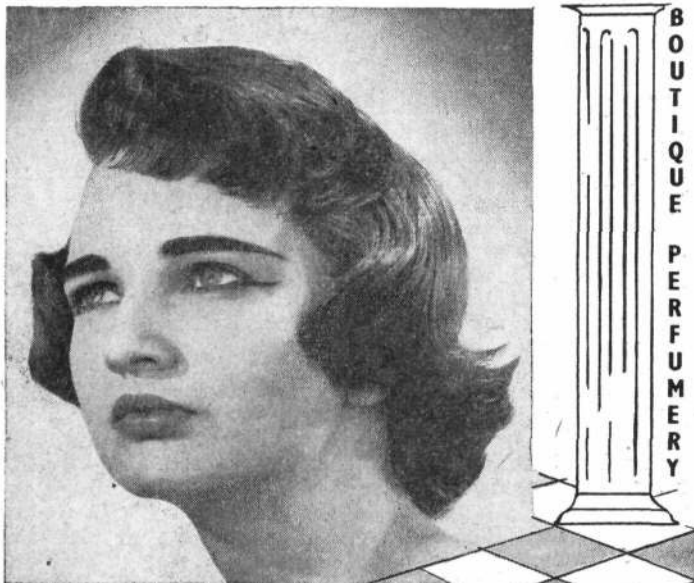
Mrs. Williams (L/Cpl. Shand) and **Mrs. Bullock (Pte. Thompson)** are living within pram-pushing distance of their old Unit, the W.R.A.C. P.T. Wing at Aldershot. **Sharon Bullock** was born in September, and **Dean Williams** in October. Another neighbour and frequent visitor is **Mrs. Beasor** well known in the P.T. world as **W.O.1 Beasor** (formerly **Roberts**).

Birth

Lenham.—On August 31, 1957, at 5 St. James Road, Leicester, to Amy Barbara (formerly Lt. A. B. Jones, W.R.A.C.) and Robert C. Lenham, a daughter (Hilary Susan), sister for Diane.

Alexandre Francke

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W.R.A.C. Depot

AMONG those taking passing-out parades in the last quarter of 1957 have been Maj.-Gen. J. N. R. Moore, G.O.C. Household Brigade and London District, Maj.-Gen. G. Peddie, Director Manpower Planning, and our own Director, Brigadier M. R. K. Colvin. The Director's parade was watched by a party of W.R.N.S. officers from H.M.S. *Dauntless*, who had been spending the day at the Depot. The parade taken by General Peddie was watched by Lady Barnett, who spent that day at the camp. She is herself taking a passing-out parade in March.

MEMBERS of the permanent staff formed the contingent taking part in the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on November 9. Other contingents took part in Remembrance Services and Parades in and near Guildford. The W.R.A.C. Staff Band had the honour of playing at the Royal Naval Association's Reunion at the Royal Festival Hall on October 19 and received quite an ovation.

EIGHTY-NINE recruits arrived for the Christmas intake on November 29, so our Christmas festivities were well supported. Our activities took the now traditional form of children's parties, carol singing in the Garrison by the Corporals' Mess choristers, a service of Nine Carols and Lessons, a grand Unit dance and the usual Christmas feasts. Four hundred sat down to Christmas dinner served by the officers, W.O.s and sergeants on December 19. Under a hundred had the second dinner on Christmas Day, but if their numbers had depleted their appetites had not diminished.

THE pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" proved to be quite hilarious. It was written by Capt. Joan White, who also produced it with the able assistance of Capt. Lloyd-Jones. As the "Empress," the Adjutant, Major V. J. Voller, brought the house down, and 2/Lt. Jackie Armstrong and Lt. Anne Farrington looked enchanting as Idle Jack and his leading lady. W.O.1 Stevens conducted the Band in the absence of Capt. Jean MacDowall, who unfortunately had been on the sick list.

IN the New Year we hope to have the first marriage in the Depot Church of St. Mark, when Pte. J. Orchard (a Bandswoman) is to marry our Unit butcher, Pte. S. Munt of the A.C.C. The exquisite silver cross for the credence table has been presented by the Birmingham Branch of the Association, designed by Miss Eunice Mapp, Chairman of the Branch. Dame Frances Coulshed's gift of an illuminated collect designed and executed by Miss Audrey Barfoot is now finished and is a lovely addition to the church.

Col. A. C. D. Hind, M.B.E., has presented a handsome specially-designed lectern, Col. S. F. M. Nimmo a picture, and Liverpool Branch a silver vase. Our latest acquisition is a large wooden cross for the nave, presented by Miss C. E. Aymer, M.B.E., T.D., in memory of Miss Elizabeth Molyneux.

With Controller Hammond's very kind efforts we are still collecting for the Japanese oak prayer-rails. We have had many more tapestry kneelers completed, but still require about another fifty to be worked. Anyone wishing to help with rails or the kneelers should get in touch with the Commandant, Lt.-Col. E. W. Gibson, or the Chaplain's Assistant, Miss J. Pugh, at Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford.

Obituary

MAJOR M. J. ABRAHAMS

IT was with very deep regret that 327 (County of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), learned of the tragic death of their Second in Command, Major M. J. Abrahams, who was killed when the Aquila seaplane crashed in the Isle of Wight on November 15. Peggy Abrahams joined the F.A.N.Y. at the outbreak of war in 1939, and served at home and overseas, the greater part of her overseas service being in Mauritius. She joined the Territorial Army as soon as it was re-formed after the war, taking command of an A.T.S. Company which formed part of 568 L.A.A./S.L. (M) Regiment R.A. (T.A.), with headquarters at Albany Street, Regent's Park. She remained in command of this Company until the disbandment of A.A. Command in 1955, when the Company was re-organised as a platoon of 327 (County of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). Then she also transferred to the Battalion, and took over command of "B" Company at the Duke of York's Headquarters in Chelsea. In 1957 she was promoted Major and appointed Second in Command of the Battalion. The first clasp to her Territorial Decoration was gazetted a week before her death. Major Abrahams was held in the highest possible esteem and affection by all, and will be greatly missed by those of us who knew her well.

MISS BALLENTINE

WE heard with regret of the death of Miss Louise Ballentine, J.P., a former President of the Belfast Branch of the W.R.A.C. Association. Although unable to attend the meetings for a number of years through distance and infirmity, Miss Ballentine was always interested in the Branch activities and regretted her inability to be present.

MRS. M. L. GIBBONS

SIGNALLERS of Q.M.A.A.C., B.E.F., and all those other Q.M.A.A.C. who knew her, will learn with deep regret of the death of Mrs. M. L. Gibbons (Mathers, *nee* Reid). She had been in very poor health for a long time, but with her usual pluck and determination had managed to attend and even preside over the Dinner Club reunion up to the last. In August she entered a nursing home in Bath, where she died on October 6. Reid came out to France as a signal supervisor at the same time as the late Isabel Izant, and served in many areas, including Havre, Dieppe and Abbeville, where she rendered gallant service during the heavy bombings. At the time of her demobilisation she

was Unit Administrator of the Base Depot Carriers. She returned to this country to marry, and as Mrs. Mathers sailed with her husband to make her new life in South America. Two sons were born to them, and for a few years all went well, till disaster in the shape of bandits came down from the hills, taking the men prisoners and driving off the cattle. Mr. Mathers and his partner, together with their men, were rescued by troops, but all the cattle were lost. This meant that the Mathers had to start all over again, and to do so they went much further south, where there seems to have been fierce cold and blizzards. Here after a short while Mr. Mathers died suddenly, leaving his wife and her two little sons alone and very isolated. After some time they were all brought back to this country and once again life had to begin again. Later Mrs. Mathers married again and had another son, and after the death of her husband early last year, she went to live with this son, Brian Gibbons. The last two months of her life were made very happy by the visit to this country of her second son, Kenneth Mathers, and his family. Her eldest son fell in the late war. Mrs. Gibbons will be very much missed. Her cheerfulness and sense of fun was boundless and life always seemed to ease up, in those war days, when she was around. A short service was held for her at St. Luke's Church, Wellsway, Bath, and she was cremated at Bristol on October 10. She did not wish flowers to be sent, but rather, donations to Dr. Barnardo's Homes. Mrs. Rowlinson (Garnie), 6 Midmore Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19, will gladly receive contributions (it is suggested that 2s. 6d. be the maximum) and will forward the amount received in memory of Mrs. Gibbons.

MRS. WARD

IT is reported with deep regret by the Bradford Branch that Mrs. Ward (Emily Whitehead) died after a long and painful illness on November 2, 1957. She served in the W.A.A.C. for two years in France. Very early she became a member of the London Branch of the Old Comrades and transferred from London when the Bradford Branch opened. She was Secretary of the Branch for seven years. She held whist drives and parties in her house and garden to help buy a show-case for the W.R.A.C. Museum. She was taken ill while on holiday with her husband, celebrating his retirement from the Civil Service in May 1955. She kept up her interest in the Branch's work and was visited frequently by members. A number of members attended the funeral service, and a poppy wreath was procured and laid on the Cenotaph in her memory.

AMENDMENTS TO LIST OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

Belfast. Miss N. M. Arnold, 11 Eastern Crescent, Cliftonville, Belfast, N. Ireland.

County of London. Sgt. D. Chubb, W.R.A.C., 207 Queenstown Road, London, S.W.8.

Southampton. Miss A. D. Stott, 3 Carisbrooke Drive, Southampton.

Southend. A/Secretary, Miss M. Tubbs, "St. Elmo," 36 Grassmead Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

14 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. W.O.2 E. J. Smith, Saughton Camp, Chester.

Southern Command H.Q. (M) Signal Centre Troop. Sgt. J. Vaile, Fugglestone Camp, Wilton, near Salisbury, Wilts.

W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

THE results of the auctions by Messrs. Christies and Messrs. Bonhams of the embroidered furniture have been most disappointing. Up to the present only £113 has been received after the expenses have been paid. Twelve small ballroom chairs are still unsold and will be auctioned by Messrs. Bonhams shortly. The two embroidered panels are being retained by the Mess, as no bid was received for them at the auction.

Lt.-Col. E. M. Sykes, A.D.W.R.A.C. London District, has been elected to the Committee of Management as representative for Eastern Command in place of Lt.-Col. N. K. Cadden, O.B.E., retired. Major J. E. Henderson has been nominated to represent Scottish Command in place of Major S. A. E. Heaney, M.B.E., T.D.

A Corps die stamp is now available for loan to Units.

The Annual General Meeting of the Mess will be held on Monday, April 28, 1958, at 2.30 p.m., at the Duke of York's Headquarters.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS

(Up to February 28, 1958)

Major J. G. FRAME, North-West District (M) Signals Regiment (T.A.).

Major R. M. SHAW, S.O.3 Signals Division, Allied Forces, North Europe.

Major M. P. SANDBACH, D.A.A. and Q.M.G., H.Q. East Anglian District.

Major M. E. MUNRO, Adm. Officer, Sheffield University Officers Training Corps, W.R.A.C. (Sub-Unit).

Major E. M. HUNTER-COWEN, S/Capt. AG. Co-ord. G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.

Major E. V. WATTS, O.C. Officers Training Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

Major J. FISHER, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Home Counties District.

Major P. RILEY, A.I.P.T./W.R.A.C., W.R.A.C. School of P.T.

Major S. W. WHITWORTH, S/Capt. Q., H.Q. Highland District.

Major E. CANNON, Adj. 321 (Cheshire) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Major A. D. MACINTOSH, O.C., "C" Company, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.

Capt. H. MATTHEWS, 63 Comd. (M) Signals Regiment (T.A.).

Capt. S. N. F. POTTER, 1 Signals Squadron, B.A.O.R.

Capt. R. RUSTON, Instr., School of Signals, Caterick.

Capt. E. PARKER, Adj., 325 (South and West Wales) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Capt. E. GRAHAM, S/Capt., War Office, MS2 (T.A.).

Capt. M. A. MACK, 145 Provost Company, W.R.A.C.

Capt. A. FIELD, Adj., 317 (Scottish Cmd.) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Lt. A. J. H. HODGKINSON, 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

Lt. A. L. SHEPLEY-TAYLOR, Selection of Personnel Team attached W.R.A.C. Depot.

Lt. S. R. TURNBULL, N.I.D. (M) Signals Squadron.

Lt. E. B. CHADWICK, 19 Army Group, Signals Regiment.

Lt. M. M. BRAILEY, Drivers and Clerks Training Centre, W.R.A.C.

Lt. B. A. ROONEY, W.O.s and N.C.O.s Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

Lt. E. M. MISEROY, 14th Battalion, B.A.O.R.

2/Lt. F. M. MACDONALD, W.R.A.C. Depot.

2/Lt. J. L. JOAQUIM, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.

2/Lt. A. M. DOWNS, Salisbury Plain (M) Signals.

2/Lt. J. A. JEFFREE, Aldershot (M) Signals.

2/Lt. B. CRAIK, 1 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

2/Lt. E. A. HARRIS, 2 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

2/Lt. V. FLETCHER, W.R.A.C. Depot.

2/Lt. J. M. WILLIAMS, W.R.A.C. Depot.

2/Lt. S. McDUGALL, attached Drivers and Clerks Training Centre, W.R.A.C.

CORRECTION

We apologise for misspelling the name of Mrs. Hughes-Reckitt in the list of donations to the Depot Church published in November.

SPORT

Netball

THE Inter-Command Netball Championship took place at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, on December 6 and 7, 1957. Teams from Southern, Eastern, Western, Scottish Commands and B.A.O.R. took part. Unfortunately, the day before the championship the Northern Command team had to withdraw, owing to three members of their team having been taken ill. The result of the championship was a victory for Southern Command, Eastern Command and B.A.O.R. tying on points for second place.

During the Inter-Command matches a record was kept of goals scored by each shooter and the Individual Goal Shooting Cup was awarded to the shooter scoring the most goals throughout the tournament. The result was as follows:

	Goals
1st. Pte. Taylor, Salisbury Plain (M) Sigs.	36
2nd. Pte. Edge, W.R.A.C. Depot	27
3rd. Pte. Lock, Aldershot District (M)	
Sigs. Tp.	23

Swimming

IN the Inter-Services Swimming Championships, held at Eltham Baths on Thursday, August 29, 1957, our team won first place by scoring 41 points against the W.R.A.F. in second place with 40, and

the W.R.N.S. in third place with 30 points. Pte. Tomkinson of 2 Independent Company won the 66½ yards back-stroke and Cpl. M. Barnes of the same Unit was placed second in the 100 yards free-style. Last year the Inter-Services Women's Diving events were held separately from the Swimming, and 2/Lt. S. Hilton of 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C., won the firm-board diving—3 metres, with 23.62 points. In singling out these individual competitors, we do not lose sight of the fact that every Q.A.R.A.N.C. or W.R.A.C. member of our team contributed to the culminating result by their individual effort.

Our untiring and enthusiastic Secretary, Major E. E. Galloway, had many obstacles to overcome last year in arranging the 12-day course of intensive training which has now become a fixture between the Army Championships and those of the Inter-Services. It was not possible to hold this course in Aldershot as in previous years, as the Baths were closed for retiling during the summer months, and this meant that we did not have the undivided help of our invaluable coach, S.M.I. Tom Kennedy. Major Galloway obtained the use of a school bath at Leatherhead and undertook most of the training herself. We are indebted to the Commandant of the W.R.A.C. Depot for all the arrangements which were made to accommodate our team at Queen Elizabeth Camp during this course.

PERSONAL

(For charges and particulars see Contents page)

Wanted. Service Dress. Height 5 ft. 5½ in., bust 34 in., waist 27 in., hips 36 in. or slightly larger. Box No. 1/58.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress, jacket and skirt. Height 5 ft. 8 in., bust 38 in., waist 29 in., hips 41 in. Excellent condition. Also two shirts and four collars, 14½ in.; green tie. £10 10s.—Enquiries to: Major A. M. McIlwraith, H.Q. East Anglia District Officers Mess, Colchester, Essex.

For Sale. Officer's khaki greatcoat by London tailor; excellent condition. Size: 32 in. bust, 26 in. waist, 36 in. hips. Seen London or sent.—Box No. 2/58.

For Sale. Handwoven bathroom/nursery rugs, approx. 22 x 36. Nylon 25s. Candlewick 27s 6d. to 35s. Chenille 21s. Pure Rug wool 37s 6d. Plus 2s. postage. Formica table mat sets in stand 18s. 11d., postage 1s. 9d. Teapot stands 2s. 11d., postage 4d. Orders accepted for modern cane work, trays, plant troughs, etc. State whether contemporary or self colours woven rugs.—Maureen Lees, Coach-house, 52 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead. Tel. Rock Ferry 4851 (evenings).

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress. Bust 35 in., waist 27 in., hips 38 in., height 5 ft. 5½ in. £5. Also tailored battledress and skirt, £3.—Box No. 3/58.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress uniform. Height 5 ft. 8 in., bust 35/37 in., waist 26 in., hips 37/38 in. Also No. 1 Dress hat. £8. Box No. 4/58.

For Sale. Officer's khaki greatcoat by Hawke. Bust 34 in., length 42 in., excellent condition.—Coaker, Madresfield, nr. Malvern, Worcestershire. Tel. Malvern 114.

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.

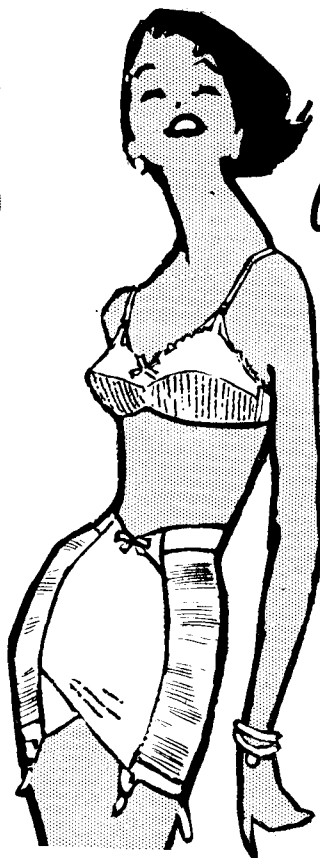
Edinburgh. When in Edinburgh stay at the Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens. All ex-Service women welcomed. Special terms for serving W.R.A.C. Write for the brochure to the Secretary. Phone No.: Edinburgh CAL 4952.

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

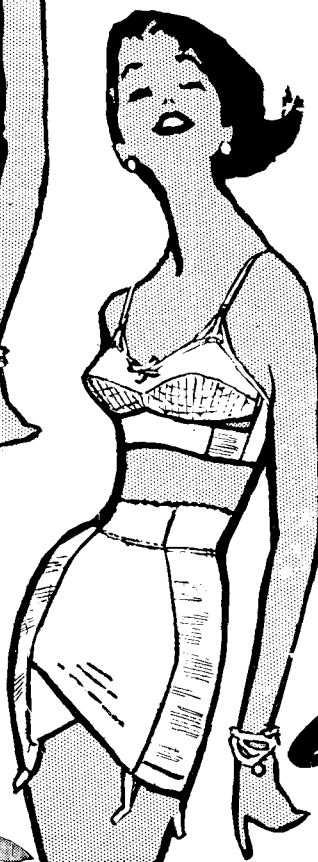
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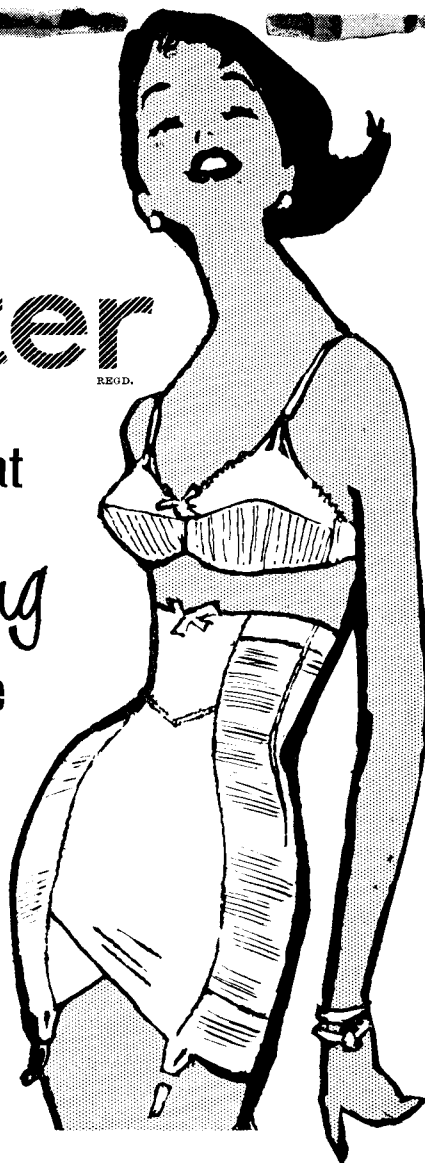
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