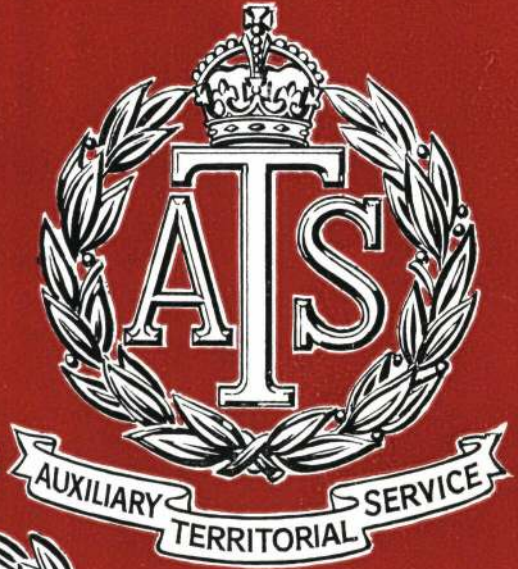


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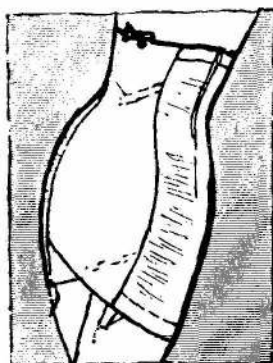
Dip front, **28/6** and

Pantee, **39/6**

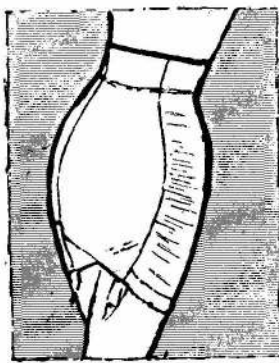
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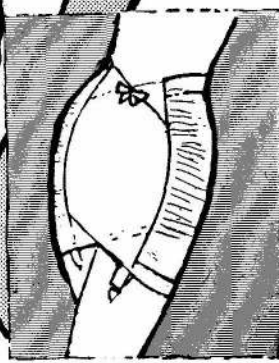
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W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK

General Secretary

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

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

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**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY
DECEMBER 31**



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXI

November 1958

No. 4

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

H.R.H. The Princess Royal

This year we completed twenty years continuous service with the Army. To the A.T.S. who built up the present Service, to the Q.M.A.A.C. who went before them and the W.R.A.C. who followed after, I send my good wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

MARY

EDITORIAL

MOST of us nowadays are more than content with one birthday a year, but no doubt there was a time in our early infancy when every month of our life was treated by our besotted parents as an epoch-making landmark in history. A well-established male regiment may contemptuously ignore anything less than a bicentenary, but to the Women's Services, originated less than half a century ago, every year brings an excuse for a celebration. In 1957 it was forty years since the formation of the W.A.A.C., marked by a Grand Reunion which will never be forgotten. In 1958 it was twenty years since the formation of the A.T.S., and 250 of the 400,000-odd who passed through that Service kept the date with a memorable dinner at the Victory Club. In 1959 it will be ten years since the formation of the W.R.A.C., and doubtless there will be appropriate rejoicings at the Depot and in all the serving Units.

ANOTHER milestone in 1959 has not passed unobserved by the anniversary-minded members of the Association, but this is one which cannot be celebrated by any one of its three sections alone. A Coming-of-Age is essentially a feast for a living person—not an occasion for laying memorial wreaths but the culmination of 21 years of development, a time not for looking backward but for looking forward. The W.R.A.C. was not born in 1938, the A.T.S. did not survive under that name till 1959, and only by recognising them as one in identity and spirit can either be entitled to a Coming-of-Age party.

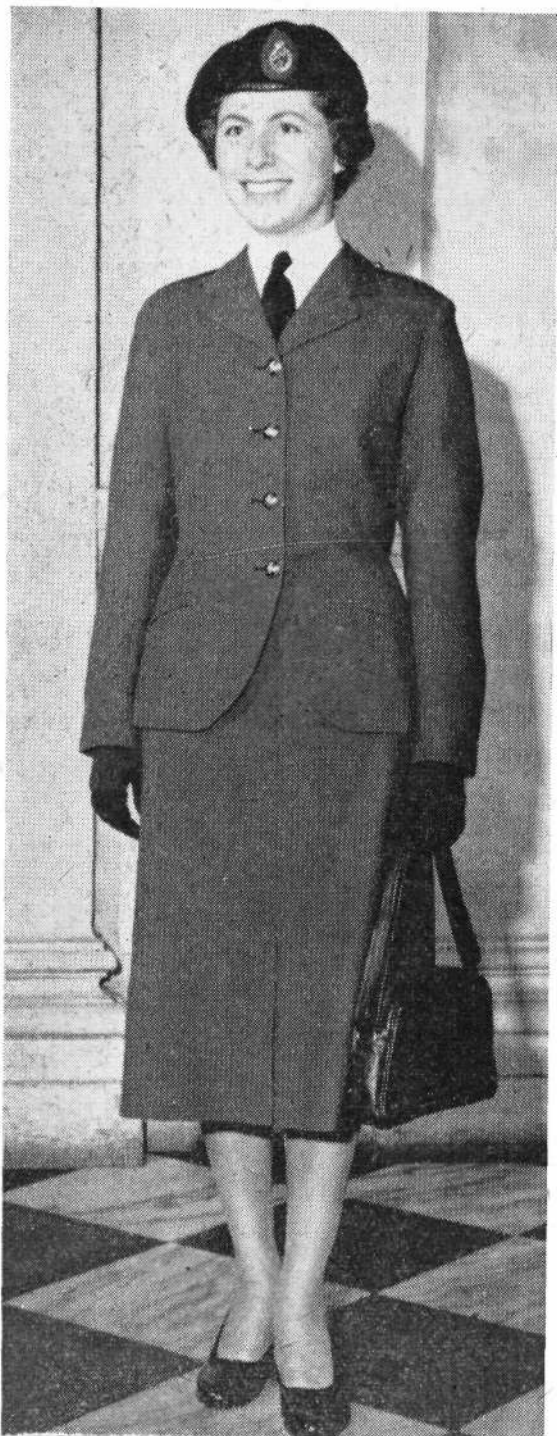
THE Army, by investing every new recruit with the whole panoply of his regimental tradition, allows everyone to celebrate everything in the same proudly proprietary spirit, and the festivities will not be by any means confined to those who have served continuously throughout the 21 years. Every serving and ex-service woman has a right to take part in them, but the limelight will inevitably fall most brightly on the A.T.S., whose birth

inaugurated this chapter in our history, and the Grand Reunion 1959 is likely to have a strongly A.T.S. emphasis. The occasion calls for a real revival of the old A.T.S. spirit of comradeship and *esprit de corps*, and we hope that many of the 400,000 will be there to give meaning and reality to the celebrations.

ALTHOUGH the Grand Reunion is enthusiastically supported by Old Comrades of every vintage, we naturally look for our friends among those of our own period, and there is a certain attraction in gatherings of a more limited scope. The Q.M.A.A.C. organise their own Reunion, the W.R.A.C. Officers have their Regimental Dinner, and there are a number of popular little A.T.S. parties which centre round certain Units and localities. The A.T.S. Dinner was a one-time event to mark the twentieth anniversary, and it will take a Silver Jubilee at least to justify another, but it has been suggested that the A.T.S. who attend the Grand Reunion (and we hope that it will be a record number) might like to meet informally on the evening before and revive a few wartime memories among themselves. Any supporters of this idea are invited to write to Miss E. E. Mapp, 18 Vernon Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham 20.

FEW of us who spent the first Christmas of the war in uniform imagined that we would ever spend a twentieth. Decorated barrack-rooms, cook-house dinners with officer waitresses, convivial toasts in the Sergeants' Mess—the tradition still goes on, although peacetime conditions allow so many service men and women to spend the festival at home with their families. To all of us who are linked by Service experience and Service memories, the Editor sends good wishes for another happy Christmas and another hopeful New Year. May 1959 bring us individually much good fortune, and lead us as a Corps towards a future worthy of our adult status.

GOOD-BYE TO BATTLEDRESS



The new lovat-green uniform and white shirt which is to replace khaki as the W.R.A.C. working dress

Association Notes

THE Annual General Meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, March 21, 1959, at 3 p.m. In order that resolutions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting may be printed, they should reach the General Secretary by December 30, 1958.

The Secretaries' Meeting will be at 11.30 a.m. in the same hall (101 Field Engineer Regiment, R.E.). Members of Council look forward to meeting all secretaries who are able to attend, at lunch, at 1 p.m., as their guests.

The Grand Reunion will take place on Saturday, March 21, 1959, in the Seymour Hall, from 6.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Tickets, 5s., may be obtained from The Reunion Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's H.Q., King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3.

The Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion will be on Friday, March 20, 1959, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets, 4s., may be obtained from The Reunion Secretary, address as above. When applying for tickets, please enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Amendment to List of Branch Secretaries

North Staffordshire: Miss J. Cousland, 9 Sidmouth Avenue, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.

Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron: W.O.2 A. Parker (address unchanged).

Q.M.A.A.C. Officers' Reunion

HOWEVER dreary a month June was in London, there was one very definite bright spot. On June 28, Mrs. King (Jordan) held her annual party for the officers of the W.A.A.C. and Q.M.A.A.C. at her charming house in Streatham.

On arrival at "Trequites" we all gathered in the house, but after tea, a delicious one as usual, we wandered round the garden, which was a mass of delphiniums and other lovely flowers. Very soon after our arrival Mrs. King asked in a good parade-ground voice, "Is there anyone here who knew Paris-Plage?" and, of course, one or two of us did. Miss Watkins, who had been a "Hush" W.A.A.C., was attending the reunion for the first time, and soon we were recalling the billet "Joyeuse" and the other "Hush" W.A.A.C.s and wondering what had become of them. Another newcomer was Miss Richards, who had come all the way from Monmouthshire in order to attend.

The usual faithful crowd were there, headed by the "C.C.," Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan. We missed Miss Johnson, who was kept away by illness, as were Miss Morrison and Mrs. G. A. Jones. We hope by now they are all recovered. It had been hoped Mrs. Martin (Nicholls) and also Mrs. Payne (Philpotts) would have been with us on their first visit, but unfortunately both were prevented at the last moment, as was Miss Pratt, who sent a telegram of regret to Mrs. King.

It is very difficult to say an adequate "thank you" to Jordan for this annual gathering, but we hope she does realise how very grateful we all are to her. It is indeed a delightful event.

Scottish Reunion

A GLORIOUS day greeted the Scottish Reunion at Craigiehall on May 31, and the only sadness of the day was the unavoidable absence of our Controller Commandant, H.R.H. The Princess Royal. All present sent their loyal greetings and expressed their great sorrow that she could not be with us.

We were enormously grateful to the Army Commander, who allowed us the use of his lovely Headquarters, and to the officers of his Staff, especially Lt.-Col. Angela Cecil, A.D.W.R.A.C., and her Staff Captain, Major Helen Campbell. Special thanks are also due to Capt. MacDowall and the W.R.A.C. Staff Band who delighted by their playing, and to the party of Regulars under Sgt.-Major Carney who acted admirably as stewards. The general arrangements were in the hands of a hard-working Reunion Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Simpson, with Mrs. Hook as the most wonderful secretary and Mrs. Ogilvie the indispensable treasurer.

We were honoured by the presence of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan and Brigadier Mary Colvin, Director W.R.A.C., and we were also very glad to meet Mrs. Rumbold and Miss Vera Stead, vice-presidents of the W.R.A.C. Association. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh and Mrs. Johnston-Gilbert also honoured us with their presence, and we were delighted to meet the chairmen of several T. and A.F. Associations and their wives, invited by the Commanding Officers of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Battalions.

Proceedings started at 3 o'clock when private buses from as far away as Ayr began to arrive cheek by jowl with the specially arranged Edinburgh service. The blossom was just at its best in the beautiful grounds of the fine old house, and comrades old and new in their summer frocks and party hats looked delightfully gay on the wide lawns. The Band was playing old and new favourites as we began to circulate, and one heard many cheerful greetings between old friends, Scots and English. There was even a 1938 Sergeant who served at Scottish Command Headquarters from the beginning of the war who now lives in Canada. Soon it was teatime, and an excellent tea was served by the N.A.A.F.I. from marquees on the back lawn.

After tea, Dame Helen met the chairmen and secretaries of the branches of the W.R.A.C. Association in Scotland, and then everybody went to the front lawn to see a display of Scottish country dancing by Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment T.A. and Edinburgh University Officer Cadet Corps. They looked lovely dancing on the grass, with the background of Craigiehall's ancient trees, ladies in flowing white dresses and "gentlemen" in tartan skirts, and they received a great ovation. After that the Band again began to play, till suddenly out of the sunny sky came a great clap of thunder. "God Save the Queen" was played, everybody said hurried good-byes and by 6.15, when the storm broke, Craigiehall was again a delightful, if deserted, Army Headquarters.

Northern Area Reunion

THE Northern Area Reunion was held at the Festival Restaurant, Jubbergate, York, on Saturday, September 7, and members representing Leeds, Bradford, York, Sheffield, Hartlepoons, Nottingham and Derby Branches turned up in force. Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, took the chair, with Miss V. K. Stead, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., as vice-chairman. After a preliminary get-together, during which it became apparent that the objects of the reunion were more than justified, Lt.-Col. Millington, as chairman, welcomed all those present and announced that a telegram conveying loyal greetings had been sent to H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who was unable to be present owing to her absence in Scotland. Messages of good will had been received from the chairman and members of Council and Mrs. Lumsden, the General Secretary, who expressed regret at not being able to attend. A telegram from Lady Swinton bearing the plaintive message, "Deeply disappointed, wasp prevents me coming," raised a loud but sympathetic laugh. Apologies for absence had also been received from Grimsby and Chesterfield Branches.

Lt.-Col. Millington then introduced Mrs. Wentworth-Reeve, C.B.E., T.D. (ex-Controller M. F. Wagstaff), who expressed her pleasure at being able to be present for the first time at a Northern Area Reunion. She mentioned the 20th anniversary of the formation of the A.T.S. which took place recently, and said it was remarkable how youthful everyone still looked in spite of the ravages of time. This 20th anniversary was perhaps an opportunity to take stock of the A.T.S. and what the Service had done for us, particularly in giving us a certain amount of self-discipline in our own personal lives. It was also evident in the amount of voluntary work undertaken by many members, and probably as a result of A.T.S. training we are far more efficient in various branches of voluntary work than many who had never been in the Service. We are given a splendid lead by H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who is a wonderful example of the work carried out by the women of this country today. Mrs. Wentworth-Reeve said she had recently returned from Yugoslavia and had been struck during her first visit to an Iron Curtain country by the lack of freedom and fear of officialdom which prevailed; we must realise how lucky we are to enjoy British freedom to belong to voluntary organisations and to be able to hold carefree gatherings like the reunion. She concluded with some amusing memories of wartime inspections and "catastrophes," and then led the audience in a spirited rendering of "My eyes are dim, I cannot see," which brought back memories to her of the B.E.F., and concluded amidst much applause and laughter. A vote of thanks was proposed by R.S.M. E. M. Clarke of York Branch, who thanked Mrs. Wentworth-Reeve for her inspiring speech and presented a bouquet of flowers, and this was seconded by Mrs. McCallum of Bradford Branch.

Lt.-Col. Millington then introduced Col. Julia Cowper, T.D., who appealed on behalf of the

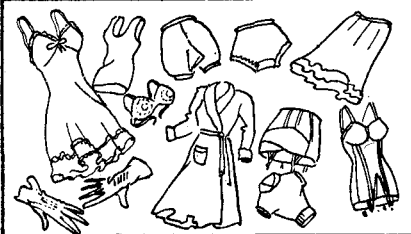
Dorothy Perkins

*Where your
allowance
stretches
further*

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D.P.



OVER 100
BRANCHES
THROUGHOUT
THE
COUNTRY

D.P.



W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. This fund has been legally established to benefit Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S., W.R.A.C. or any future corps of women performing the same duties, and when the A.T.S. fund has gradually run down it will be the one and only one available for the assistance of everybody. Lt.-Col. Millington thanked Col. Cowper for her address, a collection for the Benevolent Fund was taken, and a raffle was drawn for three large baskets of fruit, etc. Lt.-Col. Millington concluded the proceedings by thanking the organisers of the raffle for their hard work. Some excellent refreshments were then served and the remainder of the evening was devoted to reminiscences.

A.T.S. Reunion Dinner

A DINNER was held at the Victory ex-Service Club on August 30, 1958, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the formation of the A.T.S. The chair was taken by Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, D.B.E., T.D., in the unavoidable absence abroad of Dame Leslie Whateley who, as chairman, had done much of the preparatory work. It was a great disappointment to all that her departure for New Zealand was advanced from the end of the month to the early part of August.

Besides 250 members of the A.T.S., some of whom served in the Q.M.A.A.C., and others who are still serving in the W.R.A.C., we were happy to welcome as guests General Sir Ronald Adam, G.C.B., D.S.O., General Sir Claude Liardet, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., T.D., D.L., Brigadier E. E. Armstrong, C.B.E., Dame Vera Laughton Matthews, D.B.E., and two good friends of the wartime A.T.S., Miss Worthington Evans, O.B.E., and Miss Lethbridge, who administered the A.T.S. Comforts Fund.

The chairman read the telegram which had been sent to H.R.H. The Princess Royal, and the reply which had been received, and the cable which had been received from Dame Leslie Whateley. Miss Mapp, who proposed the toast of "Absent Friends," read a number of other telegrams and messages.

The toast of the A.T.S. was proposed by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, who spoke of the inevitable inexperience of many of those who joined the Service in the earliest days, and paid a tribute to the confident bearing of the N.C.O.s, which was an example to all. In replying, Dame Regina Evans referred to the unfailing interest taken in the Service by the Controller Commandant, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, and the inspiration she had given to all who served.

Dame Mary Tyrwhitt proposed the toast of "Our Guests" and reminded us of the unfailing encouragement given by the War Office all through the years of the A.T.S.'s existence. Sir Ronald Adam, in replying, spoke of the good which had come from the acceptance of women to play an active part in the struggle against tyranny.

A section of the R.A. Orchestra played during dinner, and after dinner everyone had an opportunity of meeting old friends and talking over Service days.

W.R.A.C. Depot

QUEEN Elizabeth Camp is a hive of activity just now. At the beginning of September we had already exceeded the recruit intakes for the whole of 1957. At the time of writing there are just on 300 recruits under training. There are a number of enlistments in holding, and so far 68 ex-Service women have re-enlisted in the Corps in the first nine months of the year. Among the happy draftees for overseas have been a Sergeant Cook for Washington, 61 ladies for Cyprus and 70 for the Far East.

THE Rt. Hon. Christopher Soames took a passing-out parade in July and Mrs. Soames came with the Secretary of State. As Mary Churchill she will be remembered by many as an enthusiastic A.T.S. officer, and her enthusiasm has not waned. It was a delight to show her the Service of today, in whom she showed a lively interest. Other visitors for parades have been (in chronological order) Gen. Rooney, Paymaster in Chief; Gen. Moberly, Signal Officer in Chief; Gen. Crawford, Director of Ordnance; and Col. Rivett-Drake, D.D.W.R.A.C.

WE have had a successful year in the sports world, winning the inter-Unit netball and tennis matches and the honours for the Athletic Championships. 2/Lt. Pat Rees won the Army singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches, and went on to win her respective inter-Service matches against the W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F.

THE Band has had a busy time, despite efforts to "rest" the players this year. During a visit to Scottish Command it had the honour of playing in the Ante-room of Holyrood Palace for the High Commissioner's Banquet at the beginning of the General Assembly.

FOUR women were baptised in St. Mark's Church on September 4, and we hope will later be confirmed. Last year 12th Battalion presented a generous cheque of £25 for the church. It was intended for a carpet, but as the War Department has come up to scratch in that respect, the gift has gone towards oak prayer rails. Other welcome gifts have been an Altar Service Book from the Wolverhampton Branch of the Association, an oak stool from the Chaplain's Assistants in the Army, and a picture from Major E. V. Watts, M.B.E. Major Stroud has started the collection for a Book of Remembrance, 1945-49, with a generous donation. The list of donors for the prayer rail will be published when the total is subscribed.

READERS are reminded that they and their friends will be warmly welcomed at the Depot for Princess Royal's Day on Sunday, April 26, 1959, when we celebrate our Controller Commandant's birthday. Application for tickets should be made to the Adjutant, at any time after January 1, 1959.

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CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION

S.COMD. D. W. HOMER, A.T.S.

"WHAT are you doing these days?"

Old So-and-So, cropping up suddenly out of my A.T.S. past, asks the question we always ask. I take a deep breath: "Oh, I am with the National Council of Social Service, Secretary to the Women's Group on Public Welfare—you know, brings the main women's organisations together, and co-ordinates them. Of course, there is local co-operation in standing conferences of women's organisations. . . ." Old So-and-So's eyes begin to glaze—"My dear, how interesting, standing women! I *must* go now, but we *must* meet some time and you can tell me more about your work—it sounds enthralling." She goes.

The Editor of *The Lioness* asked me the same question and wrung from me a promise to write about my job. My conscience pricks and my heart sinks as I travel in the No. 14 bus to the office. I'll start it this evening when I get home. What shall I call it? *Co-operation and Co-ordination*—sounds so nice and soothing.

Nice and early today, so I decide to attack the "remains of ages" in my in-tray. The first one—too difficult, put it at the bottom. What's the next? A letter from Southminster Standing Conference of Women's Organisations wanting to set up a local Home Safety Committee and would like a speaker. That's easy—over to the Home Safety Department of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. The next is from the Federation of Women's Clubs in Midlandshire, asking me to speak on "The Social Aspect of Loneliness" at their next conference in six months' time. I decide to accept—six months is a long way ahead and anything may happen before then. In comes Margot, my secretary, with the day's post and her notebook. I start dictating.

The door opens and in comes N. of the International Department. Would I see a charming lady from Asia, on her way to the United States, her husband being his country's delegate to United Nations? She'll be in England for only three days and wants to know all about women's organisations, the National Council of Social Service, child welfare, and the thorny problem of "mothers of young children going out to work." We fix a date and I go on dictating.

Joy! 10.30, tea break in the canteen. Must go, as it will be a chance to speak to K. of the Citizen's Advice Bureau about that draft on "Homeless Families" for the discussion at the next meeting of the Women's Group. Might also see someone from the Old People's Welfare Department on that query from Hagersfield Standing Conference about starting a chiropody service for old people. I go down, collecting the files from Registry on the way.

Upstairs again, in time to receive a telephone call from the secretary of one of our "constituent organisations" about their resolutions for the Women's Group Biennial Conference—one dealing with the earnings limit of widows with young children and one asking for legislation to prohibit

by law the import, manufacture or offering for sale of flick knives and similar offensive weapons. Cope with this and call Margot for more dictation. We tackle a letter from Bedminster Standing Conference (which now has a membership of 37 local women's organisations), reporting their Anti-Litter and Clean Food campaigns, their Hospital visiting scheme and their attempts to rouse their local authority to do something about a dangerous road junction in the centre of the town. They have had a request from the local branch of the W.R.A.C. Old Comrades' Association to become a member; is it all right to accept them? Good—of course it is all right—wish more of the women's ex-Service organisations knew about Standing Conference and would join up locally.

Start on a letter from a Government department enclosing a questionnaire on the marking of the weight content on certain food packages and wanting the reaction of women's organisations. Pass it hastily to one of the Standing Conferences which has not been inflicted with a questionnaire for some time. Suddenly remember a meeting of the Keep Britain Tidy Group in the afternoon and rush out to lunch.

Arrive at the meeting just in time after a traffic hold-up, and settle down to a nice afternoon keeping Britain tidy. So soothing that my mind wanders—and I wake up to discover that I have agreed to serve on a publicity sub-committee. Oh dear, serves me right. We finish too early for my conscience to let me go home, so back to sign letters. The "remains of ages" now form a base for a Leaning Tower with my letters to sign precariously perched on top.

Get through the letters and come to the next layer—newspaper cuttings, journals, notices of meetings and conferences—some headed "Please pass quickly" and all with a dead-line date for return. Oh well, better start on them while it's peaceful—anyway, if I leave after 6.30, the home-going rush is over. Don't think I shall feel much like writing that article tonight.

London Gazette

HONOURS AND AWARDS

First Clasp to T.D.: Capt. M. E. Dunbavand, T.D., Capt. J. M. Horne, T.D.
T.D.: Capt. J. M. Whitwam, Lt. (Hon. Capt.) I. F. Grey (retired).

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Captain: A. J. Hodgkinson, D. P. Chandler.
Lieutenant (Q.M.): A. Elston.
2/Lieutenant: B. M. Scott-Easton, M.A.
Short-Service Commissions
Major: A. C. M. Rhodes.

RETIREMENTS, ETC. REGULAR ARMY

Retirement on retired pay: Major N. Lupton (on account of disability).
Retirement with gratuity: Capt. M. F. Townsend.
Resignations: Lts. R. P. Smart, E. Griffiths, J. Traynor, M. E. Garrett; 2/Lt. A. M. Downs.

Short Service Commissions
Relegation to R.O.: Capt. (Hon. Major) M. Waters.
Resignation: Lt. B. Douglas.

HOPS

EVELYN ABBOTT, A.T.S.

HOP-PICKING has always been one of my ambitions, but I have never been free at the right time. Having now retired from regular work I decided that if I did not go at once I might never go, so I wrote to the Ministry of Labour, who put me in touch with a farmer requiring pickers. On the appointed date in early September I set out for London Bridge Station with a haversack and heavy kitbag, containing blanket, sleeping-bag, frying-pan, old clothes, and my army gum-boots. During the hour before the special hop-pickers' train was due to leave, more and more families kept pouring in, all obviously old hands. The parties seemed to be made up of Grandma, Ma, often Pa, with five, six or more children, some quite young babies, a dog or two, and sometimes a bird-cage. Each family had an incredible amount of luggage, consisting of a much overloaded pram piled high with all manner of goods and chattels, tin trunks, chairs and tables, pots and pans. My poor little luggage that I had found so heavy now looked sadly inadequate, especially when the good-natured old porter, who seemed quite used to this annual exodus, said: "Is this all you've got, Muvver?" The train came in, we all packed ourselves in with much chatter and laughter, and off we went.

Soon we left London behind and were among the apple and cherry orchards of Kent, and presently the hop fields could be seen with their thick vines in neat rows. At our station we were met by the farmer with a lorry, which had to make three journeys in the rain before our party, which was much larger than he had expected, was delivered at our destination, 12 miles away. The first sight of the camp in the rain was not inspiring. It consisted of two long low corrugated-iron buildings facing one another about 25 yards apart. These buildings were divided inside by thin wooden partitions into separate huts about 12 ft. by 15. Each had a door but no window or light of any kind. Boards were laid across at one end about 1 ft. from the ground, and straw was provided for bedding. It was 8 p.m. by the time we had each been allotted a hut. I was fortunate, because being on my own I had one to myself, while the others contained whole families of all sizes, ages and sexes. There was another section of the camp further down the lane where conditions were worse than ours, as the huts there were cowsheds partitioned part way up with bits of sacking. So we were lucky. The only supply of water for washing, drinking or cooking was one tap at the end of our camp, providing water which was not fit to drink unboiled. In the middle of the camp was a refuse-bin which, though emptied daily, quickly overflowed all over the camp.

What made the greatest impression on me was the friendliness and kindness shown to me, a stranger, by my fellow pickers. It poured with rain most of the time and the camp soon became a sea of mud. In order to boil a kettle one had first to make a

fireplace outside one's hut by digging a shallow hole, placing bricks round it and a grid on top on which to stand one's kettle and pans. A boy obligingly brought me the bricks from a source which it did not occur to me to question, and a man from a hut opposite, seeing that I didn't know how to set about it, dug the hole without a word, built the bricks round it, and produced two iron bars from the remains of an old pram that had collapsed in protest from the weight packed into it. One little girl ran off with some money to the little general shop about half a mile away to buy me a bottle of paraffin, and two others, aged about nine and ten, fetched bundles of wet brushwood from a pile at the end of the camp, made a good fire and kept it going for me. Later that evening a policeman arrived with an irate man who said I had stolen the bricks he was building his house with, but after some conversation a cash adjustment was arrived at to the satisfaction of all concerned, and the policeman and the man went off with broad grins.

The experienced campaigners had brought oil lamps to hang on their walls. I had not thought of this, and on shutting my door was almost in complete darkness except for an electric torch. I therefore shook out some of the straw for a mattress and went to sleep in my sleeping-bag and army blanket. My door did not shut properly, and next morning I was awakened by a very frowsty head thrust round it and a kind voice saying, "Give us yer mug, darlin', I've just made a pot of tea." Most of the families had been coming for many

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years. It was wonderful how comfortable many of them had made their huts, with chairs and tables, nice china, curtains, bright bed-covers, doors painted blue, pink, yellow, green and some had even papered the walls. The huge quantity of luggage brought was thus accounted for.

The hop-picking itself was most enjoyable. We started picking at 7 a.m., and the smell of the hops and the pleasure of being out in the fields in the mist of early morning more than made up for the discomforts of the camp. The hops are best for picking in the early morning when swollen with dew. One pulls down a vine at a time and picks into bins—and woe betide those whose bins contain many leaves. At intervals the farmer and his men come round to empty the bins, measuring the amount picked into bushel baskets and entering it in his book and on each picker's card. Payment varies on different farms from about 10d. to 1s. or 1s. 2d. a bushel, paid according to each man's card in a lump sum at the end of the picking season. The season lasts from three to four or five weeks according to the crop. Being new to it I was slow at first, scoring only about seven bushels a day,

but some of the old hands doubled this amount.

On the Saturday night many gathered round a large fire in the middle of the camp for a sing-song, the singing of many old favourites being led by one of the men. All went well until closing time, when others returned from the village pub. After that it got rowdy, ending with a fight between husband and wife, and I was glad to escape and turn in. The rain had persisted all the week, and by that time my clothes were wet through with no means of drying them. The climax came that night, when it rained in torrents, coming through the iron roof and soaking my bedding. I then had to admit defeat and give up and come home. Before I left on the Sunday my opposite neighbour came over at midday with an enormous plate of roast beef, roast and mashed potatoes, beans and gravy, all most deliciously cooked on her little oil stove, and another neighbour arrived with tea and a plate of cake. I felt I was leaving real friends behind me, and only wished I had been 30 years younger to have stayed the course. I wouldn't have missed the experience for anything. Another year? Who knows.

Obituary

WE have heard with regret of the death of four Administrators Q.M.A.A.C. during the last year. Miss E. W. Knowling served in the B.E.F. in several areas, including Etaples. Miss Feiling, O.B.E., served in the Army of Occupation in Cologne in 1919 and held the rank of Senior Commander in the A.T.S. Miss Nelson died in August, 1957, after a few days illness following several years of ill-health. The news of Miss Ballantine's death in September, 1957, came from her sister in Ireland, in a letter to Mrs. King.

MISS MARGARET ROACH

THE sudden death early this year of Margaret Roach came as a great shock to her many friends and fellow Q.M.A.A.C. For some years past she had not been really well, but that had never prevented her doing all that came to hand. Her life was full of activities, and at the time she joined the W.A.A.C. in 1917 she and her sister, Ida, were jointly running a school, St. Petroc's, at Padstow in Cornwall. After serving with the B.E.F. in various areas she was demobilised in 1919. On returning to civilian life, she became the organiser of welfare work in the diocese of Winchester, and later, that of Salisbury as well. During the time her brother, Major Keith Roach, was Governor of Jerusalem, she spent some time in the Holy Land, greatly enjoying all she saw and heard there. Roach was a clever speaker and a most witty and entertaining companion—there are those of us who are going to miss her and her interesting letters very much. She had a sudden heart attack, and died as she was being taken into hospital at Cheltenham, in which town she had lived for some years.

MAJOR N. LUPTON

MAJOR NORA LUPTON died in Millbank Hospital on October 26 after a long and painful illness endured with heroic courage and cheerfulness. She was commissioned in 1944, after two years in the ranks of the A.T.S., and served with distinction in such widely different units as the Junior Officers' School and O.C.T.U. at Windsor, a transit camp in the Canal Zone, 11th Battalion, W.R.A.C., at Chester, and 307th (Northern Command) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). Her last appointment was at H.Q. London District, where she was posted early in 1956, after the first of a long series of operations, in order to be within reach of the treatment which increasingly overshadowed her life. After each discouraging setback she returned to this appointment with undiminished enthusiasm and unquenchable hope and gaiety. Even during the last grim year of her illness, when she was continuously in hospital and never out of pain, she kept up her lively interest in Corps affairs and her bedside was the meeting-place of innumerable Service friends. She insisted on attending this year's Corps Day celebrations, touring the Depot in a wheeled chair. She leaves behind her the memory of a vivid personality, an indestructible faith, and an unconquerable spirit. We offer our sympathy to her sisters, and our gratitude to the staff of Millbank Hospital for their tireless skill and devotion throughout her long ordeal.

MRS. FORSDICK

LONDON Branch regret to report the death during July, 1958, of Mrs. G. Forsdick. Mrs. Forsdick was with the 15th (County of London) A.T.S., served from 1939 until 1942, and held the rank of Sergeant.

BRUSSELS 1958

PTE. O'REGAN, W.R.A.C.

OUR Sunday breakfast was a very early one on the day of our visit to the exhibition, and we were ready at 8 a.m., armed with sandwiches and cameras, to start out on the 120-mile coach drive from H.Q. B.A.O.R. to Brussels. The first stop was the border between Germany and Holland, and here "pfennigs" were changed into Belgian francs. One certainly gets to know the different European currencies as a member of 14th Battalion.

Money problems sorted out, the coach drove on through Holland into Belgium, and just beyond the frontier we stopped for coffee before the last part of the journey into Brussels itself. Then suddenly, we saw the Atomium, which stood out, gleaming in the sun, against the surrounding countryside. It was an impressive sight. Before long we were actually in the grounds of the exhibition. It is very large, as each country has a pavilion, or in the case of Russia and America, a palace. The buildings are in very modern styles, some of which are most unusual. The entrance hall was very impressive, and contained everything from a post office to shoe-shine boys. Then, as one passed through the doors into the exhibition, one saw a wonderful view of long avenues, fountains playing, and a diverse collection of exciting-looking shapes and buildings. We decided to see the British pavilion first, and after a long walk we found it, having been given directions in several different languages.

The Atomium, viewed close to, was really vast, and its erection seemed most complicated. The pavilions were fascinating, and the British one compared well with the other elaborate buildings. "The Britannia" pub was much frequented and was a very popular place. By far the most impressive pavilion was the Russian one, with a great flight of steps leading up to it, and a large red flag fluttering in the breeze. Inside, an outsize statue of Lenin dominated the hall, and every wall was decorated with slogans, telling the world of the Russian wish for peace. The Sputnik was in the limelight, and was the centre of attention. The American pavilion was just as large, but there was no propaganda. Then there was a replica of a pagoda, and other unusual erections.

We seemed to walk for miles, and as it was extremely hot we stopped frequently at one of the various restaurants for cool drinks. Some of us had a ride on the overhead cable cars, and had an exciting view of the whole exhibition. We visited as many pavilions as we could and soon began to think about the homeward journey. Somewhat tired but nevertheless extremely happy, we climbed back into the coach, and soon were well on our way back to camp. We are often exhorted to join the Army and see the world. Certainly we saw a representative selection of life in every country, and we will always remember the striking architecture and international atmosphere of the exhibition.

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News From the T.A.

Honorary Colonel

Pilot Officer Sheila van Damm has been appointed Honorary Colonel of 329 (Warwick and Worcester) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

317 (SCOTTISH COMMAND) BATTALION

Foreign Service

THIS Battalion has made history. Determined to do something different to mark T.A. Jubilee Year, they asked if they might carry out a 48-hour exercise in France, at their own expense, during annual camp. The answer, after a long time, was "yes" and exercise "Le Chardon Ecossais" was planned. The necessary money, £867, was raised during the winter and spring and on June 24, 1958, Bannockburn Day, the first detachment and a Bedford 3-ton truck disembarked at Dieppe.

In all 167 members of the Battalion went to France in four County detachments, Argyll, Fife, Stirlingshire and Perthshire. They arrived in Dieppe at 3 p.m. on the first day, carried out the main part of the exercise on the second and left again at midday on the third. Throughout they were accommodated at the French Centre d'Instruction of the P.F.A.T. and only had to pay for rations. The P.F.A.T. barracks were most comfortable, and the hospitality wonderful. As one Private put it, "we were all treated like their sisters" and another, "we were V.I.P.s from the beginning."

The main part of the exercise was to set up a Transit Centre for evacuees on the municipal camping site at Dieppe. Certain stores were taken from this country and others were issued on loan from the P.F.A.T. The P.F.A.T. recruits acted as evacuees and arrived in plain clothes complete with baggage. The setting was thus most realistic and 317 Battalion had to speak French. A first aid post was run in co-operation with members of the Croix Rouge, the "casualties" being members of the Battalion carefully made up with Red Cross wound-faking equipment.

The *entente cordiale* which grew from this visit was magnificent. Already seven P.F.A.T. N.C.O.s have spent 14 days leave touring the Battalion and the Battalion's R.S.M., W.O.1 J. Castellano, is even now spending her leave in Dieppe. Everyone feels most satisfied that they made the effort and can now look back on Jubilee Year as a milestone in history.

310 (HAMPSHIRE) BATTALION

WE felt it as a great honour that Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery's famous car, nicknamed "Old Faithful" by the Eighth Army, was lent to this Battalion for the Southampton T.A. Golden Jubilee Parade on July 5, 1958. The Field Marshal used this car from El Alamein to the River Sangro, and this is almost certainly the first time that it has been driven by a woman. We collected it from Beaulieu Motor Museum and kept it in our Southampton T.A. Centre for five days.

301 (EAST ANGLIAN) BATTALION

WE had a most successful camp at Lulworth during the last two weeks in May despite indifferent weather and very primitive accommodation. Five drivers passed their B IV test, and 14 out of the 18 who attended our concentrated two-week upgrading course passed their B III trade test by the end of camp. An all-night exercise was held on Dartmoor for experienced drivers to give training in initiative and improvisation and it certainly turned out to be an exercise under the worst possible conditions, for it poured with rain the entire time and some vehicles got bogged down in a disused tin mine which was supposed to be their harbour for the night. However, all were cheerful and in good heart on return to camp after having been royally entertained with lunch and hot baths by the Junior Leaders Battalion at Crownhill Barracks, Plymouth. The Director honoured us with a visit during the second week and afterwards stayed for a most successful cocktail party given by the officers for visitors from far and near.

Since returning from camp we have established a good liaison with several units outside our own Command. "D" Company at Bedford drove over to Leicester for the weekend August 23 and 24, and we were most grateful to the C.O. of 308 (Northern Command) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) for her co-operation in arranging the accommodation and feeding for the entire weekend. On August 30 and 31, "A" Company at Barnet held a driver training exercise to Bristol, and due to the kind co-operation of O.C. 71 Independent Company we were allowed to use their Weekend Training Centre at Cribbs Causeway. This also was a most successful weekend, beautiful weather and excellent food cooked by N.C.O.s of 71 Independent Company, culminating with a very happy "get together" in the evening. This same weekend we ran another exercise for the remaining companies in the Battalion which was held in the Thetford Woods in Norfolk. Exercise "Backache" it was very aptly named, being a test in endurance and initiative. Women learned how to pitch tents, roughed it by sleeping in their vehicles overnight and experienced cooking in the open on hexicon burners.

Our No. 2 Essex Platoon at Leigh-on-Sea has also been in the news. They entered a team for the "Lorry Driver of the Year" competition and we were all very proud when Sgt. F. G. Little came first in the Southend area contests driving a Bedford 3-ton Q.L. There were ten eliminating contests and the individual winners of these went forward to the National Finals which were held at Coventry Aerodrome on September 21, 1958. Unfortunately a male Staff-Sergeant, who came first last year, beat Sgt. Little in the finals, but nevertheless she did great credit to our Corps, giving a superb demonstration in the way a 3-tonner should be handled and driven through the most complicated hazards.

Also in this Platoon we have a very talented artist, Sgt. Shuter, the Driver P.S.I., who through her excellent posters has been the means of obtaining a number of recruits for her Platoon. She recently won four 1st prizes and one 2nd in the Eastern

Command Hobbies and Handicrafts competition, and her oil painting was awarded the best entry in the entire exhibition and also the best entry from a serving soldier.

307 (NORTHERN COMMAND) BATTALION

LIKE all T.A. Units, we have been busy taking part in the national and local T.A. celebrations. The Lincolnshire celebrations on July 6, 1958, took the form of a mechanised column which started from Cleethorpes, the Mayor taking the Salute at the drive past, then on to Grimsby where the Mayor also took the Salute, and then on to Lincoln, where the Lord Mayor of Lincoln took the Salute at the War Memorial. The contingent from "B" Company W.R.A.C. was under the command of Capt. A. Stone, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and their immaculate vehicles, faultless turnout, and superb driving were a matter of great pride to us. On Sunday a service was held in Lincoln Cathedral, attended by all T.A. Units, friends and guests. The colours of the 4/6th Royal Lincolnns were presented at the altar, and the thrill of having taken part in such an awe-inspiring service will long be remembered by those privileged to attend. After the service the troops marched to the Castle green, where L/Cpl. Fisher and L/Cpl. Stocks, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), were among those who received the Lord Lieutenant's Certificates of Good Service from the Earl of Ancaster, L.L., T.D., J.P.

On September 14 the Nottingham T.A. Celebrations were held. The T.A. troops, both mechanised and marching, formed up on the Forest of Nottingham under the command of Brigadier B. T. V. Cowey, D.S.O., who looked very resplendent mounted on one of the Nottingham City Police horses. The "Ram" mascot of the Sherwood Foresters was also on parade and was extremely well behaved. His Grace the Duke of Portland, K.G., inspected the parade before the Drumhead Service, and took the Salute at the Council House after the parade had marched through the streets of Nottingham with bayonets fixed and flags flying. The parade dismissed at the Castle grounds, where tea was provided for all personnel and friends by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham.

Our annual camp was held at Sennybridge, South Wales, and for the first time the whole Battalion moved to their camp location in their own Unit transport. Vehicles left Derby, Nottingham and Grimsby and converged on Sennybridge in the wilds of Wales, having travelled from 150 to 210 miles without mishap. Once again we had the pleasure of camping with 318 (Cumberland and Westmorland) Independent Company, and were pleased to see the familiar faces of Major Fowler and W.O.2 Granger still in office. We were also joined by 281 (Glamorgan Yeomanry) Field Regiment, R.A., and 302 (Pembroke Yeomanry) Field Regiment, R.A. The weather was very kind to us, with only two wet days which did not dampen the high spirits. Training went with a swing from the start, the learner drivers doing their stuff on the Artillery Ranges (where the gunners were more scared of them than of the stray shells) and the

competent drivers earning high praise from the officers of 281 Regiment by driving their light vehicles to and from the ranges and on exercises and manoeuvres under all kinds of conditions. The trained clerks gained considerable experience working in the Permanent Staff Orderly Room and with the R.A. Units, and cooks and orderlies were well looked after in the centralised cook-house.

In the second week of annual camp 33 drivers departed from Sennybridge Camp at 1830 hours for a night exercise. We had a convoy of 11 vehicles and made for Madley, near Hereford, where we stayed overnight at the Marsh House Farm, by kind permission of Major Bucknall. When we arrived at approximately 2220 hours all the drivers set to and built a camp fire, prepared supper of hamburgers and sausages, and enjoyed a good night's sleep in the backs of the wagons. At 0600 hours next morning a camp fire was lighted again for breakfast of ham and eggs, and then those who had driven the night before, stayed behind and cooked an excellent lunch, while the rest departed for driving instruction on Madley Airfield close by. After lunch we cleared up camp and departed for our return journey to Sennybridge, all the girls wishing that they could have stayed longer.

We were visited by Maj.-Gen. R. E. Goodwin, C.B.E., D.S.O., and Brigadier A. D. G. Orr, D.S.O., secretary of the Notts T. and A.F.A., who visited all the training wings, drank sherry with the members of the Sergeants' Mess, and watched a netball match between 318 and 307 which ended in a convincing win for 318 Company. The General presented the cup and said some very encouraging words to the teams. Social life was very good. A combined dance with 281 Regiment was most successful, and the girls enjoyed outings to Porthcawl and Barry Island and a conducted tour round Newport Docks. A demonstration shoot by 281 Regiment was thoroughly enjoyed by all the ex-A.A. girls, though the inexperienced found it a little frightening. The fortnight passed very quickly, the co-operation between Permanent Staff and male units was first class, and we were very sorry indeed to say good-bye to all our new friends.

315 (SCOTTISH COMMAND) BATTALION

UNDER the command of Major A. R. Robertson, W.R.A.C., 315 (Scottish Command) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) spent a most successful annual camp, July 19-August 2, at Gordon Barracks, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen. This is the second year in succession that the Battalion has been to Aberdeen, and once again they were rather unlucky with the weather.

The M.T. Section drove their vehicles to and from camp and did some intensive training, including an all-night exercise in torrential rain. The cooks also took part in the exercise by providing hot meals which they took out to the convoy in hay-boxes at midnight. Among details carried out for other units was the unexpected one of transporting stores from Aberdeen to Ballater for the Royal Guard.

The first week was an especially busy one for the

cooks and orderlies, as the 1st Battalion the London Scottish were sharing messing arrangements with the officers and sergeants. One of the most enjoyable occasions was a combined all ranks dance, and perhaps the high-light was when the Band of the London Scottish beat Retreat specially for the Battalion.

On her second visit to the Battalion, Lt.-Col. Cecil, A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command, presented C.S.M. Gilmour, a P.S.I. with "C" Company, with the Long Service and Efficiency Medal for 18 years' service with the Regular Army.

Among other visitors to the Battalion were Maj.-Gen. R. Delacombe, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. Lowland District, Brigadier Mackenzie, Deputy Commander Lowland District, Lord Clydesmuir, Chairman Lanarkshire T. and A.F.A., Col. Bruncker, Secretary Lanarkshire T. and A.F.A., Major Christie, W.R.A.C., G.S.O.2 (T.A.) War Office, and Major Whitworth, W.R.A.C., Staff Captain (Q) Highland District.

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY O.T.C.

A MEMORABLE annual camp was held along with Durham, Sheffield and Glasgow University O.T.C.s at Buddon near Dundee, during Scotland's recent "little heatwave." Operation "Helicopters" undoubtedly helped to make a success of the training programme and exercise "Holdfast," dusk to dawn, wherein all W.R.A.C. acted as "B" Echelon, was a prime favourite. Seventeen of the W.R.A.C. cadets also volunteered for the confidence assault course at 0700 hours one morning, and went through it with fervour under C.S.M. Leslie. But perhaps the highlight of the Unit's activities was reached during the Unit Dinner which was attended by Col. R. B. Strathdee, O.B.E., T.D., of Aberdeen University, who is Honorary Colonel of the O.T.C. Among the trophies awarded after the speeches was the O.T.C. "Initiative Cup," which was given by Major A. A. Shivas, R.A.M.C., former Pipe-Band Chief, when he left the Unit last summer. It was then won by Drum-Major Urquhart, an engineering student.

Much to the surprise and pleasure of the W.R.A.C. Col. John Reid and Major T. F. Oxley, our Training Officer, awarded it to Officer-Cadet/Cpl. Margaret McCallion, W.R.A.C., a fourth-year medical student. The citation stated that during the mountain warfare training exercise in the Cairngorms from March 15 to 22, 1958, Cpl. "Peg," undefeated by "General Winter" and adverse conditions, inspired and led her seven W.R.A.C. Officer Cadets "above and beyond the call of duty" to deeds of valour exceeding even the efforts of all male Officer Cadets present. The applause was spontaneous and prolonged as our Corporal, tall and slim in her pretty flowered dress, with a delicacy of appearance that belied her obviously tough and steel-like qualities, stepped forward to receive the Silver Cup. She proceeded to fill the Cup with wine for a toast, accompanied by a calypso from our irrepressible Jamaican Officer-Cadet/Cpl. Batson. So ended another joyful occasion in the annals of Aberdeen University O.T.C.

Army Sailing Association Regatta

PTE. J. R. HARRIS, W.R.A.C.

MY friend Pte. Ann Oakley and I were delighted when we heard that we would be able to crew in this year's Regatta. It was to be held at Seaview on the Isle of Wight for two days, and we were the only two W.R.A.C. who entered. We are stationed at Manorbier and sail down at Tenby most weekends, and during the week, if the weather is suitable. Normally we sail in 14-ft. "Redwings," but for the Regatta we used the only 10 "Mermaids" in existence. These are sleek 22-footers, considerably larger than the "Redwings," but although the rigging differed slightly we were able to handle them satisfactorily.

It rained most of the first morning and the course of my first heat was shortened from three laps to two. The wind was very light and as we sailed round the course it gradually weakened and the sun shone through the clouds. We got off to a bad start, but slowly overtook some of the other boats. At first it was difficult to move because most of the boats were grouped together and those to windward caught the wind and prevented the others moving so fast. However, we moved slowly away from the clump and made fairly good way till we were lying in fifth position. By now there was virtually no wind at all and so again the course was shortened by one lap. We all crept for the last buoy and crossed the line just too late to qualify for the final. Ironically, just as everyone began to head for their moorings the wind increased to a good strong breeze, but it was too late to do anything about it.

The following morning both Ann and I were crewing in separate boats. This time it was the Other Ranks Helmsman's Race. Once more the weather let us down, for it was a fine sunny morning with no more than a breath of wind. We started quite well, though rather slowly. We drifted towards the first buoy with the tide, but it took ages to get anywhere near it, so after the first three boats had rounded it the race was abandoned. Neither of our teams was placed, but it was interesting trying to catch the wind and doing our best to master the elements, which is half the fun of sailing. Although we were unable to bear back trophies of victory to the School of A.A. Artillery, we all enjoyed ourselves immensely and are definitely going to do our best to go again next year.

WINTER ESSAY

HEADQUARTERS Western Command award prizes for the best Winter Essays submitted by officers below the rank of Major. There is one subject set for the Arms and one for the Services. This year the prize of £5 for the best entry from any of the Services was won by Lt. Shirley Proctor, W.R.A.C. The subject for the essay was "The Training of the Tradesman Soldier."



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(TIB 705)

NEWS from the BRANCHES

BRADFORD. On Sunday, June 29, one of the sunniest days in this inglorious summer, our members in strength, complete with Standard, went on the "Somme Parade." They created a precedent by the fact that they were selected to lead the parade of all ex-Service Associations in Bradford to the Cenotaph. The parade wreath was carried by our Chairman Mrs. G. Armitage, with Mrs. E. Hemms and Mrs. A. Goodman (all ex-Q.M.A.A.C.) as escorts. Mrs. E. M. Suttle, ex-A.T.S., carried and laid a Branch wreath in memory of our late Chairman Miss Lucy Garrett, and she led the parade from the Cenotaph. We were also joined by Mrs. Hargreaves of Leeds Branch, a former W.O. of the Pontefract Depot, whose husband paraded with one of the male detachments. A letter was received the following day from the Somme Parade Chairman to thank and congratulate our members on their "excellent performance and smart appearance." He remarked that the ex-Serviceman was unusually critical of women on parade, but on this occasion he had heard nothing but praise. Our meetings have been mostly of a social nature this year; and we are happy to report better health amongst our members. We are proud of the fact that we have made two life members within a year. A party of our members who attended the Northern Area Reunion at York included our "81-year-young" President Miss A. Gummersall, Miss N. Julian, O.B.E., and Miss E. Cocksedge (all ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and founder members of the Branch) and also Miss E. Lumb who has been ill for some time. We shared a coach with the Leeds members and all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and especially the very entertaining speech of Mrs. Wentworth-Reeve.

BRISTOL. Because several members were on holidays in July and August, no meetings were held. At the September quarterly meeting and Bring and Buy Sale, about 15 members attended. We were sorry to learn that Miss Andrews had been in hospital, and hope for her complete recovery. A letter received by Mrs. Budd, from a W.R.A.C. member, Miss Edna Vickery, was passed round for perusal. She is at present in Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A., and enjoys reading *The Lioness*, and especially the Bristol news. Miss Walker, Q.M.A.A.C., regretfully tendered her resignation as B.E.L.R.A. representative. It is hoped to fill the vacancy shortly.

GLASGOW. Our summer outing in June was an evening spent in Helensburgh, with a visit to the Hermitage Park where the azaleas were a blaze of colour. Due to holidays our numbers were rather depleted, but those of us who did go had a very enjoyable time. Meetings were suspended during the months of July and August. We paid a visit to the Edinburgh Festival Tattoo in September and witnessed a most inspiring and colourful performance by the various military units.

Another outing during this month was spent visiting the Ayr Branch, and, as usual, a very happy afternoon and evening was enjoyed by all present. Our Annual Dinner will be held in the Ivy Restaurant, 111 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, C.2, on Saturday, November 22, 1958, at 6.30 p.m., when we look forward to meeting many of our members and ex-members. Tickets costing 16s. 6d. each may be obtained from the Secretary, Miss L. Mackenzie, Service Women's Club, 203 West George Street, Glasgow, C.2.

HARTLEPOOLS. We were delighted to hear of the engagement and marriage of one of our most faithful members, Miss Mary Hulatt, now Mrs. Russell. Two of us saw her wedding, and a very pretty bride she made. After a very rainy start, the sun just peeped through at the correct time. An electric clock was sent to her with the Branch's very good wishes for her future happiness. At the September meeting we enjoyed seeing her wedding album and eating some of her cake. Our very sincere good wishes go to Miss Dorothy Roe on her moving from the town to Goathland. We hope to visit her on one of the outings of the Branch. We were sorry to learn that Mrs. Betty Sawkill has not been so well as was expected after her operation; we sincerely trust that her next visit to the specialist will have happier results.

LONDON. We held a small beetle drive on July 3, and on July 17 Mrs. Giles gave us an interesting talk on her experiences in Malta. The same evening our American friend, Mrs. Chavannes, came again and brought with her some home-made candy, and this kind gesture was much appreciated by all members present. At our first meeting in September we had a concert given by our old friends the Acton Male Voice Choir, and once again we thoroughly enjoyed an extremely pleasant musical evening. At this particular meeting we were delighted to see Miss Fyles, who earlier this year had the misfortune to suffer a broken neck as the result of a fall down a flight of stairs. It was good to know that she can get about again, although naturally still strapped up in her "harness." We all send her our best wishes for a complete recovery. We held a small "Bedlam" on September 18.

NORFOLK. Miss Molly Howes, on holiday from Kenya, has at last reached Norfolk and met members—some old friends—for a social evening at the Club on September 3. A nice large number turned up, with an assortment of refreshments, and we had a very happy evening together. Miss Howes brought many interesting photographs for us to see. On September 16, Mrs. Rumbold, one of our first members and Area representative on the Council, invited us all to tea at Gorleston-on-Sea. The weather was perfect, warm and sunny, and a good number were able to be present at the delicious tea prepared for us. It reminded us all

so much of those lovely pre-war meetings at Yarmouth and elsewhere. Thank you, Mrs. Rumbold, from us all. Our President, Miss Edith Thompson, C.B.E., is away in Canada, and so could not be with us, but has promised to visit us early in 1959. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members, wherever they may be.

NOTTINGHAM. In July we hired a coach and toured Nottinghamshire on a mystery trip. We travelled in a torrential downpour and arrived at the "Star and Garter," the rendezvous "by the river," to find the proprietors busy moving the furniture to high ground as the river was in flood. Despite all these things we had a very enjoyable evening. Owing to late camping dates of 307 Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) there was no meeting in August-September, but on September 27, 12 members in a 37-seater coach journeyed to York for the Northern Area Reunion. The day was fine though a little wintry, and the atmosphere right from the word go was one of comradeship and friendliness. Members enjoyed the afternoon looking around historic York after having dined and wine, and we express our thanks to the organisers for a very happy evening. The old comrades were invited to attend the Nottingham Jubilee celebrations and gave the serving members of 307 (Northern Command) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.) a special cheer when they marched past His Grace The Duke of Portland, K.G. Our meetings are held the first Wednesday in each month at 8 p.m. in the canteen of the Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham, and we extend a welcome to comrades old and new who live in or are visiting the Nottingham area, to join us.

News of Old Comrades

MRS. MITCHELL (Capt. Audrey Williamson, W.R.A.C.), who brought many athletic laurels to the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. during her 14 years' service, is now living a life of comparative leisure at Ipoh, the hottest place in Malaya. Five minutes away from her lives **Mrs. Mackaness** (Capt. Heather Skinner), who is on the point of returning to U.K. after three years abroad. Also in Ipoh is **Mrs. Hare** (S/Sgt. Long) who was known to many during her eight years at Guildford, and **Mrs. Brown** (Sgt. Paton, A.T.S.), who was a drill instructor at the Leicester training centre before her demobilisation in 1947.

Two A.T.S. Sergeant-Majors living within ten miles of each other met at the Northern Area Reunion for the first time since 1942. **Mrs. Cameron** (Ireland) joined the Leeds A.T.S. in 1938 and has recently joined the Leeds Branch of the Association hoping (without success so far) to meet some of her former comrades there. She would like to hear news of any old friends through the Secretary of the Leeds Branch. **Mrs. Suttle**, Secretary of the Bradford Branch and formerly a Sergeant-Major in 110 Mixed Signal Regiment, served with her in 2 A.A. Division (afterwards 5 A.A. Group) and they had much to discuss of old days at Send Hutton Hall, near York.

I Joined The Army—1917

Readers' Comments

WHAT very happy reading—thank you, Bess, for your wonderful memories. We were not far away at Etaples, eight Londoners who were fortunate in spending nearly 2½ years together in the same Nissen hut. We did not have to let down a rope and look for our love tokens (nearly always "cats" but sometimes a lump of coal), as they appeared mysteriously in Hut 14 and we were generally in a position to entertain friends to tea. One thing Bess forgot to mention—the enormous amount of pleasure she gave to hundreds of Service men and women with her beautiful voice. She sang at most of the camp concerts, and now when one hears "The Floral Dance" one can see a hut packed with khaki, all looking up at our "tallest W.A.A.C." and listening. Our best wishes to you, Bess, and perhaps we may meet again in March 1959.

I. WIGELSWORTH.

(I. STEPHENSON, Q.M.A.A.C.)

Thatched Cottages,
Wolverton Common,
Basingstoke.

* * *

HOW I enjoyed the "When I enlisted" articles. I DO remember the day at Liverpool when I enlisted in the W.A.A.C., and Hastings, where we were inoculated with a broken needle, my roommate had epileptic fits, and the cocoa was dipped from a bucket which had evidently been used for creosote. All I remember of the Hotel Metropole on the Leas at Folkestone are the endless steps, and being punished for sitting on a window sill watching an air raid. We had special training in London before A.E.F. duty at Tours and Bourges and "mopping up" duties at Wimereux after the armistice. With other veterans of World War I I recently journeyed to the famous health resort of Tucson, Arizona, to attend the 38th Annual National Convention of the Women's Overseas Service League—formed to keep alive the ties of service and to remember the women who gave their lives in the service of their country. By special request I wore a copy of the harem costume in which I helped to entertain the troops in the "Battle of Bourges," and the *tout ensemble*, with make-up and junk jewellery, was so fetching that elevator attendants and bell-boys all gave me the wolf-whistle—quite an experience for a grandmother of 60 years. Oh yes, I remember enlistment, and by and large I am very grateful for the privilege of belonging to that Corps and could wish for nothing better for my own two daughters.

CAROL SPERRY

(CARRIE SINCLAIR, W.A.A.C.)

4538 Alta Lane,
La Mesa, California.

LOST

Mrs. P. K. Johnson of 11 Heath Road, Bradford, lost a silver A.T.S. Badge at the A.T.S. Dinner. Will finder kindly return it to her.

W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

PIECES of Headquarter Mess silver have been loaned to H.Q. Scottish Command and Northern Ireland District, and have been shown in Regimental Silver Exhibitions.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS

(Up to November 30 1958)

Lt.-Col. D. L. POOLEY, O.I.C. Div. 1 and Dep. Comd. Medical Services and W.R.A.C. Records, Winchester.
Major (T/Lt.-Col.) P. M. LIPSCOMB, O.C., 301 (East Anglian) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Colchester.
Major B. PAGET-CLARKE, Youth Liaison Officer, H.Q., Eastern Command.
Major J. GODOLPHIN, Youth Liaison Officer, H.Q., Southern Command.
Major G. E. M. SAUNDERS-DAVIES, T.D., Youth Liaison Officer, H.Q., Western Command.
Major H. A. CAMPBELL, Youth Liaison Officer, H.Q., Scottish Command.
Major M. E. CRAWFORD, Youth Liaison Officer, H.Q. Northern Ireland District.
Major F. M. HARFORD, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q., Northern Command.
Major I. M. SMITH, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q., Salisbury Plain District.
Major A. CARSWELL, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q., South-west District.
Major S. W. FOLEY, Senior W.R.A.C. Officer, Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment.
Major R. M. ENGEL, G.S.O. 2 (Mob.) H.Q., Western Command.
Major M. E. CLARKE, D.A.Q.M.G. H.Q., Northumbrian District.
Major N. J. COMYN, Staff Capt, AG16(o), War Office.
Major D. THOMAS, Staff Capt., W.R.A.C. 1(b) War Office.
Major E. J. NOLAN, Staff Capt., (A) Tripolitania District, M.E.L.F.
Major S. C. PUCKLE, M.B.E., T.D., O.C., 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Larkhill.
Major D. E. ROTHWELL, O.C., 16 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Kidderminster.
Major E. J. BOWLES, Adjutant, 14 Battalion, W.R.A.C., B.A.O.R.
Major M. A. CLARKE, 12 Battalion, W.R.A.C., Kingston.
Major N. M. PYKE, Adjutant, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, Hindhead.
Major P. WYNDHAM-TATE, Instructor, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, Hindhead.
Major M. E. MUNRO, O.C., 320 (East Lancs.) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Salford.
Major J. T. CROOKE, Adjutant, 326 (City of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
Major M. B. LATHAM, O.C., 71 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Bristol.
Major M. U. WALKER, Adm. Offr., Oxford University O.T.C.
Major E. M. O'LE, O.C., Change of Air Station Cameron Highlands, FAREL.F.
Capt. A. E. A. HERDMAN-GRANT, Staff Capt., "Q" H.Q., Eastern Command.
Capt. P. M. BALDWIN, W.R.A.C. Depot and Training Centre, Guildford.
Capt. R. RUSTON, Signals Training Wing, Catterick.
Lt.(T/Capt.) A. L. SHEPLEY-TAYLOR, Adm. Offr., Manchester University O.T.C.
Lt. (T/Capt.) P. A. SUNNUCKS, G.S.O. 3, S.D.1, War Office.
Lt. (T/Capt.) M. E. ROGERS, G.S.O. 3 (Int.), G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
2/Lt. P. M. REES, 27 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., M.E.L.F.
2/Lt. J. A. JEFFREE, 3 G.H.Q. Signals Regiment, M.E.L.F.

PERSONAL

(For charges and particulars see Contents page)

Wanted Urgently. Officer's No. 1 Dress, TWO complete uniforms. (1) Height 5 ft. 1 in., bust 38 in., waist 28 in., hips 40 in. (2) Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 40 in., waist 30 in., hips 43 in. 74 (Devon) Indep. Coy., W.R.A.C.(T.A.), T.A. Centre, Dartmouth, Devon.

Wanted. Khaki Service Dress, bust 32 in., waist 23 in., height 5 ft. 6 in. Box No. 16/58.

Wanted. For W.R.A.C. Staff Band, upright or grand piano. Director of Music, W.R.A.C. Staff Band, Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, Surrey.

Opportunity for ex-Servicewomen. Sergeants and Corporals urgently required at home and overseas, for new commitments in the expanding

W.R.A.C. Prospects in all trades, especially W.R.A.C. Administration, Cooks, Mess Stewards and Clerks. Minimum pay of a Sergeant £7 3s. 6d. a week (all found). Engagement of two years or longer. Apply any Recruiting Office.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress, skirt and jacket (Weatherill). Bust 34 in., waist 25-26 in., hips 36 in., height 5 ft. 6 in. Hat and gloves. £15 or near offer. Apply Mrs. N. Lycett-Gregson, c/o 5 Div. Sig. Regt., B.A.O.R. 32.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress, jacket and skirt, height 5 ft. 5 in., bust 37 in., waist 28 in., hips 40 in., perfect condition, practically unworn, £15. Box No. 13/58.

For Sale. Excellent condition, Officer's No. 1 Dress, bust 38 in., waist 28 in., hips 38 in., height 5 ft. 4 in. £15 or nearest. Khaki greatcoat, £5 or nearest. Box No. 14/58.

For Sale. No. 1 Dress, shirt, tie, parade shoes size 6, Scotts hat 6½, £15. Khaki greatcoat lined red silk, £5. Lined battledress, £3. Service Dress £3. Height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 36 in., waist 25 in., hips 38 in. Box No. 15/58.

For Sale. Handwoven bathroom/nursery rugs, approx. 22 x 36. Nylon 25s. Pure rug wool 37s. 6d., plus 2s. postage. Formica table mat sets in stand 23s. 11d., postage 1s. 9d. Teapot stands 2s. 11d., postage 4d. Handwoven towels 7s. 6d. each, plus postage. 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).

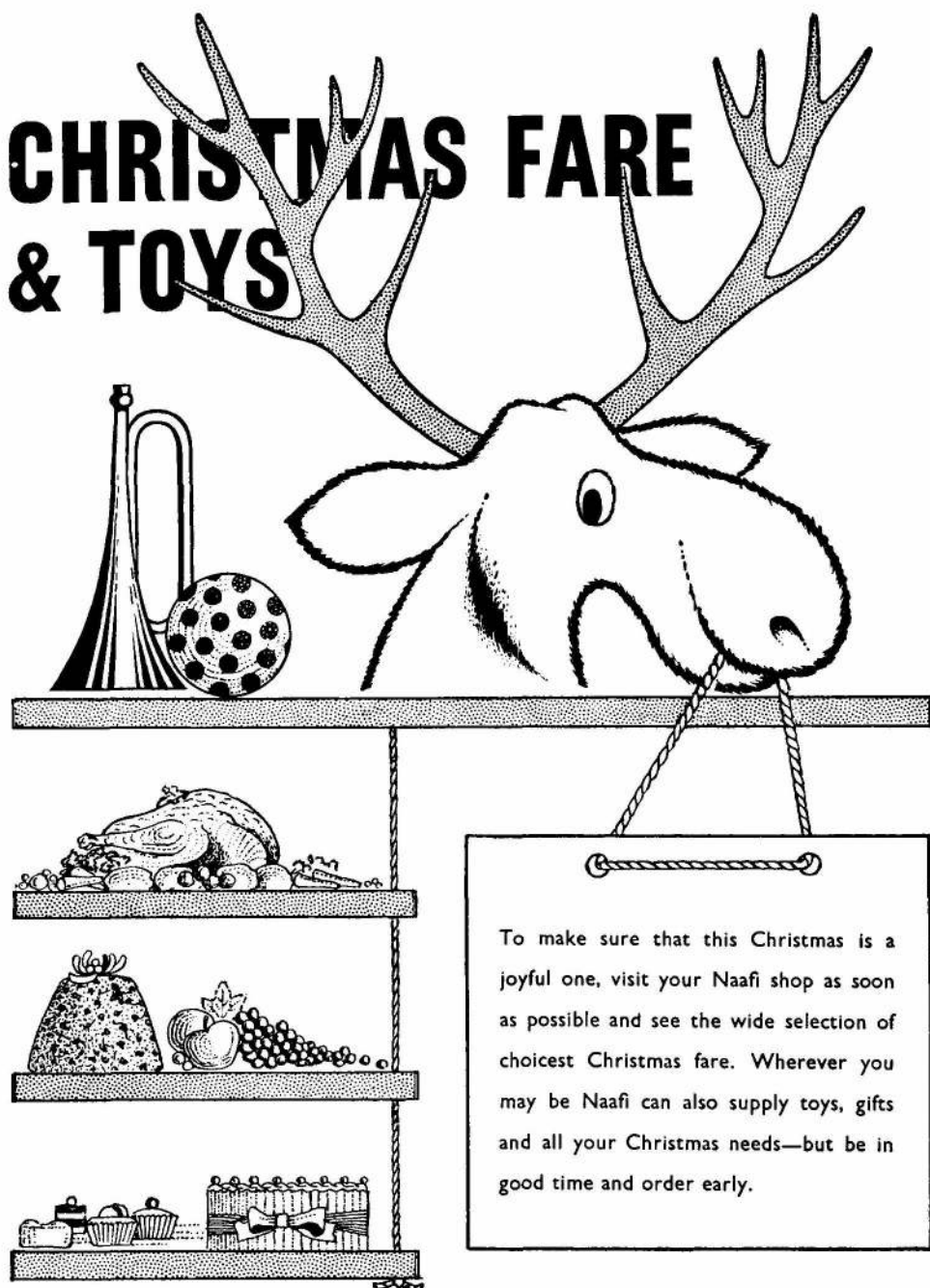
The Service Women's Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, S.W.1, exists for the comfort and convenience of Service and ex-Service women of all ranks. It provides accommodation and the usual amenities of a ladies' club at most reasonable rates and new members are always welcome. For full particulars and brochure 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 CAL4952.

"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.

THERE are still some copies available of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan's book, *Service with the Army*. This covers our service from the time of the formation of the W.A.A.C. until 1941. It is excellent reading and is a valuable source of information, particularly to the younger members of the Corps. Copies can be obtained from the General Secretary at the cut-to-clear price of 2s. 6d., plus 6d. postage.

CHRISTMAS FARE & TOYS



To make sure that this Christmas is a joyful one, visit your Naafi shop as soon as possible and see the wide selection of choicest Christmas fare. Wherever you may be Naafi can also supply toys, gifts and all your Christmas needs—but be in good time and order early.

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