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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)

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY
JULY 1



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SECURITY OPERATIONS DURING THE CYPRUS EMERGENCY (see article on page 26)



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXII

May 1959

No. 2

EDITORIAL

THE spring number of *The Lioness* always goes to press on the heels of the Reunion Week-end, when everyone is still flushed with a special glow of comradeship and *esprit de corps*. There is naturally a bond between contemporaries who served together and share the memories of their own period, but the Reunion is witness also to the strong family feeling which exists between the different generations. The almost incredulous interest on the face of the newest-joined, when she rubs shoulders in the flesh with the great figures of her Regimental history, is only matched by the absorbed attention which the Old Comrades give to the Director's account of the W.R.A.C. today, and the loyal pride with which they watch the marching of the W.R.A.C. Band. The beautiful new olive-green working-dress, on show in the foyer of the Seymour Hall, excited hardly more interest among those who will one day wear it than among those who were obviously comparing it with uniforms long relegated to the Regimental Museum.

WHAT an advance that uniform represents in the development of servicewomen's dress, and what satisfaction it promises for those who aspire to combine military smartness with feminine fashion. Its only disadvantage (which is also its chief recommendation) lies in the departure from the familiar khaki which linked us in the public mind with the rest of the Army. We must expect to find ourselves once again self-consciously explaining ourselves to admiring but bewildered passers-by. "How smart you are, dear, but what exactly are you? . . . You don't mean to say *that's* still going? . . . Weren't you disbanded after the war? . . . Weren't you abolished with National Service? . . . Whatever are you *for* in peacetime? . . ." We have patiently answered those questions for so many years, but they surge up again whenever a new step in our progress brings us into the public eye.

HOW odd it is that we, who are so interested in each other and so well informed about ourselves, should still be so little known and so inadequately appreciated in the civilian world. We have been in continuous existence for twenty years, and half a million families must have contributed to our ranks, yet Recruiting Officers, Youth Liaison Officers and Schools Lecturers are stumbling every day on new depths of ignorance and prejudice. The gentleman who wrote to the Commandant of the W.R.A.C. Depot asking whether she could contribute to his collection "any pistols, revolvers, rifles, shot-guns, swords, armour, etc., that are no

longer required" was not more deeply plunged in misconception than the young daughter of an A.T.S. officer who explained that she would like to join the Army but couldn't bear the thought of wearing "khaki underclothes *all through*." How do these ideas get about? Are we too lazy about contradicting them, too shy about broadcasting the truth, or too army-minded to make ourselves generally comprehensible? Much has been done lately to improve our recruiting literature, but nervous applicants can still ask "Will I be allowed out of camp? . . . Do I have to pay for my baths? . . . Can I ever get home? . . ." and a shocked school-girl can still comment seriously after the persuasive speech of a Youth Liaison Officer: "Fancy *admitting* that she lives in a mess. Can't she do anything about it?"

DO not let us blame it all on Public Relations. We ourselves are the people who really know the Corps, and we are in the best position to advertise its merits. Pride and enthusiasm bubble out of us at Grand Reunions—how much do we show to our civilian friends outside? What are we doing to break down the curious prejudice which made one young lady dispose sweepingly of all women officers as "unromantic and earthy"? How many elegant women at cocktail parties are known to be W.R.A.C. officers off duty, and how many hush up the fact for fear of frightening off their new acquaintances? How many brides glory openly in their army service, and how many put it behind them with the other unimportant activities of spinsterhood? Does our natural, healthy fear of showing off keep us silent when we hear servicewomen discussed? Or (terrible thought) is it possible that in our love of reminiscence, our joyous gloating over the archaic clothes of 1917, the prehistoric accommodation of 1940, we are unconsciously sketching in a picture of army service which is accepted as the standard for 1959?

IT would be interesting to see into the mind of the Senior Officer's wife who asked nothing better for her son than the Queen's Commission, but explained apologetically of a neighbour's daughter that "she set her heart on the W.R.A.C. and her parents just *couldn't* dissuade her." Does she still think of servicewomen as tough, hard-swearing creatures with cropped hair and swagger-canes, forced into a dead-end job because they are too plain for marriage and too stupid for a more ambitious career? How long will it take parents and schoolmistresses to realise that W.R.A.C. officers are professional women like any others, secure in

a permanent and progressive career, earning a good living by work that calls out all their intelligence and personality? How soon will it be accepted that servicewomen are not on the whole less attractive than air-hostesses or interior-decorators and their standard of living is probably rather higher? Until

these ideas take root among the young and those who advise and influence them, no amount of propaganda will make good our officer shortage. Reunions show unmistakably that we do not mind talking; can we do anything more to make sure that the whole world hears us?

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual General Meeting

THE Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, March 21, 1959, at The Duke of York's Headquarters, by kind permission of the County of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association. In the absence of the President, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, through illness, the senior Vice-President, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, took the chair, and expressed the deep regret of all members that Her Royal Highness could not be present. The following message was sent from the meeting:

"The Annual General Meeting of the W.R.A.C. Association assembled at the Duke of York's Headquarters deeply regret the absence of The Princess Royal and wish Her Royal Highness a speedy recovery with their most respectful remembrances and duty."

The following reply was received:

"I much appreciate the kind message from the Annual General Meeting. I am very disappointed that loss of voice has prevented me from being with you this afternoon. I wish you a very successful meeting, and may I tell you the result of the Grand National—First, Oxo; second, Wyndburgh; third, Mr. What; fourth, Tiberetta. Only four finished.—MARY."

In the absence of the Chairman, Dame Frances Coulshed, the Vice-Chairman, Miss V. K. Stead, then took over the meeting. Before reading the Council Report, she gave a message from Dame Frances expressing her regret at not being present and sending her very good wishes to the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Col. E. S. Macfie, Col. M. D. Thorne and Miss I. J. Perceval.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 15, 1958, having appeared in the May issue of *The Lioness*, were taken as read and signed as correct.

2. REPORTS

Report of Hon. Treasurer: The Hon. Treasurer gave a brief survey of the accounts for the year ending October 31, 1958. That the accounts be adopted was proposed, seconded and agreed.

Ways and Means Committee: Dame Mary

Railton reported that after careful examination of the balance sheet and accounts in consultation with the Hon. Treasurer, the Committee agreed that no useful economy could be made in administration. They further agreed that in spite of a monetary loss *The Lioness* must continue in its present form, the general feeling being that its value to the Association is far too great to allow any change. The very obvious conclusion reached was that the annual income of the Association is insufficient. There were two major requirements, an increase in membership and a regular annual supplement to our income. With regard to the first point, the revival of the H.Q. Area was recommended. This might lead to an increase in membership and interest. The question of an annual income was more difficult. It was finally agreed to recommend that a lottery in aid of the funds be held every year, as indicated on the Agenda slips. All Branches could help, and with very little trouble to themselves. The scheme to be run, of course, in accordance with the Small Lotteries and Gaming Act, 1956. Brigadier Colvin asked what sum it was hoped to raise by the lottery. Dame Mary replied she hoped about £150 to £200. Mrs. Wentworth Reeve suggested that books should be made up in 5, as this number was likely to sell. Mrs. Bucklee, Preston Branch Secretary, asked if Branches would get a percentage. Miss Martin, a member of London Branch, spoke against the motion. The motion was carried, with few dissentients.

The Lioness: Col. Crawley reporting, said there were two things wrong about *The Lioness*—not enough people read it and not enough people write for it. The news was mostly from serving personnel and not from Old Comrades. Articles from ex-Service members were what was needed. Miss Baron, ex-Q.M.A.A.C., congratulated Col. Crawley on the publication.

A.T.S. Benevolent Fund: Miss Acland reported that nearly 1,000 applications had been considered by the Grants Sub-Committee and nearly £9,000 expended during the past year. The Chairman and members of this sub-committee are serving and ex-Service officers who give up a whole morning of their time each week to the work of the fund, as well as the Secretary and Assistant Secretary who work so indefatigably in order that each case should be thoroughly well considered. Thanks were also due to the small staff who have been kept very busy, as in addition to the large number of cases being dealt with there are many requests for advice on a



for
Her....

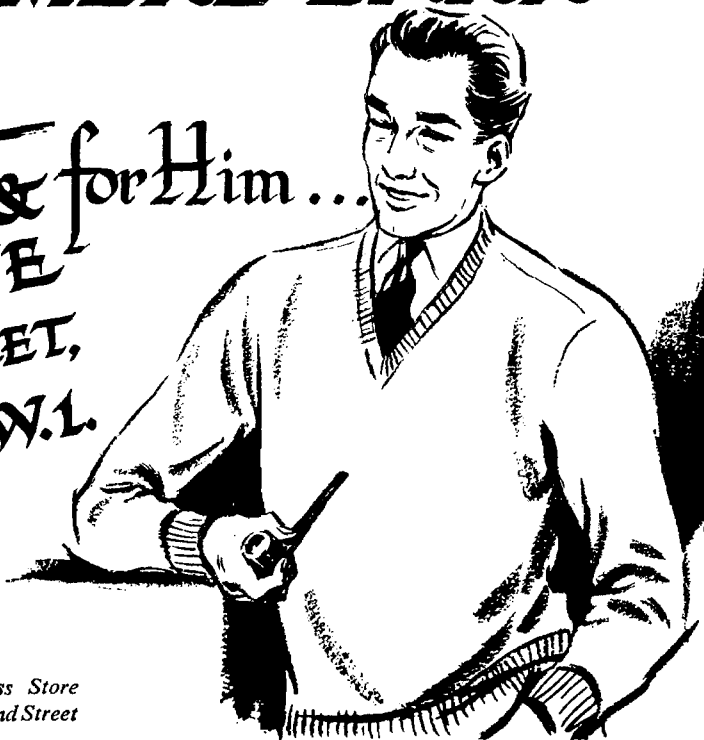
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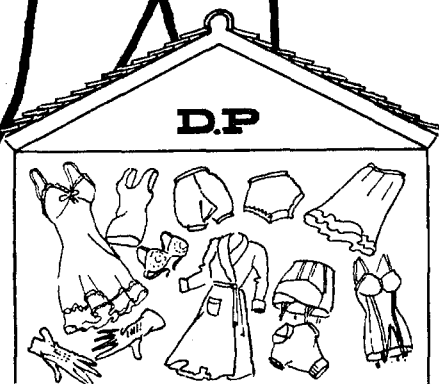
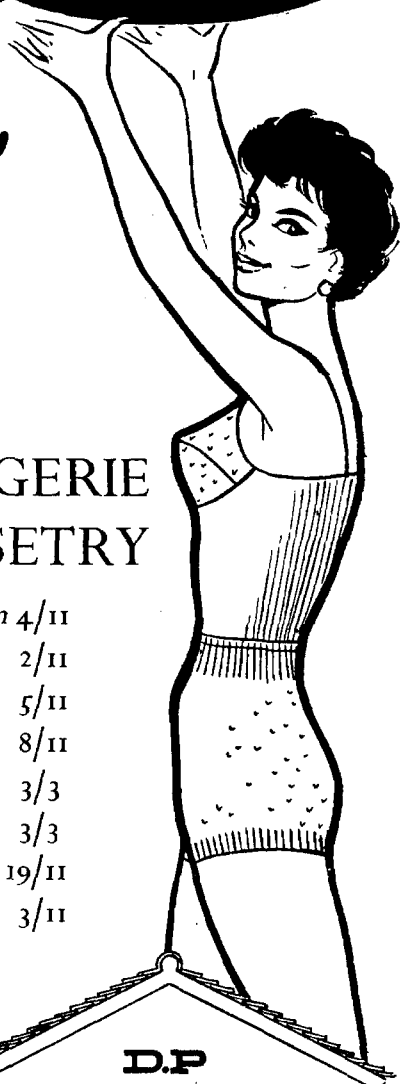
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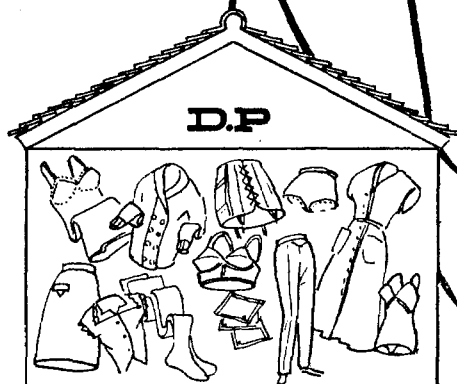
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STOCKINGS	„ 3/11



OVER 100
BRANCHES
THROUGHOUT
THE
COUNTRY



variety of matters, ranging from housing problems to scholastic ones, not to mention the Employment Office, which found worth-while jobs for 62 ex-Service women in 1958. Since January 1 this year, over 200 women have been helped by the fund; many of these had husbands out of work and sick, or permanently invalid children. Large families seem to be the rule with ex-Service women. Families with six or more are quite frequent, and recently a case was considered from a family of 11.

W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund: Col. Grierson said that the Fund which had been in being since 1950 was now growing up. During the year 121 cases were considered, 22 were refused assistance and £804 3s. was expended in grants and loans. £6,500 had been received from the Army Benevolent Fund, £2,500 of which was due for last year. Donations amounted to £1,005 in comparison with £765 last year. Units of the W.R.A.C. and Branches of the Association had contributed generously. Interest on investments amounted to £975 19s. and Income Tax recovered £700 13s. 5d. After deduction of administrative expenses the excess of income over expenditure amounted to £8,271. As at October 31, 1958, £39,049 was invested and since then a further £500 has been added. This Fund is building for the future. Col. Grierson expressed appreciation of the Committee and thanked those organisations and the individuals who gave such willing help in investigating cases on behalf of the Committee.

Regimental Museum: Lt.-Col. Gibson reported that the planning of the permanent Depot and Training Centre building was now taking place and 12,000 square feet would be allocated to the Museum, twice the present space. There were a number of current uniforms which could not be displayed because of space. Another two show-cases were being obtained from the Engineers whose responsibility it now was to provide such cases. Only £31 9s. 4d. had been expended during the year; of this £14 was the annual insurance premium on the silver gun. On the suggestion of Dame Mary Raiton, the new Hon. Treasurer, £350 had been invested in the Trustee Savings Bank; total assets now were £586.

Acquisitions have included a copy of *I Walk on Wheels*, autographed by the author Elizabeth Shephard-Jones; the first Military M.B.E., presented by the sister of Miss Sterndale (an assistant administrator in World War I), who died this year; the M.B.E. of Miss B. Ireland presented by Miss Leveridge and Miss Suggate; a Diary of 102 Group B.E.F., presented by Mrs. Wentworth Reeve (Controller Wagstaff); the W.R.A.C. Staff College Flag, and various journals. The actual Museum pieces cannot be lent, but many spare uniforms have been loaned and a number were used for exhibitions in connection with the T.A. Jubilee. Some 1,846 recruits have visited the Museum during the year. Lt.-Col. Gibson said that more photographs of topical interest would be appreciated, and more Regimental badges which members have been entitled to wear and which will add to the collection (of one) started by Mrs. Hones of the Derby Branch.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman of Council: As there was only one nomination, the Chairman declared Dame Mary Raiton to be elected.

Council Vice-Presidents: As there were only four nominations for four vacancies, Mrs. Fraser-Tyler, Mrs. V. Rumbold, Miss V. K. Stead, Mrs. M. F. Wentworth Reeve (Controller Wagstaff) were declared to be elected.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Rumbold asked if Branches would remember the Association in their money-making efforts.

A member asked if the names of those giving reports could be included on the Agenda.

Brigadier Colvin thought that many new members could be obtained through friends if the necessary application forms were available.

Miss Druitt, London Branch, regretted that more notice of the Lottery could not have been given.

Miss Jackson, Canterbury Branch on behalf of Guernsey Branch, hoped that members visiting Guernsey would make contact with members of that Branch.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4.35 p.m.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

THE Annual General Meeting on March 15 was followed by a very successful tea-party and Bring and Buy Sale attended by H.R.H. The Princess Royal, the Officers of the Association, and over 200 members. A sum of £117 13s. 6d. resulted for the funds of the Association.

Very successful Reunions have been held in Northern and Southern Areas, the former in York, and the latter in Salisbury, when members were very kindly shown over Wilton House, the seat of the Earl and Countess of Pembroke and Montgomery. A tour was also made of the most up-to-date W.R.A.C. Camp at Fugglestone.

Members took part in the Parade to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day, the wreath was laid by members of Salisbury Branch. 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 the Cross was planted by Lt.-Col. M. M. Gibson, W.R.A.C.

Owing to the generosity of a member of the Association living in Australia, covers for the four Standards have been obtained.

No new Branches have been formed this year, but a great deal of activity and interest has been shown in existing ones. It is hoped that this year being the 21st Anniversary of the A.T.S., a large increase in membership of the Association will result from the emphasis on this fact.

At the Council Meeting held on October 6, a "Ways and Means" Committee was appointed.

Your Council has met regularly and dealt satisfactorily with all current business.

THE GRAND REUNION

"HELLO—how very nice to see you—it must be—how long?" Greetings such as that must have been repeated thousands of times at the Grand Reunion held on March 21, in the Seymour Hall.

The Reunion was not quite complete without H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who was prevented at the last moment from attending. Everyone was sorry to hear of her illness, especially as for most of us this is our one opportunity in the year to express personally our loyalty and gratitude to Her Royal Highness. The speech which our President would have delivered was read by Mrs. Fraser-Tytler. After a few words of welcome and a reference to the last Grand Reunion in London, which celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the Q.M.A.A.C., the speech went on: *"This year we have another anniversary. It is now twenty-one years since the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service. It is to those of you who served between 1939 and 1945 that I want to extend a particularly warm welcome. I know that there are many here who remember those early days, just before and at the beginning of the War. Little did we think then what numerous, varied and responsible jobs we should later be called upon to perform. Nor indeed did we foresee a Regular Corps forming part of the British Army. I think this should be an occasion when we may remind ourselves of the great service given to our country by the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps in World War I and by the Auxiliary Territorial Service in the last war. We should remember it was on the proved value of the Auxiliary Territorial Service that the present Regular Corps was founded and the special honour of the prefix 'Royal' granted."* Her Royal Highness's speech closed with the inspiring words: *"These anniversaries of ours may have less meaning for those of you who have only a vague remembrance of the last war and perhaps regard the first war as history, but our pride and joy lies in the fact that the Service goes on, that it goes on from strength to strength and that it carries with it a tradition of service that was created by the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and handed down to the Auxiliary Territorial Service."*

Mrs. Frazer-Tytler reminisced about the first days of the A.T.S. and reminded us of the very great debt we owe to the first Director of the A.T.S., Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan. There was no doubt that everyone echoed those words. The great admiration and respect for Dame Helen was shown by the sincere warmth of the applause when she rose to speak.

Brigadier Mary Colvin, D.W.R.A.C., gave an interesting account of current Corps news. Recruiting of O.R.s was good, she said, but the Corps badly needs more officers. She also made the first announcement that from April 1, girls of good intelligence may join at 17 years of age instead of 17½. The new working dress was on display, and how attractive it looked. Those who joined in pre-war days must have appreciated the tremendous progress made in dress throughout the years.

How very smart, too, was the Band, and how well they played. If they were fatigued by a bad Channel-crossing overnight, at the end of a gloriously successful tour in Germany, it was certainly not apparent.

Many of us may have been murmuring on our way to the Reunion, *"We're twenty-one today."* Many others with only a few years' service had a fresh reminder that the fine career of today is built on the firm foundations laid by the W.A.A.C., the Q.M.A.A.C. and the A.T.S. For all of us it was a happy, gay Reunion, and our thanks go to the organisers for making it so.

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

THE Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion was held in the R.A.S.C. Canteen and Drill Hall at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Friday, March, 27, 1959. I wish I could let all the members of the Q.M.A.A.C. who were not present know what an enjoyable evening we had, as I am sure that quite a number would come along if they realised what a jolly affair it is. Our regular members must be growing less each year as we all grow older, but this year there was a record attendance of 129 and it is clear that the spirit of youth is still with us.

We were all very sorry that H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who joined in all the fun last year, was ill and unable to come this year. We sent the following message to Her Royal Highness from the Reunion:

"129 members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps send to Her Daughter, their beloved President, their loyal and respectful greetings, their heartfelt regrets that Her Royal Highness cannot be with them, and their hopes for an early recovery. Her Royal Highness is in all their thoughts this evening."

We were delighted to receive the following reply:

"I am much touched by the most kind message I received from the 129 members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps assembled at the Duke of York's Headquarters. I am most grateful for your good wishes and enquiries after my health. Although feeling better—alas! my voice would not allow me to talk amongst you this evening. My best wishes for a happy evening.—MARY."

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan was with us as usual, and made a speech which was received with a clamour of enthusiasm. We were also glad to see Miss Thompson among many other old friends. After the refreshments Mrs. Smith (Parsons), who has been at every Reunion since the First World War, played the piano till closing time, and we had dancing, singing and games. The sight of Mrs. Giles (who seems to grow younger every year) and her group of chorus girls, dancing the real "Naughty Nineties" Can Can on the stage, would have been a revelation to some of the young folk of today. It had to be seen to be believed. Our thanks and congratulations go to the organisers of the Reunion, and our good wishes to the whole of the W.R.A.C. Association.

Secretaries Meeting

THE Secretaries' Meeting, always one of the most interesting meetings of our annual week-end activities, was attended by a larger number than usual. Mrs. Claff, the newly appointed Secretary of Guernsey Branch, was able to fly over to be with us, and extended a warm welcome to members visiting Guernsey; she hoped they would contact members of the Guernsey Branch. We were delighted also to have with us this year Secretaries of the Scottish Branches.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan thanked the Secretaries for their excellent reports and expressed appreciation of their splendid work on behalf of the Association. The Secretaries then adjourned for lunch with members of Council.

The Reunion Service

THE service in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital on Sunday, March 22, was attended by upwards of 200 members. Owing to the absence through illness of the President, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, the lesson taken from Ephesians (chap. iv, verses 1-13) was read by the Chairman of Council, Dame Mary Railton. The service was conducted by the Chaplain, the Rev. L. V. Headley, O.B.E., B.A., C.F., and the W.R.A.C. Staff Band played for the service under the Director of Music, Capt. J. B. MacDowall, A.R.A.M. Eight members of 12th Battalion W.R.A.C. formed the choir and took the collection for the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund which amounted to £22 2s. 1d.

News of Old Comrades

Mrs. Smith (Parsons), Q.M.A.A.C., who served at Pirbright Camp in the first war and worked in the overseas news department of the B.B.C. in the second, now lives at 186 Lavender Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey, and continues to do her bit as Social Secretary to the Mitcham Old People's Club. Mrs. Lees of 23 Ben Nevis Road, Birkenhead, has recently met Mrs. Evans of Port Sunlight, who would like to meet others who served with her in the W.A.A.C. at Rouen. Mrs. Pratt (Wallace), A.T.S., who served as a cook at the C.M.P. Depot, Ash Vale, from 1943 to 1946, would like news (through the Secretary of the York Branch) of her Company Commander who was at Blackdown in 1946.

MARRIAGE

Hartland-King. On January 3, 1959, at St. Mary-le-More, Wallingford, Berkshire, Capt. Peter Hartland, R.A., son of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Hartland of Brancaster, Norfolk, was married to Lt. Elizabeth King, W.R.A.C., daughter of Brigadier H. T. S. King of Wallingford and the late Mrs. King, step-daughter of Mrs. H. T. S. King (formerly Lt.-Col. Rosemary Wells, W.R.A.C., retired).



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THE ARMY'S POLICEWOMEN

SGT. G. W. J. PEPPER—MILITARY OBSERVER IN CYPRUS

EXCITEMENT, travel and companionship. These are three reasons why young women join the Women's Royal Army Corps, and the women of 144 Provost Section, W.R.A.C., found many such opportunities while assisting in the restoration of law and order in troubled Cyprus. They have played a vitally important part in the proceedings, and while the work was hard and the hours long, they felt that they were leading the sort of lives for which they gave up their civilian occupations. More important even than this is the feeling that they made a contribution to the final settlement of the emergency.

Normally the Section is five strong and is only responsible for the discipline of enlisted women in Cyprus. This entails patrols in pairs through the large Episkopi cantonment, on foot, or with men of G.H.Q. Provost Section, Royal Military Police, in Land Rovers. The upsurge of violence in the second half of 1958 saw six more policewomen sent out from England as reinforcements, in order that the Section could undertake a multitude of services ranging from searching Cypriot women at road blocks to normal welfare work in towns and villages affected by curfew restrictions.

The girls, who come from all walks of life, form an efficient Section with a team spirit second to none. Unarmed and quite unafraid they have gone about their unusual duties, helping the infantry to check documents at road blocks along the island's south

coast, whisking (more quickly than the men) through "wanted" lists, searching suspect women couriers. At the height of a minor riot in the Paphos district recently a security patrol had made a number of arrests in a village, and as they saw their husbands being led away, the womenfolk ran from their homes to intervene. The Provost Section then moved into action and soon had the irate Cypriot women back in their homes, but not before a number of stones had been thrown. On another occasion one of the Provost was hit over the head with a cucumber. "I had pips all over my shoulder," she said triumphantly afterwards.

The Section is based at Episkopi, with detachments at Famagusta and in the Nicosia area. In spite of the restrictions enforced during the emergency, they find plenty to do in their off-duty time. During the summer they can swim in the warm blue waters of the Mediterranean from the protected beach in "Happy Valley," ski-ing on Mount Olympus in the Troodos Mountains is open to them between February and early May, and several of them have taken advantage of the equitation courses at the well-equipped Episkopi Saddle Club to learn the art of horsemanship under expert tuition. For those girls who seek excitement, travel and companionship, there is much to be said for the opportunity which is offered in the women's Services. Certainly the girls of 144 Provost Section W.R.A.C. think so.

TAIL PIECE

COL. M. D. MORGAN, W.R.A.C. (RETD.)

OLD training never dies. Sixteen years ago, as a very junior officer, I leaped daily to the summons of an imperious bell, and now the ringer of that bell was about to honour me with a visit in my recently enforced retirement. During those 16 years we had scarcely met, and until now I had taken the thought of the impending visit with admirable calm. My guest was due on Monday, and this was Thursday. On Wednesday I went to bed an elderly retired Colonel living peacefully in a neat and cleanly country cottage, complete with well-kept garden. On Thursday I awoke a panic-stricken Company Assistant three days short of the Group Commander's inspection. No competent N.C.O., no valiant orderlies, and no house was ever so dirty and disorderly, no garden such an unsubdued wilderness. Action must be taken forthwith.

By Thursday evening beds had been made, floors polished, rugs and carpets Hoovered, furniture rubbed and rubbed again, the raw edges of long neglected curtains hemmed. By Friday's sunset hedges had been clipped, weeds eliminated from the flower garden and vegetable patch and the lawn mown. Saturday and Sunday were dedicated to the commissariat. Obviously too much time

must not be spent during the visit in the kitchen. My place must be on parade, so meals must be prepared before the guest's arrival and appear, if possible, as by magic from a spotless kitchen. Cooking never was one of the Company Assistant's spare time activities and the Colonel was a late starter with more enthusiasm than skill. However, by Monday morning the "frig" was full to bursting, though the kitchen far from spotless.

Life became more and more hectic; the kitchen was swept and garnished, a last assault made on bedrooms and living-rooms with a duster, bowls of fresh flowers given a final resting place, the car in full view at the front door cleaned and polished. Surely, nothing remained but to sit back and wait for the ARRIVAL.

A last critical look... by Heavens! The windows! Filthy from recent storms! Opaque with hideous dust! Completely forgotten! Thank all the powers that be for small ancient panes near to the ground and for modern magic fluids! At last they gleamed gratefully in the afternoon light, at last the duster was flung away, the apron whipped off as the long-awaited knock came at the bell-less door.

"Ready for Inspection, Ma'am!"

'Twas in the Winter Cold

IT wasn't the best of nights to choose. No crisp, white snow glistening in the brilliant moonlight, such as unfailingly encourages the carollers on Christmas cards; only rain and an unsympathetic wind and blackness. When the 24 choristers (driver and clerk students from Houndstone Camp, permanent staff, and a few R.A.S.C. students to balance the soprano voices) eventually arrived at South Petherton Hospital, we were weary, cold, very late and quite devoid of the seasonal "good will towards men." As we dried out and tidied up before going to the wards, we were all asking ourselves why we had ever volunteered to sing carols to the old people, and already we were wishing the evening over.

First, to the women's ward. We were allotted the long narrow passage joining the two wards, where we stood in a rather untidy queue with no chance to "balance" or group voices. Half-heartedly I chose the first carol, and then the magic happened. The patients were old, and some of them very, very ill. They lay, hardly moving; and yet as one of us observed, "They're loving it, ma'am. Come on, let's sing some more." We sang our entire repertoire of twelve practised carols, and then some more by special request. Then we walked around the wards, and chatted at the bedsides.

Finally, I managed to drag the carollers away to the men's wards. Here again we started by queueing awkwardly in the adjoining corridor, but the men

were less desperately sick, and determined to join in. One lively old man at the head of the ward sat propped up with pillows, conducting all our efforts. We repeated the repertoire. We sang on and on. Forgotten were the discomforts of our journey, our coldness and tiredness; forgotten even, for the time being, were the boy-friends waiting back at camp. No one seemed in a hurry to leave, and bring the evening to a close. Even the Matron turned a kindly blind eye to the fact that it was long past the normal "lights out," for, as she said, "This sort of thing only happens once in a blue moon."

With difficulty I gathered the party together for the hazardous return along nine miles of Somerset lanes. The rain was still lashing down. Our uniforms were soaked. The wind chilled us through. Yet when I thanked them for coming, I received the unanimous assurance: "But ma'am, it's been smashing. We wouldn't have missed it for anything."

That's not quite all. A few days later, one of the driver students came to me with a query: Could she get a bus to the hospital on a Saturday afternoon? Then with a slow smile she explained: "You see, ma'am, one of those old boys has been there for years and never gets a visitor; I've promised to go and see him after Christmas, before I get posted . . . and I'm taking him some Christmas cake from home."

BABES IN A CYPRIOT WOOD

TO those serving abroad Christmas inevitably brings a longing for home and the familiar sights and sounds associated with it. For most people, grown-ups and children alike, a visit to a pantomime is as much a part of Christmas as turkey and plum pudding and a full stocking on Christmas morning. With this thought in mind 27 Independent Company decided to produce a pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, in Episkopi, for the families and troops serving within the Garrison.

From October onwards there was much activity. A *corps de ballet* rehearsed their dances under the tuition of Sgt. Scotte. The chorus, led and trained by Lt. Andrews, who also produced the show, selected and rehearsed popular songs. In a corner of the Quartermaster's Stores a party of artisans, guided by Lt. Nicholson, designed and painted the scenery and produced a convincing collection of assorted props. The Garrison Cinema was hired and the various additions and modifications were done with the help of a willing squad of Engineers, Signallers and Marines. Changing rooms and covered ways were erected behind the cinema, and a complete lighting system installed to provide foot-lights and coloured spot-lights.

The interest shown in the pantomime had been most encouraging, and it was to friendly and enthusiastic audiences that the shows were per-

formed. The cinema seats four hundred and on both afternoons was full to capacity. The Commander-in-Chief and his family supported the first performance and the Chief of Staff and Flag Officer Middle East the second. The final profits, which went to charity, amounted to over £100.

There were many requests to take the pantomime "on tour," but time only allowed for one visit—to the Durham Light Infantry in a tented camp forty miles along the coast. Complete with scenery, lighting, props, costumes and armed escorts, the cast of over thirty and their supporters travelled in a convoy of 3-ton trucks along the winding coast road to Ktima. A large bakery tent, and a few smaller tents nearby, were ready to receive the visitors on their arrival. According to one D.L.I. observer, there had been a noticeable air of "excited expectancy" as the men set to work to make the girls' stay as comfortable as possible. No doubt many would have agreed with the infanteer who was heard to remark: "A lot of the lads think it should be like this every day." The enthusiasm shown by the troops and the warmth of their welcome made it a memorable experience for those who were present. Altogether, the pleasure which the pantomime had evidently given to many people of all ages was sufficient reward for the time and effort put into the production.

News From the T.A.

301 (EASTERN COMMAND) BATTALION

ON March 9, 1959, the Company Commander, the C.S.M., and two senior N.C.O.s of "B" Company sallied forth in fear and trembling to meet the examiner of the Institute of Advanced Motorists at Wanstead.

Zero hour was 0900 hrs. when Sgt. M. Bailey of the Chelmsford Platoon set off on two hours of driving over a route which included town and country roads, two rather sticky three-point turns and some reversing. She returned to the car park after this ordeal, and with a sigh of relief received the news that she had passed. C.S.M. N. Murkin, whose knees now felt like two jellies on a hot day, successfully completed the course before lunch, and Major D. G. Chard made a third triumphal return about two hours later. The examiner's last victim for the day was Sgt. J. Little, the Company's Admin. Sergeant. Imagine the Company's excitement when the news reached them that four of their members were now advanced motorists, the first in the Battalion.

307 (NORTHERN COMMAND) BATTALION

THE annual administrative inspection occupied all our time in the New Year. A combined parade was held at "C" Company Headquarters, Siddals Road, Derby, commanded by Capt. M. E. I. Rainsbury, T.D. Brigadier G. F. Lushington, C.B.E., inspected the parade and visited technical training. The girls were congratulated on turning up at all, for the night was one of the foggiest ever. "A" Company travelled from Nottingham and back in a 3-tonner with visibility almost nil, but the women remained cheerful, and the two drivers, Cpl. Higham of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) and Pte. Shipman of the Permanent Staff, carried out their duties so efficiently that not even a lamp-post was bent.

No. 3 Lincolnshire Platoon, "B" Company, Grimsby, held a social on March 2, and combined with 594 Company, R.A.S.C. (T.A.), to give a dance on March 7, both very successful functions. "C" Company, Derby, have maintained their recruiting progress and have now left "A" Company on the bottom rung of the "Strength Ladder."

Once again we have been well represented in the field of sport. Sgt. Blackburn represented the Command in hockey and badminton, but unfortunately sustained an injury which has grounded her for three months. Cpl. Rodman also was chosen for the Northern Command badminton team. The Permanent Staff table tennis team has reached the finals of the Championship.

We are losing R.S.M. Mallard to 320 (East Lancs) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), on completion of her tour, and with the cutting down of Permanent Staff we lose Cpl. Watson, the Battalion Storewoman. Lt. Veitch, the Adjutant/Quartermaster, and Pte. Andrews are being transferred to 2 Northern Command Mixed Signal Regiment, and our new Adjutant will be Lt. A. Crosse from Chesterfield.

Unit News

W.R.A.C. Depot

RECRUITS continue to arrive in an encouraging stream, and among them we have been glad to welcome a number of potential officers. Two of our re-enlisted members, Pte. Harper and Pte. King, served together at Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow, between 1953 and 1954, and did not see each other again till they met unexpectedly on Waverley Station, Edinburgh, on February 12, 1959, both *en route* to the Depot for further service. Our readers in Cyprus will be interested to hear that Maj.-Gen. D. A. Kendrew, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., formerly Director of Operations, honoured the Unit by taking a passing-out parade on February 26.

IN the numbers drafted overseas were much-travelled W.O.2 M. Scannell and S/Sgt. B. Wilson. Both having returned from Cyprus at the end of September last year, were off again before three months had passed, this time to Singapore. The Depot has been particularly active in the sports field during the last year and some of our members have reached Army standard in rifle shooting, squash, hockey and netball.

ALL readers who know Miss Joy Pugh will be sorry to hear that she has retired from her post as Chaplain's assistant. All her friends wish her much happiness in her new life as Y.W.C.A. Secretary in New Zealand. One of her last tasks at the Depot has been to arrange for two marriages in the Unit to take place in the Depot Church of St. Mark. Pte. Irian Janice Rosita Robertson, a Bandswoman trainee, is marrying Mr. William Frederick Leary; and Pte. Marlane Moss, a cook, is marrying Sgt. Derek Chapman, A.C.C. The Chapmans should certainly have "cuisine par excellence" in their new home.

3 Independent Company

MANORBIER

CPL. GRACE SMITH, W.R.A.C., was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal at a ceremony at the School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Manorbier, on January 19, 1959. Cpl. Smith is in charge of the Mess Orderlies in the Gunners' Mess and, after three years there, is a familiar and popular figure with all ranks. The Commandant of the School, Brigadier C. C. Garthwaite, made the presentation and later addressed members of 3 Independent Company and their guests. Lt.-Col. M. H. Boydell, T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command, accompanied the Commandant.

We were interested to read the letter about internal recruiting in the last issue. In this unit we now have 42.8% of our total strength serving on 22-year engagements.

1 Independent Company

EDINBURGH

AT an Investiture, held in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle on March 25, the British Empire Medal was presented to W.O.2 E. Laister by the G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command. This award, which was made in the New Year Honours List, was in recognition of W.O.2 Laister's excellent work in the Command, where she has been largely responsible for the training of T.A. cooks and the messing at annual camps. W.O.2 Laister is a very popular member of this Unit, and we were delighted to be allowed to send two officers and fourteen other ranks to see her receive her well-earned award.

8 Independent Company

BICESTER

WEDNESDAY, October 22, 1958, was a great day for this Unit when the last parade was held in 4 Camp, a very special parade for the presentation of the British Empire Medal to S/Sgt. Angela Spears by Maj.-Gen. B. D. Jones, C.B.E., Inspector R.A.O.C. Over 200 spectators, including "A" Company, 16th Battalion R.A.O.C., and civilians employed in the Vehicle Depot, attended this parade. After the march past, the Company were transported to their new quarters at St. George's Barracks, and have settled down to a life of comparative luxury in spacious barrack rooms with central heating.

ARMY

MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION

THE Army Mountaineering Association was formed in 1957 and its aims were published in A.C.I. 329 of that year. The first of these is "to stimulate an interest in mountaineering in the Army and provide for the training of initiates." Membership is open to all officers and other ranks, male and female, who are serving or who have served in the Regular Army, Army Emergency Reserve or Territorial Army. Ex-members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service are also eligible to join. The subscription is 5s. a year for beginners. Meets are held regularly in U.K., usually in North Wales and the Lake District. In addition, there is an annual meet in the Alps for more experienced climbers.

During the course of last year the A.M.A. acquired four women members, all of whom, with one notable exception, were beginners. All four have now attended at least one of the Association's meets. More women members would be welcome. Anyone interested should write for particulars to: Assistant Honorary Secretary, Army Mountaineering Association, c/o A.S.C.B., War Office, Stanmore, Middlesex. New women members who would like advice regarding essential equipment or attendance at meets should write to Major M. M. Bishop, W.R.A.C., Headquarters, Northern Command, York.

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Royal Visit to Gibraltar

IT was with pride and great pleasure that all ranks of the W.R.A.C. in Gibraltar joined in welcoming our Controller Commandant, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who visited The Rock from February 3 to 20, as the guest of H.E. the Governor and Lady Keightley.

On the afternoon of February 9, Her Royal Highness attended a tea party held by the Gibraltar Branch of the W.R.A.C. Association. Her Royal Highness was received by our Chairman, Major M. N. Jamieson, W.R.A.C., and afterwards talked with all members present. This was a very happy occasion and was indeed a red-letter day for the Gibraltar Branch.

On February 17, Her Royal Highness inspected 18 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. Unfortunately, owing to weather conditions, the parade had to be cancelled, much to the disappointment of all ranks. Her Royal Highness inspected all W.R.A.C. accommodation and spoke to every member of the Company. The Unit Scrap Book was on view which includes photographs taken during a previous visit in September 1954, when Her Royal Highness unveiled and named the W.R.A.C. Barrack Block. After the inspection, all ranks lined the steps of the block and, on the departure of Her Royal Highness, gave three hearty cheers for their Controller Commandant.

Review

"COOKERY TALES OF OAK TREE KITCHEN"

BY EDWINA COVEN

MAJOR EDWINA COVEN, whose work as advertising manager has brought so much new revenue to *The Lioness* during the last three years, is certainly a believer in long-term planning. The W.R.A.C. will urgently need cooks in 1971, and it is not too soon for these potential recruits to start their training. "**Cookery Tales of Oak Tree Kitchen**," attractively illustrated by Edgar Spenceley and published by Allan Wingate at 8s. 6d., strikes out an entirely new line in juvenile literature. Presenting a number of delightful characters who will certainly become popular nursery favourites, it introduces also some basic rules of cookery which could well be taken to heart by many experienced cooks, and a series of splendidly clear and practical recipes on which the embryo chef can try her infant hand. Mothers and aunts in search of birthday presents need look no further than this charming and instructive little book, provided that they are prepared to accept two hazards. Firstly, the adventures of Mrs. Goose, Mr. Bear-Bear, Clarence Hog Grunter and the rest are definitely the sort that have to be read aloud night after night at bedtime with no variation in the wording even at the hundredth repetition; and secondly, the family kitchen will have to be run henceforward strictly in accordance with Hetty Houseproud's Golden Rules, and if Mummy does

not clean up all her dirty utensils as she goes along she must expect to be smartly called to order. In return, she will be able to feed delectably on Marmite sandwiches, baked bananas and South American candy, prepared according to the highest standards of efficiency and hygiene. We hope that she will think it cheap at the price and that this enterprising little book will have all the success it deserves.

Obituary

MISS NORAH FARRELL

MANY old comrades who remember Subaltern Norah Farrell with great affection will be sorry to hear of her death in September 1958. She was one of the V.A.D.s who joined the A.T.S. in 1944, and her gay smile and twinkling blue eyes endeared her to all the recruits in her Company at No. 9 A.T.S. Training Centre. After the war she trained as a probation officer and worked in Gloucestershire until she was taken ill two years ago. She suffered very much but the end came happily and peacefully. E. R.

DR. J. H. TURNBULL, C.B.E., M.D.

DR. JANE HOLLAND TURNBULL, C.B.E., M.D., who died on October 15, 1958, was appointed in 1917 as the senior Medical Officer of the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. To her fell the critical first steps in discovering and providing hygienic needs of large bodies of women in camps and barracks, and in defining the medical requirements of recruiting boards. All ranks in the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C., as well as their predecessors in World War I, owe much to her wisdom, initiative and courage. On demobilisation she entered the service of the Ministry of Health and, after becoming their Senior Medical Officer, retired in 1936. From 1939 to 1948 she was Chairman and later President of the Association for Maternity and Child Welfare. She was one of the original Vice-Presidents of our Association.

MRS. WEBB

BRISTOL regrets to report the death of their boldest member, Mrs. A. M. Webb (Hatton), Q.M.A.A.C., aged 88 years. She passed away in hospital on February 10, after an illness of several months' duration. Mrs. Webb, a Vice-President of the Branch, was a very faithful member, attending all the meetings when her health allowed. She joined the Women's Legion during the First World War, and afterwards joined the Q.M.A.A.C. and saw active service in France, 1917-19. After demobilisation she joined the Q.M. Old Comrades' Association and the British Legion, Women's Section. Several members went to the service held in the chapel before her cremation at Arno's Vale Cemetery. The service was taken by the Rev. Fred. W. J. Cottrell and her coffin was covered with the Union Jack.

SPORT

Hockey

THE Inter-Command Championships held on November 25-28, 1958, were won by B.A.O.R. The Army team played Miss Collins' XI at Hounslow on November 29, 1958, and was defeated 3-0.

Netball

THE Inter-Unit Finals were held at the Army School of Physical Training on March 11 and 12, 1959. "A" Company, 14 Battalion (B.A.O.R.) were the victors in Section "A," winning narrowly from the W.R.A.C. Depot (Eastern) in a very exciting match. The W.R.A.C. School of Instruction (Southern) had a rather easier passage in Section "B," their hardest match being against 2 Independent Company (Western). In the final match "A" Company, 14 Battalion, beat the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction 19-6. The cup and medals were presented by Brigadier the Hon. M. Fitzalan Howard, M.V.O., M.B.E., M.C.

For the first time the Army team entered the Inter-County Netball Tournament, which was held at Lilleshall Hall, Shropshire, on March 14, 1959. Thirty-two teams took part, and their varied and colourful outfits looked most attractive when they lined up for the opening ceremony. The Army team was drawn to play Surrey, Suffolk and Worcestershire. Although they lost all their matches, they learnt a great deal from playing first-class teams.

The Inter-Service Tournament was held at the R.A.F. Station, Halton, on March 23, and won by the R.A.F. Although the Army finished last, the matches were so closely contested that the results were never decided until the last whistle was blown, and spectators and players had an extremely exciting afternoon. The cup was presented by Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas G. Pike, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., whose appointment as Chief of Air Staff was announced on the same day.

Rifle Shooting

THE Inter-Service (Women's) Small-bore match, held on February 2, 1959, showed that the W.R.A.C. team again improved on last year's score, but both other teams this year were record breakers. Col. J. E. R. Rivett-Drake, M.B.E., presented the cup to the winners, the W.R.N.S., who scored 1,583 (out of 1,600). The highest individual scorer was Leading Wren Robson with 200 (out of 200). Sgt. C. M. R. Ainley, 17 Independent Company, was close behind with a score of 198.

Squash Racquets

THE Inter-Service Tournament was held this year on February 12 and 13, at Greenwich. The Navy won with 8 matches and the Army was second with 4 matches. In the Army (Women's) Championships, Capt. M. E. MacLagan beat Major M. U. Walker in the final 1-9, 9-4, 9-3, 9-0, and thus became this season's champion.

Out of Work?

WOMEN who are seeking civilian employment on discharge from their regular engagements are reminded that the Regular Forces Employment Association, 62 Victoria Street, S.W.1, has 52 branches covering the whole of the U.K. and local Jobfinders in every area. During 1958 the Association placed in employment 19,763 men and women of the Regular Armed Forces of the Crown, and of this number 8,162 were from the Army and 42 from the W.R.A.C.

London Gazette

HONOURS AND AWARDS

First Clasp to T.D.: Capt. H. M. May, T.D.
T.D.: C. Comd. M. Girling (Carew-Jones), A.T.S., C.Comd. M.T. Bailey, A.T.S., Capt. S. M. Fowler.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Captain: A. L. Shepley Taylor, J. E. Walker.
Lieutenant: H. L. S. Price, B.A., P. A. Van Der Beeck, R. A. Carpenter, B. E. Horner, M. J. Hancock, J. F. Sherman, F. M. Macdonald, J. M. A. Armstrong.

Short Service Commissions

Captain: C. Mackinnon.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

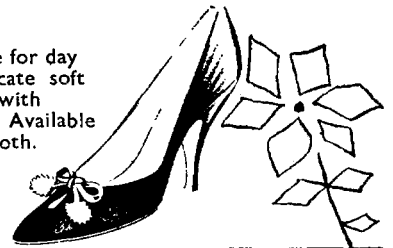
Resignations: Major E. M. Reynolds, Capt. N. G. Hartland, Lt. B. M. R. Butlin.

Short Service Commissions

Relinquishment on completion of service: Capt. E. Parker.
Relegation to R.O.: Major D. D. Marshall, Lt. M. M. Snowden.

GOYA

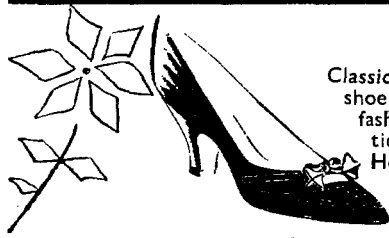
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NEWS from the BRANCHES

BIRMINGHAM. Since our last report members have been entertained by other members of the Birmingham Federation of Ex-Service Associations, notably the Royal Marines' Association and the Royal Engineers' Association. We held a Branch Christmas party for which the Chairman produced a magnificent cake decorated with the Association Badge and a small replica for the guesser of the big cake's weight. We have had two evenings when we have seen coloured transparencies of friends' and members' holidays abroad. We have held our Annual General Meeting and have been at home to the Western Area Committee.

BRADFORD. At our Annual General Meeting all the officials were re-elected by ballot, but we had some new blood on the Social Committee and already we have found them full of ideas and anxious to put them into operation. Our "83 years young" President, Miss Gummersell, is a perpetual inspiration, turning up at all our meetings in spite of infirmity, although it entails two bus journeys and a lot of walking. In November the members assisted with selling poppies and attended with Standard the Remembrance Parade and the Service of Remembrance organised by the Federation of ex-Service Associations to which our Branch belongs. Several of our members are also full members of the British Legion and one of them has been elected as their delegate to area conferences. We have had a considerable amount of sickness amongst members, two having been in hospital where they have been visited and have received gifts. We are extremely grateful for grants from the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund and congratulate those who administer the fund on their promptness in dealing with the cases. We had news of two of our members who live out of the district and are unable to attend meetings, Mrs. Hilda Warner who runs a smallholding with her husband in Sutton Bridge, and has a charming little daughter, Janet, aged 5 years, and Mrs. Ross, who now resides at Preston, near Hull. She sent a donation to buy cakes for her fellow members in appreciation of the cards of remembrance sent to her on her birthday and at Christmas. At our last meeting we were pleased to see our one ex-W.R.A.C., Marion Wilkinson, who came to us on her medical discharge from the Service. She celebrated her 21st birthday and her wedding with us, and now she brought her small daughter Celia with her. We ran a most successful Bring and Buy Sale to swell our funds and next month we hope to return the hospitality extended to us by Leeds Branch when we visited them in November. Four of our members also attended their Annual Dinner, and on both occasions we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We have made one more life member during the year. The Secretary made a journey to the Depot at Guildford with the sister of our late Chairman, Lucy Garrett, to see the vases she gave to the Corps Chapel in memory of Lucy, and they also visited the Museum and saw the show-case pre-

sented by our late friend and comrade Emily Ward, and the case which holds the Visitors' Book presented by Miss Gummersell. They were most impressed by all they saw and by the extreme kindness shown to them by all concerned. Visitors are always welcomed and are certainly made to feel proud that they have a connection with the Corps.

BRISTOL. A New Year's Party was held on January 8, and was again organised by Mrs. Dunstan, Miss Wilma Smith and Miss Hayward. Mrs. Skidmore organised and gave prizes for a whist drive in February. We were glad to welcome her back after her recent illness. At the end of the evening Miss Keynton, our Chairman, presented a book token and flowers to Miss K. M. Cottrell, who has had to resign the secretaryship through domestic difficulties. Miss Keynton spoke of her loyal service for the past nine years and how sorry we were that she had had to give up. Miss Cottrell was obviously touched at receiving a gift and thanked us warmly. Mrs. Rawlings, ex-A.T.S., is to be our new Secretary, and we wish her every success in the future. A Quarterly Meeting and Bring and Buy Sale were held in March, and about 12 members were present.

EDINBURGH. In spite of a "smog warning" on the evening of our February meeting twelve members turned up, five ex-A.T.S. and seven ex-Q.M.A.A.C. In March we had a "Put and Take," which is a variation of the better known Bring and Buy Sale, and thereby raised a little much-needed money. The highlight of the month, however, was our Annual Dinner held this year in the Carlton Hotel. I wonder what memories "The Carlton" in the North Bridge conjures up for members who served in Edinburgh and knew the place in its war-time requisitioned state. Ex-Sgt. Mary Lockhart was actually shown into her own bedroom (used as a dressing-room for the occasion of the dinner), but found no bare boards, no iron bed, and no "biscuits" now. We had the honour of the company of Mrs. Russell-Simpson, who looks as young as she did in 1938, and also two representatives from the Glasgow Branch, Miss Kelly and Miss McKenzie. After an excellent meal, our guest speaker, Mrs. Benzie of the Toast Mistresses Club, delighted the company with her beautifully delivered, amusing and concise speech.

GRIMSBY. In January we held a birthday party to celebrate our first year as a branch. Capt. Stone made a cake in the W.R.A.C. colours, and of course we had a candle which was lit by Miss Rutledge. We followed this with a game, "Name the Advert," which managed to keep everybody unusually quiet. For the February meeting Miss Rutledge organised a Hat Parade. Members were given pins and crepe paper in various shades, and each had to make a hat. Judging was a problem,

as all the designs were so original. The first prize was won by Mrs. Brewster, whose creation was worn by Mrs. Thompson. March was by far the most ambitious and successful of our evenings. A Fashion Parade was put on by one of the local shops, showing coats, dresses and suits in the latest styles and colours. Over 90 members and friends were present and we finished the evening with tea and biscuits served by the members.

HARTLEPOOLS. We held our Annual General Meeting in November and quickly disposed of the Agenda. The President, Miss M. Sivewright; the Chairman, Miss V. M. M. McRobert, T.D.; the Treasurer, Miss M. McCarthy; and the Secretary, Mrs. M. Jewell, were all returned to office and thanked for their services during the previous year. In December, presents of lambswool-lined slippers were taken to our three ex-A.T.S. semi-invalid friends who all suffer from a form of rheumatism. Two of these friends were brought along to our party in January by the kindness of our Treasurer and Chairman who collected them in their cars. All those who attended the party had a good time.

HULL. We were sorry to lose our Treasurer, Sgt. Ridley (*nee Webb*), who did so much to make our Branch meetings run smoothly. Sgt. Ridley has joined her husband, stationed in Aldershot, but she is still a member of Hull Branch, and we shall look forward to seeing her whenever she comes north again. In February we held our Annual Dinner at our headquarters and twenty members spent an enjoyable evening.

LEICESTER. At the beginning of the year we toured the Leicester power station, interesting and rather awe-inspiring with vast furnaces and automatic power switch panels, moving lights and alarm bells. Then there was the Telephone Exchange, a warm humming atmosphere, and after that visit we can see all the gadgets ticking over when we dial. After a couple of evenings out we stayed in to watch a demonstrator from the Gas Board who showed us how to cook a Swiss roll, lemon meringue pie, and two savoury dishes. Next a Judo team came to show us their paces, but I think we were more exhausted than they by the nervous strain of hearing them hit the floor. Then, on one of those rare summer days, we were lucky to have a coach tour to London Airport. We had lunch in the Observation Restaurant, gazing out in between courses at the comings and goings and thinking wishful thoughts. After lunch we toured a dairy, seeing how tests were made, watching bottling and learning how the orange juice was made. They made lovely coffee as well! December being the month of giving, we gave £10 to the Knights of St. George to help with their Christmas parcels for disabled ex-Servicemen, and on December 22, we went round with them to distribute the parcels and sang a carol before knocking at the doors. In between times we have had a few beetle drives and other informal meetings. Our best wishes go to Mrs. Santeney and hope she will be much better in 1959.



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BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

LONDON. Our first meeting of the year fell on New Year's Day, when members gathered to exchange greetings and good wishes for 1959. A small but enjoyable whist drive was held on January 15. On February 5, Mr. Eaton entertained us with a showing of recent colour films of Cornwall. March 5 brought an ever welcome guest speaker in the person of Dame Helen, whose talk on the human frame, beside bringing forth many interesting points for discussion, certainly gave us all food for thought. A most successful "Bedlam" was held on March 19, with more than the usual number of members participating.

MANCHESTER. This Branch is now settled in its new quarters at the T.A. Centre, Belle Vue, Manchester. Last year we were very pleased to welcome as new members Mrs. Sheeran (ex-Q.M.A.A.C.), Mrs. E. Dugmore, Mrs. G. Fletcher, Mrs. N. Jordan and Mrs. K. Travis (all ex.A.T.S.) and Miss M. Crumbleholme (ex-W.R.A.C.). Our ex-Treasurer, Miss Horsefall, returned from Canada after a stay of six months, and we were all very pleased to welcome her to our meetings again. In November we held our Annual Dinner, 20 members were present and the evening was enjoyed by all. In December we held our Annual Bring and Buy Sale, and this was supported by all members. In January the members of this Branch manned a Kitchen Stall at a Children's Fair organised by the Manchester Branch of Save the Children Fund. Harry Secombe and Hattie Jaques were the guest artistes and several members became autograph collectors once more. The Branch held a dance at the T.A. Centre in January, handicapped by bad weather and the 'flu epidemic. With the aid of our good friends at the T.A. Centre and the members present the evening was a success. We have continued to visit our sick friends as usual.

NORFOLK. The New Year's Party was a happy event. It was nice to have Miss McDermott with us once more, but we regretted the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Rumbold. The raffle cleared £7 10s. 6d., thanks to the many prizes given by members. Miss Molly Howes, who has taken up her work again in Nairobi, sends best wishes to all, and thanks members for their hospitality during her trip home.

NOTTINGHAM. Mrs. Loewenthal and Miss Burton organised a very successful beetle drive in January. The weather was atrocious, but 24 people braved the elements and were well rewarded by the hilarity and cordial atmosphere inside. The East Midlands Gas Board kindly provided a gas stove and demonstrator for our February meeting, and the finished products were raffled off and handed round by the winners. Mrs. Loewenthal, who holds the City and Guilds Certificate, further encouraged our domestic talents by a demonstration on how to use a paper pattern, and we can now cut out our summer finery without spoiling our "bargain remnants."

OMAGH. It seems a very long time since the first contingent of "C" Company, A.T.S., occupied the new camp at Lisanelly in 1940. From the historic walls of this camp has grown a modern hotel known as the "Silverbirch," and it was here that the Omagh Branch, consisting mainly of the original members of "C" Company, held their Annual Reunion in February. We had as our guest speaker Lt.-Col. D. H. I. Wilson, A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Ireland District. Also amongst our guests was a member of the Belfast Branch, Miss M. Worling, who served in the 1914-18 War. It was a very happy occasion, and it is rather a pity that we cannot afford to meet in the "Silverbirch" more often. During the past year we had as our money-making efforts a very successful raffle and a not-so-successful whist drive. It is pleasing to place on record that ever since the Branch was formed in 1946 the "faithful few" parade to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day and a wreath is laid on behalf of the Branch by one of the members.

SHEFFIELD. We were very pleased to turn our backs on the jumble sale held in October, but since it made over £18 for our funds we think it was worth the strain. Mr. Elrod, a lecturer for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, came along to one of our meetings, accompanied by his guide dog, Dianna, to give us a talk. We never realised how little we knew about the guide dogs. Our Christmas Fair in November was opened by the Mistress Cutler and we gave the whole of the proceeds—£67—to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. In January 40 members and friends should have visited the pantomime in Sheffield, but owing to the very bad weather a number were unable to make it. Our Annual Dinner in February was held at the Norfolk Arms, Hollow Meadows, and a jolly good time was had by all. At our A.G.M. in March, the Chairman, Secretary and Committee were re-elected. Our best wishes go to Mrs. Marshall, one of our two ex-Q.M.s, who is having to take things quietly for a while. We miss her cheerful countenance and hope it will not be long before she is back with us.

SINGAPORE. Our December meeting was brought forward to November to enable all members of the Branch to meet the Director, Brigadier M. K. R. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., who was on a tour of the Far East. The meeting took the form of an informal cocktail-party at which the Director was able to talk to everyone. It was a most enjoyable occasion for all, serving officers, N.C.O.s and "old girls." The February meeting of the Branch was a very small affair while so many members are away enjoying the cool season in Hong Kong or the hill stations. We were, however, very happy to enrol three new members, Mrs. Carter (Betty Jones), Mrs. Dane (Audrey Wood) and Mrs. Hermiston (Ivy Harding). As our guest speaker we were very pleased to welcome Mr. Stead, a local journalist, who gave a most interesting talk on Indonesia, our nearest neighbour after Malaya, and yet a country we know little about.

WIMBLEDON. 1958 has been a happy year for this Branch, with an increase of three new members, making up a fully paid membership of 45. In January a party of us went to the pantomime. Since then we have had a variety of entertainments including a beetle drive, bring and buy sale, social, and talks on Prison Visiting and Civil Defence. It was a great disappointment that Dame Regina Evans was prevented at the last moment from giving her talk in October, but we hope it is only postponed till the spring. In November we had our Annual General Meeting and in December a sing-song of Christmas carols.

YORK. Our November meeting coincided with Guy Fawkes' Night and, by kind invitation of No. 1 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), we attended their firework display and bonfire. In December we held a successful Bring and Buy Sale which was a help in solving some of the Christmas present problems of members who attended. The arctic weather conditions in January kept a number of members away, but those who were present were transported to warmer climes by a talk on Hong Kong by Major F. M. Harford, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, who recently returned from two years' service there. Seventeen members attended our February meeting and all enjoyed a "Housey-Housey" session. Twenty-six members and guests were present at a very successful dinner at Betty's Café on March 11. We were pleased to welcome Miss V. K. Stead, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., Mrs. MacFarlane, organising secretary of the Northern Area of the British Legion Women's Branch and four members of the Leeds Branch as our guests. Sgt. Lawson, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), one of our members, made all arrangements for the dinner, for which we are most grateful.

NOTE

It is proposed to start a Branch in Swansea. Would interested members please write to the Hon. Secretary, Western Area Committee, 67 Benthams Drive, Liverpool, 16.

BIRTH

Mitchell. On January 15 at the B.M.H., Kamunting, Taiping, Malaya, to Audrey (Williamson) and Capt. Brian Mitchell, R.A.S.C., a son (Timothy Julian).

AMENDMENTS TO LIST OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

Additions (omitted in error)

Chesterfield.—Miss E. M. Cleary, 543 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

County of London.—Sgt. D. Chubb, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), 207 Queens-town Road, London, S.W.8.

Amendments:

Ayrshire.—Mrs. H. G. Hay, 3 Angus Avenue, Prestwick, Scotland.

Birmingham.—Miss E. Udall, 84 Longmore Road, Shirley, Birmingham.

Chelmsford.—Miss E. J. Hemsley, 25 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex.

Manchester.—Mrs. Bancroft, 3 Cedar Avenue, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Nottingham.—Miss B. Burton, 526 Aspley Lane, Aspley, Nottingham.

Singapore.—W.O.2 V. B. Salmon, W.R.A.C., G.H.Q., FARELF, c/o G.P.O., Singapore.

Staffordshire North.—Mrs. L. Rhodes, 27 Dartmouth Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs.

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W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

SINCE the last notes were published, Lt.-Col. M. H. Rainsford, O.B.E., W.R.A.C. (retired), has presented a copy of *The Life of King George VI*, by Sir John Wheeler-Bennett, to the Library.

Several T.A. Units have applied for the loan of Mess silver and cutlery for use in their Officers' Messes during annual camp.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS

(Up to May 31, 1959)

Major A. T. ALEXANDER, G.S.O.3 (Ops. and S.D.), H.Q., Northern Command, York.
Major S. E. BOWDEN, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q., Western Command, Chester.
Major S. H. COOKE, S.O.3 (W.R.A.C. 1(b)), War Office.
Major J. L. COOPER, O.C. 17 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Shoburyness.
Major R. M. ENGEL, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Northern Command, York.
Major E. M. E. GALLOWAY, H.Q., M.T. Org.-R.A.O.C., Central Ordnance Depot, Chilwell.
Major F. M. HARFORD, G.S.O.2 (Mob.), H.Q., Western Command, Chester.
Major G. L. MORRISH, Central Ordnance Depot, Chilwell.
Major D. THOMAS, attached G (Ops.) H.Q., Southern Command, Salisbury.
Major J. WILSON, Personnel Selection Staff, attached Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C., Guildford.
Capt. A. BRAY, Northern Ireland District (M) Signal Squadron, Lisburn.
Capt. E. L. BURT, 3 G.H.Q. Singal Regiment, M.E.L.F.
Capt. N. D. DALLAS, attached U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment.
Lt. (T/Capt.) J. OLIVER, Specialist Catering Officer, Military Hospital, Wheatley.
Lt. (T/Capt.) H. S. GILL, Officer Cadet Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, Hindhead.
Lt. F. A. CRICK, Army Pay Office (Officers' Accounts), Ashton-under-Lyne.
Lt. M. J. HANCOCK, 15 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Bovington.
Lt. A. M. HARLE, Drivers and Clerks Training Wing, W.R.A.C., 6 Training Battalion, R.A.S.C., Yeovil.
Lt. P. M. HEATH, Southern Command Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C. Salisbury.
2/Lt. J. P. P. A. EVANS, 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Larkhill.
2/Lt. E. A. HARRIS, 14 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Chester.
2/Lt. A. F. HILL, attached Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot.
2/Lt. K. M. JOHNSON, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C., Guildford.
2/Lt. M. J. KEVAN, 2 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Donnington.
2/Lt. P. A. PRICE, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C., Guildford.
2/Lt. P. A. SCOTT, 1 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Edinburgh.
2/Lt. C. N. WEATHERILL, attached Army Catering Corps Training Centre, Aldershot.
2/Lt. G. WHEATLEY, 8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Bicester.
2/Lt. J. A. WORKMAN, 12 Battalion, W.R.A.C., Kingston-on-Thames.

PERSONAL

(For charges and particulars see Contents page)

Wanted. Urgently wanted, W.R.A.C./T.A. Officers in the Barnet and Colchester areas. Are there any ex-A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. Officers who would be interested in serving with the T.A.? Please write for further particulars to: Commanding Officer, 301 (E.A.) Battalion W.R.A.C./T.A., Reed Hall Camp, Colchester, Essex.

Holidays. Four-berth Caravan to let, New Milton, Hants. Apply, Miss Baldry, "Carma," Hawthorn Road, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

Opportunity for ex-Service Woman. If you want to work in the Guildford area, why not apply to enlist on a Type R engagement as a Training Instructor or Cookery Instructor at the W.R.A.C. Depot? All vacancies carry N.C.O. rank. Permission to live out with lodging allowance. Apply Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, or local Recruiting Office.

Wanted. Officer's No. 1 Dress. Height 5 ft. 4 in., waist 26 in., bust 34 in., hips 38 in. Also shirts, collars, shoes and hat. Box No. 5/59.

Wanted. Unit wishes to purchase Q.M.A.A.C. cap badge to complete exhibition show-case. Contact, Major D. G. Chard, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), 17 Stanwell Street, Colchester.

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).

"Oversea," 58 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea. A holiday house for ex-Service women, established 1921, offers single rooms (not cubicles), baths and all meals at moderate inclusive prices. Good food, beds, lighting and hot water; garden to laze in, and uninterrupted view of the sea. Non-Service guests at slightly higher rates. A few rooms also available for permanent letting. Apply The Warden. Tel. Hastings 1200.

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.

Two-Way Holiday

VOLUNTEERS are required to help for periods of two weeks at seaside Holiday Homes for paralysed people on the south-east coast during the summer months, May to October, 1959. Those wishing to help should be strong and healthy, as most of the work involves pushing guests in wheeled chairs and helping them to enjoy a normal holiday. Board and lodging will be provided and travelling expenses between London and the Holiday Home refunded. Anyone who would like to spend a holiday in this way should write for further particulars to The Assistant Secretary, National Association for the Paralysed, 1 York Street, Baker Street, London, W.1.

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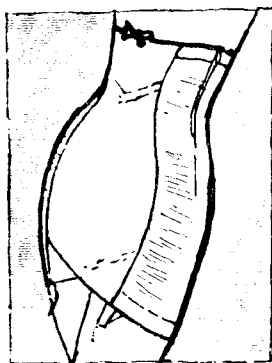
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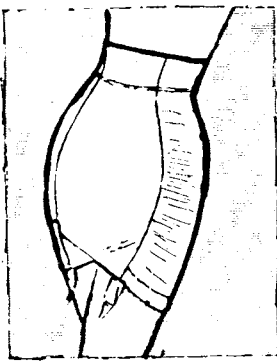
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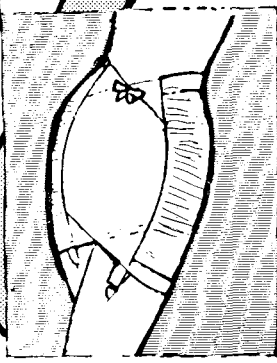
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