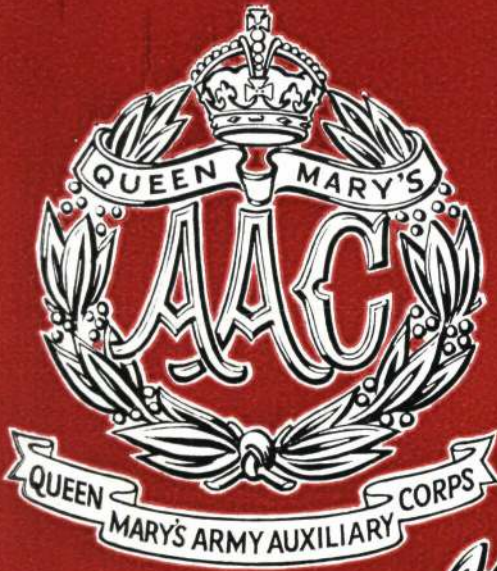


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(to whom all communications should be addressed re Membership and Distribution of *The Lioness*, Personal Column and Box Numbers)

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MARCH 31**

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H.R.H. The Princess Royal and Brigadier Dame Mary Colvin view the portrait of Her Royal Highness in the Headquarter Mess
(Photo: D. E. F. Eldridge, Guildford)



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXIII

February 1960

No. 1

EDITORIAL

MID-FEBRUARY, when *The Lioness* appears, is apt to be a dark and dreary season, with Christmas only a festive memory and Easter only a distant promise; but when the paper goes to press it is New Year's Day, the mistletoe is still unshrivelled and good resolutions still shine in untarnished freshness. The spring Editorial is written in a New Year mood, although 1960 will be well into the saddle before anyone reads it.

A NEW year is, for everyone, something of a turning-point, an unexplored road leading into an unknown future. A new decade is even more solemn and impressive, with its suggestion of a total change in character. For some, of whom the Editor is one, 1960 marks not only the inevitable progress of time, but the beginning of a new life coloured quite differently from the old one. An Editorial is no place for personal reflections, but as the moment of leaving the Service must come in due course to every member of the W.R.A.C., and has come already to most of *The Lioness* readers, the subject is not one of personal interest only and we may perhaps be forgiven for airing our impressions of the experience.

WE realise that many women have finished their Army service while still young, returning from the abnormal interlude of war-service to the career that they always thought of as "real life," or voluntarily ending their engagements to marry or to take up some attractive civilian job. Those women are partly rooted in the new life before they cut their contacts with the old, and the wrench probably causes them little pain. The moment is dreaded far more by the older ones, whose interests have been bounded by the Army for most of their working lives and who now have to adjust themselves to a civilian world in which they feel themselves to be strangers.

THE curious thing is that when it comes to the point one does not feel at all as one expected. We imagine that with the break from all our old interests and obligations, life will at first seem blank and empty. We shall miss our daily time-table, we shall feel no enthusiasm for civilian occupations, we shall have little in common with civilian acquaintances. The only thing that sustains us is the thought that we are losing none of our service friends and, as Old Comrades, are linked as closely

as ever with the Corps. We take the terrifying plunge and are amazed to find that life goes on as eventfully as before. Conditioned by our long series of Army postings, we adjust ourselves surprisingly quickly to our new routine, we identify ourselves with our new employment, we find the civilian world full of interest and potential friendships. We suffer, however, at a point for which we were not prepared—we suddenly feel ourselves cut off from the Corps by the ending of our daily contacts, out of touch with our friends, remote from the excitements and personalities on which our conversation has fed for so long. We feel that if we are not careful, the Service which still fills such a large part of our hearts will be pushed out of our lives altogether into the background of our memories.

HERE the Association comes into its own, but some women have never taken much interest in the Association while serving and cannot break into it now without the very feeling of cold strangeness which we are trying to avoid. The welcome which the Old Comrades give to a new member has to be experienced before it can be fully appreciated. If serving women would only believe it, their best insurance against the first loneliness of retirement is an active participation in Association affairs during their serving years, so that they can think of it, not as something new which they have to join when the time comes, but as the one permanent part of their service lives which will still go on unchanged.

FROM another angle, the interest of the serving women is vital if the Association is to play its full part in tidying over the difficult transition to civil life. At this particular moment, before we have settled down to our new status, our emotional need is not for an Association of Old Comrades with whom to exchange our service memories. That will come later, but just now we want to keep in touch with our serving friends and up to date with the affairs of the active Corps. Many serving women play a magnificent part in holding past and present together, but others find it hard to interest themselves in something which brings them so little immediate benefit. These others do not realise how much they are in a position to contribute, and how rich a harvest they would reap from their efforts when their turn comes to leave the Army.

Association Notes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, March 12, 1960, at 3 p.m.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 21, 1959 (circulated in the May issue of *The Lioness*).

2. Business arising from the minutes.

3. To receive the report of Council.

4. To receive the report of the Hon. Treasurer.

5. To receive the report of the Editor of *The Lioness*.

6. To receive reports of Committees.

7. Resolutions (Council):

(1) "That the Chairman of Council be appointed for two years and that she take office on November 1 preceding the Grand Reunion."

(2) "That the annual election of the Hon. Treasurer take effect from November 1."

(3) "That paragraphs 4 and 5 of Rule 12 be amended to read:

Alteration of investments of the Association may be authorised by the Executive Committee in cases of urgency, and will be reported to a properly constituted meeting of the Council at the earliest opportunity. The Executive Committee will refer the proposal to alter investments to the Council if in their opinion no urgency exists."

8. Election of officers. The undermentioned officers have been nominated:

Chairman of Council: Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E. (Council nomination).

Council Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Russell Simpson; Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, D.B.E. (Council nominations).

9. GRAND REUNION, 1961.

10. Date of next meeting.

11. Other business (if any).

12. Brigadier G. J. S. Chatterton, D.S.O., will speak on "The World Refugee Year."

N.B.—Brigadier Chatterton is Public Relations Officer for the British Members Committee of the World Veterans Federation, of which the W.R.A.C. Association is a member.

The balance sheet of the Association accounts together with those of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund and Museum may be seen at any time at the W.R.A.C. Association Office, and will be available at the Annual General Meeting.

After the meeting there will be a reunion tea party. Tickets 2s. 6d., obtainable at the door.

SECRETARIES' MEETING

The secretaries' meeting will be held as usual at 11.30 a.m. Will secretaries please notify the general secretary by March 1 if they are able to accept the invitation to lunch at 1 p.m.

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

The Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion will be held on Friday, March 11, in the H.Q. Club canteen from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets, 4s., may be obtained from the Reunion Secretary, c/o The W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.3. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

AMENDMENTS TO LIST OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

London—Miss G. M. Cridland, 52 Thornton Road, Carshalton, Surrey.

Leicester—Mrs. H. Southard, 29 Somerville Road, Leicester.

County of London—Miss S. Glover, 36 Eamont Court, London, N.W.8.

3rd Independent Company, W.R.A.C.—Lt. H. L. S. Price, School of A.A. Artillery, Manorbier, nr. Tenby, Pembro.

14th Battalion, W.R.A.C.—W.O.1 L. A. Newnham, W.R.A.C., 14th Battalion, W.R.A.C., British Forces, P.O. 40.

NEW BRANCHES

Aldershot—Mrs. J. M. Carroll, 10 Cyprus Road, Blackdown Camp, Aldershot, Hants.

Cheltenham—Mrs. C. B. Kaye, The Kennel Cottages, Boddington, nr. Cheltenham.

4 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.—W.O.1 K. M. Holmes, W.R.A.C., 4 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., G.H.Q., FAREL.F., c/o G.P.O., Singapore.

15 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.—W.O.2 Brady, W.R.A.C., R.A.C. Centre, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.

Forthcoming Events

March

9 Hockey Inter-Service, Aldershot.

11 Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion, H.Q. Club Canteen.

12 Annual General Meeting and Reunion Tea Party.

13 Service in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

28 Netball Inter-Service, Aldershot.

31 Badminton Inter-Service, Wimbledon.

April

24 Princess Royal's Day, Guildford.

25 W.R.A.C. H.Q. Mess Meeting, Duke of York's Headquarters.

London Gazette

HONOURS AND AWARDS

New Year Honours:

O.B.E.: Lt.-Col. (now Col.) E. M. Sykes.

M.B.E.: Major the Hon. V. V. Kitson, W.R.A.C. (T.A.); Major J. B. MacDowall; W.O.2 E. F. M. Buckle.

B.E.M.: S/Sgt. I. Worsley; Sgt. (acting) C. P. G. Thomson.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Colonel: E. M. Sykes.

Major: J. D. M. Ravenscroft.

Captain: P. A. Sunnucks; H. S. Gill, M.A.

Lieutenant: S. M. MacLaughlin, P. A. Price, B.Sc., J. M. Williams, V. Fletcher, K. M. Johnson.

2/Lieutenant: S. M. MacLaughlin, C. Diggins, S. M. Lucken, T. A. Stone, B. A. Appleton, P. E. Davey.

Short Service Commissions

Major: M. M. Quick, N. C. Dallas, E. A. Hine.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retirements on retired pay: Col. S. M. Crawley, T.D.

Retirements with gratuity: Capt. J. Tappin.

Resignations: Lts. G. J. Holmes, K. M. Willis, I. J. B. G. M. Hughes-Morgan and B. Craik, 2/Lt. E. A. Harris.

Short Service Commissions

Relinquishments on completion: Major W. M. Backhouse, M.B.E., T.D., Capt. M. Burt.

Resignations: Captain M. F. Mallinson (nee Carter), Lt. M. E. Rogers.



for
Her....

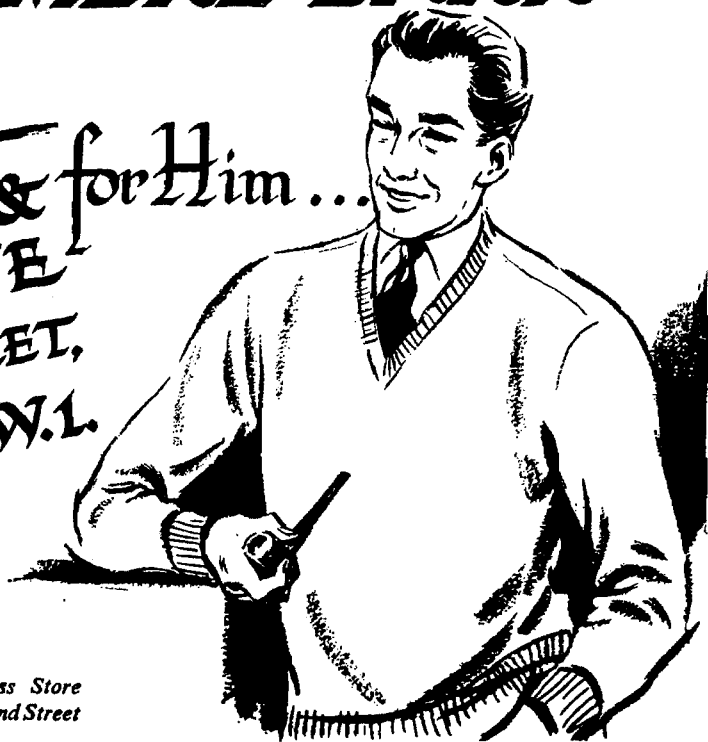
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NEWS FROM THE T.A.

329 (WARWICKSHIRE & WORCESTERSHIRE) BATTALION

MAJOR ELIZABETH RUTHERFORD, T.D., retired from Command on October 31, 1959. A farewell party was held in her honour by the officers of the Battalion that night. The evening started with a surprise item, an hour-long programme, "This is your Army Life." Major Rutherford started her Army career in the Pay Office at Warwick in 1939, and the success of the programme was assured when two friends with whom she served in those days and of whom she had seen very little since, appeared from behind the curtain. Mr. Edward J. Mason (co-writer of "The Archers"), who is the brother-in-law of one of the officers of 329 Battalion, compered the programme. Altogether eight surprise guests were produced, having travelled from places as far apart as London and Glasgow to be with Major Rutherford on her last night in the Army. There were also three tape recordings from old friends and a host of bouquets, chocolates and telegrams, etc.

At the end of the programme she was presented with a scrapbook containing 60 pages of photographs, press cuttings, etc., and a tape recording of the whole programme. The drill hall was decorated

with six large canvases depicting scenes from each of her six last T.A. camps and the proceedings included a lament for a retiring C.O. rendered by all her officers. The final presentation to Major Rutherford from her officers was a silver cigarette box, engraved with the A.T.S., W.R.A.C. and T.A. crests, and she herself unexpectedly brought the programme to the right conclusion by handing over her crowns to her successor, Major E. S. N. Littlejohn.

310 (HAMPSHIRE) BATTALION

WE begin with some individual news. Capt. H. Lyster had a painting accepted for the Combined Services Art Exhibition at Earls Court, and Capt. R. Pyke won the Novice Class of the Army Hunter Trials at Tidworth on her own horse, Joshua. Capt. K. N. Edwards has been awarded the Territorial Decoration and S/Sgt. A. M. Seller the Territorial Efficiency Medal. Capt. Lyster spent an interesting week's leave with the P.F.A.T. at Versailles, and W.O.2 Day visited them for her leave in September. Pte. M. Norris played in the Army (women's) cricket team and was second in the javelin event in the Army Individual Athletic Championships. Pte. P. M. Burt was reserve for the Army (women's) tennis team. "B" Company



Major Rutherford at her Farewell Party. Left to right: Major E. S. N. Littlejohn, Capt. I. E. Lee, Major E. Rutherford, Colonel S. Van Damm (Honorary Colonel).

won the Battalion rifle-shooting competition, and Sgt. J. Preston (of Aldershot) won the individual prize.

A visit in April to the Depot of the Parachute Regiment was of special interest. We saw "Operation Varsity," the film of the crossing of the Rhine in 1945, and most members of the Battalion jumped from the 45-foot fan-exit trainer. In October an instructive Sunday was spent at the Police Driving School at Devizes, and in November five crews took part in exercise "Night Owl" at Blandford, organised by 15 Training Battalion, R.A.S.C., and 70 (Somerset and Devon) Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.). Twenty-four W.R.A.C. crews competed with twenty-five R.A.S.C. in an all-night road rally with six check-points, followed after two hours' sleep by a safe-and-skilled driving competition in torrential rain next morning. A different form of driving competition was organised when we returned hospitality to 70 Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), at Aldershot. It started with the "garage" on fire after an air attack, and drivers were timed as they raced to take out their vehicles. Trucks took the place of ambulances and the patient was represented by a tin of water, marks being lost for every quarter spilt on the course. Officers and N.C.O.s of 9th Company, R.A.S.C., kindly acted as judges at each hazard, and the prizes were presented by Lt.-Col. J. Cornwell, D.S.O., D.C.M., C.R.A.S.C., Aldershot District.

Five teams entered for the first-aid and wheel-changing competition on Corps' Day, and the Southampton team finished fourth in the finals. As an endurance test in July four crews drove to Holyhead and return, a distance of 580 miles in 44 hours. In spite of record traffic on the hottest days of the year, all crews reported on or before time at each of the 26 check points. They arrived home tired but confident that they could keep going in an emergency. Two crews entered for the Mendip Road Rally organised by the Forces Motoring Club in October, and the "B" Company crew obtained a Certificate of Merit. Very accurate map-reading was needed to complete the tortuous course of 110 miles and answer the questions en route while maintaining an average speed of 28 m.p.h.

During annual camp near Weymouth those who had passed their test practised driving across country on the mud and hills of the R.A.C. training area at Bovington and also spent a day learning to handle vehicles on a floating bridge with the Royal Engineers. A recovery exercise brought a 3-ton truck out of a ditch 8 feet deep. Visitors to the camp included Maj.-Gen. R. A. Bramwell Davis, C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. Aldershot District; Brigadier G. Rimbault, M.C., Deputy Commander; Col. S. F. M. Nimmo, D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command; and the Secretary of the Hampshire T.A. Association, Col. C. A. Halliday, O.B.E., D.L. The Hilsea Platoon of vehicle park clerks, storewomen and drivers, attended camp separately at the Central Vehicle Depot, R.A.O.C., at Aschurch, and were given a most interesting programme which included a visit to the Dunlop Rubber Company at Birmingham and an all-day exercise in the Malvern Hills.

Civil Defence training during the year covered first-aid, fire-fighting, and general training for emergencies. First-aid instruction is generously given by members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society. Everyone learned to pitch a tent and to improvise and cook on an open wood fire in case of destruction of buildings or breakdown of electricity and gas supplies. A one-day exercise was held on Salisbury Plain when each team was given 1½ hours to pitch a tent and produce a two-course hot meal. This was followed by an overnight exercise from annual camp to Saunton Sands in North Devon. The night among the dunes was much enjoyed in spite of rain at 2 a.m.

Our recruiting efforts for the W.R.A.C. and Territorial Army included taking part in an open week at Hilsea when the T.A. Centre was open to the public every evening. Distinguished visitors included the Director of the Territorial Army, Maj.-Gen. W. R. Cox, C.B., D.S.O., and the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth. "B" Company joined in a combined march and drive of T.A. Units in the Farnborough area and entered a decorated truck in the Aldershot Carnival.

325 (SOUTH & WEST WALES) BATTALION

BY courtesy of the School of A.A. Artillery and 3rd Independent Company, W.R.A.C., we held our third camp of the year at Manorbier to gather in girls who had enlisted too late for Plasterdown in June or Nesscliffe in July. It was a most successful camp, partly because there were only 23 women with two driving instructors, two clerical instructors, and the R.S.M. Some of the girls put on uniform for the first time for the journey, but the standard rose rapidly and visibly as time went on. The Regulars, men and women, were very friendly, and the T.A. helped out in all admin. duties. Volunteers worked in the cook-house, billets and Officers' Mess, Sgt. Davies of Battalion H.Q. became the G.S.O.1's clerk for the fortnight, and W.O.1 Pittman was duty driver when she paused from doing Regimental training. The keenness was such that the enthusiasts were reluctant to stop training at teatime, and quite a lot of coaching went on in the evenings. T.A. and Regulars of all ranks were welcomed on the small-bore range at Tenby or Pembroke Drill Halls, and one or two promising beginners were discovered. The highlight of the whole time, however, was a visit to the Guided Weapons Wing. The Regular W.R.A.C. who form the demonstration team seemed as pleased as the T.A., and the hubbub when questions were invited was incredible. After annual training it is usual to hear the T.A. women announcing their desire to join the Regular Army (after Plasterdown three cooks enlisted from one platoon), and this camp was no exception. Girls were firmly announcing their intention of joining the W.R.A.C. and insisting on a posting to Manorbier. What was even more satisfactory to T.A. ears was the number of W.R.A.C. who said with equal firmness that when they finished their Regular engagements they intended to join their local T.A. What did we care that it rained?

Letter from New Zealand

E. M. SUGGATE

I DON'T feel competent yet to write conclusively about New Zealand, as I haven't seen a year's seasons through and up to now only know Christchurch. One thing I can tell you, that the never finished topic of the weather in England applies equally here. I arrived on Christmas Eve in the height of summer, the sun shone all and every day right through to April. Then May, which I am told usually has long sunny days, proved the wettest for 46 years and outside the town many places were flooded and roads closed because of landslides. Later there was colder weather, and one day was the coldest for 57 years, saved up for me to break me in the hard way.

Christchurch is very familiar in many respects as many of the streets are named after English towns. When I hear them mentioned on the radio I find myself wondering if it's a bit of home news.

The Square and the Cathedral with its spire (floodlit at night) make a landmark for direction because the town is quite flat. The university buildings, Museum College and a few civic buildings are fine and impressive. There are a few stores but, in the main, the shops are small and confusedly set out; but when I see something rather crude and unfinished I remember the town is only 108 years old and is constantly improving. Most of the houses are single stories and, as the authorities set a minimum size for building plots (or sections, as they call them), the houses are mostly detached with long gardens. It is rightly named a garden city and prizes are given annually for the best gardens. The River Avon winds through not far from the town centre and there are numerous graceful bridges for traffic crossing the river giving lovely vistas. The river banks are carefully kept, with wide lawns, and the trees are beautiful, including some of the loveliest willows I have ever seen. Roads branch off leading to townships (we should say villages) and to many lovely bathing beaches. These are favourite drives of ours for picnics, but trips to the mountains in the west are also possible and it is very rewarding driving out over the plain with the mountains ever nearer. Recently we had a trip to Lake Lyndon, where the young people went for skating, we went by a carefully graded rising road and through a pass 3,100 ft., which the next week was closed by snow-drifts. The mountains towered round it and it was a lovely sight.

There are many service and ex-service associations here. There is the Returned Services Association which may be likened to our British Legion, and other regimental associations perhaps like our Old Comrades. The Returned Services Association has a small nucleus of ex-service women—about 80 members. They meet once a month and have a stall in the Square in October for charities. I have applied for membership but cannot attend their meetings until I am elected. Anzac Day was a public holiday and the service associations paraded in the morning, followed by a service in the Square by the War Memorial. The flowers were truly wonderful. I am also told they keep Armistice

Day, and then I shall think of the many parades I have done at home.

I have found much kindness and friendliness from all New Zealand people, who love the Royal Family as much as we do and like to chat about "home" rather than England.

W.R.A.C. Depot

FOR some weeks of the autumn the unit has been invaded by architects with chain links, measures and strangely coloured staves. From this, by the end of 1963, is to come a new camp, brick built and of modern design, which will give our Corps one of the most up-to-date Depots in the country.

Visitors have included the Adjutant General accompanied by the D.W.R.A.C. and, earlier, the Director General of Works who wished to see the camp as it is now, in order to assess the suitability of the new plan when it is submitted. Among those who have been Inspecting Officer for a recruit passing-out parade were Major-General W. F. R. Turner, C.B., D.S.O., just prior to relinquishing command of Home Counties District and becoming President of the Regular Commissions Board, and Major-General H. M. Campbell, C.B.E., the Paymaster-in-Chief. In early October, we entertained six women councillors from Uganda, all of whom fortunately spoke understandable English. They were on a six weeks' visit sponsored by the British Council and were touring Britain to see the status and employment of women in this country. In years to come we may well see the formation of a Women's Army Corps in Uganda. Careers Advisory Officers, Youth Employment Officers and parties of schoolgirls have continued to visit the Unit and have been interested to hear of the opportunities for employment and travel offered to members of the Corps.

Before the Queen's Royal Regiment left their Depot in Guildford on amalgamation with the East Surrey Regiment to form the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, they presented the W.R.A.C. Officers' Mess with a beautiful silver bowl to mark the friendship between the two Units.

The total of recruits for the year is 2,024, an increase of 261 over the total for 1958.

Lt.-Col. Gibson left the Unit in October and was impressively sent off to the skirl of bagpipes. She left a souvenir in the shape of a raised umbrella on the top of the Sergeants' Mess TV aerial.

Refugee Fund Drive

Sir Edmund Stockdale, Lord Mayor of London, on December 1 formally opened a Refugee Camp Exhibition in the Royal Exchange. British Member Associations of the World Veterans Federation, of which the W.R.A.C. Association is one, took an active part in this drive. Members of the W.R.A.C. Association manned a caravan (situated adjacent to St. Paul's) throughout the week and assisted with the Flag Day which realised £4,000. The total takings for the appeal week amounted to over £20,000.

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Dorothy Perkins

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HOW GOLD WAS MY BOWLER

NO one, I am quite sure, need despair of getting a well-paid administrative job on the strength of twenty years in the W.R.A.C., but it takes time, patience and determination, and these are things which I find run out too quickly. Before my retirement I conscientiously registered myself with all the appropriate bodies, but when my terminal leave began and I was still unresettled, I decided to change my tactics. I would stop trying to sell my Army experience in the commercial world, and would set myself to gain some new experience in the sort of work that I really wanted to do. I chose a little-known Government Department whose name suggested an attractive field of operations, and fought my way into the presence of the Establishment Officer. I came out with an enormous application form on which I had to enter (if I remember aright) my age at birth and the names of two referees (not relatives, employers, or in any way acquainted with the applicant), and in due course I found myself enrolled as a temporary clerk on six months' probation.

The two charming young officers who suddenly found me on their staff looked a little taken aback, but they had been so short-handed for so long that help in any form was welcome. They hospitably cleared the corner of a table in their crowded and cluttered office, and put in an indent for a pencil and a pin-tray. I signed in an attendance book to prove that I was really there, and set to work.

My rank, I understand, is somewhere between a Corporal and a Sergeant, and, remembering with respect the N.C.O. clerks of my former life, I rather wondered whether I should make the grade. I am proud to record that I was an instantaneous success. On my first day I tidied the stationery cupboard, producing a layout of such military precision that no one has been able to lay hands on anything since. On my second day I brushed up my alphabet (which I found disquietingly rusty) and attacked the card index. On my third day I learnt to stick up envelopes, spattering them freely with dingy water from a roller in a little tin bath. By the end of the week I could work the lift and the telephone all by myself. Since then I have never looked back.

My section works with frenzied creative industry in a state of highly-organised confusion. Our small office foams with a billowing tide of papers, leaflets, brochures, photographs and visitors, which only occasionally ebbs far enough to reveal two typewriters, three telephones, the pencils, the pin-trays, and us. My own table is usually furnished with the recumbent form of someone trying to use two telephones at once, and the boots of someone trying to reach the top drawer of the filing-cabinet. The lower drawers open so closely into the table that I have to push a few inches to the right when anyone wants S-T and a few inches to the left to give access to W-Z. On busy days I shunt to and fro like a weaver's shuttle. If I fancied a change from first-grade staff-work, I have certainly got it.

It is a hard and hazardous life altogether, which only the toughest tenderfoot can hope to survive. Even the Army, with its long tradition of polo and

pig-sticking, can offer no sport to equal, in thrills and danger, our daily conflict with the tea-trolley. The sober tea-ritual of the War office, even if I had ever been called upon to play a combatant part in the front line, would have done little to prepare me for this murderous exercise. In theory, our system is perfectly regulated. Twice a day the trolley moves slowly round the building by a specified route, pausing outside every office door and ringing a bell to summon the occupants. As the hour approaches we sit with ears pricked until word begins to get about that the quarry has been sighted. Sometimes the rumour is substantiated by a visitor from distant parts who munches unmistakably as he talks. We wait with increasing tension till a faint tinkle and the sound of scampering feet, borne to us dimly on the wind, sends us out of our chairs and flying through the doorway. Alas, the few seconds spent in disentangling ourselves from the telephone have been enough to give the trolley a start, and we are faced with an echoing emptiness. "*Which way, which way?*" we shout breathlessly as we gallop down the passage, and passers-by shout back "*Over in Photographs*" or "*Down in Films*," as the yokel might answer "*Through the copse and across the ten-acre meadow.*" We are encumbered by our equipment, for the amount of tea that can be bought for 2½d. is measured by the size of the mug offered to the tea-urn, but we make what speed we can, panting through a network of corridors and gathering supporters as we go. We are faint with exhaustion and maddened by thirst before a brilliantly executed pincer-movement finally out-manoeuvres the trolley and brings it to bay between two converging queues. We fall on our knees—not in thankfulness for a glorious victory, but the better to choose our cakes from the display on the lower shelf. We approach on all fours and only rise to join the triumphal chorus "*WITH! WITH! WITHOUT!*" which celebrates our conquest. The tea-urn spits with rage as we collect our booty from the battlefield and teeter back down the long long trail, balancing our brimming teacups like competitors in an egg-and-spoon race. Only once in my experience has the trolley won, when it shook off the field, went to ground in the lift, and was swept out of our grasp to the sanctuary of the canteen on the eighth floor.

There is no doubt that the transfer to civil life is a matter of patient and laborious readjustment. I would not make light of the rude shocks to which one must be steeled, or the fundamental differences to which one must painfully become accustomed. Men have beards, abbreviations have full-stops, and files are made up backwards with the latest letter at the bottom. Yet in spite of all this I am convinced that with practice the bowler (gold or otherwise) can be worn by the hard-headed ex-soldier as comfortably as any other form of metal headgear. It suits some faces better than others and it will never sit well on a swelled head—but the same, after all, could be said of the old Tin Hat.

S. M. C.

FOUR HOURS IN FRANCE

WHEN the W.A.A.C. landed in France on March 31, 1917, I wonder if they had any conception of the enormity of their action and the influence they would have on the women of Great Britain 42 years ahead. Could they have imagined that women of a Regular Corps would one day go to France not on duty bound as they, but as a Corporals' Club on a day's outing?

At the Corporals' Club meeting at the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction a proposal was made to go to France on a day trip. This unusual suggestion aroused no surprise, for the Corporals are an enterprising crowd and always thinking of new things to do. The date of the outing was fixed for Sunday, July 12, 1959. Eventually the day dawned, and at 6 a.m. the Corporals embarked in the coach which was to convey them from the school to Ramsgate. The journey from Hindhead to Ramsgate was four hours non-stop, but the attractiveness of the small villages and the panoramic views as the coach topped the downs was so full of interest that the time passed quickly.

Ten o'clock found the Corporals hurrying along the jetty at Ramsgate and, as the last one stepped aboard, up went the gang-plank, the ship cast off, engines chugged into life, and the party was soon steaming across the English Channel heading for Boulogne. The crossing was a little rough, but the brilliant sunshine and strong sea breeze were so invigorating that the majority of the Corporals

would have liked longer aboard. The ship docked at Boulogne and the passengers disembarked on the quayside of the first fishing port of France, for a short stay of four hours.

The Corporals stood on the quay gazing around, gathering their first impressions of a foreign country before dispersing in little groups bent on discovering as much as possible in a short space of time. To some it was their first experience of setting foot on foreign soil, and everything was of great interest; to others it was very commonplace for their knowledge of foreign countries had been widened by the Army's help of service overseas. At 5 p.m. all were aboard again, asking and telling each other where they had been, what they had seen and done; the excitement was great. It was found that everyone had had a good meal, bought souvenirs and each group had seen and done something different. One Corporal, with her little group, had visited the British War Graves Cemetery and found the grave of her father who was killed in the 1939-45 war. Another group had walked round the ancient walls of Boulogne and seen the Cathedral of Notre Dame and also the old castle which has now been turned into a prison. Others had seen the Seafarers Cross which stands high above the town overlooking the harbour, and when they had rested for cooling drinks at a nearby cafe, had bartered with the street vendors for souvenirs.

The sound of the ship's siren as she nosed her



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way slowly through the harbour to the open sea, broke through the chattering of the Corporals and they turned to take their last look at Boulogne, which for four hours had afforded them so much pleasure. After passing Cap Gris Nez, the last landmark of France, time flew and soon the steamer passed Deal pier, and in no time at all Ramsgate jetty hove into sight.

They took their seats once again in the coach, a

little tired but happy with their day's exploits, and no matter whatever the queasy feelings they may have had at sea, or however weary their feet with endless walking on Boulogne's cobblestone streets, they acclaimed with one accord: "It was worth it." So to their old comrades of the W.A.A.C. the Corporals say "thank you" for being the means of founding their Corps and thus enabling them to enjoy an outing as a Corporals' Club. J. M. H.

WEEKEND WITH THE RED CROSS

C.S.M. MAIE JACKSON, A.T.S.

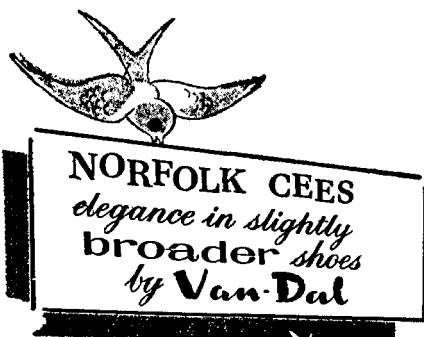
As a V.A.D. member of the British Red Cross Society I had the pleasure of taking my first course at Barnett Hill last May. This delightful mansion stands in 20 acres of woodland a few miles from Guildford, "far from the madding crowd" in a glorious part of the country. The flowering shrubs were at their best, azaleas and rhododendrons a joy to behold, and there were various little seats in the shrubbery where one could sit and look for miles over the unspoilt countryside.

I arrived on Friday evening and was greeted by the charming Commandant. The entrance hall was full of flowers, beautifully arranged, and contained two huge and remarkable coloured trunks which I

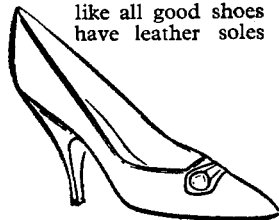
felt must be full of precious jewels from the Orient. I duly signed the Visitors' Book, was given a pink card with my name on, and ascended the lovely staircase to my room, which contained six cubicles. Each student had her own dressing-table and bedside lamp, and there were most attractive cretonne covers on the beds. Being in my regulation blue print frock, I felt I ought to begin by turning down all the beds. Most of the rooms had been furnished by various Red Cross societies, and the dining-room was furnished throughout with maple wood sent over by the Canadian Red Cross. The place ran like clockwork, the cooking was excellent, and as one sat in a different place at each meal one soon met all the other students.

After dinner we had our introductory talk, and a most interesting film on the Hungarian uprising. As we came out of the lecture room, tea and biscuits were awaiting us in the hall. Even our early-morning tea was arranged for us, in a room upstairs fitted with gas-ring, kettle and everything to hand. So much for the material comforts, but I must also say how very interesting all the lectures were and how much individual attention the instructors gave us. Being a very hot weekend, we had the privilege of having some of our lectures in the garden. The Commandant has the same routine to go through every week, but I felt she must enjoy her appointment, for she treated us as if we were the first and only people to visit Barnett Hill, instead of being a few of many hundreds, all asking the same questions, and passing, no doubt, the same remarks.

I have always taken a keen interest in courses (having served as a Company Sergeant-Major in the A.T.S.) and I always enjoyed them, but memory seems to conjure up one long rush, on parade, drilling, marching to and fro, button-cleaning, queueing at the N.A.A.F.I. for cigarettes, rushing out from lectures, missing one's meal to catch the one and only bus into civilisation, back again to write up one's notes, and lights out. I do not think that I ever combined business and pleasure as amicably as I did at Barnett Hill. To be a V.A.D. in the Red Cross and not take advantage of these courses is like having a seaside holiday without seeing the sea, and I now await with interest the programme for 1960 so that I can avail myself of another delightful weekend. I came away from this one having learned a great deal, feeling more than ever proud to be part of the Red Cross and all that it stands for, and determined to work harder than ever for the Kent 152 detachment.



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SELLING THE ARMY

CAPT. K. S. CURRY, W.R.A.C.

IN these days when the Army is taking on a new look and adapting itself to modern times, much attention is focused on the recruiting organisation. Rightly so, for it is upon the recruiting staff that the main responsibility for building up the new Regular Army must fall. The recruiting officer and her recruiters today are much better equipped for their job than their predecessors, because they have the experience of the past and, at the same time, new ideas from experts. Recruiting offices have not only changed their name to Army Information office, but the majority have undergone a phenomenal change in appearance. There is little doubt that the effect is good as it creates a cheerful atmosphere and puts the potential recruit at ease from the start.

We have all attended courses in salesmanship, had instruction in modern display work and attended courses in the art of selection and interviewing recruits under personnel selection officers' guidance. All the same, all the salesmanship talk in the world would be of little use if the recruiting officer did not have faith in her Corps and be confident that she could be straightforward in her dealings with the general public. They must always be, to a certain extent, the first consideration, and a recruiting officer must be able to look at the Army from their angle. She bears in mind that the Army is not the only organisation serving Queen and country. When one is serving it is very easy to imagine that the public know all about the W.R.A.C. and that the Army is very important in the public eye. A recruiting officer soon has the true facts brought home to her when she starts her job. All W.R.A.C. recruiting officers have at some time or other been in command of a company, and the majority would agree that their knowledge of recruiting procedure was at that time limited, or indeed, in some cases like my own, nil. So when we meet our sister officers from time to time we have sympathy for their occasional ignorance on recruiting matters.

In selecting a young woman for the Army, we do not, as is generally supposed, try to get her in at any price. If every woman who applied was accepted the W.R.A.C. would be more than doubled each year. The accent must always be on quality—it is the enlistment of the quality that builds up confidence in the parents of other would-be recruits. The satisfied recruit who is well-loved and respected in her town or village, acts as a link between her Corps and the general public. A recruiting officer covering a wide rural area cannot afford to take chances on ne'er-do-wells by allowing her emotions to get the better of her. One young woman from a small town or village whose previous record as a citizen has not been particularly inspiring can bring recruiting to a halt in that particular area should she be enlisted, but a good recruit will bring in others within a few weeks. The reputation of the Corps goes up and doubting parents are

soothed. Occasionally a misfit gets in. Recruiting officers are notified of such cases and they have the opportunity of seeing where they may have gone wrong in their original interview.

Nowadays it is quite usual for parents to come to the initial interview and discuss the whole aspect of a career. This is always a special pleasure, for the young woman who has her parents' backing is off to a good start in her Army career. Sometimes a recruiting officer is approached as much as three years in advance about a possible Army career for the daughter. Every recruiting area differs and no two offices can work on exactly the same lines. It is, perhaps, interesting to note that in the South there is a very high percentage of girls joining from service families. Occasionally, where there is no son in the family, the father is anxious for his daughter to carry on the Army tradition.

We certainly meet all types, from the escaped psychiatric who stormed into the office and demanded to be enlisted, and who was shadowed by the recruiter through the town until the police delivered her safely to hospital, to the young ladies of questionable character who think the Army would be a good bet. We have our ways of dealing with them all and our Corps motto, "Gentle in manner resolute in deed," seems very significant at such times.

The recruits to us are individuals, people whom we have met and talked to, advised and helped to start on their new adventure. They come from all walks of life and everyone is of some special interest to us. Occasionally the telephone rings and someone will say excitedly that she has passed her first trade test and is on leave awaiting posting. If they live near, they may call in during their leave and tell us what a great success it is. It is at these times that we are made aware that recruiting is a worthwhile job and we forget all the disappointments and disillusionments we may have encountered. Every recruiting officer at heart has always one aim—to reach the day when the British public will be proud to send their daughters into the Army, having no doubt in their minds that the Women's Royal Army Corps is second to none in Her Majesty's Forces. With the co-operation of all ranks in the Corps and with the help of all our ex-service friends, this dream need not be so far from fulfilment.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Service of Dedication at the Field of Remembrance was attended by representatives of Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. The cross was planted on behalf of the Association by Lt.-Col. M. M. Gibson. The Association was well represented in the march past the Cenotaph, and the wreath was laid by Mrs. B. L. Richards on behalf of the London Branch.



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BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

W.R.A.C. School of Instruction

OFFICER cadets attended divine service at the R.M.A. Sandhurst Chapel on July 19, 1959, and were entertained to sherry afterwards in the India Room by officers and officer cadets of the academy. The 24th course which assembled on September 9, 1959, is the first course for candidates for Regular Commissions on which all officer training has been undergone at the school. Candidates no longer receive training in basic subjects at the Depot and Training Centre W.R.A.C. prior to starting their officer cadet training. Four senior girls, all members of the Junior Air Corps, from Byculla School, Liphook, dined with the officer cadets in their Mess on November 3, 1959. A conference of the W.R.A.C. administrative officers from the university contingents of the O.T.C. was held at the school during the period September 10-12, 1959, in order to brief them on the syllabus for certificate "B" which will now be taken by members of the W.R.A.C.

There have been two commissioning ceremonies held in 1959 at which the inspecting officers have been on March 4, 1959, Lt.-Gen. Sir C. Douglas Packard, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. Northern Ireland District, and on August 19, 1959, Maj.-Gen. R. N. Anderson, C.E., C.B.E., D.S.O., Vice-Adjutant General. We have been delighted to welcome, as visitors to our unit during 1959, the Army Commander, Southern Command, Brigadier B. A. G. Jones, D.S.O., Vice-President, Regular Commissions Board, and Lt.-Gen. Sir Hugh C. Stockwell, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Adjutant General. There have also been visits to the unit by several Careers Advisers and County Youth Employment Officers.

We have not been without entertainment. The W.R.A.C. Staff Band beat Retreat in the unit on September 29, 1959. This was attended by a local school and was followed by a concert in the evening at which a collection of £5 was made for the W.R.A.C. Association. "Find the Girl," a comedy-mystery by Stuart Ready, was performed by the officer cadets on November 10, 1959, and proceeds of £2 given to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. "The Happiest Days of Your Life," a farce by John Dighton, was performed by the officers of the unit on December 1, 1959, and the proceeds given to P.R.I.

Sport

AT the Inter-Command Hockey Tournament in November, fog stopped the match between Eastern and Southern Command. Major-General Duke gallantly braved the fog to come, and said he had been provided with a new experience as, after many years connected with hockey, he had never been "fogged off" before. As B.A.O.R. had already won the cup he was able to make the presentation. After several exciting matches, Southern Command won the Inter-Command Netball Championships. At the Squash Rackets Championship in December, Capt. M. E. MacLagan was the winner for the third successive season with Capt. J. Temple runner-up.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

BIRMINGHAM. We are glad to be able to report that our chairman, Miss E. E. Mapp, has sufficiently recovered in health to join us once again and keep the committee on their toes. At the branch dinner on October 16 Major Rutherford kept us in fits of laughter with her gift of mimicry of customers of her dress shop. Her talk has stood the test of being recorded and played back on several occasions. The mere idea of a reunion in Birmingham seems to bring rain, and on November 14 the heavens opened. This added to the discomfort caused by Birmingham's one-way streets and lack of parking spaces. Even the natives fight shy of the centre of Birmingham, so it speaks well for the navigation of our members and visitors that so many arrived at the Western Area reunion.

BELFAST. The annual general meeting was held on December 4, 1959. It was decided to change the monthly meeting from Friday evening to the first Wednesday of each month, as this appears to suit members better. The A.G.M. also agreed to send a subscription of three guineas to the World Refugee Year Fund, and to arrange for an entertainment to be held early this year for some of the members from one of the Old Peoples' Homes.

BRISTOL. At the October meeting we had a very interesting travel talk on New Zealand given by Miss Clark. The talk was illustrated by colour films taken by the speaker. About 19 members attended our annual dinner on November 5, and, thanks to many willing helpers, we had a very pleasant evening. Among those present we were glad to welcome Mrs. Rea from Gloucester and Mrs. Eagle (Edmonds) from Australia, both ex-Q.M.A.A.C. Mrs. Eagle, who served with the 1st A.M.T.D. at Abbeville, would very much like to get in touch with the comrades with whom she served in France. At the Festival of Remembrance on November 7, and the Cenotaph service, Mrs. Budd carried our standard. Mrs. Rawlings (secretary) laid the branch wreath at the Cenotaph service. At the A.G.M. in December the same officers were returned unopposed and Miss K. M. Cottrell was made a vice-president.

COUNTY OF LONDON. This branch, having lapsed for the past year, is now, through the enthusiasm of its members, rehabilitating itself, and has planned an interesting programme for 1960. There will be an "At Home" on Saturday, March 12, at the Duke of York's Headquarters after the annual general meeting, a cocktail party with a "bring and buy" sale on March 28, and, as before, the birthday party on October 3. We are delighted to welcome back Col. M. D. Thorne, C.B.E., T.D., as our chairman. It will be remembered that Col. Thorne instituted the County of London Branch. Members of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C., both

Regular and Territorial Army will be welcomed at the above meetings. Those interested are asked to contact the Secretary, Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road, S.W.3.

DERBY. The year has ended on a happy note. We enjoyed the reunion at Chatsworth, and our thanks go to Western Command for a very pleasant evening at Birmingham. Once again the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) from Siddals Road invited us to their Christmas party, and a very happy evening was enjoyed by us all. We also recruited two new members that evening. We were considerably shaken at our last meeting when the R.S.M. 5th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters took us all out on to the rifle range. As some of us had never before handled a rifle, we dare not mention the results.

EDINBURGH. We started our winter programme in October with a holiday gift stall. Everyone brought a small gift and was asked to give a short talk on where it was bought. This proved to be most amusing and interesting, as the gifts came from all over the British Isles, Austria, France and Switzerland. Afterwards the gifts were sold and the funds received a much needed boost. Our November meeting was well attended. We had a most interesting lecture from Mrs. E. Wright on "Skin Care and Make-up." Two of our members volunteered as models. Mrs. Wright convinced us all that her subject was one to which we should give more thought and time. Edinburgh was honoured this year by the presence of H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, at the Armistice Service at the Stone of Remembrance. As in former years, two members attended. The annual general meeting was held in December and there were no changes in the committee. Our annual dinner is to be held on March 12 in the Royal British Hotel.

GIBRALTAR. Everyone worked very hard for the bazaar arranged for October 3 and we are delighted to report its success. The bazaar realised over £101 net profit. On October 14 we sent a cheque for £100 to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund—an increase of £50 on the amount sent in 1958. The bazaar was opened by Mrs. G. Buttonshaw, wife of the Deputy Fortress Commander. It was crowded from the moment it opened and every article was sold in record time. There were cake, book, bottle, new articles and jumble stalls as well as side-shows. The business firms of the City were most generous and we had great support from service families. A hamper of luxury grocery items was presented as a raffle prize. Among the other prizes for lucky dip and various competitions were a return ticket for two to Tangier, dinner for two and champagne at a night club, free hair shampoo and set, dinner for two at a restaurant, free cinema seats, and free car greasings. Teas were provided and served by 18 Independent Company W.R.A.C., and the unit cooks were greatly complimented on their efforts.

GLASGOW. On October 31 we entertained 24 children from the "Gryffe Home," Bridge of Weir, to a Hallowe'en party. The fun was fast and furious and everyone had a good time. On leaving, each child received a small gift and a bag of sweets. Our thanks are due to all members who, by their donations, helped to make the evening such a success. The annual dinner, held in the George Hotel on November 28, was well attended and much enjoyed by all. Our guest speaker was Miss A. Dunbar of the W.V.S. We also had a few words from Lt.-Col. A. Cecil, A.D.W.R.A.C., Scottish Command, who brought us up to date with the news of the Corps. Other guests included members from the Edinburgh Branch, whom we are always very pleased to meet.

HARTLEPOOLS. We are hoping that, with the darker evenings and the holidays over, all our members will try to come along once again and enjoy the comradeship we share together. We did not attend the Northern Area Reunion this year, as we felt the distance was too great for only one day. At our October meeting, members brought along their holiday snaps. We spent a pleasant evening browsing through them and listening to each other's adventures. Miss Rita Denham had a particularly interesting holiday. She travelled by air from Newcastle to Ostend, then had a grand coach tour, calling at Brussels, Luxembourg, Heidelberg, Zirl and Italy.

LEEDS. Twelve members had a half-day coach excursion to Bridlington in July. The weather was ideal and we indulged in all the pleasure of the seaside, some of us taking a trip on a somewhat choppy sea aboard the *Britannia*. Our branch was represented at the Northern Area Reunion at Chatsworth House on September 20. Bradford members shared our coach and our journey home was enlivened by community singing of old and new songs. A beetle drive was held at the November meeting to which friends were invited. Orders were taken by one of our members for Christmas cards sold on behalf of the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship. The usual bring-and-buy sale took place at the December meeting, followed by a Christmas party with a sumptuous display of food provided by members. It has been agreed that we shall not hold our annual dinner in January but suspend this occasion until April or May in the hope of spring weather and more members able to attend.

LONDON. During the past six months social Evenings have been held on the first and third Thursday of each month. A highlight was provided by the showing of colour slides of a visit to Russia arranged by Miss Martin. Slides shown covered the journey out by sea, with visits to Denmark and the famous Tivoli Gardens and Finland, where the remarkably modern buildings in Helsinki make this a truly lovely city. Then on to Leningrad, with its spires and onion domes of the churches which are of incredible beauty, enhanced by the gilt decorations which must have glittered in the sunshine.

Finally came views of Moscow, still with its church domes though seeming more sombre than Leningrad, and the famous tombs of Lenin and Stalin, showing queues of people waiting to pass through. Few of us had any idea of the beauties of cities beyond the Iron Curtain, and seeing this record of what must have been a most remarkable and interesting tour was the next best thing to participating. On October 17 the branch held its annual dinner, with a smaller gathering than usual owing, no doubt, to the difficulty of getting word of the date round to those members living some distance away. The chair was taken by our President, Miss E. Thompson. Dame Helen was again with us, and, much to our pleasure, addressed the gathering. She stressed the need for women to take their full share in the running of the community, a task for which, she felt, ex-service women were particularly fitted, having acquired the ability to get along with people. Miss Druitt spoke of the very first dinner at which at least one of those present was in attendance. The programme continued with a talk by Miss E. Mason, of the Flour Advisory Bureau on "Women's Dietary Needs," when we were made to realise the importance of a correct diet. We were left in no doubt that much resolution is required to embark on a diet which would restore and maintain the much admired slim outline which modern fashion dictates. On November 19 we held a bumper Christmas bring-and-buy sale, the proceeds of which exceeded all expectations.

NORFOLK. A happy year for the branch has just been completed. Membership has been maintained. Raffle tickets are apparently selling well for 1960 expenses. The Secretary thanks all members for remembrances at Christmas, which were many. May we remind members that subscriptions were due on January 1.

OXFORD. On December 6 we held our first meeting under our new chairman. Most of our members live a considerable distance away, but 13 most nobly braved the elements. Miss Jeffcoat was hostess for the evening and showed colour transparencies of her African tour. The next meeting of the branch will be held on March 1, when Miss Jeffcoat will give a display of photographs and souvenirs from her tour. As we are very keen to enlarge our branch and have some young members, the chairman asked all members to make it their aim to find and encourage at least one new member each during 1960. Major McDonnell, Recruiting Officer, Oxford, was asked to let us know whenever she heard of local W.R.A.C. leaving the Service.

SOUTHAMPTON. Membership has remained more or less constant during the last year, the present number being 28. As ever, it has been necessary to run various bring-and-buy sales to raise money for our funds. A raffle was also held at each meeting during the year, the prizes being donated, and by these means we have managed to keep our head above water. In August it was

necessary to find accommodation, and we were fortunate enough to obtain the Sergeants' Mess at St. Mary's Drill Hall without any increase in rent. Unfortunately funds did not allow us to run to a children's party this Christmas. During the past year we have had extremely interesting talks and demonstrations on the Correct Way to Make Up (by beauty counsellors), Frozen Foods (by a local distributor) and Cookery. The last two demonstrations were made even more enjoyable by the tasty samples which were passed around. Members of the local branch of the W.R.N.S. Association, with whom we exchange visits about once a year, joined us for the demonstration of cookery. In July a very enjoyable evening was spent in the garden of Betty Rush's home. We saw the baby shower we gave to Mrs. Rush for her lovely baby daughter

born in December 1958. A few of us met in August in one of the local hostels of historical fame. Seven members attended the Grand Reunion in London, which, considering it was celebrating the 21st anniversary of the A.T.S., we found rather disappointing. The secretary attended the secretaries' meeting, when it is always heartening to hear the efforts that are going on all the time to keep up the spirit of comradeship. Our annual dinner was well attended and we were delighted to have with us Col. S. M. Crawley, who gave us an interesting after-dinner talk. The chairman and secretary continue to attend the Area Committee meetings held at Salisbury, and the branch is still represented on the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations in Southampton and the Forces Help Society.

News of Old Comrades

We were not surprised on opening the excellent magazine *The Field Naturalist* to find that it is edited by **Col. C. W. Hull**. Many of us will remember what a very keen ornithologist she is. Col. Hull, since her retirement from the Corps, has lived up in Westmorland. But, despite her work and the lovely country which surrounds her home, we are very happy to say that she still finds time to come and see us in London from time to time.

Col. E. S. MacFie embarked for Kenya just before Christmas. We shall hope to hear of her travels on her return.

Ex-W.A.A.C. Dorothy Hayward has written to tell us she has just spent a holiday in Germany revisiting her old haunts. Miss Hayward served in Abbeville in 1917 and again in 1945 with the Church Army, working in B.A.O.R. for 7½ years running canteens for the Army and Army families.

Friends of **Miss E. M. Sugate** of Worthing who left England in November 1959 to live permanently in New Zealand will be interested to read her letter in page 6 of this issue.

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REUNIONS

WESTERN AREA

DESPITE the cold, fog and wet weather, over 70 members of the Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S., W.R.A.C. past and present, Regular and T.A., assembled at Kunzles Restaurant in Birmingham on November 14, for the Western Area Reunion. Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Kidderminster, Chester, Liverpool and Derby were represented. Unfortunately a car load each from South Wales and Oxford were unable to make it as planned.

Lt.-Col. M. Boydell, A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command and Chairman of the Western Area Committee of the W.R.A.C. Association, welcomed everyone to the Reunion and thanked the Birmingham Branch for acting as hostesses on this occasion. Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E., who we were delighted to have as our guest of honour, said how much she appreciated the opportunity of attending and meeting members of the Western Area. She was able to give advance information on the lottery, and congratulated Birmingham on selling the highest number of tickets. Dame Mary stressed the important part the W.R.A.C. Association had to play in conjunction with the W.R.A.C. of today, and she asked for everyone to aim at bringing in at least one new member.

As the Western Area Committee had no funds at their disposal, Birmingham Branch volunteered to run a sweepstake on the November Handicap, and at the Reunion the Committee was able to announce that a gross profit of about £70 had been made. After expenses of the sweep and special expenditure on the Reunion have been met it is hoped to have about £40, which will be held as a "sinking fund" for the next Area Reunion.

After the speeches Dame Mary walked around the different tables—each marked with the appropriate town—and the chatter broke out afresh. It was obvious that everyone was well in their stride and the games and entertainment arranged by the Birmingham Branch would not be required. Most people soon began to find mutual friends and places, and if not they exchanged reminiscences, which in such a representative gathering of two wars and today made very interesting listening.

Kunzles provided a wonderful buffet, the highlight of which was their wonderful chocolate eclairs. I wonder how many diets were forgotten that night!

Photographs were taken during the evening and will be made up into book form as a permanent record of the Reunion. This book will be circulated to all the Western Area branches in turn.

NORTHERN AREA

SUNDAY, September 20, dawned fine and warm, and for the various branches of the Association in Northern England all roads converged at the meeting point for our 1959 Rally. We were to visit lovely Chatsworth House at the kind invitation of Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire, Honorary

Colonel of the Nottingham Battalion, who had unfortunately been called away unexpectedly and was therefore unable to join us as originally planned.

About 130 members of branches from Bradford, Chesterfield, Derby, Grimsby, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield and York assembled in the car park at 3 p.m. and were met by Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command. The company included our usual loyal band of Q.M.A.A.C. "Old Soldiers"—Mrs. Hodgson of Leeds Branch and Miss A. Gummarsall, Miss N. Julien, O.B.E., and Miss Cocksedge of Bradford Branch, who are always faithful supporters of our various activities. We were also delighted to welcome R.S.M. Mallard, accompanied by her fiancé, who had broken her journey en route to Salisbury to turn up at the rendezvous for a brief meeting with old friends.

Greetings over, we then passed through the imposing entrance gates and dispersed in sundry odd groups to explore the house and grounds. The tour of the house proved to be a lengthy and absorbing one, since there were so many things of historical and architectural interest to see and admire and so many priceless art treasures to stop and appreciate. Even the most unimaginative visitor could not fail to sense the atmosphere created by several hundred years of proud occupation through numerous vicissitudes of our country's history, and I think we all felt a renewed thankfulness that successive generations have considered the preservation of such a heritage well worth fighting for.

The gardens, in spite of the summer's drought, were still colourful and attractive and most of us found time to have a short rest at some vantage point where we could admire the flowers and the view of the house in its beautiful setting amidst the Derbyshire hills. At 5 p.m. we all repaired to the local Institute where a ham and salad tea awaited us. Lt.-Col. Millington read the following message which had been received from the Chairman and members of the Council: "*To all members of the Association assembled at Chatsworth. Greetings and all good wishes for a very happy day.*"

Lt.-Col. Millington said how pleased she was to see such a large gathering and extended a special welcome to Grimsby Branch, since this was the first occasion they had been able to attend a Northern Area Rally. After tea a collection was taken for the Benevolent Fund and members gathered together for a brief farewell chat before departing on their homeward journeys. The afternoon was unanimously voted a most enjoyable one and our thanks are due to all those who had a hand in planning it, and especially to Major Stephens, Chairman of Nottingham Branch, who had undertaken the catering arrangements.

Q.M.A.A.C. DINNER CLUB

The annual dinner of the Q.M.A.A.C. Dinner Club, for members only, will be held in the House of Commons on Saturday, May 28. Enquiries to the Secretary, Mrs. Mackenzie, 24 Stamford Brook Road, London, W.6.

Obituary

MISS DIANA BARWISE

EVERYONE who knew Diana Barwise during her service with the W.R.A.C. Band was shocked to hear of her death on November 23, at the age of 22. She had been ill since February 1959 with leukaemia, and had borne her long struggle with courage and cheerfulness. Her wit never left her and up to the end she was still able to crack a joke. She played oboe in the Band for four years, having previously played the 'cello. She was very musical and always worked hard to improve her standard. She was rewarded in the summer when she was awarded a major scholarship at the Guildhall School of Music. It is so sad to think that she only managed to have three lessons there before returning to hospital for the last and most serious stage of her illness. She was a keen athlete and during her service had represented the Depot at various sports meetings. The Band will always miss her and remember her with gratitude. Her mother has kindly given her oboe, cor anglais and 'cello to the Band.

MRS. PANNELL

SOUTHAMPTON Branch has lost a loyal supporter and one who will be sadly missed at the monthly meetings at which she was always present, in the death of Phyllis Pannell of 41 Ashby Road, Maybush, Southampton. Mrs. Pannell died after an operation. She served as a corporal with the A.T.S. Record Office in Winchester. The sympathy of all members is extended to her husband and young son.

MRS. REED

MANY A.T.S. will be sad to hear of the death of Hazel Reed on November 19. She joined the 17th County of London A.T.S. in the spring of 1939 and went to her first Territorial camp as a cook. Soon after the outbreak of war she was promoted Sergeant and ran the Officers' Mess at the Headquarters, Royal Signals, Brompton Road. Unfortunately she had to resign in 1940 because of family commitments, but later on she did noble service as a V.A.D. Like many others she "reduced" her age in order to serve in the A.T.S., a fact which increased the admiration of those who knew her.

MISS I. REDGRAVE, M.B.E.

IT is with deep regret we learn of the death of Miss I. Redgrave, M.B.E., on September 9, 1959. "Rosie," as she was affectionately known to many old comrades, joined the W.A.A.C. in 1917, serving in France. In World War II she drove an ambulance in the London Civil Defence, working through the blitz of 1940. In 1945 Miss Redgrave joined the Church Army and took a mobile canteen all through Germany. She had a very exciting life while doing this work, never knowing from one day to the next where she would be sent. In 1958 she was awarded the M.B.E., and she retired last year.



A MESSAGE from the Chairman of HER MAJESTY'S FORCES SAVINGS COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Saunders,
GCB, KBE, MC, DFC, MM.
Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee,
1, Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

H.R.H. The Princess Royal was present at a reception held in the Headquarter Mess on Wednesday, November 4, 1959, to view Her Royal Highness's portrait in oils, painted by Major A. C. Davidson Houston. Over 90 serving and retired officers attended. The guests were Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. R. F. Johnston, Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. Moberley, Major Geoffrey Eastwood and Major and Mrs. A. C. Davidson Houston. During the evening many officers had the honour of being presented to Her Royal Highness. The portrait has been hung in the ante-room of the Mess.

Col. J. M. Cowper has presented the Mess with a Sheffield-plate tea kettle and stand, a most welcome addition to the Mess silver.

The sixth annual general meeting of the W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess will be held on Monday, April 25, 1960, at 2.30 p.m. at the Duke of York's Headquarters.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS

(Up to January 31, 1960)

Lt.-Col. E. W. GIBSON, M.B.E., C.W.R.A.C., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
 Lt.-Col. M. M. GIBSON, Med. Services and W.R.A.C. Records.
 Major (T/Lt.-Col.) J. FISHER, Commandant, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
 Major (T/Lt.-Col.) B. A. D. TANSLEY-WITT, C.O., 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.

Major J. CATO-SYMONDS, 4 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., FARE.L.F.
 Major M. K. CAVANAGH, 14 Signal Regiment, C.O.M.C.A.N. Signal Troup, W.R.A.C.
 Major J. T. CROOKE, 3 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
 Major K. I. CUNNINGHAM, S.O.P.T./W.R.A.C., Northern Command.
 Major R. M. GREEN, W.R.A.C., School of Instruction.
 Major D. M. HOLMES, 323 (Stafford) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
 Major M. N. JAMIESON, D.A.A.G. (Org.) H.Q., Western Command.
 Major E. G. JOYNT, Drivers and Clerks Training Wing, W.R.A.C.
 Major A. M. MCILWRAITH, S/Capt., W.R.A.C., H.Q., London District.
 Major J. E. PARKER, 18 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Gibraltar.
 Major B. ROSEBAUM, D.A.A.Q.M.G., East Anglian District.
 Major P. SANDBACH, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Aldershot District.
 Major M. S. SMITHWICK, 40 Base Workshops, R.E.M.E., FARE.L.F.
 Major D. STROUD, 306 (Northumbrian) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
 Major M. T. VENNARD, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
 Major M. YEATES, Adm. Offr., Liverpool University O.T.C., W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
 Capt. M. G. CAMPBELL, 22 Independent Platoon, W.R.A.C., Hong Kong.
 Capt. H. E. A. HERDMAN-GRANT, G.S.O.3 (Int.), G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
 Capt. V. C. JONES, 2 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
 Capt. J. MELVILLE, "B" Company, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.
 Capt. E. M. MISEROY, S/Capt., W.R.A.C., H.Q., Scottish Command (temp. appt.).
 Capt. H. POWELL, F.V.R.D.E., Chertsey.
 Capt. D. RICHARDSON, "A" Company, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.
 Capt. B. A. ROONEY, 27 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., M.E.L.F.
 Capt. M. M. SIMMS, S.O.3, W.R.A.C. 1, War Office.
 Lt. L. J. EDLIN, 68 Company, R.A.S.C. (M.T.), B.A.O.R.
 Lt. P. M. FARWELL, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
 Lt. D. V. PALMER, Southern Command Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C.
 Lt. N. M. SIMPSON, 8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
 Lt. VAN DER BEECK, 18 Independent Company, Gibraltar.
 2/Lt. C. M. WEATHERILL, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

PERSONAL

(For charges and particulars see Contents page)

For Sale. Skirts "made to your measure" by an expert tailor in Welsh tweed, handwoven by disabled ex-servicemen at the British Legion Cambrian Factory. Illustrated styles and patterns sent free on request from Hon. Mrs. Fisher-Hoch, the Plas, Llanstephan, Carmarthen.

Wanted. W.R.A.C. No. 1 Dress, waist 30 in., hips 39-40 in., bust 38 in., height 5 ft. 5½ in. Box No. 1/60.

Wanted. Officer's No. 1 Dress, height 5 ft. 4 in., waist 26 in., bust 35 in., hips 36 in. Shirts, neck 13, collars 13½. Hat, 7½. Contact 2/Lt. J. O. Isemonger, W.R.A.C./T.A., 7 Park Avenue, Deal, Kent.

Wanted. Officer's No. 1 Dress, height 5 ft. 2 in., waist 24 in., bust 35 in., hips 38 in. Shirts, neck 12½, collars 13. Hat, 7. Contact 2/Lt. F. Monk, W.R.A.C./T.A., "Little Lawn," Rede Court Road, Strood, Gillingham, Kent.

Wanted. Officer's No. 1 Dress, height 5 ft. 9 in., bust 35 in., waist 27 in., hips 39 in. Box No. 2/60.

Wanted. Officer's No. 1 Dress and cap, bust 41 in., waist 33 in., hips 44 in., height 5 ft. 6 in. Box No. 3/60.

"Oversea," 58 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea. A holiday house for ex-Service women, established 1921, offers single rooms (not cubicles),

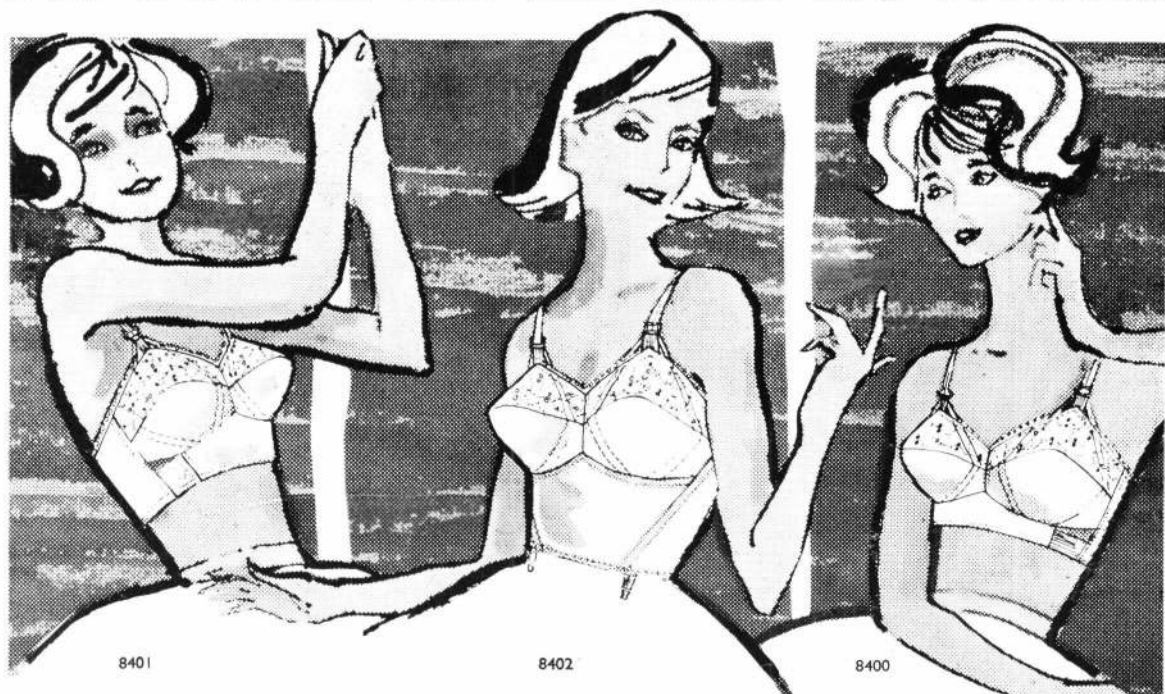
baths and all meals at moderate inclusive prices. Good food, beds, lighting and hot water; garden to laze in, and uninterrupted view of the sea. Non-Service guests at slightly higher rates. A few rooms also available for permanent letting. Apply The Warden. Tel. Hastings 1200.

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.

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and firmly lifted from *underneath* the bust . . . and these free-running ribbons allow each separate cup to make the fine adjustments needed for your perfect comfort . . . all day long! For new loveliness . . . in *new* comfort . . . try on an Unda-lift bra, *today!*

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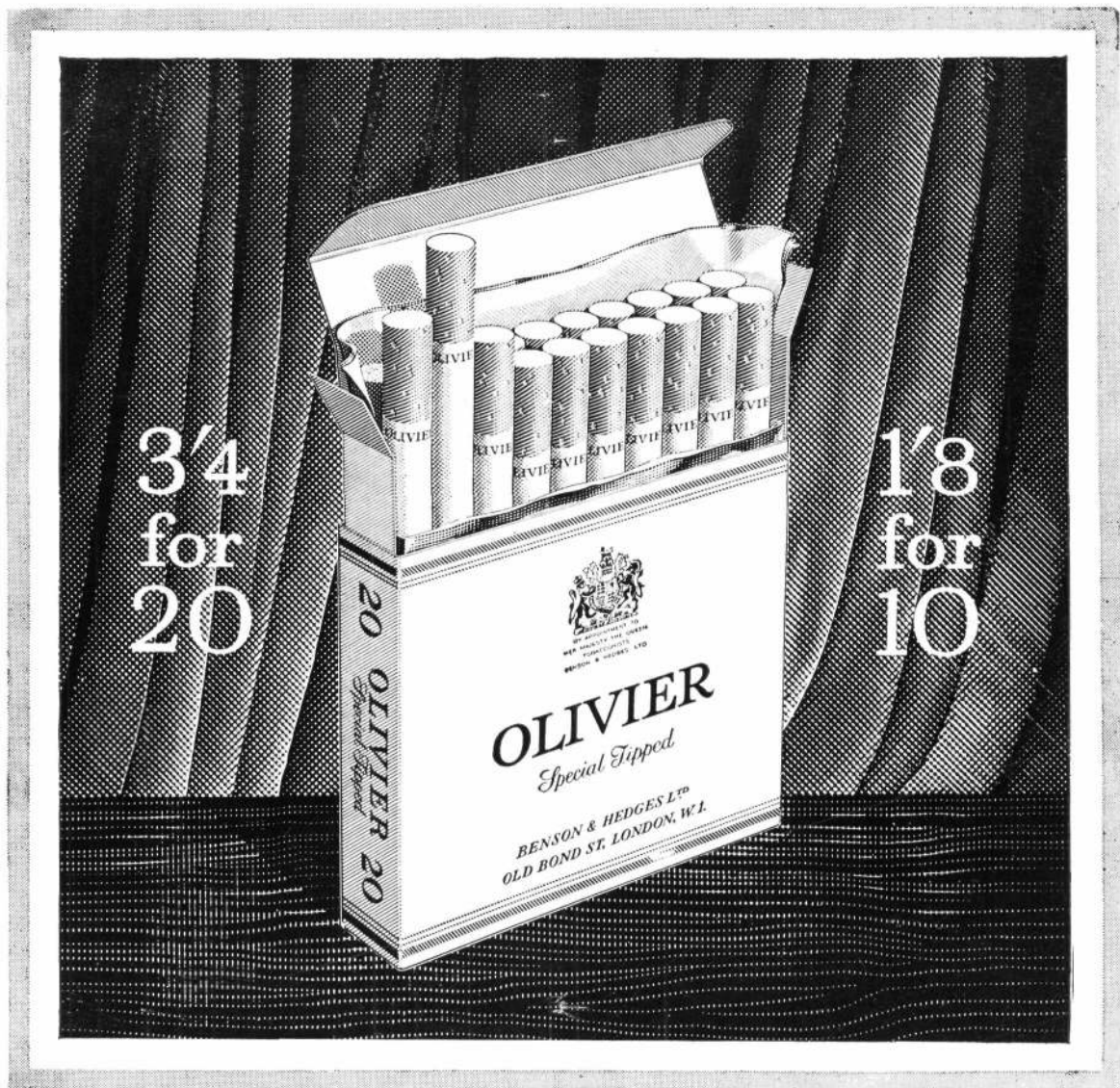
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