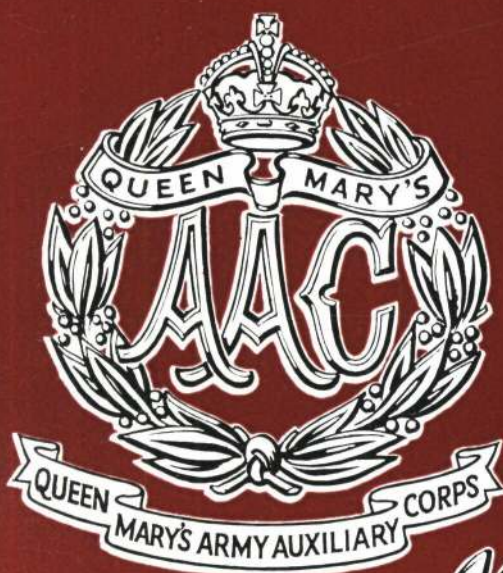


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W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK

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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ADVERTISEMENT REPRESENTATIVE

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

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

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CHIEF CONTROLLER H. C. GWYNNE VAUGHAN, C.B.E., Q.M.A.A.C.—1918
*Copied by Miss Stella Schmolle for the W.R.A.C. Museum from the portrait by Sir William Orpen, R.A.,
in the Imperial War Museum.*



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXIII

May 1960

No. 2

EDITORIAL

THOSE of us who attended this year's Annual General Meeting, and heard Brigadier George Chatterton speaking on his experiences in a Refugee Camp, brought away three overwhelming impressions which we shall not soon forget. His talk lighted up for us firstly a vivid picture of refugee conditions, painted from his first-hand knowledge; secondly, the personality of the man whose spirit and enterprise drove him to this momentous experiment; and thirdly, the tremendous influence which ex-Service men and women have come to wield in every sphere, from great international problems such as this to the parochial affairs of their own particular locality. Through the World Veterans' Association, through the British Legion, through the Regimental Associations, through public movements of all kinds and through personal influence in thousands of home circles, the social conscience which Service life develops keeps up its insistent pressure and achieves more than we can always recognise.

(continued in next column)

Portrait and Painter

THE picture reproduced on the opposite page will hang henceforward in the W.R.A.C. Museum, a joy to all those who know and love Dame Helen in the flesh, and a historic treasure to the generations who come after us. To add to its interest, the artist who copied it from Sir William Orpen's original is herself an ex-Service woman. Miss Stella Schmolle interrupted her artistic career in 1942 to join the A.T.S., serving in a camouflage unit, but her outstanding talent was soon recognised and she was appointed as the official A.T.S. war artist. She travelled in this capacity through Britain, France and Belgium, and ended her military career as an art teacher with the R.A.E.C. Since her return to civil life she has rapidly built up a reputation as a painter and copyist of great distinction, and ours is not the only military establishment which is proud to display her work. She painted the fourteen panels of the Stations of the Cross in the Roman Catholic Chapel at the R.M.A., Sandhurst, and modelled the bronze crucifix above the altar; and she was commissioned by the Devon and Dorset Regiment to paint a battle scene for the Officers' Mess. She has given us a picture worthy in every way of the great painter who originated it and the great lady who sat for it.

YET, strangely enough, when we look back into history we see the battle-scarred soldier, turned loose on the countryside in the aftermath of war, as a fierce and menacing figure against whom respectable doors were closed. Even now many people think of the old soldier as a gout-ridden Col. Blimp advocating corporal punishment from a leather-covered armchair, or a crimson-faced Sergeant-Major blowing froth from his military moustache as he lectures his local on the softness of the modern generation. By what imperceptible process have those ferocious freebooters, those bigoted disciplinarians, come to be regarded as the champions of the hardly-treated, the bulwark of voluntary service, and the battering-ram of social reform?

PERHAPS the change is less in the soldier himself than in the civilian background against which he is judged. In the old days before the Welfare State was conceived, the lad who ran away and joined the Army escaped, for a time at least, from a network of obligations and responsibilities which those at home must shoulder as a matter of course. The parent was solely responsible for the child, the young for the old, the Squire for his tenants, the neighbours for each other. The soldier had his own tough loyalties and his own harsh restrictions, but they might seem to his contemporaries to be far removed from the close-knit interdependence of the family circle and the village community. Today (as we are frequently informed by angry letters to the newspapers) family feeling and a sense of social responsibility are things of the past. We know this generalisation to be quite untrue, for we can all produce many examples of united families, good employers and selfless voluntary workers, but it is a fact that army training now sets a standard of personal responsibility and service which is not taken for granted in civilian life. The officer is trained from the very beginning to put the welfare of his men before his own; it is part of the N.C.O.'s duties to bring hardship and grievances to notice; the solidarity of barrack-room comradeship goes far beyond the casual friendliness of civilian workmates. It becomes second nature to fight the battles of the weak and attempt, by personal effort and initiative, to set right what seems to be wrong. No wonder that the men and women who have been fired with this spirit during their Service life should be found in the civilian world at the spearhead of every humanitarian crusade.

WE find plenty of evidence in the quarterly reports of our own Branches that the Old Comrades of the W.R.A.C. Association are pulling their weight in public affairs. By individual

leadership and personal service, by neighbourliness and hospitality towards the old, the sick and the lonely, by support of good causes and contributions to charitable funds, the ex-Service women are at the forefront of every public-spirited endeavour. This is something of which we may well be proud especially when our corporate strength is used, as it

most properly should be, in support of Service charities and for the solution of the problems which spring from war. For this we are well fitted by our training, our experience and our sympathies. The reconditioned sword may not always make the most efficient ploughshare, but there is nothing like a good old battleaxe for cutting through a jungle of weeds.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, March 12, 1960, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, by kind permission of the County of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association. In the absence abroad of The Princess Royal, the Chair was taken by Mrs. Rumbold the senior elected Vice-President, who opened the meeting by moving the adoption of a message of loyalty and greeting to Her Royal Highness. Mrs. Rumbold then welcomed Miss Katharine Acland, attending in her official capacity as Mayor of Chelsea, and Colonel Irving the war-time Director of the Women's Australian Army Corps. After referring with regret to the recent death of Lady Trenchard and speaking of her valuable service to the A.T.S. in the early years of the war, Mrs. Rumbold asked Brigadier Dame Mary Railton to take over the meeting.

Before reading the Council Report Dame Mary gave the following message received from the R.A. Association:

"All members of the R.A. Association send their greetings and good wishes on the occasion of your Annual General Meeting on March 12, 1960. We wish to pay tribute to the assistance and kindness we always receive in our dealings with your organisation, and for the consideration and financial support we invariably receive in Welfare cases. We, more than most Regiments, owe a deep debt of gratitude to your Corps to the support given freely to us both during and since the war."

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Lt.-Col. The Hon. M. M. Anderson, Col. S. Cooke, Mrs. C. H. Fraser-Tytler, W.O.2 Garfield, W.O.2 S. Glover, Mrs. A. E. B. Johnston, Miss E. E. Mapp, Mrs. B. Mitchell, Mrs. S. Oliver, Mrs. M. F. Wentworth-Reeve, W.O.1 J. Wiffen, Lt.-Col. D. H. I. Wilson.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 21, 1959, having appeared in the May issue of *The Lioness*, were taken as read, and signed as correct.

2. Reports

Hon. Treasurer. In a brief survey of the Accounts for the year ending October 31, 1959, the Hon. Treasurer showed that there had been an increase in subscriptions and that the financial year had ended with the substantial balance of £465

5s. 4d. largely due to the result of the Draw. She reported that donations amounted to £80. *The Lioness* had made a profit of £105 on account of the printers' strike which cancelled the August issue; £250 had been invested.

"That the accounts be adopted," was proposed by Brigadier Dame Mary Colvin, seconded by Miss H. A. Baron, put to the vote and carried. The Hon. Treasurer intimated that the balance sheet could be seen at any time at the W.R.A.C. Association Office and would be available after the meeting.

The Chairman, commenting on the success of the Draw, asked members whether they would agree to another at some future time. Miss Enthwistle, Liverpool Branch, proposed a Draw every year, but after discussion it was agreed that this be left to the decision of Council. It was decided that next time many more prizes should be given.

"The Lioness." Col. Crawley spoke of the bumper number in November resulting from the printers' strike, no August issue, and six months accumulation of news. She stressed the need for more good articles and blocks, and asked units to send in the names of any change of Secretary so that the list printed in the May issue would be correct.

A.T.S. Benevolent Fund. Miss Perceval welcomed the opportunity of telling members about the work of this Fund. She reported that there are now 24,600 case histories on the files and said that after 20 years the Fund was very much alive, shouldering quite a load of responsibility and giving a helping hand to a great many ex-A.T.S. The majority of applicants were younger women with families, in many cases large families. She referred to the increasing number of older women needing advice and practical help. The plan to sponsor Candidates for the Royal United Kingdom Benevolent Association was working very well and eight ex-Service women were now in receipt of annuities. An increased subscription was being made to the Association to ensure a larger number of votes. The Fund had suffered a great loss in the death in October last of Mr. Colin Malcolm, Hon. Treasurer and valued friend of the Fund since 1944.

The ex-Service Employment Office continued to do its important work, Mrs. Macfie's wide experience in the Employment field being invaluable to the Fund.

W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Col. Grierson, Chairman, reported that in July the Fund would be ten years old. Eight years ago at the Annual General Meeting the Chairman reported a balance

of £200 and appealed to members to do everything possible to increase the Fund. This appeal had resulted over the years in the splendid sum of £45,562 now invested. Col. Grierson said that appreciation must first be expressed to the Army Benevolent Fund, then to Units, ex-Service Branches, and individuals, who had all responded so magnificently.

Donations during the past year had amounted to £963 10s. 11d. The Gibraltar Branch of the W.R.A.C. Association had sent £100.

During the year, 126 cases were considered of which 93 received help. £565 was spent on grants and £83 15s. on loans.

Col. Grierson expressed appreciation of the Committee and in particular to the Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, Col. Stilgoe, who had given her services voluntarily since 1954. She also thanked those organisations and the individuals who gave such willing help in investigating cases for the Committee. In reply to a question about a Fund for ex-Q.M.A.A.C. members, it was explained that there still was such a fund and that when it is used up these members may apply to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.

Museum. Lt.-Col. Fisher, Commandant of the W.R.A.C. Depot, reported that as the Depot was being rebuilt on the present site the Unit would be moving temporarily to Lingfield. The new Museum building would be sited near the Camp entrance and the architect's ideas on the design were most encouraging. Funds in hand were £518 14s. 11d. It had been agreed to safeguard the contents of the Museum by appointing Trustees. In drawing up the necessary deed, full use was being made of the facilities offered by the Ogilby Museum Trust. The main new acquisition was the copy of Sir William Orpen's portrait of Dame Helen painted by Miss Stella Schmolle. More medals and photographs had been received, and a bound copy of the article "Most Royal Lady" which appeared in the Ladies Journal. Lt.-Col. Fisher said the Committee considered that the Museum had sufficient exhibits pertaining to World War I, and that concentration should now be on World War II and after.

3. Resolutions

The following Resolutions were proposed, seconded and carried.

- (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 paras. 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 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."

4. Election of Officers

Chairman of Council. As there was only one nomination, Brigadier Dame Mary Railton was declared to be elected.

Council Vice-Presidents. The Chairman reported that Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt preferred not to stand for election this year and that a further nomination had been received in respect of Miss Katharine Acland. The four nominees, Mrs. Rumbold, Mrs. Wentworth-Reeve, Mrs. Russell Simpson and Miss K. Acland were declared elected.

5. Grand Reunion

The Chairman reported that Council had considered a change of Hall for the 1961 Reunion and had recommended Derry and Toms. The cost for the ticket would be higher but would include refreshments. Mrs. Rumbold spoke of the very successful Dinners held in the past at Derry's and expressed the hope that the meeting would favour this venue for the 1961 Reunion.

Miss Carr, Southern Area Representative, said that arrangements at the last Reunion were not satisfactory, particularly with regard to the refreshments. Miss Hayward, Liverpool Branch, thought that an increase in the price of ticket would not be well received, as so many had to meet the cost of long railway journeys. After discussion, it was proposed by Brigadier Dame Mary Colvin, seconded by Mrs. Simpson and carried, that the 1961 Reunion be held at Derry and Toms.

6. Date of Next Meeting

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

7. Any Other Business

Miss Gardner, Brighton Branch, suggested there was need for a microphone as members at the back of the Hall could hear very little. It was agreed that some different arrangements should be made next year.

Scottish Reunion. The Chairman reported that the Scottish Reunion would be held in the Banqueting Hall of the City Chambers, Glasgow on Saturday, May 7, from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal had graciously consented to be present.

SPEAKER

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mrs. Rumbold introduced Brigadier Chatterton who gave a most interesting talk on the World Refugee problem. A vote of thanks to Brigadier Chatterton was proposed by Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan. The collection taken on behalf of World Refugee Year amounted to £13 11s. 6d.

Reunion Tea

An excellent tea at 2s. 6d. per head was provided after the proceedings, by Col. Crewe-Read (Chairman of the Reunion Committee), Major Gibbs, Major McIlwraith and W.O.2 Trodd. Personnel from 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C., and Travel Control Security (Army T.A.) assisted.

Report of Council

Owing to illness H.R.H. The Princess Royal was not able to preside at the Annual General Meeting or at the Grand Reunion on March 21, 1959. A message, deeply regretting her absence, and sending good wishes for her speedy recovery was sent from the Annual General Meeting, and to the delight of all present Her Royal Highness personally replied wishing she could have been with us and sending good wishes for a successful meeting. In the absence of Her Royal Highness, Mrs. C. H. Fraser-Tytler presided at the Grand Reunion which celebrated the 21st Anniversary of the A.T.S.

The past year has been one of steady progress. Three new Branches have been formed and one is being considered. The financial year ended with a balance of £465 5s. 4d. This was largely due to the Lottery which realised over £450, after more than 19,000 tickets had been sold.

Reunions have been held in Southern, Northern and Western Areas. That in Southern Area took place at Bournemouth when the members of Bournemouth Branch acted as hosts. Members of Northern Area enjoyed a visit to Chatsworth House at the kind invitation of the Duchess of Devonshire. Western Area visited Birmingham, the Reunion being organised by the Birmingham Branch.

With regard to the Association Chapel, various avenues have been explored, and it was finally decided to accept the invitation of the Governor of the Royal Hospital to take part annually in one of the usual 11 o'clock services. This would be in addition to the Reunion Sunday Special Service.

Members of the Association helped with the Lord Mayor's Appeal for World Refugee Year in the City, and manned a caravan throughout the week, assisting on Flag Day which realised the sum of £4,000.

Representatives of the three Corps took part in the Parade to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day, when the wreath was laid by a member of the London Branch. They also attended the Service of Dedication at the Field of Remembrance and the Cross was planted by the serving officer, Lt.-Col. M. M. Gibson, on behalf of the Association.

Work on the development of Headquarters Area is already in progress.

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

Secretaries Meeting

THIS meeting was well attended, Branch secretaries coming from as far afield as Guernsey. A warm welcome was extended to Mrs. McElwaine of Weymouth and Portland Branch who was with us for the first time. From her report, it would appear that Weymouth has a happy and flourishing branch. It seems that most branches continue to flourish in spite of small attendance numbers, and money raising efforts are wide and varied. Jumble Sales, Bring and Buy, Beetle Drives and Coffee Parties. We do, however, rather envy seaside branches being able to organise beach and swimming parties. Most branches managed to send donations, large and small, to the Benevolent Fund during the

past year. Dame Mary Railton thanked the Secretaries for their excellent reports and the Treasurer thanked all branches for their efforts on behalf of the Lottery, which proved a tremendous success. The secretaries then adjourned for an excellent lunch with members of the Council.

Service in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital

By kind invitation of the Governor, members attended the morning Service at 11 o'clock on Sunday, March 13. The Band of the Women's Royal Army Corps played for the Service under the Direction of Major J. MacDowall, M.B.E., A.R.A.M.

Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion

THE members of the Q.M.A.A.C. held their Annual Reunion at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, on Friday, March 11, 1960. The way the "Old Girls" continue to meet every year is most inspiring.

This year our numbers were 114. It was a great disappointment that H.R.H. The Princess Royal was abroad and unable to be with us.

Dame Helen as usual had a great reception, and somehow found time for a short intimate chat with every one of us. Among the telegrams which she read out, Etaples members were very pleased to hear a message from Mrs. Johnson who was their Unit Administrator for what seemed a very long time. She sent kindest remembrances and best wishes to Dame Helen and all Old Comrades. A message of greetings and good wishes was also sent by Mrs. E. F. Armstrong.

Our "Ever Youngs" were on the floor all the time (except when they were eating the remarkably good refreshments), dancing and singing and looking more like A.T.S. than W.A.A.C.s. Mrs. E. Smith (Parsons) played the piano, and the old army songs were sung with gusto, reviving many pleasant memories.

We would like to thank our faithful A.T.S. who come every year to look after us. Had they been born a few years earlier they would have made splendid W.A.A.C.s.

Here's to next year.

Western Area Reunion

Western Area Reunion will be held on Saturday, October 1, 1960, in, it is hoped, Southport, Lancs. Further information, when available, on request to Area Secretary, c/o W.R.A.C. Branch, H.Q. Western Command, Chester.

BIRTH

Hutchinson. On October 11, 1959, at B.M.H. Hostert, to Beatrice (*née* Wilson), wife of Major J. S. Hutchinson, M.B.E., R.A.O.C., a daughter, Helen Margaret, a sister for Peter and Susan.



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News from the T.A.

NORTH RIDING MARCHING COMPETITION

SUNDAY, February 21, 1960, was a day of jubilation for the 60th (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), when ten members of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Middlesbrough Detachment, in two teams of five, were placed second and third in a "walk" competition organised jointly by the manager of the Odeon Cinema, Middlesbrough, and the North Riding T. and A. F. Association.

Twenty-six teams entered the competition, from almost all the Territorial units in the North Riding of Yorkshire, including one other W.R.A.C. (T.A.) team from "B" Company, 306th (Northern Command) Battalion. The distance covered by all entrants was 13 miles, competing teams starting off from 12 different points at 1315 hours, and the winning team, from 541 Squadron, 118 (Tees) Construction Regiment, R.E. (T.A.), arriving 2 hours 47 minutes later. The two W.R.A.C. (T.A.) teams from 60th (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), marching neck and neck, came into view a few minutes later and, with yells and cheers of encouragement from the crowd (including many members of the Regiment), sprinted the last 25 yards to the finishing post—time, 2 hours 55 minutes. It was very difficult for the judges to sort out the teams, but eventually the team captained by Sgt. G. Shinner was placed second and the team captained by Sgt. S. Kilpatrick was placed third.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Middlesbrough, Alderman and Mrs. Bennett, were at the finishing post, and the Mayor presented prizes to the members of the first four teams. The Mayor went on to say that he had been greatly impressed by the wonderful show put up by all concerned in the competition and particularly congratulated the successful W.R.A.C. (T.A.) teams. During the competition the foyer of the Odeon Cinema was transformed into an "OPs" room, with short-wave wireless receiving messages from wireless vehicles following the marchers and their progress plotted on a large map of the area.

This competition was conceived only two weeks before, and the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) teams did no training beforehand. Nevertheless, two members of the teams were seen dancing at a party that same evening.

59 (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

IT was very interesting and instructive to take part in the country-wide exercise "New Broom," which it is hoped will be a yearly event.

Our Training Officer, Major J. Frame, W.R.A.C., has been posted to Salisbury, and we wish her every happiness and success in her new appointment. We welcome Lt. J. E. M. Newport to the Regiment, an ex-A.T.S. Officer who served with Signals. Lt. R. Trainor has spent a very useful week with the main Army Signal Centre at Boddington. Lt. M. Carline is now out of hospital and we hope she will soon be able to return to the Manchester T.A. Centre.

Best wishes to S/Sgt. D. Argo who has been posted to Scotland, and welcome to S/Sgt. M. A. Panter who has joined us from Northern Ireland. Congratulations to 1 Squadron, W.R.A.C., shooting team for winning the Regimental Cup for 1959, Sgt. E. Bruce, T.A., on being awarded the B.E.M., S/Sgt. D. L. Birch, T.A., on her promotion and Pte. M. F. McCann on being the most outstanding candidate on the recruit course.

The canteens at Liverpool and Manchester have been completely redecorated and will be opened shortly. Runcorn has four members of the W.R.A.C., which it is hoped will be increased in the near future. The administrative inspection is over, so now we are busily preparing for camp, which is from April 30 to May 14 at Weymouth, and we hope it will be as happy as our last camp there in 1955.

307 (NORTHERN COMMAND) BATTALION

NO. 3 Lincs PLATOON at Grimsby is holding a cookery course, leading up to an examination, which is proving so popular that it is to be followed by another one later for those who could not get vacancies on the first. Another useful course is simple First Aid in six sessions, given by a local doctor assisted by the head of the British Red Cross in Grimsby. At the end of these sessions there will be an examination with a certificate for the candidates who satisfy the examiners. We have also had an interesting and informative lecture on R.A.S.C. organisation, given by a male officer of the R.A.S.C.

At the invitation of No. 1 Platoon, Lincoln, No. 3 Platoon attended a social at Lincoln, a very pleasant affair which everyone enjoyed. T.A. training goes on as usual, with more regular driver training after the end of the bad weather.

326 (CITY OF LONDON) BATTALION

IN June, 1959, the Unit camped for the first time in Scotland. An important part of the training for the drivers was the convoy of 15 vehicles and one motor-cycle, under the able guidance of Capt. U. E. Philip Williams who rejoined from T.A.R.O. for the camp period. The convoy staged at Kidderminster and Carlisle on outward and return journeys. The camp itself was ideally situated overlooking the Gareloch, and was enjoyed by all who attended both from the training and recreational angle. The latter was greatly enhanced by the presence of the Royal Navy and all those who wished had the opportunity of touring the latest type of submarine.

The big event of the winter took place when the Battalion, together with 327 (County of London) Battalion, was honoured with an evening visit from H.R.H. The Princess Royal. Her Royal Highness visited one of our newer Drill Halls and saw groups of women carrying out various forms of training, clerical, ordnance and M.T. Her Royal Highness delighted everyone by speaking to almost every woman present, and was afterwards entertained to dinner in Finsbury Barracks by the officers of the two Battalions.

Retirements

WE say good-bye with great regret to three very well-known officers whose service goes back to pre-war days. **Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D.**, will be particularly remembered by the A.T.S. for her service in A.A. units in the U.K. and 21 Army Group. **Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil**, who began her service in M.T., became known to all the officers in the Corps as Second in Command, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, and D.A.A.G. (A.G. 16(o)). Both had the distinction of commanding the W.R.A.C. Depot, and both ended with a tour as A.D.W.R.A.C. at a Command Headquarters—one at Northern and the other at Scottish Command. Both made a great contribution to sport, as Presidents respectively of the Army (Women's) Cricket and the Army (Women's) Hockey Association. **Lt.-Col. D. L. Pooley**, whose talent for personnel administration was apparent even in a Company Assistant, spent most of the war years at the A.T.S. Record Office, and put this experience to good use later on the Selection Staff and as D.A.D.W.R.A.C. (W.R.A.C. 1). After service in MELF and FARELF she returned to the Record Office for her final tour. All three officers have shown their active interest in the W.R.A.C. Association, and we hope that our contact with them will continue unweakened through this channel. We wish them all great happiness and success in civilian life.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS

(Up to April 30, 1960)

Lt.-Col. M. H. BOYDELL, T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command.
 Lt.-Col. L. M. DAVIES, A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command.
 Lt.-Col. D. H. I. WILSON, Commandant, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
 Major (T/Lt.-Col.) HON. M. M. ANDERSON, M.B.E., A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command.
 Major (T/Lt.-Col.) J. E. HENDERSON, C.W.R.A.C. FARELF.
 Major D. W. BROUSSON, 59 (M.) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
 Major M. E. CLARKE, Press Office, Ministry of Defence.
 Major N. J. COMYN, S/Capt. Q., H.Q. Land Forces, Hong Kong.
 Major M. E. CRAWFORD, S/Capt., W.R.A.C. H.Q., Scottish Command.
 Major M. CROSSFIELD, D.A.A.G. A.G.16 (a), War Office.
 Major J. G. FRAME, 251 W.R.A.C. Signal Squadron (Southern Command).
 Major M. E. GRIBBLE, O.C., 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
 Major A. D. MACINTOSH, A.I.P.T./W.R.A.C. and O.C., W.R.A.C. P.T. Wing.
 Major A. M. MCILWRAITH, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. Eastern Command (temporary appointment).
 Major W. G. MERRELLS, O.C., 17 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
 Major E. E. MICHELL, O.C., 314 (Scottish Command) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
 Major S. C. PUCKLE, M.B.E., T.D., D.A.Q.M.G. (W.S. Accn.), H.Q., Eastern Command.
 Major P. RILEY, 62 (M.) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
 Major R. M. SHAW, O.C., "A" Company, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.
 Major M. E. SNOWDON, 21C Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
 Major E. V. WATTS, D.A.Q.M.G. (Accn.), H.Q., Southern Command.
 Capt. A. E. ACHURCH, S/Capt. A (PS4), G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
 Capt. J. DONALDSON, Adj., 303rd (Kent) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
 Capt. B. I. FORBES ADAM, S/Capt. A.G.16 (o), War Office.
 Capt. A. J. H. HODGKINSON, O.C., "A" Company, 14th Battalion, W.R.A.C.
 Capt. E. M. MISEROY, Drivers and Clerks Training Wing, W.R.A.C., 6th Training Battalion, R.A.S.C.
 Capt. E. MUNN, S/Capt. "Q" (Mob.), H.Q., Scottish Command.
 Capt. G. A. SERGANT, H.Q., Singapore Base District.
 Capt. J. C. SWANN, 140 Provost Company, W.R.A.C.
 Capt. J. E. WALKER, Officers Training Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
 Capt. A. E. WRIGHT, S/Capt. A.G.16 (a), War Office.
 Lt. D. M. BECKETT, Drivers and Clerks Training Wing, W.R.A.C., 6th Training Battalion, R.A.S.C.
 Lt. A. M. M. CLISSITT, "C" Company, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.
 Lt. V. FLETCHER, 16 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
 Lt. T. M. SPURLING, Officer Cadet Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
 Lt. J. M. WILLIAMS, 8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
 2/Lt. G. WHEATLEY, 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.



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MOUNTAIN GUIDE

GWEN MOFFAT, A.T.S.

I STARTED to climb during my last year in the A.T.S., and when I was demobilised I went on climbing, taking odd jobs to earn enough money for the home hills at weekends and the Alps in the summer. After seven years of mountaineering my friends suggested that I should become a guide.

There was only a handful of male guides in Britain, and no women at all, but since there was a remote possibility that I possessed the qualifications, I wrote to the British Mountaineering Council asking for information. When it came I seemed to have everything except experience of the prismatic compass. I was instructed in its use by a member of the R.A.F. Mountain Rescue on an evening punctuated with a fine electric storm and terminated only when the Chianti ran out. I never learnt to use a compass properly until I was alone on a strange mountain in mist. Whether this is an argument in favour of the survival of the fittest or the luckiest is uncertain.

As for the other qualifications, I had done the 12 (minimum) hard rock climbs, the expeditions (of at least eight hours duration) under snow and ice, I knew a great deal of mountain rescue, and something of first aid. I filled in a form and sent it to the British Mountaineering Council. Ironically, I was recovering from an operation when the certificates were handed to me. I had qualified for both the Grade 1 and Grade 2, for mountaineering and for rock climbing. Tranquillisers, physical weakness and a signal sense of honour overwhelmed me and I wept.

I convalesced from that operation climbing in the Western Highlands, and when I was fit enough to work I started driving a travelling shop round the scattered crofts of Lochaber. During the convalescence and at the weekends I started to learn the finer points of my job, and to improve on the fundamentals. For the most part these Scottish hills were strange to me, and, now that they were sheathed in snow and ice, stranger still. I was out in all weathers and conditions—mists, blizzards, gales, and darkness, usually alone, but on the classic climbs, where a rope was used, with a companion. You develop an instinctive feeling for snow and ice, an instinct probably derived from intensive observation and experience, but as the winters proceed it becomes subconscious, so that you don't look at a snowfilled gully and work out, according to the direction of the wind and the amount of precipitation during the preceding week, whether it will avalanche. You *know* whether the snow is safe. It was during this first winter that I started to find confidence in my own judgment.

I began my first season superbly happy and extremely fit, and the work was everything I'd hoped it would be. I don't remember one engagement that was unpleasant; even the week with the 16-stone client (I am 8 stone) was interesting, although it took some time for the rope burns to heal. It is difficult to pick out the memorable incidents in my years of guiding—there are so many and when I relax they all come crowding back, eager

and colourful and jostling for precedence. There was the bitter night I cut steps up the north face of Ben Nevis while the moon shone straight down the gully and dazzled me as the ice chips flew. And the time the ice axes sang with electricity on the ridge in Dauphiné when one had been so afraid as the storm approached that now, with lightning striking the ridge, the still heart of danger had been reached and there was no more fear, only exhilaration—and the exquisite song of the axes.

But danger and discomfort play a minor part in reality and I've always said my pleasantest professional engagement was three days in a heat wave in Glen Coe. I was guiding Monica Jackson who was shortly to lead the first women's expedition to the Himalayas. We spent the first day on a mountain known to both of us, the Buachaille Etive Mor, that fine granite cone which raises above the Moor of Rannoch as you drive westwards into Inverness-shire. The second day, having taken the measure of each other, we decided to explore: to go to a great cliff where few people climbed, a wall like the side of a titanic elephant rising above the village of Glencoe.

The sun shone full on that southerly face, baking into our backs as we wandered, slow and relaxed, over its great buttresses. There was, I remember, a natural amphitheatre in the middle, where gaunt and tottering pinnacles rose from a slanting floor of scree, as bare of plants as a desert. There were enormous overhanging gullies, unclimbed and perhaps unclimbable, and another—easier—by which we escaped to the top of the cliff. It was bare and dry as a bone, a dead gully where the only sound was the rasp of the rope on rock and the occasional click of a shifting stone. The breeze on top was warm, but it was still a movement of the air, and when we had coiled the rope, unwilling to go down to the valley, we walked for miles through the golden evening with all the mountains and the sweeping ridges shimmering in the heat haze, and we walked in the old snow drifts to cool our feet. The following day, still exploring, we went to another lonely cliff and passed the day on harder climbs where the rock was warm under our hands and even the runnels of water were limpid in the gullies. When Monica went down to the burn to drink after lunch I fell asleep below the cliff. There were cuckoos in the glen, and looking back on that afternoon when I woke and climbed again, I think of it as Heaven.

After these three days I returned to the Isle of Skye, where I was working for most of that season—a delightful journey through woods that were a blaze of bluebells—and I spent weeks on the Black Cuillin, climbing on granite peaks above the peacock sea. There was rain, of course, the west coast of Scotland is renowned for it. There were times when I was wet to the skin, quite literally, day after day. There was the morning when I had to shepherd my party off a cliff during a storm and we climbed down a vertical gully with a waterfall coming over the lip. I lowered them from the top

and as the waves broke over their heads they looked like seals submerging. There were days when the gale was so strong we couldn't walk against it, when a river was swollen in spate so that we crossed it in a chain with the girls in the middle. There was the time we met the family of ptarmigan—and the grouse family—the day the golden eagle rose off the ridge ahead and floated silently into the mist . . .

ATTENTION ALL SHIPPING

C. R. LEACH, Q.M.A.A.C.

I WONDER how many of my contemporaries, the old Q.M.s of London Branch, can cast their minds back to those roaring twenties and our ideal weekend refuge, Shanghai Camp at Ham Island on the banks of the Thames. It was so called because for some reason which I personally cannot explain, the money was provided by the Shanghai Race Club. Many were the sprees that we had on the river, where (to quote one of our cockney members) we just disrobed with impunity. As a matter of fact we so often fell in or tipped up the boat that clothes became irksome, wet and unnecessary appendages, easily dispensed with. With our skiff named Shanghai, and our lop-sided dinghy named Old Comrade, we zig-zagged our way up and down stream to our hearts' content, sometimes quite oblivious to great big steamers bearing down on us out of Old Windsor lock. I remember one occasion when someone, rising up in the middle of the skiff and looking not unlike Mrs. Pankhurst, dared one great monster to budge another inch. There was another incident when someone with her handbag tucked neatly under one arm sat just over the edge of an overcrowded skiff and appeared surprised to find that she did not automatically float. It is still a source of amazement to me that so many of us survived to fight another day instead of getting rocked in the cradle of the deep long before the advent of a second war. A good swimming club must have been the explanation. The ex-W.R.N.S. sometimes hired our camp; no doubt they well knew how to grapple with oncoming steamers and lop-sided dinghies.

Do you remember that on one Saturday each summer we used to bring down our Waaclets from London in bus-loads, and always among them were two dark-skinned little boys who loved to decorate crisp black curls with bright feathers, stuck conspicuously erect as their war-paint? There were games, prizes and high jinks, and the bus-drivers were always ready to take part in the lovely food and to lend a hand in keeping the children out of the river. We needed eyes all over us, but when the roll was called for departure we were always fortunate in mustering our party complete. I wonder how our Waaclets have grown up. I only know of one, Peggy Harvey, who became a teacher and is now happily married.

The only snag was that we were so dependent on the weather, which could be most unco-operative. I was treasurer over a long period which seemed to bring one wet summer after another, keeping people away and making it most difficult to keep (finan-

Probably the best thing about looking back like this is to know that as much, and more, is to come; more and more ice climbs, illimitable acres of sun-drenched granite (black on Skye, grey in Wales, and pink in the dawn at Chamonix); and there will be eagles and chamois and peregrine falcons—and the white hares that haunt Ben Nevis in the moonlight.

cially, of course) off the rocks. However, one way and another, we did manage to keep afloat until we were overtaken by World War II. Most of us who were young enough joined the A.T.S. and the rest were caught up in other essential services, leaving Barbara Haines (now Mrs. Mayhew) to carry on. It could not have been left in more capable hands, but unfortunately there was nothing for her to do except wind up camp affairs, for with the impact of another World War we could not at that moment contemplate any future for ourselves or our successors.

All the same, the camp was a great idea, giving endless pleasure for which we have to thank the inspiration of the late Miss Blanche Ireland as well as the Shanghai Race Club. Perhaps our successors may someday do something similar for themselves.



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BRANCH NEWS

BATH. Our Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held recently at a local hotel. Over the past year we have held two Jumble Sales and taken part in a combined Sale of Work. The revenue from these efforts has enabled us to send donations to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund, World Aid to Refugees, Fregus Disaster Flood Fund, and several smaller local appeals. Our refugee friends at Bristol have been over for tea at our Chairman's home, and in spite of language difficulties we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Our heartiest congratulations to one of our members, Miss Betty Evans, on her engagement to Flight Engineer Eric Plummer (B.O.A.C.). We wish them every happiness in the future.

BRADFORD. We are using our space in this issue to pay a tribute from all our members to our Secretary, Mrs. Suttle. When she joined us the Branch was in poor shape, the Secretary resigning and the members drifting away. We decided at once that Mrs. Suttle, ex-R.S.M. with ten years' service, would make a "smashing secretary." We elected her, and things began to hum again. We had whist drives and parties in Mrs. Ward's house, and, led by Mrs. Ward, we bought a showcase for the Museum and a stand for the Museum visitors' book. Mrs. Suttle is now Area Secretary as well, and how she manages to get through her full-time Civil Service job, her Church work in the Mothers' Union, her Committee work and poppy selling in the British Legion, and all she does for our own members, only she herself knows. When the Somme Parade was held in Bradford a poppy wreath was laid on the Cenotaph by Mrs. Suttle with escorts from the Somme Battle veterans. Under her leadership we can truly feel that we are indeed Old Comrades.

BRIGHTON. We still meet on the third Monday of the month at the R.N.A. Club, King's Road Arches. On February 1, we held our Annual Dinner at the Bedford Hotel, and were afterwards entertained with songs at the piano by Frank Child and Stan Clements. We were very pleased to see at the dinner several members who are unable to attend the meetings, including Mrs. E. F. Armstrong. We have a new member, Mrs. Nellie Daniels, ex-A.T.S., who is now living at St. Mary's Dower, Clayton, near Hassocks, Sussex, and who would be very pleased to hear from any old friends.

BRISTOL. Again this year an American Supper was arranged for January. Miss G. Hayward and Miss W. Smith organised the games and a very happy evening was spent. In February, a visit was paid to the Little Theatre to see an amusing farce by Geoffrey Lumsden called *Caught Napping*. In March, we had a Quarterly Meeting and a Bring-and-Buy Sale, organised by Mrs. Morgan. Three members attended the Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion, and Mrs. Rawlings represented us at the Secretaries' Meeting and the A.G.M.

CHELTENHAM. A new branch was formed on March 30, and membership is open to all living in the surrounding countryside. Miss G. Douglas Jones (who was the first A.T.S. Company Commander in Cheltenham) has been elected Chairman, and Mrs. C. Kaye, of Kennel Cottages, Boddington, has been elected Secretary, assisted by Miss Enid Lawrie. Members of the Committee include Lt.-Col. Holt (W.R.A.C. (Rtd.)), Mrs. Simante and Miss M. Turner.

EDINBURGH. In January, some of our members made up a party for the theatre and we had a very enjoyable evening. Our February meeting took the form of a Beetle drive and judging by the hilarity it was a great success. We were pleased to welcome S/Sgt. Jones (W.R.A.C.), of 1 Independent Company, and she showed some wonderful colour film scenes taken in Singapore and Hong Kong, also some shots of service life as it is today. Who can blame us if we felt just a tinge of envy that we were not 20 years younger. Miss Mary Innes took the Chair at our Annual Dinner, which was held in the Royal British Hotel. Our principal guest, Lady Morton, gave us a most amusing resume of her service as an ambulance driver, and also spoke of her many present day activities. Our other guests included Miss Halley (ex-W.A.A.F.), chairman of the Women's United Services Club and two of our friends from the Glasgow Branch. We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Lindsay (C.S.M. Seddon, A.T.S.) as a new member.

GIBRALTAR. In November we said goodbye to our chairman, Major M. N. Jamieson, who left for the U.K., and her successor, Major J. E. Parker, took over. This Branch is a little unusual because the majority of ex-service members are also members of R.A.P.C., R.A.O.C. and P.W.O. Wives' Clubs, which enables us to liaise with those clubs and develop a competitive spirit. Ten members accepted an invitation from the R.A.P.C. Wives' Club to a social evening which was enjoyed by all. In return we invited the R.A.P.C. wives to a social games evening in January. We began with a competition for hat-making, using one sheet of paper, three pins and a piece of ribbon. Some efforts were very funny and others brilliant. Mrs. Batten-shaw, wife of the Deputy Fortress Commander, was the judge and awarded the prize to one of the R.A.P.C. wives. This was followed by a musical, general and word quiz. It was amazing to find how many people thought that 'exigent' meant a way out for gentlemen and that an 'apiary' was a monkey-house, but it all added to the fun. At Christmas a combined Association and Unit dance was held in Princess Royal Block. The room was crowded and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

GLASGOW. Our meeting in December took the form of a theatre evening and a party of members and friends enjoyed the pantomime at the Alhambra. On January 21 we held a Burns supper in the club. This evening was well attended and everyone enjoyed the excellent supper pre-

pared and served by Mrs. O'Neill and her staff. The toast to the "Immortal Memory" was proposed by Mrs. Mathews, who delighted her audience with witty references. In spite of inclement weather a whist drive held in February proved a great success both socially and financially. We all thoroughly enjoyed a surprise night in March, a coloured film show given by Mr. Crawford. We joined him in a tour of Italy, Austria and Paris. Some of our members were among the 26 of the 40th Stirling Company, A.T.S., who attended a reunion in February. The guests included Major Lady Martha Bruce, O.B.E., and R.S.M. Clark, W.R.A.C.

GRIMSBY. In February, 1960, we held our annual general meeting, after a very happy and successful year. Our membership has dropped from 33 to 27 owing to family commitments, but we hope to make the numbers up this year. A programme for the next few months was drawn up, including two tramp suppers, an evening bus outing, a mannequin parade, a social and dance. All our officers were returned unanimously, and the chairman, Capt. A. Stone, thanked them for their help and support. It was agreed to make a donation of five guineas to the World Refugee Fund. We also held a beetle drive, rather a noisy affair as usual but lots of fun. At the March meeting Madame Bellamy was our guest speaker, her theme being "My Experiences During the 1914-18 War." Madame Bellamy was employed at this time by the Navy and Army Canteen Board, now better known as the N.A.A.F.I., and her humorous description of her work (which was to visit all the remote spots on the Lincolnshire coast to see that the canteens were well provided and to collect the money) made most of us realise what a good job she had done and what great difficulties she overcame. When members had rounded it off very well by relating their own wartime experiences, the bar was opened by Sgt. Stocks, and Pte. Dixon ran a raffle to add to Branch funds.

HARTLEPOOLS. We held our annual general meeting in December and it resulted in the re-election of the President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. At Christmas we gave bed-jackets to our three semi-invalid friends with the sincere good wishes of the Branch, and a parcel of groceries was taken to a needy case known to our Chairman, Miss V. M. McRobert, T.D., who is also Durham County Welfare Officer. A party, held for friends and members in January, was greatly enjoyed by all those who attended. We are pleased to welcome back Mrs. Ada Shipley after her absence, and offer her our deepest sympathy in the loss of her mother. At the March meeting we welcomed a new member, Mrs. Grace Hardy, who was a member of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) for a number of years. We hope she will enjoy the comradeship that we share together.

LEEDS. Our annual general meeting was held in January when all the officers were re-elected unopposed. In February we had an enjoyable

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evening whist drive attended by members and friends. A jumble sale organised in March was a financial success. Several members have visited our member Winnie Reeder who is now happily settled at the Cheshire Foundation Home at Spofforth. The place is very bright and comfortable and has nice grounds which will be very pleasant in summer. Winnie is now awaiting delivery of a chair in which she will be able to wheel herself about.

LEICESTER. In a determined effort to recruit new members we inserted an eye-catching advertisement in the personal column of our local paper, inviting all ex-A.T.S. to come to a New Year party. This was followed up by an excellent write-up by the women's column correspondent, who had also been asked to the party. Ten visitors came, five of whom have now joined the Branch, and we believe that others may come along later. Our programme for the year includes talks by officers of the Fire and Probation Services and visits to a Police Headquarters, a bakery and the theatre.

LONSDALE. We are very glad to welcome our Chairman, Miss Gosselin, back to our circle after a long spell in hospital. During the winter, meetings have been held regularly each month with a small but regular attendance. In order to conserve our finances we have met in each other's homes and these meetings have developed into very happy social gatherings. In November a combined coffee evening and bring-and-buy sale was held at the home of Col. J. M. Cooper, and the effort was most successful, both from the social and the financial point of view.

NORFOLK. The New Year's party was a happy affair and the raffle quite a success. Our thanks to those members who gave the prizes and the refreshments. We regret to hear of Mrs. Rumbold's move to Bournemouth—we lose one of our original Q.M.A.A.C. members. However, she takes with her our best wishes for every happiness in her new home. As a reminder of her friends in Norfolk we gave her a leather purse bearing her initials. Perhaps one day we can get together and visit her. Mrs. Jean Liley (ex-Lieutenant A.T.S.), is coming home on holiday from Ethiopia in April and staying in London until June. We hope to see her at our meeting on June 1. Will members also please note that we shall endeavour to have a tea party with her mid-week in mid-June, whilst Rev. and Mrs. Liley and their young daughter are on holiday at Gorleston. Any members interested are asked to write to the secretary for further details. Molly Howes has sent gifts from Nairobi for Mesdames Paston, Rumbold and Chilvers and the Misses Howson and McDermott. These will be forwarded.

SHEFFIELD. November was a very busy month. First came our jumble sale which made a profit of £26, next members assisted with refreshments at the Sheffield Spastics Society Fair, and finally we held our own Fair in aid of Sheffield Y.W.C.A. In addition to our takings of £66 we received a most generous gift of £40 towards our

cause, the result of a raffle. In December, a party went to L. du Garde Peach's theatre at Hucklow and in January we went to a pantomime. Our Annual Dinner in February was most informal and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The entertainment was provided by our men's section. In the absence of Russ Conway, our Chairman's husband, Mr. Owen Tannett was an excellent substitute and he was ably assisted by our male voice choir, who we think compare very favourably with the George Mitchell singers. At our A.G.M. all officers were re-elected and we were very pleased to welcome a new member, Mrs. Zoe Eyre (ex-A.T.S.). In March, we visited the Sheffield Y.W.C.A. and Hostel.

TORBAY. At the Annual General Meeting, held in January, the same officers were returned unopposed. On March 16, ten members spent a very pleasant evening at the home of our President, Miss Richman. After a most enjoyable meal, Miss Richman showed colour film slides of her past holidays in Italy, Spain and Paris, and some of local beauty spots. Mrs. Richman, our President's mother, has kindly agreed to let us (in co-operation with the Old Contemptibles Association) run a Garden Fete in the grounds of their residence, the Northcliffe Hotel, Babbacombe, Torquay, on June 22, at 6 p.m. Proceeds will be for Branch funds. On June 29, at the Babbacombe Carnival, we hope to run a Roll-a-Penny stall in aid of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Members of other branches who may be on holiday in this area are warmly invited to these functions, and we shall be happy to make their acquaintance.

WEYMOUTH and PORTLAND. After the August recess the Branch renewed its activities with a demonstration of handicrafts, colour films of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa and a most hilarious beetle drive. The Deputy Mayor of Weymouth and nearly 50 members and friends attended a Dinner-Dance in November which was a great success. In December a cookery demonstration of Christmas fare was very popular and the Chef from Weymouth College found himself answering questions on all types of cooking. The Children's party in January was enjoyed by all the children and members worked and played hard too, judging by the photographs. At the A.G.M. in January Mrs. N. M. Fall was unanimously re-elected Chairman, Mrs. E. M. McElwaine Secretary and Miss A. Scott Treasurer. The new programme started in February with a talk by a travel agent on a continental holiday. There was a jumble sale in Portland which netted over £7 and another in Weymouth made 30s. A welcome talk from a teacher and a visit to the local newspaper offices were most popular. In addition we invited husbands to a meeting and social which proved very profitable. Mrs. McElwaine attended the secretaries meeting and the A.G.M. in London, this being the first time the branch was represented. She reported on both meetings and said how enjoyable they were. An appreciable number of new members joined last year and we are hopeful of more during 1960.

YORK. A most enjoyable evening was spent on February 3, when we held our Annual Dinner in Betty's Restaurant, York. Our chief guest was Col. V. K. Stead, O.B.E., T.D., J.P. The function was well attended by 26 members, including our Chairman, Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., (W.R.A.C.), who, due to retirement this spring, was attending as a member for the last time. We are all very sad that she is leaving York, as she has done so much for the Branch during her stay here, and we wish her every happiness and success in the future. Our membership now numbers 42, but we would like to see many more new members during 1960.

Marriage

Mr. C. S. Cox and W.O.1 E. M. Mallard. On January 30, 1960, at Bath Street Methodist Church, Ilkeston, Derby, W.O.1 Enid Myrtle Mallard was married to Mr. Clifford Sydney Cox, who is librarian at Leicester Central Reference Library. Miss Mallard wore blue brocade and was attended by three bridesmaids. She was given away by her father, Mr. F. J. Mallard, and Mr. Stanley Cox, the bridegroom's brother, was best man. Over 100 guests, including a large number of Miss Mallard's serving and ex-Service friends, attended the reception at the Co-operative Café. The honeymoon was spent in London, and Mr. and Mrs. Cox are now living at 27 Grosvenor Crescent, Leicester.



[Courtesy: Ilkeston Advertiser]

Band News

LAST year the Band celebrated its tenth birthday with a dinner-dance at the Queen's Hotel, Farnborough. Lt.-Col. and Mrs. McBain were our principal guests. In toasting the Band's health, Lt.-Col. McBain paid tribute to Capt. Goddard for his first five years' hard work with the Band. Many ex-Bandswomen were present, some with their husbands. Two former Band Sergeant-Majors came also—Mrs. Gardiner (White) and Miss E. Wilkie.

The last quarter has been a busy one involving a lot of travelling. We spent a happy week in Plymouth staying with the W.R.N.S. at Torpoint. Despite the ferry, we managed to arrive daily at the Drake Cinema where we crept in, in the dark, to give two short performances. We enjoyed our unlimited free entry to the film showing. We also played to the Royal Navy and a local hospital. We visited Yeovil on our return and played for the parade at the annual administrative inspection on a beautiful sunny morning. We visited schools in the afternoon and played for a dinner night in the Officers' Mess. Later we played at the Officers' Mess dinner given for Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal by the two London Battalions of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

We were lucky enough to get another chance to play on the programme "Friday Night is Music Night," which we always enjoy because the atmosphere is relaxed and gay. We took part again in the Lord Mayor's Show, and this time we missed the students who always try to get us out of step. On our return journey we were all soaked to the skin, but our instruments were wrapped up (to quote *The Times*) in "frilly plastic covers" and so escaped any damage. We took part in the usual Christmas festivities, including a carol service at Richmond Park camp.

Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

May I ask for the help of readers in the completion of an article which I am compiling on the story of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. (T.A.) in East Anglia from 1938 to 1960? The original object was to write a short history for the 54th (*East Anglian*) Divisional News Letter, but delving into the past proved so fascinating that I felt a fuller account should be written for the benefit of all newcomers to the Battalion. The "archives" produced much valuable information, but I feel the spirit of pre-war days cannot be recaptured without some personal recollections and stories. I would be very pleased to hear from any original members of the A.T.S. who served in East Anglia during the years 1938-39.

Yours faithfully,

P. M. LIPSCOMB, Lt.-Col., W.R.A.C.

301st (East Anglian) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.),
Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

Long Service and Good Conduct

W.O.2 JONES AT BLACKBURN

ON Sunday, January 24, 1960, "B" Company, 320 (East Lancs) Battalion W.R.A.C.(T.A.), was on parade at Blackburn under the Company Commander, Capt. J. Swan, for the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.2 O. M. Jones, the Admin. P.S.I. The occasion was the Annual Administrative Inspection and Parade of the 4th East Lancashire Regiment T.A., by Brigadier I. A. Robertson, Commander 127 Infantry Brigade. Because of heavy rain the inspection was carried out in the Drill Hall, Canterbury Street, while the Battalion Band played on the balcony.

All went well except that a drummer-boy fainted, and in true Army style no one moved in the ranks below. The parade was followed by a successful day's training which included hot meals for everyone cooked by the W.R.A.C.(T.A.) cooks.

W.O.2 Jones started her service as a cook and eventually worked her way through the ranks to W.O.I. Unfortunately her age debarred her from substantive promotion to that rank, and after a tour as H.Q. C.S.M. at the Depot she was posted to this Battalion as C.S.M. of "B" Company. The two Platoons at Blackburn and Wigan have increased in numbers due to her untiring work and patience. She leaves the Unit in September of this year. We shall be sorry to lose her and wish her the very best of luck and good recruiting in 310 Battalion W.R.A.C.(T.A.)



PTE. SMITH AT LARKHILL



PAST and present members of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. will like to hear of a long unbroken link between the Royal Artillery and our Corps. On January 26, 1960, W/113707 Pte. P. M. Smith was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by Major-General E. D. Howard-Vyse, C.B., C.B.E., Director Royal Artillery. The ceremony which took place in "A" Officers' Mess at the School of Artillery, Larkhill, had a very special significance for not only had Pte. Smith qualified for the award but had served continuously for 18 years as an Officers' Mess Orderly at the School. It is estimated that she has looked after some 1,200

young officers of the Royal Artillery. There can be few gunner officers serving today who do not remember Pte. Smith, better known perhaps as Phyliss.

Addressing the officers, R.A. and W.R.A.C., other ranks and civilian staff, D.R.A. said it was a great privilege to know a man or woman who had earned the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, for it represented many years of good and faithful service, with an exemplary standard of conduct throughout. The hundreds of officers who had spent a happy time at Larkhill would agree how much they owed to the devotion to duty of the military and civilian staff. This was exemplified in the fine record of Pte. Smith. D.R.A. then presented the medal to Pte. Smith after which he proposed her health.

Obituary

THE DOWAGER VISCOUNTESS TRENCHARD

ALL those who remember Lady Trenchard as one of the great figures in the early years of the A.T.S. will grieve to hear of her death in hospital on March 6, 1960. Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan writes:

"It must be almost a record that Lady Trenchard, her first and second husbands, her four sons and her only daughter all served with the Army, and all but one in war. Her first husband, Capt. the Hon. James Boyle, was killed in action in 1914, their daughter Belinda Boyle was a distinguished A.T.S. Officer, both their sons were killed on duty. In 1920 Mrs. Boyle married Sir Hugh Trenchard who was by then Chief of the Air Staff. They had two sons. In 1934, when for most people war was still below the horizon, Lady Trenchard took an essential part in the formation of Emergency Service, that informal organisation which sought out and trained some 400 potential officers, ready when in 1938 the authorities constituted the A.T.S. Lady Trenchard built up the City of London unit which did some admirable work, and after the declaration of war, passed to London District as their senior A.T.S. Officer. She retired in 1941 in the rank of Chief Commander, but that did not end her war service. She became Director of Searchers in the Missing and Wounded Department of the Red Cross and was often able to report the whereabouts of men of whom all trace had been lost. Later she turned to help Service and ex-Service families in S.S.A.F.A. and was an active Vice-President of the County of London Branch at the time of her death. She was a most capable and enterprising officer, greatly beloved by her friends and the ready helper of all who served."

MISS MEG CALLAGHAN

THE sudden death of Miss Meg Callaghan on January 2, 1960, will be much regretted by London Branch members, who knew her as a loyal, sincere, reliable and lovable person. She had, as we thought, made a satisfactory recovery from an operation in hospital, where many Old Comrades visited her and the Branch gave her a lovely blue bed-jacket knitted by Mrs. Richards. Meg Callaghan served in the Q.M.A.A.C. in the R.T.O's. office at Dieppe. At a London Branch Dinner she met F/W Mabel Read, N.A.C.B. Dieppe (later N.A.A.F.I.) after a lapse of 35 years and thereafter they had many happy times together. Miss Winter was the first to welcome her when she joined the London Branch about five years ago. In civilian life she served the same firm for 45 years and when she retired at the age of 62 they recognised her faithful service by granting her a very generous ex-gratia pension which ensured her complete comfort. Meg Callaghan represented the Q.M.A.A.C. at the Dedication Service at the Field of Remembrance in November. She will be greatly missed by us all.

W.O.2 ELIZABETH KELLY

MANY will be sad to know of the death of W.O.2 Elizabeth Kelly on February 22, 1960, after only six days illness. W.O.2 Kelly joined the A.T.S. in 1943, serving in U.K. and Germany. She came home from Germany in March, 1957, for treatment at Millbank and Westminster hospitals and for the past year had been employed with the 12th Battalion in one of the Company offices, where she maintained the high standard which had always marked her 17 years of service.

A popular member of the Sergeants' Mess, whose members were among some of her best friends, she was always noted for her friendly disposition and kind sympathetic nature. We sympathise with her sisters in Glasgow in the loss of their beloved sister.

SGT. FRANCES O'CONNELL

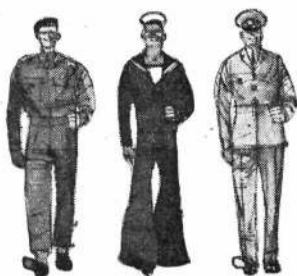
THE 12th Battalion regrets to report the death of Sgt. Frances O'Connell on January 6, 1960, after a long and painful illness. Sgt. O'Connell joined the A.T.S. in 1942 and served in U.K. and Germany. She came home from Germany in April, 1957, for treatment at Millbank and Westminster hospitals and was posted to 12th Battalion during this time. Latterly she became very ill and in November, 1959, was allowed to return home. Only will power enabled her to complete the long journey from hospital to her home in Kinsdale, County Cork.

Fran O'Connell was a popular member of our Sergeants' Mess. She had a lovely Irish sense of humour and was invariably sincere and kind. She had an unshakable faith which carried her through many bad patches during her long periods of pain and gave her the serenity which was so marked a characteristic of her nature. While being glad that her suffering is at an end, we sympathise with her brother, Dr. John O'Connell (late R.A.M.C.), her father and sisters who so deeply mourn her loss.

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W.R.A.C. HEADQUARTER MESS

MAJOR J. B. MACDOWALL, M.B.E., has kindly presented a copy of Col. P. L. Binns' book, "A Hundred Years of Military Music," to the library. The book tells the story of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, and is most interesting. It is the only book of its kind in the library and will be a most welcome addition.

The number of retired officers who have joined the Mess increased in 1959 and it is hoped that even more will join in 1960.

London GazettePROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS
REGULAR ARMY

Lieutenant-Colonel: C. de G. Martin, P. M. Lipscomb.
Major: P. J. B. C. Campbell.
Captain: E. B. Chadwick, B.A.
Captain (Quartermaster): W. D. Andrews.
Lieutenant: C. Diggins, J. Nixon.
Second-Lieutenant: J. Nixon, E. A. Payne, V. G. Webster, A. P. Leafe, M. M. Tweed, F. E. Carver.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.
REGULAR ARMY

Retirements on retired pay: Lt.-Col. D. L. Pooley.
Resignations: Lt. J. F. Sherman.

LIST OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

Aberdeen.—Miss H. T. G. Donaldson, 4 Willow Park Crescent, Aberdeen.
Aldershot.—Mrs. J. M. Carroll, 10 Cyprus Road, Blackdown Camp, Deepcut, Aldershot.
Ayrshire.—Mrs. M. Hay, 3 Angus Avenue, Prestwick, Ayrshire.
Bath.—Mrs. J. P. Ferguson, 16 Lime Grove Gardens, Pulteney Road, Bath.
Belfast.—Mrs. P. Neilly, 382 Merville Garden Village, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim.
Birmingham.—Miss E. Udall, 84 Longmore Road, Shirley, Solihull, Birmingham.
Bournemouth.—Miss J. Lunniss, "Lamorna," Stapchill, nr. Wimborne, Dorset.
Bradford.—Mrs. E. M. Suttle, 9 St. Anne's Terrace, Baildon, Shipley, Yorks.
Brighton.—Miss J. Durndell, 38 Toronto Terrace, Brighton, Sussex.
Bristol.—Mrs. Rawlings, 355a Gloucester Road, Horfield, Bristol 7.
Canterbury.—Mrs. R. Closier, 5 Cherry Avenue, Canterbury, Kent.
Chelmsford.—Miss E. J. Hemsley, 25 Lynnmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex.
Cheltenham.—Mrs. C. Kaye, Kennel Cottages, Boddington, nr. Cheltenham.
County of London.—Miss S. Glover, c/o 327th (County of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Duke of York's H.Q., King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3.
Derby.—Mrs. A. Jones, 132 Uttoxeter Old Road, Derby.
Dumfriesshire.—Miss A. Gibson, "Tweedville," Eastfield Road, Dumfries.
Edinburgh.—Miss M. J. Cruickshank, 16 Riversdale Road, Edinburgh 12.
" Mrs. G. A. Henderson, 27 Links Street, Musselburgh, Midlothian.
Gibraltar.—W.O.2 V. Hamilton, 18 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Princess Royal Block, Europa, Gibraltar.
Glasgow.—Miss L. Mackenzie, 3 Churchill Drive, Glasgow, W.1.
Grimsby.—Sgt. K. Hall, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), 63 Lister Street, Grimsby, Lincs.
Guernsey.—Mrs. M. Claff, "Silver Birch," Marett Road, St. Sampson's, Guernsey, C.I.
Hartlepool.—Mrs. M. Jewell, 21 Whitfield Drive, Foggy Furze, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham.
Hong Kong.—Lt. L. M. S. Read, W.R.A.C. Officers' Mess, 44 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong.
Hull.—Miss E. G. Williamson, Gallaway Lodge, Westgate, Hornsea, Yorks.
Ilford.—Mrs. Curtis, 293 Mawneys Road, Romford, Essex.
Ipswich and Suffolk.—Miss G. Murray, 67 Clapgate Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk.
Leeds.—Miss E. Raper, 41 University Road, Leeds 2.
Leicester.—Mrs. J. Southard, 29 Somerville Road, Leicester.
Liverpool.—Miss A. Hayward, 163 Greenhill Road, Liverpool 18.
London.—Miss G. M. Cridland, 52 Thornton Road, Carshalton, Surrey.
Lonsdale.—Mrs. Doris Grant, 6 Ashford Close, Lancaster, Lancs.
Maidstone.—Miss N. Court, 32 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent.
Manchester.—Mrs. K. Bancroft, 3 Cedar Avenue, New Street, Altrincham, Cheshire.
Middle East Group.—Mrs. P. C. Walter, 85a Lower Addiscombe Road, East Croydon, Surrey.
Newbury.—Mrs. C. Jones, 3 Priory Road, Newbury, Berks.
Norfolk.—Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 2 King's Head Terrace, Great Witchingham, Norfolk.
Nottingham.—Miss B. Burton, 526 Aspley Lane, Aspley, Notts.
Omagh.—Mrs. M. Roulston, 16 Rodgers Villas, Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.
Oxford.—Mrs. M. A. Paton, 6 Napier Road, Cowley, Oxford.
Plymouth.—Mrs. O. Foster, "Coryton," Elburton Road, Elburton, near Plymouth, Devonshire.
Portsmouth.—Miss Imogen Bray, 153 Clive Road, Fratton, Portsmouth, Hants.
Preston.—Mrs. A. E. Bucklee, 346 St. George's Road, Preston, Lancs.
Salisbury.—Mrs. A. Harris, 7 St. Andrews Road, Salisbury, Wilts.
Sheffield.—Miss L. Gee, 17 Ducksett Lane, Eckington, nr. Sheffield.
Singapore.—Sgt. S. L. Kitchen, 4 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., G.H.Q., FARELF, Singapore.
Southampton.—Miss J. Revell, 31 Keble Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hants.
Southend.—Miss M. Tubbs, "St. Elmo," Grasmoad Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.
Southern Ireland.—Miss E. Lloyd, 4 Gledswood Close, Clonskeagh, Dublin.
Staffordshire North.—Mrs. L. Rhodes, 27 Dartmouth Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs.
Torbay.—Miss M. F. White, 29 Wright's Avenue, Hele, Torquay, Devonshire.
Tunbridge Wells.—Mrs. F. Pearson, The Drill Hall, St. John's Road, Tunbridge Wells.
Weymouth and Portland.—Mrs. McElwaine, 23 Newberry Road, Rodwell, Weymouth, Dorset.
Wimbledon.—Miss M. V. Davey, 114 Glen Albyn Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19.
Wolverhampton.—Miss M. Davies (Treasurer, Acting Secretary), 33 Clifton Street, Wolverhampton, Staffs.
York.—Mrs. A. Green, Barcroft, York Road, Strensall, Yorks.

UNIT BRANCH SECRETARIES

12th Battalion.—W.O.1 M. Hope, Kingston Gate Camp, Richmond Park, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.
14th Battalion.—W.O.1 L. A. Newnham, H.Q., NORTHAG, B.F.P.O. 40.
1 Independent Company.—W.O.2 J. F. Granger, Dregghorn Camp, Colinton, Edinburgh.
2 Independent Company.—Sgt. J. M. Galbraith, Venning Barracks, Donnington, Salop.
3 Independent Company.—Lt. H. L. S. Price, School of A.A. Artillery, Manorbier, Tenby.
4 Independent Company.—W.O.1 K. M. Holmes, G.H.Q., FARELF, c/o G.P.O. Singapore.
5 Independent Company.—Major J. D. M. Ravenscroft, Up Park Camp, Caribbean Area, Kingston, Jamaica.
8 Independent Company.—W.O.1 G. Warden, St. George's Barracks, Bicester, Oxon.
9 Independent Company.—Sgt. M. Thirlwall, Fugglestone Camp North, Wilton, nr. Salisbury, Wilts.
14 Independent Company.—W.O.2 J. Smith, Saughton Camp, Chester.
15 Independent Company.—W.O.2 D. V. Brady, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.
16 Independent Company.—Sgt. G. Vardy, Wolverley Camp, Kidderminster, Worcs.
17 Independent Company.—Sgt. D. A. Nolan, P. and E. Establishment, New Range, Shoeburyness, Essex.
18 Independent Company.—W.O.2 V. Hamilton, Princess Royal Block, Europa, Gibraltar.
20 Independent Company.—Sgt. D. Hayes, Hooge Lines, Catterick Camp, Yorks.
27 Independent Company.—W.O.1 J. Castellano, Episkopi, B.F.P.O. 53.
22 Independent Platoon.—Lt. L. M. S. Read, W.R.A.C. Officers' Mess, 44 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong.
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment.—W.O.2 A. Parker, Glencorse Barracks, Milton Bridge, Midlothian.
Southern Command Signal Squadron.—Sgt. M. V. Briant, B.E.M., Fugglestone Camp, Wilton, nr. Salisbury.
W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.—W.O.1 F. J. M. Hadley, M.B.E., Huron Camp, Hindhead, Surrey.
W.R.A.C. Depot.—W.O.1 H. L. Sanders, M.B.E., Queen Elizabeth Camp, Guildford, Surrey.
Drivers and Clerks Training Wing.—W.O.1 J. Wiffen, Houndstone Camp, Yeovil, Somerset.
W.R.A.C. Detachment School of Education.—W.O.2 I. E. Donnell, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Bucks.
319 (West Lancs.) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).—W.O.1 A. Hildyard, Militia Camp, Aigburth Road, Liverpool 17.
233 Signal Squadron (N.I. Command).—Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

PERSONAL

(For charges and particulars see Contents page)

Wanted.—W.R.A.C. (T.A.) officers in the Worthing, Bognor, Chichester and Eastbourne areas. Ex-A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. officers, with or without Signals experience, who are interested in serving with the T.A., please write for fuller particulars to: O.C., No. 5 (War Office) Squadron, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), T.A. Centre, Upper Brighton Road, Worthing, Sussex. Also ex-Service personnel of all ranks welcomed; Signals experience not essential.

For Sale.—W.R.A.C. No. 1 Dress, jacket and skirt, also green greatcoat. Height 5 ft. 7in., bust 36 in., waist 24 in., hips 38 in. In good condition. Price £20 complete o.n.o. Box No. 4/60.

For Sale. Greatcoat, excellent condition, tailored by Weatherill. Approx. size 5 ft. 6 in. Bust 38 in., waist 28 in., hips 40 in. £12 12s. Box No. 5/60.

For Sale. British Warm in excellent condition. To fit bust 36 in., hips 38 in., height 5 ft. 5 in. £6 6s. Also bush shirt never worn, 25s. Box No. 6/60.

Wanted. Calling ex-Service officers and O.R.s to join 307th (NC) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Nottingham. Vacancies exist in Nottingham, Newark, Chesterfield, Derby, Grantham, Lincoln, Scunthorpe and Grimsby. Trades include cooking, driving, clerking and administration. Apply Major M. M. Power, O.C., 307th (NC) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), The Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham.

Wanted. No. 1 Dress required. Height 5 ft. 9 in., bust 36 in., waist 27 in., hips 40 in. Box No. 7/60.

Rock Climbing and Mountaineering Guide. Beginners welcome. Will go anywhere. Gwen Moffat, Maen y Bardd, Rowen, Conway, Caernarvonshire.

"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 CAL 4952.

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