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Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee,
1, Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

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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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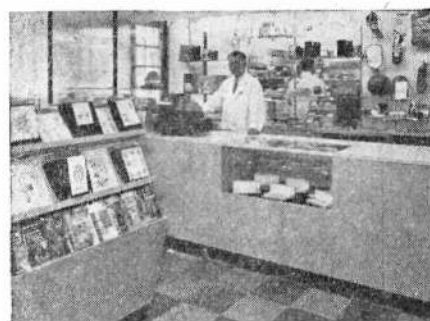
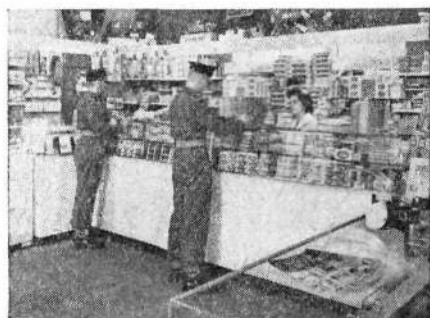
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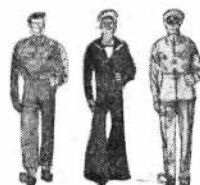
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Just one more example of Naafi meeting the requirements of the modern Serviceman.



Courtesy: Ceri Dando, Guildford

A TRIBUTE FROM AUSTRALIA (see page 44)



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXIII

August 1960

No. 3

EDITORIAL

EVERY contribution to *The Lioness* has its interest for the Editor (and we hope for our other readers as well), but we find it particularly satisfactory when the unfailing flow of interesting information about the branches of the Association is balanced by reports from the serving units, so that we are able to give our readers the full double-sided picture. In this issue we publish news from a truly representative selection. We have contributions from units as far afield as Hong Kong and Jamaica—two small parties which keep the W.R.A.C. flag flying against an exotic tropical background, but one representing the furthest point in the Englishwoman's foreign service and the other made up of women recruited on the spot and continuing to live in their own homes. We have news as usual from the W.R.A.C. Depot, a feminine establishment which triumphantly proves what we can do on our own; and from 70 Company, R.A.S.C. (M.T.), a mixed unit which illustrates the principle of integration. We also have news from a number of W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Units, experiencing their annual taste of corporate military life during their fortnight of camp training.

NO one can read these reports without being reminded once again of the unique position filled by the Unit in service life. It is the special creation of the Services, offering something which is unobtainable in other professions. There is no organisation in civil life which corresponds exactly to this close-knit family of adult workmates, linked by common traditions, loyalties, purpose and day-to-day interests. A household—a club—a vocational team—a sports centre—a welfare service—an advice bureau—the Unit is all of these, but grafted together into something higher and stronger than any of them. It develops in its members, from top to bottom, a sense of brotherhood and communal responsibility which (as our ex-Service Branches prove) remains with them to the end of their lives. No wonder that our Regimental officers, warrant officers and N.C.O.s are looked upon as the most important people in the Corps. Their exacting job calls for the very best, and their influence reaches widely and deeply through the Corps and into uncounted personal lives.

WE have lost in the last few months two officers who, although quite different from each other and neither a strictly regimental type, both possessed in an outstanding way the fundamental qualities of the Regimental Officer. Whether in Staff or Regimental appointments, Col. "Peter" Nimmo (who died while still serving) and Lt.-Col.

Hope Rainsford (who died in the first years of retirement) brought to their duties the unstentatious high principles, the constructive enthusiasm and the warm-hearted interest in people which makes a Commanding Officer loved and remembered. Both had full scope for the exercise of those qualities. Both commanded units in Rhine Army, where, far from home and restricted in outside attractions, unit activities take on a particular importance. Col. Nimmo commanded the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, where her influence was felt through course after course of N.C.O.s and officer cadets; and Col. Plant commanded 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C., our largest (and now our only) Regular Battalion in the United Kingdom. Both (one as D.D.W.R.A.C., the other as a Brigade Adviser and in command of a W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Unit) came closely into contact with the part-time members who form our most valuable link with the outside world. There is no way of measuring the range of their influence or the good that they did, for the work of the Regimental Officer bears its fruit at uncalculated times and in unexpected places. Their greatest successes may never be traced back to the seeds that they sowed, but they left their stamp on the Corps and their memorial is there for those who can see it.

London Gazette

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Birthday Honours

O.B.E.: Lt.-Col. D. H. I. Wilson.

M.B.E.: Capt. B. I. Forbes-Adam, Capt. J. G. D. Donaldson,

Capt. K. N. Edwards, T.D., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), W.O.2 A. Pryer.

B.E.M.: Sgt. (Acting) M. M. Deans, Sgt. (Acting) N. L. Faragher.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Major: F. M. Cook.

Captain: S. M. Hartshorne, J. M. Newcombe, P. R. Bryans, B. A.

Rooney.

Lieutenant: M. A. O. Hill, P. A. E. Binny, R. A. Parkin, A. M. Harle (from S.S.C.)

Short Service Commissions

Capt.: A. M. Harle, Lt. E. L. Ross, Lt. E. Munn.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retirements on retired pay: Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil, Major J. L. Cooper.

Resignations: Capt. J. A. Farrington, 2/Lt. T. A. Nye (Stone), Capt. A. M. K. Schofield, Capt. E. B. Brodley (Chadwick), Lt. Hapgood.

Short Service Commissions

Resignations: Capt. E. Munn, Major E. E. Duncton-Steer.

AMENDMENT—BRANCH SECRETARIES]

Edinburgh.—W.O.2 J. T. Cullen, 1 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Dreghorn Camp, Colinton.

REUNIONS

SCOTTISH REUNION

IT was a great honour and a great thrill to have our President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal in our midst at the Scottish Reunion on Saturday, May 7, held this year in the Banqueting Hall, The City Chambers, Glasgow, and what a wonderful occasion it was. We were most grateful to the Corporation of Glasgow for giving us the use of the handsome rooms. Her Royal Highness was received at the City Chambers by the Lord Provost, elected only the day before and fulfilling her first engagement. Mrs. Jean Roberts is the first woman to hold the office of Lord Provost of Glasgow in a history of 500 years. She presented Miss Muriel Thomson, Chairman of the Reunion Committee, who in turn presented the Vice-Chairman, Lt.-Col. Boydell, A.D.W.R.A.C. Scottish Command, the Secretary, Capt. Baird, the Treasurer, Miss Davidson, and other members of the committee. After the presentation of the guests to Her Royal Highness in the Lord Provost's room, the platform party proceeded to the Banqueting Hall where Her Royal Highness graciously presided.

The Lord Provost welcomed The Princess Royal and members of the Association to Glasgow, then Her Royal Highness called upon the first speaker, The Baroness Elliot of Harwood. Lady Elliot has herself scored many firsts, first woman Life Peeress, first woman to take her seat in the House of Lords and first woman to speak there. She spoke of the battle for recognition fought by the Women's Services and said that this pioneering work was now being carried on in every walk of public life. The Director Women's Royal Army Corps, Brigadier Dame Mary Colvin, spoke of the work of the Corps, and said that while recruiting was going well, still more would be needed to bring the Corps up to the approved strength of 8,000 in the long term. Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, Chairman of Council of the Association, spoke of the Benevolent Funds and told us that more money was being disbursed than was coming in just now. Dame Helen, as always, received a rousing welcome and urged us on to greater achievements. A vote of thanks to all speakers and those responsible for the arrangements was proposed by Mrs. Skrimshire (Miss Harvie-Anderson) to whom we tender cordial good wishes on her recent marriage. W.O.I B. V. Clarke seconded the vote of thanks in a charming manner.



Courtesy: Glasgow Herald

H.R.H. The Princess Royal with Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, Brigadier Dame Mary Colvin, Miss Muriel Thomson and Mrs. Kelway Bamber at the Kelvin Club.



The Southern Area Reunion

Photo by P. Williams, Southsea

After tea Her Royal Highness had the opportunity of meeting many of the guests and members. We were glad to welcome Maj.-Gen. Macdonald, General Officer Commanding Lowland District, Capt. and Mrs. Stewart of Murdoch, Brigadier and Mrs. Blaker, Col. Hobkirk, Mrs. Russell Simpson, Miss Stirling, Mrs. Stevenson, Lt.-Col. Cecil and many others. They came from all the airts and some from across the border—what a clishmaclaver!

During the evening the Band of the 5th/6th Battalion The Highland Light Infantry (T.A.) played for us, and later Miss Gibson, secretary of Dumfriesshire Branch, gave us a monologue "Mrs. McGulp settles doon in Auld Reekie," which tells the tale of a Glasgow woman posted to Edinburgh.

On Sunday a service of commemoration and thanksgiving was held in Glasgow Cathedral. Her Royal Highness was received by the Lord Provost, who presented the Chairman of the Reunion Committee and Lt.-Gen. Sir George Collingwood. The service was conducted by the Minister of Glasgow, the Rev. Nevile Davidson, D.D., assisted by the Very Rev. John A. Fraser, D.D., lately Moderator of the General Assembly and known to many of us during the war as A.C.G., West Scotland District. The Rev. George Macarthur, Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery, also took part. The Chairman of the Reunion Committee read the first lesson and the second lesson was read by Her Royal Highness.

Following the service the Chairman of the Reunion Committee had the pleasure and the great honour of entertaining to tea at the Kelvin Club, Her Royal Highness, the guests and members of the Committee, and Mrs. Kelway Bamber, President of the Kelvin Club.

As a result of a collection taken at the reunion a cheque for £24 2s. 6d. was forwarded to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund, and a collection was also taken in the Cathedral in aid of World Refugee Year. Thanks to the splendid support of our members we had a most successful and happy week-end.

SOUTHERN AREA

THIS year it was the turn of the Portsmouth Branch to act as hostesses for the Southern Area Reunion. Sunday, May 29, 1960, was a clear sunny day, perfect for a seaside reunion. Members came from Bath, Bournemouth, Newbury, Oxford, Salisbury and Brighton. We were especially pleased to welcome serving members from the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction and 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. We were delighted to have as our guests Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E., and the General Secretary, Mrs. A. Lumsden.

The programme began with an interesting tour of Nelson's Flagship, H.M.S. *Victory*. This was followed by a boat trip around Portsmouth harbour, giving everyone a beautiful view of Portsmouth and Gosport; also we saw a number of modern naval ships and submarines. Tea was served in the Rock Garden Pavilion on the sea front, set in lovely gardens with a view of the Isle of Wight.

The one sad note was that our Chairman, Col. S. F. M. Nimmo, who had helped a great deal with the arrangements and had looked forward to coming, was not with us. Her sudden death was a great blow to the whole of the Southern Area. Everyone agreed with Dame Mary Railton when she said that everything had gone just as Col. Nimmo would have wished and that it was a well supported and successful reunion.

WESTERN AREA

WE can now confirm that the Western Area Reunion will be on Saturday, October 1, 1960, at the Drill Hall, Manchester Road, Southport, Lancashire. We hope that many of you will be able to join us to make this a festive occasion. Col. Rose Heilbron, Q.C., the Honorary Colonel of 320 (East Lancashire) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.), will be present. Doors will be open at 6 p.m. and tickets, including buffet, are 10s. each. Applications for tickets, with cash please, to Miss Joan Horsfall, 30 Beaufort Avenue, Sale, Cheshire.

THE Q.M.A.A.C. OLD COMRADES' DINNER CLUB

ON Saturday, May 28, 227 ex-service members of the Q.M.A.A.C. assembled in the House of Commons for their annual reunion dinner. Many had travelled long distances, many had not met for years, but as the faces and voices became familiar the intervening years slipped away and we were back to the dark days of 1917 when the women of our generation responded to the call for service so readily. It was a wonderful thrill to find ourselves actually under the roof of the Mother of Parliaments, in a room overlooking the river and surrounded by the portraits of great statesmen who have influenced the destiny of our country through the years.

The dinner itself was excellent. We greatly appreciate the thought of Mrs. Jean Armour-Brown and the action of Commander C. E. Donaldson, M.P., through whose sponsorship we were granted this unique privilege.

2nd WILTS COMPANY

A REUNION of members of the 2nd Wilts. A.T.S. Company who served at Tidworth with the Rifle Brigade in 1939 was held on Saturday, May 28, at the Red Lion, Salisbury. Members had travelled from Chippenham, Calne, London, Bridgwater, Bournemouth and other places to meet and talk over the good old days, and after an excellent lunch they were able to enjoy the beauty of the Cathedral and its Close. It was agreed that this was one of the best ever held.

PERSONAL

(For charges and particulars see Contents page)

Western Area Reunion. Will be held at The Drill Hall, Manchester Road, Southport, Lancashire, at 1800 hrs. on Saturday, October 1, 1960. Tickets, including buffet, 10s. each. Applications for tickets, with cash please, to Miss Joan Horsfall, 30 Beaufort Avenue, Sale, Cheshire.

Northern Area Reunion. Will be held on Saturday, October 1, 1960, at Betty's Restaurant, 6 St. Helen's Square, York, from 3 to 6 p.m. Tickets, price 5s., from D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Headquarters, Northern Command, York.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress. Height 5 ft. 8½ in., bust 38 in., hips 40 in., waist 28 in. Green Greatcoat. Black shoes, size 6½. No. 1 hat, Field Rank, as new. Shirts, collars, etc. Also, as new, Service Dress. Available end of September 1960. Box No. 8/60.

Wanted. Officer's No. 1 Dress and Service Dress. Height 5 ft. 3 in., bust 34 in., hips 36 in., waist 24 in. Shirts, neck 12 in.; collars 12½ in. Hat 6½. Officer's No. 1 Dress and Service Dress. Height 5 ft. 9 in., bust 34 in., hips 37 in., waist 25 in. Shirts 12½ in.; collars 13 in. Hat 6½. Box No. 9/60.

Wanted. Officer's No. 1 Dress Uniform. Height 5 ft. 5 in., bust 33 in., waist 24 in., hips 34 in., or nearest. Box No. 10/60.

For Sale. W.R.A.C. No. 1 Dress in good condition. Greatcoat, jacket, skirt and cap. Uniform tailored by Moss Bros. Height 5 ft. 8 in., bust 36 in., waist 28 in., hips 38 in. Selection of shirts, collars, etc., would be given to purchaser if desired. Offers, please, to Mrs. White, c/o Box No. 11/60.

Wanted. Jacket and skirt (greens). Height 5 ft. 10 in., bust 42 in., waist 32 in., hips 42/44 or nearest size to alter. Box No. 12/60.

For Sale. Officer's green greatcoat, in excellent condition, lined throughout in crimson, worn approx. six times only. Height 5 ft. 5 in., bust 38 in., waist 26 in., hips 38 in. Contact Mrs. J. Stowe, 18 Richmond Park Avenue, Bournemouth, Hants.

Wanted. A.T.S. War Pensioner and Husband (retired) urgently need quiet s/c unfurnished accommodation to rent. E. Roberts, 6 Dunheved Road North, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

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

Wanted. Immediate vacancy for a Lieutenant-Quartermaster on consolidated rates in 307 (N.C.) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A). The Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham. Age limit 44. Knowledge of M.T. desirable but not essential, preference given to ex-officer. Apply to Officer Commanding.

"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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We Sell the Army Too

MAJOR B. PAGET-CLARKE, W.R.A.C. EASTERN COMMAND YOUTH LIAISON OFFICER

THE Youth Liaison Officers of the W.R.A.C. must have appreciated the article on "Selling the Army" which was written by Capt. Currie for a recent issue, as our task is to interest young people in an army career, so that eventually they will wend their way to the Army Information Office and the capable hands of the Recruiting Staff.

In times of peace it is difficult to interest girls in a service career. We have to compete against many other types of employment in which salaries are high and working conditions good. One Employment Officer told me that out of the numerous and varied vacancies on his books he has only been able to fill one within the last three months.

What does the average girl want from a career? I believe that she wants something which will use to the full the knowledge she has gained at school, something worth while, something she will enjoy, and a job which will not restrict her liberty and freedom to progress. We are convinced that we have such a career to offer, but how do we go about convincing the schoolgirl, her parents and headmistress?

At school a girl is encouraged from the age of fourteen to think seriously about her future career, so that she may decide what subject she is to study for her General Certificate of Education. It is at this point that the Army Saleswoman begins her work—I have been confronted with a Kindergarten, but they were perhaps a little too young. Careers talks in schools are by no means restricted to the Services and we find ourselves in competition with lecturers on Banking, Accountancy, Teaching, Music, Ballet, the Law, and many, many more.

Service lecturers are generally in a peculiar position when beginning their talks, as very few girls are aware that a career exists, and even if they are aware of the career they know practically nothing about it. This can be an advantage, as the element of surprise gains their attention. Contrary to popular belief, an audience of schoolgirls is inspiring—they are responsive and eager to gain information; they are, above all, enthusiastic. It must never be forgotten, however, that they are also very clear thinking and surprisingly quick in assessing the advantages and disadvantages of anything put before them.

Readers of this magazine will not believe how ignorant the general public is about the Services. We notice the advertisements in the national newspapers, and we also remember one—if not two—world wars, but very few schoolgirls have any clear memories of the war, and even if they do notice the publicity in the Press they do not relate it to themselves. It is significant that when I was dining in No. 1 Dress at an hotel recently, the waiter addressed me in pidgin English, thinking me to be a foreigner; and many schoolgirls have mistaken me for an air hostess or a policewoman.

The problem is not only to win the schoolgirl's interest, but to maintain it until she is old enough

to join. A saleswoman from a civilian firm once expressed her sorrow that we had no "free sample" to hand out. Her sympathy was appreciated but unnecessary, for we have our free samples in the form of visits to units by girls and their parents. These visits vary in length from one day to five days, and in this way we keep the career in the forefront of their minds.

Having convinced the girl, we have to convince the parents. We have the opportunity of meeting them at careers' conventions and exhibitions, and it is always a pleasure to find mothers and fathers taking a keen interest in the future of their daughters. Many times it is discovered that the parent served during the war in one of the Services, and although proud of his or her service, cannot visualise the peacetime career—remembering perhaps only a draughty nissen hut, brown stew and lisle stockings. Naturally enough they have to be absolutely sure that the army career has good prospects and a good welfare service, and is one that will train their daughter to become a good citizen. Lastly, but by no means least, the girl's headmistress will want to be assured that the girl's education and training in her schooldays will not be wasted in her career.

This may sound quite straightforward, especially as we have training in salesmanship, but we are not selling an electrical appliance or a new soap-powder, we are selling something which will affect a girl's entire future. It would be an abuse of our responsibilities if we tried to do it through a "selling gimmick," but we must give an attractive presentation of the true facts. This is not peculiar to army salesmanship. No good salesman will try to sell anything by making extravagant claims or by making a nuisance of himself. He sells with honesty and care. How can every one of us help? How can we all become saleswomen? Firstly, by being completely convinced that what we are offering is worth having; secondly, by keeping it boldly in the public eye. The woman who has been out of the army for some time cannot be expected to supply the potential recruit with all the up-to-date details of pay and conditions, but she knows the fundamental rewards of service life, and the Youth Liaison Officers and Recruiting Staff are always available to fill in the gaps.

Experts state that there are five clear separate steps in every deal—attention, interest, conviction, desire, and completion of sale. I have not been attempting to sell the army to our readers—that sale has been satisfactorily completed some years ago by others; but salesmen are also taught that if the interest of the audience is not gained in the first five seconds, nothing said or written afterwards will have any effect. The first five seconds may come before the Youth Liaison Officer opens her mouth—in casual conversation at the laundrette, in the bus queue or over the garden wall—and it may be you who leave the indelible impression that can make or spoil our market.



W.R.A.C.
9 ct. gold and enamel
Home £11.12.6 Export £10.5.0



W.R.A.C.
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Home £7.2.6 Export £6.5.0



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Hymn of Hête

NOW dawns the season of the Garden Fête,
When parson, peer and party candidête
Throw wide their guarded grounds involête,
To all who pay a shilling at the gête.

Through long dark months before that awesome dête
The sewing-bees their dreadful works creête,
And fingers fly as tongues unbridled prête,
And junk and fancy-work accumulête.

Now strikes the hour. Some village potentête
With flowered hat or bald and shining pête,
On quaking platform (built of bench and crête)
Commends the cause in words appropriête.

The seething crowds a moment hesitête,
Then swamp the stalls in full torrential spête,
And elbows thrust as eyes evaluête,
And smiles are sweet, but change inadequête.

In dusky tents where fortunes dissipête,
Synthetic gypsy queens prognosticête.
Without, their humbler friends invigilête
While choirboys hurl the hoop or guess the wête.

On verdant knolls the startled trees vibrête,
And buttons strain and glistening cheeks inflête
As braided bandsmen freely orchestrête
The tunes from "Ruddigore" and "Kiss Me, Kête."

Now curls the sandwich on the borrowed plête,
The ices melt, the cakes disintegrête,
And blushing Hebes coyly circulête
With cups that cheer but don't inebriête.

The day draws on—the festive sounds abête.
The shadows fall, the crowds evaporête.
On tumbled stalls the relics gravitête
From half a guinea down to three-and-ête.

Now calls the homebound housewife to her mête,
And bursting baskets spill their hard-won frête
As harassed parents clutch and castigête
Pale peevish children chewing chocolête.

The helpers one by one their posts vacête
And round the tepid teapots congregête.
Alone at last, the owners contemplête
Their ravaged lawns in gloomy tête-à-tête.

There is a truth too widely known to stête—
What some men like, the rest abominête.
To each his private hell, most noire of bêtes.
For me at any rête
I hête
A Fête.

(NOTE.—The Editors refuse to associête themselves with the opinions stêted.)

The Women's Royal Australian Army Corps

COL. SYBIL IRVING, M.B.E., HON. COL., W.R.A.A.C.

AS an Australian ex-Servicewoman I was privileged to be present at the Annual General Meeting of the W.R.A.C. Association in 1960, and there met your Editor who asked me to give you a brief account of the W.R.A.A.C. To do so it is necessary to mention the Army Women's Services of the 1939-45 War, on whose tradition and service the present Corps is built. These were the Australian Women's Army Service, and to a lesser degree, the Australian Army Medical Women's Service.

Prior to the last war the only women who had served with the Australian Army were the Australian Army Nursing Service and a very few V.A.D., and it was not until August 1941 that War Cabinet approval was given to the formation of an "other rank" service. The Australian Women's Army Service, raised in 1942, grew to a maximum strength of 24,000 odd, its members serving in almost every branch and section of the Army, doing jobs formerly done by men. The area of service was restricted to Australia, where members served from the North of Queensland to Western Australia, and through Central Australia and the Northern Territory, while in 1945 a small draft (500) moved to New Guinea to serve in 1st Army at Lae. By June 1947 the service was completely disbanded.

The formation of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service late in 1942 was brought about by the shortage of manpower in the Army Medical Services. A certain number of V.A.D.s had been enrolled for full-time duty with the A.A.M.C., but because they were trained only for nursing duties and the A.A.M.C. required women for all suitable trades in medical units, it was decided that V.A.D.s and other suitable women should be enlisted and trained in the Army in the same way as A.W.A.S. The maximum strength was 6,500 and members were employed in medical trades, administrative duties, cooking, laundry, etc. This service was not completely disbanded after the war but carried on in small numbers during the interim Army period. In February 1951 it was decided that the A.A.M.W.S. would be discontinued as a separate service; women for duty as nursing and ward orderlies and as operating-theatre assistants were absorbed into the R.A.A.N.C., and those engaged in other trades into the W.R.A.A.C.

In 1950 the Cabinet approved the formation of the W.A.A.C. The first Director, Lt.-Col. Kathleen Best, was appointed in February 1951 and recruiting started in April. The principle accepted was that women would replace men on a rank for rank basis on the H.Q. Staff, Services and Fixed Installations in vacancies suitable for women. The types of employment were based on duties carried out by women during war-time. In June 1951 His late Majesty King George VI approved the grant of the title Royal and the Corps designation was changed from W.A.A.C. to W.R.A.A.C. At this time also, approval was granted for my appoint-

ment as Honorary Colonel; as I had been Controller of the A.W.A.S. from 1941 to 1957, my appointment bound together the past Service and the new Corps.

In 1953 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II approved the appointment of Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, C.I., as Colonel-in-Chief, and in 1956 Her Majesty was pleased to approve an alliance between the W.R.A.A.C. and the W.R.A.C. Because of this alliance I had the great pleasure of being at the W.R.A.C. Depot on April 24, 1960, the very special Day of the Corps, when I had the honour of presenting to H.R.H. The Princess Royal a facsimile of the W.R.A.A.C. flag as an outward and visible sign of the ties of loyalty which bind us—loyalty to our Corps, our Commonwealth and our Queen.

Uniform is a vital matter in any woman's organisation. The W.R.A.A.C. wear a Highland green tunic and skirt (very similar in colour to that of the W.R.A.C.), with a green beret, fawn shirt and green tie; summer uniform is a gault grey linen shirt frock with short sleeves, accessories are black shoes, gloves and shoulder-bag and honey-coloured nylon stockings. The Corps' badge consists of the Stars of the Southern Cross superimposed on a silver lozenge, surrounded with gilt gum leaves and surmounted by St. Edward's Crown. The whole is mounted above a gilt scroll containing the letters of the name of the Corps.

The W.R.A.A.C. C.M.F. (corresponding to your Territorials) is still in its infancy. At present six companies have been raised, one in each of the States; each Company has a cadre of W.R.A.A.C. A.R.A. The scope and scale of employment of the W.R.A.A.C. (C.M.F.) is based as far as possible on the essential trades required for expansion, but the main requirement is for potential leaders in all grades.

The W.R.A.A.C. were so very fortunate in having as the first Director Col. Kathleen Best, an Australian whose service to her country was of rare worth. In 1940 she was appointed, at the age of 30, Matron of 2/5 A.G.H., the only Australian hospital which functioned in Greece. In 1942, on her return to Australia with her hospital, she was made Controller V.A.D. (later to be the A.A.M.W.S.), and having pioneered the new Service she was appointed A.A.G. (W.S.). Late in 1944 she was taken out of the Army to be responsible, in the Department of Post-War Reconstruction, for the re-establishment of Servicewomen generally. Her administrative ability, together with her quality of leadership, made her admirably suited to be the Director of the new Corps and ensured that its foundation was well and truly laid. After her death in 1957, Col. Dawn Jackson, who was her Deputy, was appointed in her place; she is known to some members of the W.R.A.A.C. as she was one of three W.R.A.A.C. officers who qualified at the W.R.A.C. Staff College, Frimley Park. She served as a V.A.D. in Middle East, and

was later commissioned in A.A.M.W.S. and served in the Pacific Islands.

If you are an ex-Servicewoman who is reading this, may I say how greatly your splendid example helped us in Australia during the last war, and thank you. If you are serving now, my best wishes to you in your posting, wherever and whatever it may be. I ask you "to keep your spirit strong in the tradition of the past but yet stronger in aspiration for the future."

W.R.A.C. Depot

FOR Princess Royal's Day on April 26, 1960, the weather was warm and fine and the gardens were a blaze of colour. Her Royal Highness was received at the camp entrance by Brigadier Dame Mary Colvin, D.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., who presented Maj.-Gen. P. Gleadell, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding Home Counties District, Col. J. G. Grierson, O.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C. Eastern Command, and Lt.-Col. J. Fisher, Commandant. The Princess Royal then drove through the camp to the Depot Church of St. Mark, accompanied by W.R.A.C. Provost and a colourful escort of mounted Royal Military Police, to a service taken by the Rev. H. L. O. Davies, M.A., Q.H.C., Assistant Chaplain-General, Eastern Command. Meantime the crowds had started to assemble on the square to watch the display of Drill to Music after the Church service. The W.R.A.C. Staff Band was conducted by the Director of Music, Major J. B. Macdowall, M.B.E., A.R.A.M., and the Drill Squad was formed by members of the Permanent Staff. The Band played some quite lively tunes and we saw an interesting and complex display of marching and counter-marching in slow and quick time.

Next came the presentation to Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, our Controller Commandant, of a facsimile of the flag of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps. The presentation was made on behalf of the W.R.A.A.C. by Col. S. A. Irving, M.B.E., W.R.A.A.C. When Her Royal Highness had received the flag she gave it to the Adjutant, Capt. J. Buncher, who commanded a Guard of Honour formed by the Drill Squad. The flag was carried from the square by C.S.M. E. Wynne of Headquarter Company, escorted by the Guard, and was flown for the remainder of the day outside Regimental Headquarters. The flag, which is green silk with the badge of the W.R.A.A.C., the stars of the Southern Cross encircled by a laurel wreath, has since been housed in the Corps Museum.

Later, Her Royal Highness toured the camp, visited several of the exhibitions and displays and watched the new training film "July 24th" about life in the Corps overseas. The Cookery Instructional Centre made a magnificent birthday cake which Her Royal Highness graciously accepted. After tea in the Officers' Mess, Her Royal Highness was escorted to the camp entrance by W.R.A.C. Provost.

Several thousand people attended Corps Day, including many parents with their teenage daughters. We are hoping that some of the latter will join us as recruits.

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Great Days in the Units



70 Company R.A.S.C. (M.T.)

Courtesy: Soldier Magazine



5 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

Courtesy: Wally Allen, Kingston, Jamaica

HOUNSLOW

HER Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited 70 Company R.A.S.C. (M.T.) on May 30, 1960. Her Royal Highness inspected the accommodation at Cavalry Barracks, Headquarters Eastern Command, where the W.R.A.C. live, and saw both the recently modernised barrack-rooms and some of the older type of huttet accommodation. Her Royal Highness then inspected a W.R.A.C. parade at Beavers Lane Camp, where the unit works, and presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Cpl. Gaskell. The Band of the Gloucestershire Regiment, under the direction of Bandmaster G. Plummer, A.R.C.M., played during the inspection and march past. Her Royal Highness inspected some of the vehicles, which are driven by the W.R.A.C., and spoke to a number of the drivers. The vehicles included 3-ton Bedfords, Morris ambulances, Staff cars, Champs and Land-Rovers. A visit was paid to the Cookhouse where the men and women mess. This is staffed by W.R.A.C. cooks and orderlies, and Her Royal Highness spoke to all those who were on duty. Finally, Her Royal Highness visited the L.A.D., R.E.M.E., where the unit vehicles are repaired, and saw W.R.A.C. drivers carrying out maintenance work on the vehicles. Later Her Royal Highness visited the Officers' Mess and had tea with the R.A.S.C. and W.R.A.C. unit officers.

JAMAICA

ON March 7, 1960, H.M. Yacht *Britannia* arrived in Kingston with Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on board. The 37 members of 5 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., were naturally excited, but rather apprehensive, too, because they are all clerks of different kinds and rather like civilians in uniform. They do no basic training and live at home; several of them have husbands and children. The company commander, fresh from recruit training at the Depot, set a very high standard of marching and saluting. However, they had been up to the Hill station at Newcastle for a regimental week-end and been drilled by S/Sgt. Jones practically every morning from 0730 to 0800 hrs. for the previous two weeks and were all determined to acquit themselves well. On Tuesday, March 8, Her Royal Highness inspected 5 Independent Company and 1st Battalion West India Regiment. Her Royal Highness commented on the smartness of the troops, and there were lots of compliments from the spectators.

W.O.1 Rutter, P.A. to Her Royal Highness, kindly arranged for all the women to see over the Royal Yacht, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Miss Rutter looked very well and happy and seemed to be having a wonderful time. The Company Commander was honoured by an invitation to lunch on board, and there had the added excitement of meeting her brother who is serving in the Royal Yacht, and invited to the same lunch party.

On Saturday, March 12, His Excellency the Governor Sir Kenneth and Lady Blackburne gave a reception in honour of Her Royal Highness at King's House and the W.R.A.C. were all there, wearing their No. 3 Dress, handing round the food.

The next day, after an official farewell on the pier, Her Royal Highness embarked on the Royal Yacht which was anchored off Port Royal. It was the first visit of our Controller Commandant to Jamaica, and all members of 5 Independent Company felt it was a personal visit to them and never to be forgotten.

HONG KONG

CAPTAIN M. G. CAMPBELL arrived in October to take command of the Platoon. Just before her arrival the film unit came to make the Hong Kong section of the Corps film "July 24th." The girls threw themselves into their respective roles with quiet enthusiasm and were very patient over the many rehearsals of each shot. Although they thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the film, they all admitted that it had killed any ideas they might have had about becoming a film star.

We always have a number of invitations to dances, parties and barbecues, which are great fun. In October and May we returned the hospitality by giving our dances. In January we started sports and our hockey team went from strength to strength, winning a plaque at the Hockey Festival. Recently four of our girls entered a beauty contest to select Miss Hong Kong, the proceeds of which are going to the World Refugee Fund. We have helped to collect warm clothing for the refugees, and it is amazing how many sets of winceyette pyjamas and sweaters we had among us, even though we are in the tropics.

We have had many visitors. Col. I. R. Ferguson-Innes, O.B.E., the Chief of Staff, took the salute at the parade at our Administrative Inspection in December. Lt.-Col. R. D. Allerton, M.B.E., A.D.W.R.A.C., arrived in January and stayed ten days. We were all delighted to see her and wish her all good fortune in her new appointment. We look forward to welcoming our new A.D.W.R.A.C., Lt.-Col. J. E. Henderson. Lady Bastyan also visited us in March and spent the afternoon chatting to many of us and had tea with the senior members of the platoon. We said farewell to the Commander British Forces, Lt.-Gen. Sir Edric Bastyan and Lady Bastyan in June, amid a volley of Chinese crackers (to wish them good luck) and the stirring notes of the Pipes of 1st Battalion 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkhas.

The new commander British Forces, Lt.-Gen. Sir Roderick McLeod and Lady McLeod, had a stormy and wet welcome owing to a tropical storm which rapidly turned into a typhoon called "Mary." This caused havoc in Hong Kong in the early hours of the morning of June 9. Roads were blocked by trees, and floods made exits and entrances to places of duty practically impassable. However, this did not deter the W.R.A.C., for they manned the communications throughout the typhoon, reporting for duty by devious means, swimming and paddling through mud and water and climbing over fallen trees. Colvin House, our new accommodation, stood the strain of the storm. We are glad to say the typhoon was short-lived, and now it is really hot we spend Wednesday afternoons and weekends on the beach and at the swimming pool in camp.

Obituary

COL. S. F. M. NIMMO

THE sudden death of Col. Sybil Nimmo on May 28, 1960, came as an overwhelming shock and sorrow to her many serving and ex-service friends. Peter Nimmo joined the 11th Hampshire Clerical Company as a Volunteer Clerk before the war, and was commissioned in February 1940. She was one of the earliest officers to qualify on the A.T.S. Staff Course, and in 1943, when it was still a remarkable thing to take over from a male officer, she was appointed G.S.O.3 (Ops.), H.Q. Southern Command. Her other staff appointments included two years at the War Office in AG15, which was then the M.S. branch of the A.T.S. In 1948 she was given command of the Drivers and Clerks Training Centre at Gresford, and in 1951 she was posted to Northern Army Group as A.D.W.R.A.C. and O.C. 14th Battalion, W.R.A.C. In 1953 she was appointed Commandant of the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, where she made innumerable friends among the younger officers who passed through the Cadet Wing during her tenure. In 1956 she returned to the War Office as Inspector of Recruiting, and in 1957 she was promoted Colonel and posted to H.Q. Southern Command as D.D.W.R.A.C. She had nearly finished her three-year tour there and was planning for her retirement at the end of the summer, when, with tragic suddenness, a cerebral haemorrhage ended in a few hours a lifetime of cheerful and devoted service.

Col. Nimmo had a happy genius for throwing herself with infectious enthusiasm into any activity which offered, and she will be missed in every field of our Corps interests. She was President of the Army (Women's) Fencing Association and an unflinching supporter of other sports, a long-standing member of the Staff College Club Committee, for many years a member of the Committee of the Service Women's Club, an energetic and popular Chairman of the Southern Area of the Association, and a central figure at every Corps function. As D.D.W.R.A.C. she fought untiringly in the interests of the Southern Command Units, but she never forgot that they were part of a larger picture, and even in the most trying situations her sweet temper and readiness to co-operate made working with her a continual pleasure. We offer our deep sympathy to her mother and sister in a loss which is shared by the whole Corps.

A memorial service was held at Wilton Church on June 2. The Rev. W. G. E. Evans officiated, assisted by the Rev. D. D. Lloyd-Evans and the Rev. P. Malins, and the lesson was read by Maj.-Gen. G. H. Baker, Chief of Staff Southern Command. Lt.-Gen. Sir Nigel Poett, G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, and Lady Poett attended, with Brigadier R. A. Cook (B.G.S.) and Mrs. Cook, and Maj.-Gen. T. Woods (D.D.M.S.). On the same day another memorial service was held in the W.R.A.C. Depot Church, at which H.R.H.

The Princess Royal was represented by Brigadier Dame Mary Colvin. It was also attended by senior officers and many other members of the Corps, as well as members of the W.R.A.C. Association and personal friends.

LT.-COL. M. H. RAINSFORD, O.B.E.

TO those of us who knew Hope Rainsford, her death will mean the loss of a good and very kind friend. Hope Plant joined the A.T.S. at the very beginning of the war and was commissioned in February 1941, serving with Anti-Aircraft Command. Many of us who were students at the Junior Officers' School in 1944-45 will have been grateful for the patience and guidance she showed as an Instructor there. She will be particularly remembered by those who served with her in Catterick, No. 1 Continental Group A.T.S., 12th Battalion W.R.A.C., and for the last years of her service in Northern Ireland where she married. Early in 1958 she and her husband, who was also serving in Ireland, retired and settled down to a well-earned rest in the peace of their own home. It is tragic that her death should have come so soon. She gave long and devoted service to the Corps and was loved and respected by all ranks.

D. H. I. W.

MRS. BODY

BRIGHTON Branch report with deep regret the death of Meg Body (*née* Gay), ex-Q.M.A.A.C. Signals, who died in a nursing home at Worthing on April 20, aged 69 years. She had been ill since last November, and it was very sad to see her bed-ridden after such an active life. She will be remembered for her great interest in swimming, cycling and hiking, and will be missed very much by Brighton Branch.

MISS G. WHITE

GERTRUDE WHITE, or "Blackie," as she was known to her many service friends, joined the Q.M.A.A.C. in 1917 and served as a forewoman until demobilisation. She joined the 2nd Warwickshire Platoon, A.T.S., in 1938 and served throughout the war. "Blackie" joined the Birmingham Branch when demobilised. She was eventually elected to the Committee and served as such until her sudden death on May 27, 1960, a loyal and faithful member. Many members of the Branch, including the President, were present at her funeral. "Blackie" was also a member of the Central Branch Legion, and they too with their President joined the Birmingham Branch in forming a guard of honour as the coffin, preceded by the Standard of the Central Branch, was carried into the chapel. The Rev. J. A. Carr, Chaplain to Central Branch, took the service. The lesson was read by the Chairman of Birmingham Branch and the Exaltation was said by the Chairman of Central Branch (ex-A.T.S.). It was indeed a moving farewell to one who had only thoughts for others. "Blackie's" passing is a loss which will be deeply felt.

E. E. M.

MISS C. B. JOLLY, Q.M.A.A.C.

MISS CAROLINE BRAY JOLLY died at Worthing, after a long illness, on May 5, 1960. Her name will waken many memories, for Jolly, the C.C.'s driver, was one of the best-known characters in Q.M.A.A.C., British Armies in France. As all the C.C.'s visits were made by car, she was familiar with every unit of the Corps. She was, moreover, an exceptional personality, wise, determined, outspoken yet discreet, devoted to duty. She was born on June 9, 1879, daughter of Dr. William Jolly, Inspector of Schools for Scotland. She became an ardent advocate of Women's Suffrage who committed the ritual protest against delay by breaking a window, and endured the full rigour of prison and hunger-strike. On the outbreak of war she joined the W.V.R. in Glasgow, in 1916 she went with the Scottish Women's Hospitals to Serbia, but contracted dysentery and had to come home; in 1917 she enrolled in the W.A.A.C. and was posted to France. On demobilisation Jolly, with Lascelles, also a driver from Corps H.Q., returned to Serbia, where she took charge of an orphanage housing ninety boys and six girls. Finally, after a visit to America, the two friends settled in Worthing and there spent many busy years. Jolly was not only an admirable driver but a thoughtful and clear-sighted person. She was one of those who helped to build the traditions of the Corps.

H. C. I. G-V.

MRS. SMITH

IT is with regret we report the death of Dora Esther Smith, who served in the W.A.A.C. as No. 311, Worker Dora Esther Seabright. She joined in 1917 from the W.V.S. and went to France with one of the very early drafts, serving nearly two years with a Remount Depot. She was a life member of the London Branch and will be sadly missed by many of her Old Comrades.

MRS. PARBERY

MEMBERS of the Q.M.A.A.C. heard with regret of the death on March 1, 1960, of Mrs. Parbery (née Smith, ex-Q.M.A.A.C.) after a short illness. She served at Hastings, Calais and Rouen. In 1920 she emigrated to Australia, where she died in Canberra.

Births

Child. On April 24, 1960, to Hilda (ex-A.T.S., 576 Company, R.A.S.C. (M.T.) Tpt.) and Frank Child, a daughter, Christine Mary, at Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, Sussex.

Hartland. On April 15, 1960, in Bedford, to Elizabeth (née King, ex-Lt., W.R.A.C.) and Capt. Peter Hartland, a son, Christopher James.

Pike, née Newton (ex-Sub. A.T.S. Aldershot Field Stores Group). On April 12, 1960, at Vessettan, North Borneo, a daughter.

W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

Since the last notes, gifts have been received from Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil and Lt.-Col. D. L. Pooley on their retirement. Lt.-Col. Cecil has presented a coloured print of Guildford in the nineteenth century and Lt.-Col. Pooley a much needed waste-paper basket. Both gifts are in the ante-room of the Mess.

Five W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Officers' Messes have had the loan of the Corps silver for their messes at annual camp.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS

(Up to July 31, 1960)

Col. J. G. GRIERSON, O.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C., Southern Command.
Col. J. E. R. RIVETT-DRAKE, M.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C., Eastern Command.
T/Col. L. M. BALDWIN, O.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C., The War Office.
Lt.-Col. R. D. ALLERTON, M.B.E., A.D.W.R.A.C., London District.
Lt.-Col. C. DE GARIS MARTIN, A.D.W.R.A.C., Northern Ireland Command.
Lt.-Col. M. D. M. HUMPHREY, Inspector of Recruiting, Women's Services, The War Office.
Major E. ASKHAM, D.A.Q.M.G., H.Q., Western Command.
Major D. M. W. BARLOW, G.S.O.3 (Ops.) H.Q., Southern Command.
Major E. A. HINE, Adjutant, 328 (Ulster) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
Major J. LESLIE, O.C., 20 (Independent) Company, W.R.A.C.
Capt. D. P. CHANDLER, 28 Signal Regiment.
Capt. J. M. V. HOWELL, P.A. 6, The War Office.
Capt. A. S. NICHOLSON, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
Capt. S. N. F. POTTER, 242 Signal Squadron (Scottish Command).
Lt. P. A. Binny, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.
Lt. J. NIXON, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
2/Lt. P. A. JACKSON, 1 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.

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News from the T.A.

314 (SCOTTISH) BATTALION

IT was a great pleasure for us to witness the Commanding Officer, Major E. E. Michell, presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W/87006 W.O.2 L. Hodgson, who has been a P.S.I. with "C" Company of the Battalion in Dumfries since 1949. W.O.2. Hodgson joined the A.T.S. in 1941, serving in Bicester and Northern Ireland. She retired early in 1949, but later that year rejoined the Corps on a Type T engagement. She has since that time played badminton for the Army, and hockey, tennis and badminton for Scottish Command. In 1955, together with two sergeants of the Battalion, she attended a one-week's course with the Norge Lotterforgurn.



Courtesy: The Dumfries and Galloway News

307 (NORTHERN COMMAND) BATTALION

WE have just returned from annual camp, held this year at Dundonald, near Troon, Ayrshire. For the first time in many years we were alone in camp for the first week, but we were joined by another Battalion for the second. It seemed to us a very hard-work-and-hard-play camp, but it was lightened by many wonderful visits to the beauty-spots of Scotland. Our sightseeing took us to three of the most famous lochs, probably the most photographed places in the land, but our loveliest visit was to Culzean Castle, where President Eisenhower has a flat permanently at his disposal. The beauty of the castle and grounds really has to be seen to be believed. As it turned out, Culzean Castle was also the spot chosen in the second week of camp for the end of the night drive, when cooks and orderlies went on ahead to prepare great quantities of food for the arrival of the hungry drivers and their instructors. Another of our expeditions was a trip round Troon Bay in army Ducs. Some ambitious people were allowed to try their hand at driving these massive things, but miraculously enough, everyone survived the ordeal and arrived back at camp safe and sound. We also paid a most interesting visit to Prestwick Airport, and were shown over an Air-Sea Rescue plane by members of the U.S.A.F. The hospitality of the Americans was wonderful. The highlights of the fortnight were parades for the visits of Lt.-Col. Davies, A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, Sir Hugh Chumleigh, and Air-Commodore Pritchard. The food in camp was perfect, and our thanks go out to R.Q.M.S. Laister who looked after us. Many people were successful in passing their trade tests, and altogether we enjoyed a very happy, interesting and useful camp.

318 (CUMBERLAND & WESTMORLAND) INDEPENDENT COMPANY

THE Unit had a most successful and enjoyable camp at Castle Martin with 126 Infantry Brigade (T.A.). There was great social activity every evening. On the first evening a drum-head service was held. This was very impressive with the Regimental Bands. Our associated Regiment, 4th Border, had keen competition from 5th Loyals for W.R.A.C. dancing partners, the latter Regiment giving the first dance. During the middle weekend we attended Retreat at Pembroke Castle. The Castle produced the ideal setting and the weather for the first time that day became perfect.

We had a welcome visit from Lt.-Col. L. M. Davies, A.D.W.R.A.C., Northern Command, on the day that the drivers were having their trade tests. The driver training was carried out by 502 Company, R.A.S.C. (T.A.) with expert tuition. We now have 22 drivers passed test instead of six at the beginning of the year. The cooks, waitresses and clerks were in constant demand to give assistance to the male units; they proved very valuable. On the morning of the last day, an inter-platoon netball match was held, again won by No. 4 Cumberland Platoon, Carlisle. In the afternoon a final shopping expedition was organised, but was not well supported owing to the enthusiasm to accept a challenge from the R.A.S.C. to a "ball game." A very exciting match was held (with no particular rules); the W.R.A.C. won 7-6 goals. Later we watched the final of the men's football, 4th Border v. King's Own. Although yelling for both sides, we were very pleased to see 4th Border win!

During the past year we have said good-bye to Capt. J. E. Burton and Lt. A. E. Hirst, and we welcome Capt. M. Smith, Capt. B. J. Middleton, 2/Lt. R. E. Crawford and 2/Lt. J. V. McLeish.

55 (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

"MA'AM—I don't want to go home," a remark made by Pte. Dent of 3 Squadron, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), epitomises our very enjoyable annual training at Penhale camp near Newquay. There were many happy social events and dances, an exhilarating coach trip to St. Ives, and plenty of interesting, worthwhile signal training. We manned three Signal Centres which we set up in marquees on Exercise "Rapier II," when we put our training to practical use.

Visitors to camp included the G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, who made a very thorough tour of both Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. training, the C.S.O.'s Eastern Command and London District and the D.D.W.R.A.C. Eastern Command. We were also pleased to have with us W.O.1 Strickland, from Southern Command, who helped enormously with her advice, and practical work in the cookhouse.

This year our Unit Rifle team won the Eastern Command W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Inter-Unit Rifle Shooting Competition, and Cpl. Hart was selected as a member of the team which represented the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) versus the Civil Service.

59 (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

WE welcome Major D. D. W. Brousson to the Regiment. Having just welcomed Lt. J. E. M. Newport, we now wish her well with 60 (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) at Newcastle upon Tyne. We also wish Sgt. M. M. Ferguson (*née* Gill) every happiness with her family after 11 years' service with the Regiment. Congratulations to Capt. R. M. Trainor on her promotion, and to Sgt. E. Hinton and L/Cpl. E. Cookson who have both been awarded their Territorial Efficiency Medal.

The W.R.A.C. Rifle team showed a great improvement in their scores for the Western Command Women's Inter-Unit and Individual Postal Shoot, and it is hoped to enter two teams next year. We had a successful camp at Weymouth, both from the training and weather point of view, and now wonder where it will be for 1961.

62 (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

THIS is the first time that any news from 62 (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) has been forwarded to *The Lioness*, as the Regiment has only been in existence under this name since September 1959. Recruiting is gradually improving and there is much healthy rivalry between squadrons. Pictures of the Dover Detachment have appeared in the local Press and 2/Lt. Isemonger, the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) officer in charge of the troop there has been interviewed by Southern Television. This year, for the first time, two teams are being entered for the District Netball Competition and one for the Cookery Competition. Rifle shooting is very popular and it is hoped to raise a W.R.A.C. team under 2/Lt. Isemonger, who won the Eastern Command Competition last year. Ex-Service women, particularly Signals living in Kent, will be very welcome in this Regiment.

72 (INDEPENDENT) COMPANY

ARRANGEMENTS were made for us to camp with 5th Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment (T.A.). Blessed with fine weather we all settled in happily and, as the days passed, soon found ourselves invited to take part in the Hampshire's Company exercises.

Four excited girls were selected to take part in a night patrol with the Hampshires, their role being that of enemy agents, and carrying vital information in their berets, they were concealed in the excellent natural cover afforded by the surrounding countryside. They were permitted to take limited evasive action, such as throwing flares, very lights, and hand grenades. Two of them were eventually found, marched to base, and interrogated, and the remaining two were gradually driven back. Nine other girls, accompanied by Lt. J. P. Woolvin, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), performed an endurance test, which consisted of a nine-mile assault march in full kit, but less the pack carried by the men. In the event of a casualty, they had to be responsible for transporting her for the rest of the journey, but luckily all remained on their feet, and amid much cheering, marched back to camp with great gusto—to be complimented by the Army Commander on their achievement. A further six girls assisted the Hampshires in a day exercise. The object was to prevent a small band of ruffians from leaving the mainland, and again they really took action, and were allowed to fire small rifles and clamber over hedges "at least 6 ft. 8 in.!" More mundane duties, such as help in the various messes, were gratefully received and appreciated.

The officers of 72 Company also arranged exercises. To test our first-aid knowledge, we dealt with traffic, cliff and drowning accidents, and cave casualties. We map-read to given points, made route cards from villages well away from camp, and umpires afterwards tested our skill. This type of training proved extremely popular, with the golden tans deepening as the days passed by. The more general activities were not by any means overlooked. Lectures on Army History, the New Pay Code and First Aid, indoor training schemes, Padre's Hour, physical training, drill, and church parade all fell into place. The Band of the Hampshires was a great asset. With all possible speed they managed to procure the W.R.A.C. music and played for our parade in No. 1 Dress uniforms.

Advantage was taken of full members being present, and Company Rifle Drill and Sports Cups were competed for, and with addition of the Company Efficiency Cup were presented to the winning platoons by the Company Commander, Major B. Fisher, M.B.E. A most delightful fortnight was saddened, especially by those who knew her well, by the sudden death of Col. S. F. M. Nimmo, who was scheduled to spend a training day with the Company. The day, however, did go on, just as she would have expected and wished, and Major I. M. Smith, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., Salisbury Plain District, took her place. The award of the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List to our well-deserving P.S.I.—W.O.2 A. Pryer, W.R.A.C.—was a wonderful climax to our camp.

BRANCH NEWS

AYRSHIRE. Our annual general meeting was held in March; all the office bearers were re-elected unopposed—a tribute to the splendid year's work just ended. We had a country dance in April attended by over 120 people. The hall was bursting at the seams but a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all and our funds were considerably increased. A bus load of our members attended the Scottish Reunion. It was a very happy evening and the Committee are to be congratulated on their excellent organisation. Later in May we had an evening outing to the gardens at Bargauy, Dailly, where Sir Frederick Dalrymple-Hamilton showed us around the estate. We saw a most magnificent array of azaleas and rhododendrons, the brilliance of which had to be seen to be believed. We later rounded off a most enjoyable evening with supper in Girvan.

BIRMINGHAM. The year is passing by so quickly that the date for publication of *The Lioness* comes and goes before one realises it. We held our Annual General Meeting in January, when the Chairman and Committee were re-elected *en bloc*. In February we spent an enjoyable evening at the Repertory Theatre, seeing the Christmas play "The Enchanted Forest." The author, Anthony Woodhall, was a young Birmingham dramatic student who died suddenly in 1955 at the age of 27, a month before the premiere of his play. We also held our own Christmas Party in February when we had an excellent film show. In March we held a general meeting and also spent an enjoyable evening as guests of the Association of W.R.N.S., Birmingham Branch, watching the art of "Hair do's" for contests. We all left feeling very hair conscious. A general meeting and another pleasant evening in May with the W.R.N.S., this time being shown the art of flower arrangement. In June Mrs. Trigg (strange to say, an ex-W.R.N.S.) gave us a very enlightening talk on her voluntary work of looking after refugee families in Germany. An enjoyable evening, but also a sad one, for on June 2 we had paid our last respects to Miss White, a very faithful committee member.

BOURNEMOUTH. The year 1960 started with a dinner at the Gardens Restaurant. We met there again in March for supper, when we were pleased to welcome Mrs. Rumbold who has come to live in Bournemouth. Our supper meeting in May took place while Miss E. M. Best was on holiday at Southbourne, so she was able to join us once again and meet many old friends. Over thirty members and friends picnicked on Portsdown before joining other branches at the Southern Area Reunion. In June we met in Wimborne where we were entertained by Miss Carr and Miss Parrett, and did our annual tour of the lovely gardens of Dean Court. Heavy rain prevented supper out-of-doors, but our hostesses were offered the use of two large rooms in the house of friends living opposite, so our party gratefully moved over there.

BRADFORD. We have just closed down until the September meeting, when we will meet to make final arrangements for attending the Northern Area Reunion on October 1. We hope members will bring some small gift from their holidays which (also, we hope) will benefit the Benevolent Fund. At our last meeting we were delighted to welcome back Bertha Marsh, who after a long spell in hospital is now happily settled in a job which she enjoys and one which is appreciated by the Social Services for old persons. We were also very pleased to see Mrs. Slack, who had just returned from a visit to her son and his family in New Zealand—while there she met the Quartermistress she served under in France in World War I. We are looking forward to seeing the pictures of her trip, taken with the ciné camera her family gave her. We have news from Mrs. Ross that while on holiday at Bridlington she met Mrs. Bottomley, another of our members who now lives at Flam-borough Head. We hope to see both these members at the Northern Area Reunion. We are pleased to hear that Mrs. Lumb's daughter Maria is now progressing after a serious operation. We also hope Mrs. Lumb is better and we shall see her soon. Miss Gummersall, our 84-years-old President, is still full of the joy of spring—looking more youthful than ever with her lovely white hair cut and waved.

Very good wishes go to our honorary member, Dora Ashton, who has just celebrated her ruby wedding. Our secretary deeply appreciates the tribute paid to her in the May issue, and says she will never need a trumpeter while Miss Gummersall is around. The branch organised a bring-and-buy sale and raised £10 for the Bradford (Central) Branch of the British Legion.

BRISTOL. In April a whisk drive arranged by Mrs. Skidmore, Q.M.A.A.C., took place at Legion House, Portland Square, and the following month a beetle drive. Only seven members turned up at the bus station for our evening trip in June and it was decided to go to Portishead. Three members from Bristol went to the reunion of Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades at the House of Commons. What a wonderful experience it was meeting friends of over 40 years ago, and visiting such a historic building.

EDINBURGH. There was a very good attendance at our May meeting, when we had Major Thomas Blackmore, O.B.E., to give a lecture on The Scottish National Memorial. Whilst all of us on numerous occasions have visited The Shrine, it was generally agreed that after this most interesting talk we would now know where to look for the finer details and would understand better what they portray. The Scottish Reunion, in Glasgow this year, also took place in May. Ex-Q.M.A.A.C., Mrs. Roy, and ex-A.T.S. Mary Lockhart, from among an attendance of about 40 of our members, were presented to H.R.H. The Princess Royal. June is the month in which we always have our evening bus outing, and this year we went to Gifford, and then on to the coast to Dunbar, where supper had been arranged.

GRIMSBY. The "Tramp Supper" in April was an enormous success, one of our best social evenings so far. Most of our members and friends arrived in tramp attire, and at the Tramp Parade it was a very difficult task to choose the winners amongst the antics and laughter of all concerned. The prizes (suitably wrapped in red-spotted handkerchiefs) finally went to Mrs. M. J. Bell and Mr. Footitt. The menu for the evening, carefully prepared by Capt. A. Stone, assisted by Cpl. Rodman, was spaghetti and home-made tomato sauce, hot-dogs and roast potatoes, and our tramps had not, I am sure, enjoyed such a feast for a long time. It seemed when the raw materials were bought that there would be more than enough to feed a

GUERNSEY. During the past year we have been very active, our monthly meetings very varied, due to an enthusiastic committee. Attendances have been good, which is most encouraging. We have seen coloured films shown by one of our doctors, and been taken on a cruise to Herm, a neighbouring island. We have had two supper parties, a children's picnic on the beach and a scavenger hunt. We also have had parts A and B of the W.V.S. "One in Five" Scheme. In February we had a dinner/social, which was a very successful and enjoyable evening. In June we held a whist drive which has helped to raise our funds considerably. Donations have been made to the W.R.A.C. Fund and World Refugee Year.



Guernsey Branch

Courtesy: Gaveds, Guernsey, C.I.

whole army, but within a very short time the "sold-out" notice was displayed and attention was diverted to the bar opened by Sgt. Stocks. Then someone wiped the dust off the piano and a sing-song completed a really jolly evening. In May we had our biggest venture yet, a social and dance which, with planning and hard work, proved very successful and enjoyable. Members brought along their husbands and friends, invitations were accepted by all the local Army Units, R.A.F. and R.N., and Army representatives even arrived from as far afield as Lincoln. There was dancing to a very good local band, and the bar was ably manned by two barmen connected with the Drill Hall where the dance was held. Mr. Footitt, husband of one of our members, made a very enterprising M.C. and organised many nonsense games. A delightful buffet was arranged by Capt. Stone and Cpl. Rodman, and though at first it seemed a shame to spoil the effect of the many varied dishes, soon nothing was left but crumbs—and not very many of those. It was at this dance that Major E. Harroway, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), on behalf of the Branch, presented a cheque for five guineas to the Mayor and Mayoress for the World Refugee Year Fund. Altogether, though there was a lot of hard work for some of the members after the evening's fun, it was jolly well worth it.

HARTLEPOOL. We were pleased to welcome another new member in April, Miss Barbara Hughes. Miss Hughes served in the A.T.S. for a number of years. Mrs. Douglas has not been in good health lately—we hope she will soon be her own bright sunny self again. So that we do not miss the comradeship we enjoy together, it has been decided not to cancel the summer meeting except for the month of August.

IPSWICH and SUFFOLK. The Annual General Meeting was held in May. The business of the meeting included the re-election of our very able Chairman, Mrs. J. Horneblow, the Officers and members of the Committee. We are very pleased indeed to welcome to the Branch two new members, Mrs. Tabiver and Mrs. Gourd.

LONDON. Our meetings have continued on the first and third Thursday of each month, and this year we have had lectures on a variety of subjects. We were pleased to welcome once again Dame Helen, who gave a very interesting talk on "The Sixth Sense," which ended with members relating their own experiences in this connection. Mr. Crosse of the firm of Crosse & Blackwell Ltd. gave an amusing talk on the history of his company

commencing with the marriage of one Mr. Lazenby to a Miss Elizabeth Harvey, and all for the sake of a recipe for sauce, all other efforts having failed to obtain the recipe from her brother. We were also shown some photographs of famous chefs of the 19th century—one having invented the Soyer stove which is apparently still used for Army cooking. This talk terminated with a lively discussion on the merits of Crosse & Blackwell's products. The Almoner of St. George's Hospital also gave a very enlightening talk on the social work in a large London hospital.

While on the subject of lectures, we must mention the most interesting talk given by Miss Verney, a god-daughter of Florence Nightingale. We did appreciate very much having this charming lady with us, who certainly did not look her eighty years, and we are pleased to say that she says she will be available to come and talk to us again. We had a very good audience who asked numerous questions, and we had a most enjoyable evening.

We have also welcomed our old friends the Acton Male Voice Choir. Unfortunately the Mullard House Choir which has entertained us on a number of occasions had to disband owing to the sudden death of their secretary, but we are hoping they will be able to form another choir in the near future. Our Annual Dinner this year is being held at Arding & Hobbs at Clapham Junction, on October 29, and we have invited as our guest the Rev. Margaret Inkster, an ex-A.T.S. who is now a minister at the City Temple.

PRESTON report a very happy and successful year, although we would welcome more members at our meetings. We have taken part in all ex-service and civic parades for Preston and areas during the year, and have been able to help some of our local charities and members during sickness with gifts of flowers and fruit. We donated £8 8s. at Christmas to eight various charities, and we are happy to report a substantial bank balance, due to the help of all members.

TORBAY. Two of our members enjoyed a pleasant afternoon in May at a Mayoral Reception held for all local associations and organisations. The Sunday following this reception the Mayoral Parade was held, which we attended. June has been a busy month. The Garden Fete held at the home of our President was, in spite of poor weather, a great success socially and financially. At the Babbacombe Carnival we ran a spinning-wheel stall in aid of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund which proved most successful.

WIMBLEDON and DISTRICT. We are delighted to report that our membership has increased from 45 to 53 during the past year—mostly due to the efforts of members. We have had various entertainments, the highlights of which were: A delightful talk and demonstration on "Flower Arrangement" by Mrs. Doughty, a friend of a member. A most interesting and informal talk on "Life in Six Reigns" by Dame Regina Evans. A very entertaining and interesting

cinema show and talk on two holidays in Russia (the first film being taken during the first tourist trip there for 39 years) by Miss Harrison, a member of the Branch. An outing to the Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C., at Guildford, arranged for us by Dame Mary Railton, was a very interesting and extremely pleasant day. Col. Gibson and her staff made us so welcome. After meeting us at the station they showed us the Depot, the Museum and the Church and then entertained us to a wonderful lunch in the Officers' Mess. We only wished we had more time to spend. After lunch the Chaplain's Assistant took us to see the new Guildford Cathedral and arranged for us to be shown round. We were finally taken back to the station after a most wonderful time.

MRS. M. A. PATON, M.B.E.

(W.O.1 M. A. HOLLAND)

AMONG the ex-service women whose names appeared in the Queen's Birthday Honours was Mrs. M. A. Paton, a member of the W.R.A.C. Association and Hon. Secretary and a founder member of the Oxford Branch.

Mrs. Paton joined the W.A.A.C. on its formation and was attached to a R.F.C. Unit, and on the formation of the R.A.F. became a member of the W.R.A.F. In August 1938 she joined the Staff of the County of Oxford Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, and in November was enrolled in the A.T.S. as R.S.M. of the 40th Oxfordshire Company. Since that time she has been chief clerk in the T.A. Office, where her work has been invaluable. We shall all congratulate her on this well deserved honour.

The Earliest Officer

WHEN Mrs. Mona Chalmers Watson, in February 1917 was appointed as Chief Controller of the projected Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, she became the first of a succession of officers which reaches to the last-joined subalterns of the W.R.A.C. in the Regular Army and extends beyond them into the indefinite future.

It seems right that the memory of this wise, patient and very capable officer should be associated with the training of cadets. After due consultation it has been ascertained that a portrait of Mrs. Watson, to hang in the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, would be welcome, so a fund has been initiated by a group of ex-Q.M.A.A.C. officers. Subscriptions from all sources will be most welcome; Mrs. King, "Trequites," 23 Hoadly Road, S.W.16, has kindly agreed to act as Treasurer.

H. C. I. GWYNNE-VAUGHAN.

NOTICE

REMEMBRANCE DAY. Members are reminded that tickets for the Remembrance Day Parade may be obtained from the General Secretary in October. Representatives attend the Service of Dedication at the Field of Remembrance.



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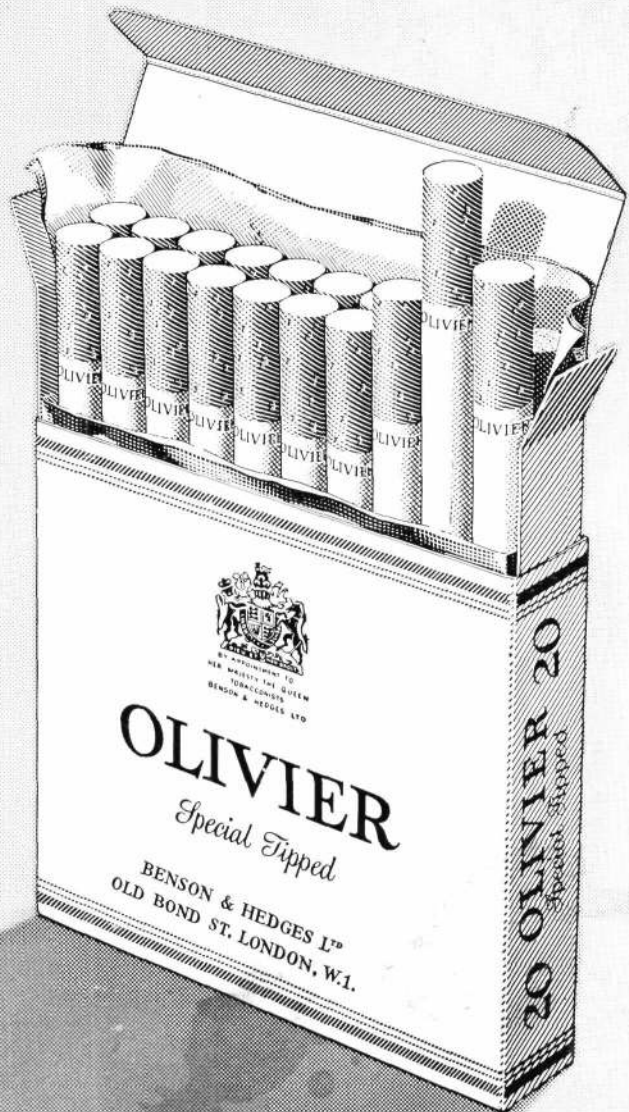
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