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Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Saunders,
GCB, KBE, MC, DFC, MSM.

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

Issued by H.M. Forces Savings Committee

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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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MARCH 30

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The phenomenal success of the instalment credit sales scheme introduced by Naafi in November, 1959, is telling proof of the extent to which it is appreciated by men and women of the Services. And no wonder. Highly favourable terms make it possible for them to buy from a vast range of household and personal goods without the need of ready cash.

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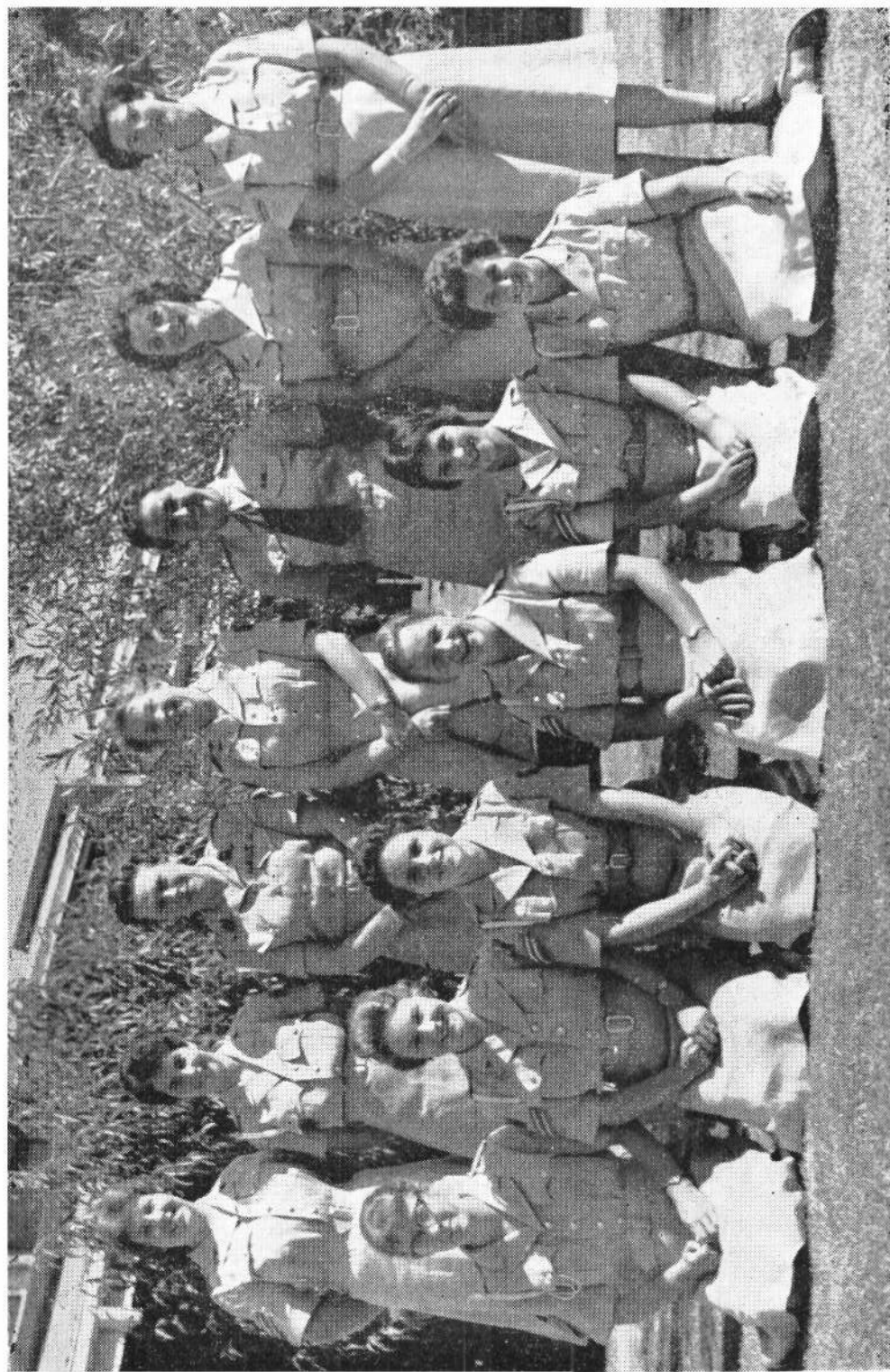


Photo by: Still Photo. Section, W.R.E., Salisbury, S. Australia

DOWN UNDER

Director W.R.A.A.C. visits W.R.A.C. at Woomera, Australia



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXIV

February 1961

No. 1

Editorial

PERHAPS in a hundred years' time some student of military history, browsing through the first forty-odd numbers of *The Lioness* in the national archives or the dentists' waiting-rooms of his age, will attempt to reconstruct the early decades of the W.R.A.C. from the viewpoint represented in these pages. He will find two things to puzzle him. Having accepted us all his life as an old-established part of the Army with its origins lost in the mists of time, he will find it hard to understand our preoccupation in early years with the phases of our own development. The achievements, the dignities, the traditions, the anniversaries, which he has always taken for granted—were they ever really headline news? Even more obscure will be the relationship between the three generations. History books will have taught him that there were in fact three successive Services, but knowing only the W.R.A.C. he will never properly appreciate the distinct identity of the Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., or understand how, if they were indeed so distinct, they ever merged with so little jealousy and friction into the proud and united Corps of his own period.

HE will probably not realise that *The Lioness* itself is an example of successful integration. When the first number appeared nine years ago, many readers must have felt a pang for the familiar *Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Old Comrades' Gazette* and wondered whether the change in appearance signified also a change in interests and policy. Today we are proud to think that *The Lioness*, with its trio of badges on the cover, is accepted by serving and ex-Service women alike as their own paper—the voice of the Association speaking impartially for all its members. The W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund, which is the subject of an article on another page, illustrates integration by a different method, for here the charter of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund made direct amalgamation impossible. Instead the two funds exist harmoniously side by side, using the same Grants Committee, while the A.T.S. Fund gradually runs down and the W.R.A.C. Fund takes over its liabilities. When the time comes for the old fund to close its splendid record of service to the A.T.S., the W.R.A.C. Fund will slide smoothly into its place, so that no ex-Service woman, whether Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. or W.R.A.C., will ever look in vain for a friend in need.

NOW comes a new illustration in the appointment of Dame Mary Railton as Deputy Controller Commandant of the Corps. As Chairman of the Association Council and a very well-loved ex-Director, Dame Mary belongs to us all without distinction of age or status. Her appointment, linking two of the highest offices in the Corps and the Association, is one more bond between serving and ex-Service women, Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S., and W.R.A.C. It coincides with the creation of a new Regimental Headquarters Establishment which we, among many other Corps and Regiments, have been authorised to implement. This new establishment, about which more will be heard at the Annual General Meeting in March, provides at last an adequately paid staff for the whole range of Regimental responsibilities falling outside the sphere of the War Office.

WE have been accustomed as long as we can remember to scraping along on our own resources, depending for our whole organisation on the devoted efforts of volunteers and part-time workers, or paying out of our own precarious funds salaries bearing no relation to the unstinted service given in exchange. We can hardly believe it when we find ourselves suddenly authorised to appoint two officers, two clerks and a storewoman who will be paid by the War Department at the normal rates for the grade. This staff will shoulder the routine work of the Association, the Headquarter Mess, the Museum, the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund, *The Lioness*, and in due course, when the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund finally closes down, the Employment Bureau. The funds at the disposal of our various committees will be richer by the whole amount now paid out in salaries, and our hard-pressed voluntary workers will have the support of a full-time staff permanently on hand.

THE offer is so good that we look at it suspiciously, feeling that there must be a catch in it somewhere. Is it a sinister plot to bring the Association under the control of the War Office? No, because our constitution is untouched; the committees which govern our Regimental and Association affairs are unaffected except for the strengthening of their powers that comes from a full-time secretariat. Will the staff appointed on the new Establishment have a bias in favour of the W.R.A.C. and be out of sympathy with the other two partners? It is certainly true that the two officer posts will be filled under the Retired Officer scheme, which limits the field of selection to Colonels and Lieutenant-Colonels on retired pay; but no senior W.R.A.C. officer can yet have qualified for retired pay without many years of A.T.S.

service, and most of them have worked closely with the Association Branches through the Area organisation in their own Commands. The three other posts are open to anyone, and offer a great opportunity to ex-Service women to earn a reasonable living in a sphere made congenial by their interests and experience.

ONE final doubt—in the new organisation, will the old voluntary spirit be sacrificed to professional efficiency? The answer to that crucial question rests with ourselves. The field for volun-

tary service, on the central committees and in the Branches, will be greater than ever, because the increase of money and staff will put many more activities within our reach. If the members of the Association ever sit back and leave it all to their paid servants, the character of the organisation will indeed begin to change, but we are convinced that this will never happen. A hundred years hence the historian of the 21st century will find a strong and living tree flourishing as vigorously as it is today. It springs from three roots but it is fed with one sap, and its flowers and fruits are harvested by us all.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, March 18, 1961, at 3 o'clock.

Agenda

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 12, 1960 (circulated in the May issue of *The Lioness*).
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. Election of Officers.

The undermentioned Officers have been nominated:

Council Vice-Presidents:

Miss K. Acland, O.B.E.

Mrs. R. Simpson.

Mrs. M. F. Wentworth-Reeve, C.B.E., T.D., J.P. (Council nominations).

Miss E. Thompson, C.B.E. (London Branch nomination).

4. To receive the Report of Council.
5. To receive the Report of the Hon. Treasurer.
6. To receive the Report of the Editor of *The Lioness*.
7. To receive Reports of Committees.
8. Resolutions.

"THAT the tenure of Office of an Area Representative should not normally exceed three years, and that she should be eligible for re-election after one year out of Office."—Council.

"THAT the suggested formation of a Regimental Headquarters in so far as it affects the W.R.A.C. Association be fully explained at the A.G.M. on March 18, and that any decision be deferred until the Branches have had an opportunity of discussing the proposals themselves."—London Branch.

9. Date of next meeting.
10. Other business (if any).

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

Grand Reunion

AT DERRY AND TOMS

KENSINGTON HIGH STREET, W.8

Saturday March 18th, 1961

from 7 to 10.30 p.m. (doors open 6.30)

TICKETS 10s. INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS

Applications to: Reunion Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's HQ, London, S.W.3, enclosing stamped addressed envelope

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

The Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion will be in the Officers' Mess of H.Q. Club, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.3, on Friday, March 17, 1961, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets 4s. including refreshments. Applications to: Reunion Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Duke of York's H.Q., London, S.W.3, accompanied by stamped addressed envelope.

SECRETARIES' MEETING

Members of Council look forward to meeting all Secretaries attending the Secretaries' Meeting at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, March 18. Lunch will be at 1 o'clock as usual. Please notify Mrs. Lumsden by March 1, if you are able to come.

SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL OF THE ROYAL HOSPITAL

By kind invitation of the Governor, members of the Association may attend the Morning Service at 11 o'clock in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital on Sunday, March 19. As seats are limited to 100 admission will be by ticket only. These can be obtained from the General Secretary and will be dealt with in strict rotation.

W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

THE Mess has once again been fortunate in receiving two more additions to the Corps silver. When the Depot of the King's Own Royal Regiment was closed, the officers of the Regiment sent on permanent loan, to the W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess, a silver rose bowl "to commemorate the links in the past between the King's Own, Bowerham Barracks, which were 'taken over' during the last war by the then A.T.S. and the W.R.A.C." Lt. P. A. Price has presented a silver vase to mark the winning of the inter-Services Athletic Championships in 1959 by the W.R.A.C. team of which she was a member.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS

(Up to December 31, 1960)

Major M. E. MUNRO, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Mid-West District.
Major E. DUNCAN, O.C. 71 (Bristol and Gloucester) Independent Company, W.R.A.C.(T.A.).
Major M. B. LATHAM, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Eastern Command.
Major K. W. THOMAS, G.S.O. 3 (P.T.), H.Q. Western Command.
Major B. PAGET-CLARKE, D.A.A.G., A.G. 16(O), War Office.
Major M. W. HICKSON, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., W.R.A.C. 1(a), War Office.
Major S. W. FOLEY, O.C. 320 (E. Lancs.) Battalion, W.R.A.C.(T.A.).
Major N. M. PYKE, O.C. 1 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Major F. M. COOK, Manchester University, O.T.C.
Major B. M. RIDLER, O.C. Officer Training Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
Major A. M. McILWRAITH, S/Captain "A" G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F.
Major M. A. CLARKE, 62 (M) Cinque Ports, Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Capt. F. SAFFERY, Adjutant 12 Battalion, W.R.A.C.
Capt. A. L. SHEPLEY-TAYLOR, O.C. 14 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Capt. A. M. HUGHES, O.C. H.Q. Company Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
Capt. D. E. M. NIGHTINGALE, Q.M. 27 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Lt. A. E. BELOE, 3 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Lt. B. E. HORNER, 13 Signal Regiment.
Lt. R. A. PARKIN, 328 Operation Troop, W.R.A.C.
Lt. E. R. H. BAKER, A.P.I.U., B.A.O.R.
Lt. N. M. SIMPSON, 70 Company, R.A.S.C.(M.T.).

Deputy Controller Commandant

Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E., has been appointed Deputy Controller Commandant, a new appointment which has given unqualified satisfaction throughout the Corps. Dame Mary will act as deputy to the Controller Commandant, H.R.H. the Princess Royal.

London Gazette

NEW YEAR HONOURS AND AWARDS

M.B.E.: Major F. M. Harford.
B.E.M.: S/Sgt. M. L. N. Dodds.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Captain(Q.M.): D. E. M. Nightingale.
Lieutenant: P. A. Jackson, N. R. Wilkes.

Short Service Commissions

Captain: D. M. Athoe, B.Sc., M. W. Hudson, M.A., J. Hands.
Lieutenant: A. F. Hill, C. M. Weatherill.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Retires on retired pay: Major E. M. Hunter-Cowan, T.D., Major A. T. Alexander.

Retires receiving a gratuity: Capt. G. E. Dunn, Capt. J. M. Hawkins.
Resignations: Capt. S. M. Hartshorne, Lt. L. J. Edlin, 2/Lt. S. M. Beaumont, 2/Lt. M. J. Kevan.

Short Service Commissions

Relinquishment on completion of service: Major J. Hawtrey-Williams.



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Reunions

WESTERN AREA

THE Western Area Reunion was held at the Drill Hall, Southport, on October 1. By the Friday before, 130 tickets had been sold but by 7 p.m. on Saturday, 150 members had arrived from places as far apart as Lancaster and Birmingham. The Hall was suddenly alive with chatter: "do you remember," "in Paris 1918," "fancy meeting you."

Tables were widely spaced in the centre of the room, leaving an extra wide passage down one side where the exhibits were shown. An album of photographs from 320 (East Lancashire) Battalion W.R.A.C.(T.A.). Copies of *The Lioness* and photographs ranging from 1939 activities to a cutting from that day's paper regarding the first W.R.A.C. to serve in Australia. There was also a completed kneeler from the W.R.A.C. Chapel at Guildford and sufficient money was collected to pay for another kneeler. Mrs. Maureen Lees attended and brought some of the wares she advertises in *The Lioness*, and sold over £12 worth.

Our Guest, Col. Rose Heilbron, Q.C., was introduced by Lt.-Col. the Hon. M. M. Anderson, M.B.E., W.R.A.C., Chairman of Western Area. Col. Heilbron, who is the Honorary Colonel of 320 (East Lancashire) Battalion W.R.A.C.(T.A.), then addressed the gathering. She spoke of the service of women with the Army in two world wars with particular reference to the Q.M.A.A.C., the forerunners who started the tradition for the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. to continue; of the aims of service and comradeship in the Association and said how wonderful it was that so many should meet on this occasion. Mrs. M. Lappin, Chairman of Liverpool Branch, responded.

Committee members of the branches were then introduced to Col. Heilbron, whilst everyone else wandered round finding friends and looking at the photographs, including some precious ones from the 1914-18 war. Everyone appreciated the opportunity of seeing them and we extend our thanks to those who brought them.

After the refreshments, served skilfully by volunteer "waitresses" from 319 (West Lancashire) Battalion W.R.A.C.(T.A.), Col. Anderson escorted Col. Heilbron round and introduced her to very many of those present. Miss Mapp from Birmingham took coloured photographs and during the evening music was relayed from a tape recorder.

When Col. Heilbron left she said how much she had enjoyed the evening and asked that her thanks be passed on to all members for the bouquet of pink roses which she had been given. Judging by the smiling faces and enquiries as to the next reunion a very enjoyable time was had by all.

NORTHERN AREA

SINCE our very successful Reunion in York, on October 1, 1960, further contributions have been received from branches and a total of £40 has now been donated to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Our grateful thanks are due to all those who made this magnificent contribution possible.

Inter-Services Dinner

ON Friday, October 28, members of the Birmingham Branch entertained the President of the Association of W.R.N.S., Dame Jocelyn Woolcombe, D.B.E., at a dinner given at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham. We were supported by members of the Birmingham branches of the association of W.R.N.S., the Q.A.R.A.N.C. association and W.A.A.F.S. Other guests included the D.A.D.W.R.A.C. Mid-West District, W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.C. Recruiting Officers (Birmingham) and the Women's Feature Editor of the *Birmingham Mail*.

Dame Jocelyn's presence was deeply appreciated by all and her delightful speech was a joy to listen to. In her opening remarks she said that the dinner was a very unusual occasion, as it was an Inter-Services dinner and that it was appropriate that the W.R.A.C. Association initiated the dinner, because although the W.R.N.S. belonged to the Senior Service it was the Army women who started first. There was much laughter when Dame Jocelyn told us of one of the very earliest Admiralty Fleet Orders which informed the startled Fleet that W.R.N.S. were to wear black bloomers. Dame Jocelyn mentioned her delight at seeing so many Pioneers of 1919 present that night. She concluded by saying that we like them knew that we should miss the friendship of the services and what did we do? We looked for and found it in our associations and here we were enjoying a very pleasant evening. Sharing memories which as we grew older became all the more valuable. It was because we can come together in small or big branches or as we were doing that night that we drew strength and a great deal of happiness. Dame Jocelyn then asked all to join her in the Toast of "Our Associations."

Our Chairman in giving the Toast to "Our Guests" said that the Army was rather sandwiched in between the Navy, the senior, and the Air Force, the junior, then added "but surely the middle of the sandwich is the best." Heather Higgins, the Women's Feature Editor, replied to the Toast and highly amused all with her story of how she was clapped into the detention room when as a service reporter she was covering a case.

Among the telegrams of good wishes, was one from Major Learmouth, the Western Area Secretary. She referred to herself as the "reluctant absentee"—made one wonder whether she too was enjoying every moment. No wonder it was an evening to remember, the friendly rivalry, friendships renewed and friendships made.

Q.M.A.A.C. 1917-18, White House, Weedon, Northants

Will the above contact K. Bevan (West) or E. Gyngell, 93 Queslett Road, Great Barr, Birmingham 22a, Warwickshire, re the Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion, to be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, S.W.3, on Friday, March 17, 1961.

The W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund

C.COMD. IRENE HOLLIS, A.T.S.

THE W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund, whose first meeting was held on October 12, 1950, would never have come into existence but for the wording of the Trust Deed of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund. When the A.T.S. changed its name, it was brought to notice that under the terms of its charter the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund could not help any woman who had no A.T.S. service. The matter was taken to the High Court in an endeavour to change the wording of the Deed, but this had no success. It was therefore decided that a new fund must be started, and started it was with an initial donation of £200 from Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan. The Trust Deed of the new fund was so worded that it will forever be able to help all women who serve with the Army (other than nurses, who have their own fund), however often the Corps may be reformed under a different name.

It was agreed that the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund should be the responsibility of the Regimental Association and not a separate body, and therefore the Council of the W.R.A.C. Association were made its Managing Trustees. The Committee of Management of the Benevolent Fund is a sub-committee of the Council and is under its authority. For economy's sake the Fund has never had a separate office; at first it shared the W.R.A.C. Association office, and for the last five years the S.S.A.F.A. County of London has kindly housed it in their offices. The Secretary is part-time, drawing a salary recently raised from £25 to £50 a year. The W.R.A.C. and A.T.S. Benevolent Funds have a joint Grants Committee, which meets every Tuesday to consider applications for help.

Our work up to now has been on a small scale. We have given financial assistance to over 1,000 women during these past ten years, but we have been sheltered from big calls on our resources by the Service Women's Benevolent Fund which still has some funds to help women who served in Q.M.A.A.C., and by the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund which assists any women who had any A.T.S. service at all (even if they later became members of the W.R.A.C.). The women we have helped are those who served only in the Women's Royal Army Corps.

When enlistment to the A.T.S. stopped, the annual donation from the Army Benevolent Fund was diverted from the A.T.S. to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund in order to build up capital for the great responsibilities of the future. The A.T.S. Benevolent Fund began slowly to run down and in time will run out altogether. The aim of the W.R.A.C. Fund is to build itself up against the day when it takes over full responsibility for Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S., W.R.A.C., and any other Service women who may come after them. From our very small beginning we now have £50,000 invested, part from the Army Benevolent Fund and part (a very large part) from the subscriptions and donations which we receive from serving women and ex-Service women all over the world. We have regular donations from Branches of the

Association, and Units help us from wherever they are stationed. We had £100 in one donation from Gibraltar, and £70 from Singapore. Dances, raffles, bazaars, church collections, even a fancy-dress football match, are all sources of income to the Fund, sent in by Units large and small.

The financial help which we have given has included gifts and loans to women expecting babies, women wanting to start in business, women raising money to buy a house, women convalescent after illness, in trouble at home, deserted by their husbands, and in difficulties of many other kinds. Many others have been helped with advice, and a small band of helpers (one a lady of 96) keeps us supplied with knitted baby clothes for presents to expectant mothers. For house-purchase we share in the loan given by the British Legion, and are nearly always promptly and gratefully repaid.

We have £50,000 and that sounds a lot of money, but it has been estimated that our capital need when the A.T.S. Fund is exhausted will be a minimum of £250,000, and we still have a long way to go. That is why we ask you to look to the needs of the future and help us *now* so that when the time comes we may be able to carry out our obligations to those who need our help, in the same wonderful way that our elder sister Funds have carried out theirs.

The Passing of "Oversea"

M. DRUITT

IT is with profound regret we have to announce that our beloved Holiday House has passed away. Many have enjoyed stays there since it opened at Easter, 1922, and it is sad to think it has to be closed because no one can be found to run the place efficiently.

The first Warden was Miss Walton, then Miss Ottman, followed by Miss Taylor who served us wonderfully for about 12 years. She resigned in March, 1945, and several of us took a hand in trying to keep it open until a new Warden was found. Then came Miss Rose-Eggatt straight from the W.A.A.F. Everyone enjoyed her administration and it was a sad day for all when she gave up in 1958 after 13 years. From then on it was easy to see the place was doomed; the old happy spirit was gone and the guests were prowling around like polar bears on an iceberg. These circumstances make parting a little easier.

We take off our hats to many friends in the W.R.A.C. Association who have done their best to save it for us, but must abide by the decision to close down with as much grace as possible. We shall miss it sadly in our old age, especially when we remember the money was originally put up to provide a home or holiday centre for ex-Service women. Still, we are thankful for the happy days spent there in our *youth* and *early middle life*—now in old age many will find themselves "out in the wilderness" until some other holiday centre is found.

"Down Under"

MAJOR J. SHARCOTT, W.R.A.C.

THE mere thought of being the first W.R.A.C. to serve in Australia was exciting in itself and as we prepared for our flight out here last October the excitement mounted. We were all either qualified Experimental Assistants in Gunnery or Radar Operators, but we collected together for a further three months' special training at the School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Manorbia. After some leave we assembled at the Depot, Guildford, and on Tuesday, October 4, we left London Airport.

We had no difficulties on the journey out and were looked after beautifully by Lt.-Col. J. Henderson and 4 Independent Company during a two-day stay in Singapore. We flew from there to Sydney by Qantas Airways and thought it sheer luxury after the charter flight from London. Several of us were invited up to the flight deck by the captain and were impressed by everything. The aircraft was a Boeing 707 which I believe is almost the latest thing for jet travel. We were met in Sydney by Australian Army Movements Staff, and by Major Peg Tacon, W.R.A.A.C., who saw us on the plane for Adelaide, where we were met by Col. Shaw, Major Barton, Mrs. Shaw and a W.R.A.A.F. Sergeant who looked after the girls. The R.A.A.F. Movements Staff came on board the aircraft and dealt with all our tickets and luggage and we were whisked away to the base at Edinburgh where we live, about 20 miles north of Adelaide. The girls share the W.R.A.A.F. quarters and have fitted in very well from the word go.

The training of the E.A.s.G. is being carried out initially by civilian staff in the Weapons Research Establishment, and our pay, etc., by the R.A.F. Support Unit. On November 24 we were visited by Col. Jackson, D.W.R.A.A.C., accompanied by Capt. Joan Melton, W.R.A.A.C., who is A.D.W.R.A.A.C. at Keswick Barracks in Adelaide. Col. Jackson spoke to all the girls, saw some of the quarters and then had tea in the women officers' quarters.

The weather has been very changeable since we arrived. The temperature can rise or fall by 30 degrees in half an hour; one shivers one minute and swelters the next, but it has settled into fine sunny weather now and the temperature has reached 102.5 degrees. No one has suffered from the heat yet, and in fact they all seem to be thriving on it. Bush fires have begun springing up and are likely to be a serious problem as there was so much growth during the abnormally wet winter and spring.

Christmas activities are in full swing. The girls have taken part in the camp concert, delivered gifts to old people in hospital and arrived by air with Santa Claus at the children's Christmas party. Together with the W.R.A.A.F., they held a Christmas party themselves and dressed up very effectively as the "Ten Little Nigger Boys." The other ranks' Christmas dinner was also a great success. Through the kindness of the Victoria League we had Christmas invitations for everybody. Two went

to a cattle station at Oodnadatta, two for a water ski-ing holiday at Barmera and two down south to Yaukallilla. The other four had invitations from relatives and friends in Sydney and Adelaide, and I went to stay with some friends up in the hills.

There are plenty of spare-time activities and sports, and some of the girls play in the W.R.A.A.F. soft-ball team. Tennis, squash, swimming and sailing are all available and we get plenty of invitations to private parties. The real difficulty is transport; except for a somewhat erratic train service to Adelaide, public transport is non-existent and we are very isolated.

However, several of the W.R.A.A.F.s have cars and take the girls to beaches or through the wine-growing valleys at weekends, and there are several boy friends with cars. Altogether it is a wonderful posting and I hope many more members of the Corps will have the chance to follow us.

The Nuffield Trust

MANY people think that the age of the great Patrons has gone, but for those who know what Lord Nuffield and the Nuffield Trust, which he created, have done for the Women's Services this is very far from the case. From early in the war to the present day women serving in Her Majesty's Forces have cause to be grateful for the many comforts provided.

One of the latest benevolences has been a grant to the Women's United Services Club, Edinburgh, for redecorating the Nuffield Annex. The annex was given to the Club in 1947 by the Nuffield Trust so that service women living in or passing through Edinburgh could always be sure of a bed and breakfast at a very moderate price. In the succeeding years the cost of running clubs has steadily increased and the club committee have been unable to find money for redecorating the annex. At last the committee plucked up courage to write to the Trust asking if they would help. Almost immediately an encouraging reply was received and in next to no time the house committee received a generous cheque.

Now the annex is a credit to the Trust and the Club. The walls are papered in clear soft colours, mattresses all have interior springs. There are bright bedspreads and a Beauty Bar. The bathroom has been repainted and it is well worth climbing the stairs to view the large room.

The service women who have visited 12 Drumsheugh Gardens since the annex has had its face lift have been most enthusiastic about the pleasantness and comfort of their accommodation. The nightly charge for bath, bed and breakfast is 8s. with full use of the Club facilities. Other meals can be had on payment. Servicewomen on leave, on courses or passing through Edinburgh on their first posting are all welcome and we hope many will come.

Sport for the Paralysed

L. GUTTMANN, C.B.E., M.D., M.R.C.P.

(Director, National Spinal Injuries Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital)

SOME years ago it would have been quite inconceivable to assume that a person paralysed from the waist or chest down, or with a broken neck, would be able not only to enjoy sport but also to give enjoyment to hundreds of able-bodied spectators. Yet in September, 1960, following upon the Olympic Games, the Stoke Mandeville Games for the Paralysed were being held in Rome where the XVII Olympiad had just come to an end. About 400 competitors and 250 escorts, trainers and medical staff, representing 21 nations from five continents, assembled in Rome for the Games, which were being held abroad for the first time in their history.

We started sport at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in 1944 for wounded soldiers, starting with one of the most difficult games—polo. A wheel-chair was used in place of a horse and a short mallet instead of the normal long one. In the open the players used a weighted ball, and in the gymnasium a rubber disc. This experiment was very successful and we set up a team to play against able-bodied people—the physiotherapists of the hospital—who were given a good beating. From then on, other sports were introduced, such as table-tennis, fencing, basket-ball, javelin throwing, putting the shot, throwing the club and swimming—all, with the exception of swimming, carried out with the use of wheel-chairs.

In 1948 we were far enough developed in our sports activities to start a real sports competition, and this was done first on a very small scale at the time the Olympic Games were being opened in London. This competition at Stoke Mandeville took place between two units of ex-Servicemen, with 26 competitors, and it was such a resounding success that I was confident that it would develop into a proper sports movement for the paralysed, recognised as the paraplegic's equivalent of the Olympic Games. Events have fully justified that confidence. As each succeeding annual sports day came round so did the number of competitors and sports events increase, and in 1952 the National Stoke Mandeville Games became an international sports movement. The concept of sport for the disabled was considered as such an outstanding achievement in the idea of the Olympic movement that at the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956 we were given the award of the Fearnley Cup—bringing this Olympic award to Great Britain for the first time. My dream was realised when the Stoke Mandeville Games were held in Rome, with the same facilities and under the same conditions as those of the Olympic Games for the able-bodied.

The transport over long distances of so many paralysed people, most of them with complete or severe transverse lesions of the spinal cord, the accommodation in the Olympic Village (where the Italian authorities showed their enthusiasm with profound generosity by defraying the whole cost)

and the stress of a week's intensive sport, meant, of course, a major undertaking from the medical point of view. The success of the undertaking was made possible only by careful selection of the competitors and by appropriate precautionary measures for their welfare by the medical staff of the Spinal Unit at Ostia and the medical and nursing attendants of the individual teams.

The Games were inaugurated on Sunday, the 18th, at 5 p.m., in the stadium of the Olympic sports ground, Aqua Acetosa. The colourful and impressive ceremony included a wheel-past of 21 nations, and the Games were opened by the Italian Minister of Health in the presence of many other leading personalities. The banner of the Stoke Mandeville Games was carried at the head of the procession, affixed to the wheel-chair of a British paraplegic ex-Serviceman and flanked by the flags of Italy and Rome on the chairs of one male and one female Italian paraplegic. The British team, as the founder nation, had the honour of leading the wheel-past, with the Italian team bringing up the rear. Music was provided by a large military band, and Italian naval cadets broke the appropriate flag as each team passed the saluting base.

The various sports events took place in the Olympic Stadium, Tre Fontane, from Monday, the 19th, to Friday, the 23rd. These competitions included archery, darts (a combination of darts and archery), basket-ball, field events (javelin throwing, both distance and precision, throwing the club and putting the shot), table-tennis, fencing (sabre and foil), and snooker. The swimming competitions took place on Saturday, the 24th. In most of the sports events the competitors were divided into classes according to their handicap—the level and completeness of their paraplegia. The table-tennis and swimming competitors included even quadriplegics, following injury of the cervical spine, where the paralysis included the muscles of the fingers and the table-tennis bat had to be fixed to the hand of the competitor. Every evening a prize-giving ceremony took place in the stadium, and this was arranged in traditional Olympic style, the only difference being that the winners mounted the rostrum in their wheel-chairs by means of a ramp. The three appropriate national flags of the winners were then hoisted at staggered intervals by naval cadets and the national anthem of the gold medallist was played.

The standard of all the competitions was good, and in certain events (such as the field events, archery and swimming) records were broken. Special mention must be made of the archery contest, where the standard was very high. It was in archery that Great Britain won her first gold medal, achieved by Miss Margaret Maughan from Preston. Mrs. Harriman, a former patient of Stoke Mandeville, who represented Southern Rhodesia,

reached such a high standard that she may become the first person with partial paraplegia to take part in the Olympic Games when archery is introduced in Tokyo in 1964. Perhaps the most impressive of all the events, however, was the swimming, which was held in the Olympic indoor swimming pool, the Piscino Foro Italico, where the swimmers could compete in five lanes watched by a huge crowd of spectators. Paraplegics competed for the first time in 50 metres—a quite remarkable achievement.

In basket-ball, which is the most exciting of wheel-chair games for both players and spectators, the American team, representing various States of the U.S.A., won in both classes. The Americans excelled themselves also in the field events, and an American won the pentathlon, consisting of archery, field events and swimming. The Italians were easy winners of all medals in the ladies' field events; Dick Thompson of Great Britain won four golds in the men's classes, and the Germans also won medals, including a gold. In the table-tennis competition the British cervicals, both male and female, won gold medals in their class. Great Britain also won gold and silver medals in the snooker competition, while in fencing the Italians were the masters. The Italians also obtained the highest number of points in the swimming contest, beating Great Britain by three points. The Americans and Australians won medals in the darts competition; and medals in the various events were also won by Argentine, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Israel, Malta, Norway and Switzerland. The British team won altogether 21 gold, 15 silver and 18 bronze medals, and thus became second only to the host nation, Italy, in the number of medals won.

The closing ceremony—again a most spectacular affair—took place on Sunday evening at 9 p.m. in the Palazzetto dello Sport, in the presence of the Patron of the Games, Donna Carla Gronchi, wife of the President of Italy. At this ceremony demonstrations of fencing and table-tennis were given by British and Italian competitors, after which Donna Carla presented some of the main trophies to the winning teams. In the name of the visiting teams I thanked the Italian nation and in particular the organisations whose generous support made the Games possible; and on behalf of the International Stoke Mandeville Committee I presented the Director and staff of the Ostia Spinal Unit with a banner of the Stoke Mandeville Games specially made in the occupational therapy department of the hospital. As Donna Carla declared the Games closed, the flags carried in front of each national team by naval cadets were lowered, furled and carried from the arena, to the accompaniment of the Italian national anthem and the tumultuous applause of the large audience.

In order to meet the expenses of sport for the paralysed, we have set up a sports fund called the Paraplegic Sports Endowment Fund, and the ex-Service organisations have given a lead in supporting it. We are now appealing for funds to develop sports among other forms of disabled, for the publicity given to the Stoke Mandeville Games in

Rome has helped to make the public more and more aware of the important part which sport can play today in the physical, psychological and above all social rehabilitation of our severely disabled fellow men. Sport has given many a paraplegic the opportunity to see foreign lands; during the games in Rome the competitors were able to visit the historic monuments, buildings and art treasures of the Eternal City, they were granted a special audience with His Holiness Pope John XXIII at the Vatican, and the teams from Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries were invited to a party at the British Embassy. The Games will remain a never-to-be-forgotten event for everyone who took part, and there is no doubt that they represent an important milestone in the development of international sport for the paralysed. It was decided that the Games should take place every four years in the same country as that in which the Olympic Games are held, provided that proper facilities are available, and we are looking forward to the 1964 Games in Tokyo.

Battalion Farewell

THERE has by now been a good deal published in the national and local press about the re-organisation of the T.A., and the forthcoming changes were brought home to 301 (East Anglian) Battalion at their farewell Regimental weekend held in Colchester on January 14 and 15. It might well have been a sad occasion, particularly for those members who have served with the unit from its formation and for those who later joined from 302 Battalion and units of A.A. Command; but the sun shone and we all set out to enjoy ourselves. In a unit as scattered as ours we seldom meet all together except at annual camp, so inevitably there was a lot to talk about.

On Saturday afternoon members set forth from their 12 T.A. Centres to congregate in Colchester. The accommodation was warm, the tea was good, and there was a dance in the N.A.A.F.I. Club, with a regimental band playing and partners provided. The officers held a Regimental Dinner in the Garrison Officers' Mess; all the officers (except one in India) were present and with their guests sat down 34 to dinner. The chief guest was the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Sir John Ruggles-Brise; and among the other guests were our Honorary Colonel, Col. N. Hughes-Reckitt; Brigadier Doyle, Commander 161 Brigade; Col. J. E. R. Rivett-Drake, D.D.W.R.A.C. Eastern Command; Col. N. Salew, Secretary Essex T. and A.F. Association; Lt.-Col. Crosthwait, A.Q.M.G., and Lt.-Col. Kiggins, C.R.A.S.C. of the Division; Lt.-Col. Poundsford, C.R.A.S.C. of the District; and Lt.-Col. Christy, a former C.O. of the Battalion. After the loyal toasts the Lord Lieutenant paid a tribute to the Battalion, to which the Honorary Colonel replied.

Sunday was a true East Anglian day, dawning bright with a bitterly cold wind. There were sighs of relief—no greatcoats, no wet weather programme, and the day was off to a good start. A church service in the Garrison Church was

followed by a march past, at which the Divisional Commander, Major-Gen. D. E. B. Talbot, accompanied by the Mayor of Colchester, took the salute. Among the senior officers present were Brigadier P. J. Barclay, Deputy Commander; Brigadier Northern, Garrison Commander; Col. Rivett-Drake and Col. Hughes-Reckitt. For the second time in our history we had the W.R.A.C. Staff Band, who came up from Guildford and played both before the service and for the march past. Their presence helped very greatly, and they earned many complimentary remarks from the people of Colchester, although they must have been playing with icy cold fingers. The six companies of the Battalion were formed into three for the parade, a total of 12 officers and 140 other ranks. The G.O.C. was pleased with the march past and complimented us on a smart parade, which we felt was high praise indeed. The standard could only have been achieved by each individual member's own effort, as we had had no rehearsal at all.

A luncheon for all ranks was organised in the Viking N.A.A.F.I. Club, a perfect building for such an occasion with its beautifully furnished rooms and large tavern. We were delighted to have a number of our guests with us for lunch, and particularly glad to welcome the C.O.s of 326 (City of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and 327 (County of London) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)—units with which we shall have close connections when H.Q. W.R.A.C. (E.A.) Division/District and its four companies are formed. The C.O. in her closing remarks reminded members that in their

new units they would, for the first time, be an integral part of the establishment of the 54th (E.A.) Division/District, and added that this would surely never have happened if the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) had not proved themselves worthy of playing such an important role in the T.A. The weekend was reckoned a successful and enjoyable one by all, and with the praise of guests and spectators still in their minds 301 Battalion set off home, looking ahead to a new stage in their T.A. careers and determined that their keenness and loyalty to the W.R.A.C. should make them worthy of the task ahead.

We cannot let this occasion pass without mentioning a few of our personalities. Col. Hughes-Reckitt, our Honorary Colonel, was not only the first C.O. of the Battalion, but a founder member of the A.T.S. in 1938. Also serving in Essex at that time was Pte. Fleming, now a Sergeant with 2 Essex Platoon at Leigh-on-Sea. It was Col. Hughes-Reckitt who attested Pte. (now C.S.M.) Murkin in Chelmsford in 1948. Sgt. de Ros was with mixed A.A. in Belgium and recently took part in the Battalion hoop-swinging display at the Colchester Tattoo. There are seven sets of sisters, but the O'Sullivans hold the record with three now serving; the fourth, Sgt. O' Sullivan, has left us and now has a daughter. Mrs. Hill (Frost) and Miss Green, both ex-Sergeants, have been with the Battalion as Company Clerks for over 11 years; and among the other members of the Permanent Staff are four holders of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.



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NEWS from the BRANCHES

AYR. In September we were pleased to welcome members of the Glasgow branch for their annual visit and as always we had a most enjoyable day together. Our winter activities started in October with "Holiday news and views"; we also had a bring and buy sale of gifts brought back from holiday. At our November meeting we had a demonstration on making Christmas decorations, which proved most interesting. Later that month we held a whist drive which helped our funds considerably. On December 20, we had our annual Christmas party for the handicapped children from St. Leonards House, which has become the highlight of the children's year. We always try to make it a memorable occasion for them and we get splendid co-operation from the Matron. We find out from her what the children need and what they would like from Santa; and through the generosity of our members and friends we always manage to make up exciting parcels for them all.

BOURNEMOUTH. We were very pleased to have Mrs. Lumsden with us for the annual raspberry tea party held at the home of our secretary. After the holiday break we met for supper at the beginning of October. On Remembrance Day seven members took part in the ex-service associations' parade in Bournemouth and had coffee together afterwards. We had a party of 20 at the Concert and Rally in the Winter Gardens that evening. Fifteen members attended the A.G.M. held at Mrs. Rumbold's flat in November. Some members seem to have walked half around Bournemouth to find "the door behind the green bush," but the unintended exercise gave them a good appetite for the refreshments which followed the business meeting. We are all delighted that Mrs. Rumbold has consented to become our branch President.

BRADFORD. Since our last report we have had some very good attendances at our meetings. Members appear to have come back after the holidays full of enthusiasm. We donated 30s. to the Northern area collection for the Benevolent Fund, the proceeds of a raffle and a draw to which each member contributed a gift brought from their holiday. Twelve of our members travelled to the reunion with members of Leeds branch which gave us the opportunity to renew our comradeship with each other. We were delighted to meet one of our members Kathleen Bottomley who had come over from Flamborough, E. Yorks. She has invited us to visit her this year. We were sorry not to see Dorothy Ross from Hull and Miss Gummersall. Our members again turned up in force to help our Poppy Day and attended the Remembrance Day civic parade and the Festival of Remembrance. Our chairman, Gertie Armitage, presented a bouquet to Lord St. Oswald, the chief guest, for his wife who was ill. We always enjoy seeing Miss Nellie Julian, O.B.E., Mrs. Hemms and Mrs. Armitage among all those taking part in the

March of the Units. Our Standard was carried by Monica Bradley who acquitted herself very well on her first assignment as Standard Bearer. Her escorts were Bertha Henegan and Marjorie Marks. Miss Cocksedge was hostess to Mrs. C. S. Sperry (Carrie Sinclair) of U.S.A. and invited several members to meet her. The November meeting concluded with the birthday of our secretary, who provided the refreshments and arranged the games on that occasion. She was overwhelmed by the kindness of members who presented her with a large bouquet of flowers and other gifts. The hostesses in December were our good friends, Miss Julian and Mabel, who provided lots and lots of lovely refreshments and prizes for the games. The proceeds of the evening were donated to the Welfare Fund to enable us to send Christmas cards to those members who now live far away or are sick, and presents for the three young children of our members.

BRIGHTON. We have two new members, and at most of our meetings since June, we have been joined by Mrs. Gibson, an ex-Q.M.A.A.C., who is based in Sussex on a long holiday from her home in Takapuna, New Zealand. At our August meeting we were very pleased to see Mrs. Freda Aslinall (Holland) of Bournemouth and a former member of Brighton branch. On various Sunday afternoons we have been on coach trips and walks including very interesting visits to Glynde Place and Sheffield Park Gardens. We have visited Mrs. Daniels (A.T.S.) at Clayton several times and apart from our pleasure in seeing her we enjoy the very pretty country walk from the village. In August we had a delightful visit to Mrs. Gardner's house for tea and in October, Mr. Ritchie, D.C.M., took us on a very educational walk around Shoreham Harbour, whilst Mrs. Ritchie prepared tea for us at their house. We were joined there by Mrs. Hilda Child (Jones), her husband and their lovely baby Christina. Seven of us watched the parade of Veteran Cars (Old Cocks) on the seafront, in surprisingly good weather for November. On Remembrance Sunday Mrs. Lythgoe had the honour of laying the wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of the Association. Miss Dorothy (Pip) Martin was married in November and our best wishes go to her in her new home in Woking. We had a very successful Bring and Buy sale at our November meeting.

BRISTOL. A whist drive was held in October arranged by Mrs. Skidmore and at our annual supper in November, Mrs. R. Bernays, J.P., presented, on behalf of the branch, a wedding gift of an electric iron to Miss K. M. Cottrell who was married on November 19. We congratulate her and wish her much happiness in the future. At the British Legion Festival of Remembrance on November 12, our standard was carried by Mrs. Budd; others taking part were Mrs. Dunston, Miss Hayward and Miss Smith. The following day at the civic ceremony and service, Mrs. Budd again carried the Standard.

DERBY. We send our greetings to our two Q.M.A.A.C. members, Mrs. Rowbotham of Portishead, Somerset, and Miss Alice Roberts of Blackpool. Once again we thank the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) at Siddals Road for inviting the Branch to their Christmas Party, which we enjoyed very much. We hope to keep in contact with them when they move to their new Drill Hall at Kingsway. We have had socials each month in 1960 at Beckett Street Drill Hall, by kind permission of Col. Green of the 5th Foresters. Other Associations have joined us, including the Foresters, Dunkirk, and Old Veterans. We were entertained by the Sergeants' Mess at Normanton Barracks and joined them in their pilgrimage to Crick in July. We also went to Six Hills to see the 5th Foresters on the range, and were given lunch and tea under canvas. The 5th Foresters invited us to their Sergeants' Ball. We would like to see more members at our meetings, as all the entertaining falls upon a few.

EDINBURGH. Our winter programme started in October with our Holiday Gift Stall. Everyone brought a gift and told where it had been bought. At the November meeting all members took part in a parlour game called "If not you—Who?" and it was most interesting to hear our members' little pipe-dreams of who they would like to be. We held a Children's Christmas Party and everyone agreed it was a great success. Our Annual General Meeting was held in December and we have been extremely lucky in that our Secretary, Miss M. Cruikshanks, and our Chairman, Mrs. M. Henderson, have agreed for the 12th year running to remain in office. To those two indefatigable ladies we are most grateful.

GIBRALTAR. This Branch has had a full summer season and quite a profitable one. Two new members have joined us, Mrs. Sorley (Apps), ex-Sergeant W.R.A.C., and Mrs. Bramwell (Hackett), ex-Corporal W.R.A.C. We held a coffee morning in May, in the patio of one of our members' home. Cake and toffee-apple stalls were included; these together with the proceeds of a raffle gave us a profit of just over £11. In July we had a surprise visit from Mrs. W. S. Giles, chairman of the London Branch, who was out visiting her son who is stationed here with the R.A.F. She was most impressed with the accommodation in Princess Royal block, particularly with the kitchen and our cooks were most interested in hearing her experiences as a cook during the last war. A Bazaar and Jumble Sale was opened by Mrs. Buttenshaw, the wife of the Deputy Fortress Commander on October 1. The two large rooms were literally packed with service families and local people. Members of 18 Indep. Company ran a "Tea Shop" which did a brisk trade coping with exhausted shoppers. Our service and local friends had been most kind and members worked very hard indeed. We were gratified to see every article sold and we were certainly thrilled when we counted the takings to find we had made £129 17s. which gave us a profit of over £115. A cheque for £110 is being sent to the Benevolent Fund.

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HARTLEPOOLS. Six members attended and enjoyed the Northern Area Reunion at York, travelling comfortably in a minibus. In October members and friends paid a worthwhile visit to our local fire station, one of the most up to date in the country. The officer who showed us round explained everything very simply and we found it most interesting. In November, we invited friends along to hear a lecture on life in Malaya, given by a lady doctor who lives in Malaya with her husband and was home on holiday. She is now Mrs. Bradford, but as P. Chareton she served in the R.A.M.C. during the war. The lecture was illustrated by slides and gave an interesting insight into life in Malaya. We held our Annual General Meeting in December and re-elected Miss M. Sivewright as President, Miss V. M. McRobert, T.D., as Chairman, and Mrs. Jewell as Secretary. Miss McCarthy, after nearly 13 years as Treasurer, felt that it was time for someone else to take over, and we were grateful when Mrs. Sawhill consented to be our new Treasurer. We sincerely thank Miss McCarthy for her good work during all that time and hope that we shall still see her at our monthly meetings.

MANCHESTER. Our meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays in the month from 7.30 to 9.30 at Belle Vue Barracks. In April a party of members and friends visited the Granada Television studios and watched fascinated, a recording of the popular quiz, Concentration. In October we attended the Western Area reunion and gladly accepted the offer from Salford W.R.A.C. (T.A.) to transport us in one of their hired coaches. On our arrival we fortified the inner man at a cosy grill room before going to the drill hall. We all enjoyed the trip even though some of us failed to meet anyone we knew during our service. Last year 22 people attended our annual dinner in November. After the toasts we called upon R.S.M. Cox to draw the winning raffle ticket. One of our most constant members, Mrs. Freda Jones (A.T.S.), went home triumphantly carrying the first prize and our chairman, Miss Joan Horsfall (A.T.S.), the consolation prize. In answer to Mrs. Maureen Lees' appeal, we sent a parcel of toys and dolls beautifully dressed by our members for the Good Neighbour stall at the exhibition she organised in December. At our Christmas Bring-and-Buy sale some of us managed to solve a few Christmas present problems and although suffering from the usual complaint, lack of support, we succeeded in raising a nice little sum to help our funds. Our secretary, Mrs. Bancroft, has had to resign because of ill health. We all send her our good wishes and look forward to having her back with us when she is fit again.

OXFORD. After a break for summer holidays the Branch held a meeting on October 3. At this meeting very interesting talks, illustrated by coloured transparencies, were given by Capt. Jeffcoat and Miss M. Frost on their summer holidays abroad. Fourteen members attended this meeting, and we were all very grateful to both Capt. Jeffcoat and Miss Frost for making such a happy and pleasant evening possible. The display was

well worth a very much larger audience. The Annual General Meeting was held on November 1, and the following were elected for the year 1961: Chairman, Mrs. M. A. Paton, M.B.E. Secretary, Mrs. D. Adams. Treasurer, Mrs. M. Dubber. On December 5, we held a Bring and Buy sale, followed by a supper and social evening. A merry and happy evening was enjoyed by all present.

PRESTON. Mrs. Bucklee presided at the General Meeting on November 29, and 14 members were present. The balance sheet was read by our worthy treasurer, Miss Dawnham, and it was decided to double our donations to charities and include Mount Street Hospital for the Aged and the R.S.P.C.A. The total given is now £18 18s. We had our annual outing on October 1, and spent the afternoon in Southport. Sixteen members had a very enjoyable time at the Western Area Reunion in Southport, and we all congratulate the Organising Committee on a very good gathering and supper. The Council of Ex-Service Men's and Women's Associations in Preston held their annual dinner at the Masonic Temple on November 10, and eight members went. During the evening they sold poppies to 140 present. Members attended Preston Civic Remembrance Day Parade and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph. We are happy to announce the marriage of Miss M. Burrow to Mr. T. Caunce on December 1. Members presented a reading lamp to Miss Burrow, who has been a member since the Branch was formed.

Amendments to Branch Secretaries

Glasgow—Miss E. Butters, 43 Keir Street, Glasgow, S.1.

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

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

Singapore—W.O.2 V. F. Masters, 4 Independent Company, G.H.Q., W.R.A.C., F.A.R.E.L.F., Singapore.

LAKELAND BRANCH

A new Branch is being started in the spring to be called "The Lakeland Branch." As members will inevitably be very scattered it is hoped to hold the meetings in different centres. Further particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary: Sgt. M. E. Dockerty, W.R.A.C., 318 Independent Company W.R.A.C.(T.A.), T.A. Centre, Penrith, Cumberland.

LONDON BRANCH

Will London Branch members please pay their subscriptions to the Hon. Secretary, London Branch, Miss G. Cridland, 52 Thornton Road, Carshalton, Surrey and not to the General Secretary.

W.R.A.C. Depot

AMONG the interesting visitors during the past few months were two officers of the P.F.A.T. Lt. L. Crespan arrived here in August, she only stayed with us for one day and must have been bewildered by all she saw in such a short time. Lt. G. Garnier who came in October gave us more time to practise our French as she remained for two nights. Both officers were charming; we gained a great deal from their visits and hope they learned something of our Corps.

We were very honoured when Mrs. Christopher Soames, M.B.E., J.P., who was known to many of us as Junior Commander Mary Churchill, was our Inspecting Officer on November 24. The parade was held during a heavy rainstorm but Mrs. Soames was undaunted. We were delighted she carried on under such trying conditions. Afterwards we listened to her charming and inspiring speech. We hope she will come again.

Major-General H. A. Borradaile, C.B., D.S.O., Vice-Adjutant General to the Forces, presented Long-Service medals to Sgt. K. M. Kefford and Cpl. V. M. Downie in October.

We made a promising start to the winter sports season. After several hectic games in the Eastern Command inter-unit hockey championships, our team emerged muddy and almost triumphant, being runners-up to "C" Company 12th Battalion. Under considerably better conditions, the netball team were victorious after a very exciting final with 70 M.T. Company, R.A.S.C. A Saddle Club is gradually being established for girls who wish to ride during recreational training. They pay only a small fee, the balance being provided from unit funds.

1st Training Company are busy making a film which they intend to show recruits on arrival to give them some idea of what to expect during their training. Funds have been raised in various ways including a bumper jumble sale which realised about £30. From time to time some of us are persuaded to play various parts and we look forward to seeing the film when it is completed. We had another successful jumble sale, which raised £40 to help pay for the relaying of the Church lawn.

Just before Christmas, we all thoroughly enjoyed the really excellent concert given by Major J. B. MacDowall and the Staff Band.

BIRTHS

HARVEY. On October 14, 1960, at Park Hospital, Davyhulme, Manchester, to Marjorie (Wade), ex-Sergeant, W.R.A.C., and Neville Harvey, ex-Sergeant, Royal Tanks, a son, Roger. Present address, 41 Hartington Road, Chorlton cum Hardy, Manchester 21.

WHITE. On September 25, 1960, in Chelmsford, to Lorna (née Aston, ex-W.O. W.R.A.C.) and Sgt. "Chalky" White, a daughter, Elizabeth.

News from Old Comrades

Mrs. Emily Ingham (Gwynn) writes from 59 Woodland Avenue, St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada, sending New Year Greetings to all Old Comrades. She served with the Q.M.A.A.C. at Pirbright and would like to have news of anyone who served with her or who might be living near her in Canada.

Miss E. M. Suggate of Flat 4, 50 Carlton Mill Road, Christchurch, N.W.1, New Zealand, would like to know of any ex-members of Q.M.A.A.C. who might be living in Christchurch. She is hoping to see Miss Nora Mitchell who is at present on holiday at Hawkes Bay, North Island.

Mrs. Doris Evans writes from 823 Surrey Street, New Westminster, B.C., Canada. She hopes to come over in the Spring of next year.

Remembrance Day

REPRESENTATIVES of Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. attended the Service of Dedication at the Field of Remembrance, and the Cross was planted on behalf of the Association by the serving officer, Major R. M. Shaw, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C. The Association was well represented by members of various Branches in the march past the Cenotaph, and the wreath was laid on behalf of the Association by Mrs. Lythgoe, a member of Brighton Branch.



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Obituary

The Lady Kathleen Asquith

KATHLEEN ROLLO, as she then was, joined the A.T.S. on the first day of recruiting in 1938 and was appointed Company Commander to County of London H.Q., where she worked full-time during the year before mobilisation. Her first command was with the B.E.F., where she built up the Le Mans Group from early 1940 until its evacuation in June that year. On promotion she served at H.Q. South Eastern Command, and later as Chief Commander, was appointed Liaison Officer with the Polish A.T.S. It was here that her organising ability, combined with warm-hearted friendliness and a wonderful sense of humour, made her work such a great success. The writer will always remember a day spent with her visiting schools for the children of Polish troops in Nazareth and the respect and affection in which she was held at Polish H.Q. in Egypt.

The tremendous energy and drive which, despite indifferent health, she put into all her work with the A.T.S. may well have been contributory to her premature death which is so greatly mourned by her many friends. May she rest in peace. M. F. W. R.

Miss Esther Pace

MEMBERS of Q.M.A.A.C. who knew and served at Dieppe with Miss Esther Pace, of 41 Nicander Road, Sefton Park, Liverpool, will hear with regret of her death on January 9 in Sefton General Hospital. She met with an accident early in October and had been there ever since. She was visited by the secretary and members of the Liverpool Branch.

Miss Pace was a keen life member of the Association and always so much looked forward to each issue of *The Lioness* which she enjoyed reading.

She was cremated on January 13. Members of Liverpool Branch sent a spray of spring flowers to her memory.

PERSONAL

(For charges and particulars see Contents page)

Wanted. No. 1 Dress required. Height 5 ft. 8 in., bust 38 in., waist 30 in., hips 42 in. Box No. 1/61.

For Sale. Officer's Green Greatcoat, in excellent condition, lined throughout in crimson, worn approximately 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.

For Sale. W.R.A.C. No. 1 Dress jacket and skirt, green greatcoat, cap, shirts, collars and tie. Two battle-dress blouses and skirts. Shirts, collars and ties, three bush shirts. Green beret. Height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 40 in., hips 42 in., cap 7. All tailored by Huntsman, in excellent condition. Any reasonable offer accepted. Box No. 2/61.

For Sale. Officers No. 1 Dress. Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 38 in., waist 29 in., hips 40 in. £12 10s. Khaki Greatcoat £3. Box No. 3/61.

For Sale. W.R.A.C. No. 1 Dress. Jacket, skirt, cap and greatcoat with shirts and collars. Height 5 ft. 8 in., bust 35 in., waist 27 in., hips 38 in. Condition good, three years wear. Price, you decide, then write to Box 4/61.

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).

Motor Insurance in U.K. and B.A.O.R. with Immediate 33½% No Claim Bonus. Members of the Services are making appreciable savings in their motor insurance premiums while still obtaining fully Comprehensive Cover including, without extra charge, items for which an additional premium is often required.

Quotations on request to Lt.-Col. W. A. Murley (Retd.), N.E.M. House, 12 Belmont, Shrewsbury.

For all duplicating, reliably and promptly performed, and/or Gestefax Stencils enabling you to reproduce printed matter, illustrations, etc., on your own Gestetner, apply: Sinclair's, 15 Crescent Road, Parkstone, Dorset. Parkstone 571.

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.

Notices

Personal Column Advertisements

Will members please send their Personal column advertisements *on time*. They should reach the General Secretary by March 31, for the May issue, June 30, for the August, and September 30, for November.

Branch Directory

In future the list of Branch Secretaries published in May will also include the regular day, time and place of branch meetings. Please see that the General Secretary has up-to-date information about your meetings before March 30.



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