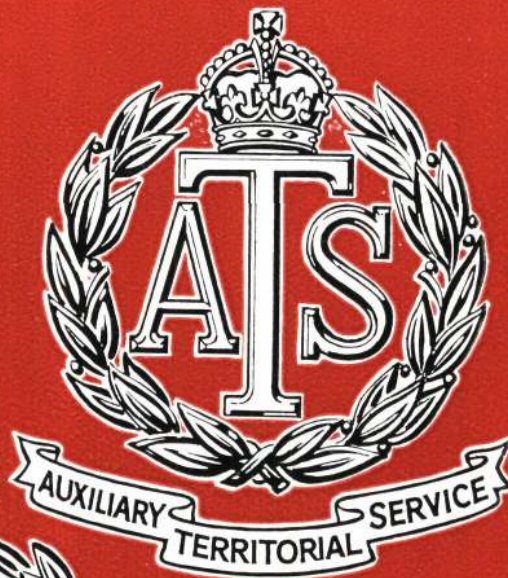
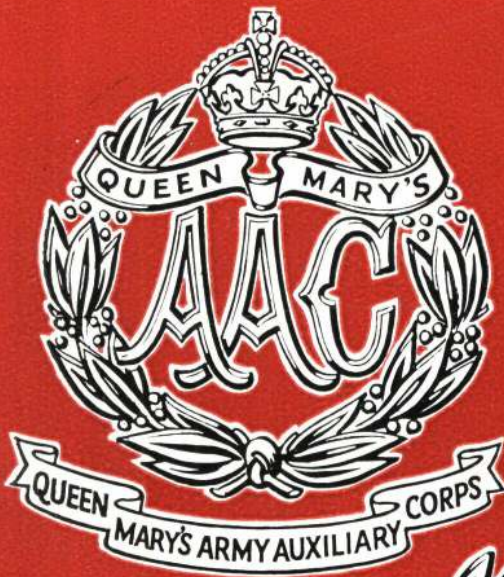


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Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee,
1, Princes Gate, London, S.W.7

Issued by H.M. Forces Savings Committee

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WRAC Association Address Book

GENERAL SECRETARY and EDITOR

(to whom all contributions and correspondence should be addressed including items for the Personal column)

Lieut.-Colonel M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D.

**Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road,
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Personal column: 3 lines 4s. 6d., each additional line 1s. 6d., non-members 50% more. Box Nos. 6d. Reunion notices: Notices of forthcoming reunions where admission is charged may be inserted at a cost of 1s. 6d. a line.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY
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Army Public Relations

Pte. Wendy Scott,

WHO RESCUED A DROWNING SOLDIER, ATTENDS A CLERK'S COURSE



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXV

February 1962

No. 1

Editorial

ONCE again, rising costs have caught up with *The Lioness* and brought an increase of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in production and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. on postage. We are reluctant to pass this on by raising the price and, with your help and co-operation, believe that economies can be made. If you want us to publish a picture to illustrate your contribution, please send a block and not a photograph. Blocks cost us about £2 to make, but the Editor of your local paper is usually willing to lend one free if you ask him. A busy newspaper office does not keep its blocks for long, so don't delay in sending your request. Each time you change your address it costs us 8d. to have a new stencil cut, and there were 61 changes for the November issue alone. Serving members, and others who move constantly could help by giving a permanent address for *The Lioness*. Branch Secretaries could save money by letting us know about lapsed members. We assume that you are going to renew your subscription, and quite a number of free copies go out in this way every year. Five new members in each Branch would increase our circulation by 400 copies, and go a long way towards meeting our deficit.

WE welcome Major E. B. Dixon to the Corps Headquarter Staff. She has taken over the responsibilities of General Secretary of the Association and Curator of the Museum.

PRINCESS ROYAL'S DAY at the W.R.A.C. Depot has always been one of the highlights and most enjoyable social events of our year. As we all know, Queen Elizabeth Camp is being rebuilt, and the unit has had to move into temporary accommodation at Lingfield. The isolated position of the Barracks would make it difficult for visitors travelling by train, and there are no spare huts that could be used for a wet weather programme. It has therefore reluctantly been decided that it would be putting too great a strain on the Depot to entertain us all on Princess Royal's Day this year. This will be a great disappointment to many, but the celebration of Corps Day will not be allowed to lapse entirely, and smaller "At Homes," to which members of the Association will be invited, will be held in every Command, and these will allow a number of our members, who would not be able to travel to Lingfield, to join in their local celebrations. The Depot has entertained us right royally in the past, and none of us would wish to add to their burdens during this difficult time.

W.R.A.C. Private Saves Soldier

W/403805 Pte. W. A. Scott, W.R.A.C., No. 19 Platoon, W.R.A.C., H.Q. Libya and Tripolitania Area, has been commended for distinguished conduct by the G.O.C.-in-C. Near East Land Forces.

Her citation states that on June 25, 1961, whilst bathing off the north coast of Malta, Pte. Scott swam to the assistance of another person who was attempting to save a soldier who was in serious difficulty as a result of a severe attack of cramp and in grave danger of drowning. By the time she reached the two men in deep water the other rescuer was also in difficulty, as he was being dragged under by the drowning soldier, and was unable to assist him further. On being confronted with this difficult situation, Pte. Scott reacted swiftly and immediately went to the rescue of the drowning soldier. She handled him firmly with calm confidence to prevent further panic and gave clear instructions which enabled her to bring him safely to the shore. At no time did she give any thought to the possible danger to herself. There is no doubt that her brave and spontaneous action saved the life of the soldier, and possibly also that of the other rescuer, thus preventing a double tragedy.

Looking Back

(From *The Gazette* of February 1922)

STOP PRESS

Princess Mary's Wedding.

As we go to press, an invitation has been received for a contingent of 50 ex-Q.M.A.A.C. officials and members to line part of the route of the wedding procession. Correct and tidy uniform (no greatcoats) is essential, and it will be necessary for those taking part to spend the night of February 27 in London. It is hoped to make the contingent as representative as possible, and the 50 names will be selected from the total number of applicants on that principle.

W.R.A.C. Window

Transparencies of the W.R.A.C. Window are now available for sale at Guildford Cathedral, and cost 2s. 6d. each.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, March 17, 1962, at 3 o'clock.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 18, 1961 (circulated in the May issue of *The Lioness*).
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. Election of Officers. The under-mentioned officers have been nominated:
Chairman of Council: Mrs. A. J. Stevenson.
Council Vice-President: Col. M. K. Crewe-Read (Retired).
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 Rules of the Association be amended to bring them up to date." (Council.)
"THAT members of our sister Corps in Australia, Canada and New Zealand be eligible to become full members of the W.R.A.C. Association." (Council.)
9. Date of next meeting.
10. Any other business.

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. Corps Headquarters Office, and will be available at the Annual General Meeting.

REUNION TEA PARTY

Tea will be available after the Annual General Meeting. Tickets, 2s. 6d., will be on sale at the door, or may be obtained in advance on application to the General Secretary.

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, Chelsea, on Sunday, March 18. 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.

SECRETARIES' MEETING

The Secretaries' Meeting will be held as usual at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, March 17. Will Secretaries please notify the General Secretary by March 1, if they are able to attend and to accept the invitation of Council to luncheon at 1 p.m.

Reunions

Q.M.A.A.C.

The Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion will be held in the Officers' Mess of H.Q. Club, Duke of York's Headquarters, on Friday, March 16, 1962, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets, 4s., including refreshments. Applications to Reunion Secretary, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3, accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

SCOTTISH AREA

The 1962 reunion is to be held in Leith Town Hall, Edinburgh, on Saturday, May 26, doors open at 6.30 p.m. The committee does not know yet what the price of the ticket will be, but it is hoped to keep it down to about 6s. All our friends who served in Scotland, or those with whom we served when we were out of our own country, are invited to come and join us. Leith Town Hall is a charming Georgian building which was just reopened in the summer after having been hit by a bomb early in the war. It is about five minutes by bus from the east end of Princes Street. Full details will be published in the next *Lioness*, but in case it does not come out early in May, or if you want to know all about it before then, write to the treasurer, Mrs. Ogilvie, c/o Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh. Put the date in your diary NOW.

WESTERN AREA

WESTERN Area Reunion will be held on May 19, 1962, from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m. at the Bars Hotel, Foregate Street, Chester. Tickets 7s. 6d. Applications for tickets, with cash, to Mrs. R. M. Sykes, "The Oaklands," Vicars Cross, Chester.

H.Q. AREA LUNCHEON

DAME Regina Evans invites all members of H.Q. Area to a fork lunch at the Service Women's Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, at 12 o'clock, on Saturday, March 17, 1962, before the A.G.M. R.S.V.P. to Col. D. Morgan, Myrtle Cottages, Netherbury, near Bridport, Dorset.

Grand Reunion 1963

The Grand Reunion next year will be held in Derry and Toms Rainbow Restaurant on **SATURDAY, MARCH 16th, 1963.**

BOOK THE DATE NOW!

Service Wedding



Photo by Inverness Press

A DELIGHTFUL and interesting ceremony took place in Middlefield Church of Scotland, Aberdeen, when Miss Wilma Maitland married Mr. Robert McGregor. The bridegroom and his best man, Mr. William Ross, are both Lance-Corporals in the Regular Army, serving with the 1st Battalion, the Gordon Highlanders, while the bride and her two bridesmaids, Miss Helen Youngson and Miss Margaret McRobb, were all members of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

It is not surprising that Wilma Maitland chose a soldier for her husband, for her grandfather joined the Gordon Highlanders when he was only 16, and was wounded 11 times at the siege of Ladysmith. Her father was also a Gordon and her brother, William, is in the 3rd Battalion of the Territorial Army. The bridegroom's sister, a former member of 316th (Scottish Command) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), is now serving on a Regular engagement in the W.R.A.C. Is this a record?

Retirements

COL. J. G. GRIERSON, O.B.E.

COL. J. G. GRIERSON, who relinquished her appointment of D.D.W.R.A.C., Southern Command, on January 30, 1962, and retires later this month, enlisted as a volunteer with 12 Morayshire Company A.T.S. in September, 1938, and served as a clerk until she was commissioned in 1942. From then on islands played a large part in her career, for she commanded companies, first in the Isle of Man, and then in Trinidad, where she found time to learn to aquaplane, and was posted to Northern Ireland shortly after her return to U.K. She was awarded the O.B.E., for her service with Northern Army Group during its difficult transitional period and move to Moench-Gladbach. Col. Grierson is well known as a member of Council, and for the work she has done as Chairman of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund Committee of Management since January, 1957. She has always

taken a great interest in sporting events of all kinds, having been Chairman of the Army Women's Badminton Association since it was first formed in 1949. We wish her every happiness in the future.

R.S.M. HILDYARD

WHEN Miss Hildyard leaves the Corps there will be a very large number of people who will be extremely sad that she will be no longer serving with them. Her friends are legion and there are very many who can be more than grateful for the helping hand she has given them during their service. One of her main characteristics is her capacity to remain enthusiastic and interested in whatever she undertakes; always remaining cheerful and tolerant in her outlook on life. She is truly "Gentle in manner, resolute in deed" and our very good wishes go with her whatever she does in civilian life.



H.R.H. The Princess Royal talking to L/Cpl. Dale

UNIT NEWS

3 INDEPENDENT COMPANY

THE postponed visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to 3 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., at the School of Artillery, Manorbier, took place on Monday, October 2, 1961. Her Royal Highness travelled from London on the overnight train to Carmarthen, where she was met by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Carmarthen, Major-General R. G. F. Frisby, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. 53 (Welsh) Division (T.A.)/Wales District, and Lt.-Col. J. Fisher, A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Western Command. After breakfast with Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon, C.B.E., A.D.C., Commandant, School of Artillery, and Mrs. Weldon, Her Royal Highness spent the morning touring the school, where she met and spoke to all the women of the Company, radar operators, clerks, cooks, stewardesses, drivers and regimental storewomen. After watching a demonstration of the guided weapon system, with women operating the various equipments under the direction of Lt. H. L. S. Price, W.R.A.C., the Technical Officer, Her Royal Highness saw the destruction of a target sleeve during a shoot by 16 L.A.A. Regiment R.A.

Her Royal Highness was then entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess of the School of Artillery before returning to London by train.

W.R.A.C. IN AUSTRALIA

THE W.R.A.C. element of 16 Joint Services Trials Unit, Weapons Research Establishment, South Australia, continues to have an exceedingly

interesting job and plenty of recreation. In the field of sport the combined W.R.A.C./W.R.A.F. hockey team finished the season well by coming top of the league placings in "D" grade of the South Australian Women's Hockey League. Two members of the W.R.A.C., Cpl. Banner and Cpl. McEwan, were selected to play in a team representing the whole of "D" grade against county teams in a hockey festival at Nurioopta on September 23.

There has been no lack of entertainment—in the last three months, a visit to the theatre organised by the R.A.F. Support Unit (Australia), an end-of-the-hockey-season party, and invitations to the Battle of Britain Ball at Woomera. Two of the W.R.A.C. Corporals went, they flew to Woomera on the afternoon of the ball and returned to their unit the following Monday. They were the guests of an Australian Air Force family, and had a wonderful time. Other events included a trip around Outer Harbour by police launch, and a barbecue in the National Park, organised by the unit. All ranks had a most enjoyable day and were delighted to see a kangaroo with a young one, called a "joey," peering out of her pouch.

Perhaps the highlight of the last two or three months was the Royal Show in Adelaide. The unit stood down for one afternoon to give everyone a chance to attend. There were the usual displays of agricultural machinery, motor cars, cattle, sheep, pigs and industrial and commercial stands such as would be seen at an English show. "Australian" events included log chopping (one axe-man chopped

through a log of 39 in, circumference in 13 seconds), buck jumping, displays by the Australian services, by teams of marching girls and by the Adelaide Police Band, during which mounted police on their horses rode in among the musicians. Trotting races were held under floodlights in the evenings. The horses are raced round an oval track, each pulling a very light, low, two-wheeled carriage called a "sulky" on which the driver sits. The term "trotting" covers two forms of racing, in one of which the horses are trained to move both legs on the same side at once. This is almost impossible to imagine but is, in fact, very beautiful to watch, and the horses achieve much higher speeds than when trotting normally. It is said that a foal born to a "pacer" will "pace" naturally. This form of racing provides a very colourful and exciting evening's entertainment.

There have been two weddings during this quarter; the first on July 8, when Cpl. Ordoyno (Derwent) was married and left to spend her honeymoon in Queensland. The second was on September 23, when Cpl. Gauld was married at Golden Grove Presbyterian Church to S.A.C. Robert Willis Pearce of R.A.F. Support Unit (Australia). The church was built in 1860 by Scottish settlers who named it after Golden Grove, Scotland. This was the first marriage to take place in the church for about 30 years. Everyone in the village was very pleased, especially so because Cpl. Gauld comes from Scotland. Some of the local residents cleaned and decorated the church and also attended the wedding ceremony.

* * * *

W.R.A.C. Depot and Training Centre

THE main news, of course, is the "move." We scrubbed, swept and polished—and moved in with the assistance of Pickford vans. We settled in very quickly and all the local people were very kind to us. The countryside is most attractive and we are looking forward to the summer when (we hope) our teething troubles will be over. Visitors are very welcome, but please give plenty of notice because there is not so much accommodation as there was at Guildford. Just after the move, we had the largest number of recruits that the Depot has had for some years—over 400 in at one time, and we have just welcomed the second batch from the Seychelles. The first recruits from Fiji arrived on December 31, 1961, in the snowstorm! Many who have passed through the Depot in the last ten years will be sorry to hear of the retirement of Capt. Margaret Ashworth. We should like to record our appreciation of the wonderful service she gave during the move. She has a job in Guildford and we hope she will be a regular visitor when we get back there.

We are sorry that it has been decided that the Depot cannot be 'At Home' on Princess Royal's Day this year, and look forward to entertaining all our friends in the future.

Operation Athletics

CPL. J. P. STOUT

ATHLETICS is a favourite hobby of mine, so when I learned that I had been selected to attend a Combined Services A.A.A. coaching course at R.A.F. St. Athan in September, I was very pleased. I was even more thrilled when I found out that I was the only girl on the course in the company of 19 very eligible bronzed Apollos! The course was organised by John L. E. Masurier and Lionel Pugh, two of our famous national coaches, and was designed to encourage and foster a greater interest in athletics among the Services.

After an opening address by the C.O. of the R.A.F. School of P.T. we were introduced to the coaches, who were destined to become our task-masters for the fortnight's duration of the course. Lectures and practical work followed and we all became proficient at finding and, where possible, correcting the faults and shortcomings of the Boy-Entrants, who were our guinea pigs. However hard I tried, my feminine wiles were useless when it came to trying to avoid the more strenuous events such as steeplechasing and hammer-throwing with which women are not usually concerned, and eventually I learned to do these with just as much aplomb as the men, and with even greater devastation, when a misguided missile in the shape of a 14-lb. hammer thrown by me sailed gaily into a car parked precariously near the athletics stadium.

One thing that stands out in my mind about the course was a five-mile run we went on around the perimeter of the airfield. I couldn't last the pace after the first three miles and cut across a runway picking mushrooms until the others caught me up again. Have you ever heard a Javelin bomber take off anywhere near you? If so, you will appreciate that I was terrified when this happened about 500 yards from where I was standing. I have never moved so quickly in reverse in all my life.

I don't know if it was the strenuous exercise, the heady St. Athan air, or just my fellow course-members, but unfortunately I succumbed to 'flu after the first week and spent the rest of the course in bed feeling very sorry for myself. However, I learned sufficient in the first week, particularly about my own event, discus-throwing, to become fiendishly enthusiastic all over again, and I came away determined to pass on all the information I had gained to anyone who showed the slightest interest whatsoever, which is why the cookhouse cat at Dreghorn now does the 100 yards in 13 seconds.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Representatives of the Association attended the Service of Dedication at the Field of Remembrance and our cross was planted by Lt.-Col. R. D. Allerton, M.B.E., A.D.W.R.A.C. London District. Members also took part in the Parade at the Cenotaph, and a wreath was laid by the County of London Branch.

RETURN TO OXFORD

MAJOR A. LOCKE (RETD.)

WALKING down the High one hot July afternoon, I am suddenly conscious of something odd, and realise that I am out in shirt-sleeve order without head-dress. A downward glance reassures me. Shirt and tie, yes, but the former is white and the latter black, as are skirt, shoes and stockings. I am in fact in subfusc (which for men includes a dark suit and white tie), the dress prescribed by University Statutes for wear under full academic dress (academic No. 1 Dress) in which one undergoes University ceremonies and examinations. Mine having mercifully just finished, the remainder of this ceremonial attire, cap, gown and hood, are safely parked in the car near the examination schools, my acquaintance with which goes back to pre-war undergraduate days and includes war-time duty on ambulances with the 12th Oxford M.T. Company, A.T.S., when the Victorian building was a general hospital.

Returning to one's college and University after service life has proved a worthwhile experience, and a valuable bridge between the community of the Corps and the individual life of a private citizen. The language seems odd at first. University terms last eight weeks each, and much work has to be done in vacation, but at the beginning of term I found myself asking if people had had a "good leave." It is hard not to think of the college hall, a fine piece of modern architecture with a sound-proofing device that enables over 200 women to converse at meals without raising the voice, as Mess or cookhouse, and the Manciple who presides over it as the Messing Officer. All ranks mess together, but the Principal and Fellows sit at the high table. The rest of us queue at the hatches for lunch and are served on the family system for dinner. The latter meal starts with a Latin grace, and anyone arriving later goes up to the high table and bows. Luckily the only time this happened to me was late enough in my career for me no longer to be tempted to salute the Principal, but it nearly occurred when I took part in the election of the Chancellor, and handed in my voting paper to the Vice-Chancellor, who presided.

Work at Oxford is done on the tutorial system. A Fellow of your college is your "Moral Tutor" with general responsibility for your progress, but for those parts of your syllabus outside her particular sphere, you are tutored by a Don (a general term for Fellows, tutors and lecturers) who may be of another college. Each term he or she advises you what lectures to attend, but going to lectures is voluntary, and some audiences dwindle considerably towards the end of term. All lectures in theory last an hour, from which it would appear that anyone attending two consecutive lectures at opposite ends of Oxford must travel to the second in minus five minutes. The normal transport is a bicycle, and one is faced with the dilemma of either spending time locking and unlocking it, or

risk its borrowing by someone in a hurry. A long M.A. gown is a further handicap in transit, but with all the hazards some lectures are a stimulating experience.

What is not voluntary is the essay. This is set by your tutor at intervals of a week or less and is as long and difficult as the "Winter Essay" so familiar to serving officers. The tendency is to spend too much time on the reading, and find oneself writing against the clock into the small hours. Such a state of affairs is known as a crisis and, with some people, this is a recurrent malady. This work is done in one's room or other quarters, in the college library or in the Bodleian or other University library according to the availability of books. At the end of three or four years in the case of a degree, or one or two in that of a post-graduate diploma, comes the ordeal of schools. Clad in full academic dress, we wait unhappily in the hall of the examination schools. The attendant gathers up his flock of candidates and leads the way to the appropriate room. I find myself wondering why he does not fall us in and march us there. The examiner is at his place in front as we go to our desks. For three hours we write against the clock, before we hand in our papers with a bow and leave the building, quite sure that we have fallen into every trap. I was lucky in that the postcard with the result arrived within a few days, but candidates in the larger honours schools such as Modern History have to wait some weeks and undergo an additional *viva voce* examination.

Returning to resident membership of the University has certainly been a worthwhile experience. The Sovereign's "trustworthy and well beloved" or Master of Arts—in both cases one has lived a full and rewarding life in a stimulating community.

The Royal Cambridge Home

IF you are a widow of a W.O., N.C.O. or soldier of the Regular Army, and 60 years of age or more, there may be a place for you in the Royal Cambridge Home. The Home consists of two adjoining houses in their own gardens. Both are centrally heated and have their own dining- and sitting-rooms with radio and television.

Each widow has a furnished bed-sitting-room with gas fire and radiator. On entry she must be fit enough to look after her own room, but there are sick wards with trained nurses in charge, and she need not leave the Home when she becomes sick or infirm.

Application for admission should be made to:

The Secretary, Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows, 82-84 Hurst Road, East Molesey, Surrey.



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BANK HOLIDAY IN TURKEY

Lt.-COL. E. W. GIBSON

BY 0530 on Saturday, August 5, everything appeared to be ship shape for the "Hulya" to sail out of the enchanting little harbour of Kyrenia, Cyprus. "Hulya" is an Air Sea Rescue motor launch converted by Ali Dana, a local Turkish barrister, and skippered by him. We had all obeyed matron's instructions and started a course of orange pills. The liquid stores had been stowed away the night before with the blessing of the Customs, and we all had our "emergency rations" with us, such as Ryvita and sardines. In fact, on this three day journey, the orange coloured pills, the Ryvita and sardines proved to be our staple diet. The launch has a top deck with gay coloured chairs under a large awning. Below is a pleasant saloon with couches and chairs, and a small bar. As there were seventeen passengers we all used it as a general purpose cabin—for changing, for keeping our picnic kit and so on. The harbour, the sea, and the Kyrenia mountain range all looked superb as we moved swiftly away from the island. A heavy swell made the boat roll but we soon adjusted ourselves, and after about four hours at sea we tied up at the little jetty of Anamur, on the south coast of East Turkey.

It seemed as if the whole village had turned out to stare at us. Women in Turkish trousers holding black umbrellas between them and the sun. Men of all characters, some almost Scandinavian in appearance, some Mongolian in mien and some just as we imagined Turkish brigands would look. Then there were the children, dozens of fascinating little faces, with eyes glued on us all the time we were in port. Most of them had never seen British people before, and certainly not a party such as ours! Ali Bey carried on a loud and excited conversation with the most brigandish looking of the men on the jetty. It transpired that he was ordering our Kebab lunch. Soon "it" came for our inspection—still alive and led on a piece of string. After a lot of talking and delay, which we got so used to by the end of the trip, we all piled into a bus and went a little way into the hills for the picnic. Expecting to find our mutton Kebab all ready, we averted our eyes as we saw "it," hanging on the tree being skinned, with a gory mess nearby. Some of us hurriedly moved off up river, in which two water buffalo were wallowing. After riverless Cyprus, the clear green water was a joyous sight; huge bull-frogs croaked in the lush vegetation and we were intrigued by the primitive but skilful system of irrigation. This consisted of massive water wheels, with scoops which tipped the water into the overhead troughs and so down to the parched land.

It was very hot, and after a refreshingly cool noggin or two, we sat down to eat our Kebab. One and possibly more of us had little appetite for the "dish" by this time! We certainly none of us accepted the kind offer from the natives to kill us

a wild pig for "afters." But it was delightful to sit under the eucalyptus trees with a vast number of new Turkish friends! The local community had turned up in force, including the Commissioner, the Chief of Police, the Customs Officer and one or two charming children. The latter seized our empty beer tins as if they were the best toys Hamleys could produce. The "butcher," the cook and others finished off what was left of the ill fated sheep, and we all moved back to our bus to inspect the village hotel, which proved to be just possible for some of us. We stopped at and roamed round a superb castle on the water's edge. It covers at least five acres and the outer walls, towers and ramparts are in an excellent state of preservation. A local told us it was 300 B.C. There were pieces of Hellenic columns in the walls and in parts of the castle we detected the Crusader influence. In the centre was a derelict Byzantine Chapel. A heavenly scent of wild thyme was on the breeze and there was an air of timeless peaceful isolation.

We made an early start on Sunday morning and ten of us clung to a battered old jeep, and with our luggage motored [sic] down to the jetty. After a warm and friendly send off from the locals, we put to sea and sailed for a few hours along the beautiful and uninhabited coast. Arriving at an idealic bay we dropped anchor and swam from the boat. A large shoal of big silver fish were jumping tantalisingly out of the water, coming nearer and nearer to the boat, but, alas, it was Ryvita and sardines for lunch again, as we failed to catch anything. We left the lovely bay with reluctance, moving on to Goksue. After tying up in a very fresh breeze, a bus was produced (no Transport Union rules here) and we boarded it for Adana. First we stopped at the scene of a Turkish wedding, great fun being had by the hordes of people. A three-piece band played merrily, and one man danced for our benefit. Skirting Tarsus (Paul of . . .) we reached Adana at about 2030, tired and hungry, and settled into the Crystal Palace, the best this tawdry place could offer. A little later we clambered into numerous garries and made for an open air night club. The poor smelly horses, being whipped by the drivers as usual, deposited us somewhere in a residential area. The food was not much better than the belly-dancers, but the local wine was delicious. As usual, all the Turkish women had been left at home, and apart from the "pros" and the eight "girls" in our party, the club was full of men. Back in the hotel just after midnight, we gazed down on to the somewhat squalid scene. Beds everywhere, on any flat roof, etc., no one sleeps indoors, it seems. Suddenly a clamour broke out, a man picked up another by the scruff of his neck and his pants, and ran down a dark alley. A large crowd gathered and three policemen arrived. Eventually the policemen bundled a screaming body from the alley on to the

floor of a garry—and drove it off, who knows where?

Next morning we bought some more sardines and fruit before starting on the hot but interesting four-hour journey back to the boat. We saw storks, rollers and eagles. Also fields of chillies and the attractive marsh mallow looking cotton flower. At one of the villages we stopped to drink refreshingly cold water from the well, and again when our driver lost his filthy dirty sweat rag—very precious to him, no doubt, as one small boy was thanked effusively for retrieving it from the dust some hundreds of yards back. There was a stiff breeze when we put to sea. It soon got rougher and it was necessary to hang on with both hands when moving about. One or two people began to suffer sea-sickness despite the pills.

When we were about half way and out of sight of land—even had dusk not been falling—hot oil fumes belched forth from the air vents. The captain, who had been at the helm for some time, shouted “fire.” At this my heart turned right over and thoughts rushed through my mind—heavy seas with some thirty miles between both Turkey and Cyprus. No rafts, no radio; non-swimmers aboard and, perhaps worst of all, no one in Cyprus knowing we were at sea, let alone *where* we were. However, “Action Stations” was the only thing, and we rushed to dig out the mae-weests. Mercifully, although one of the over-heated engines went out of action, it didn’t burst into flames, and we limped or rolled along on the remaining engine for an hour or so. By the time we spotted a ray of light which we hoped was Cyprus, the second engine was going. The rough passage no longer seemed to matter, as the important thing was to pick out the right place. Kyrenia was supposed to have a flashing red light to indicate the harbour. But the many pairs of straining anxious eyes couldn’t be sure they saw this for a very long time. Eventually the women’s intuition that it was that glimmer to port side proved right, and we reached the calmer water of Kyrenia harbour at 2315. The fact that we’d made it was in no small way due to the R.A.F. passengers who had taken over from the skipper for a long spell.

After a strong drink all round and yet more Ryvita and fruit, we were thankful to find the Customs officer had been persuaded to come from his bed to allow us to land, and we staggered off the boat at 0100 on Tuesday morning to have the first bath since Friday night.

There is a sad footnote to our adventure for, alas, the “Hulya” was broken up at her moorings during a recent storm and now lies derelict in the shipyard, her active career at an end.

* * * *

W.R.A.C. Museum

THE Museum has now been opened in its temporary accommodation in Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield, Surrey, and Mrs. Bell (ex-W.O.I, W.R.A.C.) has been appointed Assistant Curator. Visitors, and donations, are always welcome.

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Variety in Weekend Training

CAPT. E. T. RICE, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

"WEEKEND training—you mean working all Saturday and Sunday, after a week in the office? You must be crazy! That's not the life for me." But haven't you ever fidgeted at your desk on a glorious day, longing to be away from the dirt and bustle of London, out in the crisp brightness of the autumn? What a good excuse to skim through the weekend chores, leave to someone else the job of cooking the Sunday lunch, and get away to the country. And what a variety of things are done on weekend training, when with 79 (City of London) Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Probably we are living in a Weekend Training Centre—a hutted camp with all mod. cons. (except bedside lights) laid on. A map-reading exercise has been arranged. Each group of three or four has been issued with a list of six-figure map references and a box of chocolates awaits the first group to complete the route. Perhaps the map-reading itself is simple and the real problem is dealing with the situations encountered *en route*. On a recent exercise these varied from finding a wireless set seemingly abandoned on the roadside, deciding what to do when coming upon the body of a "dead" soldier, carrying a comrade back to camp only to learn, on arrival, that the sprained ankle was all an act to test our first aid knowledge.

One of the most important functions of today's Territorial Army is that of assisting the civil powers in the event of a nuclear attack. One Sunday we try our hand at rescuing people from damaged buildings. This involves learning to walk on rubble and to locate the casualty, without causing the ruin to cascade on injured or rescuer, then rendering first aid and bringing the casualty out when the staircase is blocked up, fire is close and the only window is very small and far from the ground.

On another occasion we may have to set up an emergency refugee camp—then the cooks get busy on the field cookers, clerks attempt to keep tabs on hysterical, provocative civilians, and then the most important person of all is the private with a gift for handling children. Especially sought after, on weekends, are the cooks. Nearly all male T.A. units are short of these vital people and so are most relieved if we look after this side of things, releasing them for their battle training. On a recent weekend a party of us was cooking at the brigade rifle meeting, and how enjoyable it was to renew acquaintances made at annual camp.

With winter, weekend training takes a different form. Instead of going out into the country for two days, specific groups of us come into the headquarters on a Sunday for various types of training. Recruits, tradeswomen and N.C.O.s, all have to be catered for. Scattered throughout the

year are the "special" events. Some, such as the "At Home," are recruiting functions; others—jumble sales, dances and the like—have a money-raising aspect. Then there are the "show" occasions such as the Lord Mayor's Show when the Finsbury platoons join in the procession through the City streets. If things have to be classified, then I suppose September 3 would fall into a "general interest" category, for how else to describe a visit to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Unfortunately, our departure from the N.A.A.F.I. there heralded a clap of thunder which extinguished all lights in the museum. However, we did see the Warren Hastings and India rooms, the church and, of course, the steps up which the adjutant rides on passing-out parades.

Strictly speaking, maybe this last was not training but it all adds together to produce a varied weekend programme—our slogan might almost read "Never a dull weekend with the T.A."—certainly this is true of my own unit, 79 (City of London) Company.

W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

A VERY handsome addition has been made to the Corps silver by Brigadier Dame Mary Raiton, D.B.E., who has given a silver tea and coffee service, complete with an inscribed tray, two serving dishes, an entree dish and a fruit bowl, to commemorate her appointment as Deputy Controller Commandant.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS

(Up to December 31, 1961)

- Lt.-Col. J. Fisher, A.D.W.R.A.C. Western Command.
- Lt.-Col. The Hon. M. M. ANDERSON, C.W.R.A.C., H.Q. NEARELF
- Major K. I. CUNNINGHAM, 2 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
- Major J. E. PARKER, H.Q., W.R.A.C., 48 Division/District (T.A.).
- Major R. RUSTON, 240 Signal Squadron, Northern Command.
- Major R. M. SHAW, 51 Highland Signal Regiment (T.A.).
- Major M. G. CAMPBELL, Depot and Training Centre.
- Capt. K. M. HAHN, Depot and Training Centre.
- Capt. A. E. A. HERDMAN-GRANT, School of Instruction.
- Capt. J. M. V. HOWELL, War Office, M.P. 2.
- Capt. A. L. SHEPLEY-TAYLOR, Staff College.
- Capt. A. M. HARLE, Staff College.
- T/Capt. P. INESON, 12 Battalion, W.R.A.C.
- Lt. E. H. A. BAKER, 68 Company R.A.S.C. (M.T.).
- Lt. C. DIGGINS, 5 Communications Company.
- Lt. H. L. S. PRICE, Att. Army School of Education and Depot R.A.E.C.
- 2/Lt. W. ALDERMAN, 2 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
- 2/Lt. D. M. H. BRADY, Drivers and Clerks Training Wing, 6 Battalion, R.A.S.C.
- 2/Lt. A. P. BYROM, W.R.A.C. Signal Training Centre.
- 2/Lt. F. A. F. CHANDLER, 12 Battalion, W.R.A.C.
- 2/Lt. J. N. CLEMENTS, School of Instruction.
- 2/Lt. P. M. C. DOWNIE, 1 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
- 2/Lt. L. M. ELFORD, 20 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
- 2/Lt. R. A. HOLLOWAY, Att. A.C.C. Training Centre.
- 2/Lt. A. M. GELSTON, Att. 14 Signal Regiment.
- 2/Lt. L. E. W. HUXTABLE, 8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
- 2/Lt. E. IRONMONGER, 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
- 2/Lt. W. K. MARTIN, 10 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
- 2/Lt. B. F. G. MOORE, 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
- 2/Lt. F. C. E. ORR, Depot and Training Centre.
- 2/Lt. J. SKINGLEY-PEARCE, Depot and Training Centre.
- 2/Lt. M. F. SPAIGHT, Att. 251 W.R.A.C. Signal Squadron.
- 2/Lt. E. P. TORTOISHELL, Depot and Training Centre.
- 2/Lt. J. H. UPTON, Depot and Training Centre.

NEWS from the BRANCHES

AYRSHIRE. We resumed our winter activities in October with "Holiday news and views." It was most interesting to hear of the many places our members had visited, and the sale of the 2s. 6d. gifts which they had brought back helped to swell our funds. In November we had a recipe night at which we exchanged favourite recipes and sampled some of the results. Also in November we held a basket whist drive. December brought our annual Christmas party for the handicapped children from St. Leonard's Home—the 15th since our branch's inception. As always, it was tremendously enjoyed by children and members alike. We are now looking forward to our reunion dinner on January 6, when some of the Glasgow members will be joining us. Some of our members attended the Glasgow dinner and voted it a great success.

BOURNEMOUTH. A fine Remembrance Day resulted in a turn out of eleven members for the Ex-Service Associations' parade at Bournemouth War Memorial. Miss A. Messenger (Q.M.A.A.C.) once again acted as wreath-bearer for our branch. Afterwards we went to Lyons for coffee, and were joined by Miss O. Prior, who was on a visit from London. We are grateful to Mrs. Rumbold for inviting us to her flat for the annual general meeting, and to Mrs. Hirst and her son, who entertained us at their home in Winton at the end of November.

BRADFORD. As usual, Bradford branch members participated in the Bradford Annual Festival of Remembrance, organised by the Federation of Ex-Service Associations. This year

held very special significance for us, as the chief guest was Countess Swinton of Masham. Introducing Lady Swinton, the president said her connection with the City of Bradford was well founded, as she was the grand-daughter of Lord Masham, who was a Bradford mill-owner, also, she had been an A.T.S. officer, and more than one Bradford woman present had served under her. Lady Swinton, recalling memories evoked by the dates 1914-18 and 1939-45, and how much they meant to those who had taken part, recalled that she had had the privilege to serve in a Corps that has come to be recognised as a part of the Army. Our chairman, Mrs. Gertie Armitage, who had served under Lady Swinton, presented her with a bouquet of flowers from the committee. The evening culminated in community singing, and the march of the units in which six of our members took part. The photograph shows the finale with our party. The branch standard was carried by Monica Bradley, with Madge Mitchell and Bertha Henegan as escorts, all ex-A.T.S. Also in the march were three ex-Q.M.A.A.C. members, Nellie Julian, O.B.E., Edna Hemms and Gertie Armitage. Our members had attended the Civic Remembrance Parade to the Cenotaph in the morning, and had collected in the streets of Bradford on the Saturday for Poppy Day. At our December meeting we welcomed back Mrs. Edith Lumb, who we were pleased to know had recovered from her major operation. We also welcomed Mrs. Kitty Bakes, a former member of the branch, who enjoyed herself so much that she is intending to rejoin us. The evening took the form of a party, and members



Photo by courtesy of Telegraph and Argus, Bradford

Festival Finale at Bradford

each brought a present wrapped in Christmas trimming—the one wrapped by Mrs. Bakes was adjudged the winner. We then drew for the parcels, and had great fun in opening them. The branch gave presents to our oldest member, Miss Gummer-sell, and to the three young children of our members.

BRISTOL. A whist drive, held at Legion House on October 5, was again organised by Mrs. Skidmore. Our annual supper on November 2 was held at the 49 Steps Restaurant; we had an upper room all to ourselves, and a large contingent of members turned up for the occasion. We had a varied choice of menu, selected beforehand, so that no time was lost choosing our dishes. The service provided by the restaurant was excellent, and we shall no doubt repeat this change of plan next year. At the British Legion Festival of Remembrance, in Colston Hall, several members took part, and our Standard was carried by Mrs. Budd (A.T.S.). Next day, at the civic ceremony at the Cenotaph at 11 a.m., Mrs. Budd again carried the Standard. Mrs. Mary Dunston (A.T.S.) laid the branch wreath. On December 7 we held our annual general meeting and election of officers. Most of the present-serving officers were re-elected for the next year, with the exception of the hon. treasurer. Mrs. Morgan has taken over from Miss I. Morgan, who wished to retire. A vote of thanks was passed to the latter for her long and faithful service. Miss E. Walker (Q.M.A.A.C.) was elected vice-president in the vacancy caused by the death of Miss Clark.

CHELTENHAM. This branch was formed in March 1960, and now has 41 members. We hold quarterly meetings, and last April we were entertained at Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester, by Major Cavanagh and members of the 623 W.R.A.C. Signal Troop. We were most interested to see modern W.R.A.C. accommodation and to contrast it with the quarters assigned to many of us in the early days of the A.T.S. In July we were to have had a "beer and skittles" party in a garden, but, owing to bad weather, this became "beer and bingo" indoors. In October we held a most successful bring and buy sale, and were very pleased to be able to send £5 to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. On December 9 we held a Christmas luncheon at the Hotel Majestic, Cheltenham. This was our first venture of its kind and 20 of us enjoyed an excellent meal and pleasant conversation. We were particularly pleased that our president, the Lady Apsley, was able to be present, but disappointed that our oldest member, Mrs. Wright (a veteran of the 1914-18 War) was prevented by illness from joining us.

GLASGOW. In September we went to the Tattoo in Edinburgh, and the outing was enjoyed by all who attended it. A party of us also visited our friends in Ayr, and had a most enjoyable time. During October, we attended a mannequin parade in Goldbergs Ltd. and, at the end of the month, gave our usual Hallow-e'en party for about 20 children from Cathkin House, Rutherglen. On November 25 we had our annual dinner in the

Grosvenor Hotel. This was attended by members of the Ayr and Edinburgh Branches, and our guest speakers were Mrs. Beattie, Superintendent of the Glasgow Women's Police, who spoke of the work of the Women's Police Force in the city, and Lt.-Col. Lipscomb, who gave us a short talk on the present W.R.A.C. Finally, in December, we had a most enjoyable whist drive in the Service Women's Club.

HARTLEPOOLS. In November we held our Annual general meeting, the chair being taken by Miss McCarthy in the absence of our president, Miss Sivewright. All officers were returned to office—they were thanked for their services by Miss Hogg on behalf of the branch. A collection was taken at this meeting for the new Tees-side Cheshire Homes for the Sick, to be opened shortly at Marske—a donation was duly sent from the branch to the local treasurer for Group Captain Cheshire's new venture. We had quite a good meeting in December in spite of it being near to freezing point. Raffles are now to be held each month for our Welfare Fund, as it had got very low. Christmas presents were given to our three ex-A.T.S. invalid friends. On receipt of a letter from Col. Millington, the secretary visited an ex-A.T.S. very ill in Sedgefield General Hospital. Curiously enough, this woman had been stationed with the secretary at Raby Castle. Anyone stationed with 30 V.R.D. will be sorry to hear that this woman, Mrs. Evelyn Mitchinson (*née* White), a driver, passed away in November after a long and painful illness. We are very pleased to congratulate Mrs. Mary Russell on moving into her new home, and wish her every joy. We wish all our comrades a very happy and healthy New Year.

HEADQUARTER AREA. The secretary had hoped to write personally to all who were kind enough to answer Dame Regina's circular letter of last March, but unfortunately it was possible only to send greetings to overseas members before she became overwhelmed in an unexpected rush of parish business. All the same, our thoughts at Christmastide were with you all and it is not too late to wish you every good fortune in 1962. You will have seen various items of news of old friends in previous issues of *The Lioness*, but should any of you wish to contact another member, please write to the secretary at any time, and she will do her best to put you in touch with one another. She will also answer all your letters in due course. Once again, a very happy year in 1962.

LIVERPOOL. After the summer break we started our meetings again in September when we spent the evening chatting about holidays and discussing our programme for the next few months. In October we had a beetle drive and in November we held our annual bring and buy sale. The attendance was much better than had been the case for the last few years and, as a result, the financial position of the branch has been improved. We ended our year's activities with a buffet supper in December. As is usual, our branch chairman,



Photo by courtesy of Salisbury Journal

Salisbury Branch Christmas Dinner

accompanied by a member of the committee, laid our wreath on the Liverpool Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. We are pleased to report that during 1961 the attendance at meetings has been consistently better, although membership of the branch remains about the same. In 1962 we hope to see not only the regular attenders at meetings but also those members we do not have the pleasure of seeing very often.

LONDON. In September last about 30 of us visited the Drury Lane Theatre and saw "My Fair Lady," which we all thoroughly enjoyed. We are hoping to have another theatre outing in 1962. In October we held a successful bring and buy sale. In November, Dame Mary Railton talked about her social work connected with the Borstal Allocation Centre, and Mr. Eaton showed us some more of his holiday colour slides—of the wonderful isle of Scilly. December brought our A.G.M. and Christmas party, at which we were entertained by the Carshalton Darby and Joan Club. We seem to have covered most of the suggestions made by members for the forthcoming year, and we trust we have planned a year of activities to suit all tastes.

NORFOLK. The hon. secretary has great pleasure in informing members that Dame Frances Coulshed, D.B.E., who visited us a few years ago, has consented to be our president. We enjoyed her visit so much, and will always look forward to seeing her whenever she is in Norfolk.

Those who already know her are delighted. We are a very lucky branch to have Dame Frances to follow our dearly loved, the late Miss Edith Thompson, C.B.E., who was our president for over 30 years. Quite a record, I'm sure. Mrs. Liley writes from Addis Ababa and wishes to be remembered to those members she met at Gorleston. They are all well and looking forward to coming home in 1963. Maryanne is more interested in ballet dancing—at six years old—than school! Molly Howes expects to come home from Nairobi in February for good. By the time this appears in *The Lioness*, one hopes the New Year's party and raffle will have been a success—also that all subscriptions for 1962 will have been paid!

PRESTON. We are pleased to report that 1961 has been busy and successful, thanks to the hard work and attendance of the members. We have been able to donate £6 10s. to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund and £5 to the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, also £16 16s. to eight charities, including the aged sick and R.S.P.C.A. Children's homes are our main thought. Our annual dinner was held at the Masonic Hall, Preston, on November 9, in conjunction with the Council of ex-Service Men's and Women's Associations, and 171 members and friends had a great get-together. Our members sold poppies during the evening, and £3 17s. 6d. was collected. The hall was decorated with regimental Standards and regimental poppy wreaths in memory of fallen comrades. The Mayor and

Mayoress and civic dignitaries of Preston were present. Members of the branch sold poppies and wreaths during Poppy Week, and attended the Armistice Service parade. Our wreath was laid by Mrs. Bucklee with two W.R.A.C. (T.A.) as escorts. We have a full programme for 1962 and we wish all comrades a very happy and successful New Year.

SALISBURY. Meetings, which are still held at members' homes, have been kept up during the year, and our membership grows slowly but surely under the chairmanship of Col. E. S. Macfie. The majority of us attended the Southern Area reunion at Weymouth which was a most enjoyable occasion, even the weather being kind to us. A number of our members also took part in the Remembrance Sunday parade organised by Southern Command Headquarters, and are happy to number some of the serving members in our branch. We held our annual Christmas dinner this year at the County Hotel with 31 members and friends attending. We were lucky in having as our guest of honour Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington (our Editor) and we all had a most happy, though informal, evening. We are now in the process of running a raffle of two lovely dolls' houses—one having been made by a branch member, Capt. H. Matthews, and are hoping for a successful outcome, in aid of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Although somewhat late in the day, we all send our good wishes for 1962 to other branch members and our friends everywhere, and trust that the comradeship of the Old Comrades—still strong after nearly 20 years, will long continue.

WIMBLEDON. The highlight since we last reported was our dinner, held on October 12, once again at the "Spread Eagle," Epsom, but this time we had a private room. Twenty-four members and guests attended, including our guest of honour, Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., whom we were delighted to welcome. We had an excellent dinner and altogether it was a most enjoyable evening. We are hoping to make this an annual event for as many members as possible, especially those who are unable to attend our ordinary meetings. At our monthly meeting on October 20 Miss H. Ennis very kindly brought her projector and showed us her lovely transparencies of Washington and New England, with which she gave us a most interesting and amusing commentary. On November 17 we had yet another beetle drive, always a favourite. We ended the year on December 1 with our annual general meeting, followed by a small Christmas party, and so another successful year came to a conclusion.

Reminder

Annual members' subscriptions were due on January 1, 1962.

Have you paid yours?

The Nightmare

The Editor had a nightmare and woke to find it true;
She'd dreamt of the empty pages, that ought to be filled by you.

Has nothing happened this quarter, no sport, or work, or play,

No camp, no trip, no story ? Is there nothing you want to say ?

No tale of a happy meeting, no news of comrades old ?

Are minds as blank as the pages, could nothing at all be told ?

Have the units passed into limbo, have the branches faded away ?

Have we taken a vow of silence ? Is there nothing at all to say ?

Oh no, it shall not happen, for we can, we will, we must,

So dip your pen in the ink pot, before it starts to rust.

Let the next be a super number, with articles galore,

While the Editor dreams peacefully, of more and more and more.

Y.W.C.A. Fair

BRIGADIER J. E. RIVETT-DRAKE, Director B.W.R.A.C., has received the following letter of thanks from Viscountess Althorp, President of the Y.W.C.A. Christmas Fair, for the donation of £272 13s. 7d. made by the Women's Royal Army Corps.

"On behalf of the Y.W.C.A. Christmas Fair Committee I should like to thank you very warmly for the welcome donation made by the Women's Royal Army Corps to our funds. May I ask you to convey our sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to this most generous gift.

"We were delighted that Cpl. McGovern was able to make the presentation to Miss Barbara Kelly at the official opening ceremony, as this made such an encouraging start to the Fair.

"Although the final accounts are not yet complete we are hoping that the Association will benefit substantially from our effort and we are certainly very grateful for the wonderful support we have received from your service."

News from the T.A.

H.Q. W.R.A.C., YORKSHIRE DISTRICT

DUE to the reorganisation and separate camps for our Companies, we found ourselves almost at the end of the training year without having held the customary drill and efficiency inter-unit competitions for which the old 305 Battalion W.R.A.C./T.A. has been famous for years. However, having chosen a very fine Sunday, October 1, 1961, the drill competition was held at Imphal Barracks, York. This being the day after the Northern Area Reunion, we had several distinguished guests present, including Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E., who very kindly presented the trophies and took the salute at the march past.

The judges were Lt.-Col. D. Stroud and W.O.1 (R.S.M.) M. Hope, of the neighbouring H.Q. W.R.A.C. 50 Division/District. This was a very difficult task, as at the end only one mark separated the winners and runners-up. Dame Mary Railton presented the following prizes:

Drill Shield	..	88 (Hull) Company, W.R.A.C./T.A.
Efficient N.C.O.		87 (Sheffield) Company, W.R.A.C./T.A.: L/Cpl. C. Chambers
Efficient Private		88 (Hull) Company, W.R.A.C./T.A.: Pte. B. Train
Efficient Recruit		86 (Leeds) Company, W.R.A.C./T.A.: Pte. M. M. Brown

Tea was afterwards served in the N.A.A.F.I. for members of the unit and their friends.

On October 15 we again had the honour of parading on the square at Imphal Barracks. This was indeed a memorable occasion for all present. The G.O.C. Yorkshire District, Major-General R. B. F. K. Goldsmith, C.B., C.B.E., presented medals to three members of the permanent staff. He was accompanied by the C.O., Lt.-Col. M. Booker, B.E.M., T.D., W.R.A.C./T.A., and our Honorary Colonel, Col. V. K. Stead, O.B.E., T.D., J.P. The unit paraded under the command of Capt. R. C. McNabb, W.R.A.C./T.A.

After inspecting the parade the G.O.C. presented the B.E.M. to a very well-known Sergeant in Northern Command, Sgt. Molly Harrison, who, by her devotion to duty, loyalty and cheerfulness during her 17 years of service, thoroughly deserved the honour bestowed upon her. Sgt. Redmore (Hull) and Sgt. Metcalfe (York), two stalwarts of the permanent staff, then received Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. These three Sergeants had a total of 57 years between them, and, by their smart appearance and bearing, set a stirring example to the younger members of the T.A. on parade.

By kind permission of Lt.-Col. A. M. Booker, T.D., Royal Signals (T.A.), the Band of the 49 (Yorkshire) Signal Regiment (T.A.) played for the parade and march past. Tea was served in the

N.A.A.F.I. when past and present members of the unit were able to get together and give their congratulations to the Sergeants. The members of the Sergeants' Mess afterwards celebrated this great day in traditional style and were indeed very proud of the three members who had brought such great credit to the unit and the Corps.

51 (H) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.).

MEMBERS of the Unit attended Annual Camp at Inverness. History was made during the Regimental Exercise "Highland Fling" when the W.R.A.C. manned 51 Highland Main and Rear Divisional Headquarters Signal Centres for the first time, for some 48 strenuous and successful hours. The Corps also held its own on the lighter side. The officers' cricket team fielded three W.R.A.C., and the bowling of "heart breaks" by 2/Lt. Ann Thomson contributed to the defeat of the senior ranks. Despite intense Infantry competition, Cpl. N. M. I. Bryden, W.R.A.C., was one of the 24 finalists in the King George V Rifle Shooting Competition. She also took second place in the Women's Services event with 2/Lt. A. Thomson a close third. The Honorary Colonel of the unit, Col. T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.C.D., took the salute at a regimental march past and presented a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.1 M. M. Evans, W.R.A.C., of 52 Lowland Division/District.

A.T.S. DINNER CLUB

On Saturday, December 2, 1961, many ex-A.T.S. sat down to an excellent dinner at Derry and Toms, London. Afterwards, a meeting was held and it was unanimously agreed that the A.T.S. Dinner Club should continue. Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, D.B.E., was elected chairman, Dame Leslie Whateley, D.B.E., vice-chairman, and Miss E. Mapp, secretary. The following were elected as members of the committee: Mrs. I. W. Hawley, M.B.E., Major A. G. Learmouth, M.B.E., T.D., and Miss J. Parker. It was decided that a dinner should be held yearly and that the next will be on Saturday, October 13, 1962, at Derry and Toms. It is hoped that many more ex-A.T.S. will join the club and be with us on that date.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Apr.	
9—10	Inter-Service Badminton, Wimbledon.
12—13	Individual and Inter-Unit Table Tennis.
May	
19	Western Area Re-Union, Chester.

A.T.S. Benevolent Fund

EX-SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

FROM a simple beginning the work of the Ex-Service Employment Office has evolved as an integral part of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund's activities, and many of the 25,000 ex-Service women who have sought the help and advice of the fund have also found work through its auspices. It was officially recognised by the Ministry of Labour in 1946, and Mrs. M. E. Macfie was appointed Interviewing Officer, an appointment she has continued to hold ever since. In the early days between 10 and 20 interviews were given daily, many serving officers and other ranks sought advice on rehabilitation and training for civilian careers, and nearly 5,000 are known to have been placed in good positions.

Succeeding years have brought their problems. International crises and events, such as the credit squeeze, can have immeasurable effect on recruitment for employment, but thanks to the high reputation already gained by ex-service women in civilian occupations, senior appointments continue to be obtained through the department's auspices, even in these difficult times. For example, during the Fourth World Power Conference, a whole department was staffed by candidates from the Ex-Service Employment Office and personal assistants were supplied to Military Attachés in various Embassies. Naturally, with the passage of time, the scope of the department has diminished. Women who served in the A.T.S. are becoming older and the recruitment of such older women in civilian posts is more restricted. However, this well-established employment agency continues to obtain good results for more senior women and is, by a special arrangement, also available to ex-members of the Women's Royal Army Corps; so far, 352 ex-W.R.A.C. have made use of the Employment Office.

Mrs. Macfie has agreed to postpone her own retirement for the time being, and is available for interview on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the fund's offices, 73 Elizabeth Street, London, S.W.1. It is hoped that ex-service women of all ranks will continue to avail themselves of the facilities offered. No charge is made, but a subscription to the Benevolent Fund from satisfied customers is appreciated, and helps the good work to continue.

Where are they now?

THE General Secretary would be glad of any information regarding the present whereabouts of the following Life Members:

Mrs. Bolsover	..	..	Wimbledon Branch
Miss E. L. Collett	..	..	Liverpool Branch
Miss M. G. Davies	..	..	Bristol Branch
Mrs. N. Gordon	..	..	Northern Ireland
Miss K. Meachin	..	..	Manchester Branch
Miss A. F. Thomas	..	..	Manchester Branch

News from Old Comrades

WE congratulate Miss M. E. F. Machin (ex-Chief Commander) on having an oil painting of the head of a boy on show in the War Arts Exhibition recently. We understand that she took up painting in water colours five years ago, and has been painting in oils for only about two years.

Miss E. Vaughan-Williams (ex-A.T.S.) writes from California, where she leads a busy and useful life looking after mothers and their new babies on their return from hospital. She was proud to be able to record her membership of the Comrades' Association when she took out her American citizenship.

Mrs. Shonk (Pte. Audrey Williams) of RFD3 Airport Road, Montpelier, Ohio, U.S.A., tells us that she is lonesome for some pen friends and would particularly like to get in touch with her old comrades in the A.T.S. She worked in the control room for communications.

Miss Florence Warren, who served with the W.A.A.C. at Abbeville, writes that to try to break into the theatrical scene in New York takes the greatest courage imaginable, as it is a rat race of the bitterest kind. She has been on a few television shows and was lucky enough to obtain a part in "The Scarlet Pimpernel" recently. She says that the English is still very much in evidence in her, in spite of the fact that she has been an American citizen for some time.

Miss C. R. Leech was most interested in Dilys Rowe's article on Women's Associations and Clubs in the *Observer*, and wrote to the Editor to record that her life could have been drab had it not been for her service in the Q.M.A.A.C. and subsequent membership of the Old Comrades' Association. We are bound together by our ideals of service, and there would have been many more desperately lonely women had it not been for the efforts of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, and others like her, who laid the foundations of the Association.

We congratulate Miss J. A. C. Gutteridge (ex-J. Comd., A.T.S.) on being awarded the C.B.E. in the New Year Honours List, for her work as a legal councillor with the U.K. Mission to the United Nations in New York.

We congratulate Mrs. Hine (Peg Reeve), ex-A.T.S. and W.R.A.C., on being awarded the M.B.E. for her services as Assistant Secretary to the Commonwealth Press Union, a job she has held for the past ten years.

Obituary

MRS. E. E. GARRARD

B.M. writes:

Mrs. E. E. Garrard, *née* Barr, ex-Q.M.A.A.C. (B.E.F. Dannes Camiers, Machine-gun School, Wissant, etc.), died on October 30, 1961, after much suffering courageously borne. Her life of service to her Old Comrades and her country had been continuous. She will be remembered for her Editorship of the O.C.A. Gazette for some 14 years, and for her service on council, the Service Women's Benevolent Fund and S.S.A.F.A. In the Second World War she joined the Civil Defence as a Warden and recently qualified for the Long Service Medal, having served for some 19 years. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Deep and sincere sympathy is extended to Capt. Garrard who also did much behind the scenes in the early days of the O.C.A. and was made an honorary member of the Association.

MISS E. GOTT

M.R.M. writes:

Miss Enid Gott died suddenly at Hastings on October 11. She joined the W.A.A.C. Signals as a telephonist and went overseas in June 1917, serving at Dieppe and Calais. After demobilisation she passed her examination for the Ministry of Labour and won a degree at Nottingham. She worked very hard to buy a house, part of which was used as the Service Women's Club, and regular meetings were held there. On retirement she moved to Hastings where she often entertained her service friends. In spite of deafness and heart trouble, her life was full of interest and she worked very hard for All Saints' Church in Hastings. She will be greatly missed by all her friends.

MRS. J. M. E. HIGHFIELD

WE regret to announce the death of Mrs. Highfield, better known to many as Anne Graham. She was commissioned in July 1943, after serving in the ranks for about 18 months, and remained in A.A. Command until the end of the war, when she transferred to Ordnance. She was posted to M.E.L.F. in 1947 but was returned to the U.K. on medical grounds after only three months in the theatre. She married Major J. M. E. Highfield in May 1951 and relinquished her commission the following year. Our sympathy goes to her husband and two young children.

MISS C. MACKENZIE

MRS. MITCHINSON

WE announce with deep regret the death of Miss C. Mackenzie, of Glasgow Branch, who died suddenly in September 1961 of a heart attack, and also of Mrs. Mitchinson (Evelyn White) who died on November 22, 1961, after a long illness.

MISS E. M. THOMPSON

memorial fund

THE sum of £19 10s. has been sent to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund in memory of the late Miss Edith Thompson. Mrs. Giles (London Branch) wishes to thank all members who contributed to the memorial.

MISS E. M. OFFICER, B.A.

BELFAST Branch announce with regret the death of Miss Officer, following an operation. She was employed as a librarian by the Order of St. John.

MRS. RYMER

THOSE who served at the Army Printing Office, A.P.O. 3, Boulogne, 1917-19, will be sorry to learn of the death of Mrs. Rymer (Forewoman Devine) suddenly on August 9, 1961.

MISS MARGARET DAVIES

MRS. LAMB

MISS MARGARET DAVIES died at Shrewsbury at the end of October. She joined the W.A.A.C. in June 1917 and served as a telegraphist at Abbeville and Calais. After the war she returned to the Post Office at Shrewsbury and was promoted to supervisor. She retired about 12 years ago. Mrs. Lamb (Patricia Cleland) also served overseas with W.A.A.C. Signals at Havre and Wimereux. She died on August 7 after a long illness.

MISS L. RICHARDS

MISS L. RICHARDS, M.B.E., B.A., ex-Q.M.A.A.C., died in July. She was a graduate B.A. (honours economics) of Aberystwyth University and served overseas at Dieppe, where she was mentioned in despatches. During the Second World War she was awarded the M.B.E. for her work in charge of evacuation in North Wales.

Help for the Handicapped

OUR indefatigable member, **Mrs. Maureen Lees**, once again held her annual exhibition and sale of handicrafts made by the blind and disabled at Hesketh Hall, Port Sunlight, in December. She was assisted in her preparations this year by a group of young people calling themselves, appropriately, "The Young Good Neighbours." The aim of this organisation is to help other people less fortunate than themselves and it came into being through visits made by 14-year-old Tony Hazlegrave to help with odd jobs in her workshop. Mrs. Lees, who always has the needs of others in mind, is obviously passing on her own ideals of service to the rising generation.

Notices

Personal Column Advertisements

WILL members please send their Personal Column advertisements *on time*. They should reach the Editor 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.

Eastern Command, Princess Royal's Day

PRINCESS ROYAL'S DAY in Eastern Command will be held on Saturday, May 19, at Kingston Gate Camp, Richmond Park.

PERSONAL

(For charges and particulars see Contents page)

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress Greatcoat. Height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 40 in., hips 42 in. First-class condition. Any reasonable offer considered.—Box No. 3/62.

For Sale. W.R.A.C. Association Standard. Wool bunting. New. Offers to Box 4/62.

For Sale. Ellams Rotary Duplicator (D.10 model). Working order. £2.—Box 5/62.

For Sale. Hand-woven bathroom/nursery rugs, approximately 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. Hand-woven 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).

Wanted. Sergeant Permanent Staff Instructor Bristol University O.T.C. Type "R" Engagement. Salary £11 1s. 8d. per week. Live at home. Ex-Service or T.A.—Apply Box No. 1/62.

Wanted. No. 1 Dress Uniform. Height 5 ft. 4 in., bust 38 in., waist 30 in., hips 42 in.—Box No. 2/62.

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.

BRANCH DIRECTORY

List of Branch Secretaries—Amendments

Birmingham.—Miss E. Udall, 39 Priory Road, Park South, Swindon, Wilts.

County of London.—Capt. E. Talbot-Rice, W.R.A.C.(T.A.), 79 (City of London) Company, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3.

Lonsdale.—Mrs. M. Saul, 4 Azalea Grove, Bare, Morecambe.

Maidstone.—Miss N. Court, 76 Buckland Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Oxford.—Mrs. D. Adams, 144 Barnes Road, Cowley, Oxford.

Sheffield.—Miss F. Bell, 67 Powell Street, Sheffield 3.

Southampton.—Miss V. Purnell, "Hedge Side," Peartree Road, Off Mullins Lane, Hythe, Southampton.

3 Indep. Company.—Capt. A. E. Beloe, School of Artillery, Manorbier, Tenby, Pems.



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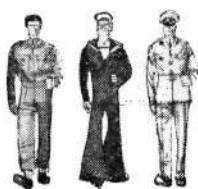
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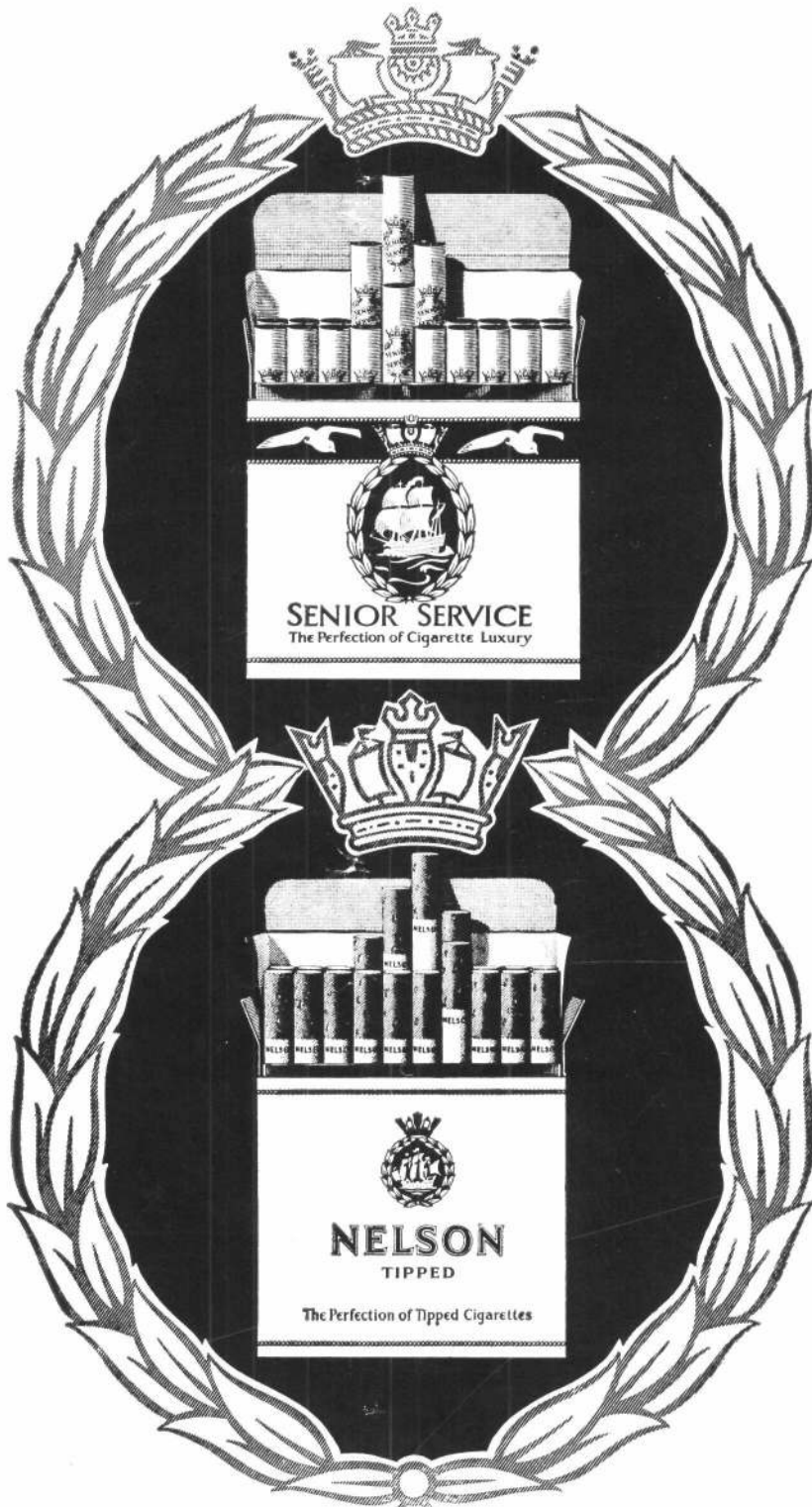


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