

THE LIONESS

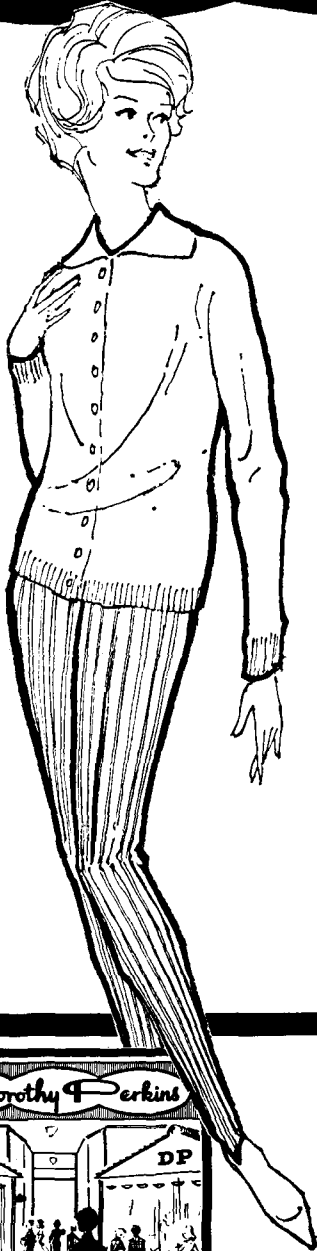
VOL XXXVI

AUGUST 1963

No. 3



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WHO'S WHO

W.R.A.C. Association,
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of THE LIONESS)

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(Contributions and personal column advertisements)

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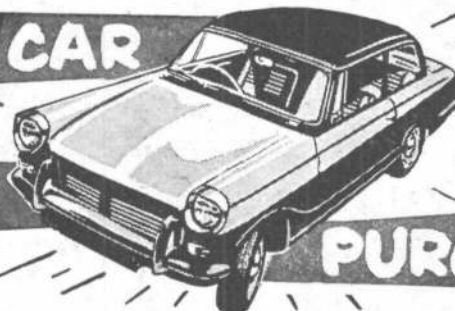
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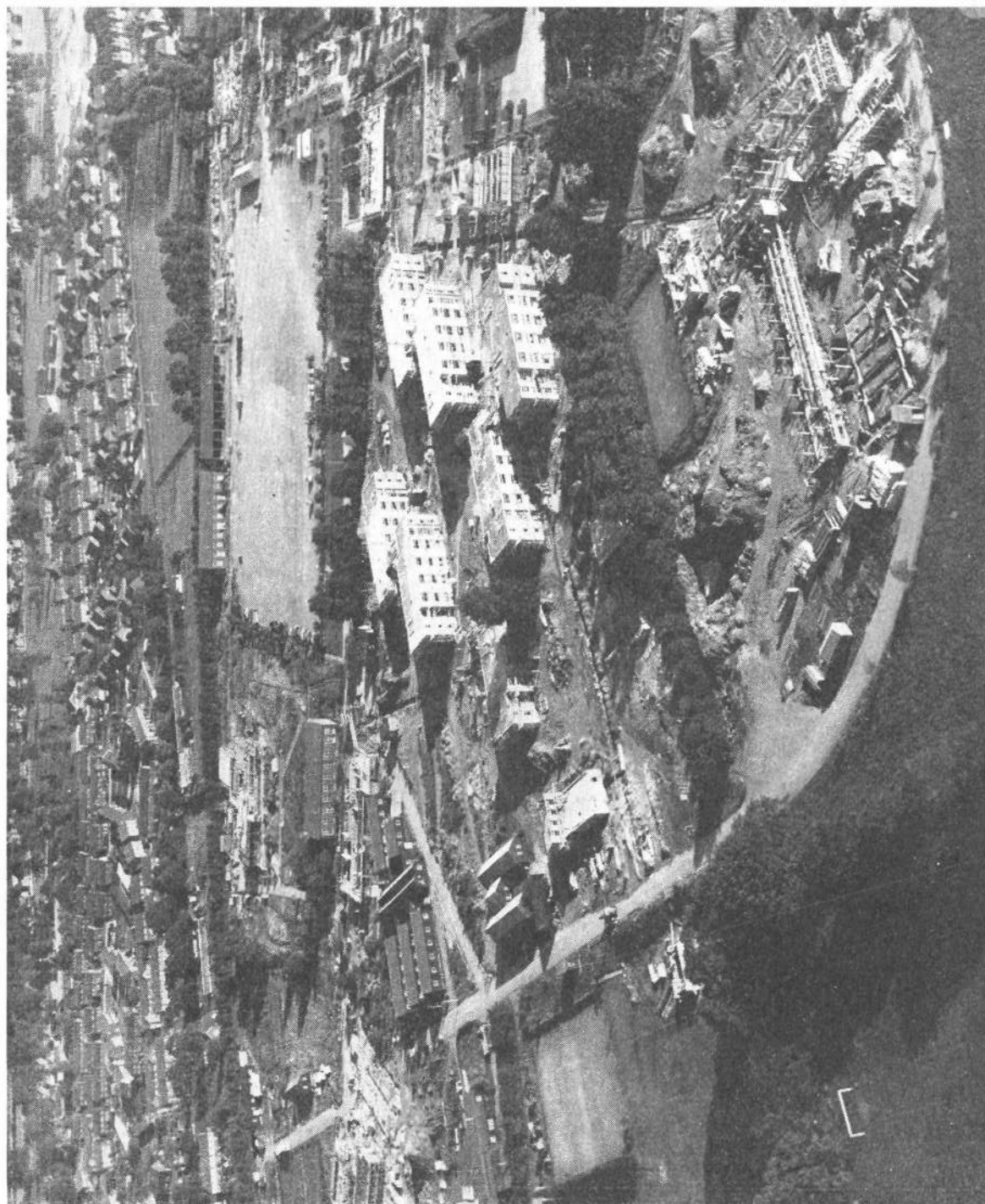
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Rebuilding at Guildford



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXVI

August, 1963

No. 3

Editorial

MUCH of life consists of looking ahead and, even in this holiday month, we are looking forward to celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the A.T.S. in the autumn. As well as the dinner at Derry and Toms on Saturday, 19th October, which H.R.H. The Princess Royal has graciously consented to attend, the Association is arranging an Anniversary Service on the following Sunday. Anyone who served in the A.T.S. is welcome to attend and details will be found on another page.

Birthdays seem to have been in the air lately. The New Zealand W.R.A.C. came of age last month, and their Association held a 21st Anniversary Reunion in Wellington on 27th and 28th July. A message of congratulations and good wishes was sent on behalf of all members of the W.R.A.C. Association. The W.V.S. celebrated their Silver Jubilee on 21st May, and the Association was represented at the Service in Westminster Abbey.

Members will remember that Dame Helen, in her speech at the Grand Reunion, urged us to respond to any call that might come our way to join in work of public service. Surely there are few opportunities that will appeal more to ex-Service women than the S.O.S. from S.S.A.F.A., which is published in this issue. We all know in theory that S.S.A.F.A. serves the Forces families in peace and war, but it may not be generally realised how much we owe to them as a Corps. They visit and report on approximately 90 per cent of our Benevolent Fund cases, administer the grants for us and give practical help from their own resources. We feel sure that their appeal to us will not go unanswered.

The National Army Museum Library has, at its own request, been placed on the mailing list for THE LIONESS. This library is trying to build up a comprehensive collection of Corps and Regimental journals and would welcome a complete set of the Q.M.A.A.C. Gazettes and early issues of THE LIONESS. We cannot, of course, part with the set we have in our own Museum library, but if any member would be generous enough to answer this appeal it would be greatly appreciated.

The Corps Headquarters was honoured by a visit from Colonel L. Gerlagh Neilsen, Director of the Danish Lottekorps, on 19th June, 1963. The Danish Lottekorps, who are organised on a Territorial Army basis, also have an Association and a Corps Journal, and Colonel Gerlagh Neilsen was interested in THE LIONESS and in seeing how our Association and Benevolent Fund are organised.

We welcome the formation of a new Branch of the Association at Aden, made up of serving and ex-Service members.

Officers' Postings

(Up to 30th June, 1963)

Colonel M. D. M. HUMPHREY, D.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Eastern Command.
Colonel D. H. I. WILSON, O.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Southern Command.
T/Colonel THE HON. M. M. ANDERSON, M.B.E., G.S.O. 1, W.R.A.C. 1, The War Office.
T/Lieut.-Colonel R. STRIDE, C.W.R.A.C., 50 Div./Dist. (T.A.).
Major C. M. L. BALLANTYNE, O.C. W.R.A.C. Detachment, F.V.R.D.E.
Major P. J. B. C. CAMPBELL, O.C. 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Major D. A. CROFTON, 2 i/c W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
Major M. M. ELLIS, H.Q. and Trg. Estb., W.R.A.C. Provost.
Major M. E. D. GIBBS, O.C. 10 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Major D. L. JOB, Medical Services and W.R.A.C. Records.
Major A. M. METCHER, M.B.E., PS4, The War Office.
Major E. J. NOLAN, AG16(o), The War Office.
Major N. J. PYKE, O.C. 3 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Major M. M. POWER, A.R.R.C., D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Eastern Command.
Major E. G. PRITCHARD-DAVIES, O.C. 20 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Major B. ROSENBAUM, Q2, The War Office.
Major K. A. WATERWORTH, YLO(WS), Scottish Command.
T/Major M. E. MACLAGAN, A.I.P.T. (W.R.A.C.), A.S.P.T.
Capt. M. R. ASHLANT, P.S.O., 63 Signal Regiment, (T.A.).
Capt. E. B. FOSTER, O.C. 8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Capt. (Q.M.) D. E. M. NIGHTINGALE, S.O.P.T. (W.R.A.C.), H.Q. Eastern Command.
Capt. C. G. PARSONS, G.S.O. 3(S.D.), H.Q. Southern Command.
Capt. E. L. ROSS, 251 Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C.
T/Capt. E. BLACK, 233 Signal Squadron.
T/Capt. F. A. PAYNE, 262 Signal Squadron, Cyprus.
Lieut. (Q.M.) G. BAYLIS, M.B.E., Traffic Officer, 14 Signal Regiment.
Lieut. (Q.M.) M. G. FAHY, S.O. III, W.R.A.C. 1, The War Office.
Lieut. S. HALSEY, 1 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Lieut. J. M. HAWTREY, 4 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., FARELF.
Lieut. (Q.M.) H. M. SHENTON, Q.M., Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
Lieut. (Q.M.) J. WIFFEN, Q.M., H.Q. W.R.A.C., 42 Div./Dist. (T.A.).
2/Lieut. J. E. BLAKELEY, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. A. P. BYROM, 16 Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
2/Lieut. P. Y. CHARLWOOD, 10 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. K. R. COLLINS, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. P. B. FEREDAY, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. M. E. HOWES, 1 Independent Company W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. V. J. HUNT, 12th Battalion, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. L. E. W. HUXTABLE, 20 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. P. M. MACLEOD, W.R.A.C. Wing, 6 Training Battalion, R.A.S.C.
2/Lieut. H. J. P. MURPHY, 3 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. S. C. E. ORR, "A" Company, 14th Battalion, W.R.A.C., B.A.O.R.
2/Lieut. M. H. PATERSON, 242 Signal Squadron.
2/Lieut. A. K. G. TOBY, 16 Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.

W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess

TWO welcome additions have been made to the Corps Silver recently. Major J. Stephens (née Sharcott) presented a silver-plated meat dish, which has gone to the School of Instruction, and Colonel E. M. Sykes, O.B.E., a handsome silver and glass Claret Jug for use in the Depot Mess. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal and Officers of the Corps held a Reception in the State Rooms of St. James's Palace on Tuesday, 16th July, 1963, and were honoured by the presence of their Commandant-in-Chief, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Over 600 Officers and guests attended and greatly appreciated the privilege of holding the Reception in such an historic setting.

Home and Leisure

COLD FOOD FOR HOT DAYS

MEAL times are apt to be irregular during holiday periods and cold food that can be served in a hurry, or will not spoil if it is kept waiting, is always popular. This month we are suggesting a few alternatives to the usual cold meat and salad.

Rice and Shrimp Salad

- 1 cup rice
- 2 cups water
- 1 packet frozen shrimps
- French dressing of oil and vinegar
- 1 hard boiled egg

Cook the rice in boiling salted water. Drain and mix with the shrimps and French dressing while still warm. Allow to cool. Garnish with sliced hard boiled egg and serve with lettuce or cress.

Salmon Soufflé

- 1 tin evaporated milk
- 1 tin salmon
- 1 oz. gelatine
- A few drops of cochineal

Beat the evaporated milk until frothy. Add the gelatin dissolved in a little hot water with the cochineal added to it. Sieve or mash the salmon and stir into the milk mixture. Mix well and pour into a wetted mould to set.

Lamb in Aspic

This is a good way of using up the remains of a best end or loin of lamb.

- 6-8 cold lamb chops
- 1 pint aspic jelly
- 1 hard boiled egg sliced
- $\frac{1}{4}$ sliced cucumber
- 2 tomatoes
- $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. left-over cooked vegetables, peas, green beans or carrots
- 1 dessertspoon vinegar

Cut the lamb chops off the bone and trim away fat but keep them in good shape. Peel and slice the tomatoes and hard boiled egg. Arrange the cutlets, vegetables and hard boiled egg on a flattish dish and cover with the aspic jelly.

Vegetable Creams

- 1 pint thick custard, unsweetened
- 1 dessertspoon vinegar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon mustard
- Salt and pepper
- 1 breakfastcup cooked vegetables, peas, green beans, carrots, etc., diced small

Stir the seasonings into the custard and add the vegetables, but do not put in the vinegar until the mixture is cool, or it will curdle. Divide into four or five wetted

cups or small moulds and put in a cold place to set. Left over scraps of ham, meat or chicken may be added to the mixture if desired.

Blackberry and Apple Mould

Blackberries will soon be ripe and here is an unusual way of serving them.

- $\frac{1}{4}$ pint sweetened apple sauce
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pint cream, whipped
- 1 egg
- $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. gelatine
- 1 lb. blackberries, sugar to taste
- A little cornflour

Stew the blackberries in a little water, sweeten to taste and thicken with cornflour. Remove from the stove and stir in the beaten egg yolk, cook gently over a low heat for a few minutes and set aside to cool. Mix the whipped cream and apple sauce and fold in. Lastly, add the gelatine dissolved in a little water. Put aside till it is just beginning to set, then line a mould with the mixture, making a hole in the middle. Leave till quite set and fill the hole with the blackberries. Chill in the refrigerator. Turn out and serve.

HELP!

SINCE 1885, the Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association has existed to help the families of serving or ex-Servicemen, with advice, guidance and, in cases of financial need not covered by the present Welfare state, the Association helps with temporary financial aid.

S.S.A.F.A. branches exist all over the country and in some stations abroad. Upwards of 15,000 voluntary helpers give their time and knowledge to further the objects of the Association by setting at rest the mind of the serving man with regard to his family's problems, and by helping in every possible way the family of the man who has already given his services to his country.

Everywhere the need of S.S.A.F.A. is for more voluntary workers, men and women. If you have even a few hours to spare regularly during the week, we should be very grateful if you would offer them to S.S.A.F.A. We need people who will visit and interview those who need advice and assistance; people who will offer their cars to do visiting, or to take others to visit applicants; people who will help with the enormous amount of office work which arises—in other words, PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP S.S.A.F.A.

If you are willing to give even half a day a week, and you live in or wish to help in London, please write to the Hon. County Secretary, S.S.A.F.A., Block "E", Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3. If you wish to help outside London, please write to S.S.A.F.A., 23 Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1, and you will be put in touch with the Secretary of your County.

Rus In Urbe

A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot.
 Mine's not
 So hot.
 To sleeping cats, perhaps, a lovesome cot—
 To roving dogs a dovesome digging plot.
 The pigeons wot it as a feeding spot,
 But me, I wot it as a hatesome blot,
 Of all man's clotted clay the dingiest clot.

Amidst the stones and bits of broken pot
 My battered plants disconsolately rot,
 A prey to all the pests that Nature's got—
 The birds, the beasts, the bugs, the boys, the lot.

I grieve for buds unburst and shoots unshot,
 For wasted thyme, forget-me-not forgot.
 I planted lily, rose and bergamot—
 I harvest bricks and bones and jet and flot
 And dusty, wind-blown scraps of wot not what.
 A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot.
 Great Scot.
 Mine's not.

S. M. C.

Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

I was sorry to read in the latest LIONESS of the death of Sgt. "Dinnie" Dinsdale of the 6 (Glos.) Clerical Company, as I remember her well for her gaiety and fun. I was her S/Sgt. i/c Platoon.

I thought you might like a brief snippet of news of two other former 6 (Glos.) members.

Mrs. J. E. Robertson (formerly Sgt. Robertson) came to see me. She is on a visit to this country from Pretoria and has been in S. Africa since 1948. Sgt. Nikki Gammon, now Mrs. Powell, lives in Johannesburg, is married and has two sons. Both Sgt. Robertson and Sgt. Gammon were commissioned from Salisbury.

I read every issue of THE LIONESS with great interest, but in spite of over ten years of service, seldom see much news of old friends!

VIE RAYMONT
 (J/Cdr. Phillips-Lewis)

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been writing to an ex-W.A.A.C. in Canada, who wonders if anyone would remember her after all this time. Her name is Mrs. L. Acton, 33 Regent Street, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada. She was 36464 Louie Hough, joined at Hyde Park, was later sent to Bostal Camp, Newcastle, Ripon, and ended her service at Rugby Camp. She would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembers her.

M. E. BRYERS



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Princess Royal's Day

SCOTTISH COMMAND

CORPS DAY in Scottish Command was held at Dregghorn Camp, Edinburgh, on Sunday, 28th April, for all Regular and Territorial Army Units. Both 1 Independent Company and 242 Signal Squadron (Scottish Command) showed us great hospitality, and W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Units were represented from Dumfries to Inverness and from Oban to Arbroath.

It was decided to make a weekend of it, and to include as many inter-unit sports as possible. There was a feeling of great excitement about the camp, as the Sports cups and other trophies were competed for. As each unit arrived on Saturday afternoon, they were rushed off to take part in some kind of activity—Rifle Shooting, Badminton and Netball, amongst others. On Sunday, Country Dancing, Table Tennis, Cookery and Skilled Driving Competitions were added to the interests. During the afternoon the camp was open to the public and a Bottle Stall and a Cake and Candy Stall were soon doing a roaring trade, as were the Soft Drinks and Pony Rides. Spectators were able to watch a display by the winning Scottish Country Dancing team and to see the drivers negotiating the obstacles, prepared for them by members of East Lowland District Column, R.A.S.C. (T.A.), during the Skilled Driving Competition, judged by Major G. Turner, D.A.D.S.T., Scottish Command. They were also able to see the results of the Cookery Competition, which had been run under the skilled eye of S.S.M. Laister and judged by Major G. Cranham, D.A.D.A.C.C., Scottish Command. Throughout the afternoon, those present were entertained by the Pipes and Drums of 61 (City of Edinburgh) Signal Regiment (T.A.). This Unit, together with 242 Signal Squadron (Scottish Command), operated a Mobile Signal Centre, where members of the public were able to use the equipment. 50 C.C.S. R.A.M.C. (T.A.) provided a first aid post and a demonstration C.C.S., in which members of both the R.A.M.C. and Q.A.R.A.N.C. showed treatment of different casualties, who were most realistically made up. Treatment included the "kiss of life". A mobile Army Information Office was provided and staffed by the A.I.O., Edinburgh.

W.R.A.C. WING,

6 TRAINING BATTALION, R.A.S.C.

PRINCESS Royal's Day in this unit was linked to the visit of the W.R.A.C. Staff Band on 15th/16th May, 1963. They started our celebrations with a concert in the Camp cinema. Military marches, trumpet, horn and clarinet solos, trios, sextets, songs by the drum-major and selections from well-known musicals like "Gigi", made up a programme which was applauded and encored by a large and appreciative audience of W.R.A.C. and R.A.S.C.

Next day, training stopped at noon and the whole of

the W.R.A.C. Wing changed into No. 1 Dress for the Princess Royal's Day Parade and Service. Colonel W. C. Grierson, M.B.E., M.M., the Commanding Officer of 6 Training Battalion, R.A.S.C., took the salute at the march past which followed the Drumhead Service. Then came a quick change into P.T. kit and all ranks returned to the sports field to show their ability in negotiating the many hazards planned for them by Lieut. E. Black, who had arranged the programme for the Wing sports. The promotion race, between pairs of Officers and W.O.s or Sergeants, was keenly contested and, having led all the way to the last obstacle, the R.S.M. (W.O.I J. A. W. Robertson) was eventually defeated by O.C., W.R.A.C. (Major S. W. Whitworth), despite the hampering garb of dungarees, fencing mask, and a large medicine ball to carry. The Sergeants' Mess walked away (or rather ran away) with the Chinese egg-and-spoon race by two shoves to one trip up, and each received a prize of a large chocolate chicken. The more serious sporting events were won by M.T. Training Platoon, and several quite good athletes were discovered among permanent staff trainees.

In the evening the Band played for a Regimental Dinner Night in the Officers' Mess, at which Colonel D. H. I. Wilson, O.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C., Southern Command, was a guest, and a Dance was held for all ranks in the Camp theatre. All the energy left over from the sports was used up in the twist, plus, surprisingly, an enthusiastically danced old-fashioned waltz, at the request of H.Q. Company Commander, R.A.S.C., who (like other male officers) found it impossible to twist in Mess kit.

A total of £45 was raised, to be shared by the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund and the Battalion P.R.I., and the success of the day is best summed up by the private who encountered O.C. Wing and said, "Ma'am, how soon can we do it all again!"

W.V.S. SILVER JUBILEE

IN addition to the 25th anniversary of the formation of the A.T.S., 1963 also saw the 25th birthday of the W.V.S., celebrated on 21st May by a Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey, to which a representative of the W.R.A.C. Association was invited. Row upon row of the familiar green uniforms filled the Abbey to hear the Lord Bishop of Coventry, the Right Reverend C. K. N. Bardsley, C.B.E., D.D., praise the invaluable work done by the W.V.S., in war and peace, in so many fields, from regular services such as "Meals on Wheels", to the organisation of welfare services in emergencies. He warned them that the second 25 years would be different and even more important, and that they could not rest on their laurels, living in the glory of past achievements. He emphasised the importance of humility in service, as Christ showed His disciples by washing their feet. The lesson was the very apt Parable of the Good Samaritan and the story of Martha and Mary.

Cucumber Coolness for an Unexpected Heat-wave

How long a heat-wave will last is a matter of hope. It is usually as unpredictable as it is unexpected.

But let's be optimistic by planning how to look cool while enjoying really hot sunshine. Here are some suggestions passed on by that master of make-up, Max Factor, who, as a world-wide traveller, knows all the answers of adapting oneself to temperature changes.

Avoid all grooming which suggests that you feel uncomfortably warm. A carelessly smeared make-up, oily hair, wrinkled clothing and hot-coloured clothes are the greatest offenders. Instead, choose make-up, clothes and all grooming techniques which will give you a cool appearance for hours on end.

Your hair must be so clean and fluffy that it looks as though a refreshing mountain breeze had just blown through it. Even though it is piled high on your head, it must be sparkling clean and not pasted to your head with oil or perspiration.

Because hair frames the face, it adds to or detracts from your whole appearance, so keep it in place, casual or sophisticated, by spraying with Top Secret.

A velvety matt complexion finish will cancel the usual warm shine which rising temperatures bring to the face. Create this matt finish with a thin veil of fluid foundation make-up lightly dusted with face powder. Keep it in this cool, velvety state with occasional puffs from your Hi-Five or Creme Puff compact.

All eye make-up must be applied with precision strokes. Eyebrows and eye liner must be applied without a greasy smudge in sight. Use the cool misty green or blue eye shadow tints to bring Nature's own refreshing colours to your face. Take time to apply eyelash make-up to every eyelash, and separate each one by brushing them with a clean, dry eyebrow brush. When lashes are stuck together, some of the warm look will be present.

Choose a clear lipstick shade. Whether it is in the cool pinks, corals or brownish-pink tints, it will become restful and lovely on your lips. Brilliant or dark reds often pick up the red pigment of your skin and create an abnormal warm appearance. Wear rouge, but use it skilfully, and be sure it harmonises with your lipstick. Nothing is more disturbing and warm-looking than rouge and lipstick applied in different shades. Lipstick which runs or is applied with a blurred line always looks warm and unkempt. Use a lipstick brush and keep the lip line sharp.

Wrinkle proof and wilt proof fabrics should be chosen for hot weather fashions. Likewise, cool colours and accessories will make the temperature drop. Add another cooling dimension with a spray of fragrance . . . fresh, modern and floral . . . use a roll-on deodorant . . . and don't forget to ward off sunburn with the accommodating Sun Bliss sun tan cream which can be used even under your make-up.

Follow these few rules as you or the earth travels into the heat of the summer sun, and you will not only look cool, but everyone will envy your appearance.

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Round the World in Army Time

PART II

MAJOR D. J. ADAMS

IT was as if we had left a magic island when we sailed from Honolulu, for, the next day, the cold, overcast weather that had followed us all the way from Japan again descended and stayed with us until we reached Vancouver in Canada nearly a week later. Vancouver is a beautiful city. Tall skyscraper buildings, a lovely National Park jutting out into the harbour and the majestic mountains to the north. Every ship in the harbour seemed to be welcoming us with blasts on their sirens and they even seemed to quiver, as we all did, when our tallest mast only just got under the Lion Gate Bridge and into the harbour.

The ship was due to sail on to San Francisco and there fill up with American tourists to do a round trip to Hawaii, Vancouver and back to America and so I had decided to leave the ship and pick it up on its second visit in 17 days' time. My uncle and aunt met me and whisked me away to their charming house, which nestled under the mountains on the North shore and had a lovely view of the harbour. One day, a friend of my aunt drove me some 200 miles up into the Rocky Mountains to Harrison Lake. This was the picture post-card scenery of Canada and the Rockies that I had expected; so very strong and big and quite the opposite of the gentle islands of Hawaii. I also visited the island of Vancouver and the capital of British Columbia, Victoria, which had a strange, old-fashioned air about it, compared with Vancouver. How quickly the days flew by, sight-seeing, shopping and just meeting people. One Sunday, I saw an Army parade in Stanley Park and made myself known to the Canadian Women's Army Corps Officers who were there. They were T.A. Officers and very kindly invited me to be guest of honour at their Dinner Night the following week.

Eventually, we saw the *Chusan* return and so back to the ship to continue my way home. My fellow-travellers were now all the Americans on the cruise, and what a difference! Bridge all day and, worst of all, they never left me alone—wanted me to keep on talking, it didn't matter what about so long as I talked—"so they could hear my accent"! It is amazing how many corners there are on a ship round which you can hide! Luckily this only lasted for two days till we got to San Francisco, where they all landed.

San Francisco is a truly fabulous city and, if the rest of the U.S.A. is as spectacular, no wonder the average American is proud of "back home". We sailed into the harbour under the famous Golden Gate Bridge, past the island of Alcatraz, and on under "the longest bridge in the world", the Oakland Bay Bridge, to tie up in the

Inner Harbour. We had six days in port, and I was most anxious to see all I could of "God's own country". The first morning I managed to find my way to the main Tourist Coach Station, and did a tour of the city. It was all breathtakingly beautiful, the bridges, parks and gardens, the enormous hotels on Nob Hill and all around us the sea, for the city is built on a peninsula. I was particularly enchanted by the cable cars that run up the steep hills in the old parts of the city and braved a ride, only to be admonished by the Negro driver, "Now, Missie, no need to hold on that tight, I sure ain't a going to let it slip back." Nor did he.

My American friends in Hawaii had given me an introduction to their Colonel at the H.Q. in San Francisco so I promptly looked her up. I was asked to dinner, introduced to more people and, by the greatest stroke of luck, they were leaving by car in the morning for the East and would I like a lift over the Rockies? Would I? At 6 a.m. we set off, to my horror, in a Volkswagen, but it was a game little car and we were soon over the Golden Gate Bridge and heading north-east. What enormous roads and even bigger road signs. Gigantic 12-wheel lorries overtook us as if we were stationary and I almost felt that a puff from their exhaust would blow us off the road. We were soon climbing and, oh, what scenery around Lake Tahoe and Squaw Valley. At last we seemed to be on top and approaching desert country. Soon we were in Carson City, a flat place full of huge hoardings advertising the hotels in Reno, almost blotting out the view along the way until we actually reached the place. There I left my friends, who headed for a motel, while I aimed for the biggest hotel in town. It was big! It had just everything you would need to while away the weeks, or is it days, until your divorce comes through.

I wandered around the gaming rooms and was surprised to find they played with silver dollars for chips. Too high a stake for me. The bed for the night, but no breakfast, as I planned to catch the 7 a.m. Greyhound bus back to San Francisco, cost me \$7, or nearly 50s. One hears a lot about the Greyhound buses and they certainly are marvellous. Goodness knows at what speed they travel, but all the way I felt my stomach was some five miles behind. We did stop at Sacramento for half-an-hour and then back for a 3-hour non-stop run to the outskirts of San Francisco. I now know why the Americans like to travel so fast—it gives them more time to recover once they get to the other end!

So as not to miss anything, I was up bright and early the next day for a tour to Monterey and Carmel. We drove south out of the city and were soon into the forests where the giant Redwoods grow. And giants they are! We drove through the Del Monte Forest, a sort of private estate where you have to pay a toll to enter, and this was America! Carmel, the refuge of artists, has an old-world charm, no doubt bequeathed by the first settlers in California. For our return journey, we drove inland through the "Salad Bowl of America". Actual farms of hundreds of acres devoted to strawberries, peaches or other luxury fruits and everywhere bushes of wild geraniums.

My last day in the city was spent wandering through its streets, in museums and shops. Everywhere I found the people most friendly and quite unlike what I had imagined typical Americans to be. On my trip to Carmel, I had been the only tourist with a camera and the only one to give the guide a tip—he was so overcome that he told me so!

I was completely charmed by San Francisco and all I had seen in California and, in a way, I was also charmed by Los Angeles, where we arrived the next day. It was Sunday, so most of the places were shut, but we did have a tour around the homes of the stars in Beverley Hills. Los Angeles is vast, it covers an area of over 450 square miles and has a population of over 5 million (how the Americans love statistics!). Almost everyone appears to own a huge car, so it is necessary to have the biggest roads you ever saw. Six-lane express freeways and 4-level clover leaf crossings—a nightmare to anyone like me, straight from the trishaw traffic of the Far East. Most people only think of Los Angeles in connection with Hollywood, but it is in fact even more important as a centre of aircraft construction, a market for the farm produce from Southern California and as an oil-producing centre, not to mention the actual port of Long Beach.

We were all reluctant to leave sunny California, but warm days were still with us as we sailed south for the Panama. My sister had warned me that we would frizzle in the canal, but a cool breeze was blowing and it was delightful on deck, listening to the smooth-voiced American guide whom we had taken on board at Panama City. The journey was slow—but was all the better for that, as it was the only day of the trip where there was scenery all day long. I suppose the Panama Canal is more wonderful than Suez, as there are the height and locks to contend with, but it isn't half as long! Coming from the Pacific side, you go up by two locks, the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel and then pass through the Gaillard Cut—an actual cut through a mountain—to come out into Gatun Lake, and then descend to sea level again by the Gatun Locks. It all sounds quite easy, but must have appeared anything but to the engineers 50 years ago.

We had a few hours ashore at Christobal and then I forgot to buy Father a Panama hat! Three days of glorious sun and sea and we arrived in the West Indies. Trinidad! What a happy place! All higgledy-piggledy and everywhere you looked, large Negro mamas with baskets of wares to sell. We went for a ride across the island, lovely greenery and beautiful views. At Maracas Bay we had a glorious swim in the warm ocean. On the way back, as we stopped to admire a view, some singers appeared out of the bushes, and made up a calypso about us on the spot. We were all most impressed.

A week later we were in Las Palmas in the Canary Isles. Another dream island. We had a drive round and again found geraniums growing wild, as we had in California. On leaving the Canaries, we knew we were nearing home, as it was getting colder! Four days later we were at Le Havre and, despite the rain, we went out for a look around the newly-built docks—a marvellous feat of reconstruction.

The following day we were in England, at Tilbury. Good-byes all round, Customs to deal with, and the train to London. Home again and, although to my mind there is nothing to compare with London and England, even if it did seem like toyland after the vastness of America, the world, and all those far-distant places, are wonderful to see—especially from the sea.

Versatile W.A.A.C.

A. E. BUCKLEE

I JOINED the W.A.A.C. in 1917 and was attached to the Army Pay Corps in Fulwood Barracks, Preston. We had no uniform at first but wore an enrolment badge. One of our spare-time activities was a football team, of which I was the captain. We played a number of matches in Lancashire and raised well over £1,000 for the wounded and for soldiers' comforts. We always had a good attendance from the convalescent hospitals. Preston Record Office also had a Ladies' Football team and the Pay Side played several games against them.

I also remember playing against the famous Dick Kirr's Ladies' Team and being entertained to dinner by the Directors of Blackburn Rovers. The Chairman said what a pity I wasn't a boy so that I could have been a professional like my father, James McLean, who was a great half-back.

The Army Pay Corps also had a string orchestra and I was one of two lady violinists. We held concerts in the Hippodrome every Sunday, for the troops and their friends. These concerts were of first-class quality, as we had a wide range of talent.

I am sure the W.R.A.C., who seem to picture us all in long khaki overalls and large felt hats, will realise that there were other branches of the W.A.A.C. which seem to be little known. I left the service in June, 1920, and was married shortly afterwards.

At the time of the Munich crisis, we realised we would soon be needed again, and five ex-Q.M.A.A.C. of our old unit joined "C" Company, A.T.S. at Preston. We started training in April, 1938, and were drilled on the Barrack Square, by two sergeants from the Loyals, much to the amusement of the troops stationed at Fulwood. We were embodied on 26th August, 1939, and served for over eight years. I could write a book about our experiences—some happy, some sad—but that is another story.

Y.W.C.A.

THE Y.W.C.A. sometimes has openings for responsible staff in the canteens, clubs and bookshops that they run for the Forces at home and overseas, particularly in B.A.O.R. and Cyprus. Experienced caterers are often needed. Anyone who is interested is invited to write to the Y.W.C.A. National Offices, Bedford House, 108 Baker Street, W.1.

Unit News

12 BATTALION

THE Annual Administrative Inspection of "A" and "B" Companies took place on 8th May, 1963. The Inspecting Officer was Brigadier H. J. L. Green, O.B.E., Chief of Staff, London District. During the parade which preceded the inspection, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal were presented to W.O.II Kay MacDonnel, who is at present working in the W.R.A.C. Branch at Headquarters, Eastern Command.

On 20th May we said goodbye to R.S.M. Hilda Shenton, who left us on being granted her Q.M. Commission. Our good wishes go with her in her new appointment as Assistant Quartermaster at the W.R.A.C. Depot. In her place we welcome W.O.I M. W. Coombes, who joins us on posting from 52 (Lowland) Div/Dist.

Richmond Park is probably at its best at this time of year and we are now hoping that our last summer here will be fine and warm.



Presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II K. MacDonnell of 12 Bn.

[Photo by J. A. Brancher]



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20 INDEPENDENT COMPANY

HOOGHE LINES, Catterick Camp, has for many years been the home of 20 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. While our postal address remains unchanged, part of the Unit is now accommodated in Menin Lines, just across the road. Recently one block there was completely, very comfortably redecorated and handed over to the W.R.A.C. In the middle of May, the Permanent Staff took up residence. At first, the building seemed to all of us nothing but a maze of corridors, and we felt that to find one's way into and out of Hampton Court maze was simple compared to Menin Block. Of course, we have all grown quite used to it now. It is hoped that the second block will shortly be ready for occupation by trainees.

On 15th/16th June, 1963, 20 Independent Company celebrated Corps Weekend. Geographically, Catterick is fairly isolated and it wasn't possible for as many parents and friends as we would have liked, to visit us. Nevertheless, many did make the journey. Throughout the afternoon, the Band of the "Loyals" played for us and also accompanied the P.T. display, which was organised by W.O.I Thompson and Sgt. Walker (P.T.I.s). Corporals and senior ranks organised stalls and side shows, which included a Bottle Stall, Cakes and Sweets, Treasure Hunt, Darts, etc. Signals loaned us two display vans and the local Saddle Club donated the services of two ponies. The girls as well as our visitors kept these animals busy

the whole afternoon. A continuous film show ran throughout the afternoon, showing "24th July", "Mountain Road" and "In the Groove". Saturday ended with an All Ranks' Dance in the NAAFI. A good time was had by all.

Sunday morning found us in St. Oswald's Church, where we shared the service with the "Old Comrades" of the Royal Tank Regiment, who were, that same weekend, celebrating their reunion in the nearby Unit of the 3 R.T.R. Many of us felt it most applicable that we should share this celebration and that age and youth should meet, if only for a brief spell, on common ground.

Our profit for the weekend, which totals £50, will be donated to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.

REUNION

NORTHERN AREA

THE Northern Area Reunion will be held at the Royal Hall, Harrogate, on Saturday, 28th September, 1963, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tickets, price 5s. including refreshments, may be obtained from: D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Northern Command, York.

Apply before 9th September, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

News from the T.A.

H.Q. (ULSTER) W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

AT 1500 hours on Saturday, 13th April, a "packet" convoy moved off from Sunnyside Street Camp to begin exercise "Civil Help" in which 93 (328) Company and 95 (Armagh and Down) Company of H.Q. (Ulster) W.R.A.C. (T.A.) combined with the Belfast units of H.Q. Column R.A.S.C. (T.A.) in a practice evacuation of civilian population from the Fivemiletown area, which was presumed to be contaminated by fall-out from a 10-megaton H-bomb which exploded in the vicinity of Galway. The only mythical thing about the exercise was the evacuees, represented merely by their astral presences, but in every other way active service conditions were very accurately simulated, even to the weather, which supplied a "fall-out" of convincing nuclear intensity!

The convoy bivouacked at 1900 hours on Saturday night in a lay-by on the fringe of Colebrooke, where the R.A.S.C. cooks, despite the deluge, kept their petrol burners going and served up a tasty fried meal. The original intention was for the women to bed down on mattresses in the back of their trucks, but vehicles and bedding were so rain-sodden that a quick re-think was called for. The problem was solved when an obliging local farmer agreed to lend his barn, and the girls soon nested cheerfully in the hay, to the accompaniment of squeals and grunts from a puzzled pig behind the barn wall on one side, and startled lowing from a cow on the other.

Sunday morning was ushered in on a comfortable note when three R.A.S.C. men, attached as additional drivers for the W.R.A.C. trucks, turned out at 0500 hours to boil water for tea and washing, only one example of their thoughtfulness and consideration for which the girls were sincerely grateful. After four hours on the roads, the convoy churned into Duncreggan Camp at Londonderry for lunch (prepared jointly by the R.A.S.C. and W.R.A.C. cooks, who had travelled ahead of the main body) and a welcome wash and rest, then continued on the second leg of the journey to Magilligan Camp. Here the amenities of the Other Ranks' canteen and a combined Officers/Sergeants' Mess gave the R.A.S.C. and W.R.A.C. a chance to get to know each other, a useful foundation for Camp in September, when the units will work together on a composite basis.

Because of the appalling weather, huddled sleeping accommodation was made available for all. In contrast to the rigours of the previous night, a real bed in a snug, warm barrack-room was untold luxury, and the glowing coke stoves were ideal for drying out clammy clothes and the row of sad, mud-caked boots, which steamed on the floor in column of route like a storm-tossed centipede, giving off an earthy, unmistakable odour of farmyard!

On Easter Monday the sun shone brilliantly, just two days too late, but in time, at least, to brighten the home-ward drive. At the halfway stop between Ballymena and Ballymoney, a brief picnic was held on the grass, when Sgt. Murphy, 93 Company's staunch Driver P.S.I.,

brewed coffee on her famous primus stove—an old, trusted and much-travelled friend, deserving of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal—and, with Sgt. Scott of 95 Company, produced, from some mysterious reservoir, cake and biscuits, which disappeared in a matter of moments. Fortified and refreshed, the convoy pressed on, to reach Sunnyside Street and a piping hot meal at about 1330 hours.

In retrospect, it had been a tough weekend but a very profitable one, and the attitude of the W.R.A.C.—weary, grubby, but in riotous spirits and proud that they had proved they could "rough it" as well as the men—was summed up by one trainee Cook who, as the unloading of the last stores brought the Exercise to an end, exclaimed eagerly: "Oh, Ma'am, that was *smashing*—when can we have another one?"

GOLD AWARD FOR TERRITORIAL CORPORAL

L/CPL. Joan Spicer, a cook on the strength of 71 (Bristol) Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), recently won a Gold Medal in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. She entered through her firm, Messrs. J. S. Fry, and qualified by passing tests in furnishing and decorating, planning meals, photography, basketry, first-aid and home nursing, and her service in the Territorials was taken into account as adventure training.

Cpl. Spicer was presented with her Certificate at a Youth Service in Bristol Cathedral on 26th May, and went to Buckingham Palace on 13th June to receive her medal from the Duke of Edinburgh. On 16th June, she was able to show her medal and certificate to Colonel L. Gerlagh Nielsen, Director of the Danish Lottekorps, who was visiting the Unit at Westbury-on-Trym.

Cpl. Spicer has been a member of the Territorials since October 1960, and has gained her Cook B.II qualification. It is believed that she is the first member of the W.R.A.C. to win the Gold Award.

A Link with the Past

44 (H.C.) SIGNAL REGIMENT (CINQUE PORTS) T.A.

FOR the first time since the grant of the title "Cinque Ports", in June 1960, members of the W.R.A.C. have displayed the embellishment on the left sleeve of their battledress.

The W.R.A.C. are justly proud of the honour bestowed by the Confederation of the Cinque Ports, linking as it does the present, with the first Regiment of Cinque Ports Volunteers of nearly 200 years ago.

The volunteer spirit in the defence of ideals has always been strong in these islands and perhaps stronger in Kent and the South-East than anywhere else. This can be readily understood when we realise that we are nearest to the continent of Europe, from which we have so often been invaded and more often threatened. Often an invading horde, regarding the South-East as a gateway to its ambitions, has found that gateway barred—barred by stout-hearted volunteers.

The first organised volunteers of dragoons and mounted infantry were raised by William Pitt the Elder, later Earl of Chatham, in 1761. In 1778, the first Regiment of Cinque Ports volunteers was raised, and in 1780 we find in the Army List "North's Cinque Ports Regiment". Lord North, who was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, was followed in that office by William Pitt the Younger. In 1793, France declared war on England and, among other measures to forestall a possible invasion by Napoleon, Pitt raised a Regiment of Cinque Ports Volunteers.

After Napoleon's defeat in 1815, the Volunteer movement, like the old soldier, faded rather than died, to be resurrected in 1859, when, once more, the French attitude became threatening. We now hear of the Kent Artillery Volunteers at Sandgate between 1868 and 1880. From these days, a number of volunteer military formations, raised in the areas, have been accorded the title of the Cinque Ports Regiment.

Nearly 100 years later, in 1957, once again with Headquarters at Sandgate, the Home Counties District (Mixed) Signal Regiment, T.A. was raised. Later to become the 62 (Mixed) Signal Regiment, T.A., in 1960, with the unanimous agreement of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports, the War Office redesignated the Regiment as the 300 (Cinque Ports) Regiment. Re-organisation of the Territorial Army in 1961 brought the amalgamation of the 62nd with 44 (Home Counties) Signal Regiment. The proud title is now borne by 44 (H.C.) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports) T.A.

Many of the former volunteer regiments were gunners, and this tradition is reflected in much of the Regiment's fine collection of silver, which has come down to it through its immediate predecessor, 259 (Mobile) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (Home Counties) Cinque Ports T.A. which was disbanded in 1956. Among recent pieces given to the Regiment are a Cinque Ports Galleon, a silver cigarette box surmounted by a smaller galleon with a soldier at each end, one in the dress of an early Cinque Ports Soldier, the other in full dress of the Royal Regiment of the Artillery, and an early silver cup, which had been won by Sgt. Franklin over 60 years ago and acquired from his descendants.

At the annual camp in Cornwall last year, the Regiment was presented by Lieut.-Colonel A. V. Brandle, M.B.E., Royal Signals, their former Commander, Royal Signals, with a magnificent Altar Cloth, a gift probably unique in the Army. It was made in Malta and, on the background of green, the Regimental Coat of Arms has been most beautifully embroidered.

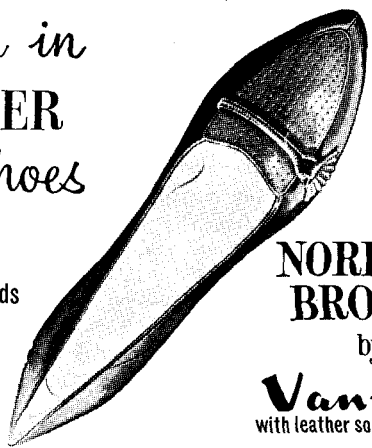
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the Cinque Ports Regiment are still carrying out their age-old duties of helping to protect the Cinque Ports, as did their forebears before them. Although recruiting is lively, there are always vacancies, and any former members of the Corps, Regular or T.A., who wish to carry on this long tradition of voluntary service in the South-East, are cordially invited to write to the C. R. Signals at Yeomanry House, Boxley Road, Maidstone, and help us to maintain this unique link with the past.

Retired? Job Hunting?

WANTED, TWO FRIENDS

TWO friends are required to run a warm, modern flat for a married couple. Ideally, the duties should be split on an agreed arrangement between the two women concerned. Work to be done includes: General Housework, Good Simple Cooking, Occasional Waiting at Table (experience unnecessary if willing to learn), some Personal Washing (not sheets, etc.). Duties cannot be called arduous as there are only two in family.

Amenities: Flat is situated in Central London, near Sloane Square. Each person would have her own bed-sitting room and wireless; a bathroom and TV set to be shared between the two.

Wages. £3 10s. each per week, rising to £4. All found and insurance paid by employer. A gratuity would be paid on leaving after some years' service.

Time off: Four weeks' holiday a year. Most summer weekends free. Ample free time each day.

These two vacancies are for women to whom a responsible permanent position is important and who wish to live interesting, busy lives in a happy and comfortable home. First-class Army references required. If genuinely interested, you are invited to write to: Mrs. E. Coven, 22 Cadogan Court, Draycott Avenue, London, S.W.3.

A Change of Air

SGT. M. MARSHALL

DURING a two-year tour in Singapore, everyone has the opportunity of going for two weeks to the Change of Air Station in the Cameron Highlands, Malaya. S/Sgt. R. Brockbank and I set out from 4 Independent Company on the evening of Friday, 8th March, and after going through the Customs at Singapore railway station, we made ourselves comfortable in our 1st class sleeping berth. The train left at 2200 hours, and we soon settled down to a rather shaky sleep.

We arrived in Kuala Lumpur at 0730 hours next morning and, during the hour which we had to wait for our next train, we had breakfast in the station restaurant. The first part of our journey had been at night, but now we enjoyed seeing, through the window, the Malayan scene of rubber plantations, jungle and villages, with their fascinating attap houses. We arrived at Tapah Road at 1300 hours, and a bus was waiting to take us, and several married families, to the Change of Air Station; we were told that it was a 35-mile ride, along a narrow twisting road with 16 bends to the mile and the local drivers were all potential suicides. On this cheerful note we climbed aboard (did I see an "L" plate?) The ride certainly was a little hair-raising but most enjoyable and the scenery was lovely; we were surrounded by very high hills with the cloud coming half-way down them and frequently passing signs telling us we were so many thousand feet above sea level. We were taken to the Change of Air Station called Brinchang Camp, where we signed in and were informed of the sight-seeing trips we could enjoy; we then went to the Eastern Hotel, where we stayed for the two weeks. It was 4,700 feet above sea level here.

The first few days were spent on several walks along the jungle paths. One led to a lovely waterfall, and we saw many snakes along these paths. Compared with Singapore it was very cold in the Cameron Highlands and we huddled round a log fire in the lounge of the hotel in the evenings. The sun was hot during the day, but the mornings and evenings almost made us wish we were back in warm Singapore.

One of the tours we went on was a visit to a tea plantation. We were taken round the factory and saw the tea processed, from a large green leaf to tea leaves as we know them. At the end we signed the visitors' book and were given a small packet of tea. We also visited a rose garden and a veterinary sanatorium during our stay. Both roses and horses thrive in the cool, fresh air of the Cameron Highlands. The most exciting visit was to the V.H.F. radio station, which is 6,666 feet above sea-level. We were taken in a mini bus; the road was a narrow, twisting one and in some parts we held our breath as we gazed down into seemingly bottomless valleys. The view from the top was wonderful and we felt we could reach up and touch the sky. There was a clear view for miles and we could see buildings which looked like dolls' houses.

Towards the end of our stay we attempted to climb Jacob's Ladder. This is a kind of jungle path which is made into steps by wood placed in the soil at intervals; it ascends for miles and, though quite easy to climb, one soon becomes breathless and one's legs ache. During the evenings we made use of the A.K.C., where a different film is shown each night.

The sweet smell of fresh greenery made us think of England and, perhaps, we were a little homesick. We left the Cameron Highlands on Friday, 22nd March, and made the journey back down the winding road to Tapah, where we became very aware of the hot, damp atmosphere of the plain. Travelling back to Kuala Lumpur in daylight, we were again able to see the acres of rubber trees along the way. We arrived back in Singapore feeling fit and very refreshed after our fortnight's Change of Air posting.

Modern Crusaders

IN the days of the Crusades, fighting men donned uniform and sallied forth to do battle, if need be, for their faith. "That couldn't happen today", do we hear you say? But it could. During the weekend 24th/27th May, 1963, over 45,000 troops from 23 different countries donned uniform and made their way by land, sea and air to Lourdes. The "battles" fought were prayerful ones on this occasion.

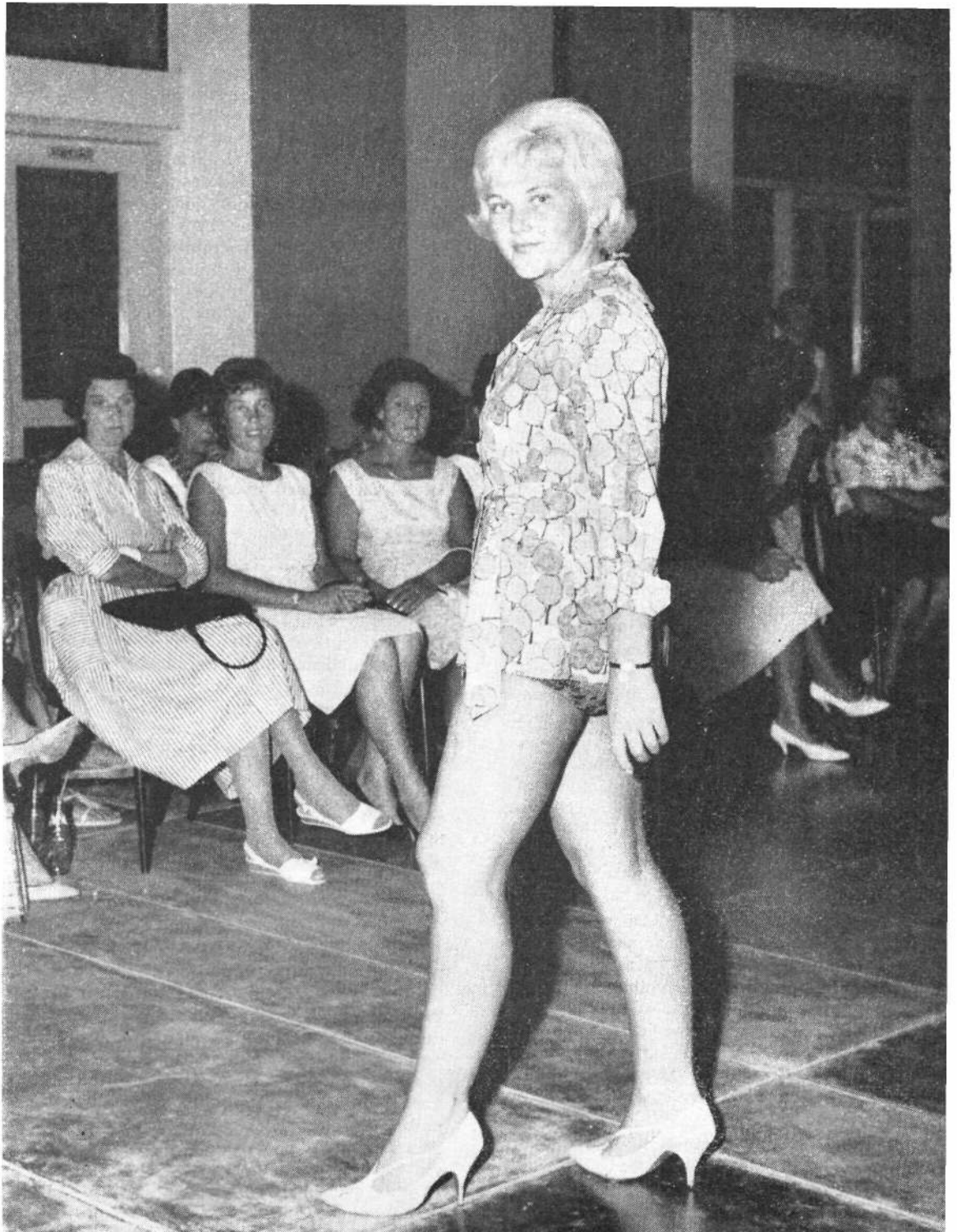
Somewhere in this vast concentration of troops were 11 members of the W.R.A.C. serving in U.K. and B.A.O.R. Their dark green No. 1 Dress stood out among the predominance of Khaki and Air Force blue and, though perhaps not quite so spectacular as some of the Italian and French Dress uniforms, drew forth many congratulations on its smartness and many requests for photographs of the wearers.

The spiritual Exercises carried out *en masse* were very moving indeed, especially the Way of the Cross, the Torchlight Processions to the Basilica and from Lady of Lourdes and the Pontifical High Mass in the underground Basilica of St. Pius X.

All the W.R.A.C. members, apart from being volunteers, had paid just over £17 each to have the privilege of taking part in the Annual International Military Pilgrimage and from what one hears on the bush telegraph, piggy banks have already been put into action for next year's "Operation Lourdes".

HELPING S.S.A.F.A.

PRIVATE PAT THOMAS, who is a teleprinter operator serving with 262 Signal Squadron (District) in Cyprus, recently helped to model beachwear at a summer fashion show given by a leading Larnaca dress shop. The show was held before an audience of Service wives at the Church of England S.S.A.F.A. Club on the sovereign base area of Dhekelia.



Pte. Pat Thomas on Parade

[Photo by Army Public Relations]

St. Dunstan's Reunion

MAUREEN LEES

ALTHOUGH it is 18 years since the war ended, the first get-together of war-blinded women of St. Dunstan's took place the weekend of 10th to 13th May, at the Waldorf Hotel in London. Of the 32 women admitted to St. Dunstan's as being blind as a result of the war, I understand 15 are from the Services, and the majority are ex-A.T.S. One from World War I is an 80-year-old nurse, one is a F.A.N.Y. of World War II. I cover both the Wars and part of the intervening period, being ex-W.A.A.C. and ex-A.T.S. Of the others, the A.T.S. casualties all seem to me, to have been discharged because of their blindness being due to war service, and to have been at home, untrained, for long periods, before being admitted to St. Dunstan's as they should have been when first medically boarded out.

I had heard of some of the cases casually and this weekend was a chance to meet some of the others who, like myself, had served with the A.T.S., and had lost their sight on war service.

No expense was spared to make the weekend an outstanding success for us all. We had everything laid on, from our expenses for the journey, to meals *en route* and our taxi fares, and enough also to permit us to take our own escorts, husbands, friends or relatives. In my case, my escort was a lifelong friend, Mrs. Hanson, whose husband is a severely crippled war casualty. I combined business with pleasure by travelling down a day earlier so that I could go personally to the British Legion in York Way, to select goods for their displays at my December exhibition.

We had super luxury suites, private bathrooms, etc., and everyone had the opportunity of her life to be really happy in the company of other war-blinded colleagues, whether Service, N.F.S., Nursing, or R.O.F. (Munitions). Of the 32 eligible to be present, 25 lived at the Waldorf for the whole time and two travelled in daily.

We had the opportunity of meeting Sir Neville Pearson, son of the original Founder of St. Dunstan's; and he hoped the Reunion would become an annual event. We also had lunch with Lord and Lady Fraser of Lonsdale, who spoke very encouragingly of future events of the same nature. His secretary was also A.T.S., at Glen Parva Barracks, I believe, and was outstanding in the way she helped. We all had tickets for London shows for Saturday night; some visited "Mary, Mary", others "My Fair Lady", or the thrillers, etc., and we had very good seats indeed.

The whole weekend was organised by St. Dunstan's Welfare Superintendent, Mr. Wills, aided by his wonderfully efficient and friendly secretary, and nine other members of St. Dunstan's staff.

I am going to conclude this account with a personal message. As most of my old colleagues and friends know, I have stood up at an A.G.M. and said I was sure there

were more A.T.S. blind as a result of the war than myself. From time to time I have "heard" of a sergeant, or a private, or an officer "losing her sight" and getting no training. I have "rooted" for information which would enable me to bring the case as a definite one, to St. Dunstan's, and all the information I have had to work on has been vague and nebulous in the extreme. Twelve years ago I heard, on my return from America, that "a sergeant in the north" had been discharged on the ground of blindness and was at home. During the interim I have asked, enquired, written and never got anything definite until this very weekend, when I heard a certain ex-A.T.S. was present. I tried to contact her several times, but we were all so busy that it was not until the very last evening that I asked my escort to put me next to the lady I named and, sure enough, after 12 years, the elusive blind sergeant was found, and I learned—with horror—that she had only recently become known to St. Dunstan's and been admitted there.

Now, this lady is also a member of our own Regimental Association and, although I know there must be many more blind or nearly blind ex-A.T.S., it proves to me that I have been correct in saying that some slips occurred when most of the casualties were medically boarded and the cases were not reported to St. Dunstan's. As a St. Dunstaner for 18 years, I know that EVERY REPORTED CASE of a blind ex-Servicewoman is gone into to find out if she is eligible for admission and their wonderful training and welfare facilities. I know, from the large number of auxiliaries we had, that many more blind ex-A.T.S. will turn up. After meeting so many who had been home for long periods unknown to St. Dunstan's, may I use the columns of THE LIONESS to ask if anyone ever hears of a former friend who is blind, and whose blindness may be due to her war service, to report the matter to St. Dunstan's, or to someone in the Association or to the British Legion, who will do something to help her.

St. Dunstan's is an organisation set up in World War I to help blind ex-Servicemen and ex-Servicewomen whose disability is due to war service, and whose claim to a pension has been admitted by the Ministry of Pensions. Many times St. Dunstan's have fought the case for war blind men and women to have a disability pension, so it is a very grievous thing to realise that those of us who held a rank and were medically boarded, got to St. Dunstan's because our own officers knew the proper procedure, and to visit London 18 years AFTER the end of the Second World War, and meet ex-A.T.S. who had been at home, in some cases from four to nearly 12 years, quite unknown to St. Dunstan's.

Please do what you can to make sure any blind ex-A.T.S. or W.A.A.C., whose disability is due to her war service, does not stay at home unknown to the organisation to which I belong—St. Dunstan's.

Branch News

BOURNEMOUTH. We had a busy time during May. On the 1st the local W.R.N.S. Association joined us for an evening tour of Swanage, Wareham and Corfe Castle, which was enjoyed by all. Then on 15th members toured Police H.Q., which proved an interesting and informative evening. Our thanks are due to Southern Area H.Q. for organising the Reunion to Bristol Zoo on 26th May. The weather was sunny and warm, and members and friends enjoyed the coach trip, the visit to the Zoo and the excellent tea provided by 71 (Bristol) Company W.R.A.C. (T.A.). Altogether we came back feeling that we had really been able to relax after the miserable winter months. During June, Miss Miles kindly invited some of our members to tea at her home, and next month we are looking forward to visiting Miss Lunniss for our annual Raspberry Tea. We were pleased to see Miss J. M. Vaughan again at the end of March, and extend a warm welcome to her friend, Miss N. L. Hine (ex-A.T.S.), who has joined the branch.

BRADFORD. Due to the arctic conditions prevailing in January and February, and also because of the illness of the Secretary, the A.G.M. had to be postponed until March. All the officers were re-elected *en bloc*. Our finances are more healthy than a year ago. The Secretary was, through indisposition, unable to attend the Secretaries' Meeting, A.G.M. and Reunion, but Miss Sykes of Sheffield kindly represented her and gave a good account of the proceedings. Members will be sorry to hear that Mrs. E. M. Slack, who went to New Zealand in December to spend her retirement, lost her husband very suddenly. Our sincere sympathy and thoughts go out to her. Mrs. Lumb has had another spell in hospital and we all wish her a speedy recovery, also the husband of Mrs. Bottomley, who is recovering from an operation. Friends of the late Emily Ward (ex-Q.M.A.A.C. *née* Whitehead) will be interested to know that her son has been appointed Deputy Governor of Dartmoor Prison, and her grandson has been accepted for training at Dartmouth College. At the June meeting, members were conspicuous by their absence, but the few attending supported the Bring-and-Buy Sale. It was decided that, to conform with the wishes of H.Q. Treasurer, we should hold the A.G.M. in November instead of January—and it was hoped that the weather then would be more kind than last January. The branch is now closed and will re-open on Monday, 9th September, 1963.

BRISTOL. Southern Area visited Bristol for their Annual Reunion this year on Sunday, 26th May, and we all met at the Zoo at 2 p.m. We spent two hours enjoying the lovely gardens and, of course, looking at the various animals and birds. Afterwards, we went to the Headquarters of 71 (Bristol) Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), for tea. The W.R.A.C. members provided a sumptuous meal, in the Dining Hall, and waited on us. We admired the smart uniforms of the present Army, and thought back to our drab ones of 1917, although feeling pretty

sure that we did not look like the illustration shown on one of the walls. Overseas members did not wear the heavy shoes, ribbed khaki stockings and brown collars. Our substitution looked very smart, but we were, no doubt, a constant worry to our Officers. They checked the required nine inches from the ground of our coat-frocks, but we had our ways of overcoming this inspection by borrowing other people's uniforms! Maybe the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. have benefited from the silent rebellion of the earlier Army Corps. The 6th June brought our annual visit to the home of our President, Mrs. R. Bernays, J.P., at Tockington, and this is always a highlight in the calendar of the Branch. The weather was fine and sunny, so we were able to meander round the beautiful gardens and lawns before partaking of the delicious refreshments provided by our kind hostess.

GLASGOW. At the beginning of the year, we had our Burns Supper in the Club. The principal speakers were Mr. John Pollock, "The Immortal Memory", Mr. Angus Shaw, "The Lasses", and Miss Mackenzie, who addressed the Haggis. In February, a party of us went to the King's Theatre and saw the "Fol-de-Rols". There was a Lucky Dip Night in March, followed by another visit to the Theatre. At the beginning of April, we had a talk on Southern Rhodesia by Miss M. M. Thomson. This was very interesting and, despite the weather, made us all think of summer. Our A.G.M. was held in the Club on 9th May. The new President is Miss M. D. Swanson, and the Vice-Chairman is Mrs. T. B. Calderwood. The Secretary is still Miss Butters, and the Treasurer is Mrs. R. Armstrong. Also in May we had a visit from our friends in Ayr. We had a meal in the Club, and went to the "Five Past Eight Show", starring Max Bygraves. On 1st June, a party of us went to Blantyre to see the Livingstone Memorial. It was a glorious day, and the countryside was looking marvellous. These functions were enjoyed by all the members who attended them.

HARTLEPOOLS. We had rather a chapter of events during the last few months. Our President, Miss M. Sive-wright, had a spell in hospital after a heart attack. We have missed her very much from our meetings and wish her a speedy recovery. We offer her our sincere sympathy on the passing of her sister. We also extend sympathy to other members of the Branch who have suffered the loss of loved ones during the past few months, Miss McCarthy on losing her mother; Mrs. Shipley and Mrs. Jewell on the passing away of their fathers. The Annual Party was held in March, and a good time was had by all who attended. We congratulate our Chairman, Miss V. M. McRobert, T.D., on moving into her new home and hope she will be very happy. The delightful news of the safe arrival of a baby boy to Mrs. Mary Russell was welcomed by all her fellow members. We do hope that Mrs. Sawkill's husband will now enjoy better health after his ulcer operation.

LIVERPOOL. The attendance at our January meeting was very poor, due to the severe weather, and it was not

possible to carry out the programme arranged. We had our A.G.M. in February and members were pleased to note that the Branch had been quite active, in spite of the comparatively small attendance at meetings. This year the Secretary was able to attend the Branch Secretaries' Meeting and the A.G.M. in London, and was able to report back to the Branch Committee on the interesting discussions which had taken place. In March we had a Dutch Auction and Easter Bonnet Parade. Unfortunately, there were not so many entries for the Bonnet Parade as last year, but the winning entry was a most imaginative creation. Once again, at Easter, we gave chocolate eggs to a small local children's home. During the last two years, the Merseyside Council of Ex-Service and Regimental Associations, on which the Liverpool Branch is represented, has been trying to arouse more interest amongst the various ex-Service Associations in Liverpool. We have recently held two social functions which have been quite successful and it is hoped to go on to more ambitious events. In April, the Branch had a most successful Social and Buffet Supper, and at our May meeting we had a Beetle Drive. Our last meeting of the summer was in June, and we look forward to seeing members again in September.

LONDON. We continue to have very enjoyable meetings. In April, we had a successful Bring-and-Buy and a very interesting evening of colour slides; the first part given by Miss Martin, who showed us views of her travels in Nigeria. This was followed by Major and Mrs. Mayhew with slides of their holiday in Yugoslavia. In May, several members enjoyed a visit to the Tommy Steele show "Half a Sixpence". In June, we were entertained for the second time this year by the Acton Male Voice Choir; as always, their programme was delightful.

NORFOLK. Will members please note that there will be no monthly meetings in Norwich after the one on 2nd October, until further notice. The Hon. Secretary feels it is now time to give up, as someone younger is needed to carry on the Branch, which was started in 1927. Will someone please volunteer? Meetings in September and October will be as usual.

SALISBURY. We are happy to report that our numbers are gradually increasing. Four new members joined this year, including Mrs. Hine-Haycock, the first Commonwealth member of the Association, who is now living locally, and Colonel E. W. Gibson, former D.D.W.R.A.C., Southern Command. Our usual meetings have been held each month, under the able Chairmanship of Captain Hazel Matthews, and our annual Christmas Dinner at the County Hotel established an all-time record in the number of members and friends attending—a record which we hope to beat next Christmas. Thirty-five members and friends attended the Southern Area Reunion at Bristol during May and enjoyed a thoroughly good time in beautiful surroundings at the Zoo, with weather to match. Our warmest thanks go to Lieut. Vine-Stevens and members of the 71 (Bristol) Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), who acted as hostesses and

provided an excellent tea, working extremely hard to cope with so many thirsty guests. We are indeed grateful to them. Our only regret was that we did not have the hoped-for pleasure of meeting some of the Bristol Branch members who served with some of us in Southern Command during the war, but we hope this will be remedied at some future Reunion.

SHEFFIELD. We were fortunate in having sunny weather for the boat trip at the beginning of May. Picnic meals were taken, and 40 members and friends went on board at Doncaster. It was an interesting trip through locks, swing bridges and along a viaduct to reach Goole, where we found our coach waiting to bring us back to Sheffield. Our Chairman, Mrs. H. Tennant, invited us to her home for the last meeting of the summer season. We were entertained with films of her recent American visit. It was a thoroughly enjoyable visit and we were sorry the evening had to end.

WIMBLEDON. We opened the New Year on 11th January with our Annual Party, but it was such a cold night that only 13 diehards faced the elements and turned up. It was disappointing, as we had expected quite a few guests. Nevertheless, in spite of the small number, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. On 22nd March, we held our Annual Bring-and-Buy Sale, which was an even bigger success this year than usual and over £6 was made to swell the funds. In April, we had the old favourite, a Beetle Drive, which is always popular and a good excuse for making a noise. We were very much looking forward to our May meeting, as Miss Harrison had kindly volunteered to give a talk on Siam, illustrated by film. Unfortunately, soon after the start, the film broke down, but Miss Harrison entertained us with a most interesting talk, and she has most kindly promised to show us the film at a later date. We finished up in June with another hilarious Beetle Game and have now closed down for the holidays and will resume in September. During the last six months we have had very good attendances, but would be pleased to see even more of our members at our monthly meetings—so please come along to the Community Centre, Wimbledon, on the third Friday of each month (excluding July and August) at 8 p.m., the next meeting being 20th September, 1963.

WOLVERHAMPTON. We are quite a small Branch, but the majority of the members attend the monthly meetings regularly, and we are always sure of at least ten being there unless the weather is very bad. During the summer we visited the home of one of our members who is not able to be with us very often, and last Christmas, one of the other members arranged a party for us at her home. We also had a Dinner in December at a local hotel, but, owing to a thick fog, only eight were able to get there. We rarely make special arrangements for our monthly meetings, as the girls say it does not give them time to enjoy their cup of tea and have a good natter to each other and, as we have such a good attendance, I do not think it is worth while trying to alter things. We

have a raffle each month to cover the hire of the room, and our idea is for everyone to take a small item, often only a bar of chocolate or tablet of soap, but in this way we are all sure of returning home with something, and we have great fun deciding what we are going to have, if our number is drawn before someone else has chosen what we want. One of the girls has just started to compile a Branch Scrap Book, and at present is worrying us for photographs taken during our life in the Service, and details of where we were stationed, etc. Four of us are members of the A.T.S. Dinner Club and enjoy the dinners very much. Last May we went to the Western Area Reunion in Chester. I am pleased to report that during the past year we have had two new members, although we cannot take any credit for obtaining them. One wrote to H.Q., asking to be put in touch with us, as she found it too difficult to continue travelling to Birmingham, and the other was a Life Member transferred from Liverpool. However, we are very pleased to have them on our strength.

News of Old Comrades

Miss E. M. Winter writes: How interesting, to an old Rouenite, to see familiar names in the May number. Such names as **Bell** and **Moncton** brought back many memories of the old Cauchoise Billet during 1917-1919. They, and a few others, belonged to the New Zealand Section there, and it is refreshing to hear news of them. They will probably remember other inmates of Cauchoise, with whom some of us are in touch in England. **E. M. Brown**, whose health unfortunately precludes her from outside activities, is still interested and hears from **Johnson (Mrs. Crossley)** who is now a matron with a grown-up family. **D. Hoad**, who lives near Torquay, was in London for the Grand Reunion last March, joined us at the Chelsea Church Service on the Sunday, and lunched with us at the Servicewomen's Club afterwards. A very happy quartette sat down together, **N. Barker (Mrs. Baggett)**, **D. Hoad**, **H. Gibbs (Mrs. Stone)** and the writer. It was years since we had seen **D. Hoad**, and we spent a very enjoyable afternoon chatting over old times and friends. We all wish to be kindly remembered to **Mrs. Dennison Bell** and **Mrs. Randall Playford** in New Zealand.

Review

Homes in Britain by AUDREY BARFOOT.

Mrs. Shapland-Dobbs, better known to us all as Audrey Barfoot, has recently published a book, *Homes in Britain*, that will fascinate anyone who is interested in the historical aspects of architecture and how our ancestors lived.

The book deals with the homes of ordinary people and covers the period from the cave dwellings of the early stone age, to the back-to-back houses and ornately furnished rooms of the Victorian era.

Every page is illustrated with attractive line drawings, many depict houses that can still be seen in various parts of the country. The sections on interior decorations, furniture and domestic utensils are admirable and cannot fail to appeal to the home-making instincts of our readers. With something to interest everybody, this book can be widely recommended.

Homes in Britain by Audrey Barfoot, is published by Batsford, at 12s. 6d.

Christmas Shopping List

W.R.A.C. Car Badges 33s. 0d.

W.R.A.C. Diaries:

Leather wallet complete with
diary and pencil 20s. 6d.

Leather-bound, with pencil 7s. 6d.

Plexide, without pencil 5s. 4d.

Diary refill for wallet 3s. 10d.

Corps Print of W.R.A.C. Recruiter 6s. 0d.

"Service with the Army", by Dame

Helen Gwynne-Vaughan..... 3s. 6d.

All prices include postage at U.K. rates. Please send cash with order. Write today to: The W.R.A.C. Association, Block "E", Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3.

LONDON BRANCH DINNER

THE London Branch will be holding their Annual Dinner at the Ardington Rooms, Arding and Hobbs, Clapham Junction, S.W., on Saturday, 21st September, 1963, at about 7 p.m.

Dinner tickets are available from the Secretary, Miss M. G. Cridland, 52 Thornton Road, Carshalton, Surrey, at the price of £1 for members of London Branch, and £1 2s. 6d., for any other members of the Association wishing to attend. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

ATS Anniversary Service

A NON-DENOMINATIONAL Drum Head Service will be held at 11 o'clock on Sunday, 20th October, 1963, in the Drill Hall of 80 (Chelsea) Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Duke of York's Headquarters (by kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel E. A. Baker, r.d., W.R.A.C. (T.A.)) to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the A.T.S. Music will be provided by the W.R.A.C. Staff Band.

Although this Service is primarily intended for ex-A.T.S., all members of the Association, with their families and friends, are welcome to attend.

Tickets may be obtained from the General Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Block "E", Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3, after 1st September, 1963. Stamped addressed envelopes with applications, please.

"London Gazette"

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Colonel: Lieut.-Colonel J. E. Henderson.
Major: Captain I. Anderson, B.Sc.
Captain: Lieuts. R. A. Carpenter; E. R. H. Baker.
Lieutenant: 2/Lieuts. J. A. Cowden, S. P. Greenslade; J. M. Cobbett;
V. R. Armstead-Fairweather; J. M. Adams.
Lieutenant (O.M.): G. Bayliss, M.B.E.
2/Lieutenant: J. A. Cowden, B.A. (University candidate from T.A.);
M. E. Howes; J. H. P. Murphy; V. J. Hunt; K. R. Collins; M. Y.
Charlwood; R. M. Denver; J. E. Blakeley; C. C. Parr; P. M.
Macleod; P. B. Fereday.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Captain: Lieuts. H. M. Hopkin; J. Nixon.
Lieutenant: 2/Lieut. J. V. Pearce.
2/Lieutenant (On Probation): M. A. Moore, B.A., is confirmed in her
appointment.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Colonel E. W. Gibson, M.B.E.; Major B. Paget-Clarke, M.B.E.; Major
A. M. McIlwraith; Major D. M. Holmes; Major D. Stroud (and is
granted hon. rank of Lieut.-Colonel); Captain S. M. MacLaughlin;
Captain J. E. Walker; Lieutenant V. Fletcher.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

M.B.E.: W.O.II H. L. Brooks; W.O.II F. M. Hunt; Major B. Paget
Clarke.
B.E.M.: W.O.II (Acting) L. Hodgson.

Personal Column

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress, shirts, collars and ties.
Height 5 ft. 9½ in., bust 36 in., hips 38 in., waist 26 in.
Excellent condition. £12 o.n.o. Beret and badge, seldom
worn, 30s. Khaki greatcoat, £4.—Box No. 13/63.

For Sale. Green greatcoat, £7; khaki greatcoat, £3; to
fit height 5 ft. 7 in., bust 38 in., hips 40 in. No. 1 Dress,
£8, bust 40 in., waist 30 in., hips 42 in. Green shirt, 10s.;
green sling bag, 10s.; green cap (unworn) with braid
and badge, £3 10s. Apply to—Major M. B. Walmsley,
4 Spring Street, Leyland, Lancs.

For Sale. Hand-woven bathroom/nursery rugs,
approximately 22 in. x 36 in. 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. Officer's No. 1 Dress, height 5 ft. 8 in.,
hips 40-42 in.—Box No. 10/63.

Wanted. Officer's green greatcoat (scarlet lined).
Height 5 ft. 3½ in., bust 38 in., waist 30 in., hips 40 in.,
in good condition.—Box No. 11/63.

Wanted. No. 1 Dress jacket and skirt, fit height 5 ft. 8 in.,
hips 40-42 in.; two khaki bush shirts, 36 in. bust; also
two with 38-40 in. bust; and green collars, size 13½ in.
Write, with details of price and condition.—Box No.
12/63.

Vacancies occur for women aged 17 to 40 years as
teleprinter, cipher and signen operators, drivers, clerks
and cooks with 44 (H.C.) Signal Regiment (Cinque
Ports), T.A. Centres are at Bromley, Canterbury,
Coulson, Chatham, Dover, Margate, Maidstone,

Shorncliffe, Tunbridge Wells, Brighton, Bognor
Regis, Eastbourne and Worthing. Previous Service
experience is useful but not essential as training is given.
For further particulars, including pay and allowances,
write to—Lieut.-Colonel M. H. Seys-Phillips, T.D., R.
Signals, 44 (H.C.) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports) T.A.,
Yeomanry House, Boxley Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Recruiting Officers (Women's Services). Vacancies
occur from time to time in the above appointments.
Retired and other ex-officers, W.R.A.C. and A.T.S., are
eligible. Full details can be obtained from—The War
Office (M.P.6), Lansdowne House, London, W.1.

W.V.S. Services Welfare need women with a liking and
understanding of people for work in Unit clubrooms
overseas. Age 25-45, or, in special cases, a little older.
First tour 18 months, Germany. Interesting, worthwhile
work. Apply—S.W.O., W.V.S., 41 Tothill Street,
London, S.W.1.

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 accom-
modation 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.
Tel.: Edinburgh CAL 4952.

CORRECTIONS

Annual General Meeting

An apology for absence was received from Miss E.
Butters, Secretary, Glasgow Branch.

The date of the A.T.S. 25th Anniversary Service
should have read 20th October, 1963, and *not* 27th
October.

Branch Directory—Amendments

Aldershot: Miss K. N. Edwards, M.B.E., T.D., J.P., 16
Stovolds Way, Aldershot, Hants.

We apologies to Miss Edwards for having given her
old address in the May LIONESS.

Aden: W.O.II J. Gallagher, 28 Independent Company,
W.R.A.C., H.Q. M.E.C., B.F.P.O. 69.

12th Battalion: W.O.I M. W. Coombes, Kingston Gate
Camp, Richmond Park, Kingston-on-Thames,
Surrey.

Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.: W.O.I (R.S.M.)
M. J. Evans, Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield, Surrey.

Branch Meetings

Reference to Liverpool Branch meetings is incorrect
and should be deleted.

Belfast Branch. Branch meetings are held on the first
Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m., in Victoria Barracks,
Belfast, and not as stated in the May issue of THE
LIONESS.

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