

THE LIONESS

VOL XXXVI

NOVEMBER 1963

No. 4



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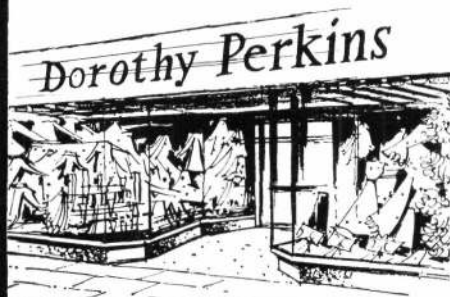
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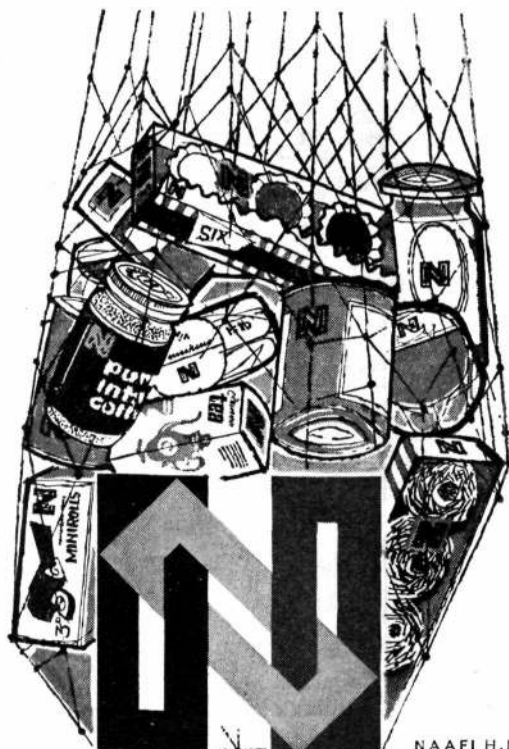
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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, inspecting the Isle of Man Indep. Platoon, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).
[Photo by: "The Daily Times," Isle of Man]



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXVI

November, 1963

No. 4

Special Message From Our President H.R.H. The Princess Royal

This twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the A.T.S. may have less meaning for those of you who have only a vague remembrance of the last war, and who perhaps regard the first World War as ancient history, but we who served during those anxious days take pride and joy in the fact that the Corps goes on from strength to strength and that it carries with it the traditions and devotion to duty, that were created by Q.M.A.A.C. and handed down to the A.T.S., whose proved value led to the formation of the W.R.A.C.

May the coming years strengthen the bonds between us and bring peace and prosperity to us all.

MARY

Message From Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan

Looking back a quarter of a century, I recall the many difficulties of the early A.T.S. and the courage with which they were overcome. Soon the A.T.S. had proved its worth, it became part of H.M. Forces, its strength rose to a quarter of a million, its members were entrusted with combatant duties.

We learnt much during our service: discipline, comradeship, courage, forbearance, to laugh when we were hurt and carry on. These qualities are needed in civil life, because of them you can the better bring up children, you can be of value as committee members, you can give help to those in difficulty. You gave your best in war; you have a much needed best to give in peace.

My affectionate respect to the early members, my proud good wishes to them and to their successors.

H. C. I. GWYNNE-VAUGHAN

The Judgement Of Our Allies

AMONG old Service papers, I have lately found "A Short Guide to Great Britain," issued by the War Department, Washington, U.S.A., for the benefit of American troops proceeding to this country on active service. I read that our people are "plenty tough," that our beer is "warm," that we are "reserved but friendly," and then I came across this statement:

"BRITISH WOMEN AT WAR. A British woman officer or non-commissioned officer can—and often does—give orders to a man private. The men obey smartly and know it is no shame. For British women have proven themselves in this war. They have stuck to their posts near burning ammunition dumps, delivered messages afoot after their motor-cycles have been blasted from under them. They have pulled aviators from burning planes. They have died at the gun posts and as they fell,

another girl has stepped directly into the position and 'carried on.' There is not a *single record* in this war of any British woman in uniformed service quitting her post or failing in her duty under fire.

"Now you understand why British soldiers respect the women in uniform. They have won the right to the utmost respect. When you see a girl in khaki or Air Force blue with a bit of ribbon on her tunic—remember she didn't get it for knitting more socks than anyone else in Ipswich."

The American outlook about women may differ a little from ours, but this is good reading for the Silver Jubilee of the Auxiliary Territorial Service. May I congratulate every old "A.T." and send her my proud good wishes.

H. C. I. GWYNNE-VAUGHAN

Editorial

"OUR will and pleasure is that there shall be formed an organisation to be designated the Auxiliary Territorial Service." These words from the Royal Warrant published in September 1938, heralded the official beginning of the A.T.S., in whose honour this "khaki issue" is being published. We had hoped for more contributions, but are happy to include, by special request, extracts from the Tribute paid to the A.T.S. at the Grand Reunion last March.

Looking back over 25 years, we are forced to wonder "Where are the A.T.S.?" Certainly comparatively few of them are members of the Association, the remaining quarter of a million, or so, seem to be past masters of the old soldier's art of gently fading away. Between seven and eight hundred of them do, however, apply for help from the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund each year, but subscriptions from ex-members have dwindled sadly.

The serving Corps support their own Benevolent Fund very generously, and their donations more than cover all the grants made to the W.R.A.C., and would leave a comfortable margin for investment were it not needed to help to bridge the A.T.S. gap. The burden on a small regular corps is a heavy one and they cannot be expected to carry it alone. The combined income of the two Funds must be doubled if we are going to be able to continue to help the many deserving cases that come up for consideration by the Joint Grants Committee each week.

We appeal to every ex-service member of the Association to commemorate this 25th Anniversary of the formation of the A.T.S. by sending a donation. Dinners, Reunions and reminiscences are not enough to maintain the spirit of service and comradeship that our Association stands for; practical help to those who gave of their best during the dark days of war, and who are now suffering from illness, or other misfortune, is also needed. The A.T.S. never failed to meet any call that was made upon them, and they would not fail now if they were aware of the need and we knew how to get in touch with them. We ask every reader to find an ex-A.T.S., who is not a member of the Association, and pass this appeal on to her and to remember Sir Winston Churchill's well-known maxim "For action this day."

The photograph of W.R.A.C. grooms with their charges, published as a frontispiece in the May LIONESS, caused considerable interest, and we propose to include a series of illustrations, showing the present-day Corps at work, in future editions. This month's picture, of a technical storewoman operating a fork-lift truck at Donnington, will bring back war-time memories to many of our readers who served in Ordnance Depots up and down the country.

The Editor sends her best wishes for Christmas and the coming year to all her readers, with a special greeting to the A.T.S., with whom she had the honour to serve from 1938 to 1949.

A Tribute

"AS WOMAN WAS CREATED TO BE A HELPER TO MAN, SO WOMEN ARE GREAT HELPERS IN ARMIES." (Sir James Turner.)

WE in the Regular Army are often apt to think of ourselves as pioneers, but women have served for hundreds of years and, before we had a standing army at all, wives of soldiers accompanied their husbands and did many domestic tasks for their Regiments, until less than a hundred years ago. The devotion of regimental women was shown again and again. To tell you one story:

The wife of Surgeon Maguire of the 4th Foot embarked at Halifax with the padre of the Regiment to return to England in 1797. The ship, H.M.S. *The Three Sisters*, was small and no match for the French privateer *La Vengeance*, which gave chase to her during the voyage. Eventually, she had to capitulate, but Mrs. Maguire saved the Regiment's Colours from capture by wrapping them round her flat irons and dropping them into the sea.

The Crimean War saw the beginnings of organised work with the Army, but it was not until the war of 1914-18 that women were employed in the Army on duties other than nursing. Among the first, and the earliest to serve overseas, were the First-Aid Nursing Yeomanry, who were a body of horsewomen who undertook to ride to the battlefield and carry the wounded back to medical help. They eventually found their original role unsuitable for modern warfare and transferred their duties to driving ambulances for the Allies.

As the manpower situation became acute, in 1916, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was formed.

In 1917 — They went to France.

In 1918 — Her Majesty, Queen Mary, became Commandant-in-Chief and the Corps became Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps.

One of the many members of that gallant Corps is Mrs. Giles of the London Branch. She served in Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps from 1918 to 1919 and was a clerk in the Company Office with the East Surrey Regiment, stationed at Dover.

Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps was disbanded in 1919, but many of them were to be seen again in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, under the directorship of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan.

On 27th September, 1938, the Emergency Service received official recognition from the Army Council. . . . It was the beginning of the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

This brief outline is a background to a very special tribute to the A.T.S., who, this year, celebrate the 25th Anniversary of their formation.

During that year before the Second World War, volunteers were hard at work, training to take up their part in a national emergency should it arise, and in August, 1939, they were called to action stations. At the beginning of the war, there were only five types of job open to them—cooks, orderlies, clerks, storewomen or

drivers—but by 1946 there were to be over a 100—including many highly skilled trades. Women poured in from every walk of life—housewives, many with husbands in the Forces, shop assistants, secretaries, mannequins, beauty specialists and university women.

In 1941, the members of the A.T.S. were given equal military status with men, in 1942 came conscription, and at their peak in 1943, the strength rose to 215,000 women, which number included more than 6,000 officers. It was not only in the United Kingdom that this Service played its part—in the early spring of 1940, the A.T.S. were in France and later in the Middle East. In 1941 they were in North Africa and the U.S.A. In 1942 in East Africa. In 1943 the Caribbean. In 1944 in North Africa, Italy, Norway, India and the Far East. They served with many types of Arms and Services and many will remember their operational role with Anti-Aircraft Command.

The A.T.S. were greatly honoured by the Royal Family during their service. Soon after the outbreak of war, Her Majesty, The Queen Mother, as Queen, honoured them by accepting the office of Commandant-in-Chief, and Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, already a Controller in the early days, became Controller Commandant. Later, as we all know, our gracious Queen, then Her Royal Highness, The Princess Elizabeth, trained as a driver and was granted an honorary commission.

There are many stories of A.T.S. gallantry recorded in the history of their Service and in paying tribute to them all, let us think of:

Pte., Acting Lance Corporal, Collard, who was awarded the British Empire Medal for her courageous behaviour in danger.

Lance-Corporal Joan Myall, Privates Eva James, Joyce Middleton, Jackie Birrell, who helped in the rescue work when a Wellington bomber crashed near their depot.

And so on through all these days to D-Day, when it was the A.T.S. Signal Operators who gave the world the news that D-Day had arrived. A.T.S. convoy drivers who prepared the vehicles and waterproofed them for shipment to Normandy, A.T.S. Storewomen at Central Ordnance Depots all over the country who speeded the despatch of every sort of equipment to the invasion army, and A.T.S. who prepared beach landing packs, guns and equipment.

A speech of tribute made by the Right Honourable J. J. Lawson, in which he said:

"I hope the Auxiliary Territorial Service will remain in one form or another and I know that if they do, they will continue to render the same outstanding service to the country as they have in the past."

And many did stay on until the foreshadowed permanent corps was formed in 1949.

The story of the W.R.A.C. has yet to be told, but when it is, may we pray that it will be said whereas the A.T.S. contributed to victory, the W.R.A.C. helped to maintain peace.



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READERS REMEMBER



Company Commander Thompson and members of 5th Middlesex Company, A.T.S., on parade at Pound Lane Drill Hall, Willesden, in 1938.



Pre-war camp in Northern Ireland.
Lady Craigavon presenting an obstacle race prize to
Pte. Dunn of 41st (County Armagh) Company, A.T.S.



QM Staff, West Yorkshire Regiment, 1939.
Included in the above are May Shortle, later S/Sgt. and
now Secretary, York Branch, Joan Leslie, now Major,
W.R.A.C., and Margaret Dwyer, later Sgt.

September 1938

Mrs. A. J. Stevenson

METEOROLOGISTS tell us that in September we can expect ten days or a fortnight of Indian Summer in seven years out of ten, and in this September of 1963 my mind goes back to the wonderful weather of 1938 which prolonged Summer into October. Uniform was not available immediately, and in the early days of October one went to Territorial Drill Halls to cope with the recruiting rush in summer clothes, wearing, of course, the blue armband which was the only uniform available. Inevitably, as a reaction to the desperate international news, the newly formed service was a butt for good-humoured jokes. Many men thought that the word "Women" should have been included in the name of the A.T.S., and one was frequently asked the rhetorical question, "Can a mother be a W.A.T.?"

Looking back from the present, when women hold the same ranks as men, it seems, as indeed it is, an age since the early volunteers were promoted through the ranks of Assistant Section Leader (later to be changed to Sub-Leader), Section Leader and Senior Leader. Officers started off as Company Assistants—how many Coy. Asses of twenty-five years ago are now formidable matrons?—and thence to Deputy Company Commander, Company Commander, Senior Commandant and Chief Commandant. The rank of Dep. Coy. Cdr. soon became Junior Commander, but it was not until well on in the war that the two junior officer ranks became Subalterns, and Company Commanders became Junior Commanders. At about the same time, Other Ranks were given the same titles as their male counterparts, but women officers had to wait till after the war to get the same titles as men.

In the early days one proceeded very warily, but one heard of nothing but kindness from the Territorial Units whose Drill Halls we shared. It seemed that no trouble was too much to help the beginners through their initial difficulties. I have vivid memories of a Major Quartermaster who spent hours explaining how to keep account of issues and receipts of uniform in a ledger, and he always summed up his instructions as "Clear as mud, isn't it?"

In those far off days, A.T.S. Companies adopted the traditions of the T.A. units to which they were attached. This was most apparent in the Drill in which the male P.S.I.s instructed us. A.T.S. Companies attached to the London Scottish took the slower pace of a kilted regiment, those attached to Rifle Regiments marched a Rifleman's pace, and adopted their words of command. One even heard of A.T.S. Companies attached to Yeomanry Regiments doing dismounted Cavalry Drill. It was not until the following year, when A.T.S. Companies found themselves in camp together, that they began to develop their own traditions, instead of accepting those of the units to which they were affiliated.

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Those who came forward in 1938, to join the newly formed A.T.S., may be justly proud of the Corps which has risen on the foundations they laid. I am reminded of the words of a bride's mother, who had described the precarious health of her daughter as a baby. To the question, "And did she survive?" the reply was, "Yes, and you should see her now!"

The Blue Dress

Patience Thesiger

IN August 1939, we were all staying at Malvern for the theatrical festival. My uncle, Ernest Thesiger, was acting there, and once again Bernard Shaw had written a new play, this year it was Good King Charles' Golden Days. My uncle acted the part of King Charles.

1939 was an extraordinary year. In the autumn of 1938, at the time of the Munich Crisis, we had all been desperately afraid of war and been thankful when Chamberlain came home promising peace. Gradually during 1939, we all began to realise that war was inevitable. Each one of us prepared for a war job. In February, I had joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service, and had been made an officer in charge of a Company of 25 women, who, when war came, would work in an Army Record Office in Exeter.

However, we decided to have a holiday, and so went down to Malvern. There was an entirely different atmosphere—there was no talk of war, but talk of the new plays and whether they would be successful and move on to London. Everyone there joined the Festival Club, where they met both the actors and other important and interesting people. That year, the actors included Irene and Violet Vanbrugh, Yvonne Arnaud and Alistair Sim—and also there was Dame Laura Knight, painting and interested in the theatre.

Each evening, we changed into evening dress, went to the theatre for a new play, and then went to the Club. I had a new blue brocade evening dress, each evening I wondered whether to wear it, and each evening I decided to save it for the Friday night when there was a to be a Gala Dance.

Friday came, 25th August, I got out the blue dress, and hung it carefully up to air, and get rid of any creases. It was lovely weather, so we went out all day, and only got back to the Hotel for tea. As soon as we got in, I was handed a telegram. I opened it and found it was from the War Office, mobilising me for duty. I was to report at once to the Record Office. I rushed upstairs, seized the blue dress, and it and all my clothes were hurriedly hurled into suitcases. Meanwhile, a family discussion was going on, should we all go home or what. Eventually, it was decided that my mother should come with me, and that we should take the car. My father should stay out the week and come home by train. No sooner was this decided than everyone came and said we would have an *awful* journey, if the forces were being mobilised, then the evacuees would be pouring out of London and the

roads would be packed. Unknown people came and said goodbye—I was the first person they knew who had been mobilised.

Eventually, our packing hurriedly done and goodbyes said, my mother and I set off. We were a little nervous about the crowds on the roads, but hoped we might be a little ahead of those coming West from London. We had a perfect journey, no one on the roads at all. No evacuees, no troop movements, nothing, except that we noticed all the traffic lights had been altered and were covered up, except for a small cross on each light.

Late that night we got home, and next day, in khaki, I reported to the Colonel and mobilised my 24 women for duty in the Record Office. Twenty-five eager, patriotic women were not nearly enough, authority came through for more and more women to be enrolled, by 1st September there were 55, and by Christmas about 150.

Malvern and the plays became a pleasant memory, and the unworn blue dress was pushed away, and only came to light again in 1945, when, alas, my figure had increased, and the dress had to be altered to fit. But, hanging in my cupboard today is a black brocade evening skirt, the dyed remains of the blue dress that was going to be worn on 25th August, 1939.

Miss M. Thornhill (Forewoman W.A.A.C., Sgt. A.T.S.)

I JOINED up in 1917 and was sent to Handsworth College, Birmingham, before being drafted to Bulford Camp on Salisbury Plain, where I was attached to the A.S.C., as it was known in those days. I later went to Bristol and did Police work under Mrs. Esslemont. I was in the Unknown Warrior's Procession, of which I was very proud, and was discharged in 1919.

When 1938 came, I was in the Civil Service in London. Suddenly I was off to Chelsea, with a special leave permit from the Civil Service, to join up under Dame Helen, Lady Kathleen Rollo and Mrs. Wagstaff; it was all very thrilling. Later I was posted to the A.T.S. Clerks' School at Strathpeffer, our C.O. being the Hon. Mrs. John Kemp, now Lady Rochdale, whom I still see each year; also Mrs. Villiers Breton, who I had been with in the W.A.A.C. Then, out of the blue, I was sent to Mytchett Camp, in 1942, to attend the first A.T.S. Provost Course. We started with over 40 girls and ended with only 28 on the Passing Out Parade. Believe me, I personally nearly passed out when I found myself on the parade. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, took the salute, along with an American General; it was all so exciting, one hardly dared to breathe. After seven days leave, I was posted to Nottingham as a Corporal, and worked day and night; eventually I went to Catterick as Provost Sgt., very, very strict indeed. The Provost Marshal was Major Yates, and I loved the work. My final posting was to Northampton, under Miss S. McPhee, as I was taken ill there and went to Mill Hill with a nervous breakdown. When I recovered, I was discharged in 1944, and returned to the Civil Service. Unfortunately, I became ill again and had to retire in 1945.

Since then I have been working hard for the British

Legion Poppy Appeal in Southport. Each year I work at the Town Hall for six or eight weeks and, last year, I was given a "Certificate of Appreciation." I also laid the wreath on behalf of the British Legion on Armistice Sunday, quite an honour, as I am the one and only woman in Southport who has been in both World Wars. In 1957 I was presented to Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, when she came to Southport.



Her Majesty Queen Mary with Chief Commander N. Hughes-Reckett and Junior Commander G. Jagger (deceased) at 133 O.C.T.U. (R.A.), Shrivenham.

Where Were You In 1944?

WHEN we heard that the Autumn number of THE LIONESS was to be a "Khaki Issue," we, in the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, looked around to see how many of the staff were ex-A.T.S. A surprising number of us served in the A.T.S. between 1939 and 1949, and we felt that a few details of our service during one of those years, might prove interesting, and perhaps help us to renew our acquaintance with ex-service friends with whom we have lost touch. It occurred to us that 1944 might be a good year on which to base the majority of our reminiscences. In this year the tides of war were beginning to turn in the Allies' favour, the invasion of Europe was mounted and the greatest number of women were serving in the A.T.S.

Colonel Phoebe Lipscomb was then a subaltern, serving in 183 (M) Hvy. A.A. Regt., R.A., although she left U.K. early in 1945 to go to Belgium with the B.L.A. Major Pat Norman was also in A.A. Command as a Junior Commander with 180 (M) H.A.A. Regt., R.A.

The regiment was at that time in Scotland, in the Clyde area, where Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt paid them a visit; it then moved to Aberdeen and later to Plymouth, where the regiment brought down its first German plane. Late in 1944, Major Norman went to No. 3 Bradford Sub-District Group, A.T.S., where she commanded companies in Batley and Halifax. Major Marjorie Jamieson was in H.Q. Western Command as a Staff Captain in early 1944, she then was lucky enough to have three months on the Staff of the B.A.S. Ottawa, Canada, in the summer of that year. She returned from Canada in August 1944, and went to The War Office (A.G. 10) as a Staff Captain. Major Eleanor Bowles was in A.A. Command as a subaltern in 551/157 (M) H.A.A. Regt., R.A., first in Chester and later moving to Rainham and Hadley (Essex). Major Marion Coverdale, who, incidentally, retired in September, 1963, was in 4 A.A. Group, and in September 1944, became an adjutant in 45 A.A. (A.T.S.) Group in Cardiff. (She will probably best be remembered, however, during her service in A.T.S. Records from 1946 to 1948.) Major Alma Crofton, then a subaltern, was in East Kent Group A.T.S. in Tunbridge Wells for the first few months of 1944. She went to C.M.F. (Italy) in the summer of 1944, where she served first in Caserta, and then latterly with Rear H.Q., 8th Army, commanding "T" Platoon, A.T.S., in N. Italy and Austria, where the unit became 607 Coy., A.T.S. Captain (Q.M.) "Andy" Andrews, was in Longmoor, Hants, as a C.S.M. during 1944. She subsequently did various jobs in Belgium, Germany and Holland.

Pte. Winifred Squires enlisted at Plymouth in 1944, and served the remainder of the year in Didcot, Berks., but cannot remember the title of her company! Corporal Mary Bell was a cook in N. Ireland, principally in Belfast, and remembers her O.C., Junior Commander (now Lt.-Col. (Retd.)) Cadden, and her platoon Sgt., Sgt. (now Major) Vennard, very well! Her cooking is still as good as it was! Corporal Vera Andrews was stationed first at Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, and later in Salford, with 13 (M) H.A.A. Regt., R.A.—"next to the cemetery," as she remarks! Pte. Elizabeth Ashcroft enlisted in 1944, and her first unit was 3 A.A. Group (M) Sig. Regt. at Bristol; from there she went to 1 A.A. Group in Knightsbridge. Mrs. Doris Hayler (nee Stowe), ex-Cpl. A.T.S., is now the civilian clerk to the S.E.O. at Hindhead. She was a clerk during her service, as well as a part-time P.T.I. and Drill Instructor. In 1944 she was in A.A. Command, either in H.Q. 50 A.A. Bde. Gp., Digby, or R.H.Q. 43 S/L Regt., R.A., Woodhall Spa, Lincs. She now lives in Petersfield with her husband and son.

R.S.M. Sybil Farmer was in the R. Sigs. Pay Office, Reading, in 1944. Her elder sister "Bee" was serving there too—always at least one rank ahead of her! C.Q.M.S. Muriel Kefford was a batwoman in 303 S/L Bty., R.A., in 1944, next year she went to Belgium with 137 (M) H.A.A. Regt., R.A., and was chosen to go to Potsdam on the Staff of Sir (then Mr.) Winston Churchill. She still remembers coming face to face suddenly with Josef Stalin! W.O.II Gwen Higdon was a driver with 560 (M) H.A.A. Bty., R.A., just outside Southampton.

Her most vivid memories of that year are, naturally, connected with the preparations for D Day, and D Day itself. R.Q.M.S. Pat Gilbey (then Low) was, in the spring of 1944, serving in an M.T. Company in 6 AA Group, in Edinburgh, as a driver/mechanic. She moved south with her unit to Botley, near Southampton, and was much concerned with the preparations for D Day, repairing vehicles assembling for the invasion of Europe at the Wickham workshops. In the early hours of the morning of 6th June, 1944, she drove her employing officer to the top of Portsdown Hill, where they watched the vast glider fleet on its way to France. Early in 1945 she joined 721 Car Coy. in Brussels. Sgt. Betty Evans was a L/Cpl. Cook in Dunstable in 1944, in an Officers' Mess, "behind the Sugar Loaf Hotel." She moved, as a corporal, to 101 Convalescent Depot, Bedford, early in 1945, and took charge of the R.A.M.C. Officers' Mess kitchen. Sgt. "Pixie" Burden, now a Mess Caterer in the Officer

Cadet Mess, served as a corporal for the whole of 1944 in 1/2 Dorset Company, A.T.S. at Bovington Camp. She worked with 18 Command Workshops, firstly learning to operate a Collett lathe in the machine shop, and latterly as a technical storewoman. Her working day started at 0730 hrs. and ended at 1730 hrs., if she was lucky!

Our ranks and titles may have changed since the fateful days of 1944, and in some cases, the colour of our hair, but our enthusiasm and affection for the Auxiliary Territorial Service has not wavered, and we all feel a great sense of pride in having belonged to "Britain's Other Army." We feel doubly proud when we realise that we now have the task of training and administering the young women of a new generation, in the Women's Royal Army Corps, the direct and worthy successor of our old Service.

Ex-A.T.S. Members,
W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.



THE END OF IT ALL. YORK, 1949.

5 Group A.T.S. is redesignated 5 Battalion, W.R.A.C. In the photograph: Colonel J. Cowper, T.D., Major N. K. Cadden, Major R. Stride, Capt. M. Bartholemew and Capt. A. Crofton.

W.R.A.C. OFFICER CADETS

THE Commissioning Ceremony of the thirty-second course of Officers Cadets will take place on Wednesday, 18th December, 1963, at 3.15 p.m. at the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, Huron Camp, Hindhead, Surrey. It will be preceded by a Drumhead Service and a Service of Benediction at 2.30 p.m.

Ex-Service members of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. will be most welcome at this Ceremony, and at tea afterwards. Applications for tickets, together with 2/6d. each for tea, should be sent, by 2nd December, 1963, to: The Adjutant, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

PREMIUM BOND DRAW

A Premium Bond draw has been arranged by the W.R.A.C. Association in aid of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Tickets 6d. each.

First Prize — £50 Premium Bonds
Second Prize — £25 Premium Bonds

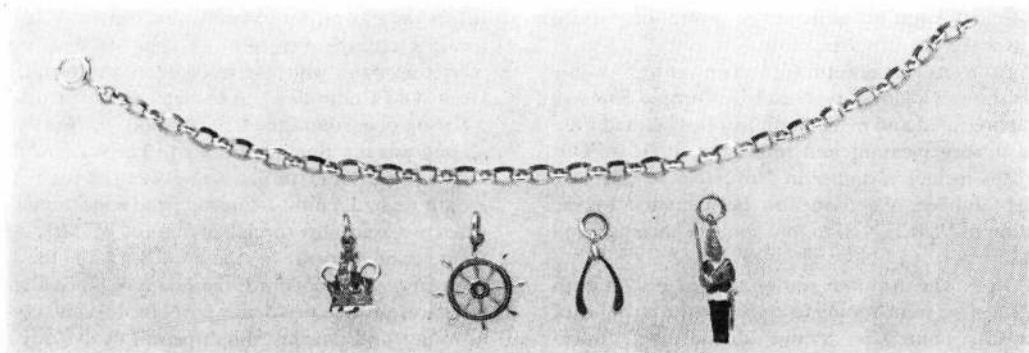
and 25 Consolation Prizes of £1 Premium Bonds.

The Draw will take place at the A.G.M. on Saturday, 14th March, 1964, and all profits will be given to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Winning ticket numbers will be published in the May 1964 issue of *THE LIONESS*.

GARRARD—Crown Jewellers

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The 9ct. gold charm bracelet £6 10s.; Crown charm in 9ct. gold and enamel £2 5s.; ship's wheel charm £2 5s.; wishbone charm £1 12s. 6d.; "Life Guard" trooper with sword in 9ct. gold and enamel £2 5s. All from the collection of Garrard, The Crown Jewellers.

JEWELLERY STEP BY STEP

by

Phyllis Webster



There are few greater pleasures than the possession of a fine piece of jewellery. But for most of us the price at first appears to be a major obstacle. I thought there must be some answer to the problem so I plucked up courage and called into Garrard, The Crown Jewellers, in London's Regent Street.

They were so charming I need not have worried and I put the problem to one of the helpful young men in their showrooms.

"Really expensive jewellery is out of reach for many people," he said, "and most pieces are designed especially for use only for cocktail parties or for formal evening wear. Perhaps the best solution is a piece of jewellery which can be worn on all occasions and costs less than ten pounds. One idea we have found very popular is the charm bracelet which has the advantage that it can be added to from time to time until eventually the owner has a really valuable piece of jewellery. Here, let me show you. This bracelet is valued at £6 10s. and you can choose your own charms from the selection in these trays. Prices start about 32s. 6d."

He put the trays on the counter in front of me and there must have been hundreds of glittering charms to choose from. Eventually I picked out the four you see above. Two I found especially pleasing were the little gold wishbone at £1 12s. 6d. and the Life Guard with his smart red enamelled coat and black boots at £2 5s. With these two and my bracelet I had gone seven and sixpence over my ten pounds budget but I felt that it was a good start to a collection which will give me a great deal of fun to increase over the years.

Branch News

BIRMINGHAM. We continue to have a band of regulars who attend every meeting, but it is gratifying to see that some of our less regular members do occasionally join us when they can. We had a most enjoyable outing in July to the lovely old house, Compton Wynyates, one of the homes of the Marquess of Northampton. After the Battle of Edgehill, it was occupied for a time by Cromwell's men, and has many reminders of the Civil War. Tea was taken at a wayside cafe, where several of us took the opportunity of buying home-made jam. We were favoured with a warm, sunny afternoon, which helped to make our trip even more pleasant.

During our August meeting, the son of one of our members showed a film of his travels in Europe. This was greatly appreciated and made us all feel that we had been enjoying a very pleasant and interesting holiday. Our future plans include a dinner in November to celebrate the A.T.S. Jubilee. We have also been invited by the Association of W.R.E.N.S. to join some of their autumn activities.

BRADFORD. The Autumn session started on 9th September, when we were hoping to celebrate the birthday of our Vice-Chairman, Miss Madge Mitchell, but, unfortunately, she was convalescent, following a recent operation. She had been taken ill soon after our June meeting—our best wishes were sent to her for a speedy recovery. We were pleased to welcome back Mrs. Hemms, who had spent some months with her son and his family in Mombassa, and had then been on to Durban. Her family travelled back home with her, but have now returned. Mrs. Hemms hopes to have a world tour to escape the winter. Our veteran President, Miss Gummersall, was present, although lameness and failing eyesight make it difficult for her to get around. She was always a prolific writer, but now has to write by instinct. Such is the courage of this wonderful person that she is optimistic that she can have an eye operation. Our thoughts went out to Mrs. Edith Lumb in our Silent Tribute on the recent sudden death of her husband. Mrs. Lumb herself has had poor health for some time and has spent three periods in hospital this year. She and her family have our deepest sympathy. Miss Cocksedge and Mrs. Baker have been unable to attend any meetings on account of indisposition and Mrs. Marks has been suffering from a slipped disc—our good wishes for a speedy recovery are sent to them all and we shall be pleased to welcome them back. Mrs. Slack has now returned from New Zealand and we look forward to seeing her soon. She spoke to Miss Suggate when passing through Christchurch and received news of several Connaught Club members. Some of our members attended the Northern Area Reunion at Harrogate, and we shall, as usual, be assisting with Poppy selling and attending Remembrance Day Parades and the Festival of Remembrance.

BRISTOL. We commenced the Autumn session on 5th September, with a Business Meeting and Bring and Buy Sale. For various reasons, no doubt legitimate, the meeting was not well attended.

DUMFRIESSHIRE. First of all, we were proud to know that our Treasurer, a Serving member, W.O.II L. Hodgson, had been awarded the B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours List. All members of the Branch offer her congratulations on a well-merited and hard-earned recognition of her service to the W.R.A.C. Our Branch has only had social meetings this year, owing to the illness of the Secretary and other members, and to the inclement weather of the early months. Her many friends will be glad to know that Lady McFarlane, who has had a long summer of serious operations and illness, is out and about again. The Annual Dinner was held in the Nithsdale on 7th March, and Sgt. B. Mather, the local Recruiting Sergeant, brought along the newest recruiting films, which were of interest to us all, as they keep "Old Comrades" up to date. Our first outing was a Spring one, round the Solway shore to Newabbey, the second was our Summer outing to Peebles on 29th May, and we were lucky to get sunny weather for both. Last month we had a most interesting and educational outing, when we went by special invitation of Mrs. Maxwell Scott (who served in the A.T.S. with the Branch Secretary) to Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott, her ancestor. She personally welcomed us and conducted us round, and time just didn't permit us to study and see all the relics and wonderful collection of this world-renowned great Scottish writer. We left determined to return and spend a longer time in this revered place.

GLASGOW. At the beginning of September, a party of us visited our friends in Ayr, and had a most enjoyable time. Miss C. Kelly, who was our President for the past three years, resigned that office at our Annual General Meeting. Since then, she has been ill, but is now well on the road to recovery. Miss Kelly has been a member of the Glasgow Branch of the Association since its inauguration, and has always a cheery word for all our Members. We would like to point out that our Annual Dinner is to take place on Saturday, 23rd November, in the Grosvenor Restaurant, Gordon Street, Glasgow, and we shall be pleased to welcome any of our friends there. Tickets (price 26/6d.) can be obtained from the Secretary.

HARTLEPOOLS. We have continued our meetings during the summer months. Congratulations go to Miss McCarthy on moving into her new home, we hope she will be very happy and that she will now be a regular attendee at our meetings once more. Sincere good wishes go to our President, Miss Sivewright, on her health improvement—we will be delighted to welcome her back amongst us when she can manage it again. We hope Miss Denham will be happy in her new work—after having worked so many years at Richardson, Westgarths Ltd. With the unemployment at that firm being on the up and up, Miss Denham considered it wise to make a change. Mrs. Russell brought her baby son in to see us before the September meeting. He is a fine wee fellow and we were thrilled with him.

HEADQUARTERS. Our mild west country having been afflicted by the sharpest winter in living memory, it was with a more than usually light heart that your Secretary

left Dorset for Majorca at the end of April. Normandy and Brittany were carpeted with primroses and cowslips: further south came giant pines and asphodel, followed by Spain and beach after sunny Atlantic beach as far as Santillana del Mar and the caves of Altamira. Until one actually sees the prehistoric paintings of deer and bison which decorate these caves, it is really impossible to visualise their beauty and sophistication. The long detour was more than worthwhile. Thence over the steep pass of El Escudo to the high tableland of central Spain through meadows gay with wild acquilegia, hoop petticoat daffodils and, unbelievably, more cowslips. Burgos, Madrid, Valencia, one night at sea and finally Palma, its glowing Cathedral dominating the bay, unchanging from year to year, whatever horrors may be perpetrated in the surrounding city. Time passed all too quickly, but now your Secretary is home again and working away at trifles for our stall at the A.G.M. next March. She hopes that other H.Q. members are doing the same. Contributions may now be sent to her at 2 Myrtle Cottage, Netherbury, Bridport.

IPSWICH. To mark the 25th Anniversary of the formation of A.T.S., we were invited by Lady Blanche Cobbold to her home, Glenham Hale, on 22nd June. In our party were several members of the original Suffolk Coy., who had served under Lady Blanche. Our visit was a great success. The weather was kind, allowing us to wander through the beautiful gardens and to pause and exchange reminiscences of our various Service experiences. Lady Blanche accompanied us throughout the afternoon and later entertained us to tea. Certainly it was difficult to believe that we could bridge 25 years so happily.

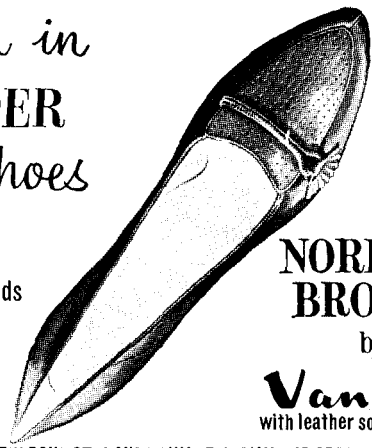
LONDON. London Branch held their Annual Dinner on 21st September at Arding & Hobbs, and in spite of depleted numbers (35 including our Guest) a most enjoyable evening was had by all. Our Guest, Mrs. Hurst, however, instead of giving us a speech, invited questions relating to her secretarial business, of which she has agencies in five countries, including our own. She was kept busy for almost an hour, and her answers to the questions put forward were very enlightening and enjoyable, also her little stories. Miss Martin then proposed a vote of thanks, with the regret that she is no longer young enough to belong to Mrs Hurst's organization, a regret shared by the rest of us "Oldies." Col. Millington also said a few words and told a couple of amusing and instructive true stories. We were all sorry our Miss Druitt was unable to be with us owing to a previous engagement, but she had, with her usual wit, written a note, which our President, Mrs. Lumsden,

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read to us before Dinner. Our thanks are also due to our Secretary, Miss Cridland, for her good work in arranging everything for us. The beautiful carnations, which decorated the tables, were sent to Mrs. Eaton, whom we were sorry not to have with us owing to illness.

NORFOLK. The Branch will have held its last meeting of the year, 2nd October, before this LIONESS is issued—when it meets again is problematical. The Hon. Secretary is willing to send members' subscriptions to London until a new Hon. Secretary is appointed, but a volunteer is not at present forthcoming. It would be a pity for the Branch to become defunct after 36 years, but it needs a younger Secretary. However, members will always be welcome at Sheringham. The Hon. Secretary has tickets for the W.R.A.C. Fund Raffle, 6d. each, 5 in a book 2/6d. Would members please apply for them. There is no news of either Miss Molly Howes or Mrs. Liley, both of whom were due in England this summer.

PRESTON. We resume our meetings on 24th September, after our summer break, and hope that every member has had a good holiday and feels ready to face the winter. The Branch has had a bad year for attendance. Five of our members have had sickness at home, both parents and husbands. Two have suffered bereavements. We trust we shall have the pleasure of our meetings up to full strength with happiness and good health restored to the sick. We are holding our Annual Dinner at the Masonic Hall on 7th November, in conjunction with the Council of Ex-Service men's and Women's Associations 25th Anniversary. Lord and Lady Lonsdale are the Guests of Honour and the town dignitaries also are invited. Members of our Branch sell poppies for the Haig Fund at the Dinner. Over £17 was collected last year and we hope to increase this amount.

SOUTHAMPTON. Due to the very bad weather in the early part of this year, our first meeting was in March,

when the Welfare Officer for Southampton came along to talk to us on the welfare work done in the town. We were quite a large gathering and we all found his talk most interesting and enlightening. We held our Annual Dinner in April, which was a very happy evening. Unfortunately, due to illness, Mrs. Pepper was unable to be with us and we all missed her presence, but we are pleased to say that by now her health is greatly improved. In May, a party of us went by coach to the Southern Area Reunion at Bristol, and in such glorious weather the visit to the Zoo and the excellent tea were thoroughly enjoyed by all. In June, Mrs. Thackeray kindly invited us to spend an evening at her delightful home in the country near Winchester. It was a lovely summer evening when we all set forth, and with tasty refreshments and plenty of chatter, we were all very sorry that the evening had to end. We had no meetings during July and August, but met in September at our usual winter quarters for a general natter over holidays.

YORK. We have had a pleasant and profitable time this last few months, due of course to the two previous Secretaries, Mrs. A. Green and Mrs. J. Cockram, who planned the outings and meetings. A Tupper Party was held in April at Old Nunthorpe House. In May we held a Whist Drive at Strensall, some hard work was put in by the Committee, but it was worth it. The Northern Area Representative for Guide Dogs for the Blind visited us in June and gave an interesting talk on their work, the evening was rounded off with an invitation to the Sgts.' Mess by courtesy of R.S.M. Schofield and Sgt. Harrison. No meetings were held in July and August owing to holidays and Annual Camp. In September, we were invited to a party at the home of Mrs. Leach, who lives at Clifford, near Boston Spa; we wish to thank her for a lovely evening. A small party went to Harrogate Northern Area Reunion. Miss Lowley, one of our stalwart members, has left York, owing to ill-health of her sisters with whom she lives, and has gone to live in Northumberland. We wish them all better health and happy retirement.

Association Notes

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, 14th March, 1964, at 3 p.m. In order that resolutions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting may be printed, they should reach the General Secretary by 30th December, 1963.

The Secretaries' Meeting will be at 11.30 a.m. in the Canteen of 80 (Chelsea) Coy., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Block 'E'. Members of Council look forward to meeting all secretaries who are able to attend, at lunch, at 1 p.m., as their guests.

There will be a small Sale of Work after the Annual General Meeting. Tea will be provided at 2/6 per head.

The Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion will be on Friday, 13th March, 1964, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets, 4/6 each,

may be obtained, after 1st January, 1964, from the General Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Block 'E', Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3. Stamped, addressed envelope, please.

Unit News

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

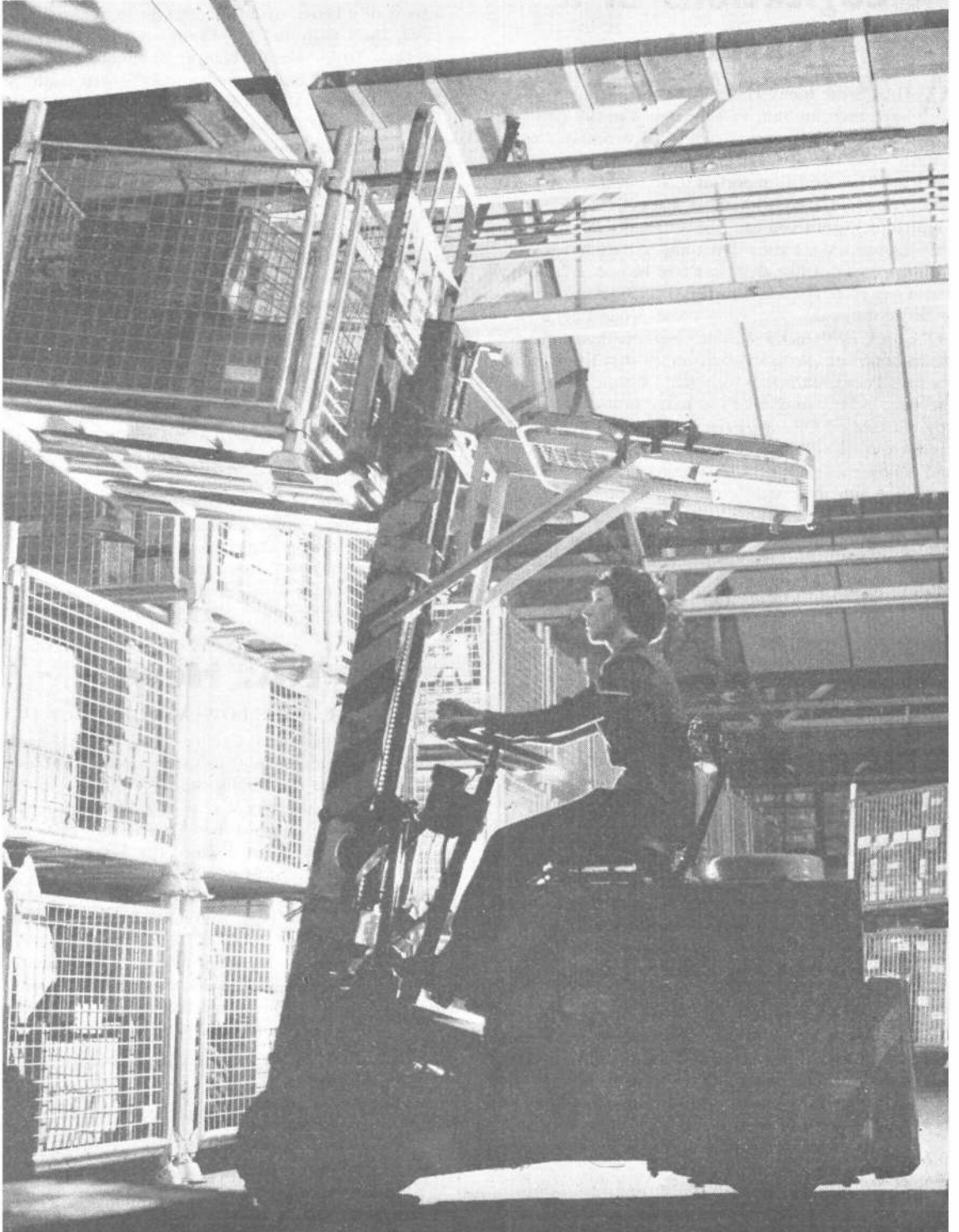
EVENTS in recent months have included a visit to the unit by D.W.R.A.C. and a month later by D.S.T. One of the highlights of our Director's visit was a tea party with all the Corporals and Lance-Corporals, and when General Potter came, he was interested to see our latest amenity, a hairdressing salon opened by Bernards of Mayfair, in our Duty Block.

A team of permanent staff took part in the Ten Tors walk of 35 miles, visiting check-points on ten of the moorland hills. As, despite one member with a sprained ankle and one with a touch of sunstroke, the whole team completed the route, they each received a medal plus a team certificate.

We have been pleased to welcome visits from parties of four recruiters from various commands recently to see the training and accommodation and discuss the type and progress of recruits. Their overnight stay is usually an excuse for a party in the Sgts.' Mess and their presence gives us an opportunity to grind all our favourite axes about the type of recruits we should like.

Our share in joint R.A.S.C./W.R.A.C. activities has included providing a Company of W.R.A.C. for the Corps Week Church Parade in Aldershot (even though 6 Training Battalion R.A.S.C. were not on parade) and providing W.R.A.C. to help meet and look after the parents who came to the Speech Day at Junior Leaders Battalion, R.A.S.C., at Norton Manor, Taunton. In sporting activities we won the Command Athletics Championships with a very small team and were runners-up in the Command Inter-Unit Rounders.

Everyone enjoyed the regimental weekend, when the R.A.S.C. Band visited us. On Saturday, we had a Grand Sports Day with races of every kind for R.A.S.C., W.R.A.C., parents, children, veterans and all, and the sports field was edged with stalls and competitions—the takings being for our Garrison Church of St. Christophers. After tea, the band beat retreat and friends were entertained to drinks in the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess tents. On Sunday we held Church Parade, at which we were joined by the R.A.S.C. Old Comrades, with their banners flying in a gusty wind and after Church our R.S.M. (W.O.I J. A. W. Robertson) was presented with her Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by Brigadier J. R. Reynolds, O.B.E., E.R.D., D.D.S.T. Southern Command. The day continued with celebration drinks and curry lunch and was meant to end with a treasure hunt and barbecue, but these suffered sadly from the traditional British summer weather.



W.R.A.C. Tech. storewoman operates a fork-lift truck at C.O.D. Donnington.

Cogitations of a Casualty

WHAT'S the time? Half past seven already—should have been up half an hour ago. I'm not going to catch the 8.50. Still, must have some breakfast—never known when the next meal will be. I can always catch the 9.20. They said to report at 9.30, but that's just too bad. What did I do with those slacks—they're hardly "old clothes", but you can't be a casualty in a skirt, so they'll have to do. I know I'm going to have indigestion, rushing breakfast like this—can't be helped. It'll be the end if my tyres are flat. I rather think slacks suit me—front view, anyway. The shock comes when I get a view of the back. With luck I shouldn't be more than a quarter of an hour late. Wonder what injury they'll dream up for me? They usually look very real—I hope I can stand the sight. "My word, that's a nasty bruise—what did you walk into? Oh, greasepaint, I see." Well, at least my broken leg will have to be acted, not stuck on. Tea and sandwiches outside—don't think I'll bother. "All casualties into the coach"—off at last. Here come the first aiders—wish I were with them. Looks like rain—it would. I wonder where we're going. Some old factory, I think. It looks very desolate. "First 15 this way to be got out by Rescue Section." I can't jump across there—there must be another way. Apart from a nasty drop each side of the path, there is another way. Don't want to end up a real casualty. How about a lime kiln for an awkward rescue? It doesn't look very comfortable, let's see if I can find somewhere else. Down there by that fallen chimney. Oops, that cement is slippery—good thing I'm well padded there. Scrape the mud off my hand and see what damage there is—oh well, no blood, anyway. Not a bad spot, this, but I wish those children would stop tearing around—they'll fall before they've finished. I seem to be the main attraction for all the local children. Just ignore them, perhaps they'll go away. I wonder how long before I get rescued? Some time, I expect—might as well do a bit of reading. Oh dear, here comes the rain. That won't improve the book, better put it away, and try to get my mac on top as well as underneath. No, I was afraid it wouldn't go that far. Never mind, only a shower, here comes the sun again. I feel a bit isolated here, I think I'll move. Back up the bank, between those two kilns. Throw out a few of the bigger stones and get settled again. I *knew* I'd get indigestion. At least I can see a few of the others from here. Sounds as if someone has arrived. "Help, help." Well, a couple of Wardens is something, I suppose. "Help." Found, noted and abandoned again. What are Rescue up to? It's starting to rain again—back under the mac. Another Warden—ah, and a blanket. Very welcome, if a little late. Here comes someone. Ambulance and First Aid. "You're not supposed to rescue me—I'm reserved for Rescue Section—well, as I'm not exactly buried, I suppose you can." Heartfelt moan or two. "Can't move my leg—it's broken." She's tying one leg to the other—

feet, knees, above and below the break. Not bad, couldn't have done it better myself! Blanket lift on to a stretcher—rather them than me! More rain, and this time I'm on my back. Dive under the blanket. Should be under cover soon. This is a bit bumpy—wonder where I am? On second thoughts, I'd rather not know, I might be poised over a deep hole. It seems a long way to the Ambulance Loading Point—I do hope my bearers don't slip. Someone might get badly hurt—and it might be me. We seem to have got there—I can see a few vehicles out of the corner of my eye. I'm being dumped on the ground—still in the rain, and I wish the bearers wouldn't sound quite so obviously relieved. It hurts a girl's feelings. Who's that on the next stretcher? No one I know. Here they come again. "Squad, stand to stretcher. Prepare to lift—LIFT." There, that didn't hurt (much), did it? Not much room to thresh around in these ambulances. Cigarettes all round for casualties and attendant. I'd like one, but I daren't—not flat on my back, and I can't sit up, I'm in the lower berth. I can't see much through the window, but just enough to tell where we are. Under the railway, stop at the traffic lights, over the bridge, this is the High Street, more traffic lights, round the corner and here we are. Out of the ambulance and into the Reception Centre (normally the garage). At least three different people have taken my name and address. "Can I get up now?" It's a relief to be vertical again. "Yes, a cup of tea would go down very well." All over, bar the shouting, till next time. E. D. N.

T.A. News

H.Q. W.R.A.C. EAST LOWLAND DISTRICT (T.A.)

DURING our Annual Camp at Blackfell, Washington, Co. Durham, in July, we were particularly proud of one of our trade test results. Sgt. R. Douglas, who is a member of the permanent staff of 97 (Lothians) Coy., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), passed her Driver B.I. trade test. Sgt. Douglas learned to drive in the Territorial Army with this Unit in 1956; we were then known as "B" Coy., 314 (Sc. Comd.) Bn., W.R.A.C. (T.A.). She joined the Territorial Army in 1954 and enlisted on a Type "R" engagement with us in 1960. As she has at no time served on a normal regular engagement, we feel that this pass as a B.I. driver is no mean achievement. Sgt. Douglas is also a keen sportswoman and has represented Scottish Command playing Badminton.

H.Q. W.R.A.C. 42 (LANCS) DIVISION/DISTRICT

THIS year H.Q. W.R.A.C. 42 (Lancs) Div/N.W.D. were at Annual Camps in Scotland, Wales and Devon. The Motor Transport and Ambulance Companies at Comrie in Perthshire took part in a three-day exercise in the field with 42 (Lancs) Div. Column R.A.S.C., who are responsible for their technical training. A Learner Driver School was most successfully run under the direction of W.O.II K. Foxley, W.R.A.C., and the Independent Platoon from the Isle of Man assisted with the general administration, providing cooks, waitresses

and clerks. Our General Duties Company looked after the "Bolton Gunners" at Sennybridge, and the 4th Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment at Okehampton. The Independent Platoon from Cheshire, who were also at Okehampton, were attached to 126 Brigade Headquarters. Our A.D.W.R.A.C., Lt.-Col. B. A. D. Tansley-Witt, visited all camps, accompanied by the C.W.R.A.C., Lt.-Col. M. Creagh, the Training Major, Major H. Gildea and W.O.I M. M. Evans.

During the year, W.O.II D. S. Gibbs, Chief Clerk at the Headquarters, was awarded the B.E.M., and Sgt. D. Stones of the Permanent Staff, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Territorial Decorations were gained by Lt.-Col. M. Creagh and Captain A. M. Massey, and Territorial Efficiency Medals by Sgt. P. G. Roberts, Sgt. V. M. Evans and Cpl. H. Ostler. Lord Lieutenant's Certificates for services in the Territorial Army were presented by His Excellency, The Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man, Sir R. Garvey, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., M.B.E., to Cpl. M. A. Gorry, Cpl. V. L. Kelly, L/Cpl. C. A. Platt, L/Cpl. H. E. Varley and Pte. A. Bevis.

Three new Officers, 2/Lts. A. Lockwood, I. Shimmin and K. Williams, have joined the unit, and Lt. Joan Wiffen is now our Quartermaster. 2/Lt. I. Shimmin and the Platoon from the Isle of Man had the privilege of forming part of the Guard of Honour for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, when she visited the island in July, and our Commandant-in-Chief was most graciously pleased to speak to several of the women on Parade.

The following women have enlisted into the Regular Army: Cpl. D. Nuttall, Cpl. J. Whittle, Sgt. V. Knotman, L/Cpl. A. Warburton, Pte. L. Hunt, Pte. C. Osborne, Pte. J. Sharples and Pte. S. Cronshaw.

42 (LANCS) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

FOR our Annual Camp, 11th-25th May, we returned to Crowborough, where we had camped last year. The pleasant countryside and the comfort of this camp helped us to feel "at home" and in less than no time everyone had settled down to a fortnight which we shall always remember as "a happy camp." In work and play, happiness was the keynote and the cold, wet weather, which we are now accustomed to in May, did nothing to deter the spirit which prevailed. This was a "Technical Training Camp" for the Mixed Squadrons, joined by H.Q. Sqn. and R.H.Q., the Brigade Squadrons having camped separately with their Brigades. This meant that every woman had an opportunity to qualify for a trade rating, or train for a higher grading. This worked very well for technical trades and drivers, and all combined in the second week for a full-scale exercise. As always, the cooks and mess staffs gave full support, working quietly and efficiently in the background!

Through our training commitments, we had been unable to celebrate "Princess Royal's Day" at home, therefore we set aside Tuesday, 14th May, for this purpose. A Regimental Parade was held in the morning and in the evening we held a Dance, the proceeds of which went towards our W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund Target.

Squadron parties followed on succeeding evenings and great fun was had by everyone in the "twisting" sessions which were the basis of them all. We were pleased to welcome Lt.-Col. B. A. D. Tansley-Witt, A.D.W.R.A.C., Western Command, to our Officers' Dinner night and were sorry that other commitments prevented a longer visit. We were visited by Maj.-Gen. G. H. Lea, D.S.O., M.B.E., Comd. 42 (Lancashire) Div. and Lt.-Col. M. Creagh, T.D., C.W.R.A.C., with Major H. Gildea, W.R.A.C.

We now look back on a very happy and beneficial Camp and are fortunate to be able to add yet another permanent record to our film library through the good offices of our Q.M., who puts all our activities on film. Outings were arranged for the middle Saturday to London and Brighton, which were very popular, and in the Car Rally, organised by the Sgts.' Mess, the winner was navigated by a W.R.A.C. Sergeant.

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

ANNUAL Camp this year was held in one of the best locations that the Regiment has ever attended. With the first-class training facilities in the camp and the proximity of the bright lights of Scarborough, there was plenty of opportunity to work hard and play hard. The camp was noted for the fact that it was the first time since the Regiment's amalgamation, from many different units, that the troops had been able to train as such, instead of the accent being on individual training. Due to the extremely hard work of the officers and senior N.C.O.s in preparing for this, it was a great success.

On the first Wednesday in camp we held a barrack room and drill competition. The barrack room competition was won by Dover, Margate and Canterbury T.A. Centres, and the best drill squad was a combined one of 2 Squadron and R.H.Q. Detachment. In appreciation of their sterling efforts, the successful women were all presented with stocking vouchers. After the excitement of the drill competition, the rest of the afternoon was spent watching films, which included "The Mountain Road" and "July 24th."

On Saturday, 7th September, a Regimental Parade was held, at which the salute was taken by the Honorary Colonel, Sir Henry D'Avigdor Goldsmid, Bt., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., M.P. Present at the parade was Colonel A. V. Brandle, M.B.E., a former C.R. Signals, who was in command of the Regiment during the amalgamation period. During the parade, medals and certificates were presented to: S/Sgt. R. D. Bird, who received the Territorial Efficiency Medal; W.O.II A. Glover, who received the 1st Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Medal; and S/Sgt. Y. Nicol, Sgt. M. Ford and Cpl. L. Stevens, who received Meritorious Service Certificates. The Royal Signals Band was in attendance and their martial music added warm tones to a very chilly morning.

On Monday, 9th September, we were honoured with a visit by Colonel M. D. M. Humphery, D.D.W.R.A.C., Eastern Command, and Lt.-Col. M. M. Salt, T.D., C.W.R.A.C., 44 (H.C.) Division/District. This was the

first day of our three-day exercise, so the visiting Colonels toured the barracks in the morning and met many of the women, including those working at Exercise Rear and Main Division Headquarters. They later made a night visit to the women camping at Brigade Squadron Headquarters located in a pine wood and on a heath (known as the blasted heath!).

The exercise was a great success and for the first time W.R.A.C. members of the Regiment went into action alongside the men operating and living in the field under active service conditions. Despite a downpour at the beginning of the exercise, their spirit was such that they operated successfully the whole time. Many women were heard to express doubts about living in bivouacs before the exercise started, but at the end they were tired, happy and very proud to have taken part in the training. Such was their enjoyment of the exercise that a number of women said if they could attend for one week only next year, then it would be for the week of the exercise. A touch of realism was added to the training when Hunter aircraft of the R.A.F. carried out ground strikes within a few hundred yards of one of the Brigade locations. The exercise ended on Thursday, and there was the usual rush to hand back equipments and accommodation, preparatory to catching the train home on Saturday morning and the end of Annual Camp for 1963.

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 Christmas Cards, 1963:

"Christmas Decorations" with
Corps badge inside per dozen 5s. 6d.

"On the Road to Bethlehem"
with Corps badge inside
per dozen 12s. 6d.

"Mountain Road" with Corps
badge inside per dozen 6s. 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.

W.R.A.C. BENEVOLENT FUND

THE Committee of Management of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund wish to thank individuals, Branches and Units who have supported the Fund so generously during the past financial year.

While the Committee is equally grateful for all amounts, large or small, and final figures were not available at the time of going to print, they wish to make special mention of the Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C., for their magnificent total of £500, of the Ulster W.R.A.C. (T.A.), who raised £63.12.0 and Scottish Command, who sent £63.17.6 from the proceeds

of their Corps Weekend. Other Units who subscribed over £100 include the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, 12th Battalion, 14th Battalion and 10 Independent Coy.

The Committee also wish to thank the ex-Service Branches and individuals who sent donations, as well as all members of the Association and friends who sent beautifully knitted baby clothes.

Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

W.R.A.C. DEPOT CHURCHES FUND

On 21st March, 1959, a coffee party was held in London to discuss the possibility of forming an A.T.S. Dinner Club. At the same time, a Fund was opened with the object of presenting an Organ to the Chapel at the new W.R.A.C. Depot. Some donations received in cash on that occasion have since been held in the account of the A.T.S. Dinner Club. The Club has now re-opened the subscription list until 31st December, 1963, when it will be finally closed.

Recent enquiries of the W.R.A.C. Directorate elicited the information that provision for an Organ has been made but that contributions for the following would be very gratefully received:—

A porch for the Church of England Chapel

Altar Rails for the Roman Catholic Chapel

Members of the A.T.S. Dinner Club have been circulated to this effect, but it is thought that many other ex-A.T.S. members might wish to subscribe, without prejudice to membership of the Club. Donations will be most gratefully received and should be sent to:—

Miss E. E. Mapp, 10, College Road,

Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, 20.

Subscribers are asked to state if they wish their donations to be earmarked for the Church of England Chapel or the Roman Catholic Chapel.

Mary Tyrwhitt.

Reunions

SOUTHERN AREA

ON 26th May, Southern Area met at Bristol for their Annual Reunion. Over 100 members made their way to Clifton Zoological Gardens to see the beautiful flowers, and the many species of animals and birds. It was an ideal day for the event, warm and sunny, and members had plenty of opportunity for a chat with their friends from other Branches. Bristol Branch acted as hostesses and guides for our tour of the Zoo.

After several hours spent in the glorious sunshine, we made our way to the T.A. Drill Hall in Falcondale Road, where 71 (Bristol) Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), under Captain E. M. Chown, T.D., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), had prepared a wonderful tea for us. Our new Chairman, Colonel D. H. I. Wilson, O.B.E., welcomed everyone, and thanked the T.A. for the excellent meal they had prepared.

We were especially pleased to have with us The Lady Digby, O.B.E., our Vice-Chairman, also Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., from W.R.A.C. Corps Headquarters, and Colonel E. W. Gibson, M.B.E., our

previous Chairman. Everyone felt that it had been a very happy and successful Reunion.

NORTHERN AREA

THE Northern Area Reunion was held in the Royal Hall, Harrogate, on 28th September, and although for various reasons the total attendance was rather disappointing, it proved to be a very enjoyable occasion. The Chairman of Northern Area, Lt.-Col. E. E. Michell, A.D.W.R.A.C., Northern Command, presided, and was supported by Miss V. K. Stead, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., and Mrs. E. M. Suttle, Hon. Secretary. Representatives were present from Bradford, Catterick, Chesterfield, Hartlepool, Hull, Leeds and Sheffield Branches, and we were also pleased to meet the Secretary of Western Area, who had found her way to Northern Area to join us. The gathering also included five ex-A.T.S., now resident in Harrogate, none of whom had met each other before and who had heard of the Reunion via the local "jungle drums." As a result, plans are now afoot to try and locate other ex-Service women in the district with a view to forming a branch in the near future.

Lt.-Col. E. E. Michell opened the proceedings by saying how delighted she was to welcome everyone, and commented that the gathering looked even smaller than it was due to the vastness of the Royal Hall. A roar of laughter greeted her explanation that there had been some confusion in bookings on the part of Harrogate Corporation and the room originally intended for our use had been taken over for a Cat Show! Lt.-Col. Michell expressed pleasure at the presence of Col. Hull, Mrs. Salmon (ex-Major Bishop), Mrs. Stevenson (Chairman of Council) and Mrs. E. Cox, who had dropped in en route from a holiday in Scotland, and extended a special welcome to the guest speaker, Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D. (Ret'd.), in her dual capacity as an old friend and ex-A.D.W.R.A.C. of Northern Command and as Secretary of the Benevolent Fund.

Lt.-Col. Millington said her "stars" foretold that this was to be the nicest weekend for some time, and she wondered who had told them! It was a great pleasure to her to be back in Northern Command and to have an opportunity of talking about the Benevolent Fund. Rather than repeat well-known facts, she outlined some interesting details concerning the Fund's organisation and future plans. Giving examples of typical cases, Lt.-Col. Millington said real need exists, and the future depends on finance. Although the Regular Corps gives generous support, it is difficult to contact many ex-Service women, and she asked all members to publicise the need in an effort to double the present income.

Mrs. E. M. Suttle proposed a vote of thanks to Lt.-Col. Millington and this was seconded by Mrs. E. Cox.

An excellent buffet tea was then served, and so great was the buzz of conversation that second cups of tea were much in demand to lubricate dry throats!

A collection was made for the Benevolent Fund, and during the afternoon a raffle had also been held in aid of the same cause, some attractive prizes having been donated by branches and individuals. The raffle was

drawn by Mrs. Stevenson. The collection and raffle together realised a total of £24 for the Benevolent Fund, and Mrs. Stevenson thanked everyone for contributing to such a magnificent result.

The remainder of the afternoon passed all too quickly and towards 6 p.m. members prepared to depart on their homeward journeys in a flurry of farewells. So ended the 1963 Reunion, and we hope to see an even bigger and better collection of faces next time.

Obituaries

Mrs. A. B. Davies

Miss E. A. Gibson

Miss I. Wann

WE announce with regret the deaths of three ex-Q.M.A.A.C., all of them originally of Unit I, Wimereux. Mrs. A. B. Davies (Poppy Milburn) of Bath, who died on 10th July after a long and painful illness, borne with great fortitude, Miss Elizabeth Gibson of Dunfermline, who died on 11th July, and Miss Isobel Wann of Cupar and Edinburgh, who died on 27th July. They all had outstanding and sterling qualities and were dearly loved by their large circle of friends.

Mrs. Doris Chesney

WE regret to announce the death of Doris Holmes Scott (*née* Clayton). She was a Life member of the Association and served in both the Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., retiring in 1944 with the rank of Junior Commander.

WE also regret to announce the deaths of the following members of the Association:

Miss D. M. Brown (Brighton Branch)

Miss E. Douglas Elliot (Edinburgh Branch)

Miss G. S. Kinroy (Edinburgh Branch)

Mrs. B. Taylor (Nottingham Branch)

Mrs. C. E. Harris

THE death, on 28th September, 1963, of Anne Harris, for many years the highly capable and much liked Honorary Secretary of Salisbury Branch, came as a great shock to the members who had seen her only some two weeks previously at the monthly meeting. She had been in hospital for only a few days, and died of pneumonia. Mrs. Harris was a person who never would allow her own convenience or state of health to affect whatever she had set her hand to do. She had many irons in the fire, all for the public benefit. She can have had little personal leisure and yet seemed always to have time to be competent, unhurried, cheerful and, above all, kindly. People felt better for being with her. In consequence, her death will be deeply felt in many spheres. For us, her own Branch of the W.R.A.C. Association, we know that we have lost a friend whom we had perhaps come to lean upon too heavily because she was that kind of a person. She never let us down and gave out her own energies unstintingly. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband and young daughter, and we shall not forget our own gratitude to her for being what she was.

E. S. M.

"London Gazette"

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Colonel: Lt.-Col. P. M. Lipscomb.
Lieut.-Colonel: Major S. A. E. Heaney; Major E. E. Michell.
Major: Captain J. Melville.
Captain: Lt. D. M. Drummond.
Lieutenant: 2/Lts. E. Ironmonger; F. A. F. Chandler; B. F. G. Moore; H. Woodhams.
Lieutenant (Q.M.): H. M. Shenton; B. Hooper.
2/Lieutenant (on probation): H. Woodhams is confirmed in her appointment.
2/Lieutenant: R. A. Holloway (from S.S.C. with seniority, 24th September, 1961).

RETIREMENTS, ETC. REGULAR ARMY

Colonel L. E. Baldwin, O.B.E.; Majors D. M. W. Barlow; R. B. L. Puxley; Captain M. S. L. Read; 2/Lts. R. J. Puttock; J. Skingley-Pearce.

OFFICERS' POSTINGS (Up to 30th September, 1963)

Major J. CATO-SYMONDS, D.A.D. W.R.A.C., H.Q. Scottish Command.
Major A. FIELD, D.A.A.G.(P.A.), H.Q. Middle East Command.
Major S. W. FOLEY, P.S.O. 65 (Special Communications) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Major B. I. FORBES-ADAM, M.B.E., O.C. Officer Cadet Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
Major J. WILSON, Chief Instructor, Depot and Training Centre.
Captain (Q.M.) W. D. ANDREWS, Change of Air Station, Malaya.
Captain P. M. FARWELL, P.S.O., H.Q. W.R.A.C., 53 (Wales) Div. Dist. (T.A.).
Captain M. L. MINKIN, Officer Cadet Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
Captain A. S. NICHOLSON, A.R.O.(W.S.), Oxford.
Captain S. N. F. POTTER, War Office, A.G. 16.
Captain P. A. SUNNUCKS, Adjutant, 14 Battalion.
T/Captain L. M. ELFORD, O.C. "B" Company, 12 Battalion.
T/Captain B. F. G. MOORE, O.C. "A" Company, 14 Battalion.
T/Captain P. A. SCOTT, 14 (C.O.M.C.A.N.) Signal Regiment.
Lt. (Q.M.) E. K. ANTON, W.O. & N.C.O. Training Wing, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
Lt. Z. A. GORDON-KIRKBY, H.Q. 44 (H.C.) Division/District.
Lt. W. M. HODGSON, P.S.O., 52 (L) Division/District.

BRANCH DIRECTORY

List of Branch Secretaries—Amendments

Cyprus: W.O.I J. E. Spencer, 27 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Dhekelia, B.F.P.O. 53.
Singapore: W.O.I G. T. Stewart, 4 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F., c/o G.P.O. Singapore.
8 Independent Company: W.O.II W. M. Thornton, St. George's Barracks, Bicester, Oxon.
10 Independent Company: W.O.II K. Foxley, Mandora Hutments, Hope Grant's Road, Aldershot, Hants.
23 Independent Company: W.O.II P. A. N. Wildgust, C.V.D. Marchington, Uttoxeter, Staffs.
W.R.A.C. Detachment, School of Education: W.O.II A. E. Lowe, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Bucks.
251 Signal Squadron: Sgt. A. U. Penfold, H.Q. Southern Command, Fugglestone Camp, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts.

Personal Column

For Sale. No. 2 Dress, unworn, £20 o.n.o., cost price £28. No. 1 Dress, cap, complete (size 7) and greatcoat, one year's wear. To fit height 5 ft. 3½ in., bust 34 in., waist 26 in., hips 38 in. Any reasonable offer. Box No. 4/63.

For Sale. Two Officer's No. 1 Dress uniforms, in excellent condition. £15 o.n.o. each. Greatcoat, £10 o.n.o. All height 5 ft. 6 in., bust 34 in., waist 26 in., hips 38 in. Box No. 14/63.

For Sale. Green Greatcoat, excellent condition. Height 5 ft. 5 in. to 5 ft. 6 in., bust 40 in. to 42 in., hips 42 in. to 44 in. Any reasonable offer accepted. Box No. 15/63.

For Sale. Hand-woven bathroom/nursery rugs, approximately 22 in. × 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. No. 2 Dress, height 5 ft. 9 in., bust 36 in., waist 27 in., hips 38 in. Box No. 16/63.

Wanted. Recruiter (Women's Services). Vacancy at Southampton for ex-W.R.A.C. N.C.O. as Recruiter. Preference given to ex-clerks. Age limits 20 to 39 years. Live out locally. Good pay and allowances plus uniform. Occasional evening work at Youth Organizations. Apply to: Captain K. S. Curry, W.R.A.C. (Ret'd.), Army Information Office, 152 High Street, Southampton. Tel.: 21517.

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, Coulsdon, 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: Lt-Col. M. H. Seys-Phillips, T.D., R. Signals, 44 (H.C.) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports) T.A., Yeomanry House, Boxley Road, Maidstone, Kent.

A **Sgt. Permanent Staff Instructor** on a type "R" engagement is required by 44 (H.C.) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports) T.A., to work principally in Maidstone, but she will also be required to visit the Regiment's T.A. Centres. Applicants must be under 40 years of age, hold a current driving licence and have a minimum of one year's whole-time or T.A. service with the W.R.A.C. or A.T.S. Applications should be submitted in writing to: Commander Royal 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, London, 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. Tel.: Edinburgh CAL 4952.

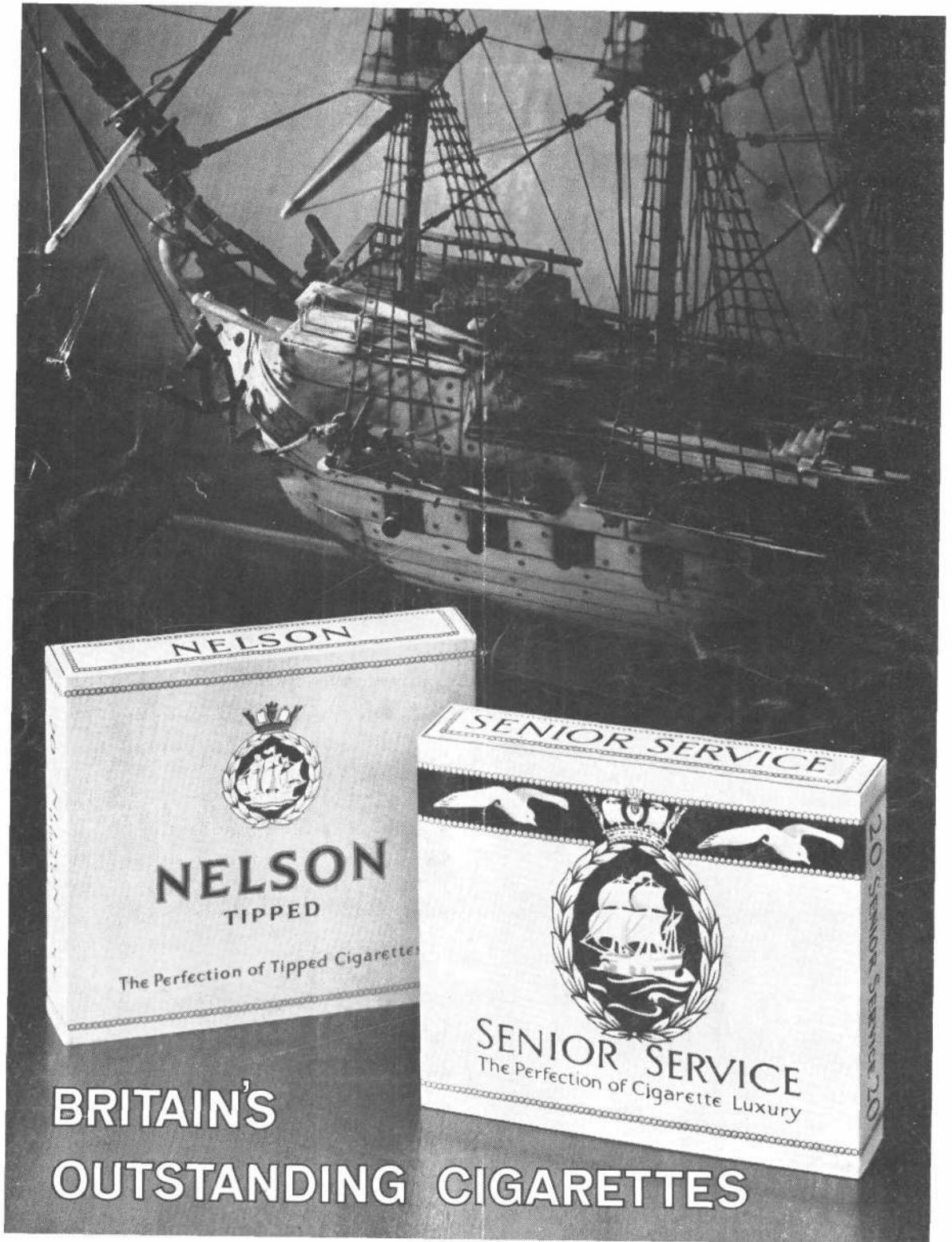
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