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VOL XXXVIII

FEBRUARY 1965

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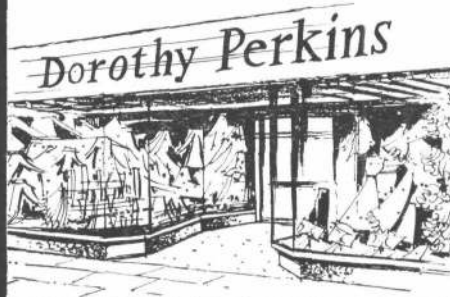
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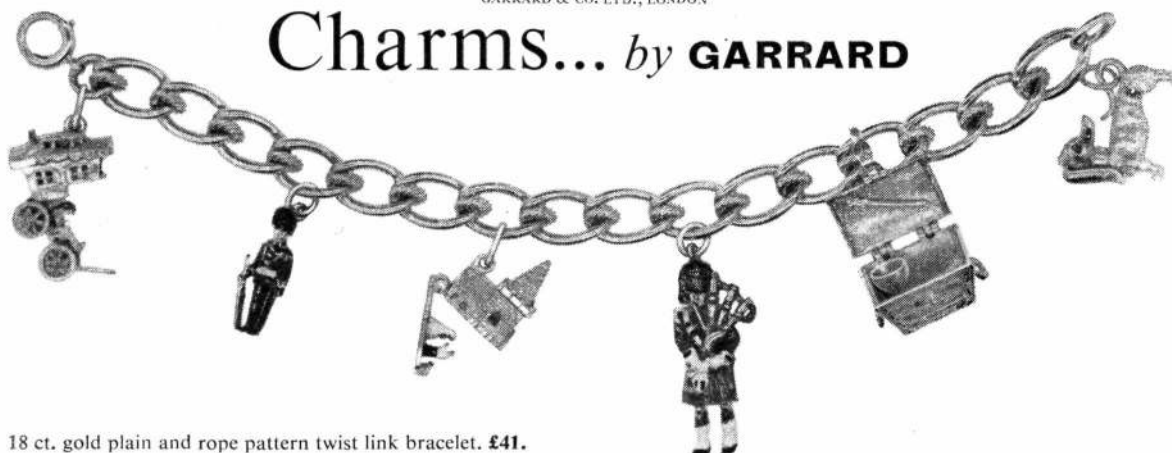
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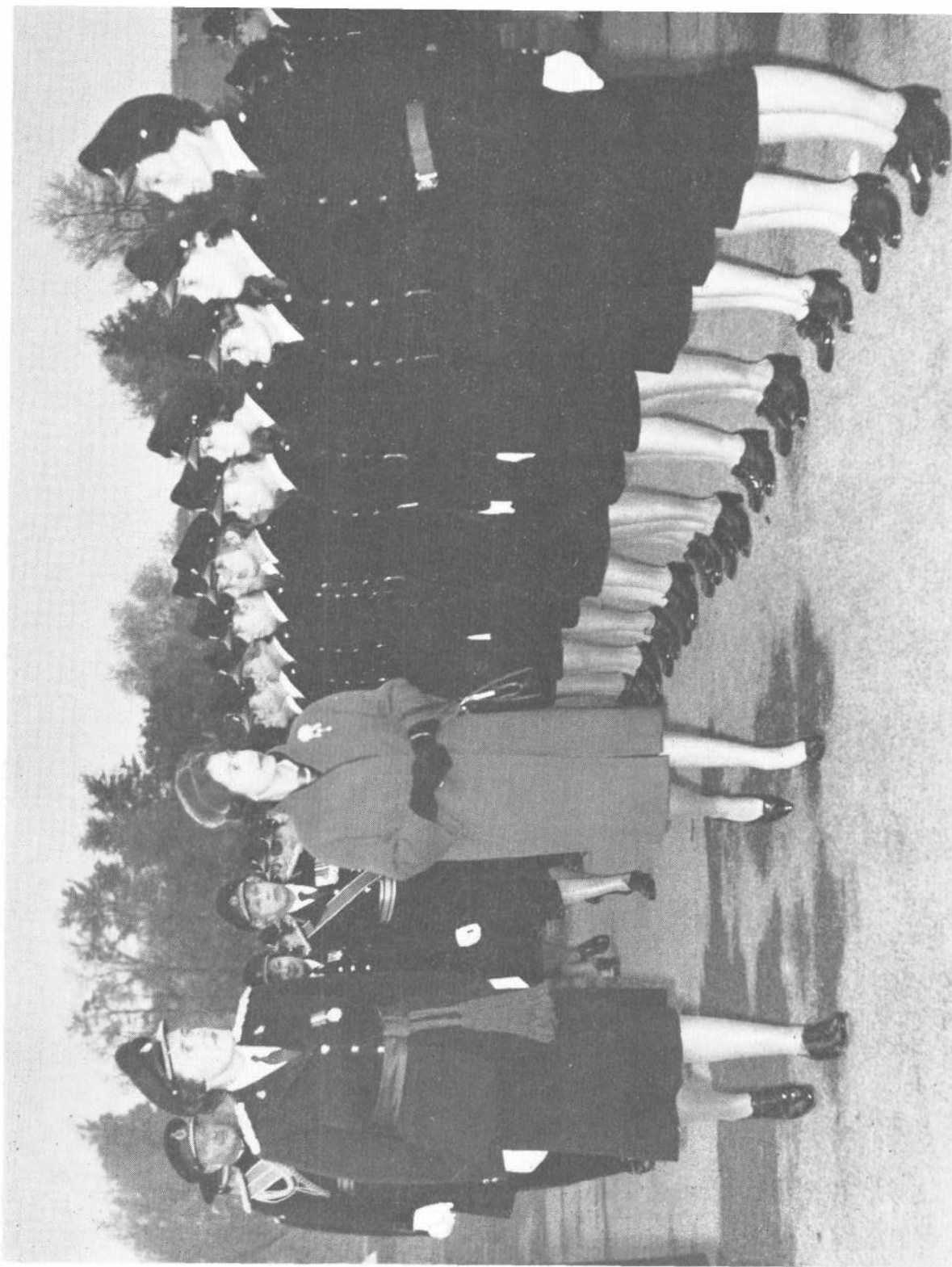


Photo by C.I. Reproductions (A.D.)

H.M. The Queen inspecting the Guard of Honour at the W.R.A.C. Depot



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXVIII

February, 1965

No. 1

A Royal Occasion

DEPOT AND TRAINING CENTRE

FRIDAY, 30th October, 1964, dawned with overcast skies and an autumn "nip" in the air. At Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Guildford, the day heralding the Official Opening of the new barracks by Her Majesty The Queen started in the same way as any other, except for an air of excitement, which hung over every member of the Unit. Last-minute preparations completed, everyone adjourned for lunch with the realisation that the great event which we had been anxiously awaiting was upon us.

At 1.30 p.m. past and present members of the Corps started to arrive and take their seats on the parade ground.

They were followed by a number of official guests, including The Rt. Hon. Fred Mulley, M.P., Minister of Defence, Miss Jennie Lee, M.P., General Sir Richard Hull, C.I.G.S., General Sir Reginald Hewetson, A.G., and General Sir Roderick McLeod, G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command.

At 2.40 p.m. the Guard of Honour of 100 women of the Permanent Staff marched on to parade, led by the W.R.A.C. Staff Band. Ten minutes later Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal arrived and was received with a Royal Salute.



Photo by courtesy of "Soldier" Magazine

H.R.H. The Princess Royal presents The Rt. Hon. Fred Mulley, Minister of Defence



Photo by the Associated Press Ltd.

Her Majesty in the Other Ranks' Mess

At 3 p.m. the Royal Standard being broken from the flag-pole heralded the arrival of Her Majesty The Queen, who looked very lovely in cherry red. On alighting from her car, Her Majesty was met by H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who presented members of the official party.

Her Majesty then took her place on the dais and was received with a Royal Salute. Her Majesty then inspected the Guard of Honour under the command of Major J. Wilson and the W.R.A.C. Staff Band under the direction of Lieut. E. Crowcroft, L.R.A.M., the Director of Music. On leaving the parade ground, Her Majesty unveiled a plaque outside the Museum, commemorating the Official Opening of the Depot and Training Centre.

After the unveiling of the plaque, the architect, Mr.

F. C. Jepson, and representatives of the builders were presented to Her Majesty, who was then conducted round the Museum by Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, the Chairman of Trustees. Among the many items of interest was the chassis of the vehicle on which Her Majesty learned maintenance when, as H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth, she served in the A.T.S. Sgt. N. Adam, who taught Her Majesty firefighting at Camberley in 1945, was presented at this point.

After signing a portrait and the visitors' book, Her Majesty left in company with H.R.H. The Princess Royal and Colonel L. M. Davies, the Commandant, to start a tour of the Barracks. Her Majesty's first visit was to the Q.M. Stores, where, after the Quartermaster, Capt. G. P.



Her Majesty after unveiling the memorial plaque

Photo by courtesy of "Soldier" Magazine

Blay, and the Assistant Quartermaster, Lieut. H. M. Shenton, had been presented, Her Majesty saw the "Q" staff in No. 2 Dress and Tropical Dress. Leaving the Q.M. Stores, the Royal Party walked to the Rank and File Mess, where 2/Lieut. L. D. Merrin, the Messing Officer, was presented, and Her Majesty talked to the cooks and stewardesses.

From the Rank and File Mess, Her Majesty drove to Block 17, the living quarters of Holding and Drafting Company, where Capt. M. L. Edmondson, the O.C., and W.O.II K. Carney, the C.S.M. of the Company, were presented, and where Her Majesty spoke to the women in their rooms.

The Royal Party then went to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess, where W.O.I M. J. Evans, the R.S.M., presented the P.S.M., W.O.II J. Gallagher, Mess members and staff. On leaving, Her Majesty and H.R.H. The Princess Royal were invited to sign the visitors' book before going to the Depot Church of St. Mark and meeting Miss M. Robertson, the Chaplain's Assistant. From

the church the Royal Party drove to the Junior Ranks' Club, where Mr. W. Cook, the NAAFI District Manager, and Mrs. Johnson, the Manageress, were presented, and Her Majesty talked to junior N.C.O.s and privates before inspecting the Unit M.T., which had been assembled in the car park, under Sgt. E. Malone, N.C.O. i/c Transport.

The Royal Party then drove to the Officers' Mess, where a group photograph was taken and tea was served. Among the guests at Her Majesty's table were Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake and Lieut. (Q.M.) E. J. Morgan, who was the Co-ordinating Officer for the Opening, and whose valuable assistance was appreciated by all.

Just before departure at 4.55 p.m., Her Majesty was invited to sign the visitors' book, after which she left the Mess, driving through cheering crowds of guests and Permanent Staff, the latter lining the route, to end what had been a memorable day for the Corps and an unforgettable one for everyone at the Depot and Training Centre.



H.R.H. The Princess Royal with Directors past and present. Back row: Brig. J. E. Henderson, Brig. Dame Jean Rivett Drake, Brig. Dame Mary Railton, Brig. Dame Mary Colvin, Brig. Dame Frances Coulshed, Brig. Dame Mary Tyrwhitt. Front row: Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Dame Leslie Whateley

Editorial

FRIDAY, 30th October, 1964, was a red-letter day for the Corps, when Her Majesty The Queen officially opened the new Queen Elizabeth Barracks at Guildford and unveiled a memorial plaque.

Most of the trees have survived the rebuilding, and the four oaks near the entrance, one planted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and the other three by ex-Directors to commemorate the three Corps, Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C., have flourished in our absence, just as the present-day Corps has done.

Wandering round this interesting new barracks, with its contemporary decoration and modern equipment, the thoughts of the ex-Service women and the older members of the Corps must have turned, perhaps even a little nostalgically, to the Nissen huts, requisitioned houses and other makeshift accommodation of their own war-time service. But no one could really love a Nissen hut, and we rejoice that the W.R.A.C. Depot at last has a splendid home of its own, and that the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction will soon move from Huron Camp into equally good modern accommodation not far from Frimley. We wish them every success and happiness.

We would like to thank both the Depot and the School for the invaluable help and co-operation they give so often, and with such good will, to our Association affairs.

The establishment of Corps Headquarters has been altered to allow for a typist instead of a clerical assistant. This was a badly needed and long-awaited change, as the minutes of our various committees, not to mention the production of THE LIONESS and ordinary office letters, are more than enough to keep one busy. As a result of this reorganisation, Miss E. Gifford left us last November, but we have only said *au revoir*, as she remains a member of the Association and is still working at the Duke of York's Headquarters. We welcome Mrs. Felicia Oluwale, of Nigeria, as a member of our staff.

Commissioning Ceremony

W.R.A.C. OFFICER CADETS

The Commissioning Ceremony of the Thirty-Sixth Course of W.R.A.C. Officer Cadets will take place on Tuesday, 13th April, 1965, at 3.15 p.m. at the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, Huron Camp, Hindhead, Surrey.

The Ceremony will be preceded by a Drumhead Service at 2.30 p.m.

Applications for tickets, together with 2/6d. each for tea, should be sent by 4th April, 1965, to:

The Adjutant,
W.R.A.C. School of Instruction,
Huron Camp,
Hindhead,
Surrey.

Association News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, 13th March, 1965, at 3 o'clock.

Agenda

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 14th March, 1964 (circulated in the May issue of THE LIONESS).
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. Election of Officers.
4. To receive the Report of Council.
5. To receive the Report of the Hon. Treasurer.
6. To receive the Report of the Editor of THE LIONESS.
7. To receive the Reports of Committees.
8. Resolution: "That the draw in aid of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund be discontinued." (Scottish Area.)
9. Any Other Business.
10. Date of next Meeting.

GRAND REUNION AT DERRY AND TOMS KENSINGTON HIGH STREET, W.8 SATURDAY, 13th MARCH, 1965

From 7 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. (doors open 5.30 p.m.)

Tickets 10s. including refreshments. Applications to Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Block "E," Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3, enclosing stamped, addressed envelopes.

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

THE Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion will be held on Friday, 12th March, 1965, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Central Mess of the H.Q. Club, Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3. Tickets 4s. including refreshments. Applications to Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Block "E," Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3, enclosing stamped, addressed envelopes.

SECRETARIES' MEETING

MEMBERS of Council hope to meet all secretaries at their Meeting at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, 13th March, 1965, to be held in the Canteen of 80 (Chelsea) Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Block "E," Duke of York's Headquarters (by kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel C. H. M. Milner, O.B.E., W.R.A.C. (T.A.)). Lunch will be served at 1 o'clock. Please notify the General Secretary by 1st March, 1965, if you are able to attend.

CHURCH SERVICE, SUNDAY, 14th MARCH, 1965

BY kind permission of Major-General E. J. B. Nelson, D.S.O., M.V.O., C.B.E., M.C., B.A., members of the Association may attend morning service at 11 a.m. in the Military Chapel, Chelsea Barracks, Chelsea Bridge Road, S.W.1. More seats are available than in previous years and all members are welcome. **Tickets are not required.**

REMEMBRANCE DAY, 1964

THE Service of Dedication at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, was honoured by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Representatives of the Association attended, and the Cross was planted by Lieut.-Colonel C. de Garis Martin, A.D.W.R.A.C. London District.

Members also took part in the Parade at the Cenotaph and Mrs. J. J. Wells, Secretary of Canterbury Branch, laid the wreath on behalf of the Association.

Retirement

Lieut.-Colonel B. A. D. Tansley Witt

LIEUT.-COLONEL Tansley Witt, who retires later this year, joined the A.T.S. in September 1939 and was commissioned in May 1941. During the war she served in various G.D. appointments at home, including Nottingham, Derby and the Isle of Man, and left on Class A release in March 1946.

She rejoined the A.T.S. 18 months later and subsequently obtained a Regular commission in the W.R.A.C. Since then her postings have included D.A.D.W.R.A.C. at 3 A.A. Group, Mid-West District and H.Q. Southern Command, as well as O.C. Drivers and Clerks' Training Wing, W.R.A.C. On promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel she commanded 12 Bn. in Richmond Park and her last appointment has been as A.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q. Western Command.

Lieut.-Colonel Tansley Witt has always taken a great interest in many aspects of Corps life. She has been a popular Chairman of the Army (Women's) Cricket Association for a number of years and an enthusiastic and energetic supporter of the work of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. We hope that she will continue to keep in touch with her many friends in the Corps and we send our best wishes for a very happy retirement.

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Brigadier: Colonel J. E. Henderson, Hon. A.D.C.
Colonel: Lieut.-Colonel The Hon. M. M. Anderson, M.B.E.
Captain: Lieut. S. W. Jones.
Lieutenant: 2/Lieut. M. J. Hall, 2/Lieut. J. A. Cameron.
Lieutenant (Q.M.): W.O.I E. J. Morgan, W.O.I S. C. Farmer.
2/Lieutenant: M. J. Hall, P. J. Longley, H. Mugford, G. Head, R. E. Smith, L. K. Short, M. S. Wing, G. L. Sudbury, S. R. Jones, L. Almonds, J. Whalley, A. T. Lappin, M. H. Dennis, J. M. Reed, H. C. McCosh. J. A. Cameron, on probation, is confirmed in her appointment.
2/Lieutenant (on probation): E. C. Jackson, s.com., S. W. Morgan, B.Sc., C. A. Macdonald, M.A.

LIMITED SERVICE REGULAR COMMISSIONS

Major M. G. Campbell, Major A. M. Metcher, M.B.E.
Capt. M. A. Mack.

RETIREMENTS, ETC. REGULAR ARMY

Major J. O. M. Hendriks (nee Ravenscroft).
Lieut. F. E. Carver, Lieut. A. P. Byrom, Lieut. D. E. Bowman.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Major M. S. Smithwick.
Capt. J. M. Allen.



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The Moment of Truth

Edna M. Cass

IT was May 1941, and five of us A.T.S. were about to be collected by our hosts—five “fighter types” from Finston Air Station, some 20 miles away. How the R.A.F. could manage a luxury like transport completely baffled us. In the Army one walked or caught a bus.

Our R.S.M. saw us off, her iron-grey hair and flat shoes looking less compromising than ever as she said, grimly, “And remember—the wings they’re wearing now are the only ones they’ll ever have!”

We knew she queried this permission our C.O. gave each time, but she had been told by that lady quite firmly that there was “nothing she’d refuse a fighter pilot—but nothing,” and to press the matter further might have been too enlightening!

The R.A.F., with their far easier discipline, laughed loudly at the performance of “getting us out.” First, we accept their invitation and arrange our duties accordingly, then they write careful letters to our C.O., requesting permission for us to attend their dance, giving names, addresses and pack drill, and promising to return us safely at the appointed hour (jolly early one, too).

It was a hilarious party. On the notice board, under Orders for the Day, the main document read:

“Gather ye lipstick while ye may,
Though the day be full of sorrow.
The girls you might have kissed today
May wear gas-masks tomorrow!”

The fun was fast and furious, and I was certain that if the R.S.M. had felt its tempo our passes would have been timed at least an hour earlier.

We piled into a truck for the return journey, driven by a beautiful W.A.A.F. Her name, she said, was Anne Scott, and she looked closely at my spectacularly gorgeous friend, Avis Durrant.

I wasn’t altogether happy about Avis and her wild flirtations with the Air Force. I knew she was in love with the star attraction in our own unit, Gerry Dexter, and he with her, but somehow they were busy proving to each other how unimportant it was—and being horribly hurt in the process. Avis said Gerry started the flirting and she was finishing it! I don’t know, but the slight lift of her chin as she said it looked a bit ominous to me.

Arriving at the main gate of the camp, we passed the sentry, and our escort, with no regard for Army dignity, insisted on accompanying us into the Guard Room to sign the book. The spokesman sized up the rather stolid-looking Guard Sergeant and, with his cap on the back of his head, began:

“We have returned herewith, all present and correct, five of your precious possessions. They are intact, undamaged, but I won’t accept your signature ‘unexamined.’ Look at them carefully, note the time and the place, and count them.”

A smile struggled for possession of the Guard Sergeant’s face as he said, “Yes, Sir—as you say, five. All correct.”

“No chance of abstracting even a little one?” quizzed the joker.

“Well, there’d be a kit inspection if this one went missing,” said the Guard Sergeant, with a grin at me as I replaced the pen.

“Why that one in particular?” asked the irrepressible.

“She’s the Old Man’s secretary, Sir. He’s apt to notice if she’s there or not!”

“The Great Puritan Brigadier himself. Struth!” breathed the pilot, but I was looking at the W.A.A.F. Her head quickly raised, she was staring at me, watchfully, and for a moment her lovely face was vaguely familiar, but I couldn’t think why.

It bothered me a little, and it was much later, as I heard Gerry say rather bitterly, “I’m importing a W.A.A.F. for our dance tonight; it’s the fashionable thing to do—mix the uniforms, you know,” that something clicked in my brain and I remembered.

“Oh, Gerry—isn’t it time you and Avis stopped this rot?” I asked.

“I have one more week in which to bring that woman to her senses,” he said, grimly. “My application for transfer to the Parachute Regiment is through—but, please, honey, do just go on keeping quiet until I win.”

I thought he might not win. Avis was quite capable of cutting off her nose to spite her beautiful face. Hurrying back to the office, I thought of that snapshot of the Brigadier’s only son, Jeremy, a P.O.W. since Dunkirk. The girl with him on the snapshot, in her tweed skirt and jersey, was the pretty W.A.A.F. driver—she was also Jeremy Scott’s wife.

I made no mention of my discovery to anyone, but when she arrived at our dance that evening and started to make a positive spectacle of herself with Gerry Dexter, I decided I hated all of them bitterly, even if she was doing it at Gerry’s request just to unnerve Avis. I was pretty sure that was it, but Gerry was damnably attractive, and in Oflag . . . something, somewhere . . . well, it just wasn’t a fair fight.

As the dance ended, Gerry and Anne stepped from the brightly lit hall into the dim and deserted anteroom nearby. It was then I saw the Brigadier. He was the last person in the world I’d have expected to see at one of our small shemozzles. He had a purpose and, as the light fell on Anne’s face, I saw him start forward with a look of unbelievable pleasure on his face; then Gerry swept her into his arms, and the passionate embrace went on and on (on—until Avis had seen it from the dance-room door, at which she now stood, transfixed).

The Brigadier’s face looked grey. I wanted to scream “It’s not like you think—they’re fooling,” but I knew that nothing Anne could ever do would erase this moment, not if she lived to be a hundred. Her father-in-law’s standards were very, very high.

“Anne,” I called at last, weakly, and she unwound her arms. Turning, she caught sight of the Brigadier and, to

my utter amazement, her whole face lighted with pleasure as she ran forward, dragging Gerry with her.

"Oh, Pa—how lovely to see you! This is Gerry—my brother. Jeremy told you all about him."

They shook hands and we all talked at once. "Why ever didn't you let me know you were at Finston?" asked the Brigadier.

"Well," replied Anne, thoughtfully, "one doesn't want to announce too loudly that one's father-in-law is a Brigadier, especially when one's comparatively new . . . and there were things I wanted to help Gerry with first"—this with a meaning look at Avis, who stood close to me, looking like someone reprieved from the death sentence.

As the Brigadier walked off with his daughter-in-law, I turned furiously on Gerry and Avis, venting all the wrath of those few ghastly moments.

For once they looked at me quietly and seriously, and walked out into the darkness together.

Branch News

BEDFORD. Since our last report we have held our Annual General Meeting and all our officials were re-elected. Our members assisted as usual with the Poppy Day collections, and for a change were rewarded with a sunny, crisp Saturday. They also attended the Remembrance Day Parade and in the evening the Festival of Remembrance. Our Chairman, Miss Mitchell, laid the wreath on the Cenotaph, and our standard was carried on the march of the Units—three of our new members were amongst the colour party. For the first time there were no representatives of the Q.M.A.A.C. on parade, but our stalwart President, Miss Gummersall, was in the audience, as was Mrs. Slack. Our Annual Party was held on 7th December and was a great success, members contributing either in money or in kind to provide a most sumptuous buffet supper—to which all present, including the young children of some of the members, did justice; our thanks are due to Bertha Henegan and Audrey Foulds for organising it. As the party coincided with the birthday of Bertha, our Treasurer, the opportunity was taken to show our appreciation by a bouquet of chrysanthemums which Miss Gummersall presented to her with a few well-chosen words. Our Chairman welcomed all present and particularly Miss Julian, O.B.E., and also Mrs. Hemms and Mrs. Armitage, who had returned from their cruise.

As Miss Gummersall was due to enter hospital for an operation on her eye, the Chairman, on our behalf, wished her a successful operation and speedy return home. She also sent our good wishes to Miss Cocksedge, who is back in hospital as the result of another fall, and to other members who are sick. We are pleased to know that Miss Gummersall is very well following her operation, and is quite optimistic about the result. We all admire her spirit in undertaking this operation as she celebrated her 80th birthday on 13th January.



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BELFAST. We had our A.G.M. at the beginning of November—Mrs. Neilly was re-elected as Hon. Secretary and Mrs. Mitchell as Hon. Treasurer. At the beginning of December the members went to see the Ulster operatic production of *South Pacific* and had a most enjoyable evening despite most inclement weather. We still meet on the first Wednesday of each month in Victoria Barracks, Belfast, and are always glad to see old and new faces.

DERBY. Five members attended the very excellent Reunion at Harrogate and we congratulate one of our members, S/Sgt. Sybil Limbert, who was placed third in the Charm Contest. In September we had a Coffee Evening at Major P. M. J. Kettle's residence, and a very enjoyable evening was had by the 11 members present. In October we had a very interesting demonstration on how to make Christmas decorations by Major P. M. J. Kettle, and I am sure that quite a few Derby homes had some wonderful additions to their Christmas decor.

GLASGOW. Since our last report the Branch, with the aid of the serving W.R.A.C. and Service Women's Club members, held a very successful Sale of Work on 18th November, 1964, in aid of the Benevolent Fund. The sum of £145 10s. was collected and has been remitted to Colonel Millington. The Hallowe'en Party at the end of October was a great success. At the end of November we held our Annual Dinner in the Grosvenor, and although the attendance was smaller this year we all had a very enjoyable time. On 17th December the Branch were the guests of the Club at their Christmas Dinner in the Club.

GUERNSEY. Another year has slipped away and, in spite of very small numbers (now 17), we have had another successful year, both financially and socially. We were all very grieved to hear of the death of C.S.M. A. Lowe, a serving member of our Branch. She was always interested in our activities and attended our meetings whenever possible. We began our year by giving a Children's Christmas Party, which was enjoyed by us all. The highlights of the year were our Whist Drive, which is now a recognised annual event in Guernsey, our visit to Herm, and a Cookery Demonstration. We were successful in visiting Herm after three attempts, due to bad weather conditions, but finally we all enjoyed the sea trip and the excellent dinner at the White Horse Hotel. In October we were delighted to welcome Major V. Fisher, the Women's Services Liaison Officer, who showed us some very interesting films of life in the Army today. We all suffered from nostalgia and talked over our experiences in the good old days of the A.T.S. The life, and the wonderful opportunities offered to the new recruit today, made us green with envy. In spite of being a very small Association in rather an isolated island, we are all very happy, and we trust that our Association will flourish successfully for many years to come.

HEADQUARTER AREA. By the time this is printed Christmas will be past and the New Year well launched.

Dame Regina Evans and Colonel Dorothy Morgan, Chairman and Secretary, wish to take advantage of this first issue for 1965 to thank all those members who so kindly sent cards and greetings. It is very heart-warming to know that in Auckland, Sydney, Melbourne, Watford, California, New Jersey, British Columbia, Ayrshire, and many other equally diverse parts of the world, so many of us are remembering our comrades in service. We wish them to be assured that they are frequently in our thoughts and that we are always glad to have news of them.

LIVERPOOL. We started our autumn programme with a business meeting in September, when we discussed our future programme and members also had an opportunity to chat with one another about their holidays. At our October meeting we had a Domino Drive and in November our Annual Bring and Buy Sale. The attendance at the Bring and Buy Sale was most disappointing, but, due to the loyal support of our regulars, it was still a successful evening's effort. We have missed our Chairman at our last two meetings because of illness and, owing to her indisposition, she was unable to lay the Branch wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. On this occasion the wreath was laid by the Branch Secretary and Treasurer. Attendance at meetings the past few months has generally been very disappointing and, owing to small numbers present, we were unable to hold the social evening planned for December.

LONDON. We have had some very good meetings during the winter months. In October we had a very successful Bring and Buy Sale. In November Mr. Eaton gave us a show of his colour slides, taken while on a cycling tour of Yorkshire; this was followed by some views of Greece, taken by Miss Martin, one of our members, during her holiday. In December we had an A.G.M. and also our Christmas Party, which was very much enjoyed. We now look forward to 1965, for which we have an interesting and varied programme.

SALISBURY. Our Annual Christmas Dinner was held on Wednesday, 2nd December, at the Red Lion Hotel. We were very pleased indeed to welcome Brigadier Dame Mary Railton as our guest of honour. We all enjoyed her description of what her appointment as Deputy Controller Commandant W.R.A.C. entails and found it most interesting. A warm welcome was also extended to our 60 members and guests, who all enjoyed an excellent dinner; in fact members said it was our best ever. The raffle was a great success; the lucky ones took home ducks, cakes and other useful prizes. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

SOUTHAMPTON. At our March 1964 meeting we were entertained by a lady who had recently toured the Holy Land. Her colour slides were much appreciated. Since then she has visited Russia, and we are looking forward to a repeat performance of her travels there behind the Iron Curtain. In April we had our Annual

Dinner at the Royal Hotel, which was well attended. Our May meeting was to have been a talk by one of the city's councillors, but, owing to the municipal elections which took place that week, the lady was unable to make it. In June we all forgathered at the home of Mrs. Betty Rush, one of the Branch's founder members, who, together with small daughter Julia, right royally entertained us. In September Councillor Mrs. Ironsides gave us the talk she was unable to give in May. Unfortunately, it was rather hurriedly arranged and her audience was very small, but nevertheless it was very greatly enjoyed by those present. It was with great pleasure that we learned of the marriage of Miss Audrey Stott, another founder

member of the Branch, to Mr. Pickett, an old friend of hers. Congratulations were, of course, the order of the day, and we have since sent her a present of linen to mark the occasion. October brought us to the A.G.M., when Mrs. Gover and Mrs. Prudent resigned as Chairman and Secretary respectively and were succeeded by Mrs. Young and Mrs. Hoare. Miss Blampied is continuing for another year as Treasurer. We were sorry to learn that Betty Rush was shortly to enter hospital for a serious operation, but we have since heard that she is progressing favourably, and we hope to have her back with us shortly. New members are not coming along and old members are not always able to get to the meetings, sometimes through age (we have several of the First World War era) and various other reasons, but we hope to keep the Branch going, if only to meet for a chat once a month.

WIMBLEDON. We opened our autumn session last September with a most interesting talk on "Guide Dogs for the Blind," given by Mrs. Payne (who herself is blind) accompanied by her guide dog. As a result we are now busily engaged in collecting tinfoil, milk-bottle tops, etc., to help this cause. As usual we held our Annual Dinner at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Epsom, in October 1964. Some 20 members and friends were present and a jolly evening was had by all. On Remembrance Sunday two of our members laid a wreath at the local War Memorial, while three members attended the service at the Cenotaph. We held our Annual General Meeting in November, the present Officers and Committee being re-elected for another year, and in December we had our Christmas Party, at which there was a really large turnout, in spite of threatened fog, which luckily cleared before it was time to go home.



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YORK. Since our last bulletin we continue to meet once a month whenever possible. In April a party of members went to have a look round the new telephone exchange in York and had a most enlightening and interesting evening. The usual Annual Whist Drive was held at Strensall in May; again Mrs. Green kindly made the arrangements, for which we are very grateful, especially as this is our main source of funds. The trip we had hoped for to the Georgian Theatre at Richmond during the summer did not materialise, because time and dates were not suitable, but we have not given up hope of going. The autumn programme started with a very small meeting owing to some members being on holiday; our thanks go to Mrs. Burton of the W.V.S., who kindly gave a talk on the "One in Five" to such a small audience. One of the highlights of last year was a demonstration by a member of the North Eastern Gas Board, the theme "Dining with a Difference," which, to use the modern phrase, looked "smashing." The A.G.M. was held in November; we were pleased to welcome five new members. Sympathies were expressed for members who had spells of illness during the year and we hope Mrs. Green and Sgt. Lawson are progressing favourably. Mrs. Cockram also had a nasty bout of bronchitis and was unable to come to the A.G.M.; her absence was most unusual. In December a very pleasant evening was spent at Old Nunthorpe House making up parcels for O.A.P. and ex-Service women. The letters received from these people show they were appreciated and one of the things which pleased some of them most was the fact that they were remembered by a Force Association. Old people are very proud of their connection with the Services. There is always one dark cloud for someone and our deepest sympathies go to Miss N. Lowley of Choppington, Northumberland (late of York), who lost her dear sister on 11th December, 1964.

Unit News

TRIP TO TENGAH

A DESERT island, white sands, palm trees—even a coral reef—everyone's idea of a tropical paradise! That's what Tengah looked like as we approached by sampan on that Saturday in August. But even earthly paradises have drawbacks! We weren't just thrown up on the sands by a kindly wave—we had to carry all our stuff ashore! Jungle green wasn't so fetching, either, viewed against the palm trees!

There didn't appear to be any other inhabitants as we started to put up tents; 160-pounders seem to have an

awful lot of bite and many useless pieces of rope! Still, we reckoned that we had made a workmanlike job of the camp—it stood up to a tropical storm the next day, so we were very pleased.

The other inhabitants found us that night and much alarm was caused by hundreds of hermit crabs, large and small, rattling and banging their shells against the stiff grass. Funnily, we didn't sleep so well, but after that the antics of one person, who rolled out of bed into the ropes, didn't even wake up the other occupants of her tent!



WHAT TO WEAR FOR AN ISLAND HOLIDAY.

Saturday was the worst day—we had started very early from Singapore and the strain of moving four-men, eight-women loads from shore to sampan and back again took its toll. Despite the tempting water, we were too tired even to swim! But we made up for that on the other days as we explored the island, with bathing suits the regulation dress. Visiting the reef at low water, especially at night, when everything “lit up” in torchlight, never palled. It was like standing in a goldfish bowl. Shell and coral

collections were enormous—and the tans we took back to Singapore the envy of all those waiting their turn to camp (now unfortunately postponed).

Editor's Note: Adventure Training was authorised for 4 Indep. Coy., W.R.A.C., this year. The plan was for parties of women to camp on an island, Pulau Tengah, about 20 miles off the east coast of Malaya and 100 miles from Singapore. This is a rather light-hearted account of the first camp.



2 INDEPENDENT COMPANY

TAKING advantage of the Indian summer last autumn, members of the unit started youth-hostelling activities under the leadership of 2/Lieut. P. M. Jackson. These took place every free weekend, starting first thing Saturday morning as the group climbed into the mini-bus to go to either the Peak District or Snowdonia. After leaving the transport the party then set out to walk to the youth hostel where they would be staying the night.

These weekends turned out to be a great success with the most surprising enthusiasts. The wardens in the youth hostels have all been most helpful and not a little curious about the W.R.A.C.—often remembering their own Army days!

The photograph taken by Pte. Spargo shows the first group to go youth-hostelling; left to right: 2/Lieut. P. M. Jackson, Pte. Coleman, Pte. Wilkes, Pte. Johnson, Pte. Cullumbine, Pte. Young.

In October the unit said goodbye to Major K. I. Cunningham after three years, and Capt. P. Ineson arrived from Aden to take over as O.C.



Walking can be fun

W.R.A.C. Provost in S.H.A.P.E.

Cpl. J. M. Wilson

W.R.A.C. Provost have now been employed at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe for a period of three years and are fully integrated with the S.H.A.P.E. Provost Coy., R.M.P.

S.H.A.P.E. is situated about ten miles from Paris in attractive countryside only a short distance from historical Versailles. The office buildings and accommodation blocks are attractively set in spacious lawns and tree-lined avenues, with nothing to remind us of the usual Army barracks.

The accommodation shared by W.R.A.C. Provost

N.C.O.s houses British W.R.A.F. and W.R.A.C., American W.A.F. and W.A.C. and French Service girls. Usually a girl shares a room with another of her own nationality, but friendships with the other girls soon spring up. The language barrier is no problem for adventurous N.C.O.s who undertake the French classes organised by the Education Centre.

Back in the U.K. the news of one's posting to S.H.A.P.E. is often met with groans. The "grapevine" has reported on the type of duty performed, which is apt to be the dull, routine one of checking passes. True, we ex-members of the Company have still-fresh memories of the time spent on the various security posts, but we have other memories too—Tramps' Balls, Beatnik Balls, Mess Socials and the annual visit to the Le Mans 24-hour road race, to name just a few.

Opportunities to join in sports functions are unlimited. The male members of the Company have had several trips to Germany in their capacity as rugby players. Organised canoeing and skiing parties depart for numerous beauty-spots in Europe throughout the year.

Special duties at S.H.A.P.E. are usually grand affairs. Spotting the highest-ranking officers in their various uniforms is quite a headache. Undoubtedly, parades of the different nationalities in their dress uniforms are most spectacular.

In the last year, Ration Allowance has been given to all N.C.O.s of S.H.A.P.E. Provost Company. They now have the choice of eating in the British, French and American Messes. Local Overseas Allowance is also paid.

W.R.A.C. Provost are posted to S.H.A.P.E. for one year, after which they may extend their tour voluntarily, provided of course the marriage bug has not already bitten them!

Princess Royal's Day, 1965

PRINCESS Royal's Day will be celebrated in the presence of Her Royal Highness at the Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C., Queen Elizabeth Barracks, on Sunday, 2nd May, 1965, beginning at 1400 hours. All Regular, A.E.R. and Territorial members of the Corps, members of the Headquarter Mess and W.R.A.C. Association and their friends are invited to attend.

Further details will be forwarded in due course through Command Headquarters and Associations.

Headquarter Mess

THE Annual General Meeting of the W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess will be held in the Duke of York's Headquarters at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 3rd May, 1965. Notice will be sent to members as soon as the accounts have been audited.

Home and Leisure

SOUPS AND SAVOURIES

THE old-fashioned stock-pot has almost gone out of existence and has been replaced by the tinned and packet soups on display in every supermarket. Excellent as many of these are, they cannot be compared with the home-made variety.

This month we are printing some suggestions for home-made soups that are easy to prepare and in which a bouillon cube can be used instead of stock, if none is available.

Cream of Corn Soup

- 1 tin creamed corn
- $\frac{3}{4}$ pint chicken stock
- 1 oz. butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ medium onion, chopped finely
- Seasoning
- Chopped parsley

Fry the onion gently in the butter until it is transparent, but do not let it brown. Add the corn, stock and seasoning and simmer for 10 minutes. Rub through a sieve or mix in the electric blender. Reheat and serve garnished with chopped parsley.

Leek and Potato Soup

- 3 leeks
- 1 onion
- 2 medium potatoes
- 1 pint milk
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. butter
- Seasoning

Clean and chop the leeks, using as much of the green tops as possible. Peel and slice the onion thinly. Melt the fat in the saucepan and fry the onion and leeks gently for about 10 minutes, taking care not to let them brown. Add the peeled and thinly sliced potatoes and continue cooking for a further 10-15 minutes. Put through a coarse vegetable mill and return to the saucepan. Add the milk and seasoning. Serve very hot with croutons.

Beet Soup

If your beetroot is uncooked, this soup is best made in a pressure cooker. Baby beet, or the thinnings of your row, are excellent.

- 4 medium-sized beetroot
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints water
- 1 bouillon cube
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ a lemon
- 1 dessertspoon sugar
- 1 egg

Slice the beet and simmer with the water, bouillon cube and salt until all the colour has bled into the water. Strain off the liquid from the tasteless pulp and return it to the pan. Add the lemon juice and sugar. Just before serving, beat the egg thoroughly and pour on the hot soup, whisking all the time to avoid curdling.

Barley Soup

- 1 heaped tablespoon pearl barley
- 1 carrot
- 1 onion
- 1 small white turnip
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints stock
- Salt and pepper

Dice the vegetables and simmer all the ingredients together very gently until the barley is tender and has thickened the soup. Serve garnished with chopped parsley.

Sausage and Rice Savoury

- 4 oz. rice
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pint water
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 lb. sausages (beef, pork or frankfurters)
- 1 onion finely chopped
- 1 small tin tomato soup

Boil the rice, water and salt together until the liquid has been absorbed and the rice is tender. Fry the sausages until brown, drain surplus fat from the pan and fry the onion. Mix the onion with the cooked rice. Put a layer of rice in the bottom of a casserole, lay the sausages on top and cover with the remainder of the rice. Pour in the tomato soup, cover and bake in a moderate oven (gas mark 5) for half an hour. If frankfurter sausages are used, they should be boiled gently for 5 minutes instead of being fried.

Cheese Pudding

- 4 oz. stale breadcrumbs
- 1 pint milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon made mustard
- Pepper to taste
- 2 beaten eggs
- 6 oz. grated cheese

Bring the milk to the boil and pour it over the breadcrumbs. Leave to soak for 10-15 minutes. Add the seasoning, eggs and cheese and mix well. Pour into a greased pie-dish and bake in a coolish oven (gas mark 3) until well risen and just set. Serve at once.

Review

LETTER WRITING

ALL of us have to write letters and, apart from those to our family and friends, these sometimes present problems for which the Army layout and jargon are of little help. Condolence, congratulations, complaints, applying for a job, business and legal matters, are all dealt with by Bic, the makers of ball-point pens, who have recently brought out a helpful little book on letter writing. In this they have gathered together advice on the best way to phrase and lay out letters for almost any purpose, from accepting a formal invitation to clearing up income-tax problems with the Inspector of Taxes.

The Bic Book of Letter Writing is published by Wolfe Publications Ltd. and costs 2s.

T.A. News

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

LAST year's August Camp turned out to be a particularly virile one. A fortnight of benign weather with Ballykinler at its best, and its dramatic back-cloth of the Mourne Mountains, was a perfect setting for enterprise.

Backed as always by the hard work of cooks and other administrative personnel, who could be relied upon to produce a hot meal at any hour of the day or night, the drivers carried out a one-night scheme and two daylight map-reading exercises which sent them ranging through the Sperrin Mountains as far as Magilligan, Co. Derry. A buccaneer flavour was added by the Colonel herself, who swooped disconcertingly about in an Army Air Corps helicopter, and caused a nine days' wonder by descending in a field at Dungiven (a country town), where the convoy had a rest stop. The local populace rushed in a body to view what many of them appeared to think must be a flying saucer, and when to their wonderment a solitary woman emerged, the comments gave the grinning W.R.A.C. the greatest entertainment of the day.

One of the most popular facets of driver training was the cross-country work carried out in the sandhills behind the Camp, where a tough course, presenting every kind of hazard, soon developed skill and confidence in even the most timid of the newly qualified BIIIIs, and was a challenge to the even more experienced. This course proved also to be our foremost "tourist attraction," and visiting members of the respective T. & A.F. Associations bravely subjected themselves to several circuits in Champs driven by the M.T. officers. Our Honorary Colonel, Lady Dunleath, who paid us her never-failing welcome visit, did the "rodeo ride" with Colonel Christy at the wheel, and then took over to negotiate it herself, returning windswept and exhilarated. We were pleased that Lord Dunleath could join her for our Officers' Mess Guest Night.

The unit's Annual Admin. Parade was carried out in Camp by the Chief of Staff, Brigadier P. W. P. Green, C.B.E., D.S.O., who also presented the Territorial Efficiency Medal to Sgt. A. Adamson of 95 (Armagh & Down) Company. The weather was ideal for the Parade, and all ranks felt at their smartest and steadiest best in the glittering sunlight.

On the social side there was plenty of entertainment, including two dances and the traditional Camp Concert, presented to an audience of parents and friends as a grand finale to the mid-Camp Open Day. Despite the lack of a stage and the somewhat precarious "curtains" of blankets stretched on a string, the show was hilariously received and much hidden talent came to light.

By the end of the fortnight the excellent results in trade tests for both cooks and drivers had justified the hard work put in by pupils and instructors alike, and in this context we would warmly thank Sgt. Foster, R.A.S.C., and his colleagues, who were such a tower of strength in the M.T. Section.

On the final Saturday nobody wanted to go home, and, as the trucks pulled out, the chorus of cheers, singing and inter-Company well-wishing left no doubt that Ballykinler 1964 had been one of the happiest and most successful Camps in the unit's history.

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

ON the weekend 18th/19th October, 1964, a team of three Austin Champs entered by the Regiment took part in the Civilian Britvic Car Rally 1964. The team left the Hospital Hill T.A. Centre, Shorncliffe, on the Saturday afternoon and travelled approximately 180 miles to the starting point at Mundford in Norfolk. Many professional Rally enthusiasts from all over the country were competing.

The Rally, an all-night event to which the B.A.M.A. had been invited, was split into three sections, each involving approximately 30 grid references and covering, in all, 240 miles, most of which was cross-country and forest lanes. The dense fog which persisted throughout the night made the course more gruelling than expected and it was almost impossible to adhere to the strict time schedule given.



Competitors in the Rally

The three vehicles entered by the Regiment were specially equipped for the Rally with interior-lighting facilities, map boards, pencils, etc., making the job of the navigator easier. The majority of vehicles were crewed by three people, e.g. driver, co-driver and navigator, whereas the vehicles entered by the Regiment were manned by just a driver and a navigator, as follows: Sgt. Hambrook and Cpl. Johnson, Sgt. Peel and Cpl. O'Callaghan, Pte. Hibbs and Pte. Pooley (W.R.A.C.), the latter being the only W.R.A.C. crew taking part in a military vehicle in this Rally.

The actual circuit finished at Mundford (the starting point), where stop-watches issued at the beginning of the course and check-point cards collected *en route* were returned. From there, tired but cheerful competitors made

their way to the Britvic factory at Chelmsford in Essex, where a well-deserved breakfast awaited them. All military vehicles entered by the Regiment completed the circuit without any damage and, although the team did not secure a position, a vast amount of experience was gained and all members agreed that, should the opportunity arise, they would like to enter other rallies of this kind.

51 HIGHLAND SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.) ATTACHMENT TO B.A.O.R.

S/Sgt. Bryden

ON the evening of 10th September, 1964, I set off on the first stage of my journey to 16 Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R. I travelled on the overnight train from Aberdeen to London, arriving at King's Cross in time to have a quick breakfast before getting a taxi across London to Victoria, where I boarded another train to Gatwick. At Gatwick I had my ticket and baggage checked, but should have realised that events had run too smoothly, because at 1015 hours I was still sitting in the departure lounge. The delay was "due to circumstances beyond our control"—a statement which was repeated every ten minutes over loud-speakers. I decided to join a queue for a cup of coffee, but, just as I got within sight of the counter, the flight departure was announced and off we went.

On arriving at Düsseldorf I was met by a German civilian driver who was to take me to Krefeld. He could speak little English and I even less German, so I was quite glad when a signalman, returning from leave, arrived. We started on the short journey and the driver and Signalman pointed out various points of interest *en route*. This being my first trip abroad, I was more concerned with the traffic streaming down the "wrong" side of the roads and going the "wrong" way round the roundabouts.

We arrived at camp in time for lunch. I was accommodated in excellent quarters and had a lovely room with windows overlooking the main road, trees and fields. The food was very good and the Mess arrangements were first class. I felt a bit conspicuous dressed in khaki battle-dress and Red Grant tartan skirt, but I was greeted by so many people with Scottish accents I thought I was back home.

Next day (Saturday) I went into town alone and, with much consultation of my English-German phrase-book, bought postcards and stamps. Fortunately, I could window-shop and wander round the large stores with little need for speech. With a wary eye on the traffic, especially bicycles, which everyone from 5 to 75 years appears to ride, I made my way back to camp, carefully following the map drawn by one of the W.R.A.C. N.C.O.s. Next day I went with a group of people to an open-air swimming pool near Krefeld. The sun was shining and it was hard to realise that I had left the cold and misty weather of Scotland just two days before.

On Monday I was given work in the Tape Relay Centre and attached to one of the shifts. It took a few days to settle down to the irregular hours and I wondered if I would fall asleep on duty the first time I worked all night. However, as the N.A.T.O. exercises had just begun, I was too busy to shut even one eye. It was quite an experience, and my theoretical training began to fall into perspective. The people I worked alongside were very helpful and no question was allowed to go unanswered, however busy they were. I was kept extremely busy and, apart from the weekend I arrived, there was no time for sight-seeing. This was no holiday, but an extremely valuable training period. Time flew by, and two weeks later I was hurriedly searching for souvenirs to take home.

63 SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

OVER 40 members of 63 Signal Regiment (T.A.) attended a late Annual Camp in September at Blandford Forum, Dorset, and much enjoyed the training and recreational facilities provided by the host unit, H.Q. A.E.R., Royal Signals. For the first week most of the Regiment was out on exercise in the Dorset countryside, providing communications for a simulated emergency. Radio communications were set up between widely scattered locations and signal traffic was handled by members of the W.R.A.C. at a Communication Centre established at Ibberton, where the women lived under field conditions under canvas and much enjoyed the experience. After a downpour of rain the G.O.C. Aldershot District, Major-General P. H. Man, was most popular when he visited detachments at their exercise locations and ordered a free issue of rum.

For approximately half the number of women present it was their first experience of Camp and the first opportunity for intensive trade training. The excellent technical facilities enabled an encouraging number of women to complete conversion training to Communication Centre Operator and to be classified or upgraded. An upgrading course for cooks was also held and three women qualified as BII cooks, including the oldest W.R.A.C. member of the Regiment, Pte. V. L. Higginson.

One of the highlights of the second week was the ceremony of Beating Retreat performed by the W.R.A.C. Bugle and Drum Band from 3 Squadron (Southampton and Portsmouth) before the Chairman and Secretaries of the Wiltshire and Berkshire T. & A.F. Associations and Lieut.-Colonel M. W. Hickson, A.D.W.R.A.C. Aldershot District, all of whom afterwards dined in the Officers' Mess. The salute was taken by the Honorary Colonel, Major-General R. J. Moberly, who spent several days with the Regiment. The Earl of Malmesbury, Chairman of Hampshire T. & A.F. Association, and Colonel D. H. I. Wilson, D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command, attended a sports afternoon. Other social activities included three all ranks' dances, football and netball matches as well as Squadron outings to Weymouth, Minehead and Exeter.

Over My Shoulder

W.O.II L. Vowles

IT seemed like a good idea at the time, but exactly why it should have seemed so has always doggedly escaped me. Nevertheless, I joined the 2nd (Staffs.) Coy., A.T.S., in September 1938. Wednesday evenings thereafter found me "forming fours" under the eagle eye of a male instructor, learning first aid and listening enthralled to someone expounding on A.T.S. duties. The only uniform we had was an armband on which were printed the initials of that noble service, the A.T.S. No uniform was ever worn with more pride.

My first Camp was in May 1939 at Great Malvern, Worcestershire. A bell-tented camp which we shared with many other women and millions of earwigs. Palliasses with which we were issued and told to fill with straw seem a far cry from today's latex foam mattresses. In September of the same year I was called from my civilian occupation in a footwear store to full-time service. I left the shoes behind with a sigh of relief and airily told my friends, as I took my leave of them, to expect a postcard from France. How were the mighty fallen! I was posted to the C.O.D. Branston, my home town, and given the job of sorting and checking A.T.S. shoes.

In 1942, still surrounded by shoes and clothing, I was promoted W.O.II with the appointment of Storeholder and continued the work of clothing the A.T.S., the Nursing Sisters of the Q.A.s and members of the Canadian Women's Army stationed in Europe, until 1946. Unspectacular this work may have been, essential it most certainly was, and I felt then, and feel now, justly proud of the job which we did well. In February 1944 I was awarded the Certificate of Merit from the Quartermaster-General to the Forces. In 1947 I was posted to C.O.D. Donnington, where I worked in a technical capacity until 1949, when I changed to W.O.II Admin. That year also saw the change from A.T.S. to W.R.A.C.

1950 came and with it my first tour of duty with the Territorial Army and 262 (Mixed) H.A.A. Regt. in Derby, with two splendid Annual Camps in TOWN and Weymouth. In 1952 I was with 12 Indep. Coy., W.R.A.C., in Canterbury and I rejoiced that, being so close to London, I could make plans to see the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. However, my rejoicings were short-lived, for, having waited 14 years for an overseas tour, I was posted to Germany shortly before the date of the Coronation. Promotion to W.O.I brought me back to England in 1954 and a tour of duty with 303 (Kent) Bn., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), in Maidstone. The Camp at Fort Tregantle on Dartmoor was most enjoyable.

In September 1955 I returned home for compassionate reasons and in 1956 filled a vacancy as an Ordnance P.S.I. on a Type "R" Engagement, working with 323 (Staffs.) Bn., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), until 1961. With the general reorganisation of the T.A., I continued to serve with our new unit, 110 (Staffs.) Coy., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Headquarters in West Bromwich. I changed my trade to Clerk

and attended Annual Camps at Castlemartin and Penhale. In 1963 reorganisation came yet again, and we became 12 (Staffs.) Indep. Pl., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), and back again to affiliation with R.A.O.C. I attended two Annual Camps at Altcar and Ashchurch.

I retired in 1964 with no regrets about the decision I made some 26 years before. I had my happiest years with the Staffordshire units, who are, I believe, second to none, and now in my retirement I will follow their progress with interest.

Officers' Postings

(Up to 31st December, 1964)

- Colonel The Hon. M. M. Anderson, M.B.E., Commandant, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
Colonel L. M. Davies, O.B.E., Colonel G.S. W.R.A.C., Ministry of Defence.
Major J. Buncher, O.C. 12 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Major K. I. Gunningham, P.S.O., H.Q. C.W.R.A.C., 42 Div./Dist. (T.A.).
Major F. M. Harford, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Southern Command.
Major A. E. Herdman-Grant, P.S.O., H.Q. 54 Div./Dist. (T.A.).
Major F. Saffery, D.A.O.M.G. (Finance), Middle East Command.
Major R. M. Shaw, P.S.O., 65 Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Major M. E. Snowden, O.C. 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Major P. Norman, British Joint Service Training Team, Ghana.
Major P. R. Wyndham-Tate, A.R.O. (W.S.), Plymouth.
T/Major P. R. Bryans, W.S.L.O., H.Q. Western Command.
Capt. N. R. Burgin, W.S.L.O., H.Q. Eastern Command.
Capt. D. V. Palmer, 235 (COMCAN) Signal Squadron, Malta.
Capt. B. A. Rooney, O.C. 15 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Capt. (Q.M.) J. Wiffen, Administrative Officer, Army School of Physical Training.
T/Capt. J. A. Cowden, P.S.O., 44 (H.C.) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports) (T.A.).
T/Capt. S. C. E. Orr, G.S.O.3 (W.R.A.C.) (Secretariat C.-in-C.'s Committee), H.Q. B.A.O.R.
T/Capt. W. A. Scott, 2 i/c 10 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Lieut. B. A. Castledine, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
Lieut. F. E. Greaves, P.S.O., Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
Lieut. V. J. Hart, N.Z.W.R.A.C., 12 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Lieut. V. M. Williams, R.A.E.C. Instructional Unit, Northern Command.
Lieut. (Q.M.) S. S. Brown, Quartermaster, H.Q. C.W.R.A.C., Aldershot District (T.A.).
Lieut. (Q.M.) M. Evans, 23 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
Lieut. (Q.M.) S. C. Farmer, Administrative Officer, 251 W.R.A.C. Signal Squadron.
Lieut. (Q.M.) E. E. Mailey, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
Lieut. (Q.M.) E. J. Morgan, A.G. 16(a), Ministry of Defence.
2/Lieut. H. M. C. Beaver, H.Q. Company, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.
2/Lieut. V. C. Bennett, 14 Battalion, W.R.A.C., B.A.O.R.
2/Lieut. J. L. Brady, 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. I. A. Cairns, M.A., 24 Signal Regiment.
2/Lieut. S. J. Chalcraft, 14 Signal Regiment.
2/Lieut. R. M. Denvir, 11 Signal Regiment.
2/Lieut. A. M. Douglas, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. S. M. Elderkin, M.T.O., H.Q. Eastern Command.
2/Lieut. P. B. Fereday, 27 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., Cyprus.
2/Lieut. C. D. Green, O.C. W.R.A.C., Joint Services Staff College.
2/Lieut. C. A. Howell, 251 (W.R.A.C.) Signal Squadron.
2/Lieut. E. C. Jackson, B.com., 10 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. B. Jones, 251 (W.R.A.C.) Signal Squadron.
2/Lieut. C. A. Macdonald, M.A., Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. M. M. Masson, 16 Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
2/Lieut. S. W. Morgan, B.sc., 8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. L. M. Morris, O.C. W.R.A.C., H.Q. Northern Command.
2/Lieut. H. Mugford, 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. H. P. Murdoch, Army School of Education.
2/Lieut. V. J. Muxworthy, H.Q. C.W.R.A.C., 42 (Lancs.) Div./Dist. (T.A.).
2/Lieut. L. M. J. Oliver, 2 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. C. C. Parr, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. I. A. Purton, 8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. D. P. Rogers, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. G. M. Scott-Forrest, 8 Signal Regiment.
2/Lieut. J. F. Tugwell, 16 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. E. Tye, 12 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. J. M. Tyler, 12 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. M. A. Whitley, School of Artillery, Manorbier.

NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST

M.B.E.: Major P. E. Gordon Thompson, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Obituary

Miss S. Bell

LONDON Branch regret to announce the death, on 30th November, 1964, of Miss S. Bell, one of the youngest members of the Q.M.A.A.C. Miss Bell joined the Corps in Belfast and came to England, where she served at the Connaught Club. She worked as a nursery stewardess with the Orient Line for many years and only retired in January 1964.

T/Capt. L. S. Brown, W.R.A.C.

ALL those who served with her will be grieved to hear of the death, as the result of a motor accident, of Louise Spencer Brown. Louise joined 12 Battalion in December 1962 on being commissioned. Her cheerful personality and natural charm gained her many friends and she was popular with all ranks. She had just joined the Army Team of Lecturers and was on duty in Scotland at the time of her death. She is greatly missed by all her friends and the Corps has lost a promising young officer.

Mrs. M. Christie

Mrs. L. B. Harding

WE regret to announce the deaths of two members of the Association, Mrs. Mabel Christie (*née* Hare) of Toronto, Ontario, who served in the Q.M.A.A.C. at Catterick Camp, and Mrs. Lilian Harding (*née* Dobson) of Eltham, who served in the Q.M.A.A.C. at Exeter.

Major E. M. Ogle, W.R.A.C.

IT is with very deep regret that we record the sudden death of Major E. M. Ogle, on Monday, 5th October, 1964, in a road accident in Holland. Mary Ogle was a teacher in civilian life and joined the A.T.S. in September 1942. Commissioned in December 1942, she became a plotting officer and served with heavy A.A. batteries in the U.K. and the B.L.A. until the end of the war. Her post-war service included postings with the R.A.O.C. at Didcot and elsewhere, and her appointment as O.C. "B" Coy., 14 Bn. W.R.A.C., at 15 A.B.O.D. (Rear) in Belgium, was a happy choice. Her long experience, personal charm and tenacity of purpose were appreciated by all ranks. Her tragic death is a loss to us all and is made the more poignant as she was close to retirement after so many years of faithful service. Major Ogle was buried with full military honours at the Rheindahlen Military Cemetery on 13th October, 1964.

Miss D. G. Jones

M. D. writes:

"It is with the deepest regret that we learn of the passing of our much-loved comrade, Doris Jones. She joined the Q.M.A.A.C. in 1917 and served on the administrative staff of the overseas Drafting Hostels, first at Warrior Square, Hastings, and later at the Hotel Metropole, Folkestone. Her brightness, honesty, frankness and faith greatly impressed me, and I think everyone, always wanting to share the parcels she received. I remember one

night at Hastings when she had some cocoa and the only way to heat it was by putting a soldier's box on the bed, standing on it, and holding the saucepan over the ordinary gas-burner. We took turns until it was hot enough for drinking. Such was Service life in those days."

Remember !

SINCE our appeal this time last year we are very grateful to see there has been an appreciable drop in the numbers of magazines returned because members had not told us they were moving, but a few have still been trickling back. It saddens us to feel there are members missing their LIONESS just because they forgot to let us know their new address. Please remember, to be sure we can send amendments to the printer in time for each issue, changes of address should be sent by the closing date for contributions—you will find it under "Who's Who" at the front of the magazine.

Shopping List

W.R.A.C. Car Badges		£1 13s. 0d.
W.R.A.C. Glass Ashtray		6s. 0d.
W.R.A.C. Car Key Rings		7s. 6d.
W.R.A.C. Corps Prints		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:

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Sport

INTER-COMMAND HOCKEY

THE Inter-Command Hockey Tournament was held from 23rd to 26th November at Aldershot and, for the first time we could remember, it was played in fine, mild weather except for the last day, when it turned rather cold. On paper Southern Command had the strongest team, but in fact some very good matches were played and, in some cases, the scores made the games appear to be more one-sided than they actually were.

All seven Commands competed. The winners were, as expected, Southern Command, with B.A.O.R. second, and followed by Northern, Western, Eastern, Northern Ireland and Scottish, who are congratulated on never giving up.

The Inter-Service matches will be held at Portsmouth on 10th, 11th and 12th March, with the R.N.H.A. as hostesses.

News of Old Comrades

MRS. JANE MURTON writes to say that she and her sister both served at the Duke of York's School in World War I. She also pays tribute to the late Mrs. Chilvers' kindness to her and recalls how, one November, she gave her six strawberries picked from her own garden.

Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

Some of your readers who served in the County of London may be interested in the fate of the County of London Branch of the W.R.A.C. Association, even if they have never belonged to it.

This Branch does not hold regular monthly meetings, but concentrates on two cocktail parties which are held every year at the Duke of York's Headquarters, usually on a Monday evening in May and October. Anyone who ever served in a County of London Unit is eligible to join, either by paying the full subscription which admits to the W.R.A.C. Association or (if she belongs to another Branch as well) for a nominal subscription of 1s. 6d. a year.

Our strength has declined during the last few years, as members moved away from London or took on other commitments, and it has become increasingly difficult to find a Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members to run the Branch. The small attendance at our two parties now hardly justifies the effort put into their organisation, and we feel that the time may have come when it would be wiser to close the Branch down.

Before we take a decision on a matter of such importance, I want to make sure that everyone who could be interested understands the position and has a chance to express her views. We have called a special meeting to discuss the situation, on Monday, 22nd February, 1965, at 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m., in the W.R.A.C. Canteen at the Duke of York's Headquarters, and we shall welcome anyone with County of London service who feels an interest in keeping the Branch alive.

SYLVIA CRAWLEY,

Chairman, County of London Branch.

Personal Column

For Sale. No. 1 Dress, 34-25-38, height 5 ft. 7 in., and accessories; scarcely worn. Also khaki shirts and accessories. Cap badge. Inquiries to Miss A. P. Taylor, The Tile Cottage, Strettington, Nr. Chichester, Sussex. Tel.: Chichester 7107 (daytime).

For Sale. Greatcoat—scarlet lined, back length 42—£15. No. 1 Dress, £10. Mackintosh, £5. No. 1 Dress hat, £1; size 6½. Two No. 2 Dress, £5 (£2 10s. each). All garments size 14.—Box No. 1/65.

For Sale. No. 1 Dress jacket and skirt, 35-27-37. Height 5 ft. 6 in. £3.—Box No. 2/65.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress; greatcoat; No. 2 Dress and riding mackintosh, all in exceptional condition. Size 36-24-36. 1 new beret, 6½. Any reasonable offer accepted. Replies to: Miss Fry, 3 Bridgewood Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

A vacancy exists for a Sgt. Permanent Staff Instructor (Type "R"), Motor Tpt., with 77 (Sy.) Coy., W.R.A.C. (T.A.). Applicant will be required to enlist on a Type "R" engagement. For full details apply to: O.C. 77 (Sy.) Coy., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Drill Hall, Park Lane, Richmond, Surrey.

A vacancy exists for a W.R.A.C. Sgt. (Type "R") in the Wilts./Hants/Berks. area. Applicants should preferably be Communication Centre Operators, but signals training could be given. For further details write to: O.C. 63 Signal Regiment (T.A.), Bishopdown House, St. Mark's Avenue, Salisbury, Wilts.

Maureen Lees and her friends, the "Good Neighbours," invite you to patronise their display centre at 46 Beaconsfield Road, New Ferry, Wirral, Cheshire, where work of the blind and disabled is on sale. Orders taken. White Elephant Stall to defray costs. Open weekdays 10-3 p.m. (Thursdays 1 p.m.).

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.

BRANCH DIRECTORY

List of Branch Secretaries—Amendments

Hartlepool: Correspondence to Chairman, Miss V. McRoberts, Tunstall Grange, Grange Road, West Hartlepool.

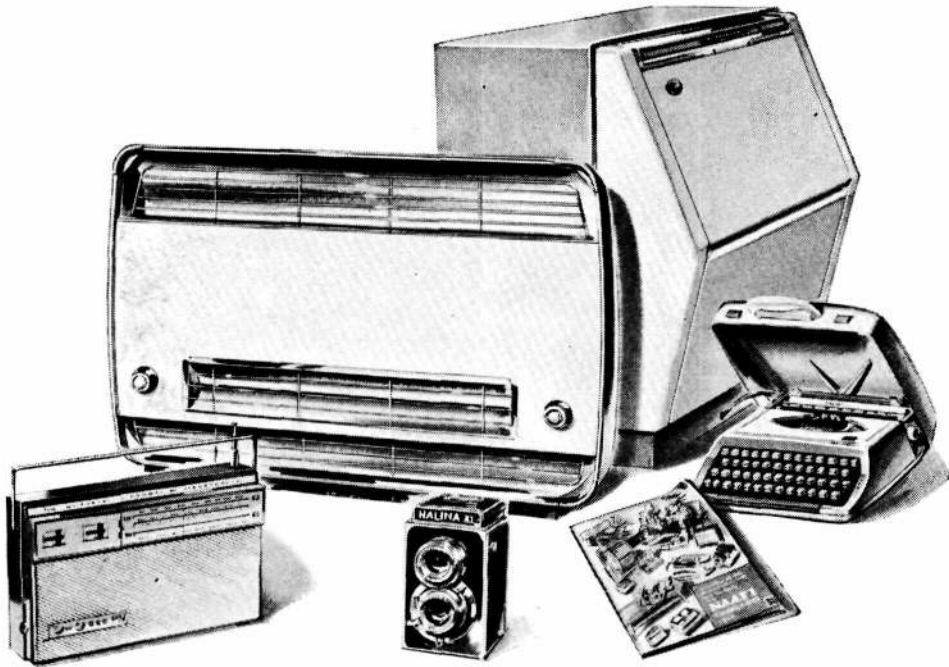
Lonsdale: Mrs. D. M. Grant, 6 Ashford Close, Lancaster.

Southampton: Mrs. V. Hoare, "Selhurst," Burns Road, Thornhill, Southampton.

28 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.: W.O.II F. O. Shooter, H.Q. Middle East Command, British Forces Post Office 69.

W.R.A.C. Detachment, Army School of Education: W.O.II Chiverton, W.R.A.C., Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

Will all Branches and Units please send up-to-date details of Secretaries for publication in the May issue of THE LIONESS.



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