

THE LIONESS

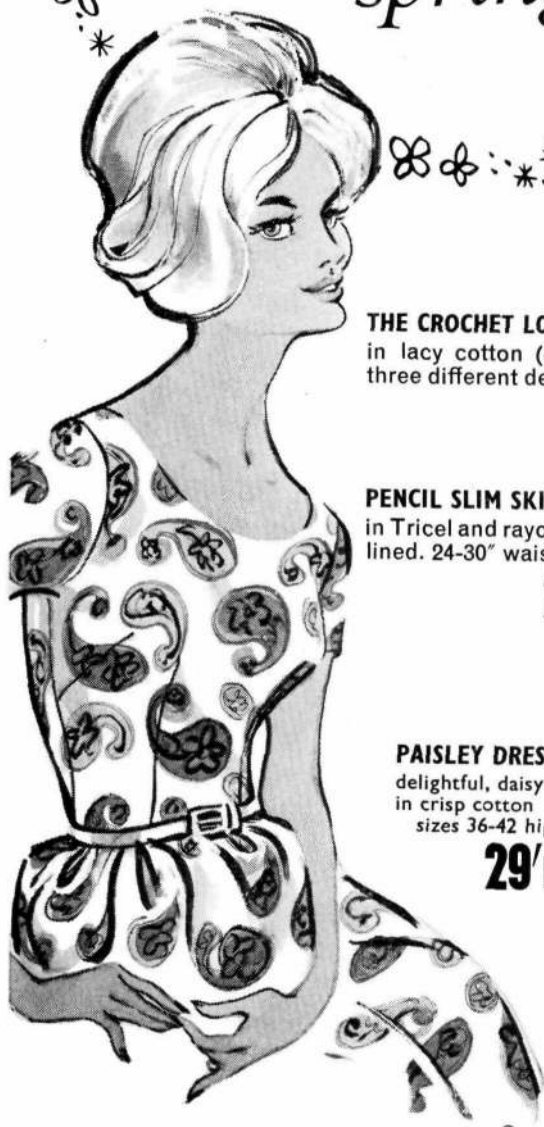
VOL XXXVIII

MAY 1965

No. 2



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Contents

	Page
Death of H.R.H. The Princess Royal	19
Editorial	20
Association News	20
Reunions	23
Correspondence	26
News of Old Comrades	26
Obituary	27
W.R.A.C. Officer Cadet	28
W.R.A.C. College, Camberley	29
Sport	29
Irish Pageantry in North America	30
Review	31
T.A. News	31
Manoeuvring Memories—1939 Onwards	32
Unit News	33
Forthcoming Events	34
Headquarter Mess	34
Branch News	35
World Guiding	37
Officers' Postings	37
London Gazette	37
How Many Miles to Brighton?	38
Shopping List	38
Branch Directory	39
Personal Column	40

WHO'S WHO

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(All correspondence re membership and distribution
of THE LIONESS)

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(Contributions and personal column advertisements)

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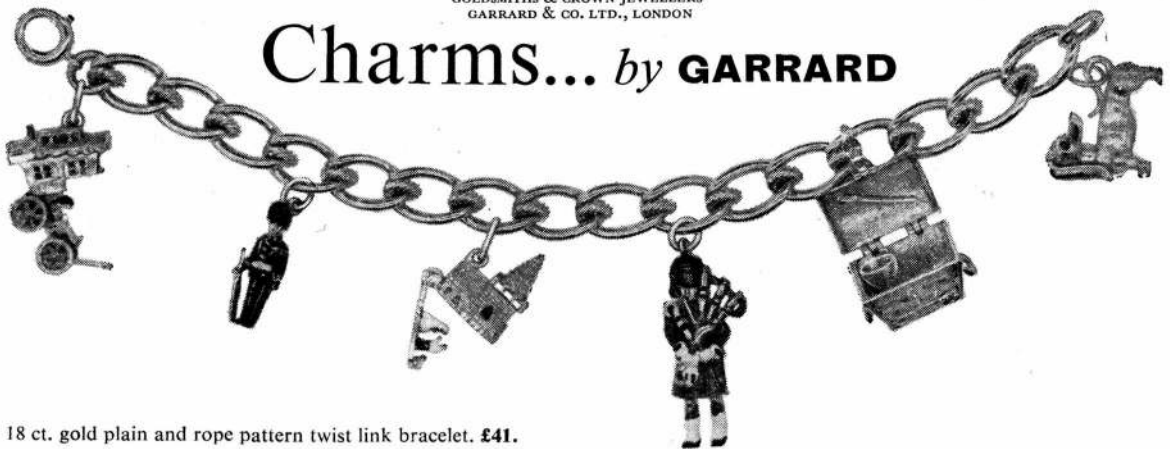
Personal column: 3 lines 4s. 6d., each additional line
1s. 6d., non-members 50 per cent more. Box Nos. 6d.
Reunion notices: Notices of forthcoming reunions where
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H.R.H. The Princess Royal as Controller Commandant, W.R.A.C.

Photo by Baron



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXVIII

May, 1965

No. 2

We Salute the Memory of
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL
Controller Commandant, Women's Royal Army Corps
President, W.R.A.C. Association
(Incorporating Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S. Comrades' Association)
President, A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. Benevolent Funds

THE tragic news of the sudden death of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, a few days before this issue was due to go to print, came as a great shock and brought a sense of personal loss to all members of the Association.

During the First World War, Her Royal Highness served with the V.A.D.s and saw something of the work of the Q.M.A.A.C., but her closer connection with the Corps started in 1938 when she accepted the honorary appointment of A.T.S. Controller for Yorkshire, and helped to raise the A.T.S. Units in that area.

The Princess Royal became Controller Commandant of the A.T.S. in 1941 and President of the W.R.A.C. Association in 1956, on the death of Dame Florence Simpson. She took a keen interest in the A.T.S., and later the W.R.A.C., Benevolent Fund, and regularly attended, and presided at, meetings of the Trustees. Her Royal Highness's generosity, warm-heartedness and thoughtfulness for others never failed, and many will remember unexpected gifts and acts of kindness.

We have indeed reason to be grateful to The Princess Royal for all she did for the Corps, not least for the example she set of unobtrusive devotion to duty. Her charm, sense of humour, genuine interest and friendliness endeared her to all of us. Perhaps Her Royal Highness's greatest gift was that, in common with Yorkshire and all the other units and organisations with which she was associated, we regarded her as "Our Princess." No function was complete without her and she will leave a gap in our lives that will be impossible to fill.

In the midst of our distress at her passing we are glad that Her Royal Highness was spared a long and painful illness and died, as we are sure she herself would have

wished, on a perfect spring day, in her beloved Yorkshire and surrounded by members of her family.

With hearts full of respectful love, pride and gratitude, we will cherish the memory of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Controller Commandant, Women's Royal Army Corps, our President and comrade.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

SERVING W.R.A.C., and ex-Service members of all three Corps, represented the Association at the Memorial Services for Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, held in Westminster Abbey and York Minster.

We all echo, in our hearts, the words of the Dean of Westminster when he thanked God for Her Royal Highness's works and example, her special service in both World Wars, her steady devotion to duty, her quiet and unobtrusive fidelity, and pray with him "Grant her Thy peace."

Services were also held at the same time as the funeral at the Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C., and the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction.

FLORAL TRIBUTES

FLOWERS were sent "To our President" on behalf of the W.R.A.C. Association with A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. Benevolent Funds. Members may be interested to know that Lieut.-Colonel E. E. Michell, A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, visited Harewood Church on the evening of Her Royal Highness's funeral. She saw our tribute, among many others, including those from Northern Area, The Deputy Controller Commandant, The Director and All Ranks of the serving Corps and Officers of the W.R.A.C. Headquarter Mess.

MESSAGES

MESSAGES of condolence were sent to Her Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and the Earl of Harewood.

The following replies have been received:

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

DEAR COLONEL DAVIES,

I have laid before The Queen your letter of 29th March and am commanded to express Her Majesty's sincere thanks to you for the kind message of condolences which you have sent to her on the death of The Princess Royal, your Controller Commandant. Her Majesty knows what a loss this will be to the Corps and is so glad to have been able to open your new Depot at Guildford last year in Her Royal Highness's presence.

Please convey The Queen's thanks for their sympathy to all ranks of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

Yours sincerely,

EDWARD FORD.

CLARENCE HOUSE

DEAR BRIGADIER HENDERSON,

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother has bidden me convey to you her very sincere appreciation of the kind message of sympathy which you have sent to Her Majesty on behalf of All Ranks, Women's Royal Army Corps.

Yours sincerely,

MARTIN GILLIAT.

The following message of sympathy has been received from Army H.Q., New Zealand:

"Colonel Commandant and All Ranks New Zealand Women's Royal Army Corps learn with profound regret of the death of your Controller Commandant, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal."

Editorial

THIS year our Reunion weekend was blessed with almost perfect spring weather, in contrast to the continuous downpour that almost washed us away in 1964. As usual the weekend rushed past all too quickly and it seemed that we had hardly finished greeting old friends before it was time to say goodbye and speed them on their way. We were particularly pleased to welcome representatives from Ayr Branch, who are not able to join us very often owing to the long and expensive journey.

Our good friends the British Legion have formed a non-profit-making Housing Association, with the object of providing comfortable labour-saving accommodation for elderly ex-Servicemen and their wives, ex-Servicewomen and the widows of ex-Servicemen. A pilot scheme is going ahead at Westgate-on-Sea, where 20 flats are being built.

Your Council has given serious consideration to the possibility of forming a Housing Association but,

lacking the resources of the British Legion, has regretfully had to shelve the proposal for the time being, at any rate. Together with other Regimental Associations, it intends to support the British Legion's admirable scheme and to invest in some of their Housing Bonds, when funds permit.

While membership of the British Legion is not essential in order to qualify for a tenancy of one of these flats, members are strongly recommended to give this far-sighted project the support it deserves by joining the Legion. Keeping in touch with the local branch of the British Legion will also ensure that they are aware of any building projects in their own area and will be able to put their name on a waiting list of potential tenants.

At the end of last month the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction moved to its permanent home at Camberley and will, in future, be known as the W.R.A.C. College. We wish them every success and happiness and thank them for the invitations they so generously extend to members of the Association to attend commissioning ceremonies.

Association News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting was held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 13th March, 1965, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, by kind permission of the County of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, the Vice-President of the Association, Brigadier Dame Mary Raiton, D.B.E., presided. She opened the meeting by saying how disappointed everyone was that The Princess Royal had to alter her plans at the last minute to represent Her Majesty The Queen at the funeral of Queen Louise in Sweden, and said she was pleased to see so many members present. Dame Mary read a message from Her Royal Highness saying how sorry she was not to be able to be present at the Annual General Meeting. The Princess Royal said only a Command from Her Majesty The Queen or illness would keep her away. Dame Mary then read The Princess Royal's opening address to the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Secretary read apologies for absence from 27 members.

Minutes

- 1 The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 14th March, 1964, having been circulated in the May issue of THE LIONESS, were taken as read and signed as correct.

Business Arising from the Minutes

- 2 There was no business arising from the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.

Election of Officers: Council Vice-President

- 3 It was proposed by the Chairman of Council, seconded by Mrs. Chitty and carried *nem. con.* that

Mrs. A. H. Marsden-Smedley be elected to the vacancy, and that Mrs. N. Giles, Miss B. Harvie-Anderson, O.B.E., T.D., M.P., and Miss M. M. Thomson, T.D., be re-elected.

Reports

- 4 *Report of Council.* The Report of Council (printed elsewhere) was read by Miss V. K. Stead.
- 5 *Hon. Treasurer.* Mrs. I. O. Holliss reported that the Association had not increased its investments in 1964, because Council had voted £283 4s. to pay the salary of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund Secretary during the interim period when the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. Benevolent Funds were amalgamating; income from annual subscriptions increased in 1964 by approximately £100, but THE LIONESS showed a small loss of £29 12s. 2d., due, mainly, to increased costs. £200 had already been received for subscriptions in 1965. At the end of February the balance at the Bank was £610; of this £178 was for Reunion tickets. Mrs. Holliss warned the meeting that the loss on the Grand Reunion was likely to be greater than last time, due, again, to higher costs. The Treasurer said copies of the audited accounts were available for inspection and moved that they be adopted. This was seconded by Colonel E. W. Gibson, M.B.E., put to the vote and carried unanimously.
- 6 *"The Lioness."* Lieut.-Colonel Millington said she was sorry to have to report that, as the Treasurer had said, THE LIONESS account was in the red again. The main reason for this was the 4½ per cent increase in the cost of printing. Thanks to the efforts of Major E. O. Coven, the revenue from advertisements had risen, but not, unfortunately, enough to cover the rising cost of production. The only copies that paid their way were those sold in bulk to units at 1s. each. The 3s. credited from each annual and life subscription covered only three issues, and members had the fourth one "for free." The Editor thanked all Branches, units and members who sent contributions, particularly those who sent them in good time. She reminded the meeting that blocks were no longer required. Photographs, clear black-and-white prints, were best. Colour prints did not reproduce well in black and white.

Reports of Committees

- 7 (a) *A.T.S./W.R.A.C. Benevolent Funds.* Lieut.-Colonel Hingston reported that the reorganisation of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. Benevolent Funds had been completed and that the two Funds had now been amalgamated under one Committee of Managing Trustees. During the period covered by the Report 571 cases had been considered, of which 96 were W.R.A.C. and nine Q.M.A.A.C. Only 82 applicants had been refused help. A total of £5,651 17s. 11d. had been paid on grants, a decrease of £2,542 2s. 4d. on the previous year. Liaison between the Funds and other Service organisations continued to be close. Lieut.-Colonel Hingston



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H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH
THE QUEEN MOTHER
Laundry Tailors

gave a brief résumé of some of the cases helped, and thanked the members of the Association who knitted baby clothes for the Benevolent Funds. She ended by stressing the need for continued support for the Funds, and thanked all members of the Grants Committee for their untiring efforts throughout the year.

(b) *Museum.* Lieut.-Colonel Millington said that the most important event during the past year had been the visit of Her Majesty The Queen to the Museum on 30th October. Her Majesty took a great interest in the exhibits and, before leaving, signed the Visitors' Book and a portrait of herself, which had since been framed and hung in the entrance hall. The Trustees had bought a central showcase for the display of uniforms; six new models and five screens. Curtains had also been bought to protect the exhibits from too much light and sun. The Trustees had been helped to make these purchases by a generous grant from the disbanded W.R.A.C. Staff College Club towards the showcase, and the gift of a model from Colonel C. E. Hammond. The rest of the cost had been met by realising the Museum's savings account, but it was felt to be essential to provide the basic equipment as soon as possible. Table cases and other smaller items were still required and contributions would be welcome. Lieut.-Colonel Millington said the Curator's office had been turned into a silver room where the Q.M.A.A.C. cups and the model 3.7 ack-ack gun could be shown with greater safety. Gifts included an illuminated charter presented by Milva (Netherlands Women's Army), and the Director, Brigadier J. E. Henderson's official invitation to the State Funeral of the late Sir Winston Churchill in St. Paul's Cathedral, with the Order of Service and Ceremonial. She concluded by saying there had been 2,302 visitors to the Museum during 1964, and donations in the collecting box amounted to £31 5s. 4d.

(c) *Reunion 1965.* Mrs. A. J. Stevenson said she had little to report, except to say the response for tickets had been fairly good. She looked forward to seeing all present at the Reunion that evening, and hoped they would have a very enjoyable time.

Resolution

- 8 "That the Draw in aid of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund be discontinued" (Scottish Area).

This resolution was proposed by Miss M. M. Thomson, T.D., on behalf of Scottish Area.

Colonel C. E. Hammond, C.B.E., proposed an amendment that, as the Fund could not afford the loss of revenue, the Draw should continue. This was seconded by Colonel D. H. I. Wilson, O.B.E. After discussion, a vote was taken and the amendment was carried by a large majority. Miss Thomson said that, in the event of a Draw being held, Scottish Area reserved the right not to take part.

Any Other Business

- 9 (a) Miss K. Acland, O.B.E., proposed that a message be sent to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal expressing how greatly Her Royal Highness was missed at the Annual General Meeting. This proposal was received with acclamation.

(b) *Northern Area Reunion.* The Chairman said the Northern Area Reunion would be held on 25th September, 1965, at Harrogate. Tickets 6s. each. It was hoped that the T.A. would help with some form of entertainment.

Date of Next Meeting

- 10 The Chairman said the suggested date for the next Annual General Meeting was either 12th or 19th March, 1966. It was not possible to arrange this definitely without consulting Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. It was agreed that it be left to Council to arrange a date as soon as possible. The meeting was told that the Scottish Area Reunion was to be held on 19th March, 1966, and Her Royal Highness had been invited to attend.

Mrs. Stevenson suggested that the Annual General Meeting be held in Scotland next year. The Chairman said this might be very difficult to arrange.

The Chairman thanked the C.S.O. Eastern Command for authorising the use of the P.A. equipment, and the two men who had given up their time to come from Chatham to install it.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1605 hours.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

THE Annual General Meeting last year was followed by a most successful Tea Party and Sale of Work. It was attended by H.R.H. The Princess Royal, the Officers of the Association and about 150 members. The sum of £120 3s. 4d. resulted for the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. The final figure for the Premium Bond Draw was £507 13s. 9d. and, after the expenses for printing, postage and prizes had been deducted, £389 2s. 9d. was handed over to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.

On the following day we attended morning Service at the Military Chapel, Chelsea Barracks. H.R.H. The Princess Royal again honoured us with her presence and read the lesson.

In June your Chairman and General Secretary went to the opening of the special Photographic Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. They were also present at the Dedication Service of the Reredos in Bordon Garrison Church. The mural was commissioned to commemorate the men and women of both World Wars who served in Bordon Garrison.

Four members had the honour to attend the second Royal Garden Party in July.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to raise a detachment to represent the Association on the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph. Age and infirmity are

taking their toll. The Secretary would always welcome the names of volunteers. Last year Mrs. Wells, of Canterbury Branch, laid the wreath on our behalf. Representatives of the Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. attended the Dedication of the Field of Remembrance, when a cross was planted by A.D.W.R.A.C. London District. The Dedication was honoured by the presence of H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Your Council has met four times during the year and has dealt with all the current business. The Association continues to be represented on the Joint and Co-ordinating Committees of the British Service and Ex-Service Organisation, the British Members' Committee of the World Veterans' Federation and the Women's Voluntary Services' Advisory Council.

We have had 32 new life members during the past year, and the membership of the serving W.R.A.C. continues at a high level. Last June the Association was grieved to learn of the death of Mrs. A. E. Johnston, who had been General Secretary of the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association from 1930 until 1946. She is sadly missed by all who knew her.

The death, in September, of Mrs. L. W. Chilvers was another sad loss to the Association. Mrs. Chilvers founded the Norfolk Branch in 1929, and was Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch until just before she died.

I know members will wish me to thank the Commandant and Officers of the Depot and Training Centre for the invitation extended to the Association for the Official Opening of Queen Elizabeth Barracks by Her Majesty The Queen on 30th October last.

I would also like to say a special word of thanks to all the Branch Officers. Without their willing and devoted work there would be no Association and we would all be the poorer.

Reunions

THE GRAND REUNION

THE 1965 Reunion was held on Saturday, 13th March, in the Rainbow Room of Derry & Toms. Just under 600 members attended, rather fewer than at the last Reunion.

Everybody was most disappointed that Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal could not be with us after all. But in spite of this, because all present were determined to make the best of things, the evening began well, with many friends meeting again, perhaps for the first time since the last Reunion in 1963, or indeed since their days in the Service.

By 7 o'clock most of us had assembled, either in the spacious bar or comfortably seated at the tables with our friends, listening to the enjoyable selection of light music played by the W.R.A.C. Staff Band under their Director of Music, Lieut. E. Crowcroft, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

The Vice-President of the Association, Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E., presided; she read a letter she had received from Her Royal Highness expressing the Princess



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Royal's disappointment because she could not be with us that evening.

Our President's speech was read by Dame Mary. In this Her Royal Highness said that two years ago we had celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, and went on to say that in another two years we should come to an even more historic occasion when we reached the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. This would call for a very special form of celebration, and plans were already being formulated, in conjunction with the Women's Royal Naval Service and the Women's Royal Air Force. Her Royal Highness concluded by saying that our Corps owed its being and strength to the traditions it had inherited from the past and that it was fitting we remembered those foundations at our Reunion.

Brigadier J. Henderson, Hon. A.D.C., D.W.R.A.C., gave an extremely interesting résumé of the work of the Corps in overseas theatres, and spoke of the places she would visit during her forthcoming tour. Amongst other places where W.R.A.C. are to be found Brigadier Henderson mentioned Hong Kong, Saigon, Thailand, Aden, Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar, Paris, Germany and

Belgium. She left us wishing we could accompany her on her tour.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., LL.D., D.S.C., then rose to speak. She received the tremendous ovation that is reserved for her whenever she appears on these occasions. Dame Helen said it gave her great pleasure to see so many at the Reunion. She spoke of the pride felt by the "old ones" for the "young ones," and exhorted all present to remember those who had gone on before, especially Mrs. Chalmers Watson, who had started it all.

After the speeches, supper was served. The remainder of the evening was spent moving round the room, meeting old friends and listening to further selections played by the Band.

We were pleased to see Mrs. Macfie, so well known to many for her work with the A.T.S. Employment Bureau. We were also particularly happy to see two of our former Directors, Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, D.B.E., and Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake, D.B.E.

The evening went all too quickly. At 10.15 p.m. the Band played "Auld Lang Syne" and everyone joined hands and sang lustily. Then, the rush for coats, goodbyes said, and another Reunion was over.



Photo by courtesy of Messrs. Lawson & Co.

Members enjoying themselves at the Grand Reunion. In the foreground, Mrs. N. Giles (Chairman, London Branch) and Mrs. M. Mackie (Chairman, Ayr Branch)

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

WE arrived at the Duke of York's to be greeted by a kilted piper marching to and fro—the London Irish were having a party in the same building! We were a few less this time—89. There are always the regretted gaps, but Dame Helen, as indomitable as ever, came from Sussex by car (returning that night) and was warmly welcomed. She made her usual heartening and affectionate little speech and read us a kind letter from H.R.H. The Princess Royal, expressing real disappointment at her inability to be present since she was representing H.M. The Queen at the funeral of Queen Louise of Sweden, and we sent a message of regret back to her.

Mrs. Giles, lively as ever, had planned a change of entertainment, and after we had enjoyed our refreshments, kindly served by the usual ex-Service helper guests, along came The Travellers, the rhythm group with W.R.A.C. Recruiting, London District, in charge of Capt. Tony Harrison, W.R.A.C.—three charming,

slim young things, Sgt. Josephine Heron, W.R.A.C., Sgt. Pauline Bradbury, Q.A.R.A.N.C., and Sgt. Joan Plant, W.R.A.C. (leader), who, with their double bass, drums and electric guitar, sang in low-voiced rhythm. They soon got on to the old songs and we joined in with gusto. We enjoyed them, and I expect they were highly amused at us, all possible grandmas, and our carefree laughter and chatter. Afterwards, we "learnt" them our own version (a suitable one!) of "Fred Karno's Army"! Later, Mrs. Smith of Mitcham took over at the piano, and soon, with more song and dance, another happy evening ended.

Alas, as I write this, a news flash tells us of the sudden death of The Princess Royal, our own contemporary, who so faithfully honoured us with her presence, and seemed really to enjoy our very informal gatherings, and so graciously made herself one of us. We shall miss her very much.

H. A. B.



Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan with "The Travellers" and their manager, Capt. T. Harrison, at the Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion

Photo by P.T.S. Studios

NORTHERN AREA

THE Northern Area Reunion will be held at the Lounge Hall, Harrogate, on Saturday, 25th September, 1965, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Applications for tickets, price 6s. (including refreshments), with cash and stamped addressed envelope, to D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Northern Command, York, before 15th September. Entertainment by Yorkshire District, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

51st HIGHLAND DIVISION

EX-A.T.S. who served with formations and units of 51st Highland Division in 1939 and 1940 are invited to attend a Reunion at the Highland Brigade Depot, Gordon Barracks, Aberdeen, on Saturday, 2nd October. Particulars and tickets can be obtained from H.Q. 51st Highland Division Reunion Office, Highland House, Perth.

Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

I wonder if it would interest your readers to know that, after 47 years, I have heard from Hallows of Unit 2, Wimereux.

At present she is visiting a daughter in Canberra, Australia, after flying from a visit to another daughter in the U.S.A. Hallows asks in every letter if I have found Vicary, of the same unit, for her. Despite contacting many old comrades I am in touch with, I have had no result. Would it be possible to mention that Hallows would like Vicary's address? She says Vicary married an Australian and she thinks, if she gets the address, she may be able to contact her as they were such good friends in France. There is just a chance that readers of THE LIONESS may know it.

MAY ROBINSON (SMITH 1201).

News of Old Comrades

MRS. Harriet Routledge, who served with the W.A.A.C. near Rouen, writes to pay tribute to the pilots of the Royal Flying Corps, who are, she believes, the "Forgotten Few." They had no airfields and no parachutes and their planes were so slow the petrol tanks were frequently riddled with bullet holes so that the fuel leaked away and they crashed. She recalls that cold was their worst enemy and particularly remembers a visit from Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan.

We congratulate Cpl. B. A. Clewlow on her success as a poet, athlete and singer, surely an unusual combination of talents. Cpl. Clewlow joined the W.R.A.C. in 1961 and has nearly completed a tour as Physical Training Instructor at H.Q. Middle East Land Forces, where she holds the women's title for the javelin, long jump and 100 yards events, as well as being runner-up in the discus.

She is also a talented vocalist and has entertained Service and civilian audiences in and around Aden as a member of a musical "pop" group. One of her poems has recently been included in *An Anthology of New Verse by Cheshire Poets*.



Photo by J.P.R.S. (Aden)

Cpl. B. A. Clewlow throwing the javelin

Any member who served with "H" Coy. at Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, and remembers Cpl. Iris Burge and Pte. Ruth Knight, is invited to get in touch with Mrs. Elkins, Park Cottages, Hardington, Nr. Frome, Somerset. Iris has suffered a great deal of hardship since leaving the A.T.S. and letters would help to cheer her up. Ruth would particularly like to hear from Cpl. Connie Goode.

We congratulate Mrs. A. J. Stevenson on a first-class broadcast on "In Town Today" on Saturday, 13th March, and for standing up to the interviewer in such an attractive and feminine manner.

Mrs. Suttle writes, "Where do the ex-Servicewomen living and working in London go?"

Well, any weekend you will find quite a number of them in the Ladies' Drawing Room at the Victory Ex-Services Club.

Some take their knitting, others their books, but you always find them chatting on all sorts of subjects. Some belong to the W.R.A.C. Association but are not attached to any particular Branch. Many have very good jobs,

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Are opening a new Canteen and require a
COOK

The canteen is expected to open towards the end of May. It is a new building with modern equipment and will cater for some 200 main meals daily. An ex S.T.I. or B.I cook would be preferred. Opportunities exist for further advancement to a more responsible and supervisory position. Pay will depend on qualifications and experience.

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some in the Civil Service, and others are resident housekeepers with very nice families; others are not so fortunate—but for all exists the desire for comradeship.

One very regular visitor is **Ivy Dixon**, who is also a Sheffield member, and she attends the A.G.M. with the Sheffield members. Several of her friends are ex-W.A.A.F., also ex-A.T.S., and they too are resident housekeepers—they visit the theatre and walk in Hyde Park.

One ex-Q.M.A.A.C. member may be remembered by many who served with her in Wimereux as “**Vince**” “The Rebel.” Another ex-Q.M.A.A.C. I met who also served there with her was **Holly Houghton**, known as “Tony,” who is now Mrs. Hubbard and is a member of Leicester Branch.

APOLOGY

We apologise to **BRADFORD** Branch, whose report was credited to the (alas) non-existent Bedford Branch in the November **LIONESS**, and also for a clerical error giving Miss Gummersall's age as 80. She is, of course, an ever-youthful 89.

Obituary

Miss C. Green

HEADQUARTER Branch regret to announce the death of Miss Clara Green, ex-Sgt. A.T.S., who served from February 1942 till April 1949, and died in Winchester Hospital, following an operation, aged 73. Miss Green was a founder member and great worker for the local Branch of Toc H and a faithful member of the staff of the Hampshire Hospital for the Blind for nine years.

Mrs. E. G. Duncan

Miss E. M. Johnson

Miss A. R. Wiggins

WE regret to announce the deaths of Mrs. E. G. Duncan (*née* Wells), formerly a Unit administrator Q.M.A.A.C., Miss E. M. Johnson, ex-W.R.A.C., a life member of the Association, and Miss A. R. Wiggins, who served with the Q.M.A.A.C. at G.H.Q. B.E.F. from October 1917 till July 1919.

Miss E. I. Dipple

BIRMINGHAM Branch announce with deep regret the death of their President and founder member, Miss E. I. Dipple, on 4th April, 1965, aged 84.

W.R.A.C. Officer Cadet

J. P. T.

IT was one of those rare days of summer in 1961 when everything was blue, bright, sparkling and warm—everything, that is, but me. I was cold, pale and nervous. Why? I was on my way to the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction to start my training as an officer cadet.

The School of Instruction was at Hindhead in Surrey, set high up on bracken-covered hills in one of the most beautiful areas of England, but on that day I hardly noticed. All I saw was an Army camp of low, black wooden huts, which was to be my home for the next 11 months. Taking courage in both hands, I walked through the gates, trying to look cool, calm and collected and feeling sure that everyone could see my knees knocking. I reported to the Officer Cadet Wing Office and to my surprise found that the staff looked happy and smiling and were obviously enjoying life. They gave us a friendly welcome and took us straight down to our rooms to get settled in. It was then we had our first meeting with the other “new girls” who were to share the 11 months’ training, and the blessed relief of seeing faces we knew. There were four girls from my own Regular Commissions Board and nine from other boards. The next couple of hours were rather like the first day back at school—getting to know the others, catching up with the news of friends and rushing round inspecting each other’s rooms.

It was at lunch-time we first met the senior cadets, and oh! how wise and senior they appeared to us. They had a whole six months of training behind them and obviously knew all about Army life. After lunch we met the Officer Commanding, Officer Cadet Wing, who told us what would be expected of us during training. The first few weeks would be basic training to turn us from civilians into soldiers. We would then have lectures on pay, records, military law and other subjects, we would learn about military history, current affairs and English literature, we would do practical exercises to try out our new-gained knowledge and there would be visits to varying places of interest, such as the Houses of Parliament, the Stock Exchange and the Old Bailey. She also told us that for the first six months we would have to keep our own rooms clean and tidy and they would be inspected regularly.

The next few days were a whirl of activity. Up in the mornings to make our beds, dust our rooms and off to breakfast. This was followed by a day spent completing endless forms, listening to lectures, learning about Army customs and being issued with uniforms. On our fifth day of Army life we were allowed to appear in uniform. This consisted of khaki battle-dress, shirts, collars and ties, and brown lace-up shoes. (Now the lucky cadets are issued with our new lovat green uniform, which is very smart and much easier to wear.) Oh! the agony of trying to put on a stiff collar and fasten a tie—it meant getting up half an hour earlier and battling to get collars over

studs and tie knots under chins and not under ears as they were apt to do. Our senior sisters, the senior cadets, came to our rescue on many a morning to help with the unequal struggle. However, within a week we all had the whole business down to a fine art which could be accomplished in a matter of minutes. Once in uniform we felt like real soldiers and part of the Army at last.

Now began the serious business of learning to march—the Guards make it look easy, but for someone like me, who has great difficulty in telling left from right without looking to see where my wrist-watch is, it presented a complete new set of problems. It was a case of watch the lanyard on the shoulder of the girl in front; this worked well until the day I was behind a girl who obviously had the same trouble as I did—she had her lanyard on the wrong shoulder! The Company Sergeant-Major showed a great deal of patience and forbearance, however, and within a very short time we had the knack and were moving as one.

Life soon settled into a routine, a hectic routine, but for those who work hard it is a natural step to play hard too. Officer Cadet Wing had its own tennis team and net-ball team and we played matches against other Army teams and also against girls’ schools in the area. Don’t let me give the impression that our only recreation was in the form of organised games and sports—far from it; we held parties in our Mess and there was a constant stream of dilapidated cars of all shapes and sizes to be seen rolling up at Hindhead each evening, mostly containing other officer cadets from places like R.M.A. Sandhurst or Mons O.C.S.

I have never known six months go so quickly, and before we knew it Christmas was upon us and we were all off on three weeks’ leave. When we returned we found ourselves in the exalted position of being senior cadets with juniors arriving in the Army for the first time, feeling just as strange and lost as we did; it was our turn to help tie tie-knots, pass on the knack of pressing uniforms and polishing shoes and floors.

During the next few months, as winter turned into spring, so the pace of work got more and more. June was drawing near and the big day when we would, we hoped, be commissioned. There still seemed an unending amount to learn and exams were looming nearer and nearer. On top of the increased work, we started practising for the Commissioning Ceremony, but no one minded that; after all, if we were practising for the Ceremony, commissioning could not be too far behind.

Maybe you have seen the *Look at Life* film, at your local cinema, about the commissioning of W.R.A.C. officer cadets; it is an impressive occasion. It takes place in the large hall at the School of Instruction, and all the parents of the cadets are invited to come and watch. First the junior cadets march in and form a semicircle around the dais, then the seniors march in and form another semicircle inside the juniors. The General who is taking the passing out then addresses the cadets and each one in turn marches up and is presented with a plaque to commemorate the day.

Finally, the seniors slow march the length of the hall to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne," and out into the sunshine as newly commissioned second lieutenants. Eleven months of hard work, hard play and the companionship of those faced with the same challenge are all summed up in that short hour of the Commissioning Ceremony.

Although each newly commissioned cadet now goes her own way to a new unit and a new life and in time maybe gets married and leaves the Service, the friendships made in these 11 months go with her. She knows that wherever she meets a fellow cadet, she meets a friend who will be there to talk over old times and remember the fun and the light-hearted times as well as the hard work and effort put into getting a Queen's Commission.



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W.R.A.C. College, Camberley

AT the W.R.A.C. College, Camberley (formerly the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction), we are trying to restock our Reference Library, which was totally destroyed in a fire at Hindhead in February. We were very distressed to lose our books dealing with the history of the Women's Services, many of which had been kindly donated by past and present members of the Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S., W.R.A.C. and F.A.N.Y. The Commandant of the W.R.A.C. College would be most grateful for any offers from readers of THE LIONESS who find that they have a spare copy of either one of the official histories or of stories about life in these Services.

W.R.A.C. OFFICER CADETS

The Commissioning Ceremony of the Thirty-Seventh Course of W.R.A.C. Officer Cadets will take place on Wednesday, 11th August, 1965, at 3.15 p.m. at the W.R.A.C. College, Portsmouth Road, Camberley, Surrey.

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

Applications for tickets, together with 2s. 6d. each for tea, should be sent by 28th July, 1965, to:

The Administrative Officer,
W.R.A.C. College,
Portsmouth Road,
Camberley,
Surrey.

Sport HOCKEY

ARMY Hockey Trials were held at Aldershot on 2nd and 3rd March, 1965, and 22 women attended. Two teams were chosen to play against the Civil Service, but unfortunately the weather interfered and no matches could be played. The 1st XI match was eventually rearranged on Tuesday, 9th March, 1965, at Chiswick, and after it the whole team went direct to Portsmouth for the Inter-Service matches.

In the first match the W.R.A.F. defeated the W.R.N.S. 3—1 and then played against the Army team. In the first half the W.R.A.F. scored only one goal, and it seemed as if our defence was standing up to their fierce attack. The Army attacked too, but lacked any forwards with shooting power. Midway through the second half the W.R.A.F. scored twice quite quickly and, although the Army kept trying, the ability to shoot straight, hard and direct was lacking. The W.R.A.F. got a fourth goal in the closing minutes, but even though the score was 4—0 the game was not so one-sided as it seems.

The third match was the Army against the W.R.N.S. The W.R.N.S. scored midway through the first half, followed closely by a second. The Army team again tried hard and the defence held together in spite of the W.R.N.S. attacks. It was a different story in the second half, when the defence seemed to wilt slightly and the W.R.N.S. scored three more goals, although again the score does not give a true picture of the game and it was not so one-sided. The Army team requires some hard-hitting, direct-shooting forwards.

All the games were played in fine, sunny weather, although spoilt by a cold wind, quite unusual for hockey.

Irish Pageantry in North America

CAPT. B. MOORE

AMERICA! North Irish Brigade Band! Women's Royal Army Corps! Never!—or so I thought, and a very high-ranking officer was heard to have said: "Women! I expect they will come followed by a whole lot of little pigs."

But it really did happen and I found myself with 2/Lieut. Helen Murphy and five Other Ranks of the W.R.A.C. on a Boeing 707 on my way to America as an Irish dancer. Our party, 112 strong, was composed of the Massed Bands, Drums and Pipes of the three Irish Infantry Regiments, off to do a 20,000-mile tour of Canada and the United States of America for the next three months.

The show started on 17th September, 1964, at West Springfield, Massachusetts. At the opening ceremony six W.R.A.C. marched on behind the band to the flagpoles at either side of the arena, where they broke the flags to the strains of the American and British National Anthems. Our next entry, after a quick change from No. 1 Dress to saffron pleated skirts, white blouses and green sleeveless jackets, was to dance a three-hand reel and a jig and, after the interval, a four- and eight-hand reel, then another quick change back to No. 1 Dress to lower the flags at the end.

We travelled mostly by bus at a speed of 80 m.p.h. along four-laned straight "Highways" for anything from two to 12 hours in one day. The most wonderful journey was a six-hour drive from Charlotte, North Carolina, through the Smoky Mountains to Knoxville, Tennessee. We stopped for lunch in a Cherokee village where an Indian in full dress came rushing up to greet us as we got off the bus and later tried to "scalp" one of the girls! Then farther up the mountain we came across a black bear sitting licking its paws at the side of the road; we stopped for a look and to take photographs. There was no "greeting" here but a "chasing" when one soldier got too close; our friend slowly rose to his feet and lumbered towards the intruder and we all ran for the bus.

In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we did one of our few outdoor performances, on a football field. The wind was blowing the flag out well when one of the portable flagpoles slowly started to topple over. It is sacrilege in America for any flag to touch the ground, so, knowing this, the three girls gallantly jumped for the pole and pushed it back to an upright position.

We toured the East for three weeks, visiting Chicago, Kansas City and lesser-known places with odd names like Cincinnati and Kalamazoo. We finally broke away to the South, to Oklahoma, a State of vast scrub-covered plains, then down to Dallas and Houston in Texas, flat from horizon to horizon but greener and richer than I had ever imagined. It was not until we flew from Houston to San Diego on the West Coast that we saw the real Texas, the deserts, the barren waste and the cracked, rugged,

sandy-coloured mountains. San Diego had a Spanish appearance, the skyscrapers of the East being replaced by a large rolling city of flat-roofed houses and intense heat. From here some of us had a quick trip over the Mexican border and came back with large Mexican hats.

Our arrival in Los Angeles was heralded by a temperature of 108 degrees, but the magnificent swimming-pool at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel kept us cool and made a lovely setting for breakfast. We visited the Chinese Theatre where film-stars make imprints of their hands and feet, signed, in the concrete-slatted entrance. Finally, on our last and completely free day, we went to Disneyland, a quite indescribable and wonderful land of fantasy. Los Angeles will be particularly memorable to us as it was the first time we met members of the American Women's Army. On our arrival at the hotel we found a beautiful basket of fruit in each room. Later we met both officers and Other Ranks before the show and had photographs taken with them while comparing uniforms and the Service life of our own countries.

Our next stop was San Francisco, a wonderful city so utterly different from any other in the States with steep hills, trams, China Town, the Golden Gate, Bay Bridge and, in the middle of the bay, its escape-proof prison island Alcatraz.

By the time we reached Portland, Oregon, we had become so expert at quick changes that when, with very little time to spare, one of the girls discovered that she had left her socks at the hotel it was with little sympathy that I told her to get a taxi back to collect them. One of the men dancers went with her. They returned with literally seconds to spare, having toured practically the whole city trying to find the hotel; neither of them could remember the name and for the first and only time during the tour the room keys did not have it on the label! At this stage it was becoming very difficult for anyone to remember hotel names, room numbers or even which floor one was living on.

We made our first entry into Canada at Vancouver, a beautiful city with tree-covered mountains behind and the sea dotted with islands in front.

We arrived in Edmonton, Alberta, at noon, having caught a plane from Calgary at 7 a.m., and were met by two representatives of the Canadian Women's Army Corps. We were rushed off to lunch and then shown the town and finally returned to the hotel in time to catch the bus for the arena. After the performance we were again taken off to eat and entertained right royally.

Back towards New York we went on the most fantastic sea journey that I have been on in the bus! We covered a 30-mile journey over and under the mouth of Chesapeake Bay on a magnificent construction of three bridges and two tunnels at a cost of \$40, or just under £15! A mere nothing to our American friends.

Our entrance into New York was marred by a fine drizzle which continued until the day we left. After an amusing lunch party with the Fighting 69th Regiment of New York, a very smart captain asked us if we would like a trip round the city; he disappeared and returned

completely transformed into a typical New York taxi driver! And downstairs at the door was his taxi, so in we climbed and were driven through China Town, the Bowery, Wall Street, the Irish and Italian areas, and lastly down the famous Fifth Avenue and on to our hotel. A three-hour trip in a taxi free of charge!

On our last morning the sun was actually shining, so two of us rushed to the Empire State Building for a quick look all round New York and back to the waiting buses for a six-hour drive to Rochester through a heavy snowstorm. We did a performance and went on to Niagara Falls, where, after icy roads and more snow, we arrived at 3 a.m. to fall exhaustedly into bed. We were due to leave the next morning at 10 a.m., so an early rise it had to be to see the Falls themselves. They were vast and magnificent and it was so cold the spray was falling down as hail!

We travelled on to London, Ontario, Peterborough and Montreal, but the icy winds and snow did not allow us to do much sight-seeing. From there back to the Eastern States and finally to Washington, D.C. We split up here, some of us seeing the late President's Grave, some the Capitol Building, where they are so proud of the tiles from Lancashire of over a hundred years old! And the paintings on the corridor walls, the work of an Italian—the "Michelangelo" of America! And all of us saw, from the outside at least, the White House.

Our last show was in Philadelphia at 2.30 p.m., and by 6 p.m. that night we had packed and were making our last journey in the States, to Kennedy Airport, where we said a sad farewell to our American companions of the past 11 weeks.

American and Canadian hospitality was so profuse that almost every night after the performance we were asked out. The girls were often called upon to do "a few steps" for their hosts. They were always chosen for radio and television interviews which included dancing and chats to numerous newspaper reporters. Often these interviews were late in the evening after a day's travelling and one was even at 7 a.m.! I have great admiration for the W.R.A.C.; they stood up to a very exacting and often exhausting tour with cheerfulness and charm, but I know that not one of us will ever forget the wonderful opportunity we had to tour the Continent of North America with the Massed Bands, Drums and Pipes of the North Irish Brigade.

Review

TO ERR IS HUMAN

WOLFE Publishing Limited have recently opened up a new market with a series of booklets designed to help people who do things badly, telling them what not to do, in the first place, and how to set it right if they have made a mess of it.

Have you ever produced a sad and heavy cake, made a dress that fitted so badly you could only wear it to do the spring-cleaning, or waited for days for the plumber to come and unblock your sink? If so, these are for you.

"**The Awful Cook's Book**," by Sonia Allison, gives do's and don'ts on how to avoid the common pitfalls that lie in wait for the inexperienced and timorous in every kitchen. Unless you are the sort of person who knows how to make the toffee stick to the apple, you too will learn something useful.

Working on the same principle, "**The Awful Dress-maker's Book**," by Violet K. Simons, is designed to help the amateur working on the corner of the dining-room table while the children do their homework on the other end. It also gives useful tips on household sewing such as curtains, lamp-shades and bedspreads.

The third of the present series, "**The Awful Handyman's Book**," by J. Wheeler, will save the "can't even knock a nail in straight" brigade endless troubles and will be useful in almost every home. The names of some of the sections speak for themselves: "In an emergency," "If you've made a mess" and "First Aid for furniture."

All are good value at 3s. 6d.

T.A. News

W.R.A.C. 51 (HIGHLAND) DIVISION/ DISTRICT

Top of the Tops—The Talk of the Highlands

THIS is station Highland on the 51-metre band bringing you the news of Top of the Tops." For those of you not in the know, Top of the Tops goes on the air, via tape recorder, from H.Q. W.R.A.C. 51 (H.) Div./Dist. every month giving news, views and music to all our platoons. Top of the Tops is a competition, yet not a competition; it calls for proficiency, ideas and personality and is helping to get us recruits.

All our platoons have a signature tune and are known by a beat-group name of their own choosing. The fun for the platoons comes in trying to get their signature tune Top of the Tops. To give you an example, Perth Poppets take the top spot this month and prove that by sheer hard work you can get from the bottom of the league to the top in four weeks. Sgt. Bell and Ptes. Scott and Wann have gained Red Cross First Aid Certificates and Pte. Davidson has passed her driving test BIII. We also congratulate Sgt. Bell on a wonderful record of service—not least being near-perfect attendance at drill since 1955. Poppets, you worthily deserve 'Wheels Cha-Cha' by Joe Loss," and so on.

The Argyll Toppers are down the chart this month with only three points and are fourth equal. Moira Ballantyne and Betty Halliday are recommended for proficiency and into the Argyll Platoon comes ex-W.A.A.F. Pte. Fisher. She is married with two children and her husband is a sergeant in the 8th Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (T.A.). Our spies tell us that when the Fishers can't get a baby-sitter they toss up to see who will attend training that evening. However, Pte. Fisher has a very good attendance, so it would seem that she is either lucky at the toss or that she is the first private in the British Army to tell a sergeant what to do.

Manoeuvring Memories — 1939 Onwards

Joy Burden (née Dickinson)

"THE 'pushing hand' is always there. One day it will simply propel you towards the right partner. It will make no difference if you do absolutely nothing but exercise the dogs in country lanes wearing your oldest tweeds." My counsellor, author of love stories galore, seemed stubbornly certain about this! The hand of destiny, that romantic limb which functioned so swiftly and effectively throughout her novels, had hitherto bypassed me, but the gentle push might well be imminent. It wasn't, of course. The "hand" remained muscle-bound, for no real Romeo came within range! I visualised years of strenuous exercise with Judy, our cairn terrier, churning up the mud and reducing Judy to a shadow as a necessary preliminary to "partnership."

Instead, war came, and with it a change of location. Country lanes receded. For months I paced the wards of a London hospital, an unco-ordinated and starry-eyed student nurse. A few male patients noticed me, for there were several yards to regard, but their interest was more pronounced at meal-times than when the lights were low. Septic corns, and, it must be acknowledged, an undextrous approach to bandaging and much else, contributed to the premature closure of a gallant career, and led, by a circuitous route, to a dose of social work in London's East End.

I stalked the byways of Bethnal Green. Contacts were fascinating and enriching, but did not embrace Sir Galahads, if you discount a curate who never ventured beyond an animated discussion of post-war prospects—political rather than connubial in context. The time was 1942. . . .

I joined the Army for seven years had I but known it. Memories of regiments in training, Nissen huts in rain, barrack squares resounding, and, in the vernacular of today, barrack "squares" droning, will remain with me always. None of those squares did, however; they might be slow of speech, but they were incredibly fleet of foot! Had our unfeminine plumage anything to do with it?

In '44 at Bovington Camp another officer and I ruminated on a situation which had been exercising our minds for a while. Was it so astonishing, we questioned, if the entire Armoured Corps present in the Officers' Club on any one night did not immediately flock to our sides as we came striding in resplendent in brogues, Sam Brownes, khaki encasements and all the other accoutrements of our calling? It was not something to marvel at, only something to moan about. Yet those cavalymen often appeared magnetised, but only in the direction of Free F.A.N.Y.s, V.A.D.s and that dainty little *At in "A" Company*. *Petite daintiness did not* altogether sum up our impression upon male society that year. Possibly uniform was less of a stumbling-block than shape, size, that certain "*Je ne sais quoi*," but further conjectures were insufficiently rewarding to muse upon. Better to condition the mind to harsh realities than to ephemeral fancies. Yet in the female mind these became so easily wedded, even if the woman herself did not.

I would arrive at a new unit. Smartly rounding a corner I would meet a tank. The tank symbolised glamour, glory and someone exciting inside—until it regurgitated its contents. Warriors in training, emerging from their protective shells, seldom cared to dally—with me. Nevertheless, the rumble of tanks, the rattle of armoured cars, the jaunty noise of jeeps and the crackle of distant gunfire remained background music for years, symphonies which might end on a discordant note or, by the quirk of fortune or a push of that "hand," with a wedding march.

Friends wrote ecstatically of their latest postings. At least one found her fortunate plight reminiscent of the pre-war film "*A Hundred Men and a Girl*." Another adorned an ack-ack site, a veritable target for Cupid's arrows, and they came by the quiverful. We, her less happily placed sisters, sat soberly in A.T.S. Training Centres and in other near-nunneries taking a jaundiced view of a War Office which could be so unreliable, so callous about our welfare, so utterly lacking in enterprise, and as slack, in fact, as that "pushing hand" when it came to the matter of postings for the less-favoured members of the A.T.S.

A mother, well informed and placid in outlook, would receive a hurried note from her darling daughter from a destination unknown. The intelligence that daughter had landed herself in a nice mess, and no mistake, called for congratulation rather than consternation in those war-time days. The feelings of others less educated in Army phraseology and procedure were not so well known. Uneasiness may have been a recurring malady for aunts reading ecstatic letters from their freshly uniformed nieces those years ago.

One day brought news of my posting to Wookey Hole. Delightful accommodation, pleasant air, these and other unpromising details filtered through. It appeared to be an almost Adamless Eden, which in fact it was. Two soldiers, brave and true, were employed at A.T.S. Company Headquarters, a driver and a boilerman. The one chauffeured the A.T.S. officers upon their lawful occasions, the other simply stoked. They were "attached for all purposes," as Regimental Part II Orders somewhat misleadingly put it, and our place was minding our own business and that of our women in cookhouse, in office and on convoy.

One evening I ambled along a country lane, head uncluttered with fancies about chance encounters, but filled with facts relating to haversack rations, inventories and the like. The "pushing hand," that graceless limb which had been so dilatory of late, sprang into action. We met. He was wearing cavalry whipcords, a yellow waistcoat, a cubbing jacket and a disarming smile. He was on leave from India, and comely beyond compare. The date was just pre-VE Day 1945.

Aeons of time afterwards we married. We live happily 14 miles and 20 years away from that rapt moment in

time. It heralded high adventure, with a perpetual "traveling mercy" on the journey into peace.

Unit News

9 INDEPENDENT COMPANY

ONE usually thinks of the North Country as being the place of wastes, but Larkhill rivalled any Christmas-card scene after the blizzard in March. This did not daunt the spirits of the members of 9 Independent Company even if it did cause some to be stranded on the wrong side of the snow, as the roads to Salisbury were blocked for two days.

Remembering the saying that out of evil comes good, we were pleased to have a kindly covering of snow in some places on Tuesday, 9th March, which was the day of the Annual Inspection. Brigadier P. C. Worthington, M.C., B.R.A. Southern Command, completed his inspection in glorious sunshine which added a considerable sparkle to all the energetic polishing that had been done. Everyone was in good heart. The Brigadier spoke to all

the cooks and orderlies who were off duty and standing beside their beds.

All those who know S/Sgt. May Rodgers will be interested in the photograph taken when a cheque from the military members of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, School of Artillery, was presented by W.O.II E. W. Garfield, R.A., to her at Tidworth Hospital recently. She continues to show wonderful courage and determination to surmount her affliction and is an inspiring example to all who meet her.

W.O.II Pryer has had her leg in a long plaster for many weeks after breaking it in a nasty fall and is finding it very tiresome.

Although we have not figured in any of the various team events in the field of sport, some members of the Company have been active. L/Cpl. Boseley has enjoyed being a member of the W.R.A.C. 1st XI Hockey Team and 2/Lieut. Venmore has played occasionally for both the 1st XI and the 2nd XI. 2/Lieut. Mugford was a member of the Army Women's Rifle Shooting Team, and 2/Lieut. Brady played for Southern Command in the Inter-Command Badminton Championships in February.



Major M. E. Snowden, S/Sgt. May Rodgers and W.O.II E. W. Garfield R.A.

12 INDEPENDENT COMPANY, W.R.A.C.

"PERMISSION to go ashore, Ma'am!" This was surely rather a strange request to hear in an Army camp, but in Inglis Barracks during the week of Exercise "Hope-not" it became a commonplace expression, and only one of the many unusual features.

For a week 100 W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F., with their own officers, were stationed here, attending rehearsals for, and finally taking part in, the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill. These 100 women were accommodated in the Education Centre, where beds had been hastily set up, wardrobes positioned and everything made ready to welcome them; they soon made themselves at home, and appeared to find their makeshift bedrooms comfortable enough.

Meanwhile the "education department" had evacuated to the NAAFI, and from the television room, where classes were held, the students were able (if not encouraged!) to view and compare the three Services doing drill. They certainly had their share of drill during those few days. Movements had to be practised over and over again until everyone was perfect, and there were numerous inspections, including one by D.W.R.A.F. Two were held in the very early hours of the morning, when full-scale rehearsals took place on the actual route before the traffic became busy.

We were very proud of the way our women prepared and practised for this event, and on "the day" felt that the contingent from 12 Independent Company put up a very creditable performance. Perhaps, however, the most impressive aspect of this week was not so much the way in which our women showed their ability in a public function. It was the spirit with which they undertook their duties, and the friendliness with which they mixed with the other Services, which stood out. It would have been only too easy for a feeling of rivalry and competition, and a "my Service is better than yours" attitude, to have developed, but this could not have been more distant. The three Services combined effectively to show their ability, and did show that the "modern generation" is capable of making a real effort, with real results, when it is faced with a challenge.

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

LOOKING back or looking forward, the prospect is interesting. The rebadging of the R.A.S.C. as the Royal Corps of Transport is due in July 1965. The R.A.O.C. have already assumed responsibility for training W.R.A.C. clerks, but the Clerical Training Wing is likely to remain located in Houndstone Camp for some time to come, with the R.C.T. Training Regiment (formerly 6 Training Battalion, R.A.S.C.) as its foster-parent. So the position of W.R.A.C. Wing remains virtually unchanged except that Major S. W. Whitworth handed over command of the Wing in April to Major N. Pike.

Looking back, we had a splendid Christmas, the

highlights being the Sergeants' Mess Ball, the Battalion nine carols and lessons service, and the Christmas dinner in the W.R.A.C. Cookhouse. From our crackers we found that mauve, pink and green paper hats look particularly nice with lovat-green uniforms. One "tradition" of the Women's Royal Army Corps which we have carefully fostered with our military employing officers is the "day off for Christmas shopping"—an essential whatever one's rank or the weight of one's piggybank.

It is often said in 43 (Wessex) Division/District that half the functions in the District could not happen without W.R.A.C. Wing. Our recent activities included staffing with volunteer trainees the farewell dinner for the District Commander, serving lunch in the garden at the opening of the new building for the Regimental Pay Office in Taunton and taking a dozen or more roles at the motor-cycle trials, including judges and recorders for start-stop tests, hazards, time-checks and the finish. Despite our weakness at Military Calculations and the depth of the mud on Bovington Heath, accurate and immaculate record sheets, protected from the rain in plastic shirt bags from our laundry, were handed in to the Chief Judge.

R.A.S.C. and W.R.A.C. platoons take it in turns to sponsor Sunday morning services at our Unit church and on the last Sunday, sponsored by Clerical Platoon, W.R.A.C., it was "standing room only."

Recent departures included 2/Lieut. F. J. Harlow to be a staff learner in M.O.D., Sgt. Hamilton for Malta, Sgt. Brindley for B.A.O.R. and L/Cpl. Robertson for S.H.A.P.E.

Forthcoming Events

MRS. MAUREEN LEES has notified us that the following exhibitions of work by war-blinded and disabled ex-Servicemen will be held during the summer and autumn. She hopes that members of the Association who live in the area will attend.

- (a) In June at the Cheshire Show, Hooton Park.
- (b) In July at Bromborough and Bromborough Pool.
- (c) In August at the Denbigh and North Wales Show.
- (d) 7th-10th October, the Annual Show with new and interesting exhibitions.
- (e) 21st-23rd October at the Cheshire Regiment T.A. Centre, Birkenhead.

Any ex-A.T.S. who served with Mrs. Lees at The Dale are invited to get in touch with her if they would like to attend the opening ceremony; the services of any W.R.A.C. (T.A.) who would be prepared to help with the exhibition would be most welcome.

Headquarter Mess

Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake, on her retirement, has presented the Mess with a beautiful sofa table, and Colonel L. E. Baldwin has given a pair of antique silver vases.

Branch News

AYR. It is some time now since a report from this Branch has appeared in "Branch News," but we are still very active, although the number of regular attenders at our monthly meetings is only 15-20. In September we were hostesses to our friends from Glasgow Branch. We met them at the station and had a walk along the beach, which they always enjoy, then we had high tea, followed by a visit to the Summer Show at the Gaiety Theatre. "Holiday News and Views" was the title for our October meeting, when members shared their holidays at home and abroad. Etta Howie brought along a projector and showed us some beautiful transparencies which she and other members had taken. We had a most interesting talk at our November meeting from the Matron of St. Leonard's Home for Handicapped Children. For many years now we have taken an interest in these children and given them a party at Christmas, and it was good for us to hear something of their background and what is done for them. We always look forward to the Handicapped Children's Party in December. The children are brought by bus to the Hall, and they are very excited when they see the decorations, tree with fairy lights and tables set for tea. The members and their friends give this effort their whole-hearted support and there is no scarcity of food or money for the gifts. After tea is over, a programme of games is carried out and this year we were right "with it," as four young men who have a beat group came along, and the children loved it. Several Christmas carols were sung before the arrival of Father Christmas with a parcel for each child. We also sent parcels to 16 older handicapped people.

BOURNEMOUTH. Four members were able to go to Guildford in October to see H.M. The Queen open the Queen Elizabeth Barracks there, and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Last year it was the W.R.N.S. turn to give the joint party and, as usual, we had a marvellous and exhausting time. One Saturday we went to see a thriller at the Palace Court Theatre and this proved a most successful evening. We attended the Remembrance Day Parade at the Bournemouth Cenotaph, where we formed part of the ex-Service contingent. At the A.G.M. all the officers were returned unopposed, but Mrs. P. K. Baker was elected to serve on the Committee. Miss F. Bond represented the Branch at the Service held in memory of Sir Winston Churchill at St. Peter's Church on 1st February. Our Annual Dinner was held at Forte's Florentine Rooms this year and 17 members and friends sat down to an excellent meal, accompanied by plenty of lively chatter. We were pleased to see Mrs. A. M. Smythe, who has now returned to live in Bournemouth, in our midst again.

BRADFORD. Regretfully, due to illness and infirmity, some of our very dear ex-Q.M.A.A.C. members have been unable to attend recent meetings. But our President, Miss Gummersall, confounded us all by arriving with

Mrs. Lumb to our March meeting on one of the worst nights of the winter for weather and when we had our smallest attendance. Members will be pleased to know that her eye operation has been successful and she has been fitted with new spectacles. The Secretary had attended the A.G.M., Secretaries' Meeting and Reunion in London, but postponed giving her report until the next meeting. In February we had a successful Bring and Buy Sale and Audrey Foulds organised a quiz programme, which tested our thinking powers. The Social Committee are hoping to arrange a more attractive programme. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery are sent to Etta Wilson, Marjorie Marks, and also to Miss E. Cocksedge, who is still in hospital as the result of a fall.

CANTERBURY. We have had meetings once a month, sometimes at members' homes, theatre outings, a visit to 12th Battalion at Richmond Park, Kingston, for tea and social evening after a day in London to see the Trooping the Colour, and we had a trip down the river. In October we have an annual service at the Garrison Church; our Standard is presented at the altar and laid upon it for service. The Padre and Officers, H.C.B.D., co-operate. Some of us went to the opening of the new W.R.A.C. Depot at Guildford in October, and the Standard took part in the Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance and was on parade on Remembrance Day. I had the honour of laying the wreath on the Cenotaph for the Association, but was disappointed at the so-called "marching" of the majority of ex-Servicewomen—I was in the second rank; the front rank were ex-W.R.N.S. in high-heeled shoes! Our Annual Dinner and A.G.M. took place in November. We have not made so many knitted garments for the Benevolent Fund this year, but have sent donations and have helped ex-A.T.S. in our own area, including a woman who has multiple sclerosis, a crippling disease; she has five children.

GLASGOW. In January we had a very interesting lecture with slides on missionary work in Bengal and Calcutta by Miss Edwards. In February there was a film show of "Holidays" at which members of the Club were present. In March we held our Annual General Meeting, and a very interesting programme for the coming season was drawn up. The Office Bearers are the same as last year.

HEADQUARTER AREA. At the meeting of Branch Secretaries the question arose again as to the large numbers of members who are held on the strength of H.Q. Area although they are within reach of an active Branch. There is no doubt that to belong to a Branch of the Association in one's locality preserves a stronger link with one's fellow ex-Servicewomen than to be one of between 500 and 600 names on the cards of H.Q. Area. All members are therefore earnestly requested to read carefully the list of Branch Secretaries published in this issue and to consider whether it would not be well worth the effort of contacting the Secretary of the nearest Branch and transferring membership. There may well

come a day of crisis on which to know and be known to one's neighbour members could be of the greatest value. Your Secretary is willing and anxious to keep in personal touch with as many members as is humanly possible, but this is a two-way traffic. She enjoys enormously receiving news from those who do write and passing it on, but it is a fact that out of the 600-odd members, not 50 have contributed any news of themselves. Your Secretary's address this year from 1st June to the end of October will be Plaza de Toros, Leon 42, Pollensa—Mallorca, Baleares, Spain.

LONDON. Our programme this year began in January with an interesting talk by one of our members, Miss Leech, who told us about London as she knew it in her earlier days; also in January we had a visit from the Acton Male Voice Choir, whose songs are always a great pleasure to hear. In February we had a film show, given by the Wallace Arnold Tours to advertise their holidays by coach in Devon and Scotland. In March we held a Bring and Buy Sale and a Whist Drive. Several of our members went to the Reunion at Derry & Toms and spent a very enjoyable evening.

MAIDSTONE. Our Branch is very scattered; we usually have about six attend. The Whist Drives are still very popular; the proceeds go to help members and any ex-Service person we hear about. Members have attended different functions that have been organised by other ex-Service associations. We again entered the Bowls Competition last summer. We greatly enjoyed the games, although we lost, playing against the Royal Naval Association. We celebrated our 15th birthday in April by having a party. It should have been in January, but one cannot depend on the weather. The Secretary attended the Eastern Area Meeting last November, which was held in the new Barracks at Guildford. She found the tour round the Camp most interesting and enjoyed the visit to the Museum, seeing the Q.M.A.A.C. uniform and some of Miss Ireland's work. She could not help comparing the old days to the present ones.

MANCHESTER. It is some time since we reported in *THE LIONESS*, but we have been meeting regularly every month. Last year we attended two Reunions: in May we went to Birmingham to the Western Area Reunion, and in September to Harrogate to the Northern Area Reunion. Both these occasions were very enjoyable and some old acquaintances were renewed. The gardens adjoining the Lounge Hall, Harrogate, were delightful, and Mrs. Freda Jones took our photograph. In November Miss Joan Horsfall opened her house to us for a party; a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all. We held our Annual Bring and Buy Sale in December, and we were very pleased with the attendance and the financial results. We wish a very speedy recovery to one of our oldest Q.M.A.A.C. members, Miss E. Regan, who has been in hospital recovering from a road accident.



Manchester Branch at Harrogate

PRESTON. Two members of the Branch attended the Reunions and General Meeting and thoroughly enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones. We couldn't help but feel the absence of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who just adds that something to our Reunions when she is with us. What a pity so many members went to the different chapels, especially when the collection at the Chelsea Barracks Chapel was for the Benevolent Fund—a very good gesture, we thought. Since writing the above I have heard of the sudden death of H.R.H. The Princess Royal. No organisation will miss her as we shall; her visits to our meetings will live in our memories for ever. Our consolation for her loss is that her suffering was brief. We have lost not only a leader but a friend and comrade. Service not Self was what she lived up to. May God grant her eternal rest.

WEYMOUTH. We started our winter programme with a business meeting and arranged that the coming year should include both social and cultural interests. The meetings still prove to be popular and, although the Branch is very small, the support of the members is quite remarkable. At a February meeting we were entertained by a photographer, who gave a most interesting show of the West Country, in all its beauty, on colour slides. A coffee meeting was held at the Chairman's home and was a great success. March brought wintry weather; nevertheless the meetings were well attended. The Chairman of the Weymouth Cine Club gave a show of documentary and holiday films. On Sunday, 14th March, 1965, a service was held at Holy Trinity Church, Weymouth, to dedicate the new R.A.F.A. Standard; a number of members attended the service. A social was held at the R.A.S.C. Club Room on Saturday, 20th March; members, husbands and friends enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

WIMBLEDON. We started off the New Year on 15th January with a talk from a member of the "Unigate" staff (United Dairies and Cow & Gate). The talk was accompanied by a film which proved most interesting and we all went home with a free sample bottle of Devonshire cream and a tin of rice. On 29th January a party of 20 members and friends went to Wimbledon Pantomime to see "Sleeping Beauty" with Norman Vaughan and Freddie Frinton in it. It was an excellent show which we all enjoyed to the full. In February we had the ever-popular Beetle Drive and in March we had our Bring and Buy Sale, which was an even bigger success than usual, with a record profit of £7 2s. 6d.

World Guiding

DAME LESLIE WHATELEY, D.B.E.

IN 1928 when the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts came into being there were 28 founder Member Countries with a total of about 900,000 Guides and Girl Scouts.

Quite a few Trefoil Guild members will remember Dame Katharine Furse, the first Director of the World Bureau, who during her ten years did so much to build up our Movement on solid foundations.

It was in 1951 that Dame Leslie Whateley was appointed Director. Like Dame Katharine she had been head of a great women's service, the Auxiliary Territorial Service during the Second World War, and like Dame Katharine she made up her mind when the war was over to devote herself to the cause of world peace by working for international friendship.

For 13 years Dame Leslie has given herself wholly to Guiding and Scouting. She has travelled thousands of miles, without any thought of self-preservation, giving her services wherever needed, addressing vast meetings, interviewing the Press and V.I.P.s or just as readily attending a simple enrolment ceremony of Guides in a small village miles from anywhere.

During Dame Leslie's time at the World Bureau the Movement has grown to a membership of well over five million in 68 countries that are members of the World Association. This in itself indicates the vast increase of work and responsibility attached to the Director's job since 1951. In addition, largely due to Dame Leslie's untiring energy and vision, Guiding is making a strong impact in some 30 other countries that are working under guidance towards world membership.

In the words of the Chief Guide, Dame Leslie is a very great person, a very great thinker, a very great worker and a very great friend. It has been a privilege to work for her, a privilege to know her, and every member of the Movement, past and present, thanks her for all she has done for World Guiding. Though our Director leaves the World Bureau at the end of 1964, she will, we know, be with us in thought and sympathy and she will always be a friend and a Guide. (Reprinted by courtesy of "The Trefoil.")

Officers' Postings

(Up to 31st March 1965)

Lieut.-Colonel R. M. Green, A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Aldershot District.
T/Lieut.-Colonel N. Jamieson, A.D.W.R.A.C., Northern Ireland Command.
Major A. Carswell, O.C. W.R.A.C., Regimental Pay Office, R.A.
Major D. A. Crofton, D.A.Q.M.G. (Qtg.), H.Q. Malta & Libya.
Major N. G. Dallas, S.O.P.T. W.R.A.C., H.Q. Southern Command.
Major H. Gildea, C.W.R.A.C., 48 Div. (Dist. (T.A.)).
Major N. M. Pyke, O.C. 29 Company, W.R.A.C.
T/Major D. P. Chandler, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Northern Command.
T/Major S. P. Nield, S.P.S.O. att. D.W.R.A.C., Ministry of Defence.
T/Major E. L. Ross, 28 Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
Capt. D. M. Drummond, W.R.A.C. Administrative Officer, H.Q. 1 (Br.) Corps.
Capt. L. H. Elford, B.A., "Q." H.Q. Berlin Infantry Brigade Group.
Capt. S. W. Jones, B.A., G.S.O.3 (Sigs.), H.Q. FARELF.
Capt. M. L. Minkin, P.S.O., 42 (Lancs.) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Capt. D. Richardson, O.C. 16 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
T/Capt. J. E. Blakeley, O.C. 19 Independent Platoon, W.R.A.C.
T/Capt. K. R. Collins, Army Team of Lecturers.
T/Capt. P. M. C. Downie, O.C. W.R.A.C., Trials Establishment, R.A.
T/Capt. S. P. Greenslade, Officer Cadet Wing, W.R.A.C. College.
T/Capt. R. A. Holloway, O.C. 14 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
T/Capt. V. J. Hunt, A.R.O. (W.S.); Cambridge.
T/Capt. J. S. Jackson, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
T/Capt. B. F. G. Moore, 30 Company, W.R.A.C., B.A.O.R.
T/Capt. A. E. Pavey, O.C. W.R.A.C., Proof and Experimental Establishment.
T/Capt. F. A. Routh, S.C. W.R.A.C., H.Q. W.R.A.C., H.Q. B.A.O.R.
T/Capt. A. J. Smith, 20 Trials Unit.
T/Capt. A. K. G. Toby, 251 W.R.A.C. Signal Squadron.
Lieut. K. N. Dicker, B.E.M., W.R.A.C. 1, Ministry of Defence.
Lieut. E. C. Dodkins, Adjutant, H.Q. C.W.R.A.C., East Lowland District (T.A.).
Lieut. C. A. MacDonald, H.Q. and Training Centre, R.A.P.C.
Lieut. J. R. Warren, B.Sc., Technical Officer, School of Artillery.
2/Lieut. L. M. Brady, 9 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. J. M. Bunyan, 28 Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
2/Lieut. F. E. Bolam, H.Q. C.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Aldershot District (T.A.).
2/Lieut. S. J. Chalcraft, 14 Signal Regiment.
2/Lieut. J. E. R. Chatterton, 29 Company, W.R.A.C., B.A.O.R.
2/Lieut. M. S. Clinton-Rowland, B.Sc., 6 Training Battalion, R.A.S.C.
2/Lieut. A. M. Douglas, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. C. A. Howell, 251 W.R.A.C. Signal Squadron.
2/Lieut. N. G. Hughes, 233 Signal Squadron.
2/Lieut. B. Jones, 251 W.R.A.C. Signal Squadron.
2/Lieut. L. G. Kingham, 58 (M.T.) Company, R.A.S.C.
2/Lieut. S. E. Messom, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. L. M. J. Oliver, 2 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. P. D. Pitt, 242 Signal Squadron.
2/Lieut. J. R. Read, 12 Independent Company, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. D. P. Rogers, Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C.
2/Lieut. R. M. Scott, 29 Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
2/Lieut. L. C. Stubbs, 16 Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
2/Lieut. C. L. Swire, H.Q. and Training Establishment, W.R.A.C. Provost.
2/Lieut. J. F. Tugwell, 16 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.
2/Lieut. M. S. Wing, Army School of Physical Training.

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Lieut.-Colonel: Major M. W. Soames, M.B.E.
Major: Capt. F. Saffery.
Captain: Lieut. P. A. Scott.
Captain (Q.M.): Lieut. (Q.M.) H. L. Sanders, M.B.E.
Lieutenant: 2/Lieuts. A. V. Richards, L. C. Howard-Carter, R. B. B. Batcheler, G. P. Furney, S. L. Stephens, J. S. Jackson, P. D. Pitt, S. E. D. Berwyn-Jones, M. B. Merrett, P. J. Huggett, C. A. MacDonald, M.A.
2/Lieutenant: A. I. Cairns (from T.A.), C. A. MacDonald (on probation, is confirmed in her appointment), J. L. M. Brady, C. A. Howell, M. A. Whitley, J. M. Tyler, J. F. Tugwell, B. Jones, S. J. Chalcraft, L. M. J. Oliver, D. P. Rogers.
2/Lieutenant (on probation): M. S. Clinton-Rowland.

LIMITED SERVICE REGULAR COMMISSIONS

Major B. M. Godin.
Capt. P. M. Baldwin, E. L. Ross.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

2/Lieut. A. M. Douglas.

RETIREMENTS, ETC. REGULAR ARMY

Lieut.-Colonel M. W. Soames, M.B.E.
Lieuts. D. E. Henry, E. D. Wilkinson (nee Birch-Reynardson), G. M. Scott-Forrest.
2/Lieuts. C. C. Parr, T. Davies (nee Fry), M. M. Masson.

How Many Miles To Brighton?

PTE. R. J. ATKINSON

I GRASPED the finishing post and slid down on my knees, but at that moment I knew that all the training which had preceded the walk had been worth while and we had completed the 53 miles from London to Brighton.

It all started when we were asked if anyone was interested in walking from London to Brighton, and, although none of us had walked more than four or five miles, there were several volunteers. After several weeks of rigorous training, which took place after work, there were only five of us left, Mr. G. Swainston (Civil Servant), Sgt. Downs (R.A.P.C.) and three W.R.A.C., L/Cpl. Mair, L/Cpl. Stevens and myself (Pte. Atkinson).

At last 30th October arrived and we travelled up to London by train. After a quick meal we made our way to Northumberland House, where we changed into our walking kit, which consisted of P.T. kit, track suits and Army-issue shoes. We were given numbers and fluorescent tape to stick on our heels and the backs of our track suits, before proceeding to the starting point in Horse Guards Avenue.

At 10 p.m. a shot from a gun, and together with about 140 other walkers we made our way towards Thornton Heath, on the outskirts of London (nine miles), our first check-point, where we had a five-minute break and our first drink. Then, with a cup of squash every hour, we carried on to our next check-point at Redhill, taking just over five hours. We were still remarkably fresh. Fortunately the weather was good except for a patch of fog just after we left Croydon. Outside Gatwick Airport one of our helpers, who had been supplying us with drinks, decided to walk for a couple of miles to pace us, so he handed over his car to his co-driver.

The next check-point was Crawley, and by the time we reached there it was daylight and the sight of the road stretching for miles was a little demoralising, as by this time we were beginning to feel tired, more from lack of sleep than from walking. When we left Crawley we took a wrong turning which added a mile to our distance. Just outside the town our workmates started appearing with hot coffee and squash; by now we were stopping more frequently for drinks, although the knowledge that we would have a drink every mile kept us going.

Our last check-point was Hickstead, 12 miles from home, and as we were well within the time limit we decided that we could afford to slacken our pace a little, but nothing would make us drop out now. On and on we struggled across the undulating Sussex Downs, knowing that the end would soon be in sight. About three miles from the finish we were met by most of the W.R.A.C. girls who were on camp, and they walked the rest of the way with us. Once the sea came into sight

it was like a tonic; our pace quickened, we fell into step and marched the final hundred yards accompanied by the helper who was going to pace us for a couple of miles and finished up walking for 27.

Later in the evening we were all presented with travelling clocks for finishing second, third and fourth out of 20 women starters, being three out of the four women who completed the walk.

Shopping List

Scripto Pens with W.R.A.C. Badge or Association Badge:

Price 1s. 3d. each, plus 4d. postage.

1 dozen or more, post free.

	<i>Price (including postage)</i>
Glass Ashtrays with W.R.A.C. Badge	6s. 0d.
Car Key Rings with W.R.A.C. Badge	7s. 6d.
W.R.A.C. Car Badges	£1 13s. 0d.
W.R.A.C. Corps Prints	6s. 0d.
<i>Service with the Army</i> , by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan	3s. 6d.

Please send cash with order to:

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

Block "E,"

Duke of York's Headquarters,

King's Road,

London, S.W.3.

W.R.A.C. Diary, 1966

Last year a great many customers were disappointed because orders for diaries exceeded the number available. This year, to avoid this, we are publishing details earlier. If you would like a W.R.A.C. diary for 1966, please send your order, with cash, to:

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

Block "E,"

Duke of York's Headquarters,

King's Road,

London, S.W.3

by 1st June, 1965. This will enable us to include it when we send the order to the manufacturer. We cannot afford to order a large number surplus to our known requirements and risk having them remain unsold. We shall probably still have a few for last-minute customers, but to make sure of getting yours please order now.

Leather wallet, complete with diary	19s. 0d.
Leather bound, with pencil	7s. 0d.
Plexide, without pencil	5s. 0d.
Diary refill for wallet	4s. 0d.

BRANCH DIRECTORY

List of Branch Secretaries

Aberdeen: Miss H. T. Donaldson, 30 Burnie Boozle Crescent, Aberdeen.

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

Ayrshire: Mrs. H. J. Lunn, 20 Hay Hill, Ayr.

Bath: Mrs. J. Ferguson, 16 Lime Grove Gardens, Pulteney Road, Bath.

Belfast: Mrs. P. Neilly, 382 Merville Garden Village, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland.

Birmingham: Mrs. M. Bolton, 26 Boden Road, Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

Bournemouth: Miss A. M. Weightman, 3 Brightlands Avenue, Southbourne, Bournemouth, Hants.

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- 233 Signal Squadron:** W.O.II J. Henderson, W.R.A.C., Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland.

BRANCH MEETINGS

Branches who wish the particulars of their meetings published are requested to forward this information to the Editor for the May issue.

BRADFORD: Third Monday of each month, except July and August, when the Branch is closed.

BRIGHTON: Third Wednesday of each month at R.N.A. Club, King's Road Arches, Brighton, at 7.30 p.m.

MAIDSTONE: Fourth Thursday of each month at the Ex-Services Club, Ashford Road, at 7.30 p.m.

WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND: First and third Wednesdays of each month.

WIMBLEDON AND DISTRICT: Third Friday of each month in the Community Centre, St. George's Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19, at 8 p.m.

Personal Column

For Sale. Greatcoat, good condition, height 5 ft. 7 in., bust 36-38 in., hips 40 in. £4.—Box No. 3/65.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress jacket and skirt, 36-27-38, height 5 ft. 8 in., in excellent condition. Also sundries. £10 o.n.o.—Box No. 4/65.

For Sale. Subaltern's new No. 2 Dress—£15; No. 1 Dress, only worn six times—£12; greatcoat in first-class condition—£12; or £35 all three o.n.o. To fit height 5 ft. 8 in., size 36-26-39.—Box No. 5/65.

For Sale. No. 1 and No. 2 Dress—both Weatherill tailored, 38-28-38 (No. 2 Dress slightly longer). Three white shirts included. £10.—Box No. 6/65.

City General Hospital, Sheffield 5. Are you a Home-maker? City General Hospital, Sheffield, is looking for a House Mother, able to create the right atmosphere for our Nurses' Home with 200 resident nurses. If you have an attractive personality, are aged between 30 and 50, and are used to organising, this position offers a happy and satisfying life amongst young people. The appointment carries a generous salary of £500 per annum and upwards, because all living expenses are free, including meals and laundry and an attractive suite of sitting-room and bedroom (fully furnished). Application forms and other information available from Matron, City General Hospital.

A vacancy exists for a Sgt. Permanent Staff Instructor (Type "R"), Motor Tpt., with 81 (Essex) 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. 81 (Essex) Coy., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), T.A. Centre, Stanwell Street, Colchester, Essex.

A vacancy exists for a W.R.A.C. P.S.I. (Type "R") in Belfast, N. Ireland. Applicants should preferably be Signals trained. For further details apply to: C.O., 66 (U.) Signal Regiment (T.A.), T.A. Centre, Clonaver Park, Belfast 4, N. Ireland.

A vacancy for a Sgt. Permanent Staff Instructor (Type "R") occurs with 44 (H.C.) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports), T.A. This Sgt. will be required to visit T.A. Centres at Dover and Margate. Preference will be given to a candidate who lives in either of these areas. Applicants should be under 40 years of age and must hold a current driving licence. Signals experience is desirable, but not essential, as training can be provided. For further particulars write to: Yeomanry House, Boxley Road, Maidstone, Kent.

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.

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