

THE LIONESS

VOL XXXIX

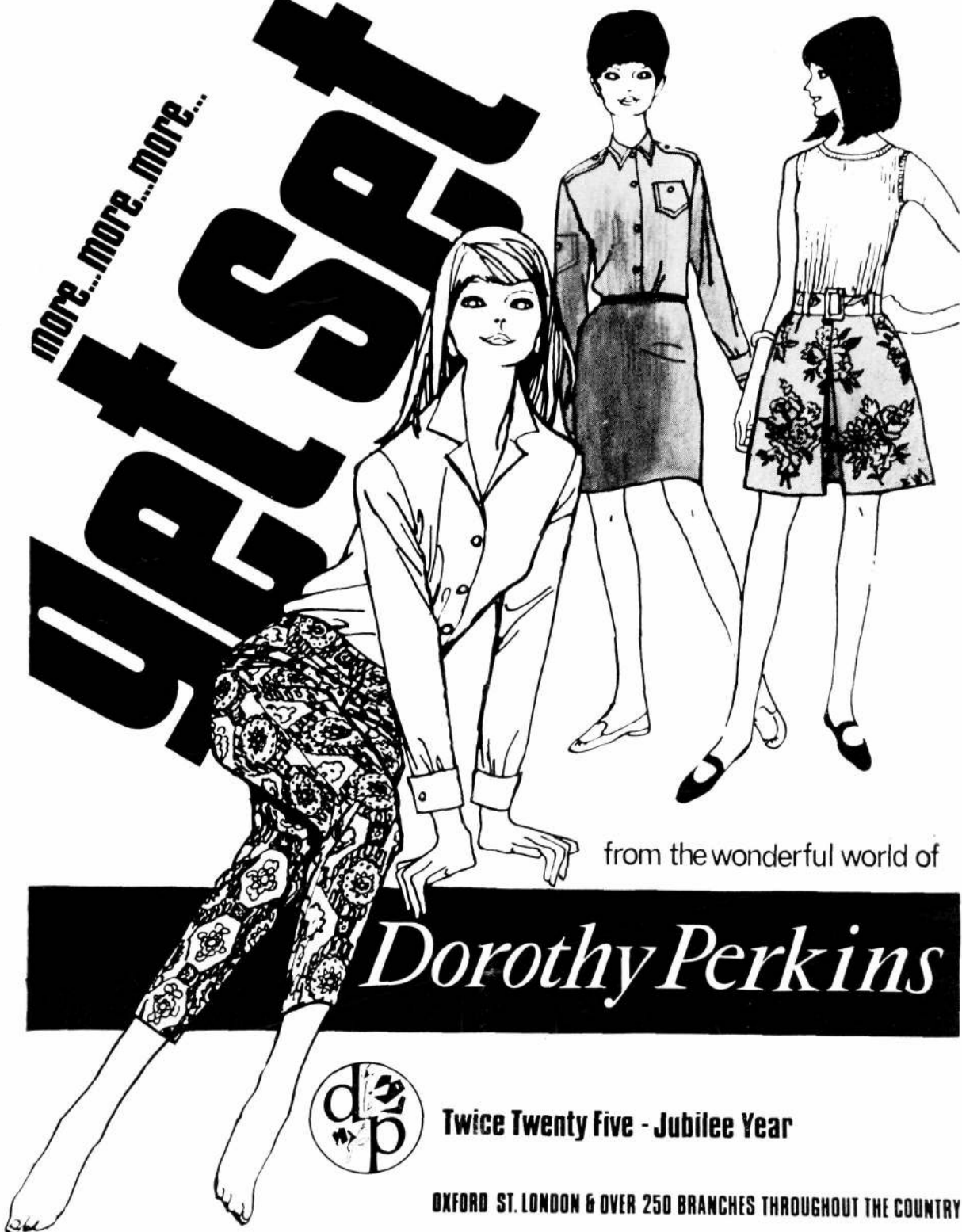
NOVEMBER 1966

No. 4



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WHO'S WHO

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(All correspondence re membership and distribution
of THE LIONESS)

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O.B.E., T.D. (Retd.)

(Contributions and personal column advertisements)

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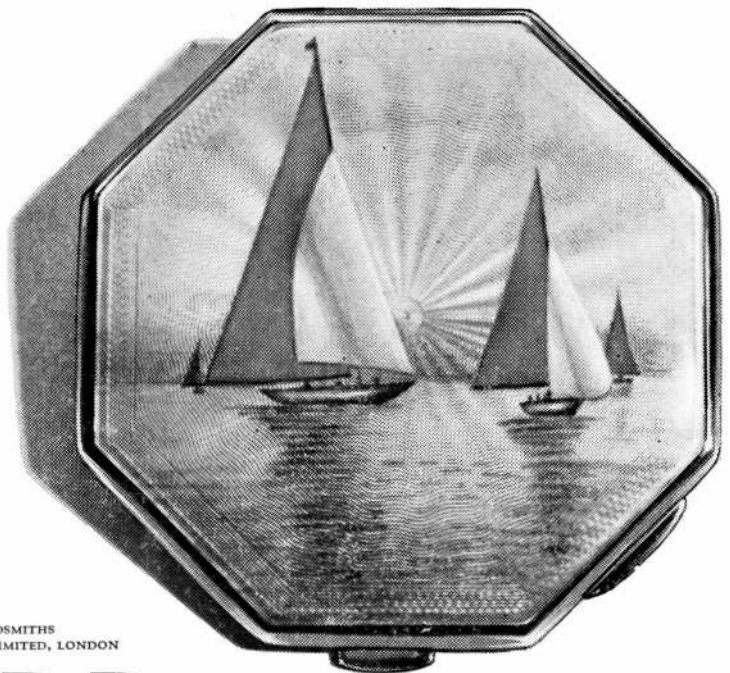
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Director Designate, Colonel The Hon. M. M. Anderson, M.B.E.

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THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXIX

November, 1966

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Greetings from our President

DAME REGINA EVANS

MY Christmas Message to you this year is one of goodwill, from the bottom of my heart. May prosperity and happiness be with you throughout the coming year, the year which sees our 50th Anniversary. This anniversary, we hope, will draw together members from Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. in remembrance of days gone by, and with hopes for good fortune in the future.

Editorial

MEMBERS will recall that, some years ago, Colonel J. M. Cowper was commissioned to write our Corps History. Printing costs have, unfortunately, prevented us from having the whole of this interesting work published. Your Council has, however, decided to print the five Q.M.A.A.C. chapters to mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the W.A.A.C. and as a tribute to their work during the First World War. The official selling price to the general public will be 8/-, but the booklets are being offered to members at 6s. 6d. each, including postage. Orders should be placed NOW and cheques or postal orders made payable to the W.R.A.C. Association.

Corps Headquarters has produced another item to commemorate the 50th Anniversary. This is an attractive Poole pottery dish in a presentation box. The dish is 4½ ins. in diameter and the design includes the badges of the W.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. with the dates 1917-1967. Only a limited number have been ordered initially. More can be obtained later, if the dishes prove popular, but there will be a few weeks delay in obtaining delivery. These dishes will cost 6/- each including postage, or 5s. 6d. if collected from the office.

Unfortunately, we cannot give full details of all the plans for celebrating our 50th Anniversary next year, but June 1st will be THE DAY. We are joining with our sister services, the W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F., and, at the time of going to press, it is hoped that there will be a Service in the morning followed by a Garden Party, in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in the afternoon. Serving and ex-service women from all three Corps will be welcome. Our Association will probably be allotted 1,000 tickets for both these events. Full details of how to apply for tickets will be published in the February "Lioness". A small charge may have to be made, but costs will be kept to a minimum.

In response to requests, a list of the names and appointments of members of Council, as at 1st November, 1966, is being included in this issue. The list of Trustees of the A.T.S./W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund is being held over till the February number to enable the names of any new co-opted members to be included.

"The Lioness" wishes all her readers a very happy Christmas and looks forward to 1967 as an outstanding and memorable year for us all.

Director Designate

THE Ministry of Defence announced recently that Colonel The Hon. M. M. Anderson, M.B.E., is to assume the appointment of Director, W.R.A.C. in August, 1967.

Colonel Anderson has had wide experience during her 25 years service. She joined the A.T.S. in 1941 and was commissioned the following year. Like the present Director, Brigadier Dame Joanna Henderson, many of her earlier postings were in Scotland. After qualifying at the W.R.A.C. Staff College, Frimley, in 1952, Colonel Anderson held an appointment in the Territorial Army Directorate at the War Office. This was followed by three interesting years in Oslo where she served with Signals at H.Q. Allied Forces, Northern Europe.

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1960, she became A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Western Command, and later had another overseas tour, this time in Cyprus. On return to the U.K. she became Deputy Director at the War Office with the rank of Colonel and, since December 1964, has been Commandant of the W.R.A.C. Depot and Training Centre at Guildford. In August next year Colonel Anderson will make history by becoming the first Depot Commandant to attain the highest rank in her Corps. We offer our sincere congratulations and best wishes for a happy and successful tour in her new appointment.

Association News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Saturday, 11th March, 1967, at 3 p.m. In order that Branch Resolutions, for consideration at the Annual General Meeting, may be printed in the February issue of The Lioness, they should reach the General Secretary by 30th December 1966.

BRANCH SECRETARIES MEETING

THE Secretaries' Meeting will be held at 11-30 a.m. in the Canteen 80 (Chelsea) Company W.R.A.C. (T.A.), Block 'E', Duke of York's Headquarters, by permission of Lieut. Colonel C. H. Milner, O.B.E., W.R.A.C. (T.A.). Members of Council look forward to meeting all Branch Secretaries for lunch, as their guests. Please notify the General Secretary by 1st March, 1967, if able to attend.

SALE OF WORK

A SALE of work will be held after the Annual General Meeting. Eastern, Western and Headquarters Area have kindly agreed to organise the stalls (with some assistance from Scottish and Northern Ireland Areas).

Proceeds will go towards the Benvolent Fund. As there will be no Premium Bond Draw, it is hoped members will support the Sale of Work, and help to raise a substantial sum.

Tea will be provided. Tickets will be sold at the door, the price will be notified in the February issue of the Lioness.

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

THE Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion will be held in the Central Mess, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, on Friday, 10th March, 1967, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Admission free. Tickets for those attending will be paid for by the W.R.A.C. Association to help members of the W.A.A.C. and Q.M.A.A.C. celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

It would be impossible to cater, without an accurate forecast of numbers attending. So tickets must be obtained from the General Secretary, Block 'E', Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3., after 1st January, 1967. Please send a stamped addressed envelope with your application.

CHURCH SERVICE, SUNDAY, 12th MARCH, 1967

BY kind permission of Major General B. O. P. Eugster, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., members of the Association may attend the morning service at 11 a.m. in the Military Chapel, Chelsea Barracks, Chelsea Bridge Road. Tickets are not required, all ex-Service Women and their friends are welcome. The collection will be given to the Benevolent Fund.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LIST

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W.R.A.C. Corps Prints		6	0
Service with the Army, by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan	3	6	
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Scripto Pens with Association Badge ...	1	6	
Commemorative Ashtray (see Editorial) ...	6	0	

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Princess Royal's Memorial Fund

TWO Christmas Cards have been produced and the profits on the sale will be given to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

A limited number of the following are still available for sale. Both are embossed with the W.R.A.C. Badge and can be obtained from Corps H.Q. W.R.A.C. Please send cash with order.

1. Robin with rose hips price 1/- each
(size 8" x 4½" approx.)
2. Rose, Grace de Monaco price 7d. each
(size 5" x 4" approx.)

Postage: 3 cards for 4d.
6 cards for 6d., etc.

A.T.S. Dinner Club

THE Hon. Sec. would be grateful if anyone can give any information regarding the undermentioned members of the A.T.S. Dinner Club. Please send it to:

Miss L. Parker,
Rush Common House,
Abingdon, Berks.

Mrs. D. C. Apthorpe
Miss V. Holliday
Miss E. L. Tarrant
Mrs. E. H. Carey
Miss G. L. Swann
Miss J. Vincent
Mrs. J. Woodage
Mrs. A. I. Greenley
Mrs. Sullivan
Mrs. M. A. Warner

Re-Unions

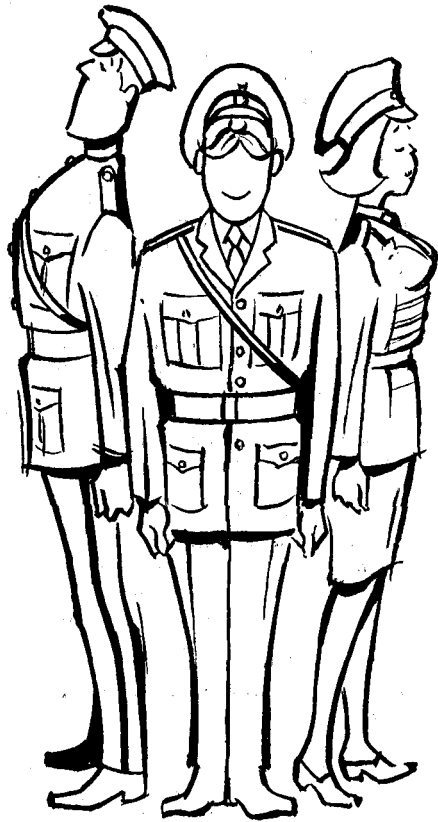
Northern Area

THE Northern Area Reunion was held on Saturday, 24th September, once again in Harrogate but on this occasion in the Sun Pavilion in the delightful setting of the Valley Gardens. Although the early part of the day was rather dull and unpromising, the sun broke through by 3 p.m. and shone in all its glory through the large expanse of glass, as though determined that the Pavilion should live up to its name in honour of the occasion.

Distinguished guests included Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake, D.B.E., J.P., Colonel L. M. Davies, O.B.E., Deputy Director W.R.A.C., Ministry of Defence, and Mrs. D. Stevenson, Treasurer of the Association. Representatives were present from Bradford Branch, 24 Signal Regiment Catterick, Derby, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Nottingham and York, reinforced by various individual members and visitors from near and far. We were sad to know that since the last Reunion Chesterfield and Hartlepool Branches had ceased to function and were not represented, but by way of compensation Nottingham had been revived and Mrs. Kidd the Secretary was with us. Sheffield Branch were unfortunately unable to come and apologies, coupled with good wishes, were also received from Lt.-Col. M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., Miss Learmouth, Secretary of Western Area, Miss Coffey, Mrs. Cox and Miss A. Gummersall, our oldest member from Bradford.

The Chairman of Northern Area, Lt.-Col. S. A. E. Heaney, M.B.E., T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, presided and was supported by Col. V. K. Stead, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., and Mrs. Suttle, Secretary of Northern Area. Lt.-Col. Heaney said how delighted she was to see such a large number present at this, her first Reunion in Northern Area. She extended a hearty welcome to all and was especially pleased to see Colonel Davies. Mrs. Stevenson and two members from Manchester Branch.

Lt.-Col. Heaney then warmly welcomed and introduced our guest speaker, Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake, who, in thanking the Committee for inviting her, said what a great pleasure it was to attend this gathering. It evoked memories of her association with Northern Command between 1941/1944 and she detailed some amusing reminiscences of that period. Now, having had two years of retirement, she appreciated all the more the bond which exists between those who have served and the qualities of character gained during service. These, together with the permanent friendship formed and the comforting backing of the Benevolent Fund in times of need, are of inestimable value and greatly envied by those who have never had the advantage of experiencing Service life. Reunions such as this are so worth while, providing a chance of meeting and strengthening the rapport between us all. Dame Jean concluded by giving some information on the Voluntary Service Organization with which she had been associated, and said she believed that this in some measure was replacing the experience of National Service for the



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growing number of young people now participating in its projects.

A vote of thanks to Dame Jean Rivett-Drake was proposed by W.O. I D. Hodgson and seconded by Sgt. E. Raper.

It is customary at Northern Area Reunions to include some form of entertainment in the programme and on this occasion Captain 'Paddy' Hildyard had been asked to give a talk on her reminiscences. And entertainment it certainly was! Roars of laughter wafted out over the Valley Gardens as the hilarious story of her pioneer days in the Army and subsequent escapades at Neville's Cross unfolded—made all the more piquant by the fact that certain people in the audience had participated in them! In fact, quite unconsciously, Captain Hildyard's tale underlined remarks on the bonds of service made by Dame Jean Rivett-Drake in that the dramatis personae were gathered together and indulging in reminiscent chuckles some quarter of a century later. It is certain that many similar memories must have bubbled to the surface in a number of minds, but lacking Captain Hildyard's gift of story telling, most of us will have to content ourselves with placing advance orders for the book she threatens to write one day!

Lt.-Col. Heaney thanked Captain Hildyard for her efforts, and since a suggestion that the stage be cleared for a 1966 version of the memorable one-time concert party was declined with thanks, we all repaired to the rear of the hall, where an excellent buffet tea had appeared.

After tea the raffle was drawn and Dame Jean Rivett-Drake presented the large number of attractive prizes which had been donated by branches and individuals. The proceeds amounted to £24 and, with a collection taken earlier in the afternoon, some £30 had been raised for the Benevolent Fund. Mrs. Suttle thanked Dame Jean Rivett-Drake for distributing the prizes and all member for contributing so generously.

On display during the afternoon was some beautiful prize-winning knitwear executed by Mrs. Madge Oldfield, blind member of York Branch. This and the accompanying first prize certificates were greatly admired and Mrs. Oldfield is to be congratulated on her fine achievement.

Towards 6 p.m. the chatter gradually subsided and members began regretfully to disperse on their homeward journeys. The 1966 Reunion had undoubtedly been a most enjoyable and successful one and we hope to see a bumper attendance of even more old friends next time.

County of London

THIS is to remind all members of the former County of London Branch of the Association and any old members of 327 Bn. and 80 Company that we are meeting in the Colville Hotel (opposite the Duke of York's Headquarters), on Monday, 28th November, at 7 p.m.

Miss Barbara Robinson, and others, have promised to be there. Do come along, we had great fun last year.

Branch News

AYR. We've had several meetings this Summer. On 20th April we visited Sutherland House for Handicapped Children in the over 16s Club night of games and dancing. Our Evening Bus Run on 11th May was to Red Cross House, Largs, where Physically Handicapped people live and are trained according to their capabilities, they have several workshops and it is amazing what they can produce. We stopped for supper on the way back. On 25th May we were shown over the new Technical College at Ayr and what wonderful opportunities are afforded to the young folks of today. The Catering Section laid on a lovely supper for us, served by the students. 15 of our members visited Glasgow Branch on 4th June. We had tea at the Club then went to the Alhambra Theatre to see the Max Bygraves show, which was very good. Glasgow Branch paid a return visit to Ayr on 10th September. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't so kind to us as usual, but we enjoyed our afternoon together, followed by tea and theatre.

BATH. It is such an age since we went to "press" that probably our activities over the past nine months is the best way to bring all members up to date with our news. We all continue to meet twice monthly in various members' homes, and a very successful Annual General Meeting and Dinner were held in March. We also survived a very hectic Jumble Sale in the same month, which boosted the funds considerably. The Area Meeting in Salisbury was attended by the Secretary and Treasurer and later in May we attended the very successful Area Reunion at Beaulieu—this was most enjoyable. One evening in June, members and friends had a very pleasant coach trip to Portishead and Clevedon, stopping en route for a meal. Finally, we welcome three new members to the Branch, Miss O. Rutter, Mrs. D. Millican and Miss Elliott, and trust they will enjoy their association with us, and we also were delighted when an old member from New Zealand, Miss J. Double, rejoined us for a couple of meetings whilst she was over here on a visit and requested that she should still be a member of this Branch.

BRADFORD. Members commenced their Autumn Session by standing in a silent tribute as a mark of respect to Mrs. Kathleen Bottomley, Ex-Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., of "Abbeville", Selwich Drive, Flamborough Head, Bridlington, who recently suffered the loss of her husband. Our members have in the past enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Bottomley on their annual outings. Our sympathy goes out to Kathleen.

We were pleased to welcome a new member, Olive Russell, also Miss Gummarsall, our President, and Etta Wilson, who we had not seen for some time.. We were indebted to our Social Committee, who organised a very successful Bring and Buy Sale. Ten of our members attended the Northern Area Reunion, which was a very successful gathering. It was with regret that Miss Gummarsall had to miss the Reunion for the very first time as the venue was not so easily accessible for her, also Mrs. Ross of Hull, who always

looked forward to a Reunion with her Bradford friends, was unable to attend on account of her husband's illness. We were pleased to see Mrs. Slack after her illness, also Audrey Foulds, Jean Bower, and Marion Wilkinson, who was attending her first Reunion, to which she brought along a new member.

DERBY. We are very pleased that Lady R. Crompton-Inglefield, who has transferred from the H.Q. Branch to Derby, has become our President. We had two outings in June, one to Players Factory, where we were entertained, after a very enjoyable tour round the factory, to tea and biscuits, and each member was presented with a box of cigarettes of the various blends made by Players; the following week another enjoyable trip was made to Ind Coope's Brewery, where, once again, we enjoyed samples of their goods after a tour round the brewery. On June 29th, we held a Social and Bingo evening, but in spite of advertising, only a few members and friends attended, but we did manage to "sign on" two four year members, and the few who were present enjoyed themselves very much.

GLASGOW. Since our Annual General Meeting in March, we have had several meetings. The first one in April was a Whist Drive and in May we had a visit to Ross Priory, Gartocharn. Then, in June, we had a visit from the Members of the Ayr Branch, and after a meal in the Club, the party went on to the Half Past Eight show with Max Bygraves, and in September some of us paid a visit to Ayr. After a very pleasant meal in the Shanter House Hotel, we went to the Ayr Gaiety and saw a very enjoyable show. On 15th September, the Branch held a very successful Bring and Buy Sale and Coffee Evening. We are sorry to report the death of one of our members, Mrs. Mary Simpson, who before her marriage was C.S.M. Grant of "G" Company A.T.S., Glasgow. Mrs. Simpson died on 7th September after a long illness of chronic bronchitis. We extend to her relatives our deepest sympathy. Miss Jean Clarke, one of our members, is being married on 10th October. We extend our warmest congratulations to Jean and her bridegroom, Mr. Alex. Scott.

HEADQUARTER AREA. Our thoughts this year naturally run on next year's 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Women's Services, and in Headquarter Area Branch especially are many for whom this will be a personal Golden Jubilee. We look forward to the possibility of making or renewing acquaintance with many old comrades for long only known to us on paper. There are rumours of plane loads from Canada and other distant parts. It would be good to know in advance who is coming so that names may be published in our February issue and contacts made in advance.

Our readers already know that H.Q. Area is again furnishing a stall at the A.G.M. in March, and offerings, however small, will be gratefully received at 2 Myrtle Cottage, Netherbury, Bridport, Dorset, any time after the New Year, by which time your Secretary hopes to be home again. In the meantime, she wishes she could share the blue skies and sunshine of the Balearic Isles with all of you who are not



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fortunate enough to enjoy such a lovely climate in your many and varied corners of the world. A Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year from your Chairman and Secretary!

LEICESTER. Will our postal members please note that we only have news in the May and November issues of "The Lioness". Miss Fowler arranged an evening out at the Star Inn, Thrusington, a pretty village in Leicestershire. The evening was very enjoyable and the refreshments most appetising. Mrs. Thea Newman (ex Capt. Price, Adj. 308 Bn.) entertained members at her new bungalow. As well as having a good time, the funds profited by 17/6 which she collected for refreshments. July saw us journeying into the next and smallest county, Rutland. Major The Hon. V. V. Kitson and Dame Mary Colvin invited us to their home, Pasture House, North Luffenham. The journey through the hunting country was delightful and Dame Mary and Major Kitson were there to meet us. "The Pasture House" was "Ready for Inspection" and we had a conducted tour of the gardens, meadow, and stables. The buffet supper made us all forget diets and slimming resolutions, and it was "nosebags on". After being "well fed and watered?" we left, driving very carefully along the winding country lanes. It was good to see Dame Mary looking so fit and happy in her retirement. Kath Hockley has done her "annual marmalade stint" and donated two pounds to the funds, which helps to keep us solvent. Latest news of May Rodger is that she is trying to master her new car and hopes to be mobile again. Miss Whitbread, our Chairman, has not enjoyed good health for some time but, in her last letter, she said she hoped to be with us soon. We were pleased to see Dorothy Palmer at our July meeting, for once her leave coincided with our meeting date. Several members travelled to Nottingham to help with the first meeting of the re-formed Branch. It was good to see Major Warden, ex D.A.D.W.R.A.C. North Midland District, who is the Chairman, and the Secretary, Dorothy Kidd. There were several familiar faces, Capt. Turner, Cpl. Kay Smith, ex Storewoman 307, Beryl Charles (Mallard), ex Ack Ack and R.A.P.C. The P.S.O., Officers and O.Rs of the T.A. Unit gave splendid support and W.O. II Allibone and Cpl. Roberts coped very ably with refreshments. We wish our sister Branch well and hope they will flourish. We are sorry to lose Mrs. Dacombe to Nottingham, but our loss is their gain, for she was one of our most loyal members. We have extended an invitation to the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) to join the Branch on their disbandment and do look forward to seeing them at our meetings.

LONDON. We have had some very interesting meetings during the spring and summer months. At the beginning of May we were given a very interesting talk on the essentials of First Aid, by Sister Wood of the British Red Cross. Later in the month Miss Vera Faulkner showed us her colour slides of her holiday in Yugoslavia, these were followed by some slides

taken by Miss Betty Brown on the day of the Glasgow Reunion. In June we enjoyed an evening of songs given by the Acton Male Voice Choir. Also in June, twenty-five of our members went to the Victoria Palace to see the popular show, the "Black and White Minstrels". In July we had another evening out, on this occasion we joined the London Transport tour "London's River". This took us to Greenwich Park, via many interesting places in the City and East End of London. We also saw the "Cutty Sark", and the old coaching inn, the "George" at Southwark. In September we enjoyed an evening of holiday reminiscences, when Miss Faulkner again kindly brought her projector, and we were able to see a selection of colour slides of members' holidays in 1966 and previous years.

STAFFORD. Since our last report we have been pleased to welcome four new members who made a good start by attending, in April, our very enjoyable 1st Birthday Party in the 'Sgts Mess'. The one candle was soon blown out on the lovely decorated iced cake, complete with Badge, presented to us by Mrs. Jupp. At the May meeting, Stafford Station Master delighted us with his most colourful talk on rail travel, and we felt we were on holiday visiting the places of interest he described in the journey from the South to the North of Scotland. We had a most enjoyable Coffee Evening in June at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bostock, and being blessed with a warm sunny evening, we were able to appreciate the beautiful gardens and one visitor enjoyed the luxury of the swimming pool. The scavenger hunt proved most entertaining and after the gardener had sorted the little bags of leaves, flowers, etc., the prize was awarded to 'Mrs. Plant'! Our grateful thanks were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Bostock when the coffee and hot sausage rolls with cakes brought such a delightful evening to a close. Also in June we all gathered at the Gas Showrooms for a most interesting cookery demonstration, we all enjoyed the 'Banana Snow' at the end and a draw was made for the Salmon Roll and Scotch Egg Salad and the lucky members were delighted. In July we had a most successful Jumble Sale with the queue forming an hour before the doors opened and we were sold out in half an hour, all the helpers exhausted with the onslaught. From the proceeds, £5 5s. 0d. has been sent to the Benevolent Fund. With our usual meetings taken up with talks, etc., we decided the July meeting would be a get-together with a little bottle party. The chatter and laughter over past experiences made it a jolly, happy evening. We were very lucky to obtain the services of the manager of the British Potteries Promotion Service to talk to us in August, the outline of the industry and the colour film on the manufacture, together with a beautiful array of examples illustrating the qualities and design of tableware, made the evening most interesting and enjoyable.

WIMBLEDON. We started the year in January with a very interesting and informative Beauty Counsellor Demonstration, Mrs. Collyer, one of our members,

kindly acting as model and looking very glamorous when the operation had been completed! In February we had our annual Beetle Drive, always one of the most popular events, but this time, unfortunately, we had a smaller attendance than usual, thus there was a little less noise! However, it was a good evening, enjoyed by those who did attend. In March we had our usual Bring and Buy and made a record profit this time, which was very pleasing. In April, our President, Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, very kindly gave us a talk about her work for Borstal, which was most interesting. In May we had a most enthralling demonstration on hat making, and our demonstrator very kindly allowed five hats she had made to be raffled, the money going to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund, to say nothing of the five lucky members who went home in new hats! We had a general 'get-together' in June to arrange our next winter's programme and then broke up for the summer holidays. We opened again in September with a talk on Police Dog Handling. A Sergeant came from Brixton Police Station to tell us all about it, accompanied by a Handler and his Alsatian Dog to do the demonstrating. It really was a most interesting evening and, of course, the centre of attraction was the dog, a beautiful animal.

YORK. We continue to meet at Nunthorpe House, but for how much longer, we do not know. In April, Col. Appleby, O.B.E., T.D., kindly came to give a talk on the varied activities of the W.V.S. There seems to be nothing too small or too large for them to tackle. Once again we had a Whist Drive at Strensall and again Mrs. Green and the loyal band of helpers came forward with their support. Special thanks must go to Miss Starkey, who always takes on the job of washing up about 100 cups and saucers. We were very pleased in June to welcome Lt.-Col. Heaney, M.B.E., T.D., and a party of serving members to a talk by a Senior Sergeant Policewoman of the York Force. The long awaited visit to the Georgian Theatre at Richmond came about in July. Many thanks to Major Jones, D.A.D.W.R.A.C., for making this possible, it was quite an experience and well worth a visit, even if the players were not everyone's cup of tea. Again in September we had a Guest Speaker, this time Mr. D. Battle, M.B.E., a member of York Voluntary City Guides and an authority on the history of York, his talk being in the form of a quiz: "Do You Know". Most of us "Did Not Know", but he did send Kathleen Whetnall to the top of the class. Twelve members went to the Northern Area Reunion at Harrogate and had a very pleasant afternoon. Several of our members have had bereavements, to them we send our sincere sympathies, especially to Louie Metcalf and Mrs. Graham-Woollard, who have both lost their husbands, we hope both are feeling better after their sad loss. We send best wishes to S/Sgt. Brewster, who was posted to Southern Command just as she was getting acquainted with the W.R.A.C. Association; we hope she has joined her local Branch.

Unit News

9 Company

A TRIP to the Royal Tournament, a fifteen mile hike over Salisbury Plain on August Bank Holiday, and visits to stately homes, in addition to the usual rounders matches and other sports fixtures, comprise some of our recent activities. However, the highlight has undoubtedly been a visit made by two officers and ten other ranks to the Families Open Day on the aircraft carrier H.M.S. Hermes. They spent four hours at sea sailing round the Isle of Wight, where a special flying display and an air sea rescue were carried out. Supper was served on board ship and that, together with duty free drinks and cigarettes, and the hospitality of the whole ship's company, resulted in a tired but happy party of W.R.A.C. disembarking at Portsmouth.

One officer was very thrilled to be a member of the crew of the Royal Artillery yacht St. Barbara on a weekend trip across to France—a few members of the unit are now enjoying some of the duty free delights she brought back!

With autumn and winter creeping up on us, several evening activities such as ice skating and ten pin bowling are being organised and well supported.

At the end of July, our warrant officer cook, W.O. II D. Sturges, was presented with her long service and good conduct medal by the Commandant of the School of Artillery, Brigadier R. S. Streatfeild, M.C., M.A.



W.O. II Sturges after the presentation of her Long Service and Good Conduct medal

Photo by Public Relations

We were sorry to say goodbye to our chief clerk, Sgt. Pearson, who retired after twenty-seven years service, and wish her every happiness in civilian life. We also lost our C.Q.M.S., S/Sgt. Morgan, on posting, and welcome in her place S/Sgt. Murphy, and Sgt. Sherwood as chief clerk. The usual large turnover of staff is apparent and we wish past members of the unit good luck and happiness wherever they may be.

Horsley Hall

Memories and a Lament

IN January 1945, as W/94348 S/Sgt. E. M. Fleming, A.T.S., I was posted to No. 2 M.T.T.C. on the permanent Staff of 'B' Company, where I spent during the next nineteen months some of the happiest times of my eight and a half years in the A.T.S.

On September 1st 1966 I was in the Gresford Area, and decided to re-visit the old place, knowing that it was no longer a military camp but expecting to see the old house as it used to be. I was horrified and saddened to see nothing but a heap of bricks, for it had been razed to the ground with parts still standing gaunt and broken.

I wandered round trying to find places I once knew. Of the Sergeants' Mess, just a brick chimney remained, the rest a shambles of bricks and weeds. Gone was the garden, the lily pond, everything, and where the Warrant Officers sleeping quarters used to be nothing remained except a broken concrete base with a pipe showing where the bathroom had been. Memories came flooding back. S/Sergeants Chappel and Stewart, Phil McArdle, 'Clippy' and 'Wall(y)', R.S.M. French, all the people I lived with and many more. I wandered down the main path, nothing but weeds on either side, memories of 'B' Company office where Sergeant Romaine put all letters for which she could not find a file in an envelope on the wall ! !

The 'Q' Store with J/C Hickson reigning supreme, the Bays where the inimitable Jane D'Almahoy and 'Tough' Settle performed miracles with engines that refused to start! The Camp theatre where we put on a play written by 'Jane' where S/Sgt. Crosby (Bing), of R.E.M.E., impersonated Philly Willy as Junior Commander "Willy Nilly" and was so proud because he even had khaki issue ! ! Jean Eiloart and Brenda Bean taking off the driving students and I making my debut 'flying' on the end of a rope thrown over a beam! Thousands of happy memories including the day when the Princess Royal visited us but she cancelled the parade because of pelting rain and, accompanied by Mrs. Sydney Turner, inspected the girls in a drill shed. I still have photographs of this day which I shall always treasure. I cannot enumerate all my memories in this article but I am sure that ex members of No. 1 M.T.T.C. and Drivers and Clerks who were amalgamated with us during

my time, both they and ex members of No. 2 M.T.T.C. will lament the passing of Horsley Hall but no amount of bricks, mortar and weeds will ever erase the nostalgic memories that I shall cherish of happy days with grand people in a wonderful setting.

Ethel M. Fleming.

The Hong Kong Flood Disaster—June 1966

SUNDAY, 12th June 1966 a day Hong Kong will never forget. In just one day, more damage than can possibly be imagined, was caused by a deluge of rain of 15.06 inches in 24 hours, the highest ever recorded by the Hong Kong Weather Observatory.

In a typhoon it is usually the poor families living on the hillside in ramshackle, squatter huts that suffer the most. On the Sunday, after a week of rain, both rich and poor suffered alike.

The deluge on Sunday morning caused havoc in Kowloon and Hong Kong Island. Underground sewers overflowed and burst, sending huge geysers of water into the already flooded streets. The streets looked like rivers and cars and lorries were swept down them killing any occupants. Many vehicles were damaged beyond repair. Landslides wrecked homes and damaged gas and water pipes and the danger of gas explosions was imminent, and many Army Blocks were evacuated.

Rescue teams worked continuously in pouring rain to free people trapped in houses. Social Welfare workers gave temporary accommodation to the victims. The rescue workers were hampered by an almost complete breakdown of communications, 22,000 telephone lines had been damaged. 15,000 men of all Services started on "Operation Mop-up" and worked round the clock in an attempt to clear the Colony's streets. Helicopters ferried supplies to the Military Hospital and food was taken to the families trapped high up on the peak.

The Hong Kong W.R.A.C. were obviously affected. The W.R.A.C. Operators worked on the Military Switchboard day and night. It was an almost impossible task as desperate calls for help blocked the lines already overloaded, making their job heart breaking. The Clerks and Regimental Storewomen worked very long hours helping in the Operations Room day and night and handing out bedding and clothing to the homeless.

Fortunately no member of the W.R.A.C. suffered personally but both the Officers and Sergeants Messes were flooded—to four feet in one room in the Sergeants Mess. One room in the W.R.A.C. block had to be evacuated and this room is now precariously perched at the top and looks ready to topple forward at the slightest provocation, be it a typhoon or any other lesser evil.

Although there were no deaths among the Service personnel, the civilian death toll rose steadily and by

Sunday evening 53 people were known to have died and almost 4,000 were homeless. The W.R.A.C. contributed \$120.00 (£7) towards the Community relief fund set up for the homeless.

Now three weeks later the Colony is gradually returning to normal. People still not resigned to the fact that their kin may be buried underneath tons of rubble, make the most of what is left to them. The terror that affected thousands has subsided. The homeless now depend on charity and although the Fund has helped in many ways, there are still months of hard work, repairs and planning to be done before Hong Kong can once again become the said "Pearl of the Orient".

(Reprinted from the Director's Liaison Letter).

T.A. News

63 Signal Regiment

CAMP this year started on Whit Saturday (28th May), so in order to avoid traffic congestion, Squadrons travelled overnight from their T.A. Centres to Penhale, near Newquay. Most people had arrived by lunchtime and the rest of the day was spent settling in. Equipment was installed and training started on Whit Monday. The many visitors included the G.O.C. and A.D.W.R.A.C. Aldershot District, C.S.O. and D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command.

All messes had various social activities; the officers entertaining guests at either luncheon or dinner. The W.Os. and Sgts. had a treasure hunt and an outing to Torquay. They also entertained the officers to a buffet lunch. There were two dances and a late night barbecue on the beach. This latter was unfortunately marred by rain.

One afternoon we had inter-squadron potted sports with the girls producing two teams. The handicapping had been carefully worked out with the result that 3 Sqn. W.R.A.C. won this lighthearted competition by three points. The men then pulled the girls' legs by saying they had let them win as a courtesy.

During the second week our W.R.A.C. Bugle and Drum Band came into its own. In Camp at the same time was the Junior Leaders Company of the Royal Green Jackets, including their band. Each Band individually Beat Retreat in Perranporth. They then rehearsed together and combined in Beating Retreat in Camp on the last evening. This impressive and unique ceremony was televised by the B.B.C.

The M.O. ran a most successful First Aid Course for W.R.A.C., culminating in a St. John's Ambulance Brigade Test. Now the whole course are the proud possessors of First Aid Certificates.

The day we came home started with Reveille being sounded by the Junior Leaders at 04.00 hrs. It is rumoured that one of our girls joined in this rousing start with a greatcoat over her night clothes. It was a very busy, happy camp, with everyone working hard and entering into the spirit of things.

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SR 7387

Commissioning Ceremony

THE next Commissioning Ceremony at the W.R.A.C. College on Wednesday 14th December 1966 will be held in the morning at 11.30 hrs.

The Ceremony will be followed by a luncheon for the Inspecting Officer, official guests, Officer Cadets and their parents and friends.

Any W.R.A.C. Officer wishing to attend should apply to the Administrative Officer W.R.A.C. College, Portsmouth Road, Camberley enclosing a cheque or postal order for fourteen shillings and sixpence (14/6) if they require lunch (drinks included). If there is a heavy demand it may be necessary to limit luncheon tickets to those who apply early owing to the lack of space in the Officers Mess.

Applications for tickets for luncheon in the W.O's and Sgts' Mess should be forwarded, together with a cheque or P.O. for 7/6, made out to the Mess, by 24th November, 1966, to the Administrative Officer.

Cheque and P.Os. for the Officers' Mess should be made out to the P.M.C.

Adventure Training

Sgt. K. Y. Middleton

WOULD you like to come Potholing with me through the caves of Chudleigh in Devon? Dressed in overalls, and wearing strong boots, we check that all the equipment we need is ready; safety and guide ropes and that the miners lamps are working properly, before attaching them to our helmets. The guides, who are experienced potholers, now leave us and enter the caves to take up their positions throughout the route we will be taking. With a last look at the daylight we don our helmets and the party is now ready to move off.

Slowly at first, we move along down the tunnel, the lamps throwing out sufficient light to see the person in front of us. The ceiling of the tunnel gradually becomes lower, making us walk in a half crouching position for about 30 yards till we come to a cave which enables us to stand up straight. As we pass through, the light from our lamps dances across the wet rocks, reflecting back colour like the sun's rays shining through crystal. We continue on our journey until we make a sharp right hand turn, to be confronted by a climb of about 100 feet up and over boulders which are jammed in a narrow rift. Looking up, you see the smiling face of a guide as he throws down our end of the safety rope, which is firmly fixed around us. Using the positioned guide rope as an extra hold, we start to climb. Slowly, inch by inch, making sure that we have a good firm hold on the rocks, we progress. We pause for a while to regain our breath, on looking upwards the guide can be seen holding out his hand, waiting to give us that extra pull if needed.

Here we rest a while before making our descent down a muddy, slippery incline 20 feet in length, which ends abruptly in a 40 foot drop. Slowly sliding down the incline, we reach the edge, where, with the help of a guide, we attach a safety rope ready for our descent, down the "chimney" which is only 4 feet wide.

Looking over the edge we see nothing but blackness into which we must lower ourselves. Bracing our backs on one side of the "chimney" and reaching out with our feet against the other, we are in a position to descend.

With muscles tense, never daring to relax, we carefully edge our way sideways and downwards between the wet muddy walls. Moving first our feet and then our backs 6 inches at a time, we gradually reach the bottom where with a sigh of relief and satisfaction, we remove the safety rope.

Wedging ourselves between some boulders we can relax in comfort and smoke a cigarette while the rest of the party make their way down to us. During this rest period the lamps are rechecked, ready for the last part of the journey.

A short walk brings us to another climb, but this one is 150 feet and is the most treacherous part, because the boulders are wet and very muddy.

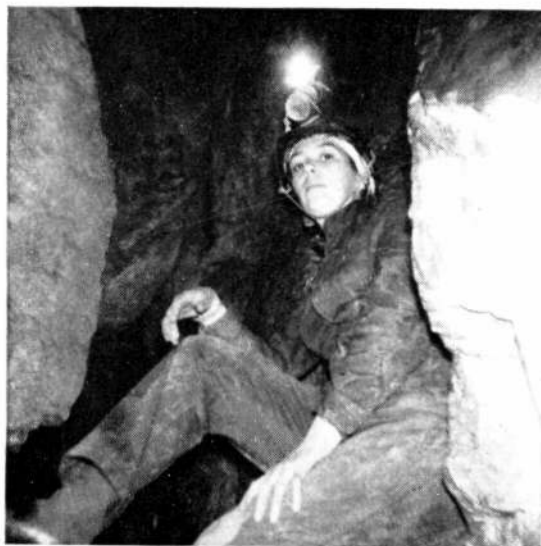
Guide line in position and safety line fixed around us, we are once more ready to climb. Steadily up the boulders we go, bracing ourselves against the wall to prevent us from slipping on the mud. Slowly we ease our way upwards, testing each hand and foot hold before moving. With words of encouragement from the guide and our own determined effort, we reach the end of the climb. The safety line is removed for the last time.

As we sit at the top and rest, we feel a great sense of achievement, although we are tired, and dirty from the mud in the caves.

We move off again, using the beam of our lamps to find the foot and hand holes. Climbing up a short way, we enter a small, low ceilinged cave. A faint ray of daylight dimly lights the cave from a very small aperture which is approximately 14 inches high and 20 inches wide and is the only exit from the cave. Lying flat on our stomachs, we use our elbows and feet to propel our bodies along this aperture for about 10 feet until we reach the exit.

Carefully we ease our way out, for there is a 60 foot drop on the outside. We have another 20 feet to climb before reaching the top of the rocks, where we throw ourselves on the ground to dry ourselves out by the warm rays of the sun.

For many years, man has done many things on, or above, ground, but only recently has he found that nature is a thing of beauty even below the surface.



The author in action

Home and Leisure

With Christmas in Mind

Spiced Beef

THIS was, and still is, a great Christmas speciality in Ireland. You can buy it ready cooked, at a price, in the food departments of some of the big stores. It is always eaten cold and makes a pleasant change from the more usual ham.

- 7 lbs. boned beef, brisket or round
- 1½ lbs. kitchen salt
- ½ lb. moist brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon each of allspice, mace nutmeg and crushed peppercorns
- ½ teaspoon each of cinnamon, cloves and thyme
- ½ teaspoon minced onion
- 6 bay leaves crushed
- 2 teaspoons potassium nitrate

To Spice. Rub 4 ozs. of salt well into the meat and leave for 24 hours. Mix the rest of the ingredients together and rub hard into the beef. Stand the meat in a deep dish and keep it in a cool place for 10-14 days turning it over every day and rubbing the spices in.

To Cook. Simmer gently allowing ½ hour to the lb. and ½ hour over. After cooking press it overnight between two boards with a weight on top. Slice thinly.

Pickled Breast of Lamb

This Danish recipe might well be used as a "price squeeze" alternative to the spiced beef.

First make a pickle. Put 1 pt. water, 3 oz. salt, 2 oz. brown sugar and 2 peasized lumps of saltpetre in a pan. Boil for 3 minutes and set aside to cool. Put the boned breast of lamb in the liquid and leave for 3 days in a cool place. Then remove, rinse and dry it. Cover the surface with a cup of chopped parsley. Roll up and tie with string. Simmer gently for 1½ hours. Press overnight between two boards with a weight on top. Serve cold cut in very thin slices.

Malt Loaf

This recipe is easy, economical and keeps surprisingly well. It is delicious sliced and buttered at tea time.

- ½ lb. Self Rising flour
- 2 tablespoons Ovaltine or Bournvita
- 2 tablespoons Caster sugar
- 2 tablespoons Golden syrup
- 3-4 oz. Mixed fruit
- 1 Gill milk

Mix all the dry ingredients together and stir in the milk and syrup. It should make a soft dough. Pour into a greased loaf tin and bake in a moderate oven about 375°.

Ginger Shortcake

- 6 oz. Butter
- 2 oz. Caster sugar
- 6 oz. Flour

- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 digestive biscuits (crumbled)

Cream the butter and sugar, add flour, ginger and crumbled biscuits. Blend well together, divide into two and bake in two sandwich tins in a slow oven for 20 minutes, Gas mark 4.

When cold sandwich with the following filling creamed together.

- 2 oz. caster sugar
- 2oz. butter
- Chopped ginger
- Juice from preserved ginger if available.

Victorian Christmas Pudding

This is a Victorian recipe for those who do not like, or cannot eat, the usual rich Christmas pudding.

- 1 lb. white breadcrumbs
- 1 cup warm milk
- 4 oz. moist brown sugar
- 8 oz. shredded suet
- 8 oz. muscatel raisins
- 4 eggs
- ½ nutmeg grated
- rind of ½ lemon grated

Put the breadcrumbs in a basin, pour the warm (not hot) milk over them and let them soak for a while. Then stir in the sugar, suet, raisins, nutmeg and lemon rind. Beat the eggs well and add them to the mixture. Pour into a greased basin and boil for 5 hours. Serve with lemon or brandy sauce.

Retirement

Miss E. L. Bennett

IT is not often that we have the opportunity to write about someone who has never been a member of the Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. or W.R.A.C., but we feel sure that a great many Officers will be both interested and sad to hear of the retirement of Miss E. L. Bennett after over 25 years service with this Branch.

Miss Bennett was a staunch member of the Clerical Staff of A.G.16(0) in the days when it was located in Cheltenham and at the time when the total staff reached the peak of about 100 in Hobart House until its present strength of less than 10 at Stanmore. She always took a tremendous personal interest in all the Officers of the Corps and her enthusiasm and extensive knowledge will be greatly missed.

On her departure she was presented with an inscribed silver sugar bowl from past and present Officers of the Branch. We were not able to get into touch with all concerned in the time but feel sure that Miss Bennett leaves with all our good wishes for a happy retirement.

The Foot Soldier

(or the young graduate joins the Army)

They issued me with armour at College
chain mail—the image
University Student.
My face looked out
a little young and unsure
but was safe, protected from barbs,
swords, spears and arrows,
almost from cannon balls.
I learnt soon to move my arms and legs
in a fashion appropriate to armour.
I acquired the helmet of Vice-Presidency
in my fourth year
and the gauntlets of a graduate.
Nothing could touch me then
I was safe, assured, poised,
charming and easy inside my mail.
With the visor down no-one could see me.
They placed me on a white horse
and I trampled on my foes.
I was allowed to keep my horse for two months
swept out of the drive on him
still fully armed and waved a silver gauntlet.
I mounted a new companion up behind
the British Tax Payer.
I quite enjoyed the company
and extended my silver hand in cordiality.
But the gates were different now
my horse shied, threw me, bolted back.
I staggered in my armour
—the crowd stared
“What funny gloves she’s wearing”
I heard one say and someone sniggered.
I shed my armour piece by piece
all down the drive
arrived soft and pink—unprotected,
blinking in the sunlight
for everyone to see
They issued me with a hat the next day
but it was no use at all
against arrows, spears or swords.
I winced at the noise of the cannons,
let tears fall between my bare fingers.
I wanted my armour back again
I moved differently without it
could not stand up straight.
I had to avoid the heels of
other people’s white horses.
I was a small, shy foot soldier
and held my bow awkwardly
but I could feel the sun on the back of my neck
and I could always hide in a ditch
or stand in a shadow
—and flex my bare hands.

Elizabeth Saxon

Here and There

WE congratulate Pte. **Linda Capon** on winning an award through the National Schools Sailing Association shortly before joining the W.R.A.C. as a potential P.T.I. Pte Capon's award was to be the guest of the Island Sailing Club (Isle of Wight) during their big Regatta in September and she was given special leave during her training to enable her to “collect her prize”.

Members will be interested to know that the “Militaires” first record is now on sale on the Airborne Label. The tunes “May be” and “I need you” are the Group's own compositions. The record is obtainable by post from N. Brown Productions Ltd., 26 Darblay Street, W.1, and costs 7s. 3d. plus postage.

We congratulate four of our members, **Miss S. Cochrane**, **Miss F. Kenworthy-Browne**, **Miss M. Kingston-Walker** and **Miss M. E. F. Machin**, on having paintings on show at the 35th Exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society at the Chenil Galleries in London during September, 1966.



The Militaires with mascot

What a way to spend a Whitsun

Cpl. McGreal

TEN girls from 68 Sqn. (R.C.T.) (W.R.A.C.) including myself decided to spend our Whitsun Grant away from the hustle and bustle of Army life, by going on a camping holiday, but we were not quite sure how we would go about it.

Our Troop Officer (Lt. White) heard about the scheme, and said she would help us. The first step was to obtain a vehicle through the Army, at a cost of about nineteen shillings each. This Lt. White arranged for us. She also managed to obtain some sleeping bags, and tents. The P.R.I. fund provided us with a modern camping gas burner, and a complete set of cooking utensils, and our Unit Dining Hall supplied us with rations.

On the day we set off, it took us about two hours to reach our destination, which is a famous German beauty spot (Munster Eiffel) through which the river Talster runs, and there we found the ideal authorised camping site including: Cafe, shower, toilets and the largest communal washing sinks that I have ever seen.

We camped at the far end of the field and started to erect the tents. What a shock we got when we put the first one up; it was about two foot high and two foot wide, so by the time all the other tents were up, it looked just like a miniature Indian Reservation. We attracted quite a lot of attention with our mini type tents, and if you could have seen the German Tents around us you would understand why. They all looked as if they had just come out of an Ideal Home Camping Exhibition and next to these, I must confess ours look like baggage compartments.

We had great fun cooking the meals and in the morning we used to get the other campers coming out of their tents attracted by the smell of our bacon and eggs, sizzling in the pan. As people of the Continent usually just have rolls and coffee for breakfast they found this rather fascinating.

The holiday flew by for us as we spent our days boating and swimming in the river, and going for long walks. We spent our evenings in the local hotels. As there were hundreds of campers situated around our area we met all sorts of weird and wonderful people. The only criticism we had was the overcrowding in the camping site. Over night tents just used to spring up and one morning I awoke to find a car reversing; it only just stopped about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch short of our already tottering tent. The insects were very friendly though, but they would insist on sharing our tents, but am glad to say kept out of our sleeping bags.

We were quite sorry when we had to pack up and leave at the end of our holiday, as we had made lots of friends on the camping site. We departed from

the site, to the cheers of other campers. I'm not quite sure whether they were with relief or goodwill. We arrived back at Camp, very happy and content after an excellent grant.

Presentation of Silver Salver by R.M.A. to W.R.A.C. College

ON Monday 25th October 1965, Colonel P. M. Lipscomb, Commandant of the W.R.A.C. College, together with Major B. I. Forbes-Adam, M.B.E., Commanding Officer Cadets Wing and Captain V. C. Jones from Officer Wing, were invited to lunch at the Royal Military Academy.

Before lunch they met many of the Senior Members of the R.M.A. and the Commandant, Major General H. J. Mogg, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., presented to Colonel Lipscomb a very lovely silver salver. Much of the beauty of the salver is in the simplicity of its design and this was all in keeping with the friendly informality of the presentation and the charming thought behind the gift.

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Major: Capt. V. C. Jones.

Lieutenant: 2/Lieuts. R. E. Smith, M. S. Wing, G. L. Sudbury, J. R. Jones, L. Almonds, J. Whalley, A. T. Lappin, M. H. Dennis.

2/Lieutenant (on probation): A. C. Smith is confirmed in her appointment.

LIMITED SERVICE REGULAR COMMISSIONS

Captains: J. M. Clements, D. M. Drummond.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Major: Captain A. S. Nicholson.

Captain: Lieut. G. M. Butler.

Lieutenant: 2/Lieuts. H. C. McCosh, A. M. Douglas.

2/Lieutenants (on probation): A. F. Brown, C. A. James, U. E. Godfrey are confirmed in their appointments.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Lieutenants: S. J. Poat, V. J. Muxworthy, A. K. G. Toby, P. M. MacLeod, C. E. Hunter, M. Venmore, R. B. B. Batchelor, E. P. Lewis.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Captain: E. M. Catherall.

Sport

INTER-SERVICE LAWN TENNIS

THE Inter-Service Lawn Tennis Championships were held at the All England Club, Wimbledon on 8th and 9th August, 1966. This year for the first time in eight years the Army Womens Team were the winners of the women's trophy.

The result was:—

Army	8 matches
R.A.F.	6 matches
Navy	4 matches

The Army was represented by:—

Singles —1st Major D. J. Temple, W.R.A.C.
(Captain)

2nd 2/Lt. D. M. Feaver, W.R.A.C.

3rd 2/Lt. M. S. Crawford, W.R.A.C.

Doubles —1st 2/Lt. D. M. Feaver, W.R.A.C.
2/Lt. M. S. Crawford, W.R.A.C.

2nd Major D. J. Temple, W.R.A.C.,
Capt. H. G. Meechie, W.R.A.C.

3rd Major M. E. MacLagan, W.R.A.C.,
2/Lt. P. A. Floweth, W.R.A.C.

Reserves —W.O. II J. F. M. Whitehead,
W.R.A.C.
Major F. Saffery, W.R.A.C.

Lt. S. E. Messom was taken ill just prior to the championships and the team had to be completely reshuffled. This reflects all the more credit on the players who responded magnificently. It is particularly gratifying that Major MacLagan was one of the team who gained a victory for the Army once more. She has been one of the main props of the team for many years and this is her last season for Army tennis as she will not be available next year.

That Stove

Method of lighting that wonderful contraption
Standing each end of the barrack room floor
Was given me early in my career
'Twas a method I soon took as law.
Screw any old newspaper into a ball,
Through the front of the thing upward poke,
From above gently place some little wood sticks

Overall lay the small bits of coke.
Carefully, carefully apply the flame—
Steady girl, that's the way,
Clamp down the lid and open the flue . . .
DOWN ON YOUR KNEES AND PRAY!

Many have sneered
But say what you may
I never did find
Any better way!

J. M. Lambourne.

Thieves in the Night

Mrs. E. M. Slack

ONE night whilst on Patrol Night Duty, I was making my way to the kitchen in the basement to collect our midnight meal. To my surprise I came face to face with a policeman. I said to him, "How did you get in?" and he replied, "I have just disturbed some burglars who have got into the Q.M. Stores through an open window."

The Patrol on duty with me looked through the register to find out the number of Miss Suggate's room. I had to knock her up and inform her, and I remember how she grabbed a bunch of keys, put on her overcoat and fled before me down to the Q.M. Stores. This does not seem much to record, but it has a sequel.

Before departing for New Zealand in 1959 I received Miss Suggate's address in Christchurch, through our Secretary, Mrs. Suttle. I contacted Miss Suggate and met her and we spent a very pleasant evening.

I asked her if she remembered the patrol who called her up in the night at the Connaught Club. She did not remember me personally, but remembered the incident well, thinking what a coincidence it was that we should meet again 42 years later and so far away from home.

Since meeting we have corresponded regularly. She was always pleased to see anyone passing through and showed the "Old Comrade Spirit".

Recently I received news from Miss Suggate's brother to say she had died peacefully in her sleep on July 12th. It makes me sad to think that she is no longer with us, but she had been very happy with her family, who had been a great comfort to her in her last years.

My greetings to all the Connaught Club Patrols, also the members of Camp 4, Quevilly, Rouen, especially the "Seven of us" who opened the camp and had it to ourselves for several weeks, my former U.A., Miss Lorimer, F. W. Sinclair, and Charles, and Murphy, Wilson, Fry, Croombe, and myself, E. M. Bryant, No. 3177.

Obituary

Mrs. M. V. Hussey, B.E.M.

WE announce with regret the death of Mrs. Madge Hussey, who served in the A.T.S. from November 1938 to June 1945, her Army number being W/351. Mrs. Hussey attained the rank of S/Sgt., she was awarded a Certificate of Good Service in 1941 and the B.E.M. in 1944.

Miss B. E. Lithiby, O.B.E.

MISS Beatrice Ethel Lithiby died in Oxford on July 24th this year, after an illness lasting 17 weeks. She held a commission in the Army in both World Wars, reaching the rank of C.Comd. in the second, when she commanded first a Group and then the Leicester Training Centre, which included the second Pre-O.C.T.U. She was awarded the O.B.E. in 1944.

From 1950 she took an active part in the affairs of Wantage in Berkshire, acting as local organiser for Oxfam, and was the inspiration behind many of its money-raising efforts and clothing collections. Miss Lithiby also served on Wantage Parochial Church Council for some time, and was a Governor of Segsbury County Secondary School. She was a talented artist, and in 1919 had been posted to France to paint some of the typical activities of Q.M.A.A.C. to serve as official records. In peace time she turned to mountains, painting and climbing in the Alps for several reasons, being a painter-member of the Ladies Alpine Club. From time to time also she designed some stained glass windows for a school chapel or a church. She was elected a member of the Royal Society of British Artists, in whose Galleries she was a regular exhibitor until the second world war. It was, however, her service in the Army that came nearest to her heart, and where she made lasting friendships.

A Memorial Service in the large Parish Church at Wantage on July 28th was attended by a great number of local friends and neighbours and it was particularly heart-warming that the very long coffin was covered with a great Union Jack.

N.C. writes:

"I remember Miss Lithiby well. She was originally in a City of London Company A.T.S. and, throughout her service, wore the well known City of London sword as a flash on her sleeve. Soon after the outbreak of war she commanded the A.T.S. Group at Hounslow. I recall her as a big, older (to me then) woman, emanating a tremendous air of strength, simplicity, courage and, above all, compassion.

Because of her "exceptional ability in handling personnel" Chief Commander Lithiby was recalled from retirement in 1944 to command the Special Reinforcement Unit, which was established as an experiment in teaching simple army trades to young

women who found particular difficulty in adjusting themselves to army life. The training was designed with the object of giving them a pride and interest in their work, and by these means it was hoped they would overcome their previous difficulties and become valuable members of the A.T.S. and useful citizens in a post war world.

I am sure there are a number of "useful citizens" around now who owe much to the faith and guidance of Chief Commander Lithiby".

Miss V. Lowley

YORK Branch regret to announce the death of Miss V. Lowley of Choppington, Northumberland, who passed away on August 6th. She was a very loyal member of the Association.

A.M. writes:

"I was very sad to hear of Miss Lowley's death. She volunteered in August 1938, when volunteers were asked for after the Munich crisis. As she had worked as a clerk, she was enrolled into A Coy York Group, which was to work in Northern Command H.Q. in case of War. She attended many in camp training sessions, both at Northern Command H.Q. and on the "Barrack Square". The latter she intensely disliked, but nobly attended these drills, as she felt there must be some reason for them, which she could not understand! She was sent to the Chaplains Dept. when called up, and was there all her service. There being no promotion on this Department's establishment, she remained a private all her service. She did not want to move to another Branch, where there was more chance of promotion. She was a "real volunteer", with a strong sense of service for her country".

Miss A. E. Rayworth

AYR Branch regret to announce the death of Miss Nancy Rayworth on 11th July, 1966. She was the first recruit to join the 40th Ayrshire Coy A.T.S. when it was formed in 1938. She was a keen member of the Association until ill health prevented her from attending the meetings, but she still took a lively interest in the Branch activities.

Miss K. O. Ryan, M.B.E.

BELFAST Branch announce with deep regret the sudden death on 14th July, 1966, of Miss Kathleen Ryan. She joined the A.T.S. in the early days of the war and, on demobilisation, was one of the founder members of the Belfast Branch of the Association. Being a very active member of the T.A., she was awarded the M.B.E. for her services. The Association was well represented at the military funeral. She will be greatly missed by her many friends and also the Church organisations for which she did so much.

Miss E. M. Suggate

LONDON Branch regret to announce the death of Miss Edith Suggate, who died peacefully in her sleep, at Christchurch, New Zealand, after a painful illness, at the age of 79. Miss Suggate served in Q.M.A.A.C. in the First World War and the W.R.A.F. in the Second World War, and will be greatly missed by her many friends.

E.M.W. writes :

"As a member of the London Branch Q.M.A.A.C's Concert Party, 'The Roamers', which functioned years ago—roughly from 1920 to 1934, I would like to pay a tribute to the memory of the late Edith Suggate, who was one of its members, and who died recently in New Zealand. For years the 'Roamers' gave concerts to London Branch and other places, amongst these, visiting the Women's Borstal Institution at Aylesbury several times, British Legion, etc., when we also had with us dear Miss Ireland, of happy memory.

The Concert Party consisted of our able and enterprising leader, Taylor-Smart, Longman, Garnham, Yorke and Williams, with Suggate acting as a very efficient stage manager. 'Those were the days', and much enjoyment and pleasure was shared by us all'.

Major M. Yeates

WE announce with deep regret the death of Major Marjorie Yeates after a long and painful illness borne with great cheerfulness and courage.

Major Yeates joined the A.T.S. in September, 1942, and served in the ranks until January, 1944. After she was commissioned, she was stationed at Bicester and the A.T.S. Officers' School at Windsor. Later she spent almost six years at the W.R.A.C. Depot as H.Q. Coy Commander, on the Personnel Selection Staff and as O.C. Holding and Drafting Coy. Perhaps her most successful posting, and one where her qualities of friendliness, good humour and zest for life, had most scope, was at the Change of Air Station in the Cameron Highlands. Her last appointment was with the R.A.P.C. at Worthy Down. Major Yeates retired on account of her disability exactly one month before her death, on 13th August, 1966, after nearly 24 years service.

L.M.D. writes :

"By the death of Tootsie Yeates, the Corps has lost one of their gayest and best loved Officers.

She had a great understanding of human nature and showed endless patience with those who needed her help.

Her courage never failed, during all the stages of her illness. She took great pains to appear immaculate and cheerful, right up to the end.

Her spirit and courage were an example to all who knew her'.

W.O. II M. Powell

WE regret to announce the death of Marjorie ('Midge') Powell in the Longmore Hospital, Edinburgh, on 12th September, 1966. She served in the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C., with a short break, from 1940 to 1966.

She spent the War years on Merseyside, served on the Permanent Staff of the Territorial Army, and later in BAOR and Malaya, returning to Manorbier and Edinburgh, from where she was recently discharged on medical grounds.

She was a woman of great courage and outstanding loyalty, and could always be depended upon. She knew how to handle people of all sorts and kinds, and she will be remembered with affection and respect by all who knew her.

She had a long illness, borne with courage and cheerfulness, and there will be many who mourn the loss of a good friend.

A Memorial Service was held in the Garrison Church, Dreghorn Camp, Edinburgh, on Sunday, 18th September, conducted by the Assistant Chaplain General, Scottish Command.

Sgt. D. Crossley, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

WE announce with great regret the death of Sgt. Doris Crossley at her home in Bury, Lancashire, on the 18th August, 1966.

Sgt. Crossley served in the A.T.S. from 1941 to 1946, first as a Mess Orderly, then as a Military Policewoman until 1946.

She joined the 320 Bn. W.R.A.C. (T.A.) in 1952, and, on re-organisation of the T.A., continued to serve with 108 (Lancashire) Company W.R.A.C. (T.A.), of 42 (Lancs. & Ches.) Div. (T.A.) as a Mess Steward. She was a person who bore her illness with great courage and fortitude. She was a very conscientious worker, with the ability to instil confidence into even the junior stewardesses faced with a "Big Dinner".

She was always immaculately dressed. In 1964 she was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for her outstanding service. A good friend, a first class soldier. We were all very proud to have served with her.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband Mr. F. Crossley.

Mrs. O. K. King

WE announce with deep regret the death of Mrs. Olive King (Jordan) on 10th October, 1966, aged 85. Mrs. King served as a Unit Administrator Q.M.A.A.C. in Havre and Boulogne. She will be remembered for the reunion parties that she held for her fellow officers in the garden of her home each year until prevented by failing health.

W.R.A.C. Association

NAMES OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The President of the Association

Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E.

Vice President of the Association

Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E., (also A.T.S./
W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund)

Life Vice Presidents of Council

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., LL.D., D.Sc.

Miss K. Acland, O.B.E.

Vice Presidents of Council

Miss B. Harvie-Anderson, O.B.E., T.D., M.P.

Miss M. M. Thomson, T.D.

Mrs. N. Giles (also represents S.W.B. Fund)

Mrs. A. H. Marsden-Smedley

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Colonel C. E. Hammond, C.B.E.

Vice Chairman of Council

Mrs. R. J. King, O.B.E.

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs. A. J. Stevenson (also Chairman H.Q. Area)

The Director W.R.A.C.

Brigadier Dame Joanna Henderson, D.B.E.,

Hon. A.D.C.

Commandant W.R.A.C. Depot

Colonel The Hon. M. M. Anderson, M.B.E.

Commandant W.R.A.C. College

Colonel M. D. M. Humphery, C.B.E.

2 i/c Med. Services and W.R.A.C. Records

Lt.-Colonel S. C. Puckle, M.B.E., T.D., B.A.

D.W.R.A.C.'s Nominations

W.O.I K. Foxley

W.O.I E. J. Edwards

Co-Opted Member

Mrs. F. M. Wentworth Reeve, O.B.E., T.D., J.P.

Area Representatives

Eastern

Colonel D. H. I. Wilson, O.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C.

Colonel M. K. Crewe-Read, C.B.E., T.D. (Ret'd)

Northern

Lt.-Colonel S. A. E. Heaney, M.B.E., T.D., B.A.,

A.D.W.R.A.C.

Colonel V. K. Stead, O.B.E., T.D., J.P. (Ret'd)

Northern Ireland

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Miss N. M. Arnold

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Lt.-Colonel G. E. M. Saunders-Davies, T.D.,

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Miss E. Brown

Southern

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Miss E. G. Marshall

Western

Lt.-Colonel N. Christy, T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C.

Major K. Moorcroft (Ret'd)

Secretary, Headquarter Area

Colonel M. D. Morgan, T.D., (Ret'd)

Editor (The Lioness)

Lt.-Colonel M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., (Ret'd)

Ex Director W.R.A.C. (for 3 years)

Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake, D.B.E., J.P.

General Secretary

Major E. B. Dixon (Ret'd)

Officers' Postings

(1st June to 31st August, 1966)

Lt.-Col. B. M. Metcalfe, M.B.E., G.S.O. 1 D.C.S.G. Committee M.O.D. London.

Major S. W. Foley, 4 Comms Coy, Cheltenham.

Major J. E. Parker, S.C.Q. (Qtg.) FARELF, Hong Kong.

Major F. Saffery, B.A., W.R.A.C. College, Camberley.

Major E. V. Watts, M.B.E., S.C.Q. H.Q. Berlin Inf. Bde., Berlin.

Major V. C. Jones, H.Q. Northern Command, York.

T/Major P. M. Baldwin, C.O.D., Donnington.

Capt. P. Ineson, H.Q. Western Command, Chester.

Capt. H. G. Meechie, W.R.A.C. College, Camberley.

Capt. P. A. Scott, A.D.P.S. Army School of Signals, Catterick.

Capt. (Q.M.) B. Hooper, Holding & Drafting Coy., W.R.A.C. (H.S.).

T/Capt. V. C. Bennett, 9 Coy., W.R.A.C., Larkhill.

T/Capt. K. R. Collins, W.R.A.C. College, Camberley.

T/Capt. P. S. Dale, B.A., G.S.O. 3 H.Q. Yorkshire Dist., Catterick.

T/Capt. W. S. Gough, H.Q. N.I.C., Northern Ireland.

T/Capt. R. A. Holloway, 4 Coy., W.R.A.C., Singapore.

T/Capt. J. R. Sanders, R.S.M.E., Chatham.

T/Capt. L. G. Kingham, R.A.V.C. Depot & T.C., Melton Mowbray.

T/Capt. P. J. Longley, H.Q. Eastern Command, Hounslow.

T/Capt. B. F. G. Moore, S.C.Q. (A.E.) FARELF, Singapore.

T/Capt. L. M. Morris, H.Q. Northern Command, York.

T/Capt. J. M. Perry, S.C.A. H.Q. N.I.C., Northern Ireland.

T/Capt. S. L. Stephens, W.R.A.C. College, Camberley.

Lieut. B. Bluman, B.A., 29 Coy., W.R.A.C., B.A.O.R., Germany.

Lieut. M. H. Dennis, 5 Comms Coy., B.A.O.R., Germany.

Lieut. J. L. M. Brady, 18th Sig. Regt., FARELF, Singapore.

Lieut. G. L. Sudbury, 16th Sig. Regt., B.A.O.R., Germany.

Lieut. E. Tye, 251 W.R.A.C. Sig. Squadron, Salisbury.

2/Lieut. J. P. Barnes, School of Artillery, Manorbier.

2/Lieut. S. A. Boyack, 18th Sig. Regt., FARELF, Singapore.

2/Lieut. C. J. Booth, 24th Sig. Regt., Catterick.

2/Lieut. D. R. S. Bult-Francis, S.E.M.E., Bordon.

2/Lieut. W. E. Cornock-Evans, 6 Trg. Regt., R.C.T., Yeovil.

2/Lieut. L. Crossley, S.E.M.E., Bordon.

2/Lieut. D. J. Erskine, 24th Sig. Regt., Catterick.

2/Lieut. D. R. Fraser, Junior Leaders Regt., R.A., Nuneaton.

2/Lieut. P. A. Floweth, 251 W.R.A.C. Sig. Squadron, Aldershot.

2/Lieut. U. E. Godfrey, R.A.E.C. Instr. Unit B.A.O.R., Germany.

2/Lieut. J. M. Harrison, 12 Coy., W.R.A.C., Mill Hill.

2/Lieut. A. F. Hoggins, 16 Independent Coy., W.R.A.C., Kineton.

2/Lieut. M. M. Howard-Higgins, H.Q. Hounslow Gar., Hounslow.

2/Lieut. L. Hancock, R.A.C. Centre, Bovington.

2/Lieut. A. A. Hutchison, 227 Sig. Squadron, LANDCENT, France.

2/Lieut. A. M. Kennon, H.Q. Western Command, Chester.

2/Lieut. J. Kinchin, 11th Sig. Regt., Catterick.

2/Lieut. S. W. Morgan, B.Sc., H.Q. London District P.R.O. Coy., R.M.P., London.

2/Lieut. P. A. Macleod, Depot & T.C. W.R.A.C., Guildford.

2/Lieut. G. M. Minogue, 6 Coy., W.R.A.C., Woolwich.

2/Lieut. D. F. Moxon, 251 W.R.A.C. Sig. Squadron, Salisbury.

2/Lieut. E. A. Poole, Depot & T.C. W.R.A.C., Guildford.

2/Lieut. J. A. Peace, Depot & T.C. W.R.A.C., Guildford.

2/Lieut. C. R. Podmore, Depot & T.C. W.R.A.C., Guildford.

2/Lieut. M. J. Rook, C.O.D., Donnington.

2/Lieut. D. P. Rogers, 68 Squadron R.C.T., Yeovil.

2/Lieut. D. F. Rumsey, W.R.A.C. College, Camberley.

2/Lieut. D. E. Shee, 12 Coy., W.R.A.C., Mill Hill.

2/Lieut. G. E. Stuart, A.S.E., Beaconsfield.

2/Lieut. M. A. Whitley, 13th Sig. Regt., B.A.O.R., Germany.

Branch Directory

List of Branch Secretaries—Amendments

Chesterfield: Miss E. Cook of Derby Branch is acting as Secretary for the time being. The address is: T.A. Centre, Ashgate Road, Chesterfield.

Nottingham: Mrs. D. Kidd, 45 Dennis Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham.

Personal Column

For Sale. Moss Bros. Greatcoat, No. 1 Dress, Riding Mac. All in good condition. Height 5 ft. 7 ins., bust 36 ins., waist 27 ins., hips 39 ins. Box No. 8/66.

For Sale. No. 1 Dress, Greatcoat, Riding Mac and 2 KD Dresses. All in good condition. Height 5 ft. 2 ins., bust 34 ins., waist 24 ins., hips 34 ins. Box No. 9/66.

For Sale. 2 Officers' No. 2 Dresses, £5 and £8 o.n.o. Size 36-26-38, height 5 ft. 2 ins. Box No. 10/66.

For Sale. No. 1 Dress, £8. No. 2 Dress, excellent condition, and new shirt, £14. British Warm, £10 o.n.o. 5 ft. 6 ins., 36-26-38. Box No. 11/66.

For Sale. No. 1 Dress, £3. Greatcoat, £10 o.n.o. Height 5 ft. 7 ins., size 36-26-38. Mrs. Ellis, 5 Laton Road, Hastings.

Physical Training Instructress (21 years or over) to organise physical recreation for female patients of all ages. £11 6s. 9d. per 40-hour week. Post may be resident or non-resident. Health Services national conditions for holidays, sick pay, superannuation etc ;

appointments subject to satisfactory medical examination. Canvassing Committee Members or Senior Officers either directly or indirectly will disqualify. Apply to the Group Secretary, Winterton Hospital, Sedgefield, Stockton-on-Tees, by POSTCARD, for an Application Form.

Maureen Lees and her friends, the "Good Neighbours", invite you to patronise their permanent display of the work of the war blind and disabled at 17 The Rake, Bromborough. Orders taken. White Elephant Stall to defray costs. Open weekdays 10 a.m. to 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.

NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

(Female)

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Please write for further details and application form to:—

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Ferranti require an experienced and able teleprinter operator for their Applied Numerical Control Department to prepare tapes for use with Computer Programming.

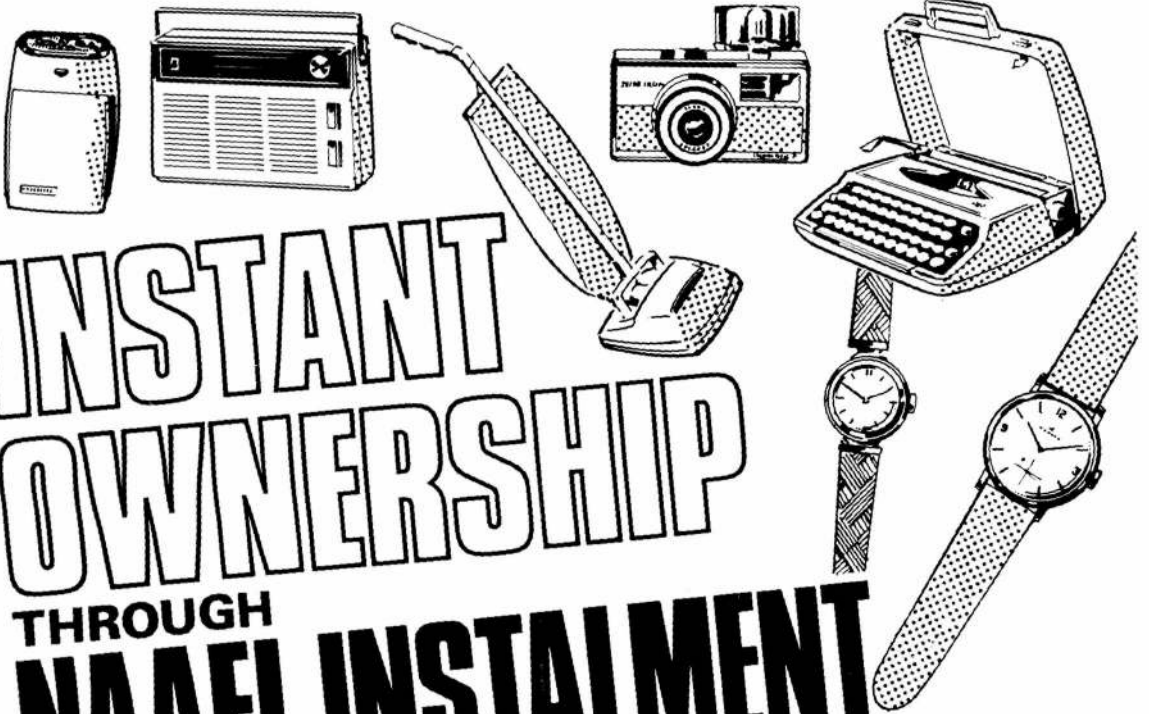
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Ferranti

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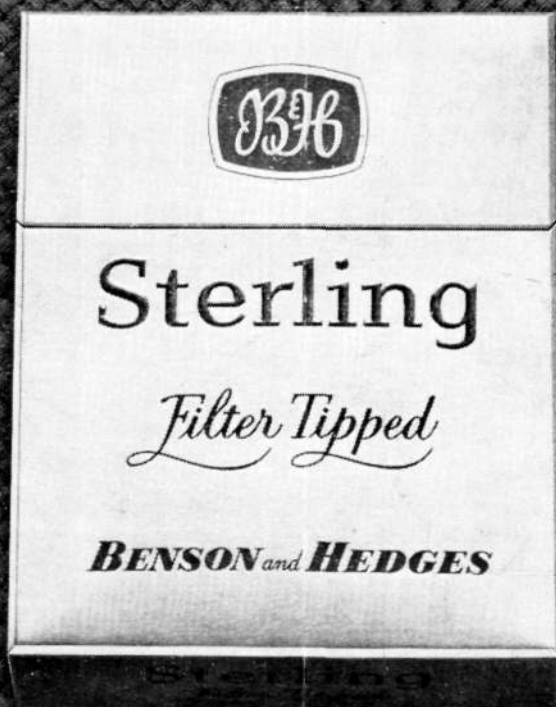
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