

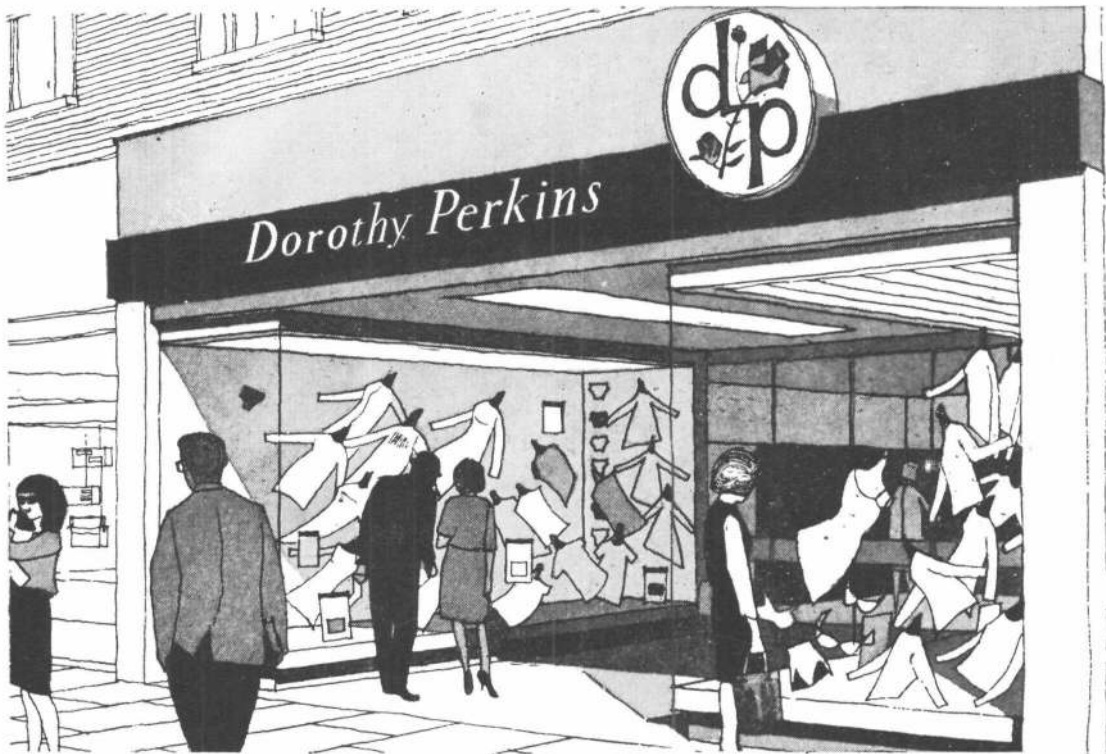
THE LIONESS

VOL XL

MAY 1967

No. 2





'Young Britain's Favourite Shop'

Long renowned for their unrivalled lingerie selection, Dorothy Perkins are rapidly winning a new reputation as the place where the modern fashion conscious girl can find really bright ideas in inexpensive clothes.

Over 250 shops now bear the familiar Dorothy Perkins rose, literally covering the length and breadth of Britain, and even more branches are expected to open during the next twelve months. It's a success story almost without equal in shopping history and it all springs from a determination to give the customer quality, plus value, plus style.

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Dorothy Perkins



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WHO'S WHO

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY

30th June

Personal Column

CHARGES

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 admission is charged may be inserted at a cost of 1s. 6d. a line.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress, No. 2 Dress and Greatcoat. Good condition. Height 5 ft. 6½ ins., Bust 36 ins., waist 26 ins., hips 38 ins. £10 each o.n.o. Box No. 6/67.

Printed Private Stationery. Basildon Bond, Croxley Script, Queen velvet, etc., boxed. Full details. Miss J. Firmin, 26 Lee Road, London, N.W.7.

Maureen Lee 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 in the Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens. All ex-Service women welcomed. Special terms for serving W.R.A.C. Write for the brochure to the Secretary. Tel: Edinburgh CAL 4952.

Branch Meetings

BRADFORD: Fourth Monday of each month (closed July and August).

ALDERSHOT: Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall Hut, Church Lane, East Aldershot.



Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant W.R.A.C.

Photo by Tom Hustler



THE LIONESS

Vol. XL

May, 1967

No. 2

Editorial

AS well as looking back to our beginnings fifty years ago, 1967 is also a year of change and planning for the future.

We are very pleased to welcome Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent on her appointment as Controller Commandant W.R.A.C. As the wife of a serving officer, and the mother of a young family, Her Royal Highness will inherit a legacy of respect, deep affection and goodwill. We have already been told that "Yorkshire is delighted" and, in this, they speak for all of us.

Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, who has been our Deputy Controller Commandant for more than six years, has become so much a part of our lives that it is with dismay that we realize that she will relinquish her appointment this month. Nothing has ever been too trivial and nothing too much trouble for her and it is impossible to express the affection and esteem in which she is held by all, we can only say "thank you" from the bottom of our hearts. Fortunately we need not say goodbye as we are confident she will continue her close links with the Corps and the Association and that we will still be able to turn to her for the help and wise counsel she has given us unstintingly in the past.

We are also fortunate in that Brigadier Dame Mary Railton's successor is Colonel L. M. Davies who is D.D.W.R.A.C. at the Ministry of Defence. Colonel Davies has a wide knowledge of the serving Corps, both at home and overseas, and was Commandant of the Depot and Training Centre during the difficult period when the new Barracks was being built. She is no stranger to the Association having been Chairman of Northern Area and a member of the Council for many years. We extend a warm welcome on behalf of our members and hope she will have a very happy tour of duty.

The Lioness also welcomes an addition to its staff with the appointment of Lieutenant Elizabeth Saxon as Assistant Editor, with special responsibility for unit news and views. Ideas and contributions from serving members should be sent to her in future.

It was with great sadness that the Corps H.Q. watched the closing down of 80 (Chelsea) Coy. W.R.A.C. (T.A.) whose kindness and co-operation had smoothed the way for so long. We will miss their

willing and friendly help in meeting our accommodation problem and thank them for a generous farewell gift to the Association funds.

CONTROLLER COMMANDANT W.R.A.C.

The following message was sent to Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent on her appointment as Controller Commandant W.R.A.C.

"The Acting Controller Commandant, Director and All Ranks, Womens Royal Army Corps, send loyal greetings. They are honoured and delighted to welcome Your Royal Highness as their Controller Commandant."

The following reply was received from Her Royal Highness's Private Secretary.

"The Duchess of Kent has asked me to write and express her very sincere thanks for the kind telegram which you sent on behalf of the Director and All Ranks on Her Royal Highness's appointment as Controller Commandant of the W.R.A.C. The Duchess greatly appreciated your message."

CHORUS FOR THE THREE SERVICES JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Old Women

We are old women now and we have seen much
We have stood and watched,
We have carved and hewn and torn into shape
with bleeding fingers and burning hearts
a new age;
Not Golden, or beautiful, or great or bold
for these are for legends,
but new and moving forward

Young Women

We are young women moving on into uncertain
future,

we are made of their dreams,
but we walk in our own
glancing backwards a little on waking,
though but half comprehending their past:
those who fought beside their men in two world wars,
and those, for we are children of that second war,
who stood at home and watched the darkening sky
brighten
over the future we shall forge

Elizabeth Saxon

Association News

Annual General Meeting, 1967

THE Annual General Meeting was held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 11th March, 1967, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3, the President, Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E., presiding.

The President opened the meeting by speaking of the death of Miss Acland and Miss Worthington-Evans, and paid tribute to the devoted service they had given to the Association, and the welfare of its members.

Dame Regina Evans continued by thanking Colonel Stead for all she had done during her two year term of office as Chairman of Council, and welcomed Colonel Hammond on her appointment to this office.

The President referred to the coming disbandment of the W.R.A.C./T.A. units and thanked them for their loyal support of the Association, and especially the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. She asked Branches to do all they could to encourage ex-T.A. to become members of the Association.

Dame Regina gave a brief resumé of the progress of the plans for the 1st June. She said the Bishop of Birmingham had accepted the Dean of Westminster's invitation to preach at the Service in the Abbey, and continued by saying that the Garden Party, which was to be held in Burton Court, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, was to be honoured by the presence of Her Majesty, The Queen, and His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh. She ended her remarks by saying that the W.R.A.C. Association's allocation of tickets for the Senior Officers' Dinner was already over subscribed.

The General Secretary read apologies from 36 members.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 19th March, 1966, having been circulated in the May issue of *The Lioness*, were taken as read, and signed as correct.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- (a) Council Vice Presidents. The President said there was one vacancy for a Vice President of Council. Council's nomination was Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake and as there had been no other nominations the President declared Dame Jean Rivett-Drake to be elected.

Miss B. Harvie-Anderson, Mrs. A. H. Marsden-Smedley and Miss M. M. Thomson were eligible for re-election. As there were no further nominations the President declared them to be elected.

REPORTS

4. REPORT OF COUNCIL

The Report of Council (printed elsewhere) was read by Colonel C. E. Hammond, Chairman of Council.

5. HON. TREASURER

Mrs. A. J. Stevenson presented the Audited Accounts of the Association to the meeting and said that excess of income over expenditure amounted to £118. Major items of expenditure included the purchase of an addressing machine at £110, which did not show on the account as it had been taken on as stock, and the printing of 1,000 copies of the Short History of the Q.M.A.A.C., which had cost the Association £190. Books to the value of £4 2s. 6d. only had been sold by the date of the Audit. The Treasurer went on to say no additions had been made to investments during the year, but £150 had been put on deposit in the Bank, in anticipation of the possible extra expenditure during the Anniversary year of 1967.

It was proposed by Brigadier Dame Joanna Henderson, seconded by Mrs. Bolton, and carried, that the Audited accounts be passed, copies being available for inspection in the hall.

The President thanked the Hon. Treasurer for her report and for her valuable work for the Association.

6. "THE LIONESS"

The Editor reported that, as forecast at the last A.G.M. the printers of *The Lioness* were changed last August, to the R.A. Press. Through strict economy it had been possible to keep the cost of each issue down to about £200. In spite of this the account was still "in the red". As a direct result of the change of printers the Association had bought an addressing machine, and wrappers were prepared in the office. The Editor said there had been some teething troubles but she hoped the difficulties would be overcome before the May issue. In spite of ordering 80 extra copies of the February *Lioness*, so many new members had joined the Association that some members had been disappointed.

Colonel Millington continued by saying that, in the past when the Editor had been a retired officer, a serving officer had been the Assistant Editor. Lieut. Elizabeth Saxon, stationed at the W.R.A.C. Depot has kindly volunteered to help, and had been appointed Assistant Editor to represent the younger point of view. Units were asked to send their news and ideas to her. Colonel Millington emphasised that she wanted to make the magazine representative of Q.M.A.A.C.,

A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. She continued by saying that the contributions from the Territorial Army would be missed and she hoped the extra space would be filled with lively and interesting articles from everyone.

The Editor concluded by thanking all who had written for the *Lioness* during the past year.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- (a) *A.T.S./W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.* Lieut.-Colonel D. C. M. Hingston said that the Chairman of Trustees, Dame Jean Rivett-Drake, had been unable to attend the A.G.M. and asked permission to give the Report of the work of the Benevolent Funds, for the year ending October, 1966, on her behalf. She said the Trustees were pleased to report that for the second year running, the two Funds had been able to meet their expenditure from income. The excess income over expenditure was £820 lower than the previous year, but that amount was roughly the same as the grant received from the Army Benevolent Fund in 1965. An ex member of the A.T.S. had left her bungalow jointly to the A.T.S. and R.A.M.C. Benevolent Funds. Her widower would however, continue to live there, rent free, for his lifetime.

The Case Secretary said that the first award of 10/- a week had been made from the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, to an ex member of the A.T.S. who was bed-ridden as a result of *Multiple Sclerosis*. In the year under review 557 cases had been considered, and £5,978 had been spent on grants. Of the number helped, 459 were ex A.T.S., 89 W.R.A.C.

Particular reference was made by Colonel Hingston in her report to the assistance given by the Army Benevolent Fund. The Trustees were most grateful to that Fund for the help given to cases beyond the scope of the A.T.S./W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. The Army Benevolent Fund had asked for publicity of a ruling they had made, that, under normal conditions grants would no longer be made for replacement of personal property lost by fire, unless the applicants had previously taken out a fire insurance.

The Secretary concluded her report by thanking, on behalf of the Trustees, all members, Units and Branches, who had subscribed to the Fund during the year, and particularly the W.R.A.C./T.A. units who had given most generously to the Funds over the years.

- (b) *Museum.* Brigadier Dame Mary Railton said she was glad to be able to report that the financial position of the Museum improved considerably during 1966. The year had started with a balance of £20 6s. 2d. and ended with £90 15s. 3d. representing an increase of income over expenditure of £70 9s. 0d. This happy state of affairs had arisen largely thanks to the hard work of Mrs. Bell, who had increased the takings substantially, as well as the Sale of Scripto pens, the Museum was indebted to the Depot for allowing it to benefit from the Sale of their picture booklets.

Dame Mary said there had been no major items of expenditure and thanked Colonel Anderson for arranging for the installation of interior lighting in the centre show case, on a no cost basis. Dame Mary continued by saying the most interesting addition during the year was a magnificent Spode plate produced and presented by the Royal Regiment of Artillery to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment in 1716. Miscellaneous gifts, including a set of divisional signs mounted in a display case, from T.A. Units, had also been particularly welcomed.

Dame Mary Railton concluded by saying that interest in the Museum continued to grow. In spite of the fact that an Open Day had not been held during 1966, there had been 3,351 visitors, 44 more than previous year.

8. RESOLUTION

That the Rules of the Association be amended as follows:—

Page 3, Rule 5, Line 2

Delete: "once a month"

Insert: "Four times a year"

Line 6

Delete: "All detail"

Insert: "Other Ranks serving with the Colours, the Territorial Army or its successors who are not full members, and for whom the Gazette is taken in bulk"

Page 3, Rule 6 (d), Lines 4 and 5

Delete: "Three shillings"

Insert: "Four shillings"

Page 5, Rule 8 (b), Lines 10—11

Delete: "School of Instruction"

Insert: "College"

Page 6, Rule 8 (b), Lines 4—7

Amend to read:

"A Q.M.A.A.C. representative of the Service Women's Benevolent Fund and the

Chairman of the Managing Trustees of the A.T.S./W.R.A.C. Benevolent Funds"

Page 9, Rule 11, Line 3
Delete: "4s. 6d."
Insert: "5s. 6d."

Page 9, Rule 11, Lines 8—11
Amend to read:

"At the end of the financial year the Treasurer of the Association will forward to each Branch Secretary a sum of one shilling and sixpence in respect of Life members and each four year member of the Branch, whose subscription was paid before 1967, and two shillings for each Life Member and each four year member whose subscription was paid after 1966. Capitation fees in respect of Life member will be paid for a period not exceeding 20 years".

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Grand Reunion.* The President said that it was felt the time had come when non-members of the Association attending the Grand Reunions, should be charged the full economic price for their tickets. Mrs. Stevenson was asked to speak, and said that in the past the Grand Reunions had been subsidised by a substantial amount, roughly 3/4d. per ticket. It was known there would be a big increase in the cost of refreshments, and the hire of the hall, for any future reunion. It was therefore suggested that in future non-members should cease to have the privileges enjoyed by those who supported the Association.

After discussion it was proposed by Colonel V. K. Stead, that non-members of the Association should pay the full economic cost of tickets for any future reunions. This was seconded by Mrs. Cox, and carried unanimously.

- (b) *Area Union.* The President announced that the Northern Area Reunion would be held at the Lounge Hall, Harrogate, on Saturday, 7th October, 1967.

Colonel C. E. Hammond thanked the Commandant of the Depot, Colonel The Hon. M. M. Anderson, and her staff, for the beautiful cake that had been made for the Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion, that had been held on the previous evening. She said it had been much admired and enjoyed by all concerned.

Colonel C. E. Hammond proposed a vote of thanks to Dame Regina Evans for presiding at the meeting. This was carried with acclamation.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 9th March, 1968.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.25 p.m.

Report of Council

YOUR Council met four times during the year and dealt with all current business. Last year's Annual General Meeting, held in Scotland, proved a great success and those who travelled North for the occasion had a most enjoyable day. The A.G.M. was well attended and many who were present had not previously been able to see their Council at work.

Other successful re-unions were held by Southern, Western and Northern Areas. Members of Council, and their friends, were invited to the Rally at the Royal Festival Hall, which was part of the Royal Artillery's 250th Anniversary celebrations.

Representatives of Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. attended the dedication of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey last November, when the Cross was planted by the A.D.W.R.A.C. London District. The party was strengthened by a small contingent of serving women from 12 Company W.R.A.C. H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, was present, and, after the Service, stopped at our plot and spoke to one of our party.

Members of the Association took part in the parade at the Cenotoph on Remembrance Day and a wreath was laid on behalf of the Association by Mrs. Curtis, of Ilford Branch. Some went to the Service in Westminster Abbey. During the year the Association has continued to be represented on the Co-ordinating Committee and also on the World Veteran Federation and the Women Royal Voluntary Service Advisory Council.

I am pleased to be able to report that a number of W.R.A.C./T.A. have already joined the Association, and one new Branch has been formed in Northern Ireland. The Jubilee year has brought a considerable increase in membership and we hope this trend will continue. 49 life members have joined since last March. By the end of March The Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden should be completed. Twenty one beds have been laid out, each with a different variety of rose. In all, some 900 rose trees will have been planted. Through the generosity of Gregorys, Sales, Dicksons and Carters, and members of the Association, it has not been found necessary to call on the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund for money.

A Sundial or bird bath, with plaque, is being procured, but again there will be no charge to the Fund.

Before I end my Report I would like to thank all Branch office bearers for their untiring work for the benefit of their Branches, and the Association. Without them the Association would very soon cease to exist.

A.G.M. Tea Party and Sale

A LARGER number of members than usual attended the A.G.M. and stayed to enjoy an excellent tea and a gossip with old friends, while patronising the raffles and attractive stalls run by Eastern, Western and Headquarter Areas.

The grand total raised during the afternoon amounted to £165 19s. 3d. made up as follows:

	£	s.	d.	
Eastern Area	...	88	12	11 (including raffles and donations)
Western Area	...	31	0	0
H.Q. Area	...	30	13	8
Association Raffle	...	12	10	0
Donations	...	3	2	8
		165	19	3

The goods for the Association raffle were obtained from the pink and green Trading Stamps, kindly donated by members, and the General Secretary would welcome further contributions.

The Chairman of Council wishes to thank all who helped to make the afternoon such a financial and social success. We are particularly grateful to the stall holders who, with Mrs. Bell and her team of Serving members from the W.R.A.C. Depot, worked so hard on our behalf.

The Farewell Dinner for the Women's Royal Army Corps Territorial Army

THE Headquarter Mess give a Farewell Dinner for the Women's Royal Army Corps, Territorial Army at the W.R.A.C. College, Camberley on Saturday, 4th March, 1967.

The guests of the evening were twenty senior W.R.A.C. representatives from W.R.A.C. (T.A.) and Royal Signals (T.A.) units and four former Directors, W.R.A.C. All Commands were represented except Northern Ireland which was regrettably unable to send representatives as was 43 (Wessex) Divisional District. The Deputy Controller Commandant, D.W.R.A.C., nineteen senior serving officers and the Secretary of the Headquarters Mess were present.

The Dinner was held at the W.R.A.C. College rather than at the Headquarter Mess because it was possible to accommodate the guests at Camberley.

The T.A. Officers arrived at the College in spring sunshine in time for tea. After tea, D.W.R.A.C. had a discussion with them on matters arising from the re-organisation of the Territorial Army.



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The Dinner has been described as a glittering occasion and indeed it was. The Gun and many of our precious silver pieces were on display, and in use. The W.R.A.C. Band played during dinner and the lovely flowers and the candle-light added sparkle to the scene. Never have so many Corps Evening Dresses been seen together and the elegant evening gowns and decorations of our former Directors, later so aptly described as "a dazzle of Dames", added a gay touch of colour.

The delicious dinner, cooked by the Officers' Mess cooks supervised by W.O.I Laister, an old friend of many T.A. units was greatly enjoyed, and the service and attention given by the Mess Staff was par excellence.

After the loyal toasts had been drunk the Deputy Controller Commandant, Dame Mary Railton rose to welcome the guests and to read the telegrams which had been sent to, and received from, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

"The Deputy Controller Commandant and Officers of the Women's Royal Army Corps, Regular and T.A., dining together at Camberley on this the last occasion before the re-organisation of the Territorial Army, present humble duty and send loyal greetings to their Commandant-in-Chief, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother".

"I was most touched to receive your kind message from the Deputy Controller Commandant and Officers Regular and T.A. dining together at Camberley on this your last re-union. I send to you all my warmest good wishes for a happy and enjoyable evening.

Elizabeth R."

Dame Mary then called on D.W.R.A.C., Brigadier Dame Joanna Henderson, to propose the toast of the evening "The Women's Royal Army Corps Territorial Army", to which we all drank with full hearts.

Lieutenant-Colonel, The Lady Martha Bruce as the senior T.A. Officer present then responded to the toast. We are not given to after dinner speech making in the Corps, but this was a very special and historic occasion and the speakers certainly rose to it.

In spite of the gaiety and enjoyment of the evening we could not help but feel sad that, although the Territorial Army goes on under a new name, our W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Units and the splendid personalities who have done so much to foster and encourage a real spirit of tradition and service in these units, will no longer form part of the W.R.A.C. scene.

This fact was brought home to the serving officers present, when Lieutenant-Colonel, The Lady Martha Bruce on behalf of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.), presented to the Headquarter Mess a beautiful salver, engraved with the Territorial Army Badge and the signs of the formations with which W.R.A.C. (T.A.) have served, also an oak display case for the Corps Museum, containing the actual signs beautifully sewn on to a green silk background.

Colonel Humphrey received the silver as Commandant of the College, where at the special wish of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.), it is to remain, and Colonel Wilson received the display case on behalf of the Museum.

We were all overcome by these most generous and historic gifts which will be greatly cherished and serve as a constant reminder to us of the spirit and unflagging enthusiasm of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

After dinner we felt that we could go on talking about old times for ever but, like all good things, the party had to come to an end.

On Sunday morning Colonel Humphrey had arranged a tour of the College, which the T.A. Officers much enjoyed.

As our guests departed they took with them our grateful thanks for all they have done for, and meant to, our Corps and our sincere and heartfelt good wishes for the future.

D.H.I.W.

Readers Remember

Mrs. W. Brass (née Huggins)

IT happened at the time when the younger generation were becoming used to the freedom from the Victorian era and anything different from every day routine was a challenge, so when one of my school chums decided to join the "W.A.A.C.", I also volunteered.

My application was acknowledged and I was asked if I could ride a bicycle. Any one living outside of town at that time, with an uncertain bus service, had only two choices—either walk or cycle. With visions of becoming a dispatch rider, whose only thought was to deliver important secret messages pass the enemy's firing line to our men, by dodging shells, grenades, etc., my answer was in the affirmative. With about fifty more eager, bright eyed young women, collected by train en route, I arrived at the training depot in Hastings and was installed, in one of four vacant houses which had been sparsely furnished.

Next morning we marched across the road to the supply depot and were given our uniforms consisting of—one coat frock, hat, overcoat, 2 pairs of stockings, shoes that slipped at the heel causing blisters and 2 overalls. These fitted fairly well, if one was of standard size. Our dresses and coats had to be at least twelve inches above the ground, which was quite short in those days but little did we know the muddy roads, with unsuspected potholes, we would be travelling along daily.

Our hats were the last word, being khaki coloured but not matching the coats or dresses. After numerous soakings in the rain and drying in the sun they turned various shades of pink and became very battered. We stayed in Hastings about 2 weeks, this allowed time to recover from the vaccination and inoculations

SOME OF THE PIONEERS



(C. DAY, B. PRESTON, C. FAIRWEATHER, W. BINKS, P. REAME, G. SMITH, E. R. JAMESON, A. HARDY, E. HOLDEN, MISS WIGAN (OFFICER), FITZPATRICK, W. LEGGETT, G. CUNNINGHAM G. POWELL)

and we drilled each morning and afternoon so we were able to form fours, etc. The rest of the day we could spend as we wished until roll call at ten p.m. and so to bed. Finally the Big Day arrived. After being given a clean bill of health we embarked from Folkestone to Boulogne, the first lap of the journey to destinations unknown.

A boathouse had been supplied with mattresses and blankets for an overnight stay. This was very cramped but we finally fell asleep only to be awakened by unearthly screams coming from one of the mattresses. Someone had seen a rat as large as a cat scurrying across the floor. 'Well water rats do grow to quite a size'. Settling down once more we were again aroused by the siren warning that enemy aircraft were in the vicinity. We donned a few garments and hustled across the road to the hotel basement. Evidently the alarm turned out to be false for the "All Clear" siren sounded before we had time to settle down for a long wait.

Next morning we boarded a train for our various destinations, we were in the army at last and starting a completely new kind of life. I joined other W.A.A.Cs. in a camp along the Dunkirk road outside of Calais

known as Queen Mary. That evening we spent snipping at least another six inches off the bottom of our coats and hemming up our dresses to match. Our first pay cheque was invested in a pair of almost knee high boots from Harrods of London. Next morning we marched to Calais docks, where the Ordnance Depot was located and so began our first day to 'Help Win The War'.

**Mrs. Elizabeth Sedgwick
France 1918**

WE, as drivers, had varied scenery and quite a lot of adventure. For instance I was loaned to the American Army when they arrived in 1918, they were tickled to death to have a girl driving them (how times have changed). I drove their General Thompson to meet our General Haig deep down in a forest for "talks" in a tent. When we returned General T asked if I would be transferred to his Army. Next morning I was back at our garage, full stop.

In the spring of 1918 we almost had a "Dunkirk". We were trained, or told, to get on to any vehicle and drive it into the sea, put it in 1st gear and jump. In these days there were no self starters and swinging a

lorry was no joke. I drove President Poincaré and quite a lot of famous people. When Armistice came a Captain Sedgwick arrived in Calais and I was sent to him. When he was demobbed, in 1919, I had leave, came to England, married him and "lived happily ever after", all thanks to W.A.A.C.

Palestine 1944

DOT and I went to Palestine. It took us 24 hours by train to reach Nathanya, which is an Army Leave Camp. There were 2 W.R.N.S., Dot and myself in a tent. Practically all the first week, we went swimming, dancing, eating, pictures, in fact just doing anything our fancy dictated.

The second half we went to Tel Aviv. This is a large Jewish town, built in the last 30-40 years. The buildings are mostly blocks of very modern flats. I think everyone agreed that though the flats were very modern, they certainly didn't look as though they would be standing in 20 years time. Building out here, is very, very shoddy. We also went round a Jewish School. We arrived there about 10 o'clock, breakfast time. School commences at 7.30 as the heat is too great for afternoon sessions. We noticed, as is the case, of all the Jewish settlements, etc., that their food consists mainly of tomatoes, grapes, plums, melons, etc. This probably explains why, the girls at our billet look healthy, but have no stomach, or stamina, for heavy work. They do a couple of days hard work and spend a week in bed. We also went over a Jam making factory. There we saw the army jam being made, and also saw the reason why, it doesn't matter if it's plum, greengage, fig, marmalade, etc., it's all brown. It's the very dark sugar they use. Tel Aviv was interesting to visit, as Palestine after the War will undoubtedly be a very big problem. Tel Aviv is a town the Jews hold up as an example, when they talk about Palestine for the Jews. They also, very beautifully, took us to see Jaffa on the same day, which is an Arab town. I suppose just to give us a contrast.

The next place we visited was Nazareth and Tiberias. This was a wonderful ride. I expect you've seen pictures of the seven sisters road to Jerusalem, well we went up by a road, which seemed to me to be equally as good. The view from the top was lovely, right down, down to the large Plain of Jezreel. The guide told us that General Allenby made his last stand here and defeated the Turks in the 1914-18 war. Nazareth itself is very high up, it seems quite a large place; everything all very sleepy in the brilliant sun. An old woman, very wrinkled, tormented us all the time, to buy lace, it's beautifully done, but we saw a chappy give her 75 PTS for three small mats, and she chuckled away. Later on we learnt why, in a Church we visited, the same mats, 6 small and 1 large—100 PTS!!! That is how everyone cheats the

soldiers out here, not just the tommies, but Americans, Dutch, Suid Afrikan, etc. I sometimes think, it would have been a good thing if old Jerry had been in occupation for six months.

The first Church we went to was the Church of the Annunciation. The Church was very beautiful and we went into the Crypt, which is a huge cave, where Mary and Joseph were supposed to have lived and where it was announced to Mary, that she was going to have a son. The cave was very cool and there were the store wells, still in existence. We then went to see St. Josephs. It is believed that Joseph's workshop was under the Church, and that, the family lived there after their return from Egypt. We also visited a fount, called the Virgin's Well where it is thought that Mary drew water. The place the natives draw their water from is not the original place, as the original place is in a Greek Orthodox Church, where for baksheesh, they will draw some water. The British Government have placed a pipe leading from this well to a bit outside the Church, so that the natives don't have to go inside for every petrol tin full of water they require.

From here we went to Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee. It was a lovely journey, going down and down I forget how many feet it is below sea level. It was very hot down there, and the swim we had was very welcome.

Our next visit was Haifa and Acre. We couldn't see very much of Haifa, as "Out of Bounds" notices were everywhere. I think this must be because of the Jewish and Arab squabbles. Acre however, was very interesting. Here was something which my ancestors built, hundreds of years ago and it's still standing. Most of it in ruins, but when you look at the great wall all along the sea, and parts of the old ruins of the castles, it makes you wonder how the Crusaders, ever built such strong places. Their archways are marvellous. Some of the walls, were thicker than I am high. Whilst we were at Haifa we went up Mount Carmel to the Carmelite Monastery on the top. I saw the Church and some of the beautiful robes, they have in the museum, but after that I was sunk, as being the only lady present in the party, the Monk said he was very sorry, but no further could I go; so all the lads tripped off somewhere, and I was left behind. Looking down from Mount Carmel, you get a wonderful view of Haifa.

Our last three days were spent at Jerusalem. We left Nathanya about nine and arrived at Jerusalem in time for a good wash before lunch. The journey was very interesting; first you go up mountains, and then down; all the roads being very winding, and very narrow. One side of the road just a sheer drop and the other side the mountain, towering up.

We went to all the places that one would go to on a visit to Jerusalem. We visited the Church of Nativity, the Holy Sepulchre, etc. I suppose I should

say how awed I was, but it didn't rouse any feeling in me at all. Perhaps it's because I am not religious, or perhaps not sensitive. I was just very critical, and very mad, to think that what is perhaps the holiest of places to Christians, is today one large money racket. There were two Churches, I really loved. One was the German Catholic Church, built over the place where Mary died. It was very beautiful, with lovely mosaics, and paintings, and we saw a monk still working on the Church. The other place was a French Church, built over the place where Jesus was kept a prisoner for the night and where Peter denied being a disciple. The garden of Gethsemane, was so lovely and peaceful. We were not allowed to walk in the garden, but the friars were tending the garden, with such care, and we saw the eight olive trees, which have the same roots, as the olive trees, that Christ knew.

It was very inspiring, and to me will always be the loveliest part of Palestine. No one crying baksheesh, or Priests selling pictures, lace, rosaries, or asking for money for the Church. It was probably just the same when Christ was here. J.A.D.W.

Editor's Note. This vivid account of a wartime trip to Palestine was written by an A.T.S. Private who was serving in M.E.L.F. Although the political situation has changed the Holy Land itself remains eternally the same.

Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion

THE Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion on Friday 10th March, 1967 was a memorable one.

About 165 members assembled to celebrate our 50th Anniversary, coming from Newcastle-on-Tyne, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Leicester, Lincoln, Somerset, Dorset, all along the South Coast and countless other places in between.

On this occasion we were the guests of the W.R.A.C. Association, and Colonel Hammond, Colonel Millington, Major Dixon, with London Branch members, served us a marvellous spread, to which you may be sure, full justice was done.

We were delighted that Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, with her usual indomitable spirit, was with us for this special celebration. After a few words of greeting and apologies for not being able to get herself around to talk to us all, she was wheeled to a table where was displayed a magnificent 50th Birthday cake, made specially for us by the W.R.A.C. Cooks at Guildford. Dame Helen cut the cake, which was then handed round, and pronounced really delicious.

Miss A. M. Martin (London Branch) on behalf of us all, thanked Colonel Hammond and all those who had worked so hard to give us such a delightful party.

The passing years do not seem to lessen our capacity for talking, and for three hours the central Mess must

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have sounded like a bee-hive. It was a truly wonderful evening.

As we went our various ways, we were already looking forwards to 1st June and the official 50th year celebrations, by the combined services. O.M.L.

W.R.A.C. Diary 1968

Last year a great many customers were disappointed because orders for diaries exceeded the number available. If you would like a W.R.A.C. diary for 1968, please send your order, with cash to:

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by 1st June 1967. 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. To make sure of getting yours please order now.

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Unit News

W.R.A.C. College

1967 started with the celebration at the W.R.A.C. College of the award, in the New Years Honours List, of the B.E.M. to Sgt. Hilda Burden. This came closely after the award of the L.S. and G.C. medal which was reported in the February issue of The Lioness.

The annual Administrative Inspection followed later in January, and in February we were visited by the Inspector of Army Training, Major-General W.L.E.C. Leask, D.S.O., C.B.E., who was accompanied by D.W.R.A.C.

The unit cookery team, consisting of Sgt. S. Annand, L/Cpl. M. Hendry and Pte. P. Swain won the Aldershot District Team Cookery Competition and we were all very pleased when they went on to win the Southern Command competition as well.

The sports fixture list has been full for badminton, table tennis, hockey and netball. Our main achievement has been at the latter, when the College team won the Southern Command Inter Unit competition.

Early in February 38 children from four local Children's Homes were invited to a party in the Junior Ranks Club. The afternoon concluded with a special conjuring display and the whole affair was greatly enjoyed by guests and hostesses alike. Several of the permanent staff have followed this up by going to help at one of the Homes.

The permanent staff have organised several enjoyable outings, including a visit to Wembley Stadium to see "Sleeping Beauty on Ice", while our men paid a memorable visit to the Friary Brewery at Guildford.

A party of 12 all ranks spent a week in the Cairngorms in mid February on an adventure training exercise. Instruction included climbing, skating skiing and map reading.

Visit to Celle

ABOUT 2 o'clock one Friday afternoon in December about forty girls and two officers from 68 Coy and 29 Coy left Rheindahlen on a visit to 1 Royal Anglian Regiment. We were divided into two buses and it was quite hilarious to see the buses going along—one side packed with girls, the other side full of coats and uniforms hanging from the rack.

After about 2 hours we pulled into a garage as there was something wrong with our bus, but finally about an hour later we set off again.

It was ten o'clock when we arrived at Trenchard Barracks where guides were laid on to take us to our rooms, and almost as soon as we arrived there, we were whipped into the dining hall for an excellent supper, waited on by the boys.

Saturday morning we were woken by the shouts of "come on its 7 o'clock" and a cup of tea—again brought around by the boys—an unexpected luxury.

We stopped at a Y.M.C.A. which was only about 10 minutes from the border and were given an interesting talk by the Frontier Security Guard about the conditions there. The Guards then accompanied us to the border explaining things as they went along. During the visit we saw a burnt out old bus and we could even see the guards on the other side looking at us through their binoculars. There was also a museum which we visited where they had pamphlets and photographs about the border.

On the way back to Trenchard Barracks we stopped at a small "pub" where we were served with chicken and chips, once again by the boys.

In the evening a dance was held. We danced to a very good group, The Mascots, which was made up from the camp. There was also a buffet and we had our photographs taken (one of which was with the O.C.!).

We left Celle at 10 o'clock Sunday morning and arrived back at Rheindahlen at 4 o'clock after a rather hectic but very enjoyable weekend.

Exchange au pair

Les Forces Francaises en Allemagne

by

Lt. T. M. Forrest

IT really seemed too good to be true when I was asked if I would like to be attached to the French Army! Nevertheless, on 26th September 1966, I left for Baden-Baden, to join the unit which is their equivalent to Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine.

The French—or Personnel Feminin de l'Armee de Terre (P.F.A.Ts. for short)—are not run at all in the same way as the British. They do not have the same status as the men, and although there are approximately 5,000 members, their highest rank is Major, and they only have one. I met her in Baden-Baden, running the dispensary for all the troops and families in the area. The women are not referred to by their ranks, but as 'Madame' or 'Mademoiselle'. The majority of them are married, and they explained that the Army always goes out of its way to ensure that husband and wife are posted together. It seems that the P.F.A.Ts. are not subject to Military Law, and are virtually civilians who wear a uniform. I was interested to observe that it is not nearly as smart as ours, as the style has not been changed since the war! They are expected to 'enlist' when they join the Army, but under flexible arrangements, and for comparatively short engagements—the shortest is 6 months. To become an officer in the P.F.A.T. it is usually necessary

to serve, I think, 18 years, unless one has a university degree. They have no Corps College such as ours for training officers and N.C.Os, but only a depot where the recruits go for their basic training.

I should explain that it is quite possible that there are some glaring errors in this expose on the P.F.A.T., because while I was in Baden everyone spoke to me in French! Most of the time they took care to speak slowly, but when they were talking among themselves it was easy to lose the gist of the conversation; especially so when I was taken to some of the outlying units, and given long and technical lectures on the Signal Service, or the role of the Royal Artillery, and Engineers. Although I was attached to the 'deuxieme bureau', which is a staff branch dealing with foreign attachments, I found that each day there was something new on the programme, and a different unit to visit. I was taken to see everything, from a military parade, where General Massu, their Commander-in-Chief, was presenting medals, to the enormous warehouses where the equivalent of NAAFI (*les economats*) store their provisions and stocks.

The French themselves were absolutely charming. Each one seemed to go out of his way to see I was being looked after, and that I saw as much as possible of Baden and its surroundings. They were so kind, in fact, that even the Chief-of-Staff took me to the Casino! It was a most enjoyable visit, and one I will never forget.

Ski-ing in the Austrian Alps

L/Cpl. P. M. Robertshaw

PARTICIPATE in the BAOR Ski-ing Championships and win the MACFIE CUP for your Unit!

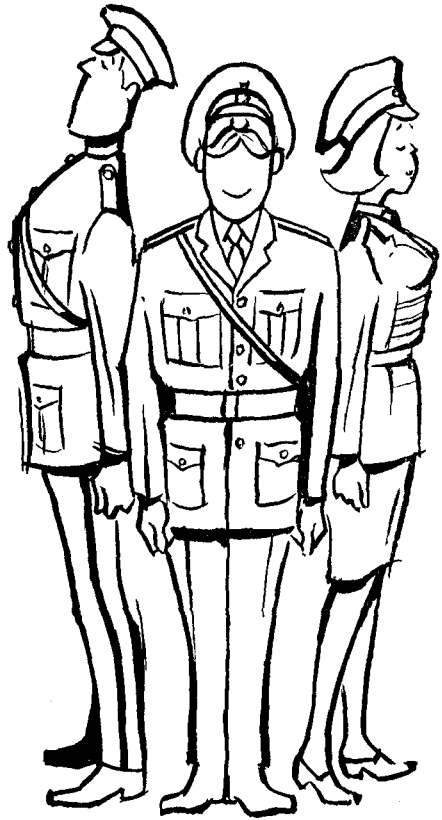
A thought which never crossed the minds of some W.R.A.C. & Q.A.R.A.N.C. personnel, who were departing from Rheindahlen on 6th January 1967 bound for fourteen days Ski-ing in the picturesque village of Holzgau, in the Austrian Tirol.

The Units represented were :—

B.M.H. Hannover, Munster, and Rinteln, R.M.P.—Rheindahlen and Berlin, R. Sigs—Krefeld and Berlin, Emblem Belgium, 68 Sqn. R.C.T. and two from Eastern Command who also went on to Oberjoch to compete—the only competitors from England.

During the first few days ski-ing, three groups were arranged as per ski-ing ability and by the end of the first week everybody had braved the ski life, not all reaching the top! A minor race was held, the result of which determined which of the two new groups was going to stay in, for the last week of the course.

On 18th January, under the surveyance of Lt.-Col. Michell, A.D.W..R.A.C. another race was held to determine which fifteen ladies would travel to Oberjoch



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to participate in the BAOR Championships. Out of the original twenty eight, three picked for Oberjoch were complete beginners—

Lt. Windmill 16th Signal Regiment

L/Cpl. Robertshaw R.M.P. Rheindahlen

Pte. Brownbridge 68 Sqn. R.C.T.

To ease the tension of the course, outings were arranged to the Eidelweiss Hut, Kaissers which comprised of a Horse and Sleigh Ride up the side of a Tirolian Mountain. A visit was also arranged with Skis on backs, to the Simms Waterfall, which had been built as a beauty spot before the war by an Englishman named Simms.

The time soon came when we had to part company, fifteen of us for Oberjoch and the remainder to return to their units.

Oberjoch, a beautiful village had steeper slopes than at Holzgau and a greater variety of runs. It was not long before the course for the race was attempted and on the way down the slopes both mental and physical notes were made of the bumps. Suddenly the race was upon us. For most it was a nervous moment.

The race took place on Wednesday 25th January 1967 at 12.30 hrs. Despite numerous falls and tumbles, everyone succeeded in ski-ing around the posts, whether travelling upright or sat upon skis!

The first placed were:—

No. 1 and winner of the MACFIE CUP

Capt. H. M. C. Beaver, Emblem

No. 2. Lt. M. A. Whitley, 13 Sig Regt.

No. 3. Lt. G. L. Sudbury, 16 Sig. Regt.

No. 4. Pae. C. A. Isaacs 68 Sqn. R.C.T.

All too soon the course came to an end and all departed to their units with one thought in mind "What a super course, I must try to come again next season".

Thank you all who made the course so enjoyable.

29 Company W.R.A.C

SUMMER was soon over, and a rather wet one too, and the first few months of the winter have passed quickly for the W.R.A.C. of this unit. A most successful unit dance was held in November, and a visit was made to 1 Royal Anglian Regiment in December. To those of us who remained over Christmas and New Year there were plenty of parties to attend, and baby sitters were much in demand.

We have had many changes during the past six months which included saying goodbye to Lt. Chatterton, Sgt. Baxter, Gordon-Wimberley, and Redfern, and to many junior members who left on marriage and posting to warmer climes.

Two of the unit went off to take part in a survival Course run by the Norwegian Army, and with the advent of better weather, plans are already being made by the W.R.V.S. for those who are interested in a visit to Switzerland. Thanks to the generosity of the

Nuffield Fund a considerable amount of camping equipment is held which will also be put to good use over this period.



Pte. P. Bowen on a winter survival course in Norway

Photo by Public Relations

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

I write for myself but feel there may be many others who support my point of view.

I am serving in the W.R.A.C. Some of my friends are still serving—but many more have married, have families and are spread throughout the world.

Where are they? How many children have they got? What is their news? Surely such interesting items should be in the W.R.A.C. Regimental Magazine. But no—"The Lioness" brings only news of illness, retirement and death.

Dear, dear Editor, the Army has a new modern image; the W.R.A.C. tries to keep up with the times—please can "The Lioness" get "with it"!

Surely the younger readers should be more interested and could contribute more, after all—it is also their magazine.

Why not have:

1. A views and opinions page to give an airing to controversial ideas on such subjects as uniform, recruiting, organisation, postings, etc. Perhaps starting off with ideas about "The Lioness".

2. A news page showing which officers are where and who has got engaged or married; showing marriages of servicewomen; news about ex W.R.A.C.
3. A sports page—giving details of personnel in teams and the various results.
4. More articles from serving members whose activities are equally as interesting as those of the T.A. and the various associations.

By all means, let us be proud of tradition—but let us live in the present and look towards the future.

W. Alderman.

Dear Editor,

I have just finished reading the book "The History of the Q.M.A.A.C.!" I find it exceedingly interesting. Especially as I was a W.A.A.C. and went to France with the Overseas Branch Ordnance Survey. This Unit is mentioned several times in the book. But I would like to add a correction. We were stationed not at St. Omer, but some distance nearer the front line about 15 kilometres if I remember rightly at a village called Wardreques. About the centre of a triangle with Cassel one side St. Omer at the bottom and a town beginning with an H. I cannot remember the name, I am afraid. I joined up in November 1917 and we went overseas in February or March. St. Omer was rail head and we had to take to lorries after that.

In April we were paraded and volunteers were asked to stay behind. The rest had to be ready next morning. However, next morning we were told we all had to be ready in 10 minutes. We went to Boulogne to Henriville Camp. No girls there but a hot meal was waiting for us. We learned later that the occupants had been asked to give us their rations and get a meal in the town which they all did. We were all very grateful but I never met any of them to thank them personally.

A good many of this Unit are now dead and the rest of us are in our 70's or 80's but to me at any rate, it does not seem so long ago.

The '39-45' war saw me serving as a nurse in the R.A.F. and after that I took a job in a Naval College. I'll join the W.R.E.Ns. next time.

Doris Prudent (née Reddington).

Didcot Garrison Group

THE Annual Tea Party of Didcot Garrison Group A.T.S. was held at the Services Women's Club, Sloane Street, London, S.W.1, on Saturday March 11th.

An excellent tea embellished by an iced cake, decorated with a large 50 in gold lettering to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Women's Services was enjoyed by the 46 members present and a happy afternoon was had for the 20th successive year by ex-members of this Group, some travelled

many miles from Somerset, Dorset, Dover and Yorkshire, just to have a "natter" with old friends.

Any news of ex-members of Didcot Garrison Group A.T.S. will be welcomed by Mrs. A. Wagstaff, 127B St. Julians Farm Road, London S.E.27. A.M.W.

Here and There

WE congratulate Capt. W. S. Gough of Northern Ireland Command on winning 1st prize in the recent competition, run by the Army Benevolent Fund, to design their Christmas Card for 1967. Capt. Gough's winning design will be on show at the Army Arts and Crafts Exhibition at Earl's Court in July.

Mrs. Jane Murton wrote to say how sorry she was not to be able to attend the Q.M.A.A.C. Re-Union on March 10th. She and her sister Flo Gotto, now Mrs. Perrie and living in Canada, trained at the Hotel Metropole, Folkestone and served at the Duke of York's School in Dover. Mrs. Murton hopes that any Q.M. who remembers them will write to her at 43, Redenhall Road, Harlesdon, Norfolk.

Mrs. Elsie Smith (Parsons) wrote to say that there were swinging W.A.A.Cs. at Pirbright long before "Swinging London" was thought of. The Officer Cadets fixed up a swing for them in the woods near the camp and a lot of fun seems to have been had by all.

We congratulate Capt. H. Beaver on winning the Women's Services Ski Championships and three other members, Lt. M. Whitley, L/Cpl. S. Brownbridge and L/Cpl. D. Mapley on being awarded gold medals for doing so well on a two weeks Ski-ing Course at Holzgau in Austria.

It has been suggested that members of the Association might like to form a driving Club. Anyone who is interested is invited to write to Mrs. E. M. Eddy, Moree, 13, Arncliffe Road, Harrogate, Yorks.

Extract From Hansard 6th March, 1967

(Mr. Boyden)

"This year, we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Services. In 1917, women serving with the Army formed an Auxiliary Corps known later as Queen Mary's Auxiliary Army Corps. Today they have full military status and form an integral part of the Army. They serve both at home and overseas and release male soldiers for more active tasks. Recruiting is good and the House will, I know, join me in congratulating them on being 50 years old and wish them well for the future. It is not often that we congratulate the ladies for being 50 years old".

Officers' Postings

(1st December 1966 to 28th February 1967)

Major A. E. A. Herdman-Grant, School of Artillery, Manorbier.
Major A. S. Nicholson, 9 Coy. W.R.A.C., Larkhill.
Major H. Powell, D.A.A.G. H.Q. Western Command, Chester.
Major N. M. Pyke, G.S.O. 2 A.E.R./T.A. 1, M.O.D., London.
Major P. M. Farwell, O.C. W.R.A.C. C.O.D. Donnington, Donnington.

Major B. A. Rooney, O.C. 29 Coy. W.R.A.C., Germany.
 Capt. H. M. Hopkin, 14 A.E.C., Aldershot.
 Capt. F. A. Routh, O.C. W.R.A.C. R.A.C. Centre, Bovington.
 Capt. M. Sharpe, A.C.O.(W.S.) Glasgow, Glasgow.
 Capt. P. B. Fereday, O.C. W.R.A.C. F.V.R.D.E., Chertsey.
 Capt. S. P. Greenslade, S.C. W.R.A.C., H.Q. B.A.O.R., Germany.
 Capt. L. C. Howard-Carter, G.S.O. 3(S.D.) H.Q. Singapore District, Singapore.
 Capt. V. J. Hunt, W.S.L.O. Western Command, Brecon.
 Capt. E. Ironmonger, Depot & Trg. Centre W.R.A.C., Guildford.
 Capt. H. C. McCosh, 8 Indep. Coy. W.R.A.C., Bicester.
 Capt. L. D. Merrin, 18th Signal Regiment, Singapore.
 Capt. J. M. Tyler, A.C.O.(W.S.) Cambridge, Cambridge.
 Lieut. N. L. Heath, R.A.O.C. Y.O.'s Course, Blackdown.
 Lieut. S. E. Murray-Stuart, Depot & Trg. Centre W.R.A.C., Guildford.
 Lieut. R. E. Smith, Depot & Trg. Centre W.R.A.C., Guildford.
 Lieut. J. K. Warren, 10 Coy. W.R.A.C., Aldershot.
 2/Lieut. A. M. H. Barcroft, School of Artillery, Manorbier.
 2/Lieut. V. W. Bennett, 6 Coy. W.R.A.C., Woolwich.
 2/Lieut. P. L. Bradbury, Depot & Trg. Centre W.R.A.C., Guildford.
 2/Lieut. K. G. Clarkson, Army School of Education, Beaconsfield.
 2/Lieut. W. A. Cordwint, 251 Signal Squadron, Salisbury.
 2/Lieut. J. A. Cowan, C.O.D. Donnington.
 2/Lieut. M. S. Crawford, R.A.C. Centre, Bovington.
 2/Lieut. P. A. Dawson, 6 Training Regiment R.C.T., Yeovil.
 2/Lieut. L. D. Decker, 12 Coy. W.R.A.C., Mill Hill.
 2/Lieut. M. A. Edington, 24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp.
 2/Lieut. M. M. Fleeman, 6 Coy. W.R.A.C., Woolwich.
 2/Lieut. P. G. Lewis, 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford.
 2/Lieut. J. G. R. Lodge, Depot & Trg. Centre W.R.A.C., Guildford.
 2/Lieut. A. P. Noble, 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford.
 2/Lieut. J. K. Valentine, Army School of Education, Beaconsfield.
 2/Lieut. M. E. Ward, 9th Signal Regiment, Cyprus.
 2/Lieut. P. J. Wilson, 4 Coy. W.R.A.C., Singapore.

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Colonel: Lieut. Colonels R. Hill, J. Fisher.

Major: Capt. A. M. Harle.

Captain: Lieuts. S. Haley, M. J. Cook, S. P. Nield.

Lieutenant: 2/Lieuts. J. L. M. Brady, C. A. Howell, M. D. Whitley, J. M. Tyler, J. F. Tugwell, S. J. Chalcraft, L. M. J. Oliver, D. P. Rogers, P. A. Floweth, J. E. R. Chatterton.

2/Lieutenant: A. P. Noble, L. D. Decker, J. K. Valentine, M. A. Edington, V. W. Bennett, P. L. Bradbury, P. A. Dawson, J. A. Cowan, A. M. H. Barcroft, J. G. R. Lodge.

LIMITED SERVICE REGULAR COMMISSIONS

2/Lieutenant (on probation): M. E. Ward.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

2/Lieutenant (on probation): M. MacKenzie.

RETIREMENTS, ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Lieutenants: H. P. Murdock, A. E. Pavey, A. V. Davis, J. S. Bryan, P. M. C. Downie, J. R. Read, F. M. White.

2/Lieutenant: L. R. Saunders.

LIMITED SERVICE REGULAR COMMISSION

Captain: P. M. Baldwin.

Branch News

ALDERSHOT. The Branch continues to flourish. Membership has risen sharply since Xmas, mainly due to people joining from the local disbanded T.A. unit.

It has been an unsettled year in that, for the majority of the time the Branch as had no settled home. For the second time it has had to change its meeting place due to the demolitions in the Camp and the consequent closure of the Smith Dorrien Home. However, owing to the kindness of one of the members and also 10 Company W.R.A.C. who lent their rooms at different times in the year, meetings were able to be held regularly. The Branch has now found a new home at the Parish Hall Hut, Church Lane.

The programme for the last year was as follows:—

- Mar. Annual General Meeting
Beetle Drive. Bring and Buy Sale.
- Apr. Slides of Ardennes, Holland and Germany.
Mrs. Sutton.
- May Talk on Juvenile Courts by Mrs. Tipler
J.P.
- Jun. Talk on Wartime experiences in Italy by
Mrs. Dacre.
- Jul. Visit to Mrs. Dacres Home at Four Marks.
- Jul. Houses and Gardens in this Country—
Slides. Mrs. Harris.
- Aug. Beetle Drive—Bring and Buy Sale.
- Sep. Musical Evening (Records).
- Oct. Xmas Decorations.
- Nov. Slides of Gibraltar—Lt.-Colonel Green.
- Dec. Xmas Dinner—Garrison Mess.

Mention must be made of the Xmas Dinner which was the most successful to date thanks to the excellent arrangements made for the Branch at the Garrison Mess by Major and Mrs. Sutton.

AYRSHIRE. "Highlights of Holiday" was the title for our meeting in October when members told of holidays spent at home and abroad; a small Bring and Buy Sale followed. In November we despatched a nice big box of garments knitted by members for the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. 12 dozen Scripto Pens were also sold, and £7 7s. 0d. the proceeds of the Bring and Buy Sale plus donations was sent to the March Sale of Work. Our Christmas Party for Mentally Handicapped children was held on 14th December and thoroughly enjoyed by children and members. The Annual Re-union Dinner on Saturday 14th January was attended by 34 members from Ayr and Glasgow and after a lovely meal the evening was spent in Song, Games and Dancing. In February we had a small Beetle Drive, also on 21st February 30 members and friends enjoyed Ayr Amateur Opera Coy's production of "Carousel", 8th March brought us to our Annual General Meeting when reports were given and new Office Bearers appointed. When business was completed members produced old "Army Photographs" and exchanged news of where they had served during the War. We were also pleased to welcome 2 new members from the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) at this meeting.

BRADFORD. The Annual General Meeting had to be postponed from November to February 1967 on account of the indisposition of the Secretary. The following officials were elected:

President	Miss A. C. L. Gummersell
Vice President	Mrs. G. Armitage
Chairman	Miss M. Mitchell
Vice Chairman	Miss I. Weston, B.E.M.
Hon. Secretary	Mrs. E. M. Suttle
Hon. Treasurer	Miss B. Henegan

CANTERBURY. Meetings are held each month. We meet at members homes or for outings. In April we enjoyed films on the W.R.A.C. and Q.A.R.A.N.C. given by the local Army Careers Information Office. The May meeting was a Theatre Outing. June, we joined with British Legion Women's Section for an outing to Moat Park Maidstone for a Rally and Fete and Members attended a Service for Men of Kent and Kentish Men. In July we attended the Dover Army Tattoo and a British Legion Fete at Maurice House, Westgate, a home for Elderly ex service men. August meeting day was a scorcher and appropriately we had a sea-side meeting using the Dover A.C.I. Office to brew tea and tidy up.

An outing to London to see the Black and White Minstrel Show took place in September but we also attended the Battle of Britain Service at Canterbury Cathedral and the Standard took part in the Parade. In October we held our Annual Service at the Garrison Church and were given coffee afterwards at the Barracks, we also held a Sale of Work which enabled us to send a £10 donation to the Benevolent Fund. Members attended the Festival of Remembrance at Margate and the Standard took part in the Parade of Standards there and the Parade and Service at Canterbury Cathedral. We also had our dinner and A.G.M. in November.

At Christmas we gave presents to our very sick members. The knitters of the Branch have surpassed themselves with piles of little garments for the Benevolent Fund and trading stamps are collected for this also.

Ten new members have joined the Branch and we now have four members who are Mothers of serving W.R.A.C.

CHELTHENHAM. The Branch has had a happy and busy year. Four Meetings were held including the A.G.M. a Branch Outing and a Christmas Supper. On Sunday June 12th, as the Southern Command Reunion was rather too far away, the Branch held its own Outing instead, and 37 members and their friends went down to see the new Severn Bridge. They were very kindly allowed to park their coach in the grounds of the Army Apprentices School at Beachley, by the kind permission of The Commandant. After lunch and a good view of the bridge they went on to Tintern Abbey, Symonds Yat Rock, and finally The Speech House Hotel in the Forest of Dean for tea, reaching

home about 6-20 p.m. Many thanks are due to our members who invited us to their homes for our meetings, and in October we had our Annual Bring and Buy at Osbourne House at Miss M. Hicklings kind invitation. This raised our funds for the year and also our donation to the Benevolent Fund. December 15th saw our Christmas Party at Parmoor House again. We were so pleased to have Lt.-Col. P. M. Lipscomb, D.D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command and Mrs. M. Delcourt as our guests and also several old friends of Army days who came with members. A very successful Raffle was held, the proceeds of which were sent to the Benevolent Fund. Each member brought something towards the Buffet Supper, and a large assortment of delicious cold dishes produced a most excellent repast. Miss E. G. Marshall and Miss M. Hickling dealt with the Bar and members of the Committee supplied hot coffee to finish up with.

GLASGOW. In the middle of October, Miss M. M. Thomson gave a film show on the "Land of the Midnight Sun". The Annual Dinner took place in the Central Hotel (Arran Suite) and it was attended by over 50 members. Mrs. Peggie Phillips, T.V. critic on the "Scotsman" was our Guest Speaker. In December, we were again the guests of the Club at their Christmas Dinner. In January, Mrs. I. Waddell gave a film show on Poland, and in February, our Vice President, brought along her slides on Switzerland and New Zealand. All these functions were enjoyed by all who attended them.

I am sorry to have to announce the death of another member—Mrs. G. A. Taylor of Horselethill Road, Glasgow, on 31st December 1966. Mrs. Taylor was a life member of the Association. We extend our sympathy to her husband and family in their loss.

Miss M. D. Swanson, who announced her engagement a few months ago, was married on 10th March to Mr. Jack Roy. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Roy every happiness in their married life.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 14th March, and the following Office Bearers were selected:

Mrs. T. B. Calderwood	President
Miss J. S. McVean	Vice President
Miss A. Ross, T.D.	Secretary
Mrs. R. Armstrong	Treasurer

Committee: Miss C. Cook, Miss C. Kelly, Mrs. M. Fargnoli, Mrs. M. Mulvie, Mrs. M. D. Gale.

H.Q. AREA. Very many thanks indeed to members all over the world who sent contributions in kind and in money towards our stall at the sale of work held at the A.G.M. in March, and to those who helped so valiantly at the stall itself. Once again we did extremely well taking £30 13s. 8d. which is a good proportion of the total.

When sending us her contribution to the stall Miss E. Burrows of Leyton, London, drew our attention to the money that can be made by collecting used postage

stamps for sale abroad at 5/- a pound. If any member would care to undertake the receipt and despatch of such stamps perhaps she would write to me, Colonel Morgan, 2, Myrtle Cottage, Netherbury, Bridport (Dorset) and I would send details of how it can be done. I cannot take on this task myself but shall be delighted to help anyone else to get started. I think they might make quite a worth while contribution to the Benevolent Fund in this way. It is something that H.Q. Area Branch is well able to do.

We have heard from Mrs. McLaren that she is flying from Vancouver in May to take part in the Jubilee celebrations. She hopes very much to meet old friends at the service in Westminster Abbey and at the Garden Party.

STAFFORD. We have continued with our successful monthly meeting with 75% attendance of members. We were sorry to have lost Mrs. Shaw she went off to Canada in such a rush we have unfortunately lost touch with her.

In September we had a talk from a Weights and Measures Inspector and in October a talk on the Functions of the G.P.O. both most interesting. We are now much wiser about our shopping and gathered at least a couple dozen leaflets on the G.P.O. we had no idea it did so many services for us.

We had a most successful Jumble Sale in November and the usual rush of buyers soon cleared the "decks" and out of the proceeds £5 5s. 0d. was sent to the Benevolent Fund. The usual meeting was taken up by preparations for the Xmas Party and the relating of incidents at the Jumble Sale, most amusing.

Members, Husbands and Friends gathered in Kitchener House for a most enjoyable Xmas Party and all went with a swing with the usual festive fun and games. Members of the Sgts' Mess manned the bar and produced and excellent buffet.

The Governor of H.M. Prison in Stafford talked to us in January and he was delighted to be asked to talk to all ladies. The members asked so many questions I'm sure they will be able to keep themselves out. It was all most interesting and encouraging to hear the way the prisoners are helped.

We were all so engrossed and interested in our talk in February on Staffordshire that the meeting went on long after going home time. With maps, drawings and specimens of coal, clay and many others we were able to follow the path of industry and the way of life from the beginning of Shires to the present time.

We have so many ex-W.R.A.F. and ex-W.R.E.N.S. in Stafford we felt we could'nt turn away service members so we now have 6 of the limit of 10 Associate Members. Mrs. Blackband ex-W.R.A.F. was one of the first members to come along to join when the branch was first formed and has been a hard working regular attender since, as the other Associate Members have been, especially at the jumble sales.

Our Chairman Major D. Jervis, T.B., is retiring at the end of March after a long and varied career in the

Service. Major Jervis joined the A.T.S. at Harrogate in March 1943 and was posted to the Signal School at Strathpeffer where she became an Operator Wireless and Line. She served with an Infantry Brigade for 2 years before going to Egypt in 1945 and then several more home stations with Signals. On the formation of the T.A. in Stafford in 1949 Major Jervis became a member of 323 (Staffs) Btn. and during the 12 years served as Q.M. and Adjutant. On the re-organization in 1961 she returned to Signals and as The Senior Officer W.R.A.C. is now retiring from 48 (South Midland) Signal Regt. We wish her every happiness in her retirement and hope she will not miss the Service life too much but with her very small daughter Sarah we feel there will not be much spare time but hosts of happy memories. We are happy to say she is not retiring from the Branch Chairmanship.

SOUTHAMPTON. We have had a very successful year, the highlight of which was undoubtedly the Southern Area Re-union at Beaulieu, when our Branch acted as Hosts. From letters since received, and reports in previous issue of "The Lioness" it is evident that this event was enjoyed by all who attended, and we are now looking forward to the forthcoming trip to Reading in June. As a result of publicity in the local Press after the last Re-union, we gained five new members, and another joined in January this year. The number of members attending the monthly meetings has increased considerably during the past year, which is very gratifying when one remembers that we have been in existence as a Branch for almost 19 years. Two meetings last summer were held at members' homes, and those who were lucky enough to go abroad for their holidays have since shewn us coloured films. In December we had a pre-Christmas get-together and supper at a very old historic Inn in Southampton. In March we attended demonstration on choosing, buying and cooking meat, and our annual dinner was held in April, when Col. Lipscomb D.W.R.A.C. Southern Command was our guest of honour. To boost our funds we hold a Bring-and-buy Sale twice a year.

ULSTER. We held our A.G.M. in February, and having agreed that it was a good thing to make periodic changes in the office bearers, these are now as follows:—

Chairman:	Mrs. Sheila Kerr
Secretary:	Mrs. Doris Smyth
Treasurer:	Mrs. Henriette Cheeseman
Committee:	Miss Gwen Angus, Mrs. May Johnston and Mrs. Elizabeth Hunter.

We are very happy to have Miss Catherine Swettenham continue as our President.

Our annual re-union dinner was held in the Midland Hotel, Belfast on 4th March, and we had a good turn out of over 80. We were very honoured to have as our principle guest, the Viscountess Brookeborough, wife of our ex-Prime Minister. Lady Brookeborough gave us a most amusing account of her experiences as

a recruiting officer at the beginning of the war. How many recruiting officers were ever faced with a troupe of dwarfs who saw in the Army a happy refuge when their circus tents folded for the duration? Amongst our guests, it gave us great pleasure to welcome two ex-W.A.A.C. Miss Minnie Stevenson who served from 1917-1919, and then in 1938 with her two sisters, joined the A.T.S. and served till 1945. Our other W.A.A.C. was Miss W. Crothers who also joined in 1917, and went off to Le Havre with four others as clerks to an Army Commandant who did not like women in uniform. Thanks to their hard work and determination he eventually thawed. Miss Crothers was very proud to have taken part in the Armistice Peace Parade in London in 1919. As a result of a ballot for a knitted Aran jacket, we were able to raise £10 which we have sent to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.

WIMBLEDON AND DISTRICT. In November we held our Annual General Meeting. The Officers and Committee for 1966 continued in office for 1967 with the exception of our Hon. Secretary, Miss M. Davey, who we regret to say resigned due to ill-health. The secretarial side has run on wheels for the nine years she has been in office and we are most grateful to her. We are very lucky in having Miss B. Soman to step in and take on the job of Hon. Secretary. In December we had our Xmas Party which as usual was very much enjoyed by all present. In January we had a talk on House Plants by Mrs. Weller, who came in May last to Demonstrate the art of hat making. The House Plant talk was most interesting and we all learnt a lot. Mrs. Weller is very versatile and is coming again later this year to demonstrate Flower Decoration. In February we had the always popular Beetle Drive, and in March our annual Bring and Buy from which we made the record profit of £8 5s. 0d.

LONDON. We have had good attendances at our meetings during the winter months. At the beginning of October we held a successful Bring and Buy Sale, later in the month we were given a talk by a Fire Service Officer on Safety Precautions. In November, Mr. Eaton, who deals with publicity for Youth Hostelling, showed some colour slides of a holiday spent in this way; also in November Dame Mary Railton showed us some interesting slides of her holiday in the Holy Land. Remembrance Sunday was observed by our members, some being on parade at the Cenotaph and some at the service in Westminster Abbey. Our Annual General Meeting took place at the beginning of December and the programme for 1966 ended with a very enjoyable Christmas Party. In January Miss Faultner had some interesting slides to show us of her holiday in Bulgaria; we were also entertained by the Acton Male Voice Choir. In February we enjoyed a talk given by Colonel Crawley on the making of documentary films. In March Mr. Peter Wright the Secretary of the Royal Almonry, gave us a very interesting talk on the Maundy ceremony.

Obituary

Mrs. E. Ereault

Mrs. J. Hoover

Miss F. R. MacKenzie

WE regret to announce the death of Mrs. E. Ereault (Pargiter). Mrs. J. Hoover (McCulloch) and Miss Frances MacKenzie who all served in Q.M.A.A.C.

Mrs. P. J. Haig

CHELtenham Branch very much regret to announce the death, on 2nd February 1967, of Mrs. P. J. Haig after a years illness. Mrs. Haig served with the A.T.S. in Southern Command and the Middle East. She was one of the original members of the Branch and, at one time, held the office of Hon. Treasurer. Mrs. Haig was always cheerful, friendly and full of interest and enthusiasm for all the Branch activities. She rarely missed a meeting and enjoyed it all so much, helping to organise transport, or in any way she could. She will be very much missed by her friends and all members. Our sympathy goes out to her large family of young people.

Mrs. G. A. Taylor

WE regret to announce the death of Mrs. Grace Taylor (Thomas) who was a Life member of the Association. Mrs. Taylor joined the A.T.S. on 9th March, 1941, after her basic training she served with 449 (M) H.A.A. Bty. R.A. in Scotland and, together with her sister, in 525 (M) H.A.A. Bty. in the London area till her marriage in July 1944. She was a Life member of St. John's Association in Scotland. Our sympathy goes out to her husband and four children.

Miss R. E. Worthington-Evans, O.B.E.

WE announce with deep regret the sudden death of Miss R. E. Worthington-Evans on 6th February 1967. Miss Worthington-Evans was elected an Honorary Life member of the Association in July 1944 in recognition of her devoted work as Secretary of the Duchess of Northumberland's A.T.S. Comforts Fund. She continued to take a great interest in the service and frequently attended Re-Unions, etc.

Miss Worthington-Evans will be remembered with gratitude by all who knew her during the war years and our sympathy goes to her friend and colleague Miss E. Lethbridge. Our President Dame Regina Evans attended the funeral as representative of the Association and the A.T.S./W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.

Miss K. Acland, O.B.E.

(An Appreciation)

D.S. writes :

"The news of Katharine Acland's death on December 6th came as a shock to all who knew her, and left them with a real sense of bereavement.

Her life, more than anyone else of her generation, was truly one of service. In the First World War she had been appointed Commandant of a Voluntary Aid Detachment and in 1919 she went to Cologne where the Red Cross had formed a British Empire Leave Club. Miss Acland's interest in the Red Cross lasted until she retired from the Presidency of the Chelsea Division early in 1966.

When the A.T.S. was formed in 1938 Miss Acland joined and was appointed County Commandant, with the rank of Chief Commander, she served throughout the war. In the years which followed she kept in close touch with the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C., serving for more than 20 years on the Grants Committee of the A.T.S. later the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. Benevolent Funds. She was also for many years a member of the Council of the W.R.A.C. Association. In recognition of her devotion to A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. affairs she was appointed a Life Vice President of Council early in 1966.

Katharine Acland brought to all her varied spheres of activity the same high standard of discipline and devotion. Her courage in continuing and accepting tasks in spite of the pain and difficulty she had in getting about was remarkable. All those who knew her since the War, when she walked always with sticks, will remember Katharine's sticks as a kind of "trade mark" but also a mark of her courage in never making her difficulties of locomotion an excuse for shirking her obligations.

Generosity, courage, kindness, deep religious feeling are all attributes that Katharine Acland had in great measure and which she applied unstintingly for her fellows".

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 : Mrs. A. Scott, Flat 2, Queen's Court, Richmond Park Road, Bournemouth, Hants.

Bradford : Mrs. E. M. Suttle, 9 St. Anne's Terrace, Baildon, Shipley, Yorks.

Brighton : Miss I. A. Durnell, 38 Toronto Terrace, Brighton, Sussex.

Bristol : Mrs. O. F. Rawlings, 355a Gloucester Road, Horfield, Bristol 7.

Canterbury : Mrs. J. J. Wells, 29 Zealand Road, Canterbury, Kent.

Cheltenham : Miss B. Stanley-Clarke, The Longacre, Charlton Lane, Cheltenham, Glos.

Cheshire : Mrs. F. Hope, 31 Churton Road, Chester.

Derby : Miss E. Cook, 22 Northumberland Street, Derby.

Dumfriesshire : Miss A. Gibson, "Tweedville," Eastfield Road, Dumfries.

Edinburgh : Miss M. J. Cruickshank, 16 Riverside Road, Edinburgh 12.

Glasgow : Major Ross, 333 Shields Road, Motherwell.

Guernsey : Mrs. June Falla, Westwood, La Mares Pelles, Vale, Guernsey.

Hartlepool : Mrs. M. Jewell, 21 Whitfield Drive, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham.

Headquarter Area : Colonel M. D. Morgan, T.D., (Ret'd), 2 Myrtle Cottage, Netherbury, Nr. Bridport, Dorset.

Hull : Miss E. G. Williamson, Gallaway Lodge, Westgate, Hornsea, Yorks.

Ilford : Mrs. M. V. Curtis, 293 Mawneys Road, Romford, Essex.

Leeds : Mrs. M. Russell, 52 Winfield Mount, Leeds 17, Yorks.

Leicester : Miss S. M. Fowler, Riverview, Mill Lane, Frisby-on-the-Wreak, Melton Mowbray, Leicester.

Liverpool : Miss A. Hayward, 163 Greenhill Road, Liverpool 18.

London : Miss M. Slocombe, 48 Gorefield House, Alpha Place, Kilburn, N.W.6.

Lonsdale : Mrs. D. M. Grant, Brunton House, Scotforth, Lancaster.

Maidstone : Miss N. Court, Flat 6, 107 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Manchester : Mrs. K. M. Brierley, 25 Cherry Lane, Sale, Cheshire.

Newbury : Mrs. C. Jones, 53 Carling Way, Newbury, Berks.

Norfolk : Miss J. E. Joanny, 63a Park Lane, Norwich, Norfolk, NOR 47F.

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

Omagh : Mrs. M. Roulston, 16 Rodgers Villas, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland.

Oxford : Mrs. M. A. Paton, M.B.E., 6 Napier Road, Cowley, Oxford.

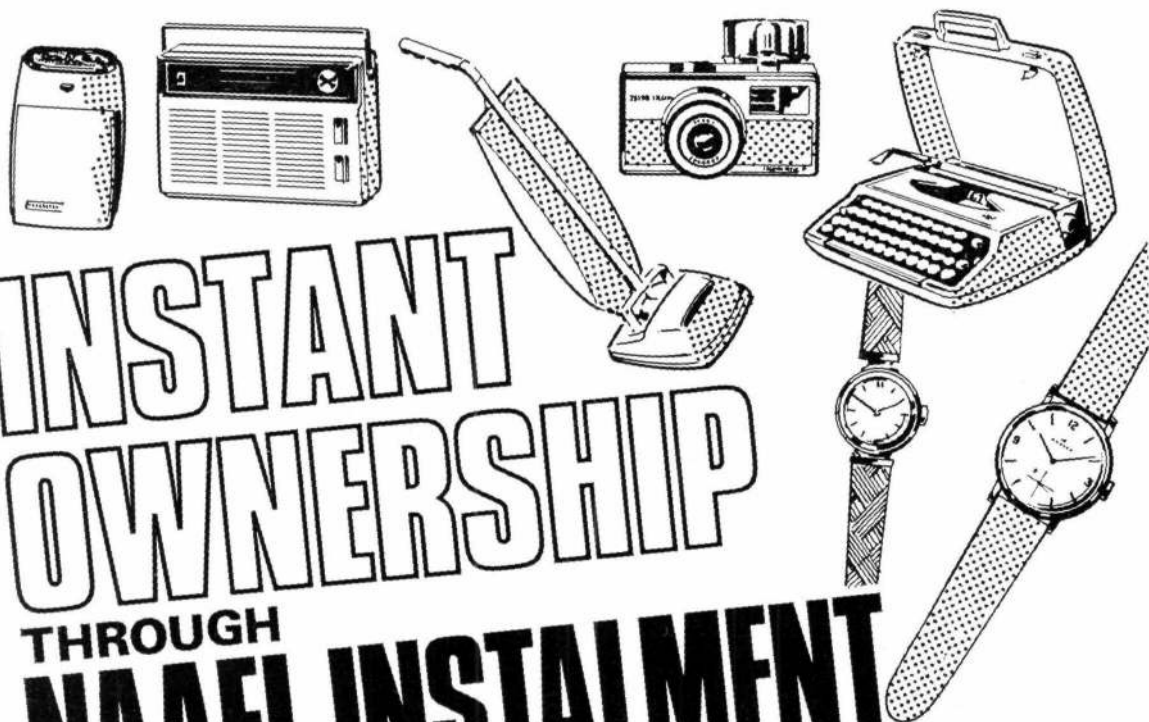
Portsmouth : Miss I. Bray, 153 Clive Road, Fratton, Portsmouth, Hants.

Preston : Mrs. A. E. Bucklee, 346 St. George's Road, Preston, Lancs.

Salisbury : Mrs. J. Morgan, "Ashley", 11 Farley Road, Salisbury, Wilts.

Unit Branch Secretaries

The list of Unit Branch Secretaries will be published in the August issue.



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