

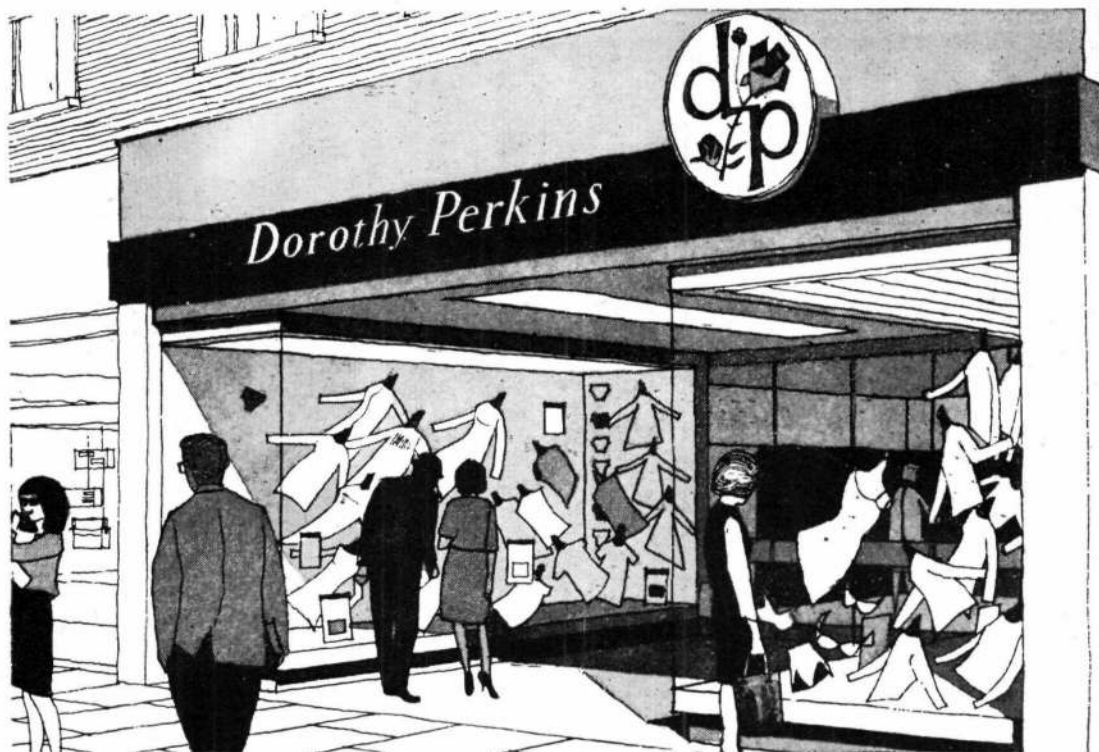
THE LIONESS

VOL XL

AUGUST 1967

No. 3





'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.

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Dorothy Perkins



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30th September

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 : Officers No. 1 Dress complete outfit almost new, size 38 inch bust. Officers. Box No. 7/67.

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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.

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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother leaving Westminster Abbey after the Service

Photo by courtesy of the Central Press Photos Ltd.



THE LIONESS

Vol. XL

August, 1967

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Jubilee Celebrations

THE ABBEY SERVICE

ON June 1st 1917, General Instruction No. 1 went out from G.H.Q. in France with the opening words "*The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps has been formed*". On June 1st 1967 the bells of Westminster Abbey rang out over London in joy and triumph for the jubilee of a movement which has become part of our national life.

A congregation of nearly 3,000 women packed the Abbey for the commemoration service—a cross-section from the hundreds of thousands who have passed through the Services in fifty years. All ranks, all ages, they spanned the generations—from the little figure of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, looking almost too frail to carry her load of honours, to the immaculate young women in the uniforms of the three Services who formed the Guard of Honour at the Great West Door. With this great gathering of women were the Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Lady Mayoress, the Minister of Defence Administration, Sir Desmond Dreyer representing the Chief of Defence Staff, and honoured guests from those old friends of the Services—the W.R.V.S., Y.W.C.A., Red Cross and N.A.A.F.I. In that beautiful setting which enshrines a thousand years of history, we awaited the arrival of H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Commandant in Chief of the three Women's Services. There was an overwhelming sense of occasion as Her Majesty was received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter, and conducted to her seat with all the ecclesiastical pageantry of the Collegiate Procession.

We could not forget that the seeds sown tentatively in 1917 have flowered into three services with their own loyalties and traditions, identified with different Forces operating in different elements. There were reminders in the three collects spoken by the three Chaplains, in the three perfectly chosen lessons read by the three Directors in their ceremonial uniforms. There was a reminder too, in those three warm human voices expressing three very different personalities, that the serving woman has always been an individual and not a type. Yet these distinctive contributions were welded together into such a complete and harmonious whole that there was no room left for inter-service rivalries and prejudices. When the three beautifully-groomed N.C.Os carried up the Union Flag to be laid

on the altar at the opening of the service, every heart in that huge congregation thrilled with the consciousness of a common past and a common purpose. And when the flag was given back into their strong young hands after the blessing to be carried out again into the world, we realised that we were not celebrating the anniversary of a historic date or the completion of a historic achievement, but the founding of something which is going on day after day into history still unwritten. The Bishop of Birmingham's memorable sermon was addressed, not to a backward-looking group of old comrades, but to three generations of women who have built, between them, an accepted and enduring part of the Armed Forces of today and tomorrow.

The trumpets sounded, the colourful procession moved back down the aisle to the Great West Door, and the congregation streamed out into the sunshine, uniforms and flowered hats mingling in a gay reunion which brought the precincts of the Abbey suddenly to life. Then above the burst of lively chattering voices the bells pealed out from the soaring towers overhead, adding an unforgettable touch of glory to a day of thankfulness, rejoicing and dedication.

Anniversary Messages

To Her Majesty The Queen

"The Chairman, Committee and all members of the Three Women's Services Associations offer Your Majesty their loyal and humble duty, and send greetings on the occasion of their Jubilee Celebrations".

REGINA EVANS

The following reply was received:—

"I deeply appreciate the kind message of loyal greetings which I have received on the occasion of your Jubilee Celebrations and I extend to you all, both at home and abroad, my warm congratulations and gratitude for the service you have given to your country over the past 50 years.

The example you have set will, I am sure, be your inspiration in the year to come, and I send you my good wishes for the future".

ELIZABETH R.

From the Master Gunner

"Hearty congratulations and best wishes on your fiftieth anniversary from the Master Gunner and all Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Artillery".

The following reply was sent from the Director and all Ranks W.R.A.C.:—

"Thank you for your kind congratulations and best wishes. You will be interested to know there were many A.T.S. from Ack Ack Command at the celebrations".

From the Director General and all Ranks Army Medical Services

"Heartiest congratulations on your 50th Anniversary of your Corps".

The following reply was sent from the Director and all Ranks W.R.A.C.

"Thank you for your kind congratulations on our 50th Anniversary. Thanks to supporting medical cover, glad to report no casualties at our celebrations".

From Colonel Louise Gerlach-Nielsen, Director Danmarks Lottekorps

"On 1st and 2nd June you celebrated the 50th Anniversary of your Corps. On behalf of Danmarks Lottekorps I wish to congratulate you and your Corps and thank you for everything we have learnt and for the example you gave us".



Young Servicewomen on duty on 1st June

Royal Garden Party

Burton Court—1st June 1967

AFTER the splendour and pageantry of the Service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 1st June 1967, where friends were seen, but were quickly lost in the crowds who attended, the Royal Garden Party in the afternoon appeared as a wonderful opportunity to link up with old acquaintances.

Burton Court with its green lawns, and easy access for all to find, was a perfect setting for a Royal Garden Party. The cricket pavilion so easily lent itself for the Royal Pavilion, and the weather did all that was required to make the occasion a truly momentous one, and not easily forgotten by those who attended.

We were extremely fortunate in being honoured by the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. Their interest in the people to whom they talked, drew the admiration of us all.

The playing of the W.R.A.C. Staff Band added to the enjoyment of the afternoon, and very soon Members of all Services, young and old alike, quickly found friends who they had not met for years, and many



H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother talking to Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan

Photo by courtesy of The Kensington Post



H.M. The Queen at the Garden Party accompanied by Dame Leslie Whateley

Photo by courtesy of the Daily Mirror

apologies were heard from those who remembered faces but not names ! !

There were ample facilities for tea, and for sitting down to have a gossip, and all too quickly the time passed, and by 6 p.m. we had gone our respective ways.

This was a day which many of us will remember for a very long time, and praise must be given to all those who worked so hard to make this, and the other events held for the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Services such a success. N.M.P.

Dinner at the Painted Hall

ON Friday, 2nd June, 1967, came the third great event in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary, the Dinner for senior officers, past and present, of the W.R.N.S., Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S., W.R.A.C., W.A.A.F. and W.R.A.F., at the Painted Hall, Royal Naval College, Greenwich. An unforgettable evening for those privileged to be present. The guests were bidden at 7.30 for 8 p.m. Soon the 'Ladies Cloaks' was a mass of colour; of Service evening dress, of Civilian finery. Long white gloves everywhere, a sprinkling of tiaras; miniature medals flashing and the mixture of Miss Dior, Je Reviens and Lizzie Arden's Blue Grass threatening to remain forever in the College's rarified atmosphere. Rear Admiral P. U. Bayly, C.B.E., D.S.O., the Admiral President of the College and Dame Regina Evans, D.B.E., received the guests in the King's Room assisted by Dame Jocelyn Woolcombe, W.R.N.S., Dame Mary Tyrwhitt (batting for the home side!), Dame Jean Bromet, W.R.A.F. and Colonel C. E. Hammond, the A/Vice-Chairman of the Celebration Committee. Our own Controller Commandant, H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent was the first Royal arrival, looking dazzlingly beautiful in a white Empire-style dress lit with diamante and some lovely jewellery. She was closely followed by H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, in a brilliant yellow satin and the magnificent Russian fringe tiara she wore at her wedding. Then our eyes were treated to the glowing spectacle of H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester, wearing the loveliest shade of musk-rose pink and magnificently jewelled. Many of the guests were presented to the Royal ladies during a pre-dinner drink. There were, of course a few gallant gentlemen attending the function and several of the Naval Officers on the permanent staff of the college acted as hosts. One scarlet-coated Scots Guards officer in particular deserves a special mention. Lieutenant-Colonel A. I. D. Fletcher (the possessor of the most apt initials!) was a tower of strength to the Committee throughout its planning life and it was fitting that he should



H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent escorted by General Sir James Cassels (C.G.S.)

Photo by courtesy of The Daily Telegraph



H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent with Dame Regina Evans, Rear Admiral P. U. Bayly (Colonel C. E. Hammond and Commandant Dame Margaret Drummond (D.W.R.N.S.)

Photo by courtesy of Pace

escort Dame Regina, the Committee's Chairman, to her place at the top table. 344 people sat down to dine. The Painted Hall presented an astonishing sight, filled with ladies for one of the rare occasions in its long and proud history. Equally astonishing was the sound of constantly wagging female tongues and the Admiral, so I was told, had to beat with his hammer several more times than is usual before a hush fell for the saying of Grace. This was the delicious menu which followed. Melon, Trout and Almonds, Roast Duckling with Orange, Strawberry Charlotte and Meringues Chantilly, and finally cheese Aigrettes. The accompanying wines were equally well appreciated! The Orchestra of H.M. Royal Marines played with distinction throughout the meal under the direction of Lieut. Royston H. Nash. The toast, Past and Present Members of the Womens Services,

was proposed by Mr. G. W. Reynolds, M.P., the Minister of Defence (Administration) and the reply was made by Dame Regina. She made one of the most moving and spirited speeches that I have ever heard, and she spoke without a note. There cannot have been a truly dry eye in the Hall when she sat down to tumultuous applause. Of course it was a three-services 'do' and the organising of the entire affair required and received a mammoth effort from all concerned. But I challenge anyone to contradict me when I say that but for Colonel Betty Hammond's extraordinary will, charm and immense talents, unstintingly backed up by Major 'Dixie' Dixon, the event could never have got off the ground at the outset, nor achieved such dignity and perfection finally.

E.O.C.

Editorial

AFTER the wettest May for 194 years we were blessed with fine, if not glorious, weather on June 1st.

The beautiful and impressive service in Westminster Abbey made a memorable start to our celebrations, and we were honoured by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Commandant-in-Chief of all three Services. Our hearts were full as we gave thanks for the contribution made by women of the Armed Forces of the Crown over the last fifty years and committed their future into the hands of God.

By dint of hiring extra chairs only a few applicants had to be disappointed and seats were found for all those who served in the First World War. Those of us who were privileged to attend will carry the memory of the dignity and beauty of this splendid occasion with us always.

Well before the official opening time the lawns of Burton Court were blossoming with gay hats and summer dresses. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother arrived first, dressed in blue, and closely followed by Her Majesty The Queen wearing pink and accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. While the W.R.A.C. Staff Band played, tea and talk and the greeting of old friends from abroad, and all parts of the British Isles, were the order of the day and the afternoon sped past. Why don't we do this more often was frequently asked, but alas 50th Anniversaries do not come round very often and some of the younger members expressed their firm intention of being pushed round in wheel chairs for the Golden Jubilee in 2017.

Members are reminded that copies of "A Short History of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps" by Colonel J. M. Cowper are available for sale at 6s. 6d. including postage. So far the demand has not been very encouraging and Association funds, which could be used for other purposes, are tied up in unsold stock. If Areas or Branches are prepared to help to sell the history a small number of copies will be sent to them on a "sale or return" basis.

Orders for the 1968 Corps Diary can still be accepted at the prices listed in the May Lioness.

Retirements

Brigadier Dame Joanna Henderson, D.B.E.
(Hon. A.D.C. relinquished on retirement)

IT seems only the other day that we were welcoming Brigadier Dame Joanna Henderson on her appointment as Director W.R.A.C. but already three years have rushed past and the time has come to say goodbye.

Dame Joanna joined the A.T.S. in August 1941 and spent much of her service either abroad or behind the tartan curtain so we have been particularly glad to

have had this opportunity of getting to know her better. We are most grateful for the practical interest she has taken in the affairs of the Association and were glad to have her with us for our 50th Anniversary celebrations when she helped to make history by reading a lesson at the Service in Westminster Abbey.

We hope Dame Joanna will continue to keep in touch although we understand the lure of sunshine and a warm climate is proving a great attraction. We offer her our sincere good wishes for the future wherever she may be.

Colonel J. Fisher, C.B.E.

COLONEL Jocelyn Fisher, who retires next month, joined the A.T.S. at Birmingham in December 1938 and was commissioned in July 1942. After 10 years in various parts of the British Isles, including Northern Ireland, she attended the 3rd course at the W.R.A.C. Staff College and was lucky enough to be posted to British Troops in Austria as M.A. to the G.O.C. and S.C.M.S.

A period of illness kept Colonel Fisher away from the active life of the Corps from October 1956 till August 1957. Since her recovery her postings have included two years as Commandant of the Depot and Training Centre, eighteen months as A.D.W.R.A.C., Western Command and three years as A.A.G., A.G. 16.

Colonel Fisher has been an enthusiastic Chairman of the Army (Womens) Netball Association for the past 5 years, she served on Council on several occasions and has always taken a keen interest in the affairs of the Association and all ex-service women.

Colonel Fisher asks us to remind her many friends that her home in Topsham near Exeter is in a holiday area and that she is hoping for a lot of visitors. We feel sure that this hope will be realized. We congratulate Colonel Fisher on her award of the C.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List and wish her a happy retirement.

Gala Performance

Horse of the Year Show

THE Army Benevolent Fund has been very fortunate in being granted, in conjunction with the Variety Club of Great Britain, the proceeds of the Gala performance of the Horse of the Year Show at the Empire Pool Wembley on Monday 2nd October.

The performance starts at 7 p.m. and finishes at approximately 10.30 p.m. In includes 2 International Jumping Competitions, a Dressage display and Pony Club Mounted Games.

15/-, 10/- and 5/- seats are available to members of the Armed Forces, and their friends, at half price. A special order form will be obtainable in Units and these concession rates will be available at the Box Office on production of proof of identity. Further particulars can be obtained from the Association office.

Reunions

Northern Area

THE Northern Area Re-Union will be held in the Lounge Hall Harrogate on Saturday October 7th 1967, 3-6 p.m. Tickets 7/- (including Buffet Tea) may be obtained from the D.A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Northern Command York. Please send stamped addressed envelope with remittance and apply before 2nd October. All serving and ex-service Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. are invited.

Southern Area

THE Southern Command Area Re-Union was held in Oxford on Sunday 18th June, at the Headquarters of the Oxford University Air Squadron.

There was an attendance of 138. The weather was glorious, sunshine all day—just the same as we had when last the Re-union was held in Oxford—11 years ago.

Our only disappointment was that Dame Regina Evans was not able to be with us.

Speeches were made by Colonel C. E. Hammond; Colonel P. M. Lipscomb, who also read a letter from Dame Regina and a telegram which that day was being sent to Dame Helen. The Branch President, Mrs. E. Thomson, spoke of the difficulties in the early days of the A.T.S. both before the commencement of the war and after. Mrs. Prudence of Southampton Branch, spoke of service with the Q.M.A.A.C. during the first world war.

A raffle was held, and as a result £14 0s. 0d. has been forwarded to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.

Hastings Re-visited

ON the 23rd of May an ageing but undaunted band of 32 ex-Q.M.A.A.C.'s set off by coach for a day at Hastings. We were the guests of London Branch who arranged the days outing to mark the Jubilee year of their Senior members. We met at Connaught Club, a venue of nostalgic memories for some of us, recalling the days when it was the first Overseas Drafting Depot for the W.A.A.C.

The drive through the pleasant countryside of the Garden of England was most enjoyable. On arrival at Hastings, also an early Overseas Drafting Depot for W.A.A.C., we found an excellent lunch waiting for us at the Sun Lounge at St. Leonards. After an afternoon enjoying the sea breezes and visiting friends we again foregathered at the Sun Lounge for tea, our numbers increased to 40 by ex-W.A.A.C. living in the vicinity. The local press was there to take photographs which subsequently appeared with an account of the occasion, in the local papers.

It was a happy and memorable day to be treasured as one of the events which commemorated "our" Jubilee years.

A.M.M.



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Half way there and back

by

Pte. P. Want, W.R.A.C.

WE stood in astonishment as we gazed at the winged object that was to bear us into the skies. We had expected a small aeroplane, but this was more like a sardine tin fixed with wings and wheels, a throw-back, you might say, from the 1914-18 war, although we were assured that it had been made at a much later date.

How we were persuaded into this trip I shall never know, but for myself I realize that curiosity and adventurous spirit would never allow such an opportunity to slip idly by.

That morning the sky was overcast and tossed with a bitterly cold wind, so needless to say, we were more than grateful for our slightly large, but warm duffle coats, borrowed from two kind hearted friends from 68 sqn. (Thank you ladies !) Adorned in these issued garments we arrived at the Army Air Corps, Wildenrath, at approx. 08.50 hrs. after scouting around the airport like hound dogs in order to find the correct place of departure. It was here that we observed the 'Beaver' a plane we found rather amusing, and at the same time very interesting, but whatever we thought, this plane is beyond no doubt a dear member to those in the Air Corps.

We had a warm reception in the pilots room, being waited on by Sergeants is something to be treasured in this army. Points were marked out on the wall map, weather discussed, and flying gear arranged, so it crept up to 10.00 hrs. before we finally departed. Before taking off I took a photo of those gallant men who dared to risk taking two W.R.A.C. into the clouds; then we tried mounting into the passenger seats with as much dignity as possible, a cue for hearty laughter all round !

Ready for take off ! Safety belts were fastened, ear-phones fixed, everything set and the little man on the ground removed the blocks from the wheels and ran like the clappers out of harms way. Cruising down the run-way, the propellers going ten to the dozen, the tiny plane soared gradually up and up into the cloudy sky, leaving our stomachs waving goodbye on the ground !

Our gaze fixed on the earth beneath the airport and the villages seemed to shrink, and the roads became winding ribbons twisting along the greenness of the land. Over the smoggy dust of the industrial areas as we flew, swaying up and down with the wind, dipping one way and then the next. Time passed, and the old childhood feeling of travel sickness came over me. Try as I did, I could not stop the feeling of someone swimming inside my stomach, and the paper bags we had made fun of earlier on, nearly came into good

use ! So half way to our destination we grounded. This time my stomach flew high, and the ground engulfed the plane in one maze of wet concrete and trees. Have you ever stepped off a merry-go-round and felt as if your legs were not a part of you ? Then try stepping off a plane, the feeling of being like jelly is more than exaggerated. So slowly gathering our bearing we left the plane standing half on and half off the German airstrip, and thankfully dragged ourselves into the nearby guest house.

Our pilot had requested permission to land on this airstrip and the necessary contacts were made. It was here that we decided not to go on to Kiel, which at least double the distance we had already covered. After a while the green of our complexions warmed into a more pleasant, but not necessarily a healthy colour. The German thought it a great joke that we were forced to land, and they rolled back and forth in their chairs chuckling and muttering to one another, and then gazing out the window as if to say that the weather was too bad, and we must stay here the night, or fly and turn green again ! Neither proposition seemed too inviting, so we plumped for the latter and once more faced the elements.

Taking off this time was an improvement and I took greater interest in my packed lunch than I had done at the beginning of the journey. This time we tried leaving our head phones disconnected, which helped to cut down the noise and vibration of the aircraft. On my request we headed North towards the higher land, which was I suppose a mistake for the weather grew worse as we hit snowstorm after snowstorm. The hills below us were patchworked with snow and villages looked like pictures from story books, as in turn they appeared between the gaps in the clouds. We doubled back after a half an hour and hit yet another snowstorm, so for a while there was nothing to be seen except the ice on the wings of the aircraft. Then suddenly the cloud lifted and we found below us a massive structure of a Dam. This, we were told, was the one that the Dam Busters made famous during the War II, and by the look of it I can understand why they had such a job to destroy it.

On the return journey we could see nothing but cloud, which is a strange feeling, almost as if you have joined the angels a little too soon ! So as we travelled I noted the various instruments, etc., in the craft itself, anything just to keep my mind off the absence of the ground, and the rocking as the plane fought against the wind.

At approx. 3.30 p.m. we touched down at Wildenrath. The sky had cleared, and the watery sun sank

slowly behind the clouds. Even the wind had subsided a little. To the cheers of the German labourers nearby, we climbed stiffly from our perches and came in contact with solid ground once more. A few cups of coffee, and goodbyes, with the promise to return in the near future. A final glance at the 'Beaver' as it stood proudly outside the hangers, and we were away, but this drive in a four wheeled box, known as a car. Our friend the driver and questioned us about our experience, well there was only one thing to say--it was lovely to be angels for a change, even if our wings weren't actually attached to us!

Adventure Training— Switzerland

AN adventure and initiative training exercise for W.R.A.C. of H.Q. Western Command and C.O.D. Donnington took place in Switzerland from the 24th February to 5th March 1967. The object was to gain educational experience by visiting a different European country; to learn route finding in winter conditions; to trek and to have some instruction in ski-ing.

Preparations for the exercise were started in October 1966. The Youth Hostel Association made a provisional booking for 25 women at the Youth Hostel in St. Cergue-sur-Nyon.

The cost of the exercise for each woman (provided that there were 14 under the age of 21) would be £29 17s. 0d. The amount covered the return fare, food and accommodation at the Youth Hostel for 7 days; rental of skis, sticks and boots and six two-hour lessons. Additionally, each woman paid £1 16s. 0d. for comprehensive insurance cover and saved a minimum of £12 for pocket money. A grant from Command Funds of £10 per head meant that each woman had to try and save approximately £34 before setting out. One of the Chester girls produced £8 in sixpences as part of her savings!

Most of the women owned much of the basic clothing required, such as stretch pants, jerseys, anoraks, etc. Mitts, fell walking boots, ski sox and rucksacks had to be purchased.

The group, led by Captain P. Ineson, W.R.A.C. finally comprised 19 W.R.A.C. For the majority this was their first visit to the Continent. The Channel crossing was not too bad, as the whole party were fortified with seasick tablets supplied by the MRS.

The Youth Hostel in St. Cergue is in the centre of the village only a short walk from the station. To women unused to hostelling, the first impression was of horror! Double bunks in dormitories, eight cold-water taps over a zinc trough and very simple food, not to mention the requirement of being in by 2200 hours and then complete silence. After 24 hours it had become an accustomed thing. A vast oil stove on the landing outside the dormitories was soon covered with mess tins of water for washing and hot drinks.

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Skis and boots were fitted at the Sports Shop in the village. The weight of the boots seemed enormous after light fell walking boots. There was little snow but quite sufficient for ski-ing on the slopes. Ski's were manipulated across the shoulders and carried to a quiet slope for first practice under the eyes of two Swiss instructors. Two hours of lessons each morning and ski practice for the keener one at other odd hours was all part of the scheme.

After the Thursday ski lesson the whole party set out by mountain railway for La Cure, a small village on the French Swiss border. After a sight-seeing tour the party started walking back up the twisty mountain roads—the majority walked as far as Girvine three miles on and six of the hardier ones walked the full distance back to the hostel, arriving in time for supper at 1800 hrs.

Friday dawned a clear, hot sunny day. Ski-ing, followed by a climb up on to a high plateau to see the vista of Lake Geneva and the Alps filled the day. Regretfully skis and boots were handed in. The leader counted legs and arms—all were intact—no injuries apart from two blisters!

Saturday (the 4th) we set out at 1230 hours for Nyon on Lake Geneva and spent the rest of the afternoon sightseeing and sitting sunning ourselves beside the Lake before boarding the train to Basle.

Back across the Channel and through the customs. It was fantastic to see what had been bought out of £12 pocket money! Lighters and Swiss chalet musical boxes being the most popular souvenirs.

Hong Kong Visit

"Please oh please make the plane late"—the fervent prayer arose when it was heard that the plane carrying Col. Fisher into Hong Kong, was due at 0425 hrs. However the unearthly hour arrived and so did Col. Fisher, who managed to look wide awake even after the long charter flight from England.

A quick flip across the harbour in the V.I.P. launch then into quite one of the most luxurious hotels. Several employees of the hotel had been promised slow torture unless the room faced the harbour. It did. A large balcony, superb view; glossy pamphlets, magazines, postcards, deep, deep pile carpets; a mass of bells, knobs and switches which promised everything from television to instant waiter and needed an 'L' plate before operating. It took three days before the right switches for the radio were located!

For her first evening in Hong Kong, Col. Fisher naturally wanted to eat a Chinese meal. As always there was great amusement from waiters and fellow diners when the newcomer was seen frantically dabbing at slippery dishes with uncontrollable chopsticks. Helpful hints from some Chinese occupants at a nearby table led to an invitation to make-up a party and visit a Chinese Night Club later in the week. The invitation was cautiously accepted, although the following day brought doubts, fears and mutterings about "international crime rings" and "white slave traders". In actual fact a comparatively sober evening was spent in the lush, loud atmosphere of one of the best Chinese night clubs. Which even James Bond could not have linked with crime!

Col Fisher managed to renew several past acquaintances and friends during her stay. A cocktail party was held for her where she met:

Mrs. Valerie Davies (née Fletcher) whose husband is R.A. and is a Chinese language student here. They have two children.

Mrs. Jenny Davis (née Fry) whose husband is here with 1 Welch.

Mrs. Terry Nye (née Stone) whose husband is R.C.T. and is a Headquarters Staff Officer. They have two children.

Mrs. Joan Cooper (née Benson) whose husband is R.A.E.C. and is a Headquarters Staff Officer.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kennedy (née Carver) whose husband is Int. Corps and is also a Headquarters Staff Officer. At the time of the cocktail party they had one daughter and a permanently packed suitcase in the car. They now have a son too!

For her first few days Col. Fisher worked hard meeting the various employing officers and getting a good idea of the W.R.A.C. set up in Hong Kong. Light relief provided by a quick helicopter trip around the 384 square miles of mountains, islands and city which comprise the colony of Hong Kong. The latter part

of the visit was spent sightseeing and shopping—a very expensive but vital pastime in Hong Kong. Carved furniture, beautiful beaded jumpers, jade, pearls and other jewellery were examined in vast quantities.

We very much enjoyed having Col. Fisher with us and wondered what she will remember most—perhaps the two young officers, who when given lunch "pigged" into mountains of very fattening delicious food; the Indian gentleman who with a Sellers-type voice, sold 'veree nice jumper to verree nice lady'; the hotel bill resembling the national debt; or perhaps the addition of "Oops" to her vocabulary.

Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrade's Dinner Club

THE Committee's decision to hold the 1967 Dinner somewhat later than usual was a good idea, for what could be a better ending to the official celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the three Women's Services of the Crown?

On Saturday, 3rd June, Mrs. B. Mayhew, Dinner Club President, welcomed Old Comrades as they arrived at the Thackeray Suite at Messrs. Derry and Toms, Kensington, and at 7.15 p.m. a record number of 242 members sat down to an excellent meal, served as usual by a cheerful and attentive Staff.

It was wonderful to find once again our old friends, and to meet so many more who were attending the Dinner for the first time. Maybe they will have enjoyed themselves so much, they will be regulars from now on.

Particularly welcome were our Members from Overseas.

Speeches as such are always "out", and only the *minimum* of toasts follow the Loyal Toast. Tribute was paid to the Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary for the tremendous amount of work they do to ensure a successful evening.

We soon continued our reminiscences aided by old photographs, etc., brought along especially for this occasion.

A complete list of Club members' names and where they served, was combined with the Menu into a Souvenir booklet, and this proved very welcome. Members unable to attend the Dinner will be supplied with a copy.

All too soon our goodbyes had to be said, and we parted with the hopes of meeting again in 1968, and feeling that the celebrations of 1967 had been most rewarding.

O.M.L.

Here and There

CAPTAIN Judith Hart, who joined the N.Z.W.R.A.C in 1960, has recently completed 2½ years attachment to the W.R.A.C. During her tour in Britain Capt. Hart spent more than a year as Adjutant of a W.R.A.C. Unit in Edinburgh and the rest of her time as second-in-command of 12 Coy. at Mill Hill. On her return to New Zealand she is being appointed O.C. Cadet Training Unit in Burnham and we hope she will find her experience in Britain a help to her future career.

W.R.A.C. Headquarters Mess

THE Annual General Meeting of the Headquarter Mess was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Monday April 24th. At the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman Colonel D. H. I. Wilson, on behalf of all Officers, presented a cut glass and silver claret jug to Brigadier Dame Mary Railton on the relinquishment of her appointment as Deputy Controller Commandant.

The Headquarter Mess has received a number of generous gifts of money and silver from disbanding T.A. Units. These included candelabra, cigarette boxes and entree dishes as well as two silver salvers (one originally presented to 320 Bn. by Miss Sheila Van Damm and the other to 306 Bn. by Lt.-Col. V. M. McRobert) and a silver sugar sifter presented to 319 Bn. by Lt.-Col. A. R. Robertson.

Review—The Doors of Opportunity

A Biography of

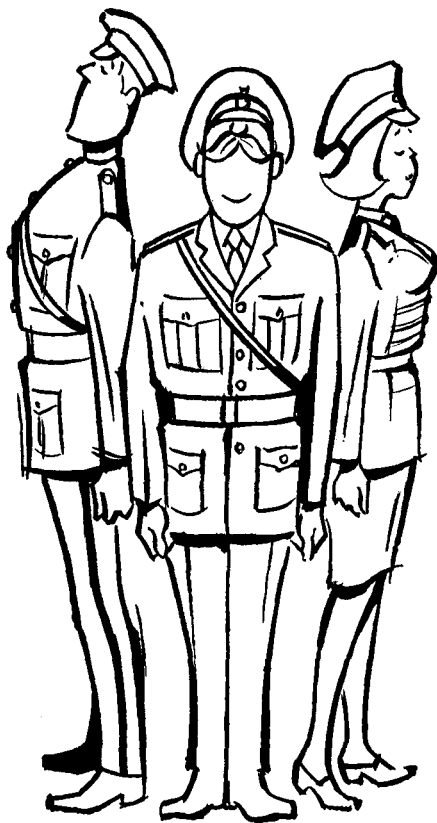
**DAME CAROLINE HASLET, D.B.E.,
COMPANION, I.E.E.**

by

Rosalind Messenger

During the war, many members of the A.T.S. attended talks given by a distinguished woman, who spoke with authority and charm combined about a variety of technical, administrative and welfare matters. She was Dame (then Miss) Caroline Haslett, who had gone to her first job, pencil and notebook in hand, from school during the first world war. By the time the second world war broke out she was already an expert in many matters, the honours conferred upon her included being made a Companion of the Institute of Electrical Engineers although she had received no electrical training before she became a leading figure in that industry.

Dame Caroline died early in 1967 and her sister has brought out this biography of a woman who had a



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remarkable range of interests, managing to communicate these not only to women in Britain but to their sisters all over the world. Dame Caroline is an example of how wide a number of interests women can pursue with expertise and yet without sacrificing personal appeal.

This is a book of equal interest to those who served in the Forces or who earn a living by other means. It is published by Femina Books Ltd. Price 35/-.

Readers Recipes

A reader from Canada has sent us the following recipes:

Walnut Sticks

- 1 Cup brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup sifted flour
- 1 Cup chopped walnuts
- $\frac{1}{4}$ Teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Teaspoon vanilla
- 2 Eggs well beaten

Add sugar, flour, salt and vanilla to beaten eggs and mix well, add walnuts and spread on a greased shallow baking tray (9" x 12" approx.). Bake in a moderate oven 370° for 20-25 minutes, cut into strips and remove from the pan while warm (Makes 24).

Mincemeat Buns

- 2 Cups Rolled Oats
- 1 Cup Brown Sugar
- 1 Cup Shortening
- $1\frac{3}{4}$ Cups sifted flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ Cups moist mincemeat

Put rolled oats through the mincer using a coarse blade. Add flour, soda and sugar and mix thoroughly. Cut in shortening until mixture is crumbly and divide it into 2 parts.

Pack half mixture into bottom of an oiled baking tray (7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1"). Spread mincemeat evenly on top then add remaining dough and pack down firmly. Bake in a moderate oven 350° for 40 minutes. Cool thoroughly and cut into 14-16 buns.

Creamy Eggless Mayonnaise

- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Teaspoon paprika
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Teaspoon salt
- few grains white pepper
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Teaspoon dry mustard
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup evaporated milk
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ Teaspoons vinegar
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ Cups salad oil

Mix dry ingredients with milk beat in vinegar, add oil gradually beating thoroughly. Use less oil for a thinner mixture or add a little evaporated milk before serving. Makes one pint.

Branch News

BOURNEMOUTH. As the T.A. have now left the Lansdowne Centre, from March 29th onwards we have been meeting at the British Legion Club, 141 Ashley Road, Boscombe. A notice has been inserted in the Local Press regarding change of venue and we hope from this to interest other ex-servicewomen to join (To date we have had three new members). At our A.G.M. in November Miss A. Weightman our Secretary resigned after several years in office and her place has now been taken by Mrs. A. Scott, who was previously a member of Weymouth Branch and treasurer.

Several members paraded at the Ex-Service Association Parade on Remembrance Sunday and the usual wreath was laid at the Bournemouth War Memorial. Our Annual Dinner was again held at Fortes Florentine Restaurant on the 9th February. Numbers attending exceeded those of the last few years and a most enjoyable evening ensued. One new member attended. On the 15th January we had a "Bring and Buy" Sale in order to give our funds a boost. The W.R.N.S. joined us for this and the result was quite rewarding.

On the 22nd February the Vicar of St. John's Church, Boscombe, The Rev. N. H. Bainbridge, gave us a most interesting talk on his experiences of Army Life as a Chaplain. This dealt mainly with the landings in Italy and N. Africa.

BRADFORD. We ended our meetings in June, until we re-open on 18th September, by entertaining our Q.M.A.A.C. members to a celebration party. Our chief guest of honour being our 91 year old President Miss A. C. L. Gummarsall who has recently been to the Leeds Studio of ITV to make a recording for the programme "All our Yesterdays". Her fee for the recording she donated to the Branch towards delegates expenses to the A.G.M.

We also welcomed Miss Nellie Julian, O.B.E., whose number 5 makes her one of the pioneers with her was her devoted friend of over 45 years Miss Mabel Fieldhouse, also Mrs. F. M. Slack, Mrs. E. Lumb, Mrs. G. Armitage, Mrs. A. Goodman a former Secretary Area Mrs. M. Clayton.

Apologies were received from Mrs. K. Bottomley and Mrs. D. Ross.

We are indeed proud of our Q.M.A.A.C. friends. We also welcomed two new Ex-A.T.S. members Mrs. Margaret Jackson and Mrs. Kathleen Harrison.

Our Chairman had managed for a Film Show, views of local spots and of Hovingham Hall the home of the new Controller Commandant W.R.A.C., The Duchess of Kent all proved of great interest and worthy of a very cordial vote of thanks.

A very splendid supper was enjoyed by all and loyal toasts were drunk to H.M. The Queen, and to our Q.M.A.A.C. friends everywhere.

We heard with interest of the visit to the London Celebrations from two of our members.

At our May meeting we entertained 20 members of the Keighley Women's Section of the British Legion, and we are invited to pay them a return in July.

LIVERPOOL. Although it is some time since we reported in the *Lioness* this does not mean the Branch has not been active. Meetings have been held regularly each month and have generally been well attended. We were particularly pleased with the exceptionally good attendance at the Annual General Meeting in February—the best attendance we have had for 10 years!

Since our last report our activities have included an evening viewing coloured slides taken during a round the world tour made by a relative of one of our members. These included beautiful views of such exotic places as Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, India, the Hawaiian Islands, etc. In addition we have had a Road Safety lecture, Easter Bonnet Parade, cake decoration demonstration by two of our members, and a Dutch Auction. The Easter Bonnet Parade attracted a number of very colourful and original entries. Once again our Bring and Buy Sale in November was very successful due to the support of those who come regularly year after year.

At the beginning of September several members attended the dedication of the Burma Star Standard at the Liverpool Cathedral which was followed by a short ceremony at the Cenotaph. Members also attended the Social with which the Burma Star Association rounded off the day's activities. We were very pleased to be invited to this event and were very impressed with the amount of work which had gone into the arrangements.

In November members did, as usual, attend the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph and the Branch Wreath was laid by one of our Committee members, Mrs. L. Rushton, accompanied by the Branch Chairman, Miss A. G. Learmouth. Also in November we were pleased to welcome the Western Area Committee to Liverpool for their Annual Meeting and members came along to prepare and serve the refreshments.

The Secretary and Treasurer have regularly attended meetings of the Merseyside Council of Ex-Service and Regimental Associations and several members also attended the last Social arranged by the Council. The Secretary also attended the Branch Secretaries' Meeting and the Annual General Meeting in London in March. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking our members for their support of the Sale following the A.G.M. The number of articles they provided for the Western Area stall was excellent.

The Highlight of the year was, of course, the 50th Anniversary Celebrations in London on the 1st June. Fifteen members of the Liverpool Branch managed to make the trip to London, some travelling on the night

train on Wednesday/Thursday and returning home Thursday evening. But all agreed that it was worth the effort and it was certainly a day to remember. Of course, the excellent weather helped to make the day!

We rounded off our activities for the season by holding a small party in June as our own celebration to mark the 50th Anniversary. This gave the members who had been able to go to London the opportunity to tell the other members about the celebrations and also to show the snaps which had been taken. Members commented on the amount of work which must have had to be done to make the celebrations so successful and wished their appreciation to be conveyed to the Committee and all those concerned with the arrangements. The party was very well attended although several members were unable to be present due to being away on holiday, and proved to be a most enjoyable evening.

We were particularly pleased that our serving member W.O.I K. Foxley accompanied us to London for the Anniversary Celebrations as she happened to be on leave in Liverpool at the time. Miss Foxley has always kept up her membership of the Liverpool Branch and this was the last opportunity we had of seeing her before she left for her Singapore posting. We would like to take this opportunity of wishing Miss Foxley a successful and happy tour of duty in Singapore.

MAIDSTONE. We have not done anything spectacular the past year. We meet once a month at a Member's House. As this is a scattered Branch, only "the faithful few" attend. Mrs. Theobald (Chairman) still runs the Whist Drive, so at the Secretary's Meeting, a sum of £5 was handed over for the Benevolent Fund, out of some of the proceeds taken. Miss Court (Secretary) went to the Ex-Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion which she greatly enjoyed. It was a great surprise when she met Mrs. Matthews, whom she served with at Bostal Heath in 1918.

Mrs. Theobald and Miss Court attended the Secretary's Meeting, also the Annual General Meeting, which they found most interesting.

LEICESTER. As a result of the re-organisation of the Territorial Army our branch has grown considerably and there are now 48 members. There has been a change in the officers of the Branch and we are most fortunate to have Lady Barnett as our President. She was formerly Honorary Colonel of the W.R.A.C./T.A. North Midland District and we are very pleased that she is going to continue her interest. The former C.O. Major The Hon. Verona Kitson is now Chairman of the Branch. There has also been a change in the secretary, and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking our past secretary, Mrs. E. M. Cox, for her energy and devotion in building up the Branch. We have had several well attended meetings. In

February members and friends went to an Ice Show at the Granby Halls in Leicester, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed, and this was followed in March by a Bring and Buy Sale and a film show of past activities of the T.A. Unit. Other events included a visit to the Tulip Fields at Spalding, taking a party of deaf people to visit one of the local gardens, and an evening visit to our President's house. As one of our members has recently returned from living in Rhodesia and South Africa we hope that before long she will agree to talk to us on her life out there. We have unfortunately lost our meeting place due to the T.A. re-organisation, but the C.O. of the surviving local Medical Unit, 222 FDS, has very kindly offered the use of his Officers' Mess for future meetings.

OXFORD. In December 1966 the Branch held a cheese and wine party. This was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. It was the first party of this kind we have had, but I feel certain it will not be the last.

There were no meetings in January or February, but in March a film show was given by Capt. Jeffcoat, on her holiday cruise in 1966 to Greece, Crete, etc. 14 Members attended this meeting, which lasted longer than any for a very long time. We had two sessions with refreshments at the interval. Capt. Jeffcoat gives a very good film show, and they are always well attended and enjoyed.

At the April meeting a silent tribute was paid to our late member Miss H. K. Allen (Shorter). We shall miss her. We had intended to hold a Beetle Drive, but we started discussing activities for the Celebrations on the 1st June, and also the Southern Command Area Re-Union, we were enjoying the chatter so much all members preferred to keep the evening as it was, so the Beetle Drive will have to take place at some future date.

In June a party of 28, which included a small contingent of ex-servicewomen from Berkshire, attended the Three Services Jubilee Celebrations on the 1st June.

Lunch had been arranged for at the Victory Ex-Services Club. It was so nice to be together and to be able to enjoy every minute of this memorial day.

During our journey home every one was so happy, and someone asked why this could not be made an Annual event?

A meeting was held on the 13th June—16 members attended—final arrangements were made for the Southern Command Area Re-Union. After refreshments, there was little time for anything else except a good chatter.

At the Re-Union the Oxford Branch enrolled one Life member and nine yearly members. A few enrolment forms had been taken to the re-union, just in case they should be needed, but before long we had to improvise forms, as we felt we must collect subscriptions and complete enrolments whilst the opportunity was there.

ULSTER. On 22nd May we held our "summer" meeting at Ballydrain House, Dunmurry, near Belfast. Forty members attended, some of them coming from distant parts of the Province, and we had a very pleasant evening. It was the 78th birthday of Miss Minnie Stevenson, W.A.A.C., A.T.S., and we were delighted that she celebrated it in our company. I expect she was gratified at our spirited, if ragged, rendering of "Happy Birthday to You". Any lack of musical merit was more than compensated by sincerity, she has our very best wishes.

It was also nice to hear that two old comrades had renewed acquaintance through our notice in the May issue of "The Lioness". Miss W. Crothers, W.A.A.C. heard from Lady McFarlane of Duffries, who served with her in 1917 in Le Havre, where they shared a room.

The next half hour or so was happily occupied with the "Bring and Buy" sale. A great variety of gifts were contributed. Miss Swettenham, our President, who had driven up from Armagh, brought some very fine pot plants, and our ex Hon. Treasurer, Terry Turner, masses of bulbs. Everything was snapped up very quickly and the sale raised £8. The Branch decided to add to this from funds and a cheque for £20 has been sent to the Benevolent Fund. The rest of the evening flew by, we had a very good supper and talked and talked.

Ballydrain House, where we have held one meeting each year since our formation, was used by the Army during the war and quite a lot of our members were stationed there. It seems to fill them with nostalgia to revisit the place, but for the rest of us, we just enjoy it because of its lovely setting. The estate is now owned by the Malone Golf Club and the course must surely be one of the most beautiful anywhere. Even the grey skies and rain on the evening of our meeting could not entirely spoil the appeal of the lake, the magnificent trees and the gentle green slopes. This is not the idealistic picture of her native land seen through the loving eyes of a daughter of Erin—I am English and have not been suspended head down over the dizzy drop to kiss the "Blarney Stone"!

We are very fortunate, there is so much beautiful country within a few minutes' drive of any city. No doubt a lot of you will find out the truth of what I say this year, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer is making gallivanting in foreign parts difficult! You may even be grateful to him for opening up a new dimension in holiday travel!

The Branch has a large membership (114 at the moment), but the members live in widely dispersed places, Eire, all over Northern Ireland and some in England and Scotland. We even have one in Spain, who managed to attend the annual dinner on one occasion.

We meet about three times a year, for our A.G.M. in Belfast, the summer meeting at Ballydrain House,

and after Christmas we hold our annual re-union dinner at a Belfast Hotel. About forty members come to the two meetings, and they always contribute generously to the fund raising activity, which has enabled us to send contributions to the Benevolent Fund. So far eighty or ninety members have managed to attend the dinner, although the weather so early in the year is sometimes very wet and cold.

YORK. This year dawned with doubts and apprehension as to where we were going to hold our monthly meetings, as Old Nunthorpe House was no longer available to us, therefore no actual meetings were held except those of a social nature.

In January a party of 25 members and friends went to the Theatre Royal to see the production of "Die Fledermaus" given by the York Light Opera Society, which is always of a very high standard. The Annual Dinner was held in the Abbey Park Hotel, Miss Starkey and Mrs. Hartwell our two 1914/18 war veterans were Guests of Honour. Again we thank Mrs. Green and members who helped with the Whist Drive at Strensall in May.

The Great Day was of course June 1st and at 3 a.m. on a lovely morning Mrs. Whetnall set off from Haxley in the mini coach picking up members and 4 Q.M.A.A.C's to take us to our coach and subsequently to London. We reached the Abbey before 11 a.m., having had an excellent journey down, it was a wonderful day, the elderly people stood up to it amazingly well, in fact, Mrs. Riley, a past Secretary of the British Legion, aged 78 came to the Secretary's house the next day as fit as a fiddle. It was a memorable day, the party was as pleased as the Secretary was, that she had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty The Queen Mother. Members would also like to thank all those who helped in any way to make the day the success it was, especially the young service women who were most helpful and kind.

MEMBERS OF H.Q. AREA. Please collect used, Postage Stamps and send to:—Mrs. Elsie Scragg, 137, Mill Lane, Newton-Le-Willows, Lancs. who will sell them for the Benevolent Fund.



Q.M.A.A.S. Members of Edinburgh Branch

Standing L to R. Mrs. Sparrow, Miss Kennedy, Mrs. Gill, Miss Baxter, Miss Fairley
Sitting. Mrs. Roy, Mrs. Telfer, Miss Ferguson, Miss Roberts, Mrs. Burr and Miss Abbey.

Correspondence

Dear Comrades,

I am very sorry I cannot be with you at the Garden Party on 1st June, 1967 hope you will have many happy hours together. My husband who is 85 years of age and an Old soldier needs a lot of attention. Loyal Greetings to our most Gracious Queen and Queen Mother.

J. Murton (Mrs.)

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to read in the issue of May the letter from W. Alderman. It assures me that our Association is one of continuity, something important we are inclined to lose sight of.

Please do "get with it" and I trust some of W. Alderman's contemporaries will back you up by sending you their information.

I am sure I am not the only "Q.M." who is interested to know what our successors are doing, especially those still serving. We are a "Comrade's Association" not an "Old Comrade's Association".

C. R. Leech, ex-Q.M.A.A.C.

Dear Editor,

I saw in the last copy of "The Lioness" an article asking why the Lioness couldn't get "with it" and include details of news of ex-W.R.A.C. and ex-Service-women (whether they had had married and where they were, etc.). Well, I was discharged from Larkhill on 9th September 1966, after having served 23 years as Pte. Gwendoline Dorothy Blacker (W/243079). I married Selwyn Davies a civilian whom I met while serving at Larkhill, and we are very happy indeed. We bought a caravan for a time, but moved to this bungalow on wheels (a mobile home with six rooms and all modern conveniences) as soon as it became vacant. Selwyn is a very kind, loving husband. We married at Salisbury on 31st August 1966. I wouldn't go back to Service life for anything now, for I have married a kind, generous, hard-working man and we are supremely happy. If anyone who knew me, (cooks especially, as I was one) cares to write I shall be interested to hear from them. My address is 92 Holders Road Caravan Park, Amesbury, Salisbury, Wilts.

Now I will close with best wishes to all ex-friends.

G. D. Davies.

Officers' Postings

(1st March 1967 to 31st May 1967)

Major D. P. Chandler, O.C. W.R.A.C., 24th Signal Regt., Catterick.
Major V. I. Fisher, A.I.P.T./W.R.A.C., A.S.P.T., Aldershot.
Major H. Gildea, Families Office, H.Q. Aden Bde., Aden.
Major K. E. Griffiths, 39th (City of London) Signal Regt. (V), London.
Major P. Norman, M.B.E., D.A.P.M. Depot & Trg. Estb. R.M.P., Chichester.
Major M. E. Snowden, 2 I.C. W.R.A.C. College, Camberley.
Major P. R. Wyndham-Tate, 2 I.C. Depot & T.C. W.R.A.C., Guildford.
P.A. Major J. M. F. S. Tait, O.C. 12 Coy. W.R.A.C., Mill Hill.
Capt. (Q.M.) T. Buchanan, S.D. 3 H.Q. B.A.O.R., Germany.
Capt. (Q.M.) M. Evans, Asst. Q.M., Depot & T.C. W.R.A.C., Guildford.

Capt. (Q.M.) M. J. Evans, W.R.A.C. College, Camberley.
Capt. (Q.M.) S. C. Farmer, O.C. H.Q. Coy., Depot & T.C. W.R.A.C., Guildford.
Capt. S. W. Jones, O.C. W.R.A.C., F.V.R.D.E., Chertsey.
Capt. (Q.M.) H. L. Sanders, Admin. Offr., 251 W.R.A.C. Signal Sqn., Salisbury.
Capt. (Q.M.) H. M. Shenton, Q.M., W.R.A.C. College, Camberley.
Capt. A. J. Smith, S.C. (Manning) H.Q. FARELF, Singapore.
P.A. Capt. P. A. Carnell, W.S.L.O., Western Command, Chester.
P.A. Capt. J. E. R. Chatterton, W.R.A.C. College, Camberley.
P.A. Capt. P. S. Dale, Admin. Office, 4 Comms. Unit, Cheltenham.
P.A. Capt. P. B. Fereday, S.C. (Catering) H.Q. Southern Command, Salisbury.
P.A. Capt. N. L. Heath, A.D.P. Programmes C.O.D. Bicester, Bicester.
P.A. Capt. H. Mugford, A.C.O. (W.S.), Aberdeen.
P.A. Capt. H. J. P. Murphy, 251 W.R.A.C. Signal Sqn., Salisbury.
P.A. Capt. L. M. J. Oliver, A.T.L.
P.A. Capt. E. Tye, S.O. 3, H.Q. R. Signals, Cyprus.
Lieut. J. M. Bunyan, 242 Signal Sqn., Edinburgh.
Lieut. J. G. Clarkson, R.A.E.C. Instructional Unit, Eastern Command, Mill Hill.
Lieut. M. H. Dennis, 16th Signal Regt. (B.A.O.R.), Germany.
Lieut. J. Lowe, 13th Signal Regt. (B.A.O.R.), Germany.
Lieut. S. E. Tarry, 1 Coy. W.R.A.C., Edinburgh.
2/Lieut. R. A. Bickerdyke, 12 Coy. W.R.A.C., Mill Hill.
2/Lieut. C. P. Brown, 6 Coy. W.R.A.C., Woolwich.
2/Lieut. H. J. Butterworth, 251 W.R.A.C. Signal Sqn., Salisbury.
2/Lieut. P. L. Cook (nee Sanders), Depot & T.C. W.R.A.C., Guildford.
2/Lieut. A. M. Doherty, 9 Coy. W.R.A.C., Larkhill.
2/Lieut. H. R. Greenland, Trials Estb. R.A., Tycroes.
2/Lieut. H. R. Grimshaw, 8th Signal Regt., Catterick.
2/Lieut. C. J. Halsey, 24th Signal Regt., Catterick.
2/Lieut. T. L. N. Hanson-Lester, 16th Signal Regt. (B.A.O.R.), Germany.
2/Lieut. L. J. Hattley, Depot & T.C. W.R.A.C., Guildford.
2/Lieut. A. A. Hutchison, 16th Signal Regt. (B.A.O.R.), Germany.
2/Lieut. P. S. Law, 12 Coy. W.R.A.C., Mill Hill.
2/Lieut. C. D. Lea, 6 Trg. Regt. R.C.T., Yeovil.
2/Lieut. M. C. Lovegrove, Depot & T.C. W.R.A.C., Guildford.
2/Lieut. P. A. Marvin, 29 Coy. W.R.A.C. (B.A.O.R.), Germany.
2/Lieut. J. Robinson, Depot & T.C. W.R.A.C., Guildford.
2/Lieut. P. J. Stothert, 9 Coy. W.R.A.C., Larkhill.

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Deputy Controller Commandant: Colonel L. M. Davies, O.B.E.
Lieut.-Colonel: Majors M. N. Jamieson, R. M. Engel.
Major: Captain B. A. Rooney.
Captain: Lieuts. S. P. Greenslade, F. E. Greaves, A. P. Christie.
Lieutenants: 2/Lieuts. S. J. R. Mitchell, P. J. Wilson, E. M. Mathers, P. H. Dixon, S. A. Boyack.
2/Lieutenants: H. R. Greenland, M. C. Lovegrove, H. R. Grimshaw, C. D. Lea, C. J. Halsey, J. Robinson, C. P. Brown, A. M. Doherty, P. S. Law, H. J. Butterworth.

LIMITED SERVICE REGULAR COMMISSION

Major: Capt. D. M. Athoe.
Lieutenant: 2/Lieut. M. E. Ward.
2/Lieutenant: M. E. Ward, on probation, is confirmed in her appointment.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

Lieutenant: 2/Lieuts. M. MacKenzie, K. G. Clarkson.
2/Lieutenants: M. MacKenzie, K. G. Clarkson, on probation, are confirmed in their appointments, L. J. Hattley.
2/Lieutenant (on probation): M. Caldwell.

RETIREMENTS, etc.

REGULAR ARMY

Majors: P. Ruston, E. G. Joynt, N. J. Pike.
Captains: W. M. Shiells, M. E. Bird, B. Nevill, M. J. Cook, J. A. Jeffries, S. J. Brown, E. J. Neal.
Lieutenants: S. L. Stephens, V. J. Hunt.
2/Lieutenants: C. A. Sharman, W. A. Cordwent.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

Captain: M. L. Minkin.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

C.B.E.: Colonel J. Fisher.
O.B.E.: Dr. O. Anderson (M.O. to Q.M.A.A.C.).
M.B.E.: Lieut. J. Greenfield (T.A.), Major E. G. Joynt.
B.E.M.: Sgt. P. B. Beuzeval.

Obituary

Miss H. K. Allen

OXFORD Branch regret to announce the death of Miss H. K. Allen (Shorter) on the 12th March, aged 64 years.

She had been a member of the Branch since 1948, and was Treasurer for a number of years. Although unable to attend meetings for some time, she will be greatly missed by her friends. Three members of the Branch attended her funeral at Bicester, and the Branch sent a wreath.

Miss Allen joined the A.T.S. at the outbreak of the second world war, and served all the way through, employed initially at Mons Barracks, Aldershot, and later at Guildford as a Sgt. Instructor.

After her demobilisation she worked with the Control Commission in Germany, and later returned to Bicester to live with her sister. Miss Allen was also an active member of the Women's Section of the Bicester Branch British Legion, to which organisation she was both standard bearer and treasurer.

M.F.W. writes :—

"Sgt. Hilda Allen (known affectionately as Lallie) passed away in February after several months illness. Miss Allen, whose home was at Bicester, joined the Forces in 1939 and I first met her when I was sent to Guildford for training in May, 1942. I subsequently became a Sergeant Major and she was one of my most efficient Sgts. I think she was respected by everyone from the C.O. to the newest recruit. She was a bundle of energy and, although small in stature, had a great personality. After a serious operation just after Christmas last year, she showed the same great courage during her last days. Her many friends will miss her".

Controller F. J. Collins, O.B.E., J.P.

R.J.K. writes :—

"Justina Collins who died in June this year aged 83 years, was the youngest and last surviving member of a large family which had produced several distinguished senior officers in both the Navy and the Army.

She served in Q.M.A.A.C. in Brussels during the first World War, and in 1938 on the formation of the A.T.S., she was appointed a Chief Commander and County Commandant of the A.T.S. in Berkshire.

It was Chief Commander Collin's idea that the A.T.S. should wear their county flash on their uniforms. When later the War Office ruled that they must be removed, she insisted that Berkshire should be allowed to keep theirs, and so, those of us who had joined before the outbreak of war, continued proudly to wear our Berkshire flash, wherever we were serving, throughout the life of A.T.S.!

Chief Commander Collins was later appointed A.D.A.T.S. at Scottish Command where she was promoted Controller and awarded the O.B.E. for her

services there. She had exceptional organising ability and relentless efficiency. She never spared herself and demanded a high standard from her subordinates, who had a tremendous admiration and respect for her.

Those who were fortunate enough to know her well, know that her sharp tongue concealed a very soft heart, and her great kindness and loyalty will be remembered with gratitude and affection by many.

She was a delightful and amusing companion with a very quick wit which she never lost right up to the end.

It was a sad day for the A.T.S. when in 1942 the age regulations forced her to retire. Controller Collins went back to her house and charming garden, which she loved, in Streatley, and continued to lead a very active life for many more years. She was a Justice of the Peace for Berkshire".

Lady Musgrave

WE announce with regret the death of Lady Musgrave, formerly of Norwood Tower Strandtown Belfast. Lady Musgrave was one of the early A.T.S. Officers in Northern Ireland and Commanded D. Coy. at Palace Barracks Holywood.

Miss C. H. Service

AYRESHIRE Branch regret to announce the death of their oldest member Miss C. H. Service on the 14th April. During the First World War she served with Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan and kept up a correspondence with her. In 1938 she helped to recruit some of the A.T.S. Companies in the Glasgow Area and was attached to Hamilton Barracks before being posted to Ayr as Senior Comdr. After the war she took an active interest in the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, being Investigating Officer for Ayrshire. She was a founder member of the Ayrshire Branch of the A.T.S. Comrades Association when it was formed in 1946 and although confined to bed for several years, she still maintained an interest in all the Branch activities and was happy to have a visit from some of the members recently on the occasion of her 90th Birthday.

Miss P. Torrens

A. G. writes :—

"Ex-members of the original 1938 A.T.S. who enrolled at the Penton Street Drill Hall will be sorry to learn of the death of Company Commander Patricia Torrens on 2nd June last, after a long illness. The funeral service took place at Holy Trinity Church Chelsea. Miss Torrens was a member of the Parochial Church Council and was also responsible for the flower decorations of the Church.

The then Company Commander (later Senior Commander) Torrens commanded 2nd County of London G.D. Coy. attached to 12 L.A.A. Regt. of 33 A.A.

Brigade R.A., she also did extensive recruiting at the Duke of York's H.Q."

Mrs. H. Wilson

BRADFORD Branch mourn the loss of one of their very loyal long standing members, Mrs. Etta Wilson.

Although Etta had suffered from ill health for some time she always maintained her interest in the Branch and was well known for her kindly acts.

Her death came as a shock as she had only been in Hospital a few days, and it is particularly sad that she had not lived to enjoy the new flat she moved into only two weeks before which would have made life much easier for her.

Our sympathy goes out to her husband who is not well and relied on her so much.

Unit Branch Secretaries

Depot and Training Centre, W.R.A.C. : W.O.I E. J. Edwards, W.R.A.C., Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Guildford, Surrey.

W.R.A.C. College : W.O.I G. P. Green, W.R.A.C., Portsmouth Road, Camberley, Surrey.

4 Company, W.R.A.C. : W.O.I E. Needham, W.R.A.C., H.Q. FARELF, c/o G.P.O., Singapore.

6 Company, W.R.A.C. : W.O.II P. J. Halford, W.R.A.C., Shrapnel Barracks, Stadium Road, Woolwich, S.E.18

8 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. : S/Sgt. S. M. Thirwall, W.R.A.C., St. George's Barracks, Bicester, Oxon.

9 Company, W.R.A.C. : W.O.II B. Wood, W.R.A.C., Stirling Barracks, Larkhill, Wilts.

10 Company, W.R.A.C. : W.O.II K. M. Prior, W.R.A.C., Mandora Hutments, Hope Grants Road, Aldershot, Hants.

12 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. : W.O.I J. Grimston, W.R.A.C., Inglis Barracks, Bittacy Hill, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

15 Company, W.R.A.C. : W/324671 S/Sgt. M. I. Morgan, W.R.A.C., Administrative Wing (15 Company W.R.A.C.) R.A.C. Centre, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.

16 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. : W.O.II N. Harwood, Marlborough Farm Camp, C.A.D. Kinton, Leamington Spa, War.

27 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. : W.O.I M. M. Slaven, W.R.A.C., 27 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., B.F.P.O. 53.

28 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. : W.O.II P. A. N. Wildgust, W.R.A.C., H.Q., Middle East Command, B.F.P.O. 69.

29 Company, W.R.A.C. : W.O.I M. Tindall, W.R.A.C., H.Q., BAOR, B.F.P.O. 40.

W.R.A.C. Detachment, Camp Admin. Staff R.A.P.C. : Sgt. M. K. Haswell, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants.

W.R.A.C. Squadron, 6 Training Regiment, R.C.T. : Sgt. V. M. Downie, W.R.A.C., Houndstone Camp, Yeovil, Somerset.

W.R.A.C. Wing, Army School of Physical Training : W.O.I J. Whitehead, W.R.A.C., H.Q., and Depot, A.P.T.C., Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, Hants.

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

W.R.A.C. Detachment, R.P.O. (R.A.) : S/Sgt. E. H. C. A. MacColl, W.R.A.C., Preston Barracks, Brighton, Sussex.

W.R.A.C. Detachment, P. and E.E. : W.O.II Bantock, W.R.A.C., Horseshoe Barracks, Shoeburyness, Essex.

W.R.A.C. Detachment, R.S.M.E. : S/Sgt. C. H. Duncan, W.R.A.C., 18/40 R.S.M.E., Squadron, 12 R.S.M.E., Regiment, Gordon Barracks, Gillingham, Kent.

24 Signal Regiment : W.O.II R. A. Franklin, W.R.A.C., 3 Squadron, 24 Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

233 Signal Squadron : W.O.II J. Henderson, W.R.A.C., Camp Commandant (N.I.C.), Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland.

Regimental Wing, R.A.O.C., COD, Donnington : W.O.II D. Jones, W.R.A.C., Regimental Wing, R.A.O.C., Parsons Barracks, Donnington, Wellington, Salop.

W.R.A.C. Element, School of Artillery : W.O. B. Herterich, W.R.A.C., Manorbier, Nr. Tenby, S. Wales.

Camp Commandant, H.Q. Western Command : W.O.I W. M. Phillips, W.R.A.C., Saughton Camp, Chester.

Branch Secretaries

(not included in May issue)

Sheffield : Miss F. Bell, 60 Fairbairn Drive, Stannington, Sheffield 6, Yorks.

Southampton : Mrs. B. Rush, 42 Rushington Avenue, Totton, Southampton, Hants.

Staffordshire : Mrs. L. Rodes, 27 Dartmouth Avenue, North Newcastle, Staffs.

Stafford : Miss M. E. Norcott, "Greensleeves," 77 Salisbury Road, Stafford.

Ulster : Mrs. D. Smyth, 2 Rugby Avenue, Bangor, Co. Down.

Weymouth : Mrs. P. B. Bennett, Rose Farm, Potton Lane, Chickerell, Weymouth.

Wimbledon : Miss B. Soman, 212 Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey.

Wolverhampton : Miss M. Davies, 33 Clifton Street, Wolverhampton, Staffs.

York : Mrs. Shortle, 271 Burton Stone Lane, York.

Change of Address

Leeds : Mrs. M. Russell, 55 Lea Farm Road, Leeds, 5.

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