

THE LIONESS

VOL XLIV

AUGUST 1971

No 3



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WHO'S WHO

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THE SECRETARY



Cpl. Mangan's mount shows obvious pleasure on being greeted by H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent.

Photo by Public Relations Strategic Command.



THE LIONESS

Vol. XLIV

AUGUST, 1971

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Editorial

THE account of Corps Day, published in this issue, refers to "the uncertain glory of an April day". Unfortunately this year the uncertainty, if not the glory, has been carried through into June and it is hard to realize that mid-summer day has come and gone to the accompaniment of boots and umbrellas instead of greeting the sunrise with traditional festivities.

Some members of H.Q. Area will already have had letters from their nearest Branch and others will be hearing before long. While Branches would obviously welcome an increase in active membership, those who are not able to undertake further commitments, for any reason, have no need to worry about the change. The only difference is that they will be held on the strength of, and administered by, their nearest Branch instead of by Headquarters. They need feel under no obligation to attend meetings but might find a pleasant surprise waiting for them if they made the effort at least on special occasions. Members living abroad, or in isolated districts, will continue to be held on Headquarter's strength. We are glad that York Branch has been able to re-open and hope that others, that have had to close down, may be

encouraged by their example to try again.

An interesting account of 4 Coy's activities appears in this issue. We are sorry that their days in Farelf are numbered and will miss, not only hearing about their Jungle Jaunts, but also their generous donations to the Benevolent Fund, which has continually benefitted from their varied social, and their other fund raising activities. We thank them for their help and wish them well in the future where ever they may be posted.

We send our sincere sympathy to the Royal Air Force Association on the death of Air Chief Commandant Dame Katherine Watson-Watt, for many years a Vice President of their Association and an active worker for the welfare of all ex-service men and women. Director W.A.A.F. from 1939-43 Dame Katherine, then Coy Commander J. K. T. Forbes, started her service career as Chief Instructor at the A.T.S. School of Instruction in 1938 and commanded one of the A.T.S. Coys earmarked for service with the R.A.F. More recently we welcomed her help and advice as a member of the Three Services 50th Anniversary Committee. Dame Katherine will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

W.R.A.C. Battery Larkhill

ON the morning of Thursday 6 May 1971 it was with considerable trepidation that members of the W.R.A.C. Battery, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill viewed the gathering clouds in what, for the past two weeks, had been a clear blue sky. This was the long awaited day—that of the visit of our Controller Commandant, H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent and members of the Battery had been preparing for it for so many months, that it would have seemed too unjust for the weather suddenly to let us down.

H.R.H. landed in an Aircraft of the Queen's Flight at nearby Boscombe Down and was met by Col. B. M. Metcalfe D.D. W.R.A.C. Southern Command. Together, they drove to the R.A. Mess where on arrival Major C. G. Parsons, Officer Commanding W.R.A.C. Battery was presented to H.R.H. Over coffee in the Mess the Duchess also met Major P. M. Farwell, Officer Commanding W.R.A.C. Element at Manorbier and the Tp. Comds. of the Battery 2Lt. S. R. Green and 2/Lt. R. E. R. Henderson.

The visiting party then moved on to visit the W.R.A.C. cooks and stewardesses in Alanbrooke Cookhouse where

a display of the girls cooking had been arranged. H.R.H. was introduced to each girl by the Messing Officer and she shook hands with them all while discussing their work. Next the entourage visited the W.O.'s and Sgts. Mess where the R.S.M. W.O.I. Slim presented the cook and stewardesses and once again H.R.H. showed a keen interest in their day to day employment.

The Duchess was then driven to the W.R.A.C. Accommodation where she was met at the door by the B.S.M. W.O. 2 Germain. The B.S.M. escorted H.R.H. into the girls sitting room where the clerks, medical orderlies, regimental storewomen, postal orderly and P.T.I. were presented. The Duchess very kindly agreed to some informal group photographs being taken on the patio, after which she visited an N.C.O.'s bunk and a barrack room.

It was time now for lunch and so the party returned to the R.A. Mess where H.R.H. met other members of the School of Artillery over drinks in the Commandant's Parlour. Lunch was of course served by W.R.A.C. Stewardesses who were presented to the Duchess as she left the Dining Room.

Outside the Mess six girls who are members of the R.A. Saddle Club were lined up on their mounts waiting to be presented. In the photograph Cpl. Mangan looks on as the Duchess has a brief word with her mount. The party then walked across the lawn to watch a Rounders Match between W.R.A.C. Battery, Royal School of Artillery and W.R.A.C. Element, Manorbier, and H.R.H. also spoke to some of the Manorbier girls who were spectators.

Leaving the Rounders Match still in progress the Duchess departed for M.T. Battery where she was to meet the W.R.A.C. Drivers. Unfortunately, it was necessary for everyone to make a run for shelter when there was a short cloud burst but the Duchess continued talking to the girls under cover.

In the foyer of the Newcombe Hall the Duchess had tea with the Officers and S.N.C.O.'s of the Battery prior to her departure. As she left H.R.H. thanked the members of the Battery for all the work and effort which made the visit such a pleasant and enjoyable one for her, and undoubtedly it was agreed by the Battery that all the extra work had been worth it on the day.

W.R.A.C. Corps Day 25 April 1971

"The uncertain glory of an April day"
(Shakespeare)

IT is apparent that since the days of the Bard there has been something unsettled about the English weather scene in April. 1971 was no exception to the established pattern but such was the intensity of activity in the week prior to Corps Day that members of the W.R.A.C. Centre had little or no time to worry about the vagaries of the elements. Sufficient to say that the 24th was wet, it snowed on the 26th but the 25th was dry.

Some members of the public seem to think that "Corps" and "Open" days in the Army just happen—they have visions of a happy gang of soldiers appearing at the crack of dawn on the great day and hey presto it's there. Serving and retired members know better—behind every one of these functions are months of conscientious and detailed planning with all the worries and frustrations which can and do arise. Throughout the four months preparation prior to this last Corps Day, normal work had to go on. Intakes came, passed-out and departed; but as Corps Day approached there was a noticeable increase in additional activity.

The 25th was dry, cold and cloudy, but Queen Elizabeth Park was at its immaculate best. Even before the official starting time of 2 o'clock visitors had begun to arrive, and the trickle soon became a deluge as 5,000 or so thronged the Park. There were relatives, serving members of the W.R.A.C. from other Units, former members of the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C., and many citizens of Guildford. In addition there were many specially invited guests whose visit gave much pleasure. For all the visitors there

was a wide variety to thrill, interest and entertain.

In the arena excitement came from the White Helmets Motor Cycle Display Team of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Corps of the Royal Military Police Tent Pegging Team. Between these events music was provided by the W.R.A.C. Staff Band.

On the square was a safe driving competition, organised by 12 Training Regiment R.C.T., in which eight W.R.A.C. Drivers who had just finished their training took part. Not only was this competition expertly done but it was significant that when it had finished a number of male spectators had very thoughtful looks on their faces. In the Assembly Hall was a Trades Presentation which effectively demonstrated the scope of trade training for W.R.A.C. Other features included the Army Post Office, an adventure training equipment exhibition, and supplying suitable back ground music—the Militaires.

For those who wished to browse there were static displays. These included the Royal Artillery with an impressive display of weaponry, the Royal Corps of Signals, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the Corps of Royal Military Police and the Intelligence Corps. A huge attraction was the Parachute Regiment Simulated Drop. In the Education Centre there was an exhibition of the work of the R.A.E.C. and continuous cinema performance.

Catering was not neglected. Provision was made for refreshments in the Junior Ranks Club, Sergeants' and Officers' Messes. A display of cooking by the W.R.A.C. Centre Cooks in the Dining Hall attracted great attention.

The Amusement Hall in the Gymnasium had a bottle stall, Hoop-la and other side-shows. In an other part of the Park was a fun fair with dodgems, coconut shies etc, which proved very attractive to the younger visitors.

The climax came on the square with a Drumhead Service followed by Beating Retreat by the W.R.A.C. Staff Band.

But all was not completely over—many people still remained in the Junior Ranks Club, Sergeants Mess and Officers Mess renewing old friendships and reminiscing over times gone by.

The profit made, after all expenses had been paid, was £276 which has been donated to the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Altogether the day appears to have been greatly enjoyed by both Military and Civilian visitors.

Report of Council

COUNCIL of the Association met four times during the year and dealt with all current business, and the Executive Committee met as and when necessary.

The Grand Reunion which was held last year in the Carisbrooke Hall of the Victory Club was a great success, and it has been decided that next year's Reunion will be held at the same place.

Successful Reunions were also held by Western and Northern Area, also No 2. Sub Area Southern Command.

During the year the Association has continued to be represented on the Co-ordinating Committee, the World Veteran Federation and the Women's Royal Voluntary Service Advisory Council.

I am pleased to announce that Colonel C. E. Hammond has accepted the office of Life Vice President of Council in recognition of her exceptional services to the Association during her term of office as Chairman of Council.

Four members had the honour to attend a Royal Garden Party in June and the General Secretary attended the 13th General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation in September, the second occasion when our Association was represented at the Assembly.

I would like to thank all the members who attended the Service of Dedication at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey last November, when the cross was planted on our behalf by Lieut.-Colonel Forbes Adam. The response to our appeal for support by members was most encouraging.

Our wreath was laid at the Cenotaph by Miss de Bourbel who was supported by members of the Association, others attended the special Service in Westminster Abbey, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the burial of the Unknown Warrior. This was a most impressive service which closed with the congregation dropping their poppies on the grave as they left the Abbey.

Council is most grateful to all the Branches who contributed to the Benevolent Funds during the past year, it is most gratifying to know there are many who continue to support the Fund, but there are some Branches who do not contribute anything. I appeal to them to try to help, it does not matter how little, such a worthy cause for ex-service women who have fallen upon hard times.

We again thank Mrs. Scraggs for continuing with her efforts in collecting and selling used British Stamps in aid of the Benevolent Funds.

I cannot leave the Benevolent Fund without a special word of welcome to Mrs. Mary Aggleton who took over as joint Secretary of the Funds last May, she has already identified herself very ably with the work of the Fund.

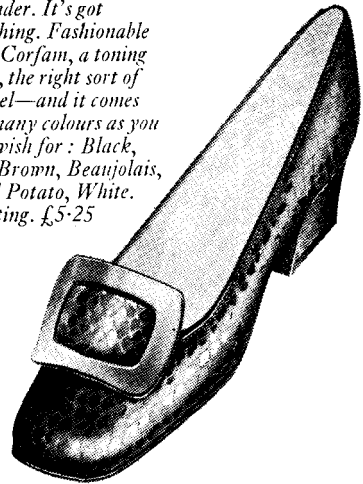
The Green Shield Stamps continue to arrive and we are most grateful to the donors, you will see the results of your efforts in the Green Shield Draw at the Sale of Work after the Meeting.

Members of Council celebrated the Association's 50 years close ties with the Duke of York's Headquarters last year by inviting the Senior members of the T. & A.V.R. and their wives to a small Cocktail Party in the Officers Mess 'E' Block. I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking Brigadier Weldon, and his staff, for allowing us the use of accommodation for all our functions and for all the help so readily given at all times.

Finally I must say thank you to all the Branch Office Bearers for their untiring work on behalf of the Association, without their willing and devoted efforts it would just fade away.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1971

THE Annual General Meeting was held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 24th April, 1971 at the Duke of York's Headquarters by kind permission of Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon, C.B.E., D.L., Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve Association.

Colonel L. M. Davies, C.B.E., Vice President of the W.R.A.C. Association presiding.

Colonel Davies opened the Meeting by welcoming the members present. She said she was also very pleased to welcome Lt. Colonel R. J. King, O.B.E., J.P., Chairman of Council at her first A.G.M. Colonel Davies said that the draw for the Premium Bonds would be held immediately after the Meeting and announced that approximately £500 would be handed over to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, from the proceeds. Colonel Davies also drew members attention to the Sale of Work and said she hoped they would help to make it a success.

The General Secretary read apologies for absence from 38 members.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday, 7th March, 1970, having been circulated in the May issue of The Lioness, were taken as read, and signed as correct.

2. BUSINESS ARISING

(a) *Voting Procedure*

The Chairman drew attention to the change in voting procedure at the A.G.M. i.e. One vote per Branch by their appointed representative Headquarter Area members to have an individual vote.

REPORTS

3. REPORTS OF COUNCIL

The Report of Council (printed elsewhere) was given by Lt. Colonel R. J. King, O.B.E., J.P. Chairman of Council

4. HON. TREASURER

Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Robertson, Hon. Treasurer of the Association said that the Audited Accounts had been published in full in the February issue of The Lioness. She continued by saying that in presenting the account for 1969/70, she regretted to say that expenditure had exceeded income by £92 2 1d. The General Fund stood at £2,657 12 9d. and the Life Membership Fund (which included The Lioness) at £1,744 14 11d. During the past financial year the Life Subscription fund had dropped by £28. Lt. Colonel Robertson drew attention to the Special Fund relating to the legacy received from the late Lt. Colonel C. A. Cecil of £1,000. That had been left to the Association to be spent on the Corps Museum and for the Chapel at the W.R.A.C Centre. £428.00 had already been spent on behalf of the Chapel and the Trustees of the W.R.A.C. Regimental Museum had very kindly agreed that the interest on the legacy be paid into the Association Funds.

The investments had remained the same and showed a capital appreciation of £250. The deposit account had been reduced by £100 to meet current expenses.

Total subscriptions had increased by £16, interest on Dividends had risen by £26, and donations from members showed an increase of £35.

The main item of expenditure had been The Lioness which showed a loss of £383, an increase of £136 on the previous year, due to rising costs, increased postal charges, and to a drop in advertising revenue.

Two major items of expenditure had been the Golden Jubilee Reception and the Grand Reunion, which had been subsidised by a total of £104.

The Treasurer concluded by proposing the adoption of the Audited Accounts. That was seconded by Colonel R. M. Green and carried unanimously.

5. THE LIONESS

The Editor Colonel M. S. F. Millington, said she was sorry she had to start with the usual apology that The Lioness account was 'in the red'. The increased subscriptions would help but postage alone cost 10p a year for each member, that was one third of the total allocation. Blocks were expensive and some units had helped by paying for their photographs to be published. Branches

could do the same thing if they wanted to ensure that any particular picture was included. The cost would be between £3.00 and £6.00 Major Coven continued to have difficulty in keeping up advertisements. At the last A.G.M. she appealed to Units and Branches to canvas locally and she would like to thank Mrs. Beeston of Wolverhampton for persuading her firm to place 4 advertisements.

Lt. Colonel Millington went on to thank all contributors, particularly those who had sent cartoons and crossword puzzles which had provided variety.

Contributions from ex-service members had fallen off and more would be welcomed. It would be interesting to hear what they were doing now. The Editor ended by reminding members that contributions that arrived after the end of March, June, September and December respectively often had to be held over for three months and were out of date before they could be published.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) *A.T.S./W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund*

Lady Margaret Sandeman-Allen, Chairman of the Trustees, said that Trustees of the Benevolent Fund had met four times during the year, the Annual Report had been published and copies sent to the subscribers.

The Trustees regretted to announce the death of Mrs. Irene Hollies, who would be remembered by many as Chief Commander Holliss. She had been Treasurer of the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund from 1951-1954, Secretary from 1955-1962 and had remained a member of the Committee of Management until the re-organisation.

During the year the Grants Committee had dealt with 563 applications. That was an increase of 17 on the previous year. The amount spent on grants had been £5,953. With the rise in cost of living the general level of grants given had also risen. Of the amount spent £4,302 went to ex-A.T.S. and £1,651 to ex-members of the Q.M.A.A.C. and the W.R.A.C. More than half of the cases helped, had received previous assistance from the Fund.

The Trustees had authorised 2 additional annuitants to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. The 50p per week would not seem much by today's standard but one of the new annuitants, an unmarried woman in ill health, with no near relatives, had only 20p per week left when she had paid her board and lodgings. To her the 50p would mean she could buy a few comforts previously beyond her reach. One annuitant who had been bed-ridden for many years had recently died.

The Trustees acknowledged with gratitude a donation of £1,000 from the Woolton Charitable Trust. That would provide sufficient income for a further two annuitants. Lady Margaret said the Trustees wanted to draw attention to the Chronically Sick and Disable Persons Act of 1970. Under the Act County Councils, County Boroughs and City Boroughs etc., must appoint, by April a Director of Social Service to see that the provisions of the Act were carried out. They included such things as the provision of:-

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Kitchen Manoeuvres

not quite the place to take a tank and you should know! All day long you've been driving tanks, tackling machine gun emplacements, and crawling through mine fields—mind you, you did have a break at midday when you made the Colonel a cup of tea in his bunker.

But now evening has come and you can become a woman again, out of that combat suit and heavy boots and back into nylons and lace, it's a wonderful feeling.

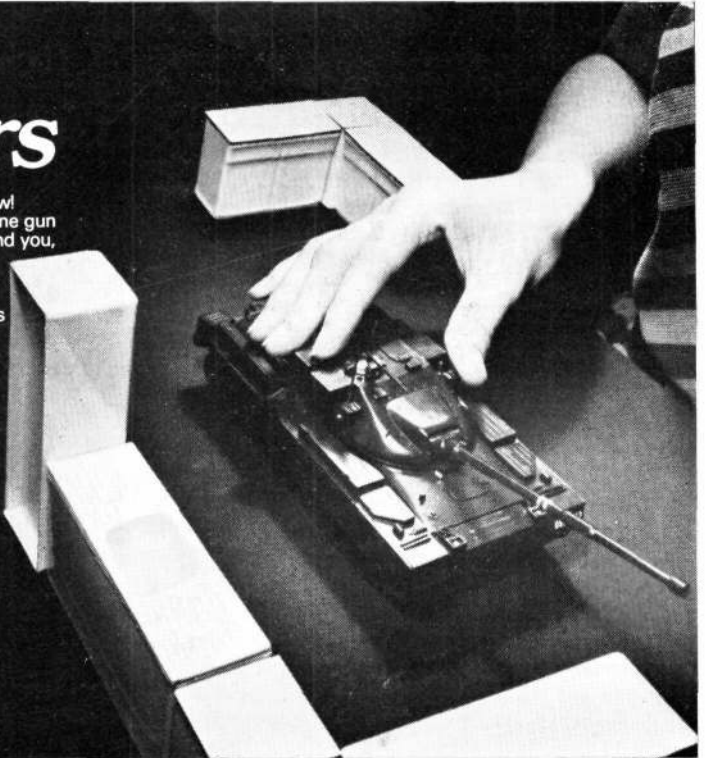
It's nice to enter a woman's kitchen as well, instead of that smelly army field canteen with its primus stoves and tea chest cupboards.

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Lady Margaret concluded by appealing to members to ensure that any chronically sick or disabled ex-Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. known to them, register with the local authorities.

(b) W.R.A.C. Regimental Museum

The Chairman of the Trustees, Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E., said she had little to report about the Museum for the past year. She was glad to say that the number of visitors was again very satisfactory. With a total of 4,722 there had been more than in the previous year, and that was achieved in spite of the fact that there had been no 'Open Day' at the Centre. Since January already over 1,000 people had visited the Museum and it was hoped many more would attend next day.

The Trustees had been pleased to lend two items to Western Command for their display of Military Silver held in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund, they had been the Silver Gun presented by Anti Aircraft Command and

the Sports Trophy presented to the Q.M.A.A.C. by H.M. Queen Mary.

Dame Mary said she was happy to report that the financial position was sound, it had been expected that money would have to be spent on Venetian Blinds but thanks to the Quartermaster at the Centre arrangements had been made for them to be installed free of charge. Very little had been added to the collection during the past year and the Trustees would welcome more items of interest. The New Zealand Women's Royal Army Corps Corps was starting a Museum and it was hoped to be able to send them something for it in due course. Dame Mary said that should any members have photographs or indeed anything that had any link with the Sister Corps she would be glad to know.

Dame Mary concluded by saying her usual word of thanks to the Assistant Curator Mrs. Bell, who continued to look after the Museum so well and who had raised even more money last year by the sale of goods.

7. RESOLUTIONS

"That Headquarter Area be re-organised into a Branch, or Branches as may be considered necessary" (Council Resolution).

The Resolution was proposed by Colonel M. D. M. Humphery, C.B.E., seconded by Mrs. A. J. Stevenson and carried unanimously.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(a). *Vice-Presidents of Council.* The Chairman said there was one vacancy for a Vice-President of Council. Council's nomination was Colonel P. M. Lipscomb and as there was no other nomination the Chairman declared Colonel P. M. Lipscomb to be elected.

Colonel M. K. Crewe-Read C.B.E., T.D., Colonel J. Fisher C.B.E. and Miss E. G. Marshall were eligible for re-election. As there were no further nominations the Chairman declared them to be re-elected.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a). *Association Motto.* Mrs. V. Rumbold asked what progress had been made regarding a decision whether to have an Association Motto. She was told that when members had had time to express their views the matter would be reconsidered by Council.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced that the A.G.M. would be held on Saturday, 18th March, 1972 to be followed by a Grand Reunion in the evening.

Colonel M. K. Crewe-Read proposed a vote of thanks to Colonel L. M. Davies for presiding at the Meeting. This was carried with acclamation.

Lt. Colonel R. J. King, thanked the serving members for their help throughout the day and expressed her gratitude to the two Corporals of the Royal Signals who had operated the microphones.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 15.45 hrs.

A very successful Sale was held after the Annual General Meeting and, as a result, £116.53p has been handed to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and £58.25½p to the W.R.A.C. Association. This was raised as follows:-

Southern Area	£100.00
Northern & Western Area	44.60
Headquarters Branch	11.10
Bottle Stall (Tombola)	9.58
Green Shield Raffle	12.50
Donation	.30
	£178.08
Less expenses	3.29½
	£174.78½

Members will have noted that the Association Account showed an excess of expenditure over income. Council therefore decided that it would be no longer possible to subsidise the teas, and that 1/3rd of the profits be given to the Association Fund.

The Chairman wishes to thank everyone who helped or contributed.

The Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades Dinner Club

TUESDAY 18th May was a fine day, just right for the 22nd Annual Reunion Luncheon, held at Derry and Toms, Kensington.

The Chairman on this occasion was Miss C. M Maunder of Newcastle, who received 131 guests in a most charming manner.

After many greetings, we eventually found our places, when Miss Maunder said Grace, and luncheon was served.

We were most pleased to welcome two new members. Mrs. Dandie (Hilda Green) who is now living in North Wales, and Miss Russell and we hope they found plenty of their former friends.

Another old friend we were all delighted to see was Miss Douche from Brighton, looking as young as ever.

After the Loyal Toast, and those usual on these occasions, the A.G.M. was held.

This was followed by a general get-together, marked by plenty of chatter. We gradually drifted into the Rainbow Restaurant, to refresh ourselves with tea, before making our farewells and promises of 'Next Year'.

And so the 1971 Reunion was over.

O.M.L.

Re-Unions

NORTHERN AREA

NORTHERN Area Re-Union will be held in "The Crescent Room", Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate on Saturday 9th October, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Guest Speaker will be Lt. Colonel R. J. King, O.B.E., J.P., Chairman of Council. Tickets 50p including refreshments may be obtained from A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q. Northern Command, York.

Please send stamped addressed envelope with remittance by 30th September, 1971.

MIDDLE EAST

THE Reunion for 1971, which was held on Saturday 22nd. May at the Service Women's Club, Lower Sloane Street, London, S.W.1. was most ably organised by Sally Healey and attended by about thirty members. Some of these had not been present at previous Reunions and others had not met for some years, so it was indeed a reunion and the occasion for much talk and reminiscence. An excellent buffet supper was provided by the Club, which was much appreciated. During the evening a short Annual General Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Chitty. at this meeting Mrs. Chitty was unanimously re-elected as Chairman 'for life', and Miss Sally Healey agreed to continue as Secretary.

4 Company

DESPITE the words 'Rundown', 'Disbandment' and 'Repatriation' which ring around our ears constantly, life in 4 Company goes on very much as always. There have been several highlights in recent months and some unusual events too.

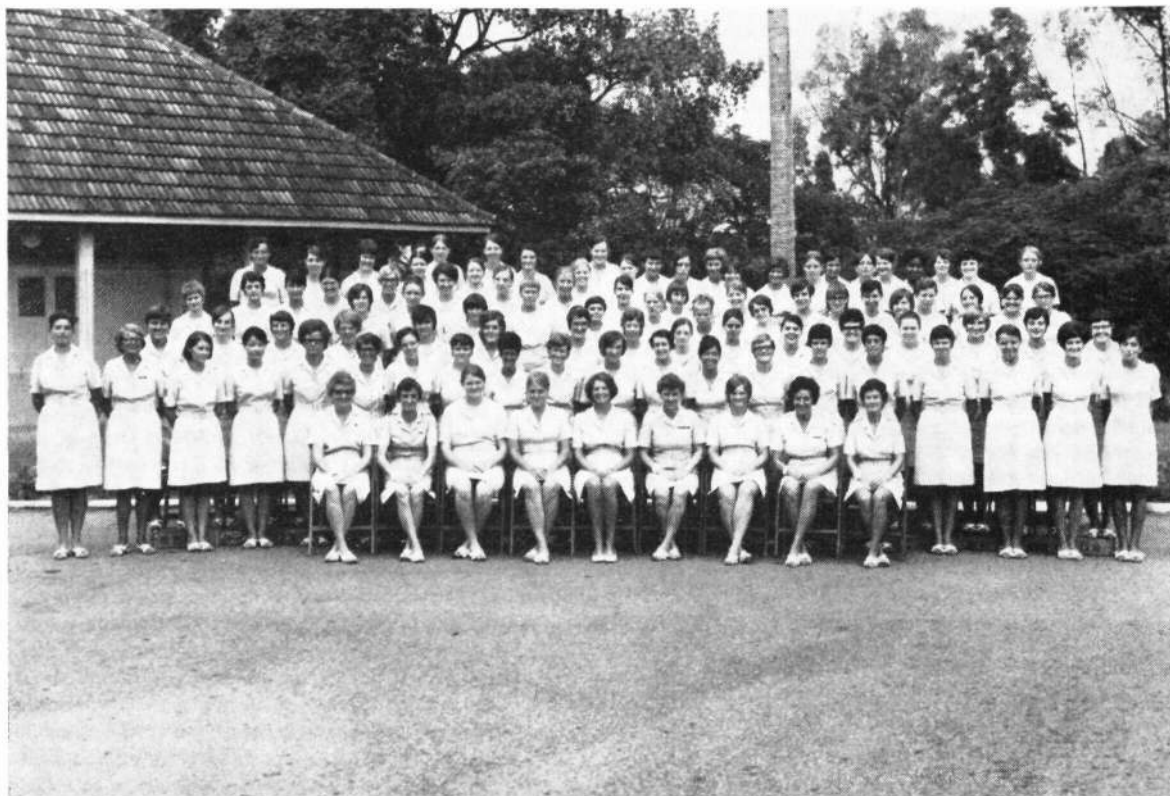
We were delighted to welcome The Director, Brigadier S. A. E. Heaney to the unit. She made a fleeting visit at the end of January en route for New Zealand and Australia and then spent five days with us before returning to the United Kingdom at the end of her tour.

We also received visits from General Mogg, the Adjutant General and Colonel Jackson, Director of the Women's Australian Army Corps.

We celebrated Corps Day on 25th April, 1971 with Church Services in Christ The King Roman Catholic Church and St. Georges Garrison Church. Padre Simms who is no stranger to the W.R.A.C. and will be remembered especially by those who served at the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction, Hindhead during 1962 and 63, is here with us and he made the service at St. George's a mem-

orable one for all W.R.A.C. It was a sad occasion of course as it was the last Corps Day Service in St. George's after many years. However it is to be hoped that although the W.R.A.C. element will be small by comparison in the future, Corps Days will be celebrated in Singapore for many years to come. The morning was rounded off by special lunches being served in the Junior Ranks and Sergeants Messes.

The sports enthusiasts still enjoy an amazing variety of activities. The interest in water skiing has increased and more than half the Company have now passed their swimming proficiency test. To mark this achievement and as so much time and effort have been devoted to this activity, a Swimming Gala was held in the Tanglin Pool. Unfortunately Sgt. Madge Cole, our 'Star' was in bed with a 'pulled muscle', but the rest of us enjoyed a fairly energetic programme which included races in breast stroke, free style, back stroke, an exciting relay and an amusing novelty race; The Corporals won the competition led by Cpl. Avril Jones our medical orderly, nobly supported by Cpl. Jill Rutter, Cpl. Angie Rummey, Cpl. Avril Crispin W.R.A.C. and Cpl. Margaret Smith of the Royal New Zealand Women's Army Corps. The D.A.D.-W.R.A.C., Major Crofton presented the prizes and a very



4 Company's last photograph

Photograph by British Army Public Relations.

pleasant evening was brought to a close with the serving of hot dogs and lemonade at the poolside.

After last year's exciting Adventure Training when members of the unit took part in one of the Bersatu Padu exercises—Spring Handicap—it was almost too much to hope that they would have more opportunities this year to go 'up the jungle'. However, the Royal Hampshires, have kindly invited us to take part in their exercises due to begin in June. The girls will once again provide 'the enemy'! a role in which they are now becoming experts.

We have not been without our moments of glory. During the last six months Staff Sergeant Stella Dawson was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on the Administrative Inspection by Colonel David Swiney, Colonel A/Q, H.Q. FARELF, and on the 11th June as a prelude to the Queen's Birthday, Brigadier Dennis O'Flaherty, the Area Commander presented the Meritorious Service Medal to Sergeant Patricia Oakman, B.E.M.

There has been a constant flow of people to and from the Unit and among the Administrative Staff we have bidden farewell to Captain Lynne Hancock and Lt. Maggie Taylor and welcomed Lt. Sue Bowden as Quartermaster and Platoon Commander. Weddings too have been frequently in the news and by the end of August nearly two dozen girls will have been married in one of the local Military Churches over a period of twelve months. We wish them all every happiness in the future.

Due to the Rundown we will shortly see the last W.R.A.C. Pay Clerks in Singapore, with the exception of Sgt. Pat Wright our Unit Pay Clerk, when the Command Pay Office closes in August. 18th Signal Regiment too is gradually contracting and for the first time in many years, from September, our efficient and helpful Switchboard operators will no longer grace the Tanglin exchange. They too have shared special honours this year as they manned the small Switchboard which was installed in the Hotel Malaysia during the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference where Mr. Edward Heath was staying. The work was enjoyable and interesting and much excitement was caused when two or three of our members met Sir Alex Douglas Home in the lift, and L/Cpl. Diane Rhodes and Private Carol Thompson were invited to join Mr. Heath for champagne in his private suite.

The rest of us will be homeward bound between October and December, the Corps flag having finally been lowered on 4 Company W.R.A.C.

We shall all enjoy a real 'white' Christmas, with Turkey, Plum Pudding and log fires and will no doubt be shivering in our new boots and midis, but an era will have ended and to all those who have served in the Far East we know there will be many memories of happy times spent here and many regrets that for most of us, the opportunities of returning will be very scarce.

To those however whom we leave here with the

A.N.Z.U.K. Forces and to their successors we extend our very best wishes and the hope that they will forever keep the Corps flag flying in Singapore.

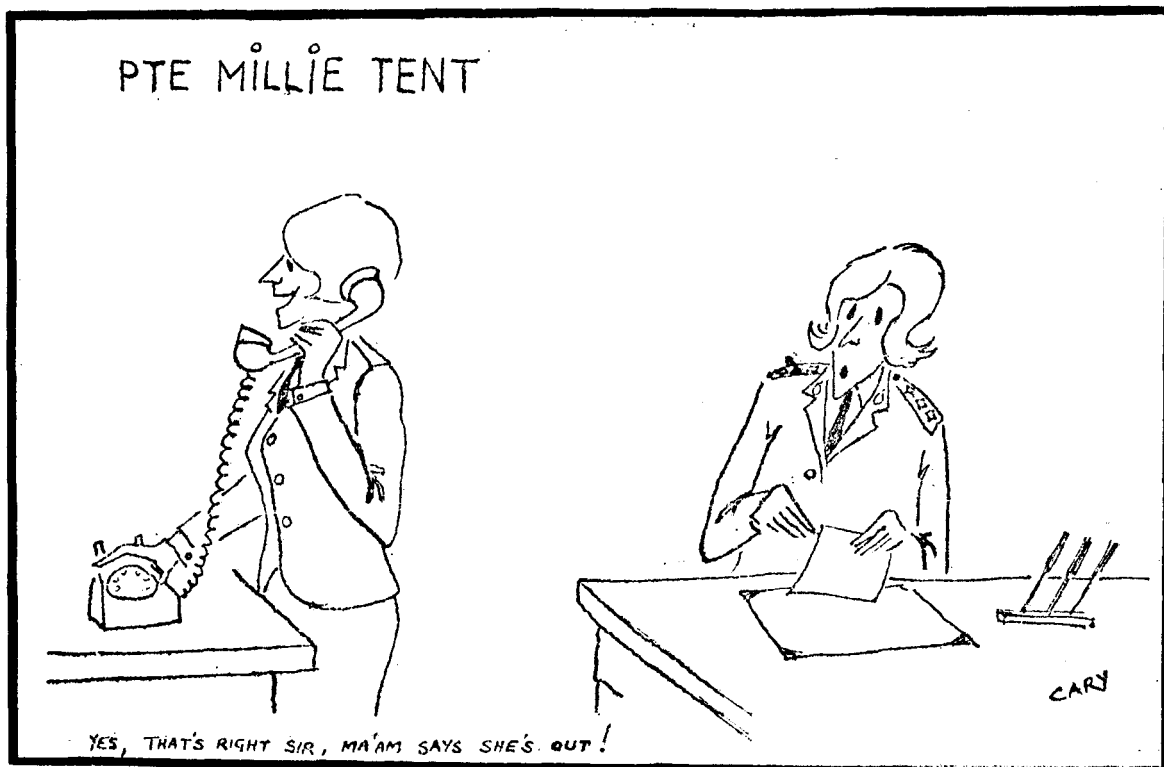
100 Mile Canoe Test

Capt. A. M. H. Barcroft

AN annual 100 mile canoe test is held each year over the Whitsun week-end by the National Association of Boys Clubs. This year the test took place in Wales on the River Wye; well over four hundred people took part in the event including seventy five Germans. I was 'lured' into the test by someone stating that it was a leisurely paddle down the Wye, picnics on the bank, and a strong current to pull the canoe along whilst having an afternoon siesta—no mention was made of the flat out sprint from 8.30 to 8. p.m. with hardly a rest to eat!! However, this was of small concern.

The test started at Mid-day on Friday of the Whitsun weekend just below Llanstephan Bridge at Glasbury. The first lap was 15 miles to the camp site where we would spend the first night. I was with the J.L.R.R.A. The first few hours canoeing were very pleasant indeed until I ran aground and had to get out and push my canoe off the river bed and suddenly found myself up to my waist in water after having fallen into a hole! The next event followed soon after, when I wrapped my canoe around a rock whilst going over some rapids—my trusty vessel capsized and finally ended up bent around the rock with two cracks in the side—however, I managed to complete the first day without having to abandon ship but had to transfer to another canoe for the rest of the test.

The camp sites were pretty rough; the W.R.A.C. Officers Mess was in the back of a 3 ton lorry with the rations! The second day was the longest day of all—this proved that there was no time for picnics or afternoon siestas and NO CURRENT! The distance to the next camp site was thirty four miles, so it meant a long paddle. We started early in the morning at 8.30 a.m. and eventually arrived at our destination at 7.30 in the evening—we had a short stop at Hereford for a hasty lunch of corned beef and cornflakes. Exhaustion was inevitable in the evenings, so after the traditional Army 'all in stew' I was only glad to stagger abroad the mobile W.R.A.C. Officers Mess and snuggle down amongst the boxes of compo! The third day was another exhausting day of over thirty miles paddling through Ross on Wye and Symonds Yat finally camping just above Monmouth. By this time I had to be pulled out of the canoe by several Junior Leaders and only managed to loosen up after having run around the field with my last few gasps of energy! The final day was only 15 miles paddling through Monmouth and finishing in Tintern. The last day was taken at a fairly casual pace. During the last five miles all the competitors had to canoe together so as to all arrive at Tintern in one



splendid mass. This proved to be almost a liquid massacre with four hundred canoeists paddling flat out—paddles waving in all directions and people capizing into the river. I managed to keep afloat but only JUST. The Whit week-end fishermen were in great distress when their water was completely disrupted by four hundred canoes churning up the water and making the Salmon flee for safety for the rest of the week-end.

Finally, we arrived at Tintern; what a welcome sight(!)—one final burst at full speed for the last quarter of a mile and we passed the winning post. We then gave the canoeing salute by giving three cheers and raising our paddles in the air and capsizing (not obligatory!).

Afterwards, we collected our badges at the prize giving ceremony and then returned back to camp to recover and receive medicinal administration for blisters, colds and sun burn!

WONG SAU YING

W.R.A.C. Hong Kong sponsor a Chinese girl called Wong Sau Ying through the St. James' Settlement. She is now nearly 12 years old.

As education has to be paid for privately in Hong Kong, this is a tremendous responsibility for poor families, so the St. James' Settlement tries to find sponsors who will undertake to finance a child's schooling and perhaps

occasionally buy her a present of her choosing and give her some money. This we do for Sau Ying.

Her late father used to earn \$6—about 40p a day. Her mother now has to support herself and 3 children on \$5 by washing dishes in a cooked food stall. They all live in a space in a corridor with 10 other families (30 persons) in an old 4 storey wooden building. The space measures 5ft. X 6ft. and their furniture consists of a fan and a few shelves for storing odds and ends. Ventilation is bad and the flat becomes very hot and stuffy—hence the very necessary fan. No flush toilet is available and a bucket is used instead. The family uses firewood for fuel.

At Chinese New Year (end of February) Sau Ying said that she would like a coat and a pair of shoes. L/Cpl. Christine Lee and Pte. Irene Legg took her out to choose them. They also gave her some money. Sau Ying then went to a New Year party arranged by 252 Signal Sqn. for Chinese children which she enjoyed very much. She went home happily carrying a paper bag filled with sandwiches and cake and clutching her presents. Afterwards, she wrote a thank you letter to us (which had to be translated) which went on to tell of her progress at school and how her work is improving as she is sitting behind a 'very outstanding student'. Sau Ying enjoys life very much, is not dissatisfied with conditions at home and even at her age seems to appreciate fully what is being done for her.

A.T.S. (East Africa) Clerical Group

ON Saturday 5th December 1971, at 1530 hrs., the A.T.S. (East Africa) Clerical Group Association will meet at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea for the 24th annual meeting and reunion. This combined function is held each year on the first Saturday in December, so memories are not unduly taxed in remembering dates. All ex-A.T.S. or W.R.A.C. who served in East Africa during 1942-46 will be made most welcome at this or any subsequent meeting.

Many members are dispersed throughout various parts of the world and some who attend the annual function do so during U.K. holidays from their homes abroad. At the December 1970 meeting 43 ex-A.T.S. (E.A.) came to the meeting at the Duke of Yorks Headquarters, Chelsea. Two had never attended before and were therefore meeting old comrades for the first time since 1942-46. This indicates the quality of wartime comradeship which has carried over into the succeeding years.

The A.T.S. (East Africa) Association was founded by ex-Sgt. Elsie Matthews, A.T.S., who now lives at Flat 'B', 187, Queens Gate, London. S.W.7. Miss Matthews has been the Vice President and Hon. Secretary since the Association was formed and is assisted by a small committee. The President is ex-Senior Commander Mollie Everington (nee Williams) A.T.S., now living in Bulawayo, Rhodesia. The Association is self-supporting and members pay (when the Secretary can catch up with them) an annual subscription of 15p. Those who come to the reunion pay an extra 25p for afternoon tea. Each year the Committee publishes a newsletter, which includes members contributions of news items. This goes out shortly after the annual meeting and is distributed free to all members.

The members forming the A.T.S. (East Africa) Association all belonged to either No. 1 or No. 2 (East Africa) Clerical Companies, formed in U.K. during World War 2 for service abroad. No. 1 Company was formed in Sussex Place, London, in September, 1942 and embarked at Liverpool in the troopship 'ORION' in December of that year.

As the Mediterranean was still closed to the Allies in 1942, No. 1 Company sailed to East Africa by way of the Cape route arriving in Durban, South Africa, in January, 1943. The next 6 weeks was spent on the Natal coast waiting for onward transhipment to East Africa. During this time in transit many were employed sorting forces mail for the Middle East, which at the time was 6 months overdue.

No. 2 Company (that of the author), consisting of 250 officers and auxiliaries, was formed in Sussex Place, London in October, 1943 and embarked at Greenock in the troopship 'ARUNDEL CASTLE' on 13th November, 1943. In those wartime days one was kept in ignorance of

ones final destination. Rumour of course was rife and not helped by changes of headgear issued with our tropical dress, i.e. solar topi to bush hat and back again. We hazarded guesses about where we were going. We were still no wiser when 'They' settled for bush hats and off we went by trooptrain to Greenock, arrayed in the panoply of war, i.e., steel helmet, water bottle, small pack (with survival rations), deep-sea kit bag, small kit bag. We each carried our complete possessions—no M.F.O. then. Atop the small pack, we also had a raincape and a dark gray army blanket. This last item we later learned was a 'burial blanket' and not as we had assumed a generous gesture by the Quartermaster to enhance our earthly comfort. One has since learnt to respect unsolicited gifts from the Quartermasters department.

Accommodation on board the troopship was basic; 60 to each 'tier-bunk! section. This was a series of wooden bunks, three high, arranged in rows top to tail and subdivided for access by a number of narrow gangways. However this was luxury compared with the servicemen who slept and ate on their mess tables, or were strung unhappily in hammocks spread between the mess tables.

In the usual manner of wartime sea travel, we spent five long weeks sailing in convoy across the Atlantic zig-zagged back and sneaked through the Mediterranean, then just opened to a limited degree to allied shipping. Our passage was not without incident and the convoy was dive-bombed on two occasions by enemy aircraft. In the distance one could see other merchantmen-troopships like ourselves, who had unhappily suffered considerable damage. On these occasions, when mustered on deck by the life-boat or life raft stations one was required to stand in bare feet and up to the ankles in water, the decks having been flooded as a fire precaution.

It must be admitted that the burial blanket came in very useful then as a means of additional warmth, as even the Mediterranean could be very cold in winter. Except for the ships boilers going out of action we emerged unscathed from these adventures. Parties of us were later mustered below deck to help in the galleys getting cold meals ready, as most of the galley staff were still engaged in more active duties standing by the ships guns.

There were no further active incidents and on 20th December, 1943, No. 2 Company entered Mombasa Harbour, thence by train to Nairobi in time to enjoy our first Christmas in Kenya.

The A.T.S. (E.A.) Clerical Group was disbanded in 1946, and the remaining members either returned to U.K. or continued serving in various clerical capacities in Cairo and Jerusalem.

As a footnote it may be mentioned that D.W.R.A.C., Brig. (then Senior Commander) S.A.E. Heaney, was for some time the Group Commander in East Africa. Two other members of No. 2 (East Africa) Company included W.O.I. O. Rutter and Capt. K. N. Dicker both now retired.

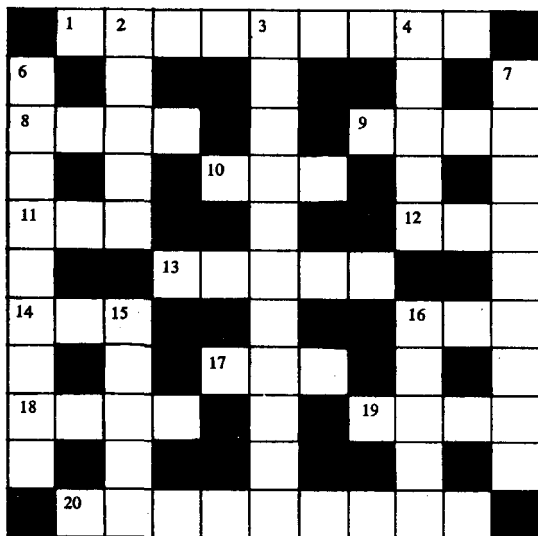
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Not found in the R.A.C. (9)
8. In Morocco developed from it? (4)
9. Half a river line(4)
10. A healthy pronoun? (3)
11. ————or dram (3)
12. Initially artistic (3)
13. It's turn to plead (5)
14. A gift from El Cordobes (3)
16. Could be a hartebeest (3)
17. ".....Aye there's the....." (3)
18. Madame's vivacity (4)
19. Order at the pole (4)
20. But not enlisted there (5, 4)

Down

2. The test of addition (5)
3. Rapid instruction (2, 3, 6)
4. The film executive has lost his cup (5)
6. What has Ted done to the crates? (9)
7. Would R.L.S. select him as a ruler? (9)
15. Caught above the salt (5)
16. Not usually in the drawing room (5)



Puzzle submitted by Lt. Colonel V. I. Fisher.

The solution will be found on the last page.

"Model" Communicators

33 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) (Lancashire & Cheshire)

An article published in the December 1970 issue of the T & AVR Magazine described the role of the WRAC T & AVR in their trades and employments. This article, however, did not cover the off duty pursuits of the ladies out of uniform, nor the part they play in recruiting. Appreciating the value of good publicity our Commanding Officer grasps every opportunity to project a good image of the T & AVR soldier on the general public, this not only makes the T & AVR better known but is also a very good recruiting media especially so in the case of the WRAC.

The standard of WRAC T & AVR entrants has, particularly in the past year, risen out of all recognition and it is gratifying to know that as a result of good publicity parents are sufficiently interested to ring and ask for information about life in the T & AVR and if their daughters are eligible to join. It is felt that the interest show by parents and their daughters is a direct result of good public relations resulting from such events as the Annual T & AVR Magazine Beauty Competition. This competition is open to all women members of the T & AVR.

The Commanding Officer, realising the recruiting potential of this contest, arranged a photographic evening to which he invited the press, a beauty consultant, a local camera club and two student hairdressers from the College of Arts and Crafts and Catering. As a result of this evening several articles appeared in the press and a photograph was published.

In previous years the contest has been exclusively a postal competition but this year a new plan for judging has been adopted. Instead of the final decision being made after a single survey and consideration of all photographs entered and the awarding of individually by judges, it has been decided to divide the task into two events. First a "Bench" of three senior judges will consider all the photographs and, after due deliberation, will select seven.

The seven finalist will be invited to London to appear in person, first in uniform and then in civilian clothes and to submit to an interview on "personality". We hope that the final seven will include some of the girls from the "33rd" and from the publicity resulting from this trip to the Capital the strength of the WRAC Regular and T & AVR will increase. It is interesting to note that the T & AVR provide recruits for the Regular Army, several girls from this Regiment have joined the WRAC and QARANC, conversely ex regular WRAC join T & AVR. We welcome such young women with regular experience as they provide a much needed senior NCO and, in some cases, Officer material.

Visit by Rheindahlen Historical Society to Ramillies

AT noon on 23 May, 1971 11 car-loads of 'historians' assembled in the centre of the village of Merdorp on the 265th anniversary of the battle of Ramillies. The arrival of these 'tourists' (including several young historians) bedecked with cameras, binoculars and similar equipment aroused some interest in the village.

The visit to the battle area had been arranged by the Rheindahlen Historical Society and in a series of 6 'stands' the leader brought the conduct of the battle vividly before us. He demonstrated the progress of both sides during that long day and night and where the chief participants had played their individual parts. Because the ground has changed so little in the intervening years, we were able to see the battle field very much as the opposing Generals, their staffs and their Commanders had seen it, and we could envisage the deployment of their troops and the consequences of their actions.

Particular interest was given to the proceedings in Ramillies village itself. Here we were joined by a local schoolmaster who had studied the battle and had also acquired some of its spoils. Initially there was a fear that his ideas on the course of events would not coincide with those of the Historical Society but fortunately he produced Marlborough as the Victor and was able to add some local legend to historical fact.

The day went well—for us, as well as for Marlborough those 265 years ago. It was not spoilt by the rain, which the organiser cleverly arranged to coincide firstly, with lunch taken inside our cars and secondly, at the last 'stand' at which we had already arrived when a 15 minutes hailstorm delayed our return to Rheindahlen. E.S.B.

Here and There

Friends, I would like to introduce myself I am Ex, Sgt. Don Dallamore, R.A.S.C. Discharged medically unfit after 20 years service. Perhaps you think who is this man who intrudes into "The Lioness". I write to bring to your notice an ex-member of your Corps, one ex Cpl. Madge Oldfield who served in the 'Heavy Ack-Ack' I met Madge in her flat in Hull in 1969, at that time I had been classed as disabled and unemployable, needless to say the bottom had dropped out of my world but I had a talk with Madge. I told her that the war pensions officer who looks after me had suggested that I take up a hobby. Madge, disabled herself, encouraged me to do this, showing me a trophy called the Audas Cup. This is awarded to a war pensioner 'Yearly for the greatest endeavour'. On the same occasion she showed me several certificates won by her in various competitions. In 1969 she won the Audas National.

Her entry was a knitted jumper. Last year 1970, Madge came second in her class at Hull with again a knitted cardigan. In Leeds she came joint first and in London, the National, she received a first class certificate. Due to her urging and material help from other people I won the 'Audas Cup' and third money prize in Hull, in Leeds I won the "Winder Shield" awarded for the best entry by a disabled war pensioner in the regional competition and finally in London the National I was awarded a certificate of merit. So thanks to an old comrade of yours I have achieved something worthwhile and something to be proud of. But I drew on the strength and courage of Madge Oldfield a person of great ability. You see Madge also makes nylon bags and weaves bath mats on a loom she put together herself, she also does her own repairs, house decorating etc. All this to me is reaching heights of human endeavour because friends Madge is totally blind now and she reads Braille as easy as you read this. She would like to hear from any old comrades who may read this. Her address is:—13, High Court, Orchard Park Estate, Hull, HU6 6SX.

Mrs. Mary Simpson (nee McNally) of 1, Dalbeath Gdns, Hill of Beath, Cowdenbeath, Fife writes that during the war she was one of the A.T.S. who manned a Searchlight. There were 13 of them on the site and they became extremely good friends, so much so that 6 of them have kept in touch ever since, and spend their holidays visiting each other in various parts of the country. She is anxious to trace her best friend during those hectic war time days. Her name then was May Russell and she came from Bexleyheath. May went to India in 1946 and married an Army Bandsman Sgt. Eric Thomson. If anyone knows Mrs. Thomson's whereabouts she would be glad to be put in touch.

Mrs. E. Hargreaves of Dewsbury Yorks, writes to say that she is now 77 years old and lives in a cottage on a hillside with her West Highland 'Maggie' for company. She keeps busy with cleaning, cooking reading and the television. She also attends her Chapel regularly and finds the singing hard work as the congregations are so small

Sgt. H. Rogers W.R.A.C. writes to ask if any reader can supply further information or help her to trace the recipient of a Japanese Ceremonial Sword found with the following inscription on an engraved silver plate:—'Senior Commander CYNTHIA DE SARAM A.T.S. (C) from Harry V. Ewbank. Friend and Companion in the front of war S.E.A.C. 1944-45.' It also states that it was engraved at Singapore.

Aldershot Field Stores Group A.T.S.

A number of ex-members of the Group have kept in touch and meet for dinner once a year at the Victory Club in London, usually on the last Saturday in April.

The Secretary Miss M. Mannerings c/o Barclays Bank

Ltd., P.O. Box 17, Middle Row, Maidstone, Kent would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining and having the opportunity to catch up on 26 years news.

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

May I make two corrections to your very kind notice of my retirement in the May issue?

The first is that I was commissioned not in May 1941 but in June, 1940. The interest in this lies not in any claim to seniority but in the circumstances of my first posting. As an Englishwoman with no relations in the Army at all let alone in a Scottish regiment, I was posted to C Coy Highland Group A.T.S., than at Balhousie Castle, Perth. I remember wondering what sort of crag it stood on and whether it was worth taking a bicycle! I arrived a week after the St. Valery debacle. Every other member of the mess had close relations or friends in the 51st Division, and the event was so recent that they still had no news. There was I recall an atmosphere of mutual quiet hope, coupled as far as I was concerned with a great kindness to the newcomer and stranger. For my own part I felt that the less I was seen and heard the better, as I had nothing I could usefully say.

(It was at this time that I met Elizabeth Fraser Stewart of whom I have written elsewhere in this issue.

The second correction is that although I have been looking for months for a slow boat to Singapore it has become apparent that this is a thing of the past. With the closure of the Suez Canal they all go round the Cape as fast as possible, and to make up for lost time most of them don't stop but refuel at sea like the Navy. This is not my idea of an interesting voyage so I shall fly slowly instead.

Betty Michell.

Dear Editor,

As a former A.T.S./W.R.A.C. volunteer, may I make a direct appeal, through your letters column, for help for the aged at home and abroad, knowing there will be some retired personnel who would welcome the opportunity of putting their organising skill to excellent use in a really worthwhile cause.

I am in the process of establishing local secretaries all over the country—capable volunteers who will convene small groups to innovate fund-raising events of all kinds, and generally make known in their district the responsibility the public owes to its aged.

These organisers would have the support of an area officer and would be fed with ideas and literature from this office, to help combat the ever-increasing problems of bad housing, neglect, and starvation found constantly in our midst.

We are already involved in a £7 million sheltered hous-

ing scheme in this country and last year sent over £600,000 in cash and kind overseas. But so much more remains to be done and the problem grows faster than practical help can be given. In this country, by next year, we shall have 10 million retired people and at least one million will still have no hot water, while more than 1½ million will be living alone, in many cases enduring conditions we should deem totally unfit for our animals.

Further information can be obtained from Help The Aged, P.O. Box 2AP, 139, Oxford Street, W.1.

J. M. Underwood (Miss)

Local Secretaries' Co-ordinator.

Editors Notes The Army Benevolent Fund has invested a capital sum in the Help The Aged Housing Association giving them the right to nominate a certain number of ex-service men and women to vacancies in the Association's Housing scheme. Applications for consideration should be submitted through the W.R.A.C. Association.

Branch News

ALDERSHOT. The membership is now 31. It does not vary much because as one person goes another seems to join. During the year, the following events took place:—In April, Mrs. Ayres came and talked to us on Solid Fuel. Some members remarked on the difficulty of obtaining some types of Solid Fuel. In May we had a demonstrator showing us the use of various 'Holiday Magic' products.

June was a very busy month. We started off with a visit to Mrs. Dacre's home at Four Marks. As usual everyone had a very good time and came back loaded with plants from her garden. About mid month, a party from the branch attended the Sub Area Social which was held at the W.R.A.C. College. The month ended with the monthly meeting which took the form of a Musical Evening at which all sorts of different records were played.

At the July meeting, members holidays were discussed and photographs passed round. In August we had a Scavenger Hunt, this time for information not articles. A Lingerie Party was held in September.

It was decided to hold the Annual Dinner early in the Autumn this year because last year had been so difficult with fogs and flu about Xmas time. This year it was held at the Whyte Lyon at Hartley Wintney and was a great success owing to the good organisation of Mrs. Kelly.

A Social evening was held in November with Light refreshments and games and competitions. After that there was a break for two months. Members did not want a meeting in December because the meeting day fell too near Xmas and no meeting is ever held in January because of the difficulty of members getting in to meetings. In February we started up again with a very well attended meeting at which Colonel Norman showed her slides of Ghana which were most colourful and enjoyable.

BATH. Financially and socially the Branch has enjoyed a good year and members have supported all events well. The Halloween Fair was a great success and enabled us to send a contribution to both the Benevolent Fund and The Princess Royal Memorial Fund. Members and friends enjoyed the annual Christmas Dinner, and a recent Jumble Sale helped swell the funds still further, A Pub Lunch given at the home of our Vice Chairman. Mrs. J. Mant, was most enjoyable and successful and proceeds went towards a Heart Unit in the local hospital. Our 24th Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held on the 6th April, and next year we plan something special for our 'Silver' anniversary.

BOURNEMOUTH. Our meetings have continued during the winter and spring and we have had some enjoyable evenings. Our members remain much the same.

February we had our Annual Dinner 20 of us attending and quite a pleasant evening was spent. April we held our first ever Jumble sale and this was quite a success. We also have two Bring & Buy Sales during the year at both these the W.R.E.N.S. always attend, and we help them out when they hold theirs.

The Southern Area Reunion held at Weymouth this year was attended by 19 members and we all enjoyed the day very much. June instead of a meeting we held a supper and a natter night. On Sunday June, 13th we attended the Dunkirk Service at St. Peters Church Bournemouth and afterwards were entertained with Supper by the Ex-Dunkirk Association in St. Peters Hall.

CANTERBURY. Since our last report we have continued to meet once a month somewhere in East Kent to enable our members in other towns to attend at least one meeting per year. In April we looked over the Chatham Paper Mills, in May we had a Theatre outing to Charing and some members attended a Passing out Parade at the W.R.A.C. Centre at Guildford. There was an outing to Syon Gardens and a Beach hut meeting at Whitstable during June. In July we had a tea party at a members flat overlooking the sea at Margate and went to the Theatre in the evening. In August we met at Dover and films were shown. In September we met at a members home at Bridge, just outside Canterbury for another tea party and in October we had our Annual Service at the Garrison Church, probably for the last time as Canterbury is no longer a Garrison town. The Annual Sale was also held in October and enabled us to send a £20 donation to the Benevolent Fund.

In November we held our dinner and A.G.M. January's meeting was at the Secretary's home in Canterbury, where there was a bring and buy stall and in February we went to the other side of town to another members home. In March, three members went to the Scottish Re-union at Ayr and were overwhelmed with the Scottish hospitality, ranging from a Country Dance evening, a tour of the town in a car, an unexpected lunch invite, a coffee tete-a-

tete, all apart from the reunion and the Bathroom scales show that too many cream cakes were eaten!

Our Standard has been carried at all the City Parades including the Battle of Britain and Remembrance Day, our own Service and the Thanet Festival of Remembrance. Miss Elizabeth de Bourbel laid the wreath on the Cenotaph on behalf of the Branch.

Our parcels of woollies have not been too plentiful this year for the Benevolent Fund as our most ardent knitter, Mrs. Shearer has been ill, but she will probably knit for us again when she feels better.

One book of trading stamps was sent to H.Q. for a raffle for the Benevolent Fund.

At Christmas we gave presents to our sick or elderly members and paid their subscriptions.

We lost a postal member, Miss Dulcie Thomas in January.

SHEFFIELD. Calling after a pleasant and eventful year, the same little gallant band sticking together through thick and thin.

The highlight was undoubtedly Mrs. Briggs Party. The late Mrs. Madge Briggs had stipulated in her will that a sum of money was to be given to the Sheffield Branch for a Party. We circulated all members and a very happy reunion was held in her beloved Derbyshire. After a coach tour around the countryside, we had a delightful supper. Such a fitting and pleasant memory of a very dear friend.

After a change of meeting place from the Foresters Hall, via Guide House, we now meet at the Victoria Hall in most pleasant surroundings.

Our usual band of helpers were very active at The Spastics Bazaar once more serving refreshments, and we were represented at the various social and business occasions of the year, the A.G.M. Corps Day, Secretaries Meeting, Northern Area Meeting, and re-union. It was wonderful to have 3 Premium Bond prizes in Sheffield.

It is good to have Florence our Secretary back on our midst after her operation. One of our members is a Store Detective and we had a most interesting talk from her on the subject, a really amazing revelation. For our Christmas show this year we saw a stage production of "The Sound of Music" which was most enjoyable.

We spent another evening on a conducted tour of the Cutlers Hall and were privileged to see so many of the Treasures there. The display of silver was breathtaking, the cutlery unique. The whole building and its contents are just steeped in the history of Sheffield. Our season ended with our annual dinner, the usual happy event—the 24th.

SOUTHAMPTON. Meetings are still held each month and are very well attended. Our speakers have covered varied and interesting topics including a talk on a 'Visit to Moscow', 'The History of Palmistry' and 'Tricks an Traps of the Spy Game', given by an ex-Colonel of the U.S.A. Intelligence. We were gratified to hear that no member of the fairer sex had given away secrets of the

organisation in his command.

Thirty-Seven members and friends attended our Annual Dinner at the Berkeley Hotel and all agreed it was a happy occasion, we were so pleased to welcome our General Secretary Major Dixon as our Guest of Honour. The talk on the Benevolent Funds was most enlightening and we are forming new ideas to give extra help to ex-members

less fortunate than ourselves.

Thirty-Two members and friends left Southampton by coach for the Southern Area Re-union in May. We fortunately left the rain behind us as we travelled through the New Forest en-route for Bovington Camp Tank Museum, and then for tea at the Pavilion. Our congratulations to Weymouth and Portland Branch for a happy and enjoyable occasion.



Mrs. Alice Jones selling raffle tickets to Miss May Davies, Miss Betty Nutt and Mrs. May Beeston.

Photo by courtesy of The Express and Star

WOLVERHAMPTON. The Branch continues its meetings on the 4th Monday of each month in The Study of the Public Library, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton. Our membership is around 30, with one ex W.R.A.F. who we are pleased to have at our meetings. September we had a Bring & Buy Sale. October was our A.G.M., Miss Mary Davies was elected Chairman, Miss Betty Nutt Treasurer. November a Dutch Supper, when members brought a choice of eats, Sausage Rolls, Mince Pies, Cakes etc., Mrs. Dorothy Turley and our W.R.A.F. friend Miss Margaret Preston made a delicious Trifle. Mrs. Sansum Q.M.A.A.C., brought along a beautiful Xmas Cake, which we decided to keep for our New Years Dinner, and this took place at the beginning of January at the Gainsboro' Restaurant, and was well supported by members and friends, we also had the pleasure once again of the company of 3 members of Birmingham Branch. At the January meeting Miss Betty Tudor once again

delighted members with colour slide of her visit to Capri and Norway.

A donation of £5 was made to the Benevolent Fund and we thank members for the knitted squares and used postage stamps.

Premium Bond Draw

in aid of

THE PRINCESS ROYAL'S MEMORIAL FUND

Winning Tickets

1st Prize, £50.00 Premium Bond.

Ticket No. 12334. Mrs. E. M. Fitz-Avon, Taunton.

2nd Prize, £20.00 Premium Bond.

Ticket No. 19510. Miss M. S. MacMorran, Crowborough.

25 £1.00 Premium Bond Consolation Prizes.

Ticket No.

00880	Miss E. Powell	Canterbury
02766	Mrs. K. R. Young	Southampton
02773	Mrs. B. Keating	Chandlessford
02855	Mr. N. Cusworth	Weymouth
04813	Mrs. J. A. Bell	Sheffield
04931	Miss A. Walton	Doncaster
04969	Mrs. Tannett	Derbyshire
05895	Mrs. M. Davies	Liverpool
06007	Mrs. B. Hepworth	Liverpool
06068	Mrs. N. Brookfield	Winstanley Nr. Wigan
07101	Captain M. Mackenzie	10 Coy W.R.A.C.
07291	Captain A. I. Purton	R.M.C. Trg. Centre
10162	Sergeant O'Dell	B.F.P.O. 40.
13436	Miss M. L. Twinn	Richmond, Surrey
13528	Dame Leslie Whateley	London
13826	Sr. M. Eugene	Deal
14037	Sergeant James	R.P.O. Brighton
14430	Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon	London
17519	Mrs. B. Gowans	Malton, Yorks.
17823	Miss G. Hargrave	Loughborough
23871	Mrs. G. Frost	Swaffham
24353	Miss L. Van Daal	London
25552	Mrs. O. Horncastle	Woodford, Bridge
25786	Mrs. R. C. Waugh	London
27988	Private J. Dolan	W.R.A.C. Centre

The Premium Bond Draw was very successful (in spite of the Postal Strike which did its best to ruin our efforts at the last). Tickets to the value of £645.77p were sold and after expenses amounting to £153.54p which included £95.00 for the prizes, had been deducted £492.23p was handed to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. In addition we received £19.63p in donations from members for the Fund making a grand total of £511.86p. This, when invested will yield enough interest to provide for one more annuity of 50p per week.

Our grateful thanks are extended to all members who helped to make the Draw a success and especially to the members of Headquarter Area who responded so readily to our appeal.

Obituary

L.M.E. Writes

Miss B. Armitage

"It is with regret that I report on behalf of the members of the Hull Branch, the passing of Miss B. Armitage our senior member in her 82nd year. After serving in France during the First World War as a Store Forewoman, Miss Armitage spent some 30 years as Housekeeper to a Methodist Minister before taking up residence at Willersley

House, a Methodist Home for the Aged, where, being a martyr to Arthritis, she was looked after amid the countryside that she loved until shortly before her death".

Miss E. E. Bertrand

MANY ex-Q.M.A.A.C. will be sorry to learn of the death of Miss E. Bertrand, London Branch. She served first at Folkestone and later went to Camp 4 Querilly Rouen. After the war she was resident secretary at a Welfare Settlement in London for many years until she retired on account of ill health.

Mrs. M. S. Block

BOURNEMOUTH Branch regret to announce the death of Mrs. Mary Block (nee Knight) who served as a telegraphist Q.M.A.A.C. from May 1918 to November, 1919.

Miss A. Chapman

BATH Branch regret to announce the death of Miss Amy Chapman in her 80th year. Mrs. Chapman served as a forewoman Cook in Q.M.A.A.C. and was a loyal and active member of the Branch for many years. Kind, generous and with a terrific sense of humour, she will be greatly missed.

Miss C. A. Carruth

Miss M. E. Roberts

Miss M. A. Robinson

WE regret to announce the deaths of Miss C. A. Carruth of Glasgow Branch who served in the A.T.S. from 1943-46. Miss M. E. Roberts ex. Q.M.A.A.C. and Miss M. A. Robinson who also served in Q.M.A.A.C. in Rouen.

Mrs. E. Hankel

WE announce with regret the death of Mrs. Edith Hankel (nee Richardson) who was a Life member of the Association.

Mrs. Hankel served in the A.T.S. as a J. Comd. from February, 1939 to September, 1945, she helped to found Liverpool Branch and was its first Secretary. During her long illness her courage and fortitude were an inspiration to all who knew her.

Mrs. I. E. Hill

WE regret to announce the death of Mrs. Ida Hill on 6 April, 1971 at the age of 59.

Mrs. Hill served in the A.T.S. from 1940 to 1947 and became an administrative Warrant Officer II. Later for 4 years as a Sgt. Clerk Type T. We send our sympathy to her husband Mr. W. F. Hill.

Miss A. M. Master

YORK Branch regret to announce the death of Miss A. M. Master, a very popular and much respected member of our Branch.

She was in the service pre-war, and as a Junior Commander formed the local Clerical Company for York, rising to Senior Commander.

After the war Miss Master took a great interest, and an active part, not only in our Association, but in the British Legion, Child and Animal Welfare, Road Safety League and many local charities. She was also a county councillor for a number of years.

✱ She will be much missed throughout York.

Mrs. L. Moody

WE announce with regret the death of Mrs. Louisa Moody (nee McDonald) on 8th April, 71 aged 75, Mrs. Moody served as a Worker Q.M.A.A.C. with the B.E.F. in Rouen from March 1917 to November, 1918. We extend our sincere sympathy to her daughter Mrs. M. E. Davies of Wimbledon Branch.

Miss I. Roderick

THOSE who remember 'Roddy' during her long service in the United Kingdom and Middle East, and the enthusiasm with which she arranged entertainment of many kinds, will be sad to hear of her death on April 14th 1971. She was always cheerful and full of original ideas, and never spared herself in helping to keep others cheerful.

At the end of the war she returned to Australia, where she continued to serve in many ways, by training young people for the stage and ballet, as a Sister in the Sydney Methodist Mission, and a Lecturer and Speaker on, among other things, Dr. Barnardo's Homes. She always looked upon Britain as a second home and maintained contact with many of those with whom she served in the A.T.S. On her death the local Sub-Branch of the Returned Servicemen's League honoured her by giving her it's special form of funeral service, which was a very fitting tribute to one who had given so much.

Mrs. E. Tighe

E.E.M. Writes:—

"Mrs. Elizabeth Tighe, wife of Brigadier Tony Tighe, Commander Training Brigade Royal Signals, died on 15th April.

Elizabeth Frazer Stewart enrolled in Kirkaldy in 11th Fifeshire Coy A.T.S. in 1939. The Company was called out for duty with the Pay Office in Perth at the beginning of the war, and as a Section Leader A.T.S. she moved with it to Glasgow the following year and stayed with it for three years. After a year with the War Office M.T. Coy she was commissioned early in 1944. After three

U.K. Postings including 2½ years as clerical instructor at the Driver and Clerks Training Centre (then at Gresford) she was appointed Staff Captain 'A' at the H.Q. Ceylon Garrison in February 1949. There she met and married Captain P. A. M. Tighe, Royal Signals. She resigned her commission in September 1950.

The writer remembers her from 1940 as a gay, pretty girl. Latterly she has been struggling against encroaching illness with the same cheerful indomitable spirit and was determined on her feet until a few days before her untimely death.

Our sympathy is with Brigadier Tighe and their family.

Mrs. E. M. Ware

LEEDS Branch¹ regret to announce the death of Edith May Ware (nee Chapman) who served with the Q.M.A.A.C. (Signals) 1917 to 1919 and was mentioned in despatches whilst serving in Rouen.

In 1939 she re-enlisted in the A.T.S. but was discharged in 1940 owing to ill health. She was affectionately known as 'Taddy' and had always taken a keen interest in the Ex-Service members in spite of bad health for the past few years.

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Major: Capt. R. A. Holloway.
Major (Q.M.): Capt. (Q.M.) M. G. Fahy.
Major (Q.M.): Capt. (Q.M.) M. G. Fahy.
Captain: Lieuts. S. J. R. Watson, P. H. Dixon, H. R. Greenland
Captain (Q.M.): W.O. I T. M. Carroll.
Lieutenants: 2/Lieuts S. C. A. Wilson, F. D. Thomas, C. A. Wade, A. G. McVeagh, M. I. Rankine, S. D. Campbell, C. E. Lockwood, J. M. Starbuck.
2/Lieuts: on probation, S. C. A. Wilson, A. G. McVeagh, J. M. Starbuck are confirmed in their appointments.
2/Lieuts. on probation, M. T. McKenzie, C. M. Crawford, M. R. King, K. H. E. Meachem.

SPECIAL REGULAR COMMISSIONS

2/Lieut.: on probation, E. J. Wormack.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

Lieut.: 2/Lieut. P. Brennand.
Lieut. (Q.M.): W.O. I D. Jones.
2/Lieut. on probation, P. Brennand is confirmed in her appointment.
2/Lieut. on probation, C. M. Kimber, R. M. Lawrence, L. D. R. Watkin.

RETIREMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Lt. Colonel E. E. Michell.
Lt. Colonel (Q.M.) W. D. Andrews, O.B.E.
Major J. E. Parker.
Capt. (Q.M.) K. N. Dicker, B.E.M.
Lieutenants: D. F. Dixon, P. L. Bradbury, D. R. S. Luckyn Malone, I. A. Purton, S. A. Buchanan.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

M.B.E.: Capt. (Q.M.) T. M. Carroll.
B.E.M.: A/Sgt. W. E. Bugg.

Officers' Postings

(1 Apr-30 June 71)

Lt. Col. R. M. Engel, A.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q. Northern Command.
 Maj. E. G. Pritchard Davies, W.S.L.O. Chatham.
 Maj. F. M. Cook, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q. Scotland.
 Maj. E. R. Denne, M.B.E., W.R.A.C. Centre—H.S. (for attachment to H.Q. Northern Ireland).
 Maj. J. F. M. S. Tait, D.A.A.G.(o), M.O.D. A.G.16.
 Maj. D. J. Temple, A.S.P.T.
 A/Maj. L. H. Campion, D.A.D.W.R.A.C. M.O.D. W.R.A.C. 1(b)
 Capt. B. Bluman, 4 Comms Unit.
 Capt. C. D. Green, W.R.A.C. Centre—H.S. (attending Junior Comm- and and Staff Course).
 Capt. A. K. Brown, Regimental Depot R.A.O.C.
 Capt. S. D. Macey, A.C.O. (W.S.) Sheffield.
 Capt. (Q.M.) M. J. Evans, 10 Coy W.R.A.C.
 A/Capt. A. A. Hutchinson, M.O.D. A.G. 16.
 A/Capt. A. C. Smith, J.O.C.P.T. (H.Q. BAOR).
 A/Capt. G. P. M. Brown, R.A.V.C. Training Centre.
 A/Capt. P. R. Pearse, 16 Sig. Regt.
 A/Capt. J. M. Phillips, J.S.C.S. Latimer.
 A/Capt. A. D. Peal, W.R.A.C. College.
 A/Capt. C. A. Sykes, W.R.A.C. Centre (P.S.O.)
 Lt. P. A. Bryant, 242 Sig. Sqn.
 Lt. A. G. McVeagh, 29 Coy W.R.A.C.
 Lt. F. D. Ponikowski, S.E.M.E.
 Lt. S. D. McWade, 233 Sig. Sqn.
 Lt. J. A. Mason, W.R.A.C. Centre—H.S. (attending Work Study Course).
 Lt. (Q.M.) D. Jones, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 2/Lt. I. Thwaites, P. & E.E. Shoeburyness.
 2/Lt. J. E. Marrs, J.O.C.P.T. (Salisbury).
 2/Lt. W. A. Le Gassick, 8 Sig. Regt.
 2/Lt. M. R. King, 68 Sqn. R.C.T.
 2/Lt. B. A. Fraser, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 2/Lt. M. Fenn, 16 Sig. Regt.
 2/Lt. P. K. Jarman, 59 Sig. Regt.
 2/Lt. J. M. Whenmouth, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 2/Lt. S. F. Stewart, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 2/Lt. B. A. Evans, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 2/Lt. M. A. White, 10 Sig. Regt.
 2/Lt. E. D. Elliot, Army Aviation Centre.
 2/Lt. A. C. Leach, W.R.A.C. Centre.

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Major P. J. NYE (Ret'd.) W.R.A.C.,
 Bankfield Grange,
 COWFOLD, Sussex.

A.T.S. Dinner Club. The Annual Dinner will be held at Derry & Toms Kensington, on Saturday, 2nd October, 1971. Membership is open to anyone who served in the A.T.S. New members welcome. Information from the Secretary: Miss P. A. Rutter, 11 Roundhill Grove, Southdown, Bath.

Glasgow Recruiting Vacancy. A post for a WRAC Recruiting Sergeant is available in the Glasgow area. Applicants must have completed two years service in the Corps and held NCO rank. A current driving licence is desirable. Age should not exceed 35 years. Must reach the required medical standard. Brief details of experience and qualifications should be sent to Major M. Sharp MBE WRAC, Army Careers Information Office, 518 Sauchiehall Street, GLASGOW C2 or telephone 041-332 9196.

Warrant Officers' Postings

(1 April—30 June 71)

W/374403 W.O. I.A. M. Doig, 10 Coy W.R.A.C.
 W/352511 W.O. II L. D. L. Dawson, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 W/313415 W.O. II H. W. G. Thomson, H.Q. Northern Command.
 W/353881 A/W.O. II J. Edwards, Trade Trg. School, R.A.O.C.

Personal Column

Charges

Personal Column. 3 lines 30p, each additional line 10p, box office numbers included, Non members 50% more. Notices of forthcoming reunions where admission is charged may be inserted at a cost 10p a line.

For Sale. Officers Green Greatcoat, only slightly worn. Size 36-28-38, length 45", fit 5' 4". Price £15. Box No. 3/71.

For Sale. Officer's No. 1 Dress Uniform, as new. Officers greatcoat. Size 38-30-40 Height 5' 5". Box No. 4/71.

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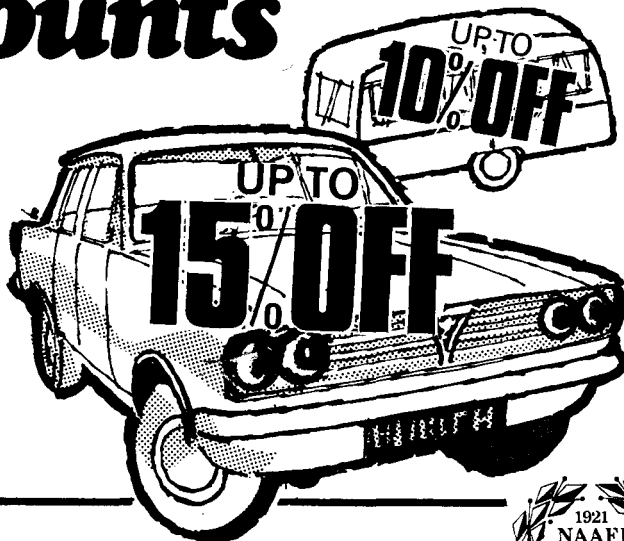
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