

R. Goodchild

# N. F. S.

## FIREWOMEN'S MAGAZINE ..

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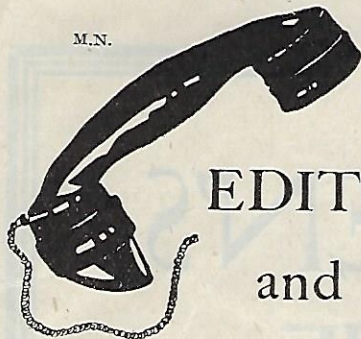
### AT THE HOME OFFICE

*Mrs. Betty Cuthbert, O.B.E., Chief Woman Fire Officer (seated), with (reading from left to right) Mrs. Keith and Mrs. Hicks (Staff Officers), and Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Barker (Inspectorate).*

*Photograph by courtesy of the Associated Press of Great Britain, Ltd.,  
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M.N.



## EDITORIAL and NEWS

Everyone will be interested in our cover picture for this issue. Following as it does on Mrs. Cuthbert's Christmas Message in the November-December issue, all readers will join in congratulating her, not only on appearing in the New Year's Honours List but also on her new title in the Service. The other members of the Home Office Staff shown in the picture are known by now to many of us, but whereas notes on Mrs. Keith and Mrs. Hicks appeared some time ago, a few words about Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Barker may be welcome.

Both joined the W.A.F.S. in 1938, Mrs. Barker as a driver, her previous occupations having included farming, haulage contracting, and lorry driving. She was one of the first two women attached to the old "No. 6 Brompton," but in June, 1940, went as Company Officer to "No. 3 Westminster" and worked there through the Blitz, in which she was sometimes driving, sometimes mobilising. Connected with the latter, a good story is told of her calmness in emergency. A special list of appliances had been prepared long in advance to deal with any possible "occurrence" at Buckingham Palace. When the actual night came, with its urgent message, Mrs. Barker was at the board. At the moment, not an appliance of any sort was available, special list or no! So she merely replied to the 'phone call: "No attendance for Buckingham Palace"—and that was that! Mrs. Barker saw service at other London stations, but finding life rather dull after previous excitements she put in for a job on the Home Office Inspectorate—and that again was that!

When questioned, Mrs. Rose first said she had had a full time job as housewife, with a husband and two sons (one is now in the Tank Corps), but at last told me of work following the last war. She was then in the Civil Service as an executive officer with the Ministry of Pensions. She supervised both men and women, and was particularly concerned with getting demobilised men back into jobs again, work in which she was extremely successful. When she first joined the W.A.F.S. she was attached to Acton and gained the rank of Sub-Officer—which in Outer London corresponded to that of Group Commander in Inner London (approximately the Group Officer of to-day). Her administrative work included preparing the men's wages, by the way! She attended the first Women's Course at the N.F.S. Training College, Brighton, and in March, '42, went to F.F. 34 H.Q. at Ealing. She found work on Establishment Records unsatisfying, and thus she too progressed to the H.O. Inspectorate.

Now, both Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Barker are well known all over England and Wales, for they have completed one round of the Regions. Theirs is an arduous job. They are constantly travelling, in itself no joy under present conditions, especially with accommodation also likely to be uncertain or uncomfortable at the conclusion of the day. Their duties

are concerned with the efficiency and welfare of the women of the N.F.S. Their past great experience on "Front Line" service as firewomen has qualified them for all points regarding training, control, drills, and so on; and their understanding of human nature is expressed as they enquire into health, quarters, and catering conditions—the last-mentioned a part of the work which entails eating the meals they see prepared! Their job requires great initiative, great tact, and great enthusiasm, but—as they say themselves—it is "absorbingly interesting."

And now, congratulations to Ourselves. For at long last and after a persistent campaign, SCOTLAND has joined us! In other words, Region XI now has Magazine Representatives for four of its Areas: we welcome them wholeheartedly and look forward to increasing News from o'er the Border. We also welcome Representatives for F.F.s 26, 39, 40 and 43, and the newcomers for Region VII.

Special attention too, please, to the article in the "We Serve" series, by Part-time Group Officer Davie. She is a South African, as is also her husband, Professor T. Davie, Pathologist of Liverpool University.

See also the first article in the new "In the Libraries" series. This is a strange coincidence. The Editor had decided to start this series and had her article ready, when the suggestion and article was submitted by Fw. Underwood. Hers therefore leads the way, and the Editor's will appear in the next issue. The series will be open to other contributors.

### No. I (Northern) Region

First of all may I take this opportunity of extending, on behalf of all the subscribers to the Magazine in No. 1 (Northern) Region, our best wishes to our fellow subscribers throughout the country for a happy, and, we hope, a peaceful New Year.

The Xmas spirit certainly has not been latent among members of the National Fire Service in No. 1 Region. News this time comes from all parts of the Region of parties, dancing and games enjoyed, in spite of war-time restrictions, in the good old Xmas style. Assistant Group Officer Greenwood from 2 "D" Divisional Headquarters tells us of a party organised by the part-time female personnel at Divisional Headquarters and Sub-Division 1, from the money allotted to them from the Social Club for Xmas. By all accounts the evening was a great success and the efforts of the part-time firewomen were much appreciated.

On January 16th, 1943, an informal opening of the No. 1 Area Firewomen's Club was held at No. 1 Area Training School, Newcastle. Among those present were the Chief Regional Fire Officer, Mr. T. Breaks; the Senior Regional Fire Staff Officer, Mr. L. Corbrick; the Regional Woman Fire Officer, Mrs. McIlquham; and the Fire Force Commander of No. 1 Area, Mr. G. Bennison, as well as Women Officers and representatives, both whole-time and part-time, from every Division in the Area.

The Fire Force Commander was in the Chair and the Club was opened by the Regional Woman Fire Officer, Mrs. McIlquham, who said how pleased she was that such a Club had been formed. Not only would it be possible to hold social functions but members would also be able to sleep and feed there, and when further accommodation was available, it would be possible to extend hospitality to firewomen from other Regions when travelling through Newcastle. She wished the Club every success and expressed the hope that there would be a large membership.



After a very good tea progressive games were played amidst much mirth and merriment. Our thanks go to the Hostess, Group Officer Smith, and all those responsible for organising a successful and happy afternoon and evening. It is hoped that this will be the forerunner of many more such social gatherings.

B. G. C.

### Region III

#### F.F. 7

A Christmas Party, arranged by the Social Committee of F.F. 7 Area H.Q., was held on December 30th at Allestree Hall, Derby. The proceedings commenced with supper, skilfully arranged by H.Q. Catering Staff, at which the Fire Force Commander and the Deputy Fire Force Commander were present. The attractive layout of the tables, coupled with a few catering miracles arranged by A.G.O. Garrett, ensured a happy start to the festivities, a fitting climax to this being the retirement of the senior male members of the staff to the kitchen, in order to take part in a "pot-washing exercise."

The main attraction of the evening was an excellent concert by the "Stag's Concert Party," during which several successes were scored by topical allusions to certain members of the Staff—the "Column Officer" jokes being especially appreciated. This was followed by a surprise visit from Santa Claus—who, on closer inspection turned out to be Column Officer Cooke. He proceeded to distribute gifts from the Christmas Tree to all members present, each gift being accompanied by an amusing couplet concerning the recipient. A special mention must be made in appreciation of the hard work executed by A.G.O. Hall in connection with this ceremony. The rest of the evening, which was all too short, was spent in dancing; the M.C. for this and all the evening's enjoyment being Senior Company Officer W. R. Robinow.

C. B., Area H.Q.

#### F.F. 10

A series of Social Evenings is being held at Area Headquarters, Louth. On January 5th, Jack Middleton's Concert Party, Grimsby, were the artistes for the opening evening. On January 19th, the entertainers were the Maythorne Accordion Band, Grimsby, under the direction of Cyril Smith. The party included Pearl Finning.

On January 26th, the N.F.S. Messengers held a party at Grimsby Town Hall, when members of the various Youth Organisations were amongst the guests which

numbered over 300. The Mayor and Mayoress were present. Music was provided by the N.F.S. Dance Band under the direction of Fm. Leeman. The organisations represented included Sea Cadets, A.T.C., Army Cadets, Girls' Training Corps, A.R.P. Messengers, and Police Messengers, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

At the Arts and Crafts Exhibition held in Louth, January 26th-31st, the exhibits included 50 toys made by N.F.S. personnel out of debris. These were all made by firemen in their spare time, and were afterwards given to War-time Day Nurseries in Lincolnshire.

(For other notes from this Region see page 12.—Ed.)

### Region IV

#### F.F. 11

The N.F.S. No. 11 Area Players have had a good run with "George and Margaret," which has now been played at Romford, Wickham, Stanford, Stanstead, Felstead and Chelmsford. Many dances and social evenings have been organised in addition to children's Christmas parties. Concerts and M.O.I. Film Shows and Lectures have been given in many parts of the Area. Numerous sports events, including darts, table tennis and football.

#### F.F. 12

There have been several changes throughout the Area comparatively recently, those most directly affecting these Headquarters being the transfers of Fire Force Commander G. T. Hill and Senior Area Officer Weaver to No. 40 Area. A hearty welcome was extended to Fire Force Commander W. E. Norwood (late of the London Fire Forces), and to him, and those who have left us, we send best wishes for happiness and success in their new undertakings.

The first event organised by the recently-formed Social and Sports Committee at Area 12 Headquarters was a Supper and Social on December 30th. A hearty meal of Xmas fare was followed by jolly games and dancing—the only discordant "note" being "Sam Small's top 'g' while 'on the air.'" The merriment ended with Auld Lang Syne and a general endorsement of "Let's have another one" (Party, of course!).

S. E. J., F.F. 12 H.Q.



"For men must  
work . . ."

"Pot-washing  
Exercise," in  
Region III.



## Region V

### F.F. 34, "A," "B" and "C" Divisions

Christmas celebrations have been some of the main interests since the last issue. In most stations the control and watchrooms were manned with skeleton staff, which enabled the majority to enjoy the fun. "B" Division H.Q. held a Dance Xmas Eve and Boxing Night to enable all the watches to take part. Both days the whole personnel sat down together to a very excellent dinner of soup, turkey, plum pudding and mince pies. After the speeches on Boxing Day the officers, led by the D/O, took off their coats, rolled up their sleeves and washed and dried all the dishes, a most sporting act and much appreciated by all.

The whole station was decorated most artistically with holly from the garden. The men's messroom was used as the social room, the walls were decorated with cutouts designed by a L/Firewoman, and a large Xmas tree, covered in fairy lights, stood in one corner of the room. In the afternoon a party was given to all the firemen's children, and S/L Kaplan, dressed as Santa Claus, gave presents to all the children. They were then entertained by a very clever conjurer. This gave them great pleasure for about an hour, when they were taken downstairs to the women's messroom for a very large tea. The evening rounded up with a dance.

C.3.W celebrated on January 3rd with a children's party, which catered for 80 children and parents. The party started at 2 p.m. They played games until 2.30 and then enjoyed a Punch and Judy show, which gave pleasure and amusement to the adults as well as the children. Following on was a Film Show, given by Frmn. Dycka (C.3.W). The usual break for tea, with all its goodies, and then Father Xmas (Frmn. Southam, the station's comic) gave the presents. The toys were made by personnel at the station and great credit goes to all who helped, particularly the firewomen who played a major part in making the dolls and animals. The Brigade Organiser, Frmn. Rye, wishes to express his sincere thanks to all firewomen at the station for their help and the hard work put in by them.

The Women's Squad Drill and Trailer Pump Competition kept a great many firewomen busy. They were most exciting events and considering the short time given to prepare for these competitions, the result was certainly excellent. It was the outcome of really hard work and constant training. Our congratulations to the winners and also to those who ran a close second, third and fourth.

We have been glad to welcome the "Silver Band," which has given pleasure and enjoyment to some of the stations in "B" Division on several occasions, and we welcome Fwmn. Sheila Blades, a newcomer to the Brigade. I hope we shall have the pleasure of hearing her sing more often.

J. H. L.

### F.F. 35

Our main feature this month is squad drill as in most other regions. "D" Division are proud to be the winners of the Inter-Division Competition which took place last month. The following poem describes what happened during a recent practice for the Inter-Area Competition in the Region, for a cup which is being presented by Miss Oddy, late Area Officer of 35 Area, and now at H.Q., Lambeth:—

When we went down Lambeth Way  
Moggie by herself did play,  
From us all did walk away—  
Markers never wrong, they say!  
There upon the balcony  
Stood our worried F.F.C.,  
Off went Moggie joyfully,  
Squad thought she'd made a date for tea!  
Then she turned her form once more,  
Faced our dear Commander H—  
Back of squad she plainly saw  
Moggie! Well, for evermore!

Our congratulations go to our F.F.C. on his marriage. We hope he will find happiness in a troubled world.

E. F.

## Women's Mobile Reserve Unit

The first Women's Mobile Reserve Unit for 35 Area left W.T.C., Cholmeley Park, on Sunday, 3rd January, to report back to their stations, after one month's refresher course, combined with Mobile Reserve duties.

These pioneers took part in several exercises, the last being at a Sub-Divisional Control in No. 37 Area. This they took over with such success that their advent passed unnoticed in the Divisional Control.

The girls are resident, and "on the run," but manage to find time for sport, as well as instruction. Would anyone like a Netball Match? If so, contact Leading Firewoman Tobin, at address mentioned above. A piano would be most acceptable for their recreation. Can anyone oblige with the loan (or gift) of one?

C. M. St. J.

### F.F. 36

It is good news that "C" Division has raised £50. 1s. 3d. for the Prisoners of War Red Cross Fund, and managed to send 100 Red Cross Parcels.

This fine result was achieved by means of the personnel of the Division making toys in their spare time, and then raffling them at whist drives and socials which were themselves in aid of the Red Cross.

For other news from us see Fmn. Berman's article on page 12.

I. C.

### F.F. 37, A.1.Z

Tuesday, 8th December, 37 A.1.Z Mobile Reserve with six of the W.N.F.S. (five from A.1.Z and one from A.2.W) gave a very fine show in aid of the British Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund. The gym. was absolutely crowded and the very appreciative audience showed their approval by a great deal of laughter and applause as the various items were given. Fireman Bush sang "Jealousy" and "Farewell to Dreams," with "Trees" as an encore. Fwmn. Lovelock (A.1.Z) had quite a large part of the show singing numerous melodies throughout the evening, including "Song of the Island." Fwmn. Betts danced a "Hula," looking most attractive in a grass skirt, whilst L/Fwmn. Adams and Fwmn. Cook (in sarongs) and L/Frmn. Dillon looked on; the last named, in a most possessive manner ere he sang "I want to go back to my little grass shack." The whole scene was very colourful and was produced after only one rehearsal. There were some amusing sketches, including "Who wants to be a Producer?" "Rescue," and "The Thought Reader." The *pièce de résistance* of the evening was, perhaps, "The Southwark Ballerinas," these being six Firemen from the Mobile Reserve who did an amusing ballet scene which gained uproarious laughter. Credit goes to L/Frmn. Phillips, who so ably managed and produced the show, seconded by L/Frmn. Dillon and Frmn. Cooper. A good sum resulted for the Fund, augmented by the collection made by nurses from the Evalina Hospital.

Southwark has again been fortunate in having a number of very good dances in aid of the Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund and the Benevolent Fund. The "lettered" stations also gave some. In addition the M.R. gave a show in conjunction with Southwark's First Aid Party Troupe of Nigger Minstrels. The highlight of the evening was the "Can-Can" deftly danced by "Six Hefties" of 37 A.1 Mobile Reserve. Following this there was a film presentation of "South Rising," based on Winifred Holtby's famous novel of the same name.

Our grievance this month is losing our G.O., Miss Heather, who has endeared herself to all during her much too short stay here, and who has now gone to 37, B.1, New Cross, where we hope she will be very happy and settle down as



quickly as she did here. In her stead we welcome G.O. Bennett, from Shooters Hill, who has so ably taken her place, also winning all the girls' hearts by her understanding ways.

The general interest of the moment is the "Mobilising Quiz" Competition. At the time of writing A.I. Sub-Division are top of the first league, not having lost a match up to date.

E. R. 37, A.I.Z.

### Discussion Group Notes

On Wednesday, 6th January, Mr. Hannen Swaffer, the distinguished journalist, dramatic critic and author, visited A.I.Z., and for one-and-a-half hours ably sustained his reputation for versatility. He told his audience he had set himself a number of questions, ranging from the Sunday opening of theatres to the North African Campaign. He then proceeded to answer himself, and judging from the applause, "went down well."

It is planned to have other speakers every fortnight to talk about their own jobs or interests in life. The next meeting of the Group at A.I.Z. will be on 19th February, when Miss Rachel Ferguson and Miss Campbell Thomson will speak on books and authors. Miss Ferguson is the author of such popular books as "Alas, poor Lady," "Celebrated Sequels," and "A Harp in Lowndes Square." Miss Campbell Thomson is not only well known as an author, but also as editor of the "Not at Night" series, that remarkable collection of gruesome thrillers which has run into several editions.

This should make an entertaining evening of contrasted styles, and merit a full house that will encourage the writer of these notes to arrange further discussions on subjects of varied interest.

Frnm. W. Roberts.

### F.F. 38, "E" Division

While congratulating "A" Division on winning the Squad Drill Competition in the Area Final, held at Old Town, Croydon, on Thursday, December 10th, we feel especially pleased with our own "E" Division team, who came second with only two points behind the winners, and whose fine show was enhanced by their Instructress, Fw. Hodge, of E.4. Keep it up, Squad! Group Offr. Corcoran, whose enthusiasm and encouragement had helped so much during training, entertained the team to a very enjoyable tea at the Granada, Sutton, after the competition.

Now for the Trailer Pump Teams. Get together girls; we'll be first this time!

G. A. Y.

### "F" Division

We were very proud of "F" Division when they were placed 3rd, with 105 points out of a possible 110, in the Squad Drill Divisional Competition, held on 10th December. Some of our firewomen also took part in the Area Drill Display, held at Regional H.Q. on 19th; these included a Pump Crew; and our girls also appeared in a fire scene and gave a smart display of wet drill.

In December, too, the El-Jays Male Voice Choir gave two performances at the Davis Theatre, Croydon, and had a grand reception. Started eight months ago by men at F.I.X., Fn. Newman now has a choir of 18, complete with two pianists, Fn. Salmon and Fw. Ivy Hedges, the latter equally at home playing the keys of a piano or a switchboard. The choir have just been appearing as the male chorus in "Jack and the Beanstalk," ably produced by Fn. Donald, with Fn. Stan Greville as Dame Twitchett, and Fw. Joyce Carter as Jack. Our two pianists provided the music, and the remainder of the cast were all from "F" Division. A "Bon Voyage" Social was held just before Christmas as farewell to some of the N.F.S. leaving us to join the Forces; and there was also a party for L/Fw. Bill (leaving us as A.G.O. at F.F.H.Q.), and A.G.O. Gosling, returning to B.2.Z., where she used to serve as a firewoman. This last affair was held on New Year's Eve, and Group Offr. Young presented these two Officers with bouquets of carnations.

Firewomen of

Region II,

F.F. 5 H.Q.





## Region VII

No. VII Region, recently reorganised, now has a fourth Area F.F. 39, covering Gloucester and Wiltshire, to which has been appointed Assistant Area Officer I. A. Atkinson. Mrs. Atkinson, recently of Newcastle, is very enthusiastic about this Area and has commenced her new duties in earnest. There is, of course, a very large mileage to be covered and much work ahead. We wish Mrs. Atkinson every success for 1943.

Senior Area Officer to F.F. 17, Mrs. McClintock, has left us for other work, and her place has now been taken by Senior Area Officer Mrs. Grant, late Group Officer to "A" Division. Mrs. Grant has an intimate knowledge of operational work and the special requirements of the Bristol District and surrounding Area, and is fully conversant with blitz work. The women personnel in F.F. 17 greet her appointment with enthusiasm and good wishes.

*E. L. Lee, Regional Woman Staff Officer.*

## No. VII Regional Training School

We are hoping to feature regularly the new No. VII Regional Reserve Station and Training School, which commenced with several courses at Bickleigh, but has since removed to Lee Mill, S. Devon, where the first Course—an O.C.T.U.—has just been completed.

The inauguration of this School coincided with a visit to the Region by the Home Secretary, the Right Honourable Mr. Herbert Morrison, accompanied by the Regional Commissioner for No. VII Region, General Sir Hugh Elles, and many other notable officials. The weather held fine for the occasion and a commendable parade was inspected, consisting of 100 men and 50 firewomen, who looked smart and attractive in their uniforms.

The Home Secretary showed considerable interest in the daily life of the students as well as the Syllabus of Training on the Course; also in inspecting the sleeping quarters, canteens and kitchens, lecture halls, mobilising rooms and recreational facilities, etc. Squad Drill and Physical Training were of particular interest, whilst the Obstacle Course demonstrations proved a novel feature, and the proceedings closed with an address by Mr. Morrison and presentation of prizes to the winning team.

The natural layout of the site at Lee Mill provides fullest possible facilities for training of every description, and a qualified Instructional Staff has been appointed under the Commandant, Divisional Officer Briancourt, recently of Brighton College, whilst the Women's Section are fortunate in securing the services of Group Officer Guy, who has been appointed Director of Women's Studies.

## No. 17 F.F. Training School

No. 2, "Downleaze," was officially opened in October last, and since that day has made rapid strides. Situated on Durdham Downs, the lecture rooms overlook scenery which is unsurpassed in summer or winter.

Here we specialise in Mobilising Courses and Basic Training and the firewomen are intensely interested after the first few days of homesickness! Our senior instructor is A.G.O. Johnstone, whose particular "reference" is Mobilising, and she is never happier than when demonstrating the Mobilising Boards to "No. 1 Squad." Then we have L/Fwmn. Biggs, who specialises in "Fire and General Logs," and L/Fwmn. Fudge, who, although "tiny," certainly knows her "appliances."

Recently we have incorporated cooking and driving into our syllabus and although we all have to sample the

cooking, reports have been received that the students actually put on weight at "Downleaze," this in spite of the daily P.T. and Squad Drill!

As a "sample" of our work here is a "Lecturette" given by Fwmn. Bishop, of 17 A.Z.Z.—

"My question is 'Should discipline be enforced in the Fire Service, and Why?'"

Now the word itself comes from the Latin *Disziplinam*, meaning learning, education, instruction, training; I am sure you will all agree that we have received plenty of learning and instruction at "Downleaze," which we hope has gone in and pray will come out on Friday at the examination time. To-day, however, the word as we interpret it means a rule of conduct which MUST be observed, particularly when we are members of an organisation which is serving the whole nation.

My answer to the first part of the question is, therefore, 'Yes.' The Navy, Army and Air Force are known as the fighting forces, and are subject to discipline. We in the Fire Service also fight, and when we do, it is with as much urgency and energy as they. Our enemy is 'FIRE,' dearest of friends, but deadliest of foes; our ally is WATER, which we must with all speed bring to the battlefield. It is a job of extreme urgency, and in war-time, especially, at any moment we may be called upon to muster all our forces in defence of our loved country.

Discipline makes for efficiency in the work that we do, and does ensure justice for individuals. Discipline from every member of a body of people makes an efficient WHOLE and ensures ORDER throughout the entire structure.

Now if we look at the NATURAL WORLD we see that the first law of the Universe is ORDER. The shining army of the stars and planets move in their appointed place with majestic regularity. The seasons march in dignified procession year in and year out. Our own bodies, wonderful pieces of mechanism as they are when disciplined, respond with promptitude to the slightest exertion of our will, enabling us to use the physical and mental powers with which we have been endowed to the fullest extent of which they are capable. We notice in any place where people live or work together, if LAW and ORDER abide, there everything is good for everyone—even in our HOMES, where we feel most free and easy, there is bound to be a certain order if all is to go well. If discipline is practised day by day, whether we feel like it, or whether we do not; if we respond in obedience to any command from those above us, no matter how trivial that order may seem to be, then discipline will become a HABIT, and in an emergency it is habit which prevails.

I would now like to point out, that though we are each one of us a part of a disciplined service, we are yet individuals, not machines, but MEN and WOMEN. We embrace discipline of our own will when we joined a service—so in this connection, if I may be permitted, I would mention that there are different ways of enforcing discipline. We as firewomen look to those who have the authority to enforce it for justice, tolerance and understanding. As Divisional Officer Kay in his lecture so ably elucidated, enforcing discipline is an ART, there is a time to be lenient and a time to be severe.

It may perhaps seem hard to some of us to be alert, watchful and obedient in these rather difficult lull periods which we are at present experiencing, and though at these times discipline may seem irksome, let us follow it with zest and patience, so that if and when the moment comes, we may calmly, quickly and efficiently fill our office, whatever it may be. For at any time the enemy in a last fury of rage may hurl all his remaining strength against us, and if this happens, it is our background of discipline that will help us most; we shall be able to use all our reserves to the full, in defending our own lovely towns and other towns in our land, and help us to save the lives and homes of our fellow men and women."

I can only conclude with the hope that if we can turn out all firewomen from No. 17 Area Training School with these same ideals, then our efforts will not have been in vain!

*G/O Brewer, Commandant.*

## FF. 39, "B" Division

It is now just over a year since the National Fire Service came into being. Great changes have had to take place during that time in order to weld brigades all over Britain into this present great service of defence.

Especially has the female personnel increased to an enormous extent, and it is we who can do so much to help the service to work as one unit. Perhaps we grumble sometimes at small happenings, become impatient with complicated procedure; but when the



great test comes if we do not all move as one, then we may easily fail in our job of saving life and preventing destruction. Let us always maintain that standard of discipline so necessary to a nation-wide organisation; for discipline is not belittling, rather it makes for stronger self control and a greater humility: attributes which will be so essential when we are all doing our part in constructing a permanent peace in a new and better world.

Let us make sure that in days to come the firemen will say, "We take off our hats to the N.F.S. girls, they did a good job." It is only by achieving unity now that we can be sure that whatever comes we can take it.

*L/Fwmm. E. Prothero.*

## Region IX

### F.F. 24

Our third Christmas has come and gone, not quite so festive, but just as gay—parties everywhere and plenty of good things to eat.

All Divisions in Birmingham made toys. These were displayed and then some were distributed at parties and the rest sent on to various Children's Homes. Lucky were the children who received these toys, the workmanship of which was first-class.

We also got up a collection for Dr. Barnardo's Homes—some Divisions holding competitions—such as guessing the weight of a cake, etc.—in their efforts to help this very worthy cause, and the grand total collected was £230. 8s. od.

We are all very busy on Mobilising, Officers' and Instructors' Courses, and we have quite recently had a visit from the Home Office Inspectorate.

Every good wish to all our firewomen friends in other Regions for 1943, from Area 24.

*I. M. H.*

## Region X

### F.F. 28

Months of fruitless search for a building suitable for an Area Training School were at last rewarded by the discovery of Darley House, Farnworth. Fresh paper and paint both inside and outside changed the appearance of the house. Students reported at 09.00 hours on the 2nd November and the formal opening by the Fire Force Commander, supported by the Mayor of Farnworth and other members of the Council, was arranged for the afternoon. To our horror a water tank burst and when the tour of inspection was made the landing was strewn with plumbers' tools.

However, such difficulties have been overcome and training is now in full swing. Squad drill is a daily event—weather permitting—and is carried out on a nearby hard tennis court. Physical training is included in the curriculum. Separate controls have been arranged so that large scale C.E.N.A. exercises can be and are held. Arrangements have also been made for the students to do the control room work while the men at their Training School carry out the exercise on the tactical table. The students also attend at the Men's School to observe a water relay exercise.

Part-time members come for week-end courses—so the staff are kept very busy.

Sub-Division 2 has sustained a great loss in the death of Leading Firewoman Embrey, whose devotion to duty was of high esteem. Her popularity amongst the personnel will make her sadly missed by all. We extend our sympathy to her husband, mother, father and sister.

*L/Fwmm. A. B. Home.*

### F.F. 29

A very Happy New Year to firewomen all over the country and to all readers of the N.F.S. FIREWOMEN'S MAGAZINE, from F.F. 29 Area.

Dances have been held in "A" Division, many in aid of the Benevolent Fund, which has benefited considerably from efforts made in the Area. Congratulations are extended to A.G.O. Reid on her promotion to Group Officer and to all the firewomen who have recently been promoted in this Division. "B" Division firewomen have been active as usual this month and dances in aid of the Benevolent Fund have taken place regularly. The social life in "D" Division over the Christmas holidays has been very gay and the social committees are to be congratulated on their splendid work. A marvellous array of soft toys for the "Children's Day Nurseries" were made by the firewomen: as a result they have been invited to visit the nurseries at any time.

There is little to report from "C" Division this month. A cordial welcome is extended to A.G.O. Smethurst, recently transferred to "C" from Area Headquarters, and it is certain that she will receive wholehearted co-operation from all personnel. An event which caused a great deal of interest was a raffle in aid of the Benevolent Fund, the prize being a "String of Onions." The fortunate winner was Mr. Wilcock, an ex-member of the Fire Service, who was the envy of all. The weekly dances, organised by the social committee, are attracting larger attendances week by week, and these are fast becoming one of the main recreational features. The part-time firewomen are now being issued with uniform and they are already longing for the next parade.

The "hey-day" of the month in "F" Division was the wedding of A.G.O. Scott to Mr. Edward Smith, of Birkenhead. Full and part-time personnel presented the bride with a cut glass cocktail set on a silver tray and also an oak chair for her writing desk. A guard of honour was formed outside the church by thirty firewomen in uniform. Lectures on Mobilising and Water Relay are in full swing in "F" Division and the Section Leaders who give the lectures are gazed at with awe and deep respect as they discuss "Pumps in Transit" and "Hypothetical Relay Points"???? Part-time personnel are at last being issued with uniform (the war must be nearly over, after all). *M. L. J.*

### F.F. 43

Owing to the remote position of No. 43 Area Fire Force Headquarters, the majority of the staff are resident on the premises, but every effort is made to provide social and recreational functions.

A Dinner and Dance, attended by the entire resident staff, was held during Christmas week, and those on duty during the Christmas and New Year holidays spent a very enjoyable time, due to the kindness and generosity of Fire Force Commander C. V. Hall and Mrs. Hall. Deputy Fire Force Commander D. Kernohan and Mrs. Kernohan also joined us.

"A" Division celebrated Christmas by holding a Grand Concert in the N.F.S. Canteen. The programme was provided by L Fwmm. Shearer's Party and was so much appreciated that a return engagement has been demanded.

On Sunday, January 17th, an Army Concert Party, including a number of well-known variety stars, gave a show for N.F.S. personnel at the Canteen and it is sincerely hoped that the "Stars in Battle Dress" will pay us another visit.

The officers, firemen and firewomen of "B" Division have proved that their capabilities are not limited to fire fighting and mobilising. A very pleasant social evening was spent at the N.F.S. Club, Barrow, on Christmas Eve, when the only Prime Special attending, were music and mirth.

A very successful dance was held in the Town Hall, Kendal, and the proceeds devoted to the N.F.S. Benevolent Fund. Representatives from 43 Area Fire Force H.Q. included the Area Officer, Miss L. L. Wright, and the Deputy Fire Force Commander, Mr. D. Kernohan. *N. C. C.*



## Region XI (Scotland)

### No. 4 Eastern Area (Dundee)

I felt quite proud to know that my name was the first you had received as a Magazine Representative from Scotland. The Magazine is most interesting and will help us all to get to know our fellow firewomen throughout Britain. Although we perhaps over the Border may work differently from our sisters in England, we are all aiming at the same goal—victory. I sincerely hope that through the Magazine we may all get to know and understand each other and so forge a bond of friendship which will continue for many a long day.

You were asking me to tell you something about our work here in No. 4 Eastern Area, Region XI. We have at present 255 full-time and 134 part-time girls in the Area. Our hours are somewhat similar to those worked in England, and our uniform is the same as that worn by our English sisters. I do hope that by the time your next issue is ready for publication, I shall be in a position to forward you further information.

*M. H. MacNab.*

### Region XII.

Saturday, 2nd January, saw the gayest concentration of "Reinforcements" in the history of Station 31 A.I.Z., in support of a party given for the children of the personnel of that station.

About a hundred children "got to work" at a tea in the tastefully decorated messroom in a manner which must have gladdened the hearts of the catering staff, who had executed the "preliminaries" with so much enthusiasm that in spite of the enormous difficulties involved under present conditions, the tables were complete with all of those things that pleased the palate but tormented the tummy in pre-austerity days.

After tea, the kiddies were taken into the recreation room, which had been transformed into a theatre, and thoroughly enjoyed a fireman's version of "Cinderella." The entire caste was provided from the personnel of the station and the hard work of all concerned was amply rewarded by the unstinted admiration of the youthful audience.

"The Fairy Godmother" having seen to it that "Cinders" recovered her lost footwear and was restored to the arms of "Prince Charming," to the disgust of the "Baron" and "Ugly Sisters," and "Buttons" having decided to remain a bachelor, "The Demon King"—"Boo"—was left to introduce songs by Fwinn, Ransome and Miss Greta Grey and Mr. Southwell; also conjuring by L/Frmm. Hayler; "Gizzie" and "Woody" (need I say more? Oh yes! I forgot the parrot!); and "Mistic Moments" with the "Great Jogi" (Section Leader Abrahams). L/Frmm. Ponsford, who had charge of the orchestra, led the community singing that followed, and Frmm. Waterman provided some excellent entertainment at the piano.

L/Frmm. Whitney was accorded a tremendous ovation when it was revealed that the success of the whole party was due to his untiring efforts during the past weeks. The proceedings were rounded off by the presentation to each child of a National Savings Card with two stamps as they left. These were generously provided by Mr. S. Bellman. The presence of Fire Force Commander Birch, Mrs. and Miss Birch, and Divisional Officer Stanislas was greatly appreciated.

*Division "A," Area 31.*

### Salvage

Each Village and town must strongly endeavour  
To Increase the tonnage of salvage  
Campaign;  
Add To the collection those unwanted school books  
And Old office papers; they'll all be our gain.  
The Result will be certain for England's own shores  
Made possible by the salvage that's  
Yours.

*E. A. F., Region V, F.F. 34, C.3.*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

### N.F.S. College Notes by M. H.

I am writing on the first birthday of the Women's Wing and we are all feeling proud and happy that its position in the College is firmly established. We can look back with a certain amount of amusement on our first weeks, in what seemed to us then to be a very grim establishment, but has now become to us and to many others the centre of our service life.

Past students will, I know, be sorry to hear of the departure of Mr. H. A. C. Smith. How many of us have been inspired and somewhat awed by his presence on the drill ground? I am sure we all join in wishing him the very best of luck in his new and very interesting work in Newfoundland. Mr. L. A. Wood, who is also leaving the staff, will be sadly missed. He leaves us to take up an appointment of A.F.F.C. in No. 24 Fire Force, where we hope he will find many familiar faces to welcome him.

During the past year we have endeavoured to build up a high standard of efficiency among the students who pass through the College, and I have asked Miss Forrest, known so well to all of us, to put our ideals into words. This is what she has written:—

Now on a fine and sunny day  
The perfect student came our way:  
She walked in through the main hall door  
Just about the hour of four.  
She read the notice board and then  
She didn't join the queue of men:  
Her luggage, clearly labelled Pelf,  
She carried down the stairs herself;  
She found her bedroom (lower "B"),  
She reached the mess in time for tea.

And when at eighteen hours or so  
Instructors, dignified and slow,  
Proceeded down to number "1"  
To tell the course what must be done  
By officers, who hope to be  
Not merely qualified but "D";  
They found (it caused them some dismay)  
An empty room, except for May  
Virginia Pelf, who trim and neat  
Sat upright in the seventh seat.  
(The other students, be it said,  
Had tucked themselves quite safe in bed.)

Throughout the course she always would  
Do just exactly what she should:  
She never once mislaid her key;  
She liked the cakes she had for tea.  
Not once the slightest chink of light  
Showed from her tidy room at night:  
Her lecturette was most concise,  
She thought that "logging things" was nice.

She never once forgot to wear  
Her number, or to brush her hair;  
And when she asked a question she  
Announced herself as "twenty-three,"  
And as for ever being late  
She couldn't; and her hat was straight!

She worked so hard that on the day  
She left the college, so they say,  
Her F.F.C. and all his men  
Stood hat in hand to greet her when  
She stepped sedately from the train.  
(It happened in the pouring rain.)

They later heard that she had passed,  
(A "D" of course) and then at last  
The Chief of Fire Staff saw her and  
Went up to her and shook her hand,  
Saying, "A credit to the force!"  
"You'll give her Acting Rank, of course."

At once they made her A.G.O.  
With Acting Rank of A.A.O.



# "OUR OTHER LIVES" No. XXIII.

Miss E. L. LEE.

*Regional Woman Officer, N.F.S., Region VII.*

Ellaline Lawrence Lee, Regional Woman Fire Officer of No. VII Region was appointed to the National Fire Service in 1941. Thirty-four years of age, a Londoner born and bred, she cut short an interesting career to join the N.F.S.

By profession alighting engineers she had spent a number of years engaged on technical work in the industry and had taken a great interest in the development of modern lighting on scientific lines. Herself a member of long standing of the Illuminating Engineering Society of London, and of the Women's Engineering Society, she had specialised as a Consultant for Cinema and Theatre Lighting, designing decorative schemes and special architectural features in conjunction with the applied art of colour lighting.

This work naturally brought her into close contact with architects, lighting engineers and many other branches of the industry and necessitated travelling all over the country.

Miss Lee had very early displayed a love of organisation and control of staff, and had considerable experience of engineering workshop practice in earlier years. This combined knowledge led her later to turn her attention to technical management control, and eventually to company management which included over six years as company secretary and staff supervisor to a well-known firm of London engineers.

She has always led a busy life and had little time for leisure, but has a great love of sports, the open air, country and sea. Her favourite pleasure prior to the War was flying. A member of the Romford Flying Club she also joined the National Women's Air Reserve in 1938 in which she was a very active member during weekends and summer evenings, and became a Flight Leader in charge of a large number of enthusiastic flying members.

As a Regional Woman Fire Officer in the National Fire Service, Miss Lee feels her responsibility towards the welfare of all the women in her Region to be a very real one; she is proud of them and anxious for them to develop the maximum of efficiency as a whole; to attain promotion and to become responsible officers.

She is a firm believer in training schools and basic training being fundamental to the success of operational efficiency and as a means of establishing



esprit de corps amongst officers and ranks alike. She believes that a high standard of discipline is essential in our Service, but that the happiness and welfare of the women is equally important and that good officership means also being accessible at all times, and extending help, encouragement and sympathetic consideration wherever possible.

## Fire Service Savings, Region V

In June, 1942, the Home Office officially recognised National Savings Groups in Fire Stations, and an Organiser for the Region was immediately appointed. He found that considerably less than 20 per cent. of the stations in London were covered by Savings Groups, the actual figure being 133. This number, however, formed a basis on which to get to work.

In view of the intense economy drive going on at that time in all branches of the Service, the task of circularising the stations explaining the project was a formidable one, but with Senior Officers fully appreciative of the link between National Savings, the War effort, and ultimate Victory, it was reasonable to expect great co-operation from officers at the stations. Whilst these have not been completely realised, the situation has greatly improved. Within a month the number of stations covered had risen to 210. Sub-Divisional representatives had been appointed throughout the whole of the Region and thus there was a complete organising machine to begin the drive for 100 per cent. coverage. This went ahead and following meetings and "pep" talks, the November returns revealed that the 500 mark had been passed, an increase from 20 per cent. to 70 per cent. in less than six months campaigning.

The drive goes on and must gather force with the recent intensification of the war on the many fronts. Nothing influences National Savings in any country more than the fluctuating fortunes of their armies and in this connection we can turn to Russia as an example outside Britain. As an indication of her peoples' confidence in her eventual triumph, figures show that in the late Spring of 1942 when Russian morale was being tested by continual retreat, the Soviet Government floated a State Loan of 10,000 million roubles. Within a week this was enormously over-subscribed. Savings figures in Britain at the time of Dunkirk expressed a similar refusal by the British people to be completely bowed by extreme adversity and National Savings went up by leaps and bounds. And now the Fire Service in London is playing its part in bringing about that economic victory which is inseparable from naval and military victories.

The "Wings for Victory" Campaign timed for the coming Spring, should crown the efforts of 1942, and achieve the ambition of the Organiser, which is, that every station in the Region shall be embraced in this all-important movement. The Regional Organiser, Fireman G. W. Smitherman welcomes all enquiries and applications from prospective groups.



# WE "SERVE." No. 6.

"Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, . . ."—inevitably the old nursery jingle comes to my mind as I watch the groups of girls and women who come for interview. They are as motley a crowd as one would have met among Chaucer's pilgrims on the road to Canterbury.

Let me introduce some of these part-time members of the National Fire Service.

A high-spirited trio of tin-box makers, who think telephone work would be a marvellous change from their noisy machines; students, nurses and housewives who want to man a fire observation post in the most dangerous part of the City; munition workers, who at the end of a night on duty at a fire station will have to rise at 05.00 hours so as to reach the factory by 07.00 hours for an 8-hour shift of heavy dangerous work, and who, in addition have to do their shopping and run their homes; typists and secretaries who during the day are entrusted with the confidence of business men, are prepared to keep records, or type, or man a telephone "for a change"; teachers who during school hours rule with a rod of iron over their pupils, listen dutifully to the instructions of the leading firewoman, and answer as politely as any of their own charges, "yes, madam," "no, sir"; social workers who are prepared to add another to the several nights a week they already give to youth work; and, last but not least, members of the youth organisations themselves—schoolgirls, guides, club members—all anxious to do something connected with the war, something adult, for after all, their friends and brothers are cadets for the fighting and civil defence services, and they are not to be outdone.

The Fire Service has a certain amount of glamour for them all, and disappointment is a more common reaction than relief when they learn that they are not expected to drive fire engines, scale fire escapes or fight fires, but must content themselves with essential, but more hum-drum duties out of the public eye.

Let us go behind the scenes and see one or two groups of part-time members. They are not doing anything spectacular, or anything different from the duties of full-time members, but they are trying to make a contribution to the war effort under conditions which are often difficult.

In a large city workshop which had its own fire service, some of the girls had volunteered to cook a meal at night for the men on duty. This works fire service is now an annexe to an N.F.S. station, and though the division which took it over still boasts of "22 part-time cooks," these girls have been trained as control room telephonists, and under their own leading firewoman they supply a rota for the control room and cook for the pump crews. They often work until 20.30 hours on urgent Government work and then do their fire service duty.

In a high risk area fire observation posts have always been important, and they were formerly manned by full-time personnel. Recently this branch of the service was taken over by part-time members. One observation post is manned entirely by women on an 8-night rota. They report each night at the post, test their instruments, send in the visibility report to the control room, and spend the rest of the night on the premises, sometimes the only people in the building. In the special control room their reports are received and their readings

## Part-Time Firewomen

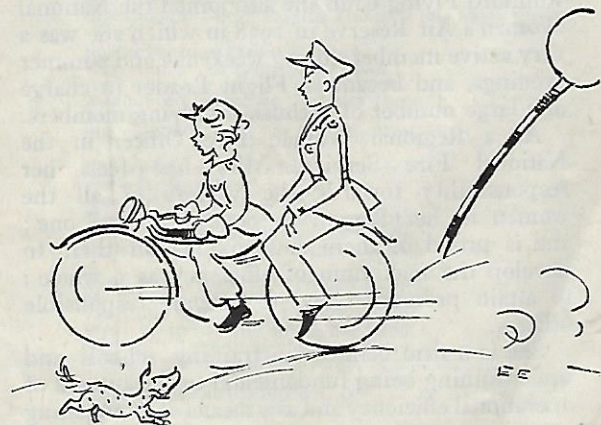
By (Part-time) Group Officer V. C. Davie,  
Region X., F.F. 26

plotted by four firewomen, also working on an 8-night rota. Three of these four control room staff are senior schoolgirls, or member of the G.T.C., under 18 years of age. They do their "prep." when there is no exercise in progress, go to bed in a nearby school under school staff supervision, and return if an alert sounds. Their keenness is infectious and encouraging.

Taking them "by and large," as our transatlantic friends would say, these part-timers are interested and keen; many of them ask for opportunities for training, and there are numbers willing to take responsibility and to do their best to carry it. They need guidance and control, but they have the makings of a valuable service. They are joining in hundreds now, and their number will rise to thousands; surely they cannot belong to the organisation without making an individual and a total contribution of real value.

Now let us attend a meeting of part-time officers and see how they are trying to deal with some of the problems of part-time work, and what steps they are taking to remove the charges of unreliability and inefficiency that are levelled against their members. Such shortcomings in a young and growing service are natural and inevitable—they are largely growing pains. Most of the part-time officers present have been appointed within the last six months, and quite half of them have carried a stripe barely two months; but their interest and participation in the discussions are lively and intelligent. The meeting opens with a discussion on training. They contend that divisional training should be standardised, and rounded off by a weekend attendance at the area training school for additional instruction and practice in occurrence and mobilising. In addition to the value of the instruction received they feel that such opportunities for firewomen to meet one another are invaluable. Weekend tactical exercises in conjunction with part-time men are discussed and attendance is guaranteed even if it does mean giving up Sunday mornings. They ask, too, for regular weekend conferences for themselves. Surely, inefficiency will disappear before such enthusiasm for training.

Another serious problem is that of unnotified absence from duty, for it not only leaves the station understaffed, but leads to waste of the meals provided which, over a large area, may be considerable. Most methods of notification have proved inadequate and so the meeting agrees to try a system whereby notification of intended





absence from duty is given to divisional headquarters, which thereupon becomes responsible for informing the part-time officer, the catering officer and the officer in charge of the station affected. To cover absenteeism a standby rota for each sub-division is to be formed. Stations not completely staffed by approximately 20.00 hours will inform divisional headquarters. Those on standby duty for the night will also contact divisional headquarters at the same hour to enquire if they are needed. It was felt that a sub-divisional standby rota would spread the additional duty more evenly over the available personnel, than would station rotas. One division had tried with considerable success an emergency rota of members who could be contacted by telephone. Stations were supplied with the rota, and the station officer rang up one of the rota when he needed assistance.

These discussions by no means exhausted the subjects dealt with, for they ranged over uniform, fatigues, accommodation and fire watching, and the meeting closed with a lively argument about recreational activities. One or two divisions felt that already part-timers could take part in squad drill and pump competitions but it was decided that for the present it would be wiser to encourage part-time members to participate in the existing area facilities rather than try and establish separate ones. The value of inter-divisional, area and regional competitions was emphasised.

By the end of the meeting, those who had doubted their ability to weld these diverse elements into an organisation no doubt felt that eventually "apothecary, ploughboy, . . ." might realise their increasing responsibility and prove useful members of the service.

## Marriages

- December, 1942.—Fw. E. Day, Region VI, F.F. D H.Q., to Quartermaster Jules Vesse, F.N.F.L.
- 6th December, 1942.—Fw. Ramplin, Region V, F.F. 37, A.I.Z., to Bombadier Gordon, R.A.
- 14th December, 1942.—L/Fw. Adams, Region V, F.F. 37, A.I.Z., to Capt. Simmonds, Royal Marine Commandos.
- 16th December, 1942.—P-T L/Fw. Howe, Region X, F.F. 29 C, to Mr. H. Mann.
- 28th December, 1942.—D/R. Pomfret, Region X, F.F. 29 B, to Pte. M. Fitzpatrick, 30th Manchester Regt.
- 30th December, 1942.—P-T Fw. Marshall, Region X, F.F. 29 C, to F/Offr. Wiktor Siadek, Polish Air Force.
- 2nd January, 1943.—Fw. Spavin, Region X, F.F. 29 D, to Royal Marine Clark.
- 3rd January, 1943.—Fw. D. E. Hunt, Region V, L.H.Q.Fn., to Mr. Herbert A. Hill.
- 4th January, 1943.—L/Fw. Realey, Region IV, F.F. 14, D.I., to Pte. W. Gosden, Army Fire Service (late of Freshwater N.F.S.).
- 6th January, 1943.—L/Fw. Thompson, Region III, F.F. 7, Div. A, to Mr. John George Whiting.
- 10th January, 1943.—Fw. V. M. Hedley, Region V, L.H.G.Fn., to Cpl. W. Jenner.

16th January, 1943.—A.G.O. Burgess, Region VI, F.F. 15 H.Q., to Cadet Marshall, R.A.

23rd January, 1943.—Fw. Doris Kummer, Region X, F.F. 27 H.Q., to Pte. Fred Pass.

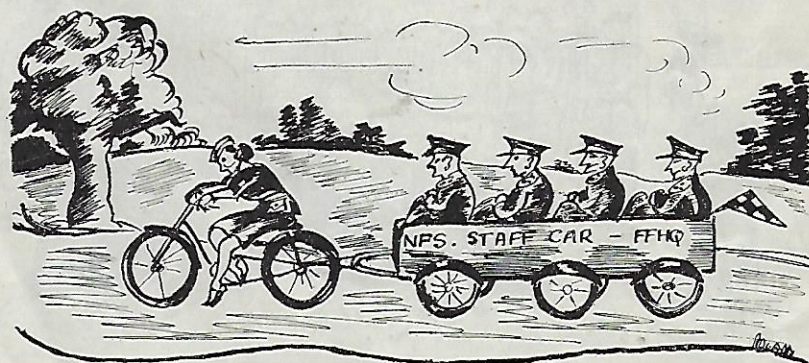
2nd February, 1943.—Fw. Bradley, Region X, F.F. 29 C, to Gunner B. Bowman, R.A.

## Engagements

- Fw. D. Smith, Region V, F.F. 37, A.I.Z., to Mr. Thomas Brindle.
- Fw. M. Windebank, Region VI, F.F. 14 H.Q., to L/A.C. Ronald J. Goode, R.A.F.
- Fw. Bonehill, Region X, F.F. 27 H.Q., to Pte. W. R. Sprigg, R.A.O.C.
- Fw. Dorothy Groves, Region X, F.F. 27 H.Q., to A.C.I. Arthur Ling, R.A.F.
- A.G.O. Pallett, Region X, F.F. 29 B, to Sgt. Flight Engr. W. Gabbott.
- Fw. Day, Region X, B Div'l. Control, to L/Fn. Warner, Region X, F.F. 29, B.I.W.

## Births

- 8th December, 1942.—To Mrs. Thomas (late A.G.O., Region V, F.F. 38, D.I.) a son, Haward.
- 11th December, 1942.—To Mrs. Gregson (late Region V, F.F. 37 H.Q.), a son, Anthony Hugh.



NFS TRANSPORT — 1943.

## THE PETROL QUESTION.

Fw. E. M. Eardley (Region XII, F.F. 31 H.Q.) and Fw. Dean (Region V, F.F. 38) both had ideas on this, and here are their Transport suggestions for 1943.



## "FUN AND GAMES"

### Christmas Party for the Orphans

(Reported by *Ernn. Louis Berman*, 36 C. 2.V.)

"Facilities have been granted for you to attend the kiddies' party at the 'local,'" announced my Officer-in-Charge. "The girls' want you to give it a write up in the W.N.F.S. Magazine."

So on Saturday, 16th January, I brushed imaginary hair and tucking my note-book underneath my arm, sallied forth to that temple of feminine pulchritude, 36, C.2.Z Station. I hailed an old acquaintance, Firewoman Minnie ("Biceps") King, who tossed me affectionately into the yard. Heddy Lamarr assisted me to my feet and I asked for her autograph. She wrote, "Firewoman Clara Dalton" in my book, and told me to play with the other children.

A.G.O. M. E. Hewitt informed me that the party was for the benefit of the children of firemen who had made the supreme sacrifice during the blitzes, and for the children of the station's personnel. Toys made by the men and women of C.2.Z were to be presented to the children. The girls had pooled their coupons and had bought the sweets. Watchroom attendants were chewing tobacco. Children and their parents were already pouring into the engine room.

At precisely 14.30 hours, and after the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. McDuell, Mr. King, A.F.F.C., and son, Mr. and Mrs. Quilter and children, and the Area Officer, Mrs. Swan, the entertainment began. Everyone enjoyed the antics of Punch and Judy, and Firewoman "Keep Fit" Cook had to assist me from the floor, where I had been doubled up with hysterics. Next came a conjurer who produced dried egg powder from my ears, and the D.P. from a back pocket. Mess Manager Max ("By Jingo") Rosenberg produced jellies with equal mystery.

After the entertainment came the refreshments, consisting of tea, cakes, and an assortment of pastries and sandwiches, jellies and blanc-manges and mineral waters. Enough to make Hitler chew his carpet with envy. The Fire Force Commanders attended upon the children. I was handed a glass of lemonade and a straw by an exotic-looking brunette.

"What no beer?" I queried.

"Be a good boy and suck your straw," she replied, twisting my ears sadistically. I yelped in ecstasy.

After refreshments, we were told to form a circle and to the jangle of fire bells the chassis of a Trailer Pump heavily laden with toys was drawn in by four brass-helmeted firemen, followed by Father Xmas. "It can't be!" I gasped. "There ain't no Santy Claus." The toys consisted of model tanks, engines, rabbits and dolls. Each child received at least two toys. I was given a photograph of the D.P. and its crew, which I swapped with a kid for a picture of Dorothy Lamour in a sarong.

To use a hackneyed, but appropriate, expression, "A good time was had by all."

### Giving 'em Socks (or Stockings)

Despite Hitler and his gang, and all the horrors of another Xmas at war, we managed to give the lads on our station a fairly rousing Xmas, and one which I hope they will remember. After racking our brains to think of something which would make our Xmas a "homely one" (if nothing more) we hit on the idea of "Xmas Stockings"!

Our fun began with the filling of a stocking for each man on duty Xmas Eve, and we had to keep it a secret which was worse, but we managed it, and then came Xmas morning. We carefully tiptoed up to each man's bed, and placed a stocking on the end; the men were too busy snoring to hear us, though I'm afraid there were a few heart attacks when we all but dropped the armful of stockings, and nearly upset the apple cart. But all went off very successfully, and we scurried off to await the results.

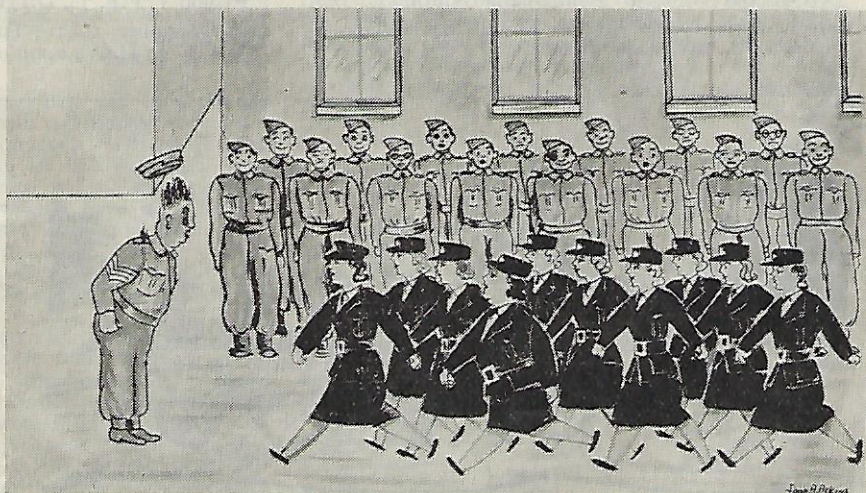
Then came the dawn, or rather the firemen's rude awakening. The stockings were discovered, and from the hullabaloo set up we gathered they had begun to empty them. The contents of the stockings were too varied and numerous to mention, so I will leave you to guess at them, but one item, a raw sausage tied up with a beautiful bow of green ribbon caused riots of laughter, and the remarks from the boys went something like this:—"Well, I'll go to ————" "What have you got?" "Yes, it is ———— no it isn't," and so on.

I think the men enjoyed their stockings as much as if they had been children. They didn't forget to tell us so, too, though of course we blamed it all on Father Xmas. It couldn't have been the White watch girls, or could it?

The girls on the Red watch were not to be forgotten either, they had a similar idea to ours, but as they were on standby duty they were unable to do the Father Xmas act of delivering the stockings themselves so they hung them on the clothes line in the men's kitchen, causing more fun, and surprised faces.

So our Xmas on the station wasn't such a bad one after all; at least we didn't get the sirens to spoil our fun, but if old Hitler does hit back one of these fine days with raids, and blitzes, we'll give him socks, but not "Xmas socks."

"Fireworks," Region III.



*Professional Jealousy.*

*Frw. Joan A. Atkins, Region VII, F.F. 19.*



# ADMINISTRATION !

## Filing is so Simple

When first I joined the N.F.S. in clerical degree,  
I thought to be a filing clerk was just the thing for me.  
"A small amount of brainwork," thought I, "This job entails,  
And in between my filing, I'll have time to file my nails."  
I very soon got busy, filing papers by the score,  
Application forms and submits and sick reports galore.  
And doctors notes and fire reports all came along my way,  
To file away in boxes, in immaculate array.  
For weeks and weeks I carried on, this job I thought was "pie,"  
Till one sad day, I hate to say, my filing went awry.  
On looking through my injury claims, I found to my dismay,  
A submit "for inclusion in a personal file" to say,  
"Please place on record on my form in paragraph 6A,  
My 21 dependants have increased—twins born in May!"  
I puzzled long and wondered whence this strange epistle came,  
And thought at first the happy man had lodged an injury claim.  
With feverish hands I then turned up a file marked "Applications,"  
And found the forms I'd filed therein were chiefly "Resignations."  
In all my files I soon was sure that chaos reigned supreme.  
I pinched myself to make quite sure it wasn't all a dream.  
But no, the files were all mixed up. Of that I was quite certain,  
And over all the words I said, we'll quickly draw a curtain.  
My conscience is no longer clear, besmirched is my good name,  
My misdeeds are recorded, my head is bowed in shame.

G. A. C., Region X, "C" 29.

## "Tap of the Keys"

Pity the poor hard-working fool  
Who slogs away in the Typists' Pool,  
Where a woman's work is never done,  
(Though it's not without its spot of fun!)

The tap of the keys—the clang of the bell,  
The typists are working away like—well!  
Where speed is not limited, neither is work,  
But far be it from a typist to shirk!

Lists to fabricate—letters to write,  
Orders that must be sent out to-night,  
A shorthand-typist is wanted in "O,"  
A rush from us all—so eager to go!

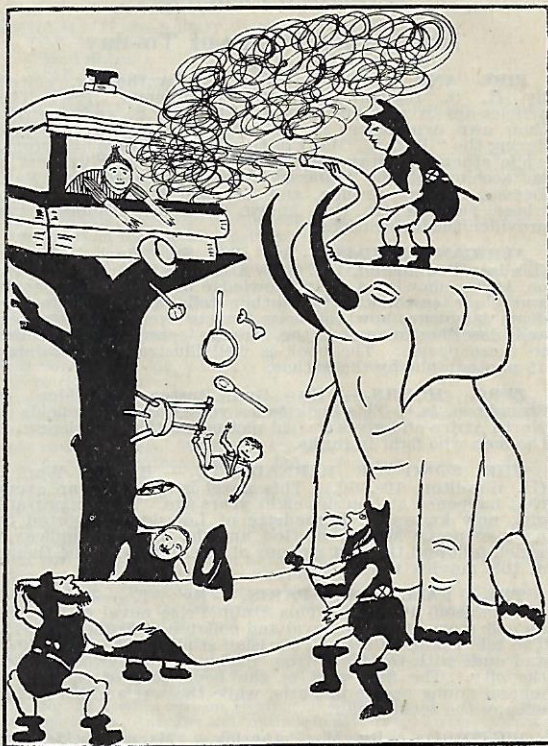
There's a meeting to-day in the Board Room at two,  
So they ring for support from the "chosen few,"  
The news is received with a gladdened heart  
As a shorthand-typist prepares to depart.

More work is brought in—yes, more work and more,  
And gently—so gently—they close the — door!  
They murmur "Don't hurry"—but in black and white  
They write on their work "To be sent out to-night."

The telephone rings—the sound we adore,  
It's a call for a typist, from the very top floor!  
"Delighted" we mutter—that's manners, you know,  
And another poor typist gets ready to go.

Yes, pity the poor hard-working fool  
Who earns her pay (?) in the Typists' Pool,  
But don't get us wrong—'cause nevertheless,  
We're happy at work in the N.F.S.

Typists' Pool, Region V, F.F. 34 H.Q.



THE FIRST FIRE BRIGADE.

A.G.O. Coleman, Region IV, F.F. 12 H.Q.

## Flashes from Elm Tree House

Col./Offr. Whitworth says if you want to win at billiards,  
"Take the tip from your opponent's cue."

Do you know who makes the firewomen blush? The chemists. I wonder!

L/Frmn. Lister and Frmn. Southwood think they can play dominoes. They certainly know how to knock when they can't.

C./Offr. Clethro thinks he can play draughts. He certainly can, for it is always my move next to "Get up and close the door!"

L/Frmn. Hawkes, our electrician, is one of the best, but he has got a shocking job. Watt, Watt!

Who was the green-eyed telephonist who thought a split shift was a torn nightdress?

Frmn. Wakefield gave the girls a treat on the piano. He chose that well-known ballad, "Your dirty hands are frozen," by S. KEE. MO.

Frmn. Walgate, Admin., Region II,  
F.F. 6, "B" Division H.Q.

## Nonsense Rhyme Competition

Prizes of a 2s. 6d. Savings Stamp each have been won by Fw. M. A. C., Region IV, F.F. 12 H.Q. Control Room, and "A Part-Timer" for the best rhyme about (a) the Fire Service, and (b) other War Services. The Editor requires the full name of M. A. C., and name and address of "A Part-Timer," as even the postmark is not clear. The verses are as follows:—

- (a) A charming Firewoman named Florrie  
Took her bath on a Mobile Dam lorry.  
Said the Fire Force Commander:  
"It's bad propaganda."  
"Take cover, girl, or you'll be sorry!"  
M. A. C.
- (b) There once was a flighty young WREN  
Who made a smash hit with the men,  
Till a soldier from Poole  
Said "The girl's just a fool!"  
"I'd much rather play with a BREN."  
"A Part-Timer."



## Interesting Books of To-day

**FIRE AND WATER.**—An N.F.S. Anthology, edited by H. S. Ingham. (Lindsay Drummond, 10s.) The articles are by men and women of the N.F.S. and describe their own experiences in the early days of the war and during the "Blitz." Many of these incidents are humorous, while others are dramatic and one of particular interest is an account of the "Massey Shaw," at Dunkirk. Paul Dessau, Stanley Froude, and Leonard Rosoman, firemen whose pictures are well known to many readers, have provided the illustrations.

**AFRICAN DRUMS.**—By R. St. Barbe Baker. (Lindsay Drummond, 12s. 6d.) A fascinating, unusual book on Africa, showing a deep knowledge of the African people and their customs. The author tells of the mysterious drum language, how the news travels over vast distances, and describes many of the strange ceremonies peculiar to these people. The book is well illustrated, containing 48 photographs by the author.

**ZERO HOURS.**—By Gun Buster. (Hodder & Stoughton, 5s.) This book takes you to the battlefields of North Africa and gives a vivid picture of the experiences of the men who fight in tanks.

**THE SONG OF BERNADETTE.**—By E. Werfel. (H. Hamilton, 10s. 6d.) This novel is based on an event that happened at Lourdes eight years ago. A little peasant girl, now known as Bernadette of Lourdes, purported to have seen the Mother of God, and the dramatic upheaval which followed the first rumour of this miracle is the theme of this moving novel.

**THE FALL OF PARIS.**—By I. Ehrenburg. (Hutchinson, 10s. 6d.) This Stalin Prize novel of 1942 is an epic story of the betrayal and collapse of France in 1940. The tale begins in a small Parisian studio in the year 1936 and ends with the flight from Paris, as the Germans enter the city. The first part of the book tells of the life of several young people in Paris, while the war and its effects occupy the second half.

**VICTOIRE.**—By M. Petherick. (Macmillan, 8s. 6d.) A topical adventure story about the family of a French country gentleman whose chateau in Brittany becomes the headquarters of a German regiment. Each member of the family enters into anti-German activities, without telling the others. This causes some very exciting and often humorous situations.

**INVITATION TO DEATH.**—By Captain A. O. Pollard. (Hutchinson, 8s. 6d.) An exciting Secret Service thriller.

**AND HOW TO-MORROW.**—By R. Field. (Collins, 8s. 6d.) An attractive and sometimes touching story of the life of a family living in New England. This should prove as great a success as the author's previous novel, "All This and Heaven Too."

L/Fwmn. J. Underwood,  
Region V, F.F. 35, "B" Division.

## "Front Line, 1940-1941"

(2s. H.M. Stationery Office and all bookstalls.)

Firewomen in Region V may remember that our Editor's last full-time assignment in the N.F.S. was to tour the London stations in search of "Blitz" stories. This was on instruction to gather information for a coming book.

This book is now out, namely "Front Line," and though the author has not used individual stories of peril and heroism, as first intended, he has utilised the background provided for him by Miss Pitcairn and other writers for his thrilling book.

It may interest readers to learn that he has also quoted from one of Miss Pitcairn's articles when referring (on page 32) to the City fires of December 29th, 1940. He calls her "A watcher away across the river in Lambeth"—an apt description of one who left for a short time her self-appointed task of running the "blitz" canteen for "standby crews" to climb one of Southwark's tall towers to view "an unforgettable sight."

P. B. X.

## The Good Ship "National Fire Service"

Someone recently said to me that the reason I believed in the National Fire Service was because I had not vision enough to see that it could not succeed.

So might the wise men of the 15th century have argued with Columbus, but he sailed his cockle-shell across the Atlantic and discovered America. The ship of the National Fire Service is no cockle-shell. It was launched with a sound keel and a massive superstructure. All it requires is the adventurous navigator to steer it, through uncharted seas, clear of the rocks of pessimism and obstructionism to the new land of proper and complete fire cover.

The navigators are there; the men and women who will defeat such pessimists as my friend, who, having no faith themselves, lose the joy of vision which foresees success and not failure.

Of course we have made mistakes! What new venture—great or small—has been carried through without trial and error? Free men of England do not take kindly or readily to strictly imposed disciplined routine. They fear the infringement of long-established rights, but a glance back over the past year will reveal that even reluctant acceptance of this routine has produced improvement in both ability and appearance and that early mistakes are being gradually but increasingly eliminated. Have the Jonahs ever envisaged the huge task which has been tackled? They would sink our ship with their destructive criticism. That is easy. Those early mistakes make excellent holes through which to pour the floods of their discontent. Therefore it is up to the navigators to spread the sails of their endeavour on the rigging of constructive planning, and confounding their critics weather these windy seas.

In this endeavour surely firewomen can play a momentous part. To the male of the species can be left the real man's role of fire fighter, but, as in every other sphere, the female helpmate can be equally indispensable. The firebells will ring just as lustily if a "fire belle" handles the switch, and the way to a man's heart—particularly if he has been fighting a gruelling battle with flames—is via the inner man. What do the canteen workers say to that? We have been almost overwhelmed with the torrent of criticism regarding paper wastage, but that flood too is diminishing, as the administrative deck is cleared by the clerks who pay wages, record service, buy food and issue clothing. Even the much maligned Transport Office can produce the records of petrol used—and saved—with the help of firewomen clerks; and what mobilising would do without the plotters, message clerks and telephonists—well—the Mobilising Officer would not like to think.

I believe in the National Fire Service—I believe in the women who can do so much to make it the success it will be. As one of the five women Divisional Clerks in England I have felt honoured to be taking part in such an enterprise, bold in concept and, I feel satisfied, assured of eventual successful development. Charles Dickens gave an apt word of advice which National Fire Service personnel could happily follow:—

"It is well for a man to respect his own vocation and to think himself bound to uphold it and to claim for it the respect it deserves."

So the good ship "National Fire Service" may be successfully piloted and "men's courses will foreshadow certain ends to which, if persevered in, they must lead."

G/O M. Bulmer, Divisional Clerk,  
Region I, F.F. 1, "E" Division.





### Fire Fighters

Serene sun glanced down, and slanted golden shafts through the hotly planted land, to the ankle-deep sheaves of wet, crisp, glistening leaves: laughed to think that the swirling pool of colour was his to heat, then cool.

The woods rage redness, from the topmost spire of the tallest tree they are all afire, and tentacles twisting and burnt into flame, lick up and out in a glorious game with each other to reach the heavens first. Their choleric efforts dew their stems in thirst, until, unable to stand the strain they falter and droop, then float to the inevitable altar awaiting them, and join their whispering sisters (shushing and slurring 'neath army boots and blisters) on the ground. A million sacrifices to the cold, in order that the winds and ices of Winter may not last forever, and that section of Life that sleeps may wake in resurrection next Spring. No need of branch and hoses, despite the fact the river peacefully dozes along so handily. For the fires of Autumn are emblems. And the men who thought 'em selves fighting fires for the joy that lies in beating something evil—realize that they are fighting, not against, but for such fires which thrive so closely to their door. Firemen not only conquer, but reserve the right to claim that they help to preserve the peaceful smouldering of English lands for us. That none but English hands may plant or prune her beauty: for the art of loving England is in only England's heart, and burnt so deeply there that no stench of War shall the great lustre quench.

*From N. Nanette Oppenheimer.  
Region VI, F.F. 15 H.Q.*

### Vest and Panties Set

**Materials:** 11 ozs. Nursery Viyella Knittings, 3-ply.  
2 No. 10 and 2 No. 12 knitting needles.  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  yard ribbon.  
1 ball of Viyella Lactron Yarn.  
1 medium sized crochet hook.

**Measurements:** Vest, to fit 34 inch bust. Panties, length from waist to leg edge, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

**Tension:** 8 stitches to 1 inch.

**Abbreviations:** k., knit; p., purl; st., stitch; tog., together; beg., beginning; inc., increase; sl. slip; st. st., stocking stitch; wr.n., wool round needle.

#### The Vest. The front:—

Cast on 152 sts. on No. 10 needles and work in k.1, p.1 rib for 1 in., then work in the following pattern:—

**1st row:** k.1, \* p.2, k.2. Rep. from \* to last 3 sts., p.2, k.1.

**2nd row:** k.1, \* k.2, wr. n., p.2 tog. Rep. from \* to last 3 sts., k.3.

**3rd row:** As 1st row.

**4th row:** k.1, \* k.2, p.2. Rep. from \* to last 3 sts., k.3. These 4 rows form the pattern. Continue in pattern until the work measures 14 ins. from the lower edge, ending with the 3rd row of the pattern.

**Next row:** k.4, \* k.6, k.2 tog. Rep. from \* to last 4 sts., k.2 tog. twice (132 sts.).

Change to No. 12 needles and continue in k.1, p.1 rib for 3 ins. Change to No. 10 needles and continue in the pattern until the work measures 21 ins. from the lower edge.

**Next row:** k.2 tog. Pattern 62 k.2 tog. turn.

Work in pattern on these sts., dec. both ends of every row until 6 sts. remain. Cast off.

Work in the remaining sts. in the same way.

#### The back:—

Work as given for the front until the work measures 21 ins. from the lower edge.

**Next row:** k.2 tog. Pattern to the last 2 sts., k.2 tog. Rep. this last row until 68 sts. remain. Cast off.

**To make up:** Press the work carefully under a damp cloth with a hot iron. Join the side seams. Work the following picot edge all round the top of the vest.

One single crochet into first st. \* 3 chain, 1 double crochet into first of the chain, miss 1 st. 1 single crochet into next. Rep. from \* all round. Stitch shoulder straps into position.

#### The Panties. The front:—

With No. 12 needles cast on 76 sts. and work 1 in. in k.1, p.1 rib. Change to No. 10 needles and continue in pattern for 7 rows. Leave these sts. on a spare needle and work another leg in the same manner b t work 8 rows of the pattern casting on 28 sts. at the end of the row for the gusset, and on to the end of the same needle, work in pattern across the sts. of the first leg.

Now shape the gusset as follows:—

**1st row:** Pattern 75, k.2 tog., k.26, k.2 tog., pattern to end.

**2nd row:** Pattern 75, p.28, pattern 75.

**3rd row:** Pattern 75, k.2 tog., k.24, k.2 tog., pattern to end.

**4th row:** Pattern 75, p.26, pattern to end.

Continue in this manner, keeping the gusset sts. in st. st. and the sts. on each side in pattern, knitting 2 sts. tog. after the first 75 sts. and before the last 75 sts. until 152 sts. remain. The last row should read:—Pattern on 75 sts., k.2 tog. twice, pattern to end.

Now continue in pattern right across the row thus:—

Work 5 rows in pattern without shaping, then continue in the pattern, dec. 1 st. both ends of the next and every following 6th row until 120 sts. remain. Continue without shaping until the work measures 13 ins. from the cast on gusset sts.

Work 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins. in k.1, p.1 rib, then cast off loosely in rib.

#### The back:—

Work as given for the front until the work measures 13 ins. from the cast on gusset sts. Shape the back as follows:—

**1st row:** Rib 66, turn.

**2nd row:** Rib 12, turn.

**3rd row:** Rib 18, turn.

**4th row:** Rib 24, turn.

Continue in this manner, taking up 6 extra sts. on every row until all the sts. are worked off. Work 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins. in k.1, p.1 rib and cast off loosely in rib.

**To make up:** Press the work carefully under a damp cloth with a hot iron. Join the sides, leg and gusset seams. Thread 5 or 6 rows of Lactron Yarn through the top edge of the waist ribbing at the back. Press all seams.

### Firemen Artists

News is to hand that Firemen—and Firewomen—Artists are working hard to get together a special show in connection with London's "Wings for Victory" Week (March 6th to 13th). Other recent special activities include a loan Exhibition for the Ministry of Supply; co-operation with one of the large war factories for another; and lending a number of pictures (mostly by firewomen) to the newly opened Women's Training College, Region V.

Firemen Artists are among those endeavouring to find a popular name to typify firemen, just as Tommy Atkins stands for a soldier, and Jack Tar for a sailor. The best supported suggestion is that of "Jim Braid," derived from Sir James Braidwood who, in 1833, became the first Chief of the London Fire Brigade, and who lost his life in a fire at Tooley Street, near Tower Bridge, in 1861.



## Calling All Representatives

Will all Magazine Representatives please note that it is essential for news, drawings, and all other items submitted for inclusion to reach the Editor (5, Regent's Park Road, Gloucester Gate, London, N.W.1) by the correct date, that is, the 25th of each **odd** month in the year: namely, not later than 25th March for the March-April issue; 25th May, for May-June; and so on. Orders for the Magazine can be accepted up to the last day of each **odd** month for the current issue. These rules must be adhered to strictly.

### Representatives

#### Region 1

Group Offr. B. G. Calderwood, Northern Regional H.Q., Fire Department, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.

#### Region 2

Fw. Kirke, F.F. 3 Area H.Q., Red House, Moorgate, Rotherham.

Fw. (Mrs.) E. M. Foster, F.F. 4 Area H.Q., "Quarry Dene," Weetwood Lane, Leeds, 6.

Fw. W. Smith, F.F. 5 Area H.Q., Ashburnham Grove, Bradford.

A.G.O. Miss G. Swift, F.F. 6, "A" Div. H.Q., 108-110, Westbourne Crescent, Hull.

#### Region 3

A.G.O. Stewart, F.F. 10 Area H.Q., Eastfield House, Louth, Lincs.

#### Region 4

Miss J. McCormick, N.F.S., Eastern Civil Defence Region, St. Regis, Montague Road, Cambridge.

A.G.O. Mrs. S. C. Johnson, F.F. 12 Area H.Q., Whitney Wood, Stevenage, Herts.

Fw. Clarke, F.F. 11 H.Q., 33, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

Miss Howe, N.F.S., F.F. 13 H.Q., Whitegate, Hethersett, Norwich.

#### Region 5

London H.Q. Formation—Fw. Good, Whitgift House, Lambeth, S.E.1.

F.F. 34 Area (A, B and C).—L/Fw. Lowenthal, Div. H.Q., Queen Mary's Home, Heath Street, N.W.3.

F.F. 34 Area (D, E and F).—Fw. W. Merchant, Central Fire Station, Uxbridge Road, W.13.

F.F. 35 Area.—Asst. Group Offr. Miss E. Fox, N.F.S., D.2.Z Station, Suffolk House, Hartford Road, Enfield Highway.

F.F. 36 Area (part).—L/Fw. Compton, Fire Station, Tabernacle Street, E.C.2.

F.F. 37 Area (H.Q. and A, B, C and D).—L/Fw. E. Robinson, Fire Station, 94, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E.1.

F.F. 37 Area (E and F).—A.G.O. N. Smith, Fire Station, South Street, Bromley, Kent.

F.F. 38 Area (A, B and C).—Group Offr. Miss Crips, Fire Station, Old Town, Clapham, S.W.4.

F.F. 38 Area (D).—Mrs. Thomas, 108, Edenfield Gardens, Worcester Park, Surrey.

F.F. 38 Area (E and F).—Group Offr. Miss Young, Fire Station, Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey.

#### Region 6

A.G.O. Miss M. Wardroper, N.F.S., F.F. 14 Area H.Q., Wintershill Hall, Dursley, Bishop's Waltham, Hants.

L/Fw. N. Oppenheimer, F.F. 15 Area H.Q., White Place, Taplow, Bucks.

#### Region 7

Group Offr. Mrs. Brewer, N.F.S., F.F. 17 Area Training School, 2, Downleaze, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, 9.

A.G.O. Miss Jenkins, N.F.S., F.F. 18 Area H.Q., Crossmead, Exeter.

A.G.O. Miss V. F. Weeks, N.F.S., F.F. 19 Area H.Q., St. Vincent's, Yelverton, Devon.

A.G.O. Taylor, N.F.S., F.F. 39, "B" Div. H.Q., Southfields, Park Road, Stroud, Glos.

#### Region 8

A.G.O. Miss D. M. Burnett, N.F.S., F.F. 8 Regional H.Q., Coryton, Whitechurch, Glam.

#### Region 9

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Group Offr. Miss Haskins, N.F.S., F.F. 24 Area H.Q., Hartopp House, Hartopp Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham.

Group Offr. Miss Tremonger, N.F.S., F.F. 25, "B" Divisional H.Q., Belvedere House, Burton-on-Trent.

Fw. Dodwell, N.F.S., F.F. 40 Area H.Q., Merridale, 124, Compton Road, Wolverhampton.

#### Region 10

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A.G.O. Miss M. Bennett, F.F. 28 Central Fire Station, Bolton, Lancs.

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A.G.O. Miss N. C. Carson, F.F. 43 Area H.Q., Sedgwick House, Sedgwick, nr. Kendal.

#### Region 11

Fw. Isabel F. Sutherland, N.F.S., Northern Area H.Q., Kingsmills House, Kingsmills Road, Inverness.

L/Fw. Hamilton, N.F.S., South-Eastern Area H.Q., Woodcroft, Clinton Road, Edinburgh, 9.

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#### Region 12

Group Offr. Mrs. E. Hide, F.F. 31 Area Div'l. H.Q., Preston Circus, Brighton.

A.G.O. Miss Hibbert, N.F.S. College, Saltdean, nr. Brighton.

## Brains Trust

How about a Brains Trust of visiting officers to answer questions on N.F.S. put to them by the personnel? Surely both officers and personnel will learn a lot and be provided with quite a deal of amusement.

"P-Timer," 35, "A" Division.

## Solution of Last Issue's Crossword

### ACROSS.

1. Flags.
4. Tenor.
7. Via.
8. Mai.
10. Air.
12. Army.
13. Ell.
14. Iuna.
15. See.
16. Tails.
18. Sam.
19. Arrests.
21. Sepia.
24. Rites.
27. Limit.
28. Relay.
29. Panel.
31. Eager.
33. Regrets.
36. Map.
39. Raids.
40. Rat.
42. Plan.
43. Log.
44. Nina.
45. Sat.
46. Ere.
47. Cos.

48. Ships.
49. Siren.

### DOWN.

1. Fire.
2. Lane.
3. Smear.
4. Tills.
5. Oats.
6. Rima.
7. Vases.
9. Allen.
11. Ramps.
16. Trailers.
17. Streets.
19. Aimer.
20. Silas.
22. Ela.
23. Pin.
25. Tag.
26. Eye.
29. Pumps.
30. Prior.
32. Rotas.
34. Gales.
35. Edges.
37. Alas.
38. Path.
40. Rice.
41. Anon.