

N.F.S. FIREWOMEN'S MAGAZINE

(Original Title: W.A.F.S. Magazine.)

No. 33.

JULY-AUGUST, 1944

Price 4D.

When I Return

The above intriguing title refers to a Competition which it is hoped will interest all readers of the Magazine.

Articles of 400 to 500 words are invited setting out the intentions of the writer when she returns to civilian life after the war: her hopes, her ambitions—and *particularly* any application she is going to make of knowledge she has gained while in the N.F.S. This may refer only to the "blessings of discipline," or to some special subject newly learned or in which she has gained additional experience.

The Competition will be in three sections:—

- (a) Whole-time Officers of the rank of A.G.O. and upwards.
- (b) Whole-time all other ranks.
- (c) Part-time, all ranks.

Prizes will be awarded in each section in the form of National Savings stamps, and if entries warrant, more than one prize can be given in each section.

Entries must be typewritten, on one side of the paper only, have the sender's name, rank, and station address fully given (state whether whole-time or part-time), and must reach the Editor not later than 1st October. A selection (not necessarily prize-winners) will be published as space allows.



*Victory March? No, but perhaps the next one will be.
(See VII/19/F.F.H.Q. and A Division, page 5.)*

EDITORIAL AND NEWS

In the last issue editorial reference was made to movements among personnel, and it was mentioned that in Region III the new Magazine Representative was A.G.O. Aldred (erroneously printed as Aldrech) in place of Miss Stewart. There have been other changes recently, and the Editor feels that she must express here her gratitude to those who have been attached to the Magazine for so long and helped to build up its success on the Areas. At the same time she thankfully welcomes those who have agreed to carry on the work—for work it is, as well she knows.

Here are some alterations:—

A.C.O. Cooke, II/5, in place of S.L.Fw. W. J. Smith (now Mrs. Gill).

G.O. Ramirez, V/38/C. Div., in place of G.O. Young.

A.G.O. Corner, VII/17/H.Q., in place of G.O. Brewer.

P/T A.G.O. Sadler, XII/31/H.Q. (for the Region), in place of G.O. Hild.

Other recent changes include:—

S.L.Fw. Waters, II/6, in place of G.O. Swift.

F.W. Haygarth, IV/H.Q., in place of Fw. McCormick.

A.G.O. Flynn, V/34/C. Div., in place of Fw. Merchant.

L.Fw. Pond, VI/16/H.Q., in place of Fw. Marchant.

A.G.O. Bell, IX/Reg./H.Q. (for the Region), in place of G.O. Haskins.

A.G.O. Mackie, XI/N-E./H.Q., in place of A.A.O. Hartnell.

L.Fw. Chapman, XI/E/H.Q., in place of G.O. MacNab.

A.G.O. Shaw, XI/W.2/H.Q., in place of A.G.O. Franks.

G.O. Doak, N.I./H.Q., in place of Fw. Boyle.

The breaking up of Area 28 caused further changes whereby A.O. Scott now acts as Representative for IV/13 instead of A.O. Howe, while the absorption of Area 43 has meant the loss of L.Fw. Steel. G.O. Bennett, who helped Miss Scott when both were on "28," has gone to pastures new at X Regional H.Q., but faithfully continues to contribute to the Magazine.

I/Northern Region.—The Divisions throughout No. 1 Region are now going all out to reach their yearly target for the N.E.S. Benevolent Fund, and after six months many of them are well on the way to their goal. In fact, "H" Division, No. 1 F.F., has already beaten their target figure of £2,000, and they are to be congratulated on being the first Division in the Region to accomplish this. Space will not permit details of all efforts, but "C" Division, No. 2 F.F., deserves special mention by raising in one afternoon the incredible sum of £1,250 at a "Bring and Buy" Sale. Hearty congratulations, "C" Division! It was an effort of which all members, both whole and part-time, must be justifiably proud.

One evening during this month No. 1 Region had the pleasure of entertaining at Minsteracres, No. 1 R.R.S. and Training School, 15 officers and 74 ratings of H.M.S. *Royalist*, the ship "adopted" by Region V. Among the events arranged for their entertainment was a fitness training display by the firewomen; an operational display by the firemen; a cricket match; a concert by the Regional Concert Party; and a dance. By all accounts it was a very successful evening. We were honoured to have the privilege of entertaining these men, and hope that they enjoyed their evening with members of the N.E.S. in No. 1 Region.

B. G. Calderwood, G.O.

III/North Midland Region.—Saturday, June 3rd, 1944, was a red letter day for the part-time firewomen in our Region. It was the occasion of the Regional Finals of their own Squad Drill Competition held at 9A1Z, Lancaster Place, Leicester.

The cup was presented by the C.W.F.O., Mrs. Cuthbert, to the team representing No. 7 F.F., who were elected by the judges to be the winners, and certificates were presented to the runners-up, No. 10 F.F. In her speech Mrs. Cuthbert said that it was the first time a Squad Drill Competition for part-timers had been organised in this country.

Also on the platform during the presentation were the Regional Commissioner, the Rt. Hon. Lord Trent and Lady Trent; the Deputy Regional Commissioner for Fire, Councillor C. R. Keene; the C.R.F.O., Mr. T. H. Patrick; the R.W.F.O., Mrs. L. Radford; and the Fire Force Commanders from Areas 7, 8, 9 and 10. Following the presentation, the C.R.F.O. gave a vote of thanks for the donor of the cup, Part-time Group Officer Rowley, No. 7 Fire Force.

On the completion of the formal proceedings, the next few hours were devoted to more social activities, namely, tea and dancing, the music being provided by No. 9 Area, A Div., Dance Band.

M. G. B.

III/7.—For a long while—too long, I am afraid—No. 7 Area has been conspicuous by its absence in the FIREWOMEN'S MAGAZINE, but now that we have "appeared" again, we should like to send best wishes to all personnel who have been transferred to other Areas, and to thank their new friends for the kind reception they have given them.

The main item for this month is the result of our effort for Dr. Barnardo's Homes. The target for No. 7 Fire Force was fixed at £500, but by dint of a great amount of hard work, this sum was far exceeded, and Fire Force Commander Galloway was enabled to hand over a cheque for £1,006 3s. 0d. to the Deputy Regional Commissioner, Councillor Keene. Mr. J. N. Stephen, the Organising Secretary of Dr. Barnardo's, when acknowledging the cheque, stated that this was the finest collection any Fire Force had ever made, and that the wonderful sum raised so willingly and gladly would maintain 30 children for a whole year.

A further outstanding event was the Regional Part-time Squad Drill Competition held at Leicester. The silver cup given by P/T G.O. Rowley was awarded to the team representing No. 7 F.F., the members of which were entertained to a dinner and dance in Derby a few days later to celebrate the happy occasion.

B. Holt, A.O.

III/10. Part-time Firewomen's Squad Drill Competition.—The finals of No. 10 Fire Force Part-time Women's Squad Drill Competition were held at Area Headquarters, Louth, on 28th May.

The cup, which was given by the Area Sports and Welfare Fund, was awarded to "B" Division, Grimsby, the runners-up being "C" Division, Boston.

The trophy was handed to A.G.O. Pell, instructress of the winning team, by F.F.C. W. H. Barker, who was accompanied by Mrs. Barker. In presenting the cup, the F.F.C. congratulated all competitors and emphasised the close nature of the contest, pointing out that only two points separated the teams. He further stated that the performance of the firewomen on the drill ground would, he hoped, be equalled by their work in the control rooms.

The salute at the march past of the competitors was taken by the F.F.C., who was supported by D.F.F.C. D. Sargent, A.O. Bartlett and G.O. Micklethwaite, Regional Hqrs.

C. M. A., III/10/H.Q.

IV/II/B.—The "B" Divisional team has triumphed in the Area Netball Competition and as Area Champions are the first holders of the handsome shield presented by Area Officer Williams. The team lost only one of their twelve matches and scored 217 goals to 90.

S.L/Fw. Kidd is an inspiring captain of the side, but the secret of our success is the readiness of all the girls to play when "off" duty as well as "on." Look out for the II/B's in the National Netball Competition.

J. G.

IV/12.—A team of Part-time Leading Firewomen from A and B Divisions gave a demonstration on Mobilising, Squad Drill and Fitness Training at A Division P/T Training School on 11th June. This was witnessed by the R.W.F.O. Mrs. Hicks, F.F.C. Stanford, A.O. Barry and G.O. Edwards (O. i. c. Regional Training). It was regretted that the C.R.F.O., who had hoped to attend, was unavoidably detained.

Following the demonstration Mrs. Hicks complimented the part-timers on their high standard of efficiency and fine work on behalf of the Service generally. Since then we have been very pleased to hear of G.O. Edwards' promotion to A.A.O. rank, and offer her our heartiest congratulations.

S. E. Johnson, A.G.O.

IV/12/B Div. H.Q.—On Sunday, June 4th, "B" Division Headquarters were honoured by a brief visit from the C.W.F.O., Mrs. Cuthbert, who, we understand, was journeying to London from No. 3 Region. This rare opportunity of meeting our "Chief" was much

appreciated, and we hope a similar pleasure will be afforded to other parts of the Area in the near future.

S. E. J.

Footnote.—Lieut.-General Sir Kenneth Anderson, K.C.B., M.C., speaking to a parade of the No. 4 Region Overseas Contingent in Essex on June 22nd, said:

"I have never had anything to do with the N.F.S. except to note, with great comfort, their presence in my home town, and also to marvel how their womenfolk managed to get such an exceedingly smart and delightful uniform. It is the wonder and the envy of all the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F.s."

S.L. K. G. Sutton, Luton.

VII/17/H.Q. Squad Drill Competition.—On 12th June, a Squad Drill Competition was held at Bristol, and six teams of firewomen assembled from F.F. H.Q., and "A" and "B" Divisions.

We were fortunate in having among the spectators the Fire Force Commander and Mrs. Kirkup, R.W.F.O. Marshall, recently transferred to No. 7 Region, A.O. Grant and A.A.O. Amies. The Adjudicator was Major Baker, 12th Battalion, Wilts. Home Guard, and, to quote him, "the standard of drill was perfect."

Each team was allotted 50 marks before starting, and from that number marks were deducted according to mistakes made. Teams 1 and 3 (both Fire Force teams) obtained 45 marks each, so had to compete against each other, with the result that No. 1 Team was awarded first place.

The prize was a silver cup donated by Assistant Group Officer Burton (Fitness Training Officer, No. 17 F.F.), and after words of praise from Major Baker, the Commander presented the cup to L/Fw King (marker), who received it on behalf of the Fire Force team, namely, L/Fw Bremner, Firewomen Charles, Parsons, Tucker, Fellowes, Glynn, Hayman and Colwell. In doing so, the Fire Force Commander paid tribute to A.G.O. Burton for the excellent work she had done in organising this display, and to the teams who had participated. He then took the Salute at a march past of all teams.

All smiles—
and no wonder !
It's nice to
hear that
Firewomen are
"perfect"
sometimes !
(See above.)



VII/17 F.F.H.Q., Bristol, has formed an ambitious Dramatic Society.

Beginning in a small way last winter with a dozen or so members, they first produced a popular one-acter, "5 at 'The George,'" presenting it at the Fire Force Christmas Party. This initial production was a roaring success, and the Society soon attracted new members. Calling themselves "The Crete Hill Players," they have now combined a concert party with their dramatic activities, and are "doing" various Stations in addition to giving to the Y.M.C.A. shows in aid of the Benevolent Fund. "Quiet Wedding" is the next production, and the reading of this somewhat difficult three-acter has already commenced.

As a member of "The Crete Hill Players," I can vouch for the hilarious fun and—quite often—disappointments the Society has had in the first months of its existence. It started with so few "props" that the only scenery procurable consisted of "borrowed" hut sections, luckily available at the time. The effect was most convincing, but our first night nerves were not improved by the knowledge that if someone accidentally leaned on the scenery backstage the entire cast would be knocked out! The Stage Manager—L/Fm. Gunn—who has some bright ideas of his own, and frequent friendly fights with the Producer (S.C.O. Corner) over incidental music, has done some good work with faulty amplifiers and home-made spotlights, but with the increase (we hope) of the Society's funds, these difficulties will soon be overcome.

All ranks are represented in the "Crete Hill Players," from Area Officer and Divisional Officer down to fireman and firewoman, and a good team spirit is predominant. It only remains to be seen whether the Society will fulfil its promise to provide regular entertainment for Fire Service colleagues in No. 17 Area, and to present that entertainment in a new and refreshing way.

Fw. Elaine G. Stephens, VII/17/H.Q.

VII/19/F.F.H.Q. and A Division linked up when fifty of Plymouth's firewomen took part in a "Salute the Soldier" Parade. Our picture on the front page shows them stepping out in great style, with G.O. Pearce in the lead. It will be noted that the girls are all wearing to-and-fro, though in some areas the forage cap is not allowed on official occasions.

VII/19/B Div.—The first effort of B Div. Firewomen's Social Club took place in Truro on 25th May. This was a grand variety show, with practically all the staff of Divisional H.Q. taking part. "Never hide your light under a bushel" appears to be their motto, and certainly an amazing amount of talent was displayed. It was almost an impromptu affair, for the whole thing, including rehearsals, was arranged in about a week.

The show set off on the right foot with an opening chorus by the girls. This was followed by two very lovely solos by Fw. Smith, of Coventry. After this some hilarious Cornish sketches were given, the most "side-splitting" being "Cow Day in Truro," put on by the Three Jacks, S.L. Lampier and Parnell and Fm. Body. Then Firewomen Marshall and Price scored a terrific success with some song stories. One of the high lights of the evening was a P/T display led by our P/T Instructor, L/Fw. Parnell. The girls looked most attractive in their new black shorts with red seams—we didn't know buxom Cornish girls could be so dainty. But the most exciting moment of all was when our worthy Group Officer wheeled a pram on the stage, boasting a large baby in the form of Fm. Body!

There were many other turns, far too numerous to mention, but it was decided unanimously that this show led the way to greater social events in Truro. No charge was made, but a substantial sum was collected for the N.F.S. Benevolent Fund.

IX/Midland Region.—Quoted (without apologies) from "Fire Protection," June issue:—

"It was with a real sense of personal loss that one learnt of the impending departure to No. VII Region of Mrs. W. R. Marshall, who has been R.W.F.O. since shortly after Nationalisation. The warmth of feeling displayed in the few days left her in which to make farewells is but a tithe of the respect and esteem which everyone feels for her.

"In recording Mrs. Marshall's departure we hasten to add how much we appreciate having so admirable a successor as Miss J. Powrie, M.B.E., from No. X Region, for whom a very warm welcome is assured."

IX H.Q.—Since our last appearance in print in this magazine, Region IX has, with great regret, said "goodbye" to Mrs. Marshall, R.W.F.O., who has been transferred to Region VII. A farewell luncheon was held on the 5th June, and tributes were paid to Mrs. Marshall's services in the Region by Captain Westbrook, the C.R.F.O., Major Dennison, Deputy Regional Commissioner, and representative members of the staff.

Later in the same day, the new R.W.F.O.—Miss Powrie from Region X—arrived, and we extend to her a very warm welcome and hope that she will be very happy in our Region. We are also happy to welcome on the staff of Regional H.Q., G.O. Johnston, who comes from the N.F.S. College, Brighton.

The best wishes of the Region follow Mrs. Marshall in her new position, and we all hope that she will enjoy every success and happiness in her new surroundings.

A.G.O. E. Bell.

IX 23.—On 24th March we regretfully said "goodbye" to A.O. Thorne at a large party held at Area H.Q. Amongst the distinguished guests who came to Area 23 for the occasion were the C.R.F.O., Captain Westbrook, and the R.W.F.O., Mrs. Marshall. Our new A.O., Miss Stern, has now taken up her duties, and we extend to her a very hearty welcome.

We are very proud of the Area Netball Team, who, under the inspired leadership of Fw. Miles, won the Regional Cup presented by the Deputy Regional Commissioner, by beating Area 40 in the field. A social and dance in honour of the team was held at Area H.Q. on 2nd June, at which the Deputy Regional Commissioner and the C.R.F.O. were present.

The final of the competition for the part-time firewomen's "Quiz" was held at Area H.Q. on 26th May and was won by "A" Division. This attracted a large gathering; the cup was presented to the winning team by its donor, our former A.O., Mrs. Thorne, whom we were delighted to see back with us again.

On the 20th July we were honoured by a visit from Commander Firebrace, Chief of Fire Staff, and in the evening a social and dance was held in his honour at Fire Force H.Q. Amongst the other distinguished guests during the event were the C.R.F.O., Captain Westbrook, and our new R.W.F.O., Miss Powrie. In addition to the dancing, the amateur talent at F.F. H.Q. was again in evidence in the provision of entertainment, including a sparkling show by the Establishments Department, and a nautical production staged by the Deputy F.F.C., Mr. Gayton.

IX 40.—The most important event during the past two months has been the Second Annual Area Competitions which were held at Paethorpe's Sports Ground, Tipton, on 8th July. For some time previously, personnel—both whole and part-time—had been practising hard in order to take part in the various drills, the firewomen showing as keen an interest in their events as the men.

Personnel taking part were inspected by the Earl of Dudley, and we also much appreciated the fact that the C.W.F.O. Mrs. Cuthbert, had managed to find time from her numerous engagements to visit us again on this occasion. The Countess of Dudley presented the prizes, and after keen rivalry "C" Division won the Aggregate Cup, having gained the greatest number of points.

As well as the Competition Drills, in which the firewomen proved that for hydrant and light trailer pump drills they could rival the men's crews for efficiency and times, there was a Fitness Training Display by 54 firewomen drawn from all parts of the Area. The despatch riders gave a display of figure riding, including a ride through a "wall of fire" by the two youngest members—one of whom was a firewoman from "B" Division.

On 15th July, a "Bring and Buy" Sale was held at Area H.Q. in aid of the N.F.S. Benevolent Fund. A wide selection of articles had been collected for sale, and although the final total has not been yet announced, a figure of over £140 has already been raised.

Fw. Dodswell.

X 29.—The reorganisation of the Area is now settling down and we have been able to readjust ourselves to the new districts.

Considerable progress has been achieved as far as physical training is concerned, and where possible training is held weekly. Mobile training is now well in hand, and instructors and firewomen are finding this type of training both interesting and beneficial.

Part-time members have been prominent in parades for "Salute the Soldier" weeks throughout the area, and in so being they have greatly augmented the strength of each division.

Sporting events include tennis, netball, cricket, table tennis, etc., and in most of these, matches have been arranged between the various services and ourselves. An outstanding event was a cricket match held between Constantine's West Indian XI and the N.F.S. at Blackpool.

M. L. Johnson, A.A.O.

XI/Eastern/C.—Sub-Div. 1: The Welfare Committee successfully arranged a dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund, and this took place on 7th July in the Kirkcaldy Ice Rink. Some 500 dancers took part in the revels, which included a display of ballroom dancing by the Fife Trophy winners and interval music on the Lafleur organ by P/T Coy. O. Mackersie. As a result of this effort it is expected that a goodly sum will be handed over to the Fund.

Sub-Div. 3: The Benevolent Fund Committee held a dance in Pilmuir Hall, Dunfermline, on 14th July, at which some 70 couples attended and spent an enjoyable evening. On 15th July a football match was arranged between members of Sub-Div. 3 and a naval team, the result being a draw. From both the above functions it is expected that the Benevolent Fund will greatly benefit.

L.Fw. A. Chapman.

XI/Western No. 2.—A most successful Garden Fete was held in the grounds of Fire Force H.Q. on Saturday, 24th June, in aid of the British Legion and N.F.S. Benevolent Fund, the final total being £500. Thanks are due to the firewomen in our Area for making this day such a success.

S. C. M. S.

NOTICE.—Contributions for September–October issue **MUST** reach the Editor, 5, Regent's Park Road, Gloucester Gate, London, N.W.1, by 20th September.

The Duties of a Control Room Girl at Div. H.Q.

Kitchen staff is short, they say,
Mustn't let control girls play,
Hoist them in to wash those pots,
'Cos they're used to lots and lots.
Although the girls can deal with fire,
Some folks must think they never tire,
They must be always on the go,
Or else they're told that they are slow.
Control room girls good nippies make,
They even scrub, dust, cook and bake;
The quarters must be spick and span,
They all must learn to scour—and can.
Of course, if chores are up to date,
There's always time to clean the plate,
And maybe if they have a minute,
Control may even find them in it.
The whole control they must sweep out,
And wash the floors without a doubt,
The desks they polish till they shine,
And everywhere looks very fine.

Then now there comes the routine work,
And this the girls would hate to shirk;
With pads and pencils right at hand,
You couldn't find a busier band.
"Oh, Sub-Div. here, "B" Div., H.Q.
Our sick return we send to you."
Control must take it; then pass on
A copy to the right person.
"Is S. L. Whatsit in? He's not!
A message for him I've got.
I'll give you it, control, instead—
You're always up when we're in bed."

The fires pour in and never cease,
Our poor old girls aren't left in peace;
And when it's time to get their meal
Such pangs of hunger often feel!
The M.O., too, is oft delayed,
For Fire Force likes attention paid,
And hurried meals don't aid digestion—
To leave control is out of question.
Yet still the S.O. helps a lot,
When tons of fires they have to plot;
The C.O., too, if things aren't clear—
There's always one or t'other near.

The darkness falls, to bed they crawl,
But first they've got to climb a wall
With tin hats slung across the shoulder,
They really couldn't look much bolder!
Their weary eyelids hardly close
With heads sunk down in sweet repose,
Than that darned siren sends its call
And out of bed they all must fall.
From two till dawn our friends do toil;
For reinforcements they do spoil;
They brew them tea to cheer them up,
And if they're lucky, snatch a cup.

Oh, when they're done with all this
strife,
Let's hope they're not too old for life,
For if they're told to fetch and carry
They shall not have much time to tarry.

Fw. Williams, VI/16/B. 2X.



**"OUR
OTHER
LIVES"**

No. XXX
MRS.
SWINTON-
VAUGHAN,
A.O.
XII /32.

One might describe Mrs. E. C. Swinton-Vaughan, Area Officer, Area 32, as a real veteran in the Fire Service of this country, for as soon as the Fire Service was open to women candidates in 1938 she joined the Auxiliary Fire Service. Almost immediately she became a Junior Officer, and was stationed at a Fire Station in S.E. London. The work was very difficult and arduous at the beginning, owing to the fact that the Service had only just been born and officers had to rely almost entirely on their own initiative. But rapidly the Women's Service of the A.F.S. soon became a valuable addition to the London Fire Force, in spite of many hardships due to difficulties of accommodation and feeding.

Mrs. Swinton-Vaughan later went to a station at Greenwich, a district which was a veritable target during the London blitz, owing to its proximity to Greenwich Naval College, Woolwich Arsenal and the Docks. Besides training recruits at her own stations, she was made the Motor Driving Instructor, and afterwards became Examiner of women drivers in her own and other sectors.

She went through the whole of the London blitz, on duty day and night, visiting her stations and driving round her area, and her experiences during that time would fill a book. She cannot praise the firewomen too highly for their courage and devotion to duty, but she never fails to add that although one does that duty and carries on, the falling bombs, firing of guns and the deafening noise are certainly very terrifying.

When the National Fire Service was formed Mrs. Swinton-Vaughan applied for a post in an area outside London, and was appointed Area Officer in Area 10. In August, 1942, she was promoted to Senior Area Officer in Area 8.

She has had much experience in organisation. During the General Strike in London, in 1926, she was put in charge of the recruiting station of the Surrey Constabulary Police Headquarters at Kennington, the Special Constable's Branch, under Commandant W. J. Morton, who afterwards became Chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee of the L.C.C. For the work she did during this period she was highly commended by the Commandant of the Special Constabulary, Sir Frederick Allen.

Mrs. Swinton-Vaughan is a member of the Anglo-Belgian Union, and as such has attended the conferences of this Association held in Holland, Belgium, Sweden and France. When the conference of the Society was held in London it was her pleasure and privilege to entertain many of the nationalities then in London.

She delights in dancing and swimming, and she sings; but she is in her element when acting. She is a member of two amateur dramatic societies, and has acted in many plays, often taking leading parts. Character parts are her forte. During the winter months these dramatic companies gave performances to very varied audiences, visiting homes for crippled people, hospitals and detention homes, Borsal, and Chatham Naval Barracks.

By all these varied activities, Mrs. Swinton-Vaughan has come in contact with

Odd Ode No. ???

(With apologies to Cyril Fletcher.)

This is the tale of Firewoman Bell, A pretty, painted little gal, Who did her duty with a grudge And from the Mess refused to budge. The cooks complained till they were tired And threatened oft to have her fired.

And then one night when all was still And Anna Bell had had her fill; Masticated bread and cheese, Potato chips and garden peas, Got settled down for forty winks To dream of diamonds and minks, When suddenly into the Mess (Strange but true, we must confess), Drifted a weird and awful crew, And halted right at Anna's pew.

A Judge was there, complete with wig, And prosecutor in strangest rig. The jury came in looking leprous, And each of them was of the Service. A voice proclaimed out loud and clear, "The complaint first we all must hear." Into the front there stepped quite smartly An A.G.O., who spoke quite tartly Of Anna's disregard for duty, While tending to her own fair beauty. The list was long and never wrong, Poor Anna's knees began to tremble While listening to this sad preamble. "Guilty!" was the mournful whisper. What compassion could they give her?

Bringing the prisoner to her feet, The Judge sat straight up in his seat; "No beauty aids for you, my gal, Until your duty you do well. Return again when six months pass, And if your fellows you outclass, Your sentence will be liquidated And your cosmetics reinstated."

Poor Anna sat up with a scream And wakened from her frightful dream, And to her duty did make haste Without another minute's waste. And never from the path of duty Will she stray to tend her beauty: Poor Anna has now her lesson learnt, And her red stripe has duly earned.

L. Fw. Anne Strachan, XI Eastern A Sub. Div.1.

Home-Made Sweets : Fruit Lumps

3 tablespoons syrup.	½ oz. margarine.
2 tablespoons sugar.	Half tin Household milk.
Flavouring (pineapple, banana, peppermint, etc.).	

METHOD.—Melt syrup, sugar and margarine over a low flame. When thoroughly melted, boil for three minutes, stirring all the time. Remove from flame, add flavouring, then quickly stir in milk powder until very stiff. Turn out on to a board well covered with dried milk. Roll into lengths and cut into pieces. See that each piece is well covered with the milk powder. When hard, store in an airtight tin.

Fw. Roberts, IX/40 Finance.

Ode to the Buzz Bomb

(Parody-Medley.)

Seated one day at the switchboard

I was weary and ill at ease,
And my face took on the delicate hue

Of a piece of Stilton cheese.

I knew not where it was going
Or where it had just come from;
But I heard the unmistakable sound
Of a blinking great flying bomb.

Oh

It flew through the air with the greatest of ease,

The engine was knocking and so were my knees.

Then it exploded—we all felt the breeze

And my breath was taken away.

Now we sing

Any old iron, any old iron, any, any, any old iron!

Down it came—in a dive:

Now it's adding to our salvage drive.

They can send many more—

As many as they like to try on—

But they'll end up, just the same as all the others do,

Old iron—old iron!

Fw. Parkinson, V/38/B Div./Sub-Div. 1/Stn. R.

Continued from page 8.

all classes of people. She has learned to deal with every kind of temperament, and has gained a very wide understanding which must prove invaluable in her present position as Area Officer.

This war is her second, for as a child she was in Switzerland with her parents in 1914 when war was declared. She was six weeks reaching London, after much uncomfortable and hazardous travelling through France. In private life Mrs. Swinton-Vaughan is the wife of Squadron Leader A. Swinton-Vaughan, who is now serving in the Middle East.

Anon.

AN INCIDENT IN MY LIFE

No. III. "Night of nights, lively night in —"

By a Firewoman off duty "somewhere in Southern England."

It was a night in July, but for security reasons I had better not mention the actual date. The sirens had let forth their usual wibbly-wobbly wail at — approx. (for security reasons again I must not give the actual time). We were all bedded down in the kitchen; or to be more accurate, Alice was on her own bed permanently installed there, I was stretched somewhat uneasily on the wooden C.D. "palliasse" bought early in the war, and Margaret "reclined" on an improvisation of deck-chair and hatbox, which she declares is more comfortable than my bone-biting contraption.

It was a wakesome night. Every — minutes (for security, etc., etc.) the hateful rumble of a flying devil could be heard, the majority seeming to land with a thump that shook our windows and sometimes burst the door open. Then in a lull I heard a new noise! What was it—that strange, faint sound? Could it be —? Yes, undoubtedly! I leaned over to Alice.

"Becky is at the scullery window," I murmured, "and I think she's bringing in a mouse."

Alice leaped up to investigate. But others also had heard the sound. Little heads were raised in the semi-gloom, and eyes gleamed. But only one of "the children" moved. Young Sarge, he, our ante-penultimate youngest, to whom Becky has brought home tit-bits of the rodent variety since he was but a kit-in-paws. With Alice, he proceeded to the scullery at all speed. Sure enough, Becky was outside the window, mouse in teeth stifling her mew for attention. The window open, she promptly dropped her burden into a bowl of Alice's wrung-out laundry and turned to look for more (for she often brings home two or three from neighbouring empty houses, and stores them on the window-sill till ready for admittance). Alice made a grab at her and got her indoors, but by this time Sarge had already removed the booty from the bowl and was back in the kitchen preparing to make merry mit mouse!

This he did, much against my will, as I am not by any means partial to a type of entertainment reminiscent of the bullring (I imagine, but for security reasons—my own—I have never attended such a function). Anyhow, there was Sarge, beautifully dressed in his black-shading-to-smoky-grey "Persian" coating, playing the mouse with traditional skill, what time the amber and green eyes of our other assorted cats (exact number not given for, etc., etc.) shone from vantage points on tables and chairs around the "arena," which was weirdly lit by one flickering nightlight and the occasional flash of a bike lamp as Margaret and I endeavoured to see how the game was going and get some idea of how soon we could uncurl our legs.

"G-r-r-r!" would go Sarge. "G-R-R-R!" would echo the flying devil.

Pounce! from Sarge. BONK! from the f. d.

At long last the noises on Sarge's part grew to a climax and became so much like those in the Lion House at feeding time that one knew

instinctively (!) that the mouse had not been as successful as Daniel on an earlier occasion.

Then Sarge, full of pride and prey, advanced to take his accustomed place on the pillow above my head. This was too, too much. I flatly refused to have his bloodstained whiskers intermingling with my hair! After some argument between us, he was deployed to the foot of Alice's bed, and we were able to compose ourselves thankfully to the distractions of the flying bombs alone.

Recommended Books

"A" CLASS.

"The Curtain Rises," by Quentin Reynolds. Inside incidents of the war told in Q.R.'s best style. Descriptive, informative, gossipy, always interesting. It carries the reader along from Moscow to Salerno, to Cairo, Iran, Algiers and Tunisia almost at the pace of a first-class novel. And if you like this book of his, you'll like, too, "Only the Stars are Neutral" and others telling of Reynolds' war-time adventures.

"Look to the Mountain," by Le Grand Cannon, Junr. An American novel which grips from the start. A pioneering story with excellent character drawing, and in one of the earliest chapters a grand description of a scything contest for the heroine. It is full of quaint turns of speech, which come naturally from the people portrayed, including the "dumb" but likeable hero, who suffered so many hardships. One marvels afresh, too, at the women of the Pioneers, who endured so willingly and survived so wonderfully.

"B" CLASS.

"Boomerang," by Helen Simpson, is also a tale of the days gone by, this time mainly with an Australian setting. Extremely interesting, it holds one all the time, although one of the main incidents seems almost incredible to us who live in these days of telegrams, telephones and worlds linked by wireless and are therefore apt to forget how long it took news of any kind to traverse the oceans between the continents.

"In Old Vienna," by Vicki Baum. An operatic setting this time for lots of lush loving, illicit and otherwise. The tenor hero is also teacher and all-round lover, by which I mean that he'd make a pass at almost everyone—and then some! Couldn't fall for him myself, but nearly everyone in the book does so. Readable.

"Scotland Expects," by J. Storer Clouston. An amusing story revolving round a will and the very "pawky" leading lights of a Scottish village who were all equally determined to have some share in the spoils by hook or by crook—and definitely not adverse to the latter method. Well told and not too Scotch for the "poor Sassenach" to understand, the turn of a phrase being happily used to indicate the national character rather than an elaboration of accent—or is it dialect?

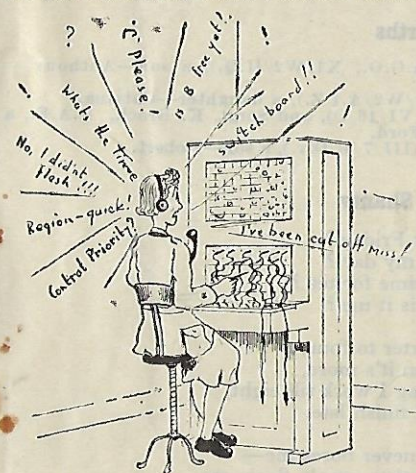
BOOKWORM, Reg. V. (P/T).

Thanks, Luton

The Editor of the N.F.S. FIREWOMEN'S MAGAZINE acknowledges with pleasure the receipt of the June issue of the News-sheet issued by IV/12/C. Div., and quotes from it the following rhyme which appeared on the notice-board at 12/C/1.X when new catering procedure commenced:—

If we rest, we rust,
If we trust, we bust.
No rest;
No rust;
No trust;
No bust—

In other words, pay as you eat!



"Switch-bored"

She spends her tour just breathing salutations,
From a P.U.T. to turning out a crew;
But never in our sphere of "operations"
Is so much blamed by so many on so few.

C. Burton, IV/II.

Marriages

- 28th March, 1944.—A.O. Thorne, IX/23/H.Q., to D.O. Kohn, IX/Reg. H.Q.
 1st April, 1944.—G.O. Wollescroft, X/29/E, to Cpl. E. Lee, R.E.M.E.
 6th April, 1944.—Fw. Crawford, IX/23/H.Q., to Sergt. A. G. Taylor, R.E.
 8th April, 1944.—Fw. Jones, IX/23/H.Q., to Cpl. R. Miles, D.L.I.
 24th April, 1944.—Fw. Currall, IX/23/H.Q., to Col. Off. Downie, IX/23/HQ.
 4th May, 1944.—Fw. Winder, X/29/B Div. H.Q., to Dr. Broad, X/29/H.Q.
 (now serving for Overseas Contingent).
 13th May, 1944.—Fw. Hope, IX/33/H.Q. to W. A. Tetsall, A.F.A., Fleet Air Arm.
 13th May, 1944.—P/T Fw. Harbach, IX/23/C.1U., to Lieut. M. J. Turner, R.A.
 17th May, 1944.—Fw. Lawn, IX/23/B Div. H.Q., to Sergt. Beer, R.A.F.
 31st May, 1944.—Fw. Handley, IX/23/B Div. H.Q., to F/O E. W. Manning, R.C.A.F.
 10th June, 1944.—Fw. Carver, V/37/A.1 Z, to Cpl. C. Robinson, R.A.F.
 10th June, 1944.—Fw. V. D. Machin, VI/1c., to Pte. R. A. Head, R.A.P.C.
 14th June, 1944.—Fw. Derbyshire, IX/23/Stores, to Pte. Budnick, U.S. Army.
 22nd June, 1944.—Fw. Foulds, IX/23/B 2, Sub-Div., to Mr. D. Mayhew.
 22nd June, 1944.—Fw. N. Whittaker, X/29/H.Q., to Cpl. G. Clement, R.A.F.
 24th June, 1944.—Fw. Thomas, IX/25/C Div., to A.C.1 Clarry, W. F. R.A.F.
 26th June, 1944.—Fw. F. Yates, X/29/H.Q., to 2nd Lt. F. Hilton, R.E.
 27th June, 1944.—Fw. A. Craig, X/W29/A.1 Z., to Sergt. M. Guthrie, R.A.F.
 1st July, 1944.—Fw. Evans, D.R., IX/25/C Div. H.Q., to Fm. Haynes, ex C.1Z. (D.R.
 Evans first met Fm. Haynes whilst delivering despatches to
 C.1Z. Fm. Haynes has now volunteered for Overseas
 service.)
 22nd July, 1944.—Fw. Swain, V/37/A.1 Z., to Fm. Reeve, V/37/A.2 V.

Engagements

- P/T Fw. Patricia Sherwill, VII/10/C.1 Y., to J. R. Jeffrey, Driver, R.E.M.E.
 (ex-P. T. Fm.).
 S.L. Fw. Pitt, IX/23/C Div. H.Q., to Mr. Leek.
 Fw. Handley, IX/23/H.Q., to F.O. W. C. J. Ray.
 P/T Fw. B. Winning, X/29/H.Q., to L.A.C. E. Cocks, R.A.F.
 Fw. S. Scott, X1/W2/Area Stores, to F. Lafave, Royal Canadian Navy.
 Fw. I. Steele, X1/W2/A.2 X., to A. Ramsay, Scots Guards.

Births

- 12th May, 1944.—To Mrs. Franks (ex-A.G.O., X1/W2/H.Q.), a son—Anthony
 Warwick.
 — May, 1944.—To Mrs. Weir (ex-Fw. X1/W2/A.1 Z.), a daughter—Catrina.
 4th June, 1944.—To Mrs. Brock (ex-Fw. VI/16/C), and Sergt. K. Brock, R.A.F., a
 son—Michael Ford.
 20th June, 1944.—To ex-A.G.O. Watters (III/7/B Div.), a son—Robert.

Shift Shanty

Is it Thursday or is it Friday?
 Is it your day or is it my day?
 Is it supper time, or time for tea?
 Do you work late, or is it me?

Two hours off at quarter to four,
 On Saturday afternoon it's more,
 On Wednesday evening I work till eight,
 On Monday I think I finish late.

It isn't the job—that never bores me—
 It's working on shifts that simply floors me.
 So will somebody please just tell me how
 I can answer this—am I working now?

Fwmen., Region IV, F.F., Sub-Division 12, C.5.Z.