

WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine

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THE BULLETIN

January 1946

Greetings from the King and Queen

"I sincerely thank you for your kind and loyal message of Greetings on behalf of the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence which I greatly appreciate."

GEORGE VI.

"Please thank all WVS members here and overseas for their loyal New Year message it is good to know that they are carrying on their good work and I reciprocate their Greetings."

ELIZABETH II.

New Year Honours

OBE.

Mrs. ANSTRUTHER GRAY, District Administrator, Eastern Scotland.
The Hon. KATHARINE CHATFIELD, Regional Administrator, Region 1.
The Hon. ESME GLYN, Regional Administrator, Region 9.
The Hon. PEARL LAWSON JOHNSTON, Regional Administrator, Region 4.
LADY RAILING, Head of the Industrial Welfare and Housing Dept., HQ.
Miss N. K. ROSS, Regional Administrator for Scotland.
LADY HELEN SMITH, Regional Administrator, Region 6.
NANCY, LADY VIVIAN, MBE, County Organiser, Cornwall.

MBE.

Mrs. BATES, JP, County Borough Organiser, Leicester.
Mrs. BROWN, Chief Billing Officer, Withernsea Urban District Council.
Mrs. COLCHESTER-WEMYSS, County Organiser, Gloucestershire. For Army welfare work.
Mrs. COURTIS, Regional VCP Officer, Region 8.
Councillor Mrs. FARNFIELD, JP, Honorary Secretary, Hastings Local Savings Committee.
Miss RENIE FREDMAN, Club Organiser, WVS, Overseas.
Mrs. GOLDNEY, Assistant Regional Administrator at Headquarters for Region 10.
Mrs. GORDON, JP, Organiser for County Durham.
LADY GOWERS, Chairman, Gerdon Services Club.
Miss D. GREEN, County Organiser, Glamorgan.
Miss M. G. HAMILTON, Assistant Regional Administrator at Headquarters for Regions 4 and 12.
Mrs. HART, County Borough Organiser, Londonderry.
Mrs. HILL, JP, Organiser and Secretary, Citizens Advice Bureau, Yarmouth.
Mrs. HOUSLEY, Chairman, Sheffield Savings Centre Sub-Committee.
Alderman Miss ALICE HUDSON, JP, County Borough Organiser, Eastbourne.
Mrs. HUTCHISON, Area Organiser, Spenn Valley.
Miss M. D. JACKSON-BARSTOW, Joint Organiser, Weston-super-Mare.
Mrs. JONES, County Borough Organiser, Newport, Mon.
Mrs. JUDD, County Organiser, Hampshire.
Mrs. KAPLOWITCH, Canteen Organiser, Nottingham.
Mrs. KING, JP, County Organiser for County Antrim.
Mrs. KIRK, Head of the Comforts Depot, Dunfermline.
Mrs. LANGMUIR, District Organiser, Western District of Scotland.
Miss A. C. LE BOURGEOIS CHAPIN, JP, Regional Transport Officer, VCP, Region 12.
Mrs. LEE, MB, ChB, County Borough Organiser, Hastings.
Alderman Mrs. LEYLAND, County Borough Organiser, Southend.
Mrs. LONES, Deputy Organiser Lady Mayoress's Comforts Depot, Birmingham.
Alderman Mrs. LONSDALE, Centre Organiser, Redcar, Yorkshire.
Mrs. LUCAS, County Borough Organiser, Canterbury.
Mrs. MAPLES, County Borough Organiser for Sheffield.
Miss D. F. MARRIOTT, County Secretary and County Canteen Assistant, West Sussex.

MBE—continued.

Mrs. MARTIN, Mobile Canteens Officer for Belfast County Borough.
Mrs. MARTYN MANSFIELD, Deputy County Borough Organiser, Bristol.
Councillor Mrs. MELLOWS, County Organiser, Soke of Peterborough.
Mrs. MOORE EDE, County Borough Organiser, Worcester.
Mrs. NICKSON, For service to the Royal Air Force.
Mrs. NUTTING, Centre Organiser, Wandsworth.
Mrs. OATES, County President, Flintshire.
Mrs. OMMANNEY, Centre Organiser, Chatham Borough.
Miss OSBORNE, Centre Organiser, Yeovil RD.
Mrs. ROBINSON, Centre Organiser, Chesterfield Borough.
Mrs. RUCK, Group Administrator, Essex and Kent.
Mrs. RYLAND, County Organiser, Warwickshire.
Mrs. SCOTT, Home Economy Department and Fuel Advice Officer, Scottish Headquarters.
LADY SOMERLEYTON, District Organiser. For public services in Lowestoft.
Mrs. TAPLEY, Centre Organiser, Ilford.
Miss C. M. TAYLOR, Deputy County Organiser and County Clothing Officer, Northumberland.
Mrs. THOMPSON, County Borough Organiser, York.

BEM.

Mrs. ADRIAN, JP, Deputy Chief Billeting Officer, Cambridge.
Mrs. BAINES, Mobile Canteen Driver, Kent County.
Miss M. H. BRASSEY, Head of Section, Purchasing Department, Headquarters.
Mrs. BURRIDGE, Housewives Training Officer, Bournemouth.
Mrs. GOAMAN, Superintendent, Services Club, Reading.
Mrs. JOWERS, Deputy in Charge, WVS Canteen, Darlington Station.
Mrs. McCALLUM, Deputy County Borough Organiser, Exeter.
Mrs. MERRETT, Clothing Representative, Wandsworth.
Miss C. L. REID, Centre Organiser, Horsham.
Miss L. M. RICHARDS, Civil Defence Ambulance Service, Cardiff.
Mrs. VAUX, Rest Centre Service, Hove.
Mrs. WALFORD, Regional Clothing Officer, Region 12.
Mrs. WALLIS, Deputy Centre Organiser, Hackney.
Miss WARD, Organiser, Housewives Service, Bristol.
Miss M. F. WARREN, Centre Organiser, Rye.

Telegram received from Her Royal Highness Princess Juliana of the Netherlands.

"Highly appreciate splendid assistance rendered by your organisation to our severely distressed compatriots of Netherlands Indies on arrival at Southampton."

JULIANA OF THE NETHERLANDS.

Letter from General J. Lee

(From Lieutenant-General JOHN C. H. LEE, US Army, to LADY READING.)

"It has come to our attention that your organisation played a most important part in the US Army's Educational Programme by securing billets for our men and women throughout the British Isles. It has also been pointed out to us that we could never have achieved the success we have if it had not been for your good offices and your willingness to help us.

"Will you, then, convey to each and every member of your organisation, far and wide, our warm appreciation and gratitude for the help they gave to our TWCA Staff in the United Kingdom in the furtherance of our Educational Programme. The resident staff, the students and the 'On-the-Job' trainees who were the recipients of your help are loud in their praise for the part you and your staff played.

"In appreciation of the superior work you have so consistently given us and with all best wishes to you and your able staff, believe me, Gratefully yours,

Greetings from Overseas

From India. Send best wishes to you and all your WVS members.

From the Gold Coast. Best wishes to WVS from all members in the Gold Coast.

From Buenos Aires. Our thoughts are with you all this first peace-time Christmas. Best wishes. British Women's Patriotic Committee, Argentine.

From Chile. Federation of Women Workers Chile heartily reciprocate good wishes WVS. Sincerely trust New Year brings happiness, prosperity.

From Malta. Happy Christmas grateful remembrances of yours and your colleagues great work for Malta.

From the United States. Happy New Year to WVS from Bundles for Britain with a prayer that the close ties built through the dark years may continue their friendship through a glorious peace.

From Sydney. Good wishes WVS here send warmest greetings to all your splendid members and best wishes for brighter New Year which they have done so much to ensure for the world.

From Australia. Your WVS has stirred the whole Empire to a great glow of admiration for the women of Britain and their almost superhuman service.

A Christmas Story from WVS, Bengal

The RAF on the airstrips all over Burma want to give Christmas parties to the children who live in the villages near where they are stationed. These children have never had a Christmas and the RAF are becoming literally "Father Christmases." Calcutta, the nearest big town, WVS spend their days there buying enormous quantities of toys, drums, teddy bears, toys of every description, which are being packed in sacks, ready to be collected and flown by the RAF "Father Christmases" to the orphans of Burma.

From Canada. Canadian soldiers and members of the Royal Canadian Air Force who have returned home to Canada have collected money for Christmas parties this year for children in Britain. They want WVS to run them because they say that while over here the Canadians themselves always gave parties for the children with the co-operation of WVS.

Extract from Bishop of Norwich's Address

(Extract from an Address given by the Right Rev. The BISHOP OF NORWICH at the WVS Region 4 Thanksgiving Service at Ely Cathedral.)

"The world to-day stands betwixt war and peace. The fighting, thank God, is over. We look back over six years of awful perils, when England was in greater danger than ever before in its long history; we look back over many failures, dreadful losses, and we thank God for the victory that has come, crushing and complete. But peace is not yet ours. We know it will be as hard to win the peace as it was to win the war, and that it will demand all that we can give of effort and unity and self-sacrifice.

"The future will, I suppose, inevitably bring more planning and regimentation in social life and life of any kind, but you have learnt the truth that never will the need grow less for voluntary work, undertaken in the spirit of service, with no reward save the joy of service offered.

"All this makes it clear why the WVS is still needed, and will be needed. You have, in fact, made yourselves and your work indispensable. We can't get on without you, nor without the qualities you have shown. Some of you, of course, must fall out, through weariness, or because of other calls. But others must take their place; others must carry on, because the work and the need remain."

United Nations Delegation

AT the United Nations Conference on International Organisation, held in San Francisco in April and May of last year, the Mayor of the city formed a committee of volunteer ladies to arrange "home hospitality" and personal shopping service for members of the foreign delegations. The home hospitality enabled foreigners to see the inside of American homes, and the shopping service proved a boon to delegates who had little time to spend on their personal affairs.

While official entertaining in London to any great extent will be out of order, the Minister of State is most anxious that, with His Majesty's Government as the host government, everyone shall receive as warm a welcome as possible, and the Foreign Office asked if the WVS would organise any kind, no matter how simple, of home hospitality, and also a personal shopping service for the benefit of delegates and their staffs in London.

The General Assembly consists of 250 delegates, 750 advisers and 2000 subordinate staff, the delegates coming from 50 different countries. WVS are staffing an information desk for the delegates in the building where their conferences are being held.

WVS have already received 150 offers of home hospitality, provided 57 shopping escorts and supplied over 197 theatre tickets.

It has interested our helpers there very much to see that, without exception, the delegates requiring theatre tickets are interested in only the very best straight plays.

Many visits to the House of Commons, the Tower of London and the Law Courts have been arranged, and through the kindness of the Football Association

hundreds of tickets for football, rugby football, ice-hockey matches and greyhound racing have also been arranged.

WVS have been able to assist in many small ways towards the comfort of delegates, for instance the French delegate left his Rolls razor in the plane. He was frightfully unhappy, went to the Rolls shop, but the queue was too long and his spare time too short, so he came to the WVS with his troubles, and the next day there was a razor all ready for him. Then one of the Norwegian delegates, whose second pair of glasses were broken and the opticians required three weeks, at least, to repair—well, WVS had them mended in two hours!

Letter from Alabama

(Extract from a letter to a WVS member from a US ARMY CAPTAIN, Alabama.)

"We all think of England and you people who were so kind to us. It is surprising but I think that our appreciation grows rather than fades, particularly so as we look back and see what a trial we must have been with our loud, boisterous, impetuous manners. I must say that no matter what happened you never showed it or complained about it.

"I guess that it was your lack of grumbling and complaining that impressed us most. We do realise how little you had in comparison to what your allies had at home, but in spite of it all you did share it with us and always with a smile.

"Your taking us in and making us feel at home in your homes, has probably done more to cement us together than anything else coming out of the war. In fact after reading the daily papers, I sometimes wonder if any good that may come in the next twenty-five years will not be due to the unnoted efforts of you who have worked so hard to make our stay a little more pleasant while we were in England. At least remember that while you haven't been given medals you are remembered with affection by every American soldier who did 'invade' England.

"I only hope that the conference tables are able to continue that friendship."

R. A. P. W. I.

(News from Mrs. BARRINGTON, who went from WVS Headquarters to supervise the distribution of clothes sent by WVS.)

THE letters RAPWI have been seen in the press frequently during the last few months, and standing as they do for "Repatriation of Allied Prisoners of War and Internees" they had, and still have, a deep import for many people. How many workers in WVS clothing depots realise that they had a hand in this complex and exciting operation?

At the request of the Colonial Office and with the agreement of the donors stocks of WVS clothing were assembled, packed and despatched by sea and air to the Middle East in September 1945 so as to ensure that civilians who had spent three and a half years as unwilling guests of the Japanese should have a warm outfit for the last part of their long journey home. It had been agreed that all returning prisoners of war and civilian internees coming home by the western route should come ashore at Suez to be fitted with clothing, and the arrangements made for their reception in the RAOC depot chosen for this purpose were wonderful to behold. They were efficient and spectacular, but above all full of imagination. There was no unnecessary waiting about or queueing; comfortable chairs were provided in a pleasant lounge, seven miles of bunting were used in the decoration, there were fresh roses on the tables and lovely toys for the children, many of whom had never seen a toy before. Free food supplied by NAAFI, treasure bags handed out by the British Red Cross Society, special arrangements for a quick visit to the dentist or the eye specialist, resulting in many cases in the production of a pair of glasses, which meant that at last someone could see to read again. All this was over and above the efficient and attractive set-up of the big hangar where the clothes were issued!

What of WVS clothing? This was arranged and issued by soldiers, ATS and WAAFs. A member of WVS Headquarters staff was attached to the women's and children's section as a kind of shopwalker. Those members of the WVS who have worked like drudges for so many years, caring for the clothing, chasing moths, folding and refolding, would have rejoiced if they could have seen the result of their labours. For one thing, the clothes in the women's and children's section looked so attractive; it was amazing, that after so many years of storage in the strange variety of depots whence they had come, in what splendid condition they were. And the pleasure they gave—it was terribly moving to see this pleasure. The people who gave the clothing can never have realised what it would mean

to these men, women and children after the years of horror through which they had passed, or that these gifts would be a big milestone on the road back to a life where kindness and consideration for other people is normal.

To those who had the privilege of taking part in RAPWI at Suez it meant far more than the mere issuing of warm clothing . . . it was an experience which will never be forgotten by either the staff or the so welcome customers.

News from India

EXCITEMENT was great when the news came through that thousands of ex-POWs and internees would be passing through Calcutta on their way home. It was finally decided, through the kindness of Mrs. Casey, that Government House should be the central depot for the collection of clothes. Appeals were immediately issued to all clubs, organisations and district branches and the response was "terrifically lovely." Dresses, children's clothes, toys, shoes, underwear, men's suits poured into Government House. Workers helped frantically, sorting, grading, mending, cleaning. When finished the depot looked like a department store, there was even a cupboard full of face-creams, lipsticks and powder. WVS(UK), awaiting transport, performed miracles of mending; a legacy of WVS "Make Do and Mend" classes at home. Bengal's personnel department supplied seventeen workers, including a lady-in-charge.

Belvedere was deserted and without furniture when Miss Jenney Christensen took it over. H.E. Lady Wavell gave prompt permission for furnishings to be returned from storage in Government House, and within one week the house was transformed, whitewashed and furnished. Derelict huts in the grounds became cheerful dormitories with gay curtains fluttering from the windows, bedspreads, carpets and lamps; each hut with its own colour scheme and its own name (Charing Cross to Holyrood Palace).

Inside Belvedere, where the women and children are housed, the Great Ballroom became the main lounge, the alcoves around housing stores (necessities unlimited), barber's shop, lady superintendent's office, Red Cross information bureau and telephones, just like a big hotel. Every day a different kind of entertainment is provided: a cinema show, a musical recital, a concert, a dance, and on one memorable day a wedding reception complete with a three-tiered wedding cake all iced.

Reading Matter

"IT is interesting how one's taste changes," the woman in green said. "Before the war my hobby was collecting china, and I read every book I could lay hands on which dealt with the subject of porcelain or china. Now I never look at anything of the kind—I read autobiographies instead." She thought a moment, then: "Someone told me the other day that bomber crews read them too, while fighter pilots prefer something lighter—detective stories, for instance—I wonder if that's true?" We decided that it was impossible to generalise; we both knew fighter pilots who never looked at a thriller, and bomber pilots who revelled in them, so that theory fell flat. That conversation took place during the war; after the war the question of books for the Forces came up again. "There aren't many books left," somebody said, yet by the end of November three counties had exceeded their targets for the Books for the Forces' Drive and others were on their way.

The Services Central Book Depot reported a total of 352 mail-bags of books for the week ending 13th October. The next week, the 20th, when WVS had begun their Book Drive and the film had been shown appealing for books, the total rose to 664 bags. The result of Lady Reading's broadcast on the 31st showed in the increased total of 983 bags in the week ending 10th November. After that the total catch for the week rose to well over the 1000 mark.

An average was taken of the number of books per bag: this worked out at fifty. We now have over half a million books—the results of our own strenuous efforts. But—and this is a most emphatic BUT!—we were out for THREE MILLION BOOKS, so please do not stop sending in books to the Services Central Book Depot whenever you can lay hands on a readable book!

The quality of books sent in by WVS is extremely high, which means that the standard of books in the parcels sent out to our men and women overseas had risen considerably—and a great deal lies behind this statement. It means that we all of us went "all out" to collect the very best—and that is quite a different matter to asking people for "any old book, please."

Now that Christmas is over the gaps in the bookcase will have been filled again (no coupons for books, so we have most of them from our friends and family). Don't be too long over reading them—we want to make up for the two and a half million books we had hoped to send the Forces overseas for Christmas, but couldn't quite collect in time, by sending them a magnificent Easter egg instead. So what about those poor old bookshelves that get no time to get dusty these days? Shall we empty them again? Why not?—they will probably be full again next Christmas so let's make room well in advance.

Shropshire and Buckinghamshire have tied with the first news in of totals and a record bag.

Shropshire, target 20,500, total 32,140.

Buckinghamshire, target 28,500, total 130,873.

Other Regions are Berks, target 20,000, total 20,100; Oxon, target 15,000, total 22,800; Isle of Wight, target 6000, total 7500; Southampton, target 15,000, total 17,245; Region 6 has done magnificently and we will publish their results in next month's *Bulletin*. Nottingham, with a total of 20,098, and Dover, with a total of 9200, are also splendid.

Shropshire sent us in a detailed report which shows what a scattered area they have to cover:

Atcham, 6225; Bridgnorth, 730; Clin, 873; Ellesmere, 1250; Ludlow, 5844; Market Drayton, 2652; Newport, 3300; Oswestry, 2892; Shifnal, 1057; Shrewsbury, 2507; Wellington, 2827; Wem, 1584; Wenlock, 399.

Reports are coming in quickly now and we will give a full list in the February *Bulletin*.

Poem

AN appreciation written by an officer on board HMS Troopship *Queen of Bermuda*, who had been watching WVS members, surrounded by piles of khaki drill, sewing and mending for the troops on board.

It isn't your darning, Lady in Green,
Though yours is as good as any we've seen;
It's not your Canteen, with hot toast and tea,
We've had one before, so it's not that. You see
El Alamein, Mareth, Caen and Berlin
Have left our Morale, well, wearing too thin.
We're often quite scared, and sometimes we dread
To face our old world; it's riddled and dead.
So when we feel bad, we just talk to you;
You're "Civvy Street," England, just like a preview
Of what we'll go back to: for you never mope,
You're bright and you're gay, you give us fresh hope,
You bring back our memories, our young peaceful dreams
Lost in War's smoke and dying men's screams.
It's lives and not socks. You see what I mean?
We'll never forget you, dear Lady in Green.

W.V.S. in Alderney

(AT the request of the Home Office a team of twelve WVS members has gone to Alderney to run transit camps and a communal feeding centre and assist in the re-homing of the islanders. A preliminary survey was made by Miss Bertram (Region 6) and Miss Gwyn Owen (North Wales) who were enormously impressed by the way in which Civil Affairs in Alderney had not only repaired the houses damaged by the Germans but even painted the outside in the gayest colours. Apart from telling you that the team left London on 30th November

with every sort of equipment—including two goldfish for the officers' mess—we leave letters, quoted below, to tell you how they are getting on).

"3rd December 1945. The journey on the *Anconia* was tolerable. We had breakfast in Guernsey with Judge French and his party and the Lieutenant-Governor came and welcomed us, and after that we came straight across in the launch.

"The other party was going to follow in the slow boat, giving us, as we thought, about three hours to work like demons and get things ready. However it was so rough that the slow boat had to turn back and they spent the night in Guernsey. This gave us time to make the transit camp attractive, air sheets and generally make them comfortable.

"The Army is feeding everyone for a day or two and this gives us extra time. We take on the feeding on Wednesday at breakfast. The military gave us a great welcome and had put out flags for the civilians. Their impressions were quite mixed. They were expecting things to be in a very bad state and when they arrived they were quite overwhelmed with the arrangements made for them. They are naturally thrilled to be back and find things so much better than they expected. They did not seem to realise how much work the military had done. This all happened Sunday and we have been in a whirl. We have managed to fix up the hospital so that new emergency cases can be dealt with. There are two trained people in our lot so we can cope. Yesterday evening we attended the first service in the parish church and this morning the Governor made the first landing on the airfield and came to inspect the camp, the hospital and our conditions. This letter is to go back with him on the plane. I just cannot tell you about our reception. When I tell you that the military had furnished every one of our personal rooms and had a fire burning in each you will get some idea of our reception. Our team is grand and we look forward to the next contingent coming with the next Alderney party on Wednesday. The next stage is to start the re-homing and we have now been asked to do the whole thing."

"10th December 1945. The position at the moment is that we are enjoying a slight lull and we can tidy ourselves up and settle into the routine. We have had a total of sixty-eight through the transit camp and feeding centre. Many of these have only had to stay in the camp for two nights, but naturally the re-homing cannot be done so quickly with the larger numbers, though the stuff is all at hand and the office side is working well. They are very pleased with their stuff on the whole and we shall be able to have the curtain material for them soon I hope. The communal feeding centre is an enormous boon. The cold weather has been a trial at the transit camp, but we have been careful to air everything well and the quilts make all the difference to the appearance of the bedrooms. We fixed up several sitting-rooms which are really quite comfortable. The transit camp is supplied with hot chocolate at night and this is most popular. To return to the feeding centre, meals are provided free on production of a transit camp ticket. When the inmates get into their own homes and still come to meals then they pay. We charge 1s. for breakfast, 1s. 3d. for dinner and 1s. for high tea. This, I think, is reasonably low. The Judge has said that out of this money we can pay for washers-up if we wish. This we have not yet done. The cook and assistants employed here are both good and we have three Germans in the kitchen, but also call for volunteers for washing-up which has so far always brought results. We are told that the Feeding Centre has made a great difference to the people here. Meal-times are vastly interesting. Announcements are made about mails, the opening of a shop, the issue of fuel and food permits, times of church services, etc. We feed extra odds and ends in the shape of Ministry Officials and our latest is a funeral party! Our room seats sixty-eight, so next week we shall have at least two shifts. Food supplies are fairly good and what the States shop cannot provide the Ministry of Food get from Guernsey, while the Army sergeant-cook is a staunch supporter. The local rationing arrangements and fuel supplies are going slowly so that although people are re-housed the majority still get all meals here. Mrs. Scollick and Miss Hudson regularly look after the hospital which we have now supplied with our equipment and scrounged the rest. They have checked all the medical stores, and only wait for a patient. Anyone of any rank near us in the morning comes in for elevenses. Last night we did manage to have our first party—a house warming. We had a small orchestra and one of the civilian girls sang. (I was wrong to say "one of the" as the average age according to the censuses which, by the way, we take as the policeman has not arrived, is fifty-five.) We had over 120 men and this will be a regular weekly affair, and we shall have one other special night for games and things in future. The place was packed but nobody minded. We discovered the men pressed their

uniforms, bryled hair and cleaned shoes for the occasion. We are now getting invitations to visit their messes. I have worked out the Christmas programme with the padre and Entertainments Officer. This includes a variety show and community singing on two nights at the cinema in which we shall participate and decorate. We are also combining with the troops in a street carol party and a dance. On Christmas Day, if we are not too busy feeding civilians, we hope to be able to wait on the men in their own messes. Somewhere or other we shall have our WVS Christmas party. We have not fixed this yet until we see what children come. We are now preparing for Friday's party which is due here at the crack of dawn on Saturday when bands will play and flags will fly. The Governor is coming over again for this affair, so with all this it will be a busy time. We have acquired a lot of extras and improvements to this building, including an Alsatian pup which has been presented to us. Yesterday we returned from the camp to find an enormous white and red sign over the door reading 'WVS Headquarters.'"

(Miss Streatfield, one of the team, tells us of their Christmas festivities.)

"First of all, that they dressed the church. (The church that had been emptied of simply everything by the Germans: no light, no heat, no altar, the place looked like a dreary barn. Organ pipes cut, no foot-stools, no proper chairs, only odd ones.)

"The WVS put a big Christmas tree on the floor and lighted it from below with all the candles to be had in the island, viz. seventy, and decorated the tree and the church entirely with little silver and green trees sent out by WVS HQ and holly also sent out at the same time.

"People were so moved that they wept, for they all loved their church. WVS put holly crosses, beautifully made, on the graves of the French and Russian slave-workers and American and English graves. There was an immense Christmas party for all the children, forty-one of them, with a Father Christmas, iced cake, presents for everyone and carol singing. There was also comic folk-dancing, two WVS, two soldiers, two WVS dressed as Alderney women and two soldiers dressed as Alderney men earnestly folk-dancing to everyone else's joy."

The Rangoon Club

"I HOPE you all realise how tremendously your gifts from home are appreciated: and it has made all the difference to WVS out here having the gifts from home, which have produced really lovely clubs and canteens for the men; for until we received these gifts we were entirely dependent on the money and equipment we received from the Army. We have been given a very nice building for this RAF Club, full of tremendous possibilities; at the moment the engineers are working on it, a Chinese contractor is busy with the decorations and a Chinese carpenter in Rangoon is making the furniture. The rest of the furniture has to be bought in Calcutta, as it is impossible to buy furnishings or crockery in Rangoon. The Club is near the main Rangoon airfield which is about seven or eight miles from the centre of the town and in rather an isolated place. It is needed there for the large number of men up there and because transport difficulties are such that it would be impossible for the men to get into Rangoon at night for any recreation. So you see how tremendously the men will enjoy what you are giving them. A plaque commemorating the gift will be erected in a prominent place in the Club, and if you would like any of the rooms called after the counties of your Region do write and tell us. Do please convey to all your members our very real thanks; I know that it is through all their hard work that this Club for RAF, Rangoon, has been made possible." Region 2 has collected £2372 for this Club, entirely from Centres who realised the need, and therefore made the contributions from local undertakings.

Broadcast by J. J. W. Buckley

(Broadcast by J. J. W. BUCKLEY, Manager, NAAFI Club, Aberdeen, in the Series "The Way We Live.")

"GOOD evening, everybody! I will try to portray to you the day-to-day life lived by the members and staff of this Club. NAAFI realised the great necessity for a Forces club and decided to create this magnificent effort here. The paramount factor was to give good food, shelter and the comforts of home to the large

numbers of the Forces in transit between the North, Shetland and Orkney. You will learn as I talk to you how it has succeeded. It is used daily by your own sons and daughters and also by troops from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Ceylon, South and Central Africa, West Indies and, as guests of this happy family, by the Forces of the United States. Many of these overseas troops are visiting this lovely countryside for the first, and, we hope, not for the last, time. Let me take you on a tour.

"When you enter you see a large comfortable lounge with a modern kiosk, where members can purchase cosmetics, toilet requisites, cigarettes, souvenirs, books and so on. Also on this floor are hairdressing-salons, showers, baths, ironing-rooms, fully equipped and staffed. On the left the Information Bureau is staffed by the WVS who give untiring service. They answer many varied questions, and here are a few examples: A soldier missed his wife at the station—could WVS trace her? I am glad to say two hours later she was found. An airman flown home from the East owing to the dangerous illness of his mother in Orkney—he had not seen her for four years—requested WVS to ring the hospital in Orkney to ascertain if his mother was still alive. The telephone message revealed the fact that not only was his mother alive but had been flown to hospital in Aberdeen. They were re-united just in time. The soldier who sent WVS money to deliver a super bunch of flowers to his young wife, as his baby son was six months old. His wife had done a marvellous job under difficult circumstances—he wanted to show his appreciation. A sailor who, owing to a sudden recall to sea, was unable to meet his motherless children. They were met, fed and placed on the train for home. Then there are questions of accommodation, travel enquiries, Red Cross service, theatre reservations, hospitality, welfare problems of all kinds. Motor-coach tours are also organised to places of great historical interest throughout this picturesque countryside. Each coach carries its own voluntary courier who is well versed in local traditions. Believe me, these couriers answer batteries of questions during the tour.

"We now move on to a well-appointed reading- and writing-room. This lovely room with its divans and armchairs, individual writing-desks and subdued lighting is in constant use. Here, almost more than anywhere in the Club, personal contact is made with the individual. Many problems are solved and guidance is given. Upstairs, we now find ourselves in a spacious restaurant. The small tables, seating four, are gay with flowers and cloths matching the dual colour schemes of this lovely room. A staff of waitresses are ever ready to attend to the constant stream of members. Entering the kitchens one realises: Here is the heart of the Club. The equipment is modern, the cooks, bakeresses and staff all contributing towards 'the way we live.' Leaving the kitchens, on we go to the concert- and ballroom where from a flood-lit stage many local concert parties and dance bands give untold pleasure to our members. Here on Sundays the Forces hold the series called 'Forces Favourites,' a show which they themselves weekly devise and produce. I can assure you this is extremely popular. We end each Sunday evening with community hymn singing and epilogue led by the Forces chaplain.

"Before closing this rapid tour permit me to say that thousands of the Forces have used this Club. The large number of unsolicited appreciations, both from home and overseas, are sufficient testimony for the troops to have adopted the name 'Scotland's Famous Forces Club.' It is a glowing tribute and reward to a wonderful staff whose one aim is to be of service to those who serve. Good night."

Civil Defence Exhibition

THERE is to be a Civil Defence Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum in June. WVS have been asked to produce any original posters, models, photographs or any other items of interest dating back to the beginning of the war or even earlier.

Centre Organisers will be circularised to ask what they can produce and/or what they can remember of their earliest WVS efforts. Meanwhile, perhaps they would start looking and thinking back, to revive memories of days past and excitements that would be of interest for WVS records.

Food News

THIS is the time of year when severe colds and 'flu attack the less fortunate. It may be useful, therefore, to give you a few recipes for the sick. It is always wise to remember, in preparing meals for anyone who is sick, and particularly a child, that only small quantities should be offered, food should be served as appetisingly and invitingly as possible. The best china, a flower tucked into the napkin, a pretty tray and an embroidered cloth all help to encourage the invalid's appetite.

We are also giving you a recipe in which you can use one of the fruit squashes which are fortunately in good supply. Do remember also that when a dish is supposed to be hot, it should be served hot, *really hot*, and when a dish is meant to be cold, it should be very cold indeed.

SOUPS

WHITE VEGETABLE SOUP. *Ingredients:* 1 small carrot; 1 small onion; 1 small turnip; $\frac{1}{2}$ leek; 1 stick celery; 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. water; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. milk; 1 oz. flour; 1 oz. fat; $\frac{1}{2}$ small bay leaf; seasoning.

Method: Melt the fat in saucepan, slice the vegetables and put into fat. Cook the vegetables but do not let them burn. Add the bay leaf and water and cook until vegetables are tender. Mix the flour and milk together, pour into saucepan and boil for a few minutes to cook the flour, stewing carefully. Take out the bay leaf, add the salt and the soup is ready.

POTATO SOUP. *Ingredients:* 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. potatoes; 1 stick celery; a few spring onions; a little leek; 2 pt. vegetable water and white stock; 2 level tablespoonfuls household milk; seasoning; 2 tablespoonfuls chopped parsley.

Method: Scrub, peel and slice the potatoes. Place them in the boiled salted stock and cook with the lid on till quite soft. Rub through a sieve and mash well with a wooden spoon. Mix the milk to a smooth cream with a little water, re-heat, add parsley and serve immediately.

BEEF TEA. *Ingredients:* $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. lean beef; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. cold water; pinch of salt.

Method: Remove all skin and fat from the meat and cut into slices. Stew each slice and soak in a china jug with the cold water and salt for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Cook in slow oven for 2 hours. Strain and remove fat—season and serve hot with toast.

CREAMED HERRING ROES. *Method:* Wash roes and stew in a little milk for 5 to 10 minutes. Mash with a fork. Add 1 level teaspoonful of flour mixed to a paste with a teaspoonful of milk. Cook until thickened.

MILK PUDDING. *Ingredients:* 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 oz. cereal; 5 level tablespoonfuls Household milk; 1 pt. water; 1 level tablespoonful sugar; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. margarine.

Method: Reconstitute the dried milk with the water. Wash the cereal and put into a greased pie dish. Pour over the reconstituted milk. Add the sugar. Dot with margarine. Bake in a slow oven for 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

JELLY (made with orange, lemon and grapefruit squash). *Ingredients:* $\frac{3}{4}$ pt. hot water with sufficient squash to flavour; or 3 to 4 tablespoonfuls extra fruit juice from bottled fruit; 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoonful extra fruit juice from bottled fruit; 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoonful powdered gelatine.

Method: Add sufficient squash or fruit juice to flavour to the hot (not boiling) water. Stir gelatine in thoroughly and add a little sugar if necessary. Pour into individual moulds, or glass, and leave to set.

JUNKET WITH DRIED MILK. 6 level tablespoonfuls dried milk; $\frac{3}{4}$ pt. warm water; 1 level tablespoonful sugar; a little vanilla and other flavouring; rennet according to instructions on the bottle.

Method: Reconstitute the milk in the warm (not hot) water. Put into a double saucepan or in a basin over boiling water. Add sugar and any flavouring liked. Make hot to blood heat. Pour into glass dish. Add the rennet, stirring quickly and gently. Leave to set.

CARAMEL CUSTARD. *Ingredients:* 4 level tablespoonfuls sugar, 2 tablespoonfuls water=caramel; 4 dried eggs (reconstituted); 1 pt. milk; 1 level tablespoonful sugar; flavouring.

Method: Make a caramel by boiling together the sugar and water till a dark brown caramel is obtained. Line several small individual moulds with the caramel. Beat eggs and sugar together very thoroughly. Boil the milk and pour it on the eggs, gradually stirring well all the time. Pour this into the lined moulds and place them in a shallow pan of cold (or hot) water. Bake in a moderate hot oven until set.

Note. Bake the mixture as soon as it is mixed. Do not allow it to stand.

Centre Flashes

THERE have been 5469 attendances of WVS members at the Walton Hospital, Liverpool, during the past year, and they are still helping.

A Road Safety demonstration was held at the WVS office at Driffield resulting in over 600 children being enrolled in the league of the NSPA.

Buxton WVS Store closes after helping nearly 7000 blitzed families with furniture, etc., during the twelve months that it has been open.

Berkshire's County Organiser sends us a motto for the New Year:

"Hats off to the Past
Coats off to the Future."

WVS are continuing to run the Information Centre at Winchester for a further six months, as the Mayor-elect has permitted them to retain their present offices.

Statistics sent from the Axbridge Rural Food Preservation Centre show that their past results of the fruit and vegetable canning tests stand at the high figure of 93 per cent.

Members in Sedgfield have undertaken to look after the war graves there, including those of Germans brought down in enemy aircraft; the grass is kept clipped, flowers planted and general upkeep maintained.

Chocolate and milk powder is being distributed to the school children of Ely, and the Centre Organiser is suggesting to the teachers that they ask each child to bring books for the Drive as a *quid pro quo*.

The headmaster of a public school urgently appealed to WVS for help in the kitchens of his school at Bradfield. The Centre Organiser found temporary workers for a fortnight and herself worked there four evenings a week.

Alkmaar members of the Union of Women Volunteers (Netherlands WVS) have agreed to send about twelve girls or women to help the wives of Bath with their household tasks, and to be Female Ambassadors of Friendship.

The County Borough Organiser of Preston has become jointly responsible for a house being turned into six flats and furnished. They have been let to six families of serving men and ex-Servicemen, and the venture is proving most successful.

When Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery received the freedom of

Maidenhead he congratulated the Centre Organiser on the work of WVS during the war years. Twenty members served luncheon at the Guildhall to the Field Marshal and 150 guests.

The Deputy Centre Organiser of North Shields went to Bergen Quay to say "farewell" to seven Norwegian families returning to Norway. The Norwegian Consul expressed his appreciation of this friendly gesture and of the help given by WVS during their stay in England.

Shrewsbury's appeal for gifts for the people of Zutphen in Holland has been a huge success. Clothing, toys, household goods and money (collected and spent in useful goods) have been sent in forty-six crates, each weighing between five and six tons, and that is hardly one-quarter of what is still to go.

The "Accommodation Department" run by WVS in Portsmouth CB is working as hard as ever, counting many successes to its credit. The RTO often telephones requests direct to the office, and the Service chaplains ask help with their welfare cases; the scheme is proving the greatest possible help to Servicemen and their families arriving in the town.

Bridgewater reports that one of their foster-mothers had occasion to go to London, so thought she would visit her evacuees to make sure they were well and happy. She found them looking white and miserable living with ten adults and other children in two rooms; their mother out at work all day, and the children expected to spend the day in the cinema. The evacuee children are now back in Bridgewater without the two new suits and the set of underwear, etc., and the £1 each that had been sent with them to London.

Sussex appreciates a charming gesture from their County Hospital:

"To recognise the outstanding help received during the war from the Women's Voluntary Services the Board of the Royal Sussex Hospital have decided to name in perpetuity a bed in the Hospital 'WVS Bed.' It became," says the Board, "almost customary for the Hospital to turn with full confidence to the WVS when some emergency arose that could not be met through the ordinary channels; and despite the many and varied character of the calls made, the Hospital invariably received immediate, practical and willing response from the Women's Voluntary Services."

A. T. S. Wedding Dresses

WVS have now taken over from the Duchess of Northumberland's Comforts Fund the distribution of wedding dresses for the ATS. The Chairman has received a message of thanks from Her Majesty the Queen, thanking WVS for the assistance which has been given to the ATS Comforts Fund in the past.

"Now that the Comforts Fund for the ATS is closing down, the Queen, as Patron, has commanded me to convey to you and the members of the Women's Voluntary Services Her Majesty's warm and grateful thanks for the magnificent way in which they have supported the Fund during the war.

"The Queen knows what sympathy and kind-heartedness prompted such splendid work, and Her Majesty is happy to think of the many warm and lasting friendships which have been made between the kind donors to the Fund and the many thousands of girls in the ATS who were recipients of the practical and most welcome gifts sent to the Fund.

"The Queen bids me add that the generous help given by the Women's Voluntary Services has been both a comfort and a joy to officers and auxiliaries, at home and overseas, who will never forget all that has been done for them during the past years of harsh warfare."

Fuel Flash

HAVE you found out any more tips for saving fuel? If you have do send them to the Domestic Front Department at Headquarters. We have received one you might like to try out. If you have an "Ideal" boiler or any similar slow-combustion stove try putting in empty tins instead of fuel. You must wait until the fire is going well and then put in the tins. They throw out a good heat and can be used over and over again until holes appear in them. This has been tried out, and quite a considerable saving of fuel has been effected.

Vitamins

IF you're prone to dyspepsia, vertige or chills,

If you're sniffy, congested or throttled,

Remember we've MILLIONS of vitamin pills,

Delightfully coloured (and bottled).

They're gifts from our friends who live over the seas,

And each war-weary WVS member

Who feels just a soupçon of give at the knees

Can apply for them NOW. SO REMEMBER!