

# W.R.N.S. NOTES

A great innovation from the Wrens' point of view has been the concession about plain clothes. This has been particularly welcome during the summer months and has very much added to the gaiety of the dances. Residents in East Meon have commented that the liberty boats look more like parties of film stars being taken to the set now that a little colour has been added.

Two Wren dances have been held during the summer. The first was in the Wrens' Mess at Leydene, when the guests had to choose between melting inside or wearing out their

shoes in the garage yard, but it was voted a great success and we hope to repeat it later. The second dance was at Soberton. This was a rather bigger affair, as there is so much more space for dancing, and everybody enjoyed it. We are very grateful to the Chiefs who so willingly help to run the dances and act as barmen.

Chief Wren Clarke has made history by being the first Wren here to get her second good conduct badge. She was awarded it on 4th September and was presented with a cake at the Chiefs' dance to mark the occasion. We are very proud to own a Stripey.

Some very happy Sunday bathing parties have been enjoyed at Hayling Island and the Wrens are grateful to the Petty Officers who have organised these picnics.

J. D.

## SPORTS

In spite of very limited facilities, the Wrens have shown considerable keenness during the summer months for all forms of sport, and outstanding individual talent has been much to the fore.

Wren Bradshaw, having swum for the Command throughout the summer, represented the Service against the A.T.S. and W.A.A.Fs. in the Inter-Services Swimming Gala. She scored an overwhelming

victory for the W.R.N.S. in the One Length Free Style and swam very well in the Relay Race.

Much enthusiasm and hidden talent came to light at the Leydene Sports, and Wren Payne competed very successfully in the Command Trials. She was chosen for the Command athletic team.

With very little practice owing to shortage of courts, our tennis team were beaten by the subsequent winners of the Command Tennis Tournament.

Wrens King and Flewin were chosen for the Command cricket team and, although there has been little practice at Leydene, a team of Wrens did very well to beat the men on the Soberton grounds. The men were made to play left-handed (and, it was whispered, against both umpires), but there was some excellent play by the Wrens and they deserved their victory.

The hockey season has now begun and the Wrens have already had one match against the men and are getting useful practice. We hope that we shall be able to have some games on the Soberton grounds. We are also hoping to play netball at Leydene as well as at Soberton.

Sports Day has probably been reported elsewhere, but from the Wrens' point of view it was a very successful day. There were a large number of entries for all the Wren events—even for the Obstacle Race, which always causes such disaster to the hair styles. These involuntary shampoos seem to have been successfully dealt with by the evening, when we all enjoyed the Sports Day dance.

J. H.



## W.R.N.S. TRAINING AT LEYDENE

At the time of writing we have just said good-bye to the first class of Wren Telegraphists to complete the thirty-five-week course; they number twenty-four in all and have been divided up between Naval Air Stations Lee, Dale and St. Merryn. They have been with us since last November, and have endured cheerfully both the blasts of winter and the stifling heat of summer. They will be missed equally at Leydene and Soberton

(W.R.N.S. quarters) and we would like to take this opportunity of wishing them all the best of luck in their new jobs. It is perhaps worthy of note that this class has provided two cricketers for Portsmouth Command W.R.N.S. XI, one swimmer for the W.R.N.S. team in inter-Service competitions and at least half a dozen actresses for H.M.S. *Mercury* dramatic productions.

We are left with four other new entry telegraphist courses in progress, numbering forty-nine in all, the completion date of the next course being 23rd January, 1948.

1st September saw the start of the first course for higher rates. Owing to the small number of candidates (two for P.O. and four for Leading Wren), it was decided to run a combined course of seven weeks, duration. These Wrens are all re-entries and their previous experience should prove of value when they assume positions of greater responsibility.

A recent A.F.O. announced the amalgamation of the S.D.O. Watchkeeper and T/P Wren categories,

the result being a "Signal" Wren. This involves converting 92 T/P Wrens and 168 S.D.O. Watchkeepers, and courses to this end are already in progress.

S. W.

### W.R.N.S. NEWS FROM SCOTIA

W.R.N.S. Training commenced on 4th January, 1947, when the first classes of Teleprinter and Telephone Switchboard Operators joined from Burghfield. The numbers under training have been small, but it is hoped that with the Signal Conversion Courses there will be a considerable increase. At present there are four classes under instruction, one Teleprinter, one Telephone Switchboard and two Conversion courses.

The majority of the trainees are new entries with a small percentage of re-musters and re-entries. Of the switchboard operators a great many have been trained and employed by the G.P.O. in civilian life.

During the summer months the trainees have joined with the ship's company Wrens for tennis; badminton, netball and hockey are now being played with equal enthusiasm.

E. G. B.



WRENS under instructions

## NOT FLIPPIN' LIKELY!

When Wren Virginia Daphne Slade  
Was drafted to our lab, we made  
A solemn pact to spare her ear  
From words a nice girl shouldn't hear;  
The sort of words, I'm bound to say,  
We used quite often every day.

The task at first was pretty hard  
Our hot rebellious tongues to guard,  
And once or twice I must admit  
We slipped up just a tiny bit  
And made our little lady flush  
Demurely with a dainty blush.

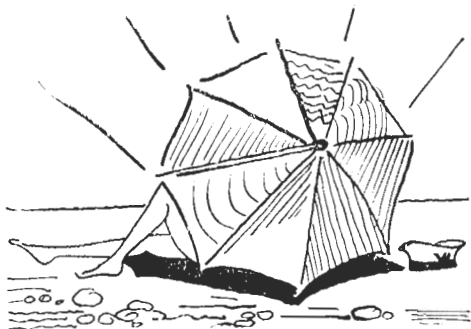
As weeks went by we grew quite good  
At using words that never could  
In any way or any sense  
Cause anyone the least offence:  
We even learned to look aghast  
At language we'd used in the past!

Until one day the awful thing  
Occurred: Wren Slade had gone to bring  
Some cocoa for our morning break:  
While she was gone, by some mistake  
A hot electric iron was laid  
Upon a tin box she had made  
Into a sort of dressing chair,  
Where she would sit and comb her hair  
Before a sheet of polished brass  
Which served her as a looking-glass.

Virginia Daphne Slade sat down,  
But soon a slightly worried frown  
Was seen upon her pretty face;  
A smell of burning filled the place  
(But no one offered to assist her,  
We thought it was just some resistor.)

Till suddenly she gave a yell,  
Crying: "What the bloody hell!"  
And, rising: "Who put that thing there  
Right in the middle of my chair?  
Of all the ——— stupid fools  
By ———, this beats the bloody rules!"

"AFTERGLOW" (A. S. E.)



"I don't care if you *"have"* got a Liberty Ticket"