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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NEWS BULLETIN No. 603

SALUTE TO THE A.T.S.

By an Army Officer

The A.T.S. as an Army organisation seems to have found itself. It is developing a proper corps spirit. Even if you have few opportunities of seeing them at work you have only to look around you, everywhere, at the girls who are "manning" it to realise this fact.

It may be because of a new knowledge that their work is increasingly important to the Army, and that the Army appreciates it; but whatever the reason, these girls have settled down to be "soldiers" in the best senses of the word.

More and more of them appear noticeably trim and well turned out, especially since the issue of their latest, more smartly cut uniform, and like all good soldiers they keep their brass buttons shining. They wear their peaked caps with more of an "air" than they used, while their regimental coloured "fore and aft" caps were never anything but becoming.

Even off duty the girls look disciplined. Unmistakable is their fresh pride in the different corps of the Army with which many are now serving - Royal Artillery, Royal Signals, and R.A.S.C. as shown in the corps badges they wear on the left breast of the tunic and keep as bright as the most critical men of these corps could wish.

Proudest of them all, perhaps, are those "gunner girls" on special work.

Watch the A.T.S. when they march and drill. These girls really do "swing the arms from front to rear" and "keep the chin drawn in". Half reluctantly, the male enthusiast for good foot drill has to admit that when they give their minds to it some girls can drill as well as men - but if he is a true enthusiast and reasonably fair-minded, he will feel also an odd sort of pride in this. Indeed, most Army establishments and units in which girls are employed have become proud of their own particular "A.T.S."

As to their daily work with the Army, much might be, and much may not be, written. The public sees them most commonly on duty as drivers of Army vehicles, from two-seater cars up to gigantic lorries, and greatly and rightly the public admires these competent young women.

But only within the Army can the value of the Auxiliary Territorial Service be fully known, and "A.T.S." the Army salutes you! -- War Office M.O.I. 1

M.C. FOR INDIAN OFFICER

Although it is India's North East Frontier threatened by the Japanese from Burma, that occupies public attention today, her North West Frontier menaced always by turbulent tribesmen still requires careful watching and constant vigilance. This is shown by the granting by the Commander-in-Chief in India of an immediate award of the Military Cross to 2/Lieut. Bashir Ahmed of the 6th Rajputana Rifles for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the face of the enemy during an action in Waziristan on March 7 this year.

This officer, on reaching his forward platoon, found that the Indian Officer in Charge and most of the senior N.C.Os had been killed or wounded. The enemy were in occupation of a strongly entrenched and loop-holed position about 70 or 80 yds away. He immediately seized a rifle and engaged the enemy who had crawled up to the bodies of the casualties which were lying in the open some 60 yds. in front of his position and within 10 yds. of that of the enemy. He continued to fire and cover the casualties although twice wounded. His action set a fine example to his men and enabled the bodies of the casualties and their arms to be retrieved later when a counter attack had dislodged the enemy. -- Ministry of Information M.O.I. 2

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WHY LETTERS GO ASTRAY

Ford and the Post Office

There are five Fords in this country which are causing considerable trouble to the Post Office. They are not motor cars but five towns all named Ford in five different counties.

There is a Ford in Northumberland, and others in Wiltshire, Argyll, Middlethian and Shropshire. Letters are posted, however, addressed simply to "Ford" without the addition of the county name.

Post Office sorting has been built on a county basis and, if delay is to be avoided, all correspondence for provincial addresses must contain not only the post town but the county name as well. - - G.P.O. M.o.I. 3

SCOUTS THANKED

The Minnigaff Group of Boy Scouts (Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire) have collected approximately 300 old worn-out tyres for salvage. The Group Leader has been thanked and asked to convey the appreciation of the Rubber Controller to the Scouts. - - Ministry of Supply M.o.I. 4

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