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THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE REPEATED OVERSTAS BY PREFACING
ANY MESSAGES FILLED WITH THE EMBARGO

THE W.A.A.F. IS 3 YEARS OLD

Special church services and parades, birthday parties, sports and concerts have been arranged for Sunday, June 28, to mark the third anniversary of the formation of the W.A.A.F. These will take place at every R.A.F. station where there are W.A.A.F. serving, and the airwomen will be hostesses to the R.A.F. At one station the W.A.A.F. cooks have made a large three-tier birthday cake, crowned with three candles.

The director of the W.A.A.F. will take the salute at a unit where over a thousand airwomen will march past.

Much has been achieved in three years by this women's service which is an integral part of the R.A.F.

The W.A.A.F. is a successor of the Woman's Royal Air Force which was demobilised after the last war. The Munich crisis of 1938 led to the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service which had special R.A.F. companies. Women wishing to volunteer for duty with the R.A.F. were entered as members of these companies. On June 28, 1939, the King approved the formation of a separate service "to be designated the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, to serve with the R.A.F. in time of war."

Originally there were five trades: today there are over 50 for airwomen, and 16 branches for officers. At the beginning of this year the W.A.A.F. was the largest women's service, and its present strength is over 100,000, nearly all of whom are volunteers.

Its object, that of replacing officers and men of the R.A.F. employed on ground staff duties, has been fulfilled. Today, members of the service are serving in all the R.A.F. Commands at home, as well as in the Middle East and the United States of America.

Officers and airwomen are taking an active and important part in the ground work involved in the bomber raids and fighter sweeps which are being carried out by the R.A.F. They are being employed as photographic interpretation officers, meteorological officers, code and cipher officers, intelligence officers, and in many other skilled and necessary occupations. They contribute valuable service in other ways - in cooking meals for aircrews to take on raids and to be ready for them on their return. Indeed, this type of service is vital, that is why the demand for cooks as the W.A.A.F. enters its fourth year of life is so great.
