

A.T.S. SIGNALS OPERATORS LIVE UP TO THEIR MOTTO

Four A.T.S. Signals Operators lived up to their motto "Swift and Sure" when they carried out a double shift of work and sent and received every message without delay after their billet, two doors from their office, had been totally demolished by a direct hit, during a daylight raid in East Anglia yesterday morning.

The N.C.O. in charge was Sgt. Johnson, of Eastbourne. She took charge at once, and with her were Pte. Bennett, of Middlesbrough, Pte. Luke, of South Shields, and Pte. Bates, of Scunthorpe, Lincs. They sent out messages reporting the bombing, in which their colleagues were casualties, and in which all their personal possessions were lost.

A low-flying bomber dropped a stick of bombs demolishing an A.T.S. billet and an Army billet in the same road early in the morning. The A.T.S. were just dispersing from parade before going on duty. They saw the plane coming and all rushed into the billet, except one clerk, Pte. Dipple, who comes from Seven Kings, in Essex, and who stayed outside. She escaped with slight injuries.

All the four A.T.S. on duty escaped injury. They carried on with their duties as if nothing had happened.

"They never turned a hair - they simply carried on with their jobs like soldiers, and even sang at their work", said the Brigade Commander.

One orderly made tea throughout the morning for the rescue workers.

The Signals operators on duty at the time carried on until late afternoon, when they were relieved by A.T.S. Signals operators from a neighbouring unit who had already done their normal shift. Infantry and R.A. troops helped with the rescue work.

The A.T.S. whose billet was destroyed were provided with new clothes and were fed by A.T.S. cooks from a nearby A.A. Battery, who sent their meals in a lorry. The auxiliaries were accommodated last night in the Officers' Mess.