

YMCAs OF ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND
AND WALES



The Forgotten Angels (Part Two)

History of the YMCA Women's Auxiliary

Researched and written by David H Smith

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Wednesday 7th December 1939

The National Council had just finished one of the most difficult years and Mr Chamberlain, the YMCA National Secretary had been reading the Annual Report to be presented at the Council's AGM. "Everything is ready to do in an emergency. The criticism of Sir Arthur Yapp was that he used to make decisions without consulting anybody. We remember his great leadership in the early days of the First World War, Sir Arthur said, 'We will risk anything'." Mr. Chamberlain hoped in the event of any emergency we shall be able to go ahead in the same way.

With reference to the great international difficulties in China and Japan, the YMCA in China had been tackling problems such as transporting thousands of students from one city to another and re-establishing student bodies. Mr. Chamberlain had never read more fascinating reports than those received from China. Then there were stories of Czecho-Slovakian refugees and by the generosity of friends, the YMCA had sent £1,000 towards this tragic work. The YMCA had lost four important centres which were now in the hands of the Germans but at the same time it was helping to bear a part of the heavy refugee work.

The YMCA had arranged to house thousands of refugees at the YMCA holiday centre in Barry, Wales. The YMCA had been part of a series of interviews with the War Office during the past four months and had been urged to hang onto every experienced women it can get, as there will be huge amounts of work to be done and all our centres would be used in every part of the country. Amid all these alarms, and excitements, our work is developing. We must be careful to stick to our job, our last emergency is for youth. In peace or war we have a job to do which by tradition and experience we are fitted to do and Mr Chamberlain hoped we would remain a compact and solid body in serving youth either in peace or war.

(from one Mr Chamberlain to another)

WORLD WAR II

Towards the end of 1938 National Committee of the NWA were expecting the country to go to war and were busy making plans for the services. They had already seen the **Prime Minister Mr Chamberlain** meet with **Herr Hitler** in talks which led to Munich Pact, appeasement which led to Mr Chamberlain to return to England making the 'Peace in our time' speech.

In-fact this gave Britain some breathing space in which to mobilise its war machine. Letters from the National Committee of the NWA had already been sent to many WA's throughout the country, drawing attention to the Women's Voluntary Service under the ARP, asking if WA members would co - operate with them in their own locality. The WA was ready to set up camps and other support services wherever needed and was well prepared but until war was declared, their plans could go no further. All WA members were asked to be ready and give all they had by way of support in the event of war.

In March 1939, Hitler seized Czechoslovakia, which he was allowed to get away with. On September 1, German armies marched into Poland leading to a declaration of war from Britain and France.

The National Council of YMCA's was officially informed several months before war broke out, that in the event of national emergency the army council would welcome the help of the Association for the service of the members of His Majesty's forces and **Sir John Anderson** stated that he was of opinion that apart from persons eligible for the more active service of defence, actual and prospective workers might properly be advised that in understanding to do such work they would be making a definite contribution to National Service.

The NWA accordingly prepared a register of women ready to serve in various capacities. The **Honourable Mrs Sydney Marsham** sent out forms in the London Headquarters who upon their return compiled a National Register of NWA workers. The service included canteen, hostel work, cooking, motor driving, book - keeping and secretarial. Women were also asked if they would be willing to undertake service overseas.



The Second World War was a vast expansion of the YMCA work for HM Forces. In due course there were some 2500 specially provided centres and 1,000 mobiles, although not the only voluntary organisation operating in World War II, it was two and a half times as large as all the others put together. The WA who played a major part in this mobilised service was every bit as welcome as it had been in 1914 - 1918.

In general WA activities within the YMCA war movement during 1939 - 45 followed the previous pattern of service to the forces, but it should also be noted that as part of its war effort canteens served those of other services who were involved in the "blitz" on London. The Red Triangle was once again in the forefront of battles.

In World War II, the same concern shown to prisoners of war was repeated, this time prisoners of war were found in Germany, Poland, France, Great Britain, Canada, USA, The Caribbean, Africa, Egypt, Palestine, India Australia, China and Japan. The world-wide network of YMCA's allowed access to prison camps where women of the WA of all nationalities supplied valuable services.

There are no recorded minutes of meetings held from 1940 - 1947.

There is a list of ladies present at a meeting held on 7th May 1942 which is included to show the number of women involved in the war committee from around Britain.

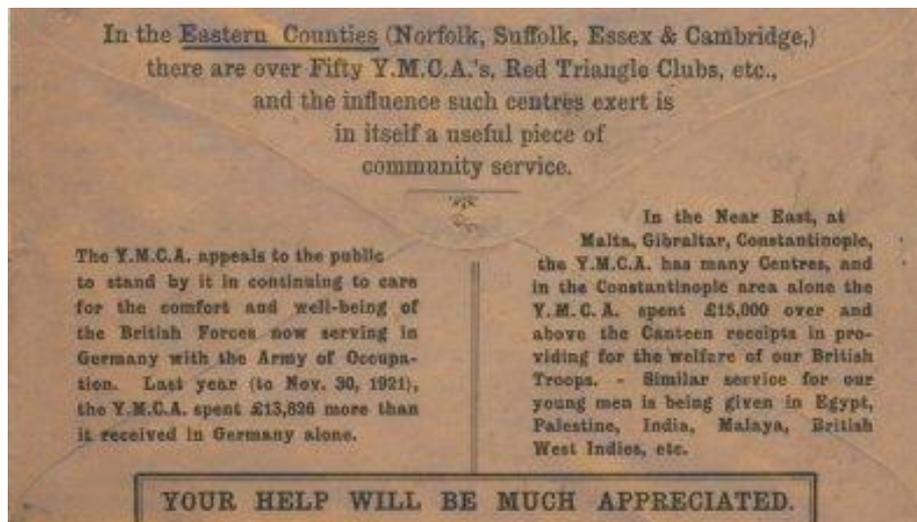
PRESENT AT YMCA MEETING ON 7TH MAY 1942.

Name	Centre	Remarks
Mrs-Anson	Midland Area	
Mrs Ashwell	Leicester	
Mrs Astell Gatti's		
Mrs Baron Victoria		
Mrs Bateson	Rutland	
Viscountess Bearsted	Central Mobiles	
Mrs Ballamy	Yorkshire	
Mrs Chettle	Lancs, Cheshire	Cumberland, Westmorland
Mrs Chivers	Cambridge	
Mrs Coathup	Tynemouth N.E.Div.	
Lady Cohen Gatti's		
Miss Cooper		
Mrs Charles Dent	Devon	
Mrs Dixon Grubb	Burnham - On - Sea	
Miss Edqar	Southport	
Mrs Elliot Seager	Cardiff	
Lady Emmott		
Lady Forres	Forres House	
Mrs Halahan	Isle Of Man	
Lady Mabel Hamilton Stubber	Swindon	
Mrs Arnold Henderson	Chelmsford	
Mrs Hill	N.E.Division	
Mrs G.Howry	Ascot	
Miss G.Hughes	Chairman - E.Midlands Div.	
Mrs Lang	Horsham Area	
Lady Leon	Bracknell	
The Countess of Lichfield	Midland Area	
Hon. Mrs. Mcnauqhton	Sunningdale	
Mrs Mellor	NW Region	
Mrs Melville	Stratford - On - Avon	
Mrs Mill	Plymouth	
Miss Morris	Bracknell	
Mrs B.Oliver	Barnstaple	
Mrs Packard	Ipswich	
Mrs Paine	NE Riding - Yorks	
The Lady Eya De Paravicini	Brighton & Hove	
Mrs Price - Davies	Cookham	
Miss Prichard	Corsham, Wilts.	
Miss Rolfe	Waterloo	
Mrs Savaqe	Leicester	
Mrs Charles Seymour	Charing Cross Station	
Miss O.Skempton	Northampton	

Mrs Southgate	Woking
Mrs Stirling Newall	N.E.Division
Hon. Mrs. Stuart - Wortley	Southern Div
Mrs Swainson	Bristol
Mrs Tweedy	Tynemouth
The Hon.V.Vivian Smith	Sloane Square
Mrs E.Walker	Cambridge
The Duchess Of Westminster	Southampton
Mrs Williams	Newquay
Mrs Frank Young	Surrey
Mrs Sopwith	

1947

At a large gathering of ladies at the 1947 NWA meeting held at the Rubens YMCA Officers Club in London on 8 July Mrs Sydney Marsham, Chairman, made an important speech which outlined the NWA's achievements.



The Chairman first welcomed Princess Helena Victoria and said that without her Highness there would never have been a National Women's Auxiliary. Until 1914 it had been entirely a men's organisation in 1914 Princess Helena became interested in the work of the YMCA and from that date until now, women had played a very big part in the work of the Association. The NWA was formed in 1918 after the First World War; from that time it had become a strong women's organisation.

During World War II, thousands of women had been enrolled and signed under the Red Triangle. Infact, just under half a million women had worked in the YMCA, not only in Britain but also overseas. This received great applause. This was the first post war meeting of the entire committee which now had to examine its role in the coming years of social and economic change. A new W.A. constitution was presented to the meeting, which was accepted.

It was recognised that the work of the YMCA in peace times very much needed the WA's to help with the work. Times were changing, women were now challenging the 'male only' membership of the YMCA and it was reported from Leicester that girls were now allowed to participate in boy's clubs in that area, supervised of course.



This was to be the last meeting under the presidency of HH Princess Helena Victoria, as she died in 1948 after being the driving force of the WA for so many years. She was not only a great lady, but also a great Englishwoman.

At a meeting on 9 June 1948, the death of the Princess was reported. It had been the wishes of the Princess to see the **Princess Royal** take her place as president. The Princess Royal consented to this, saying that for 20 years she had been actively interested in the YMCA as President of the Yorkshire Women's Auxiliary.

The Princess referred to the great work of the YMCA and of her visit BAOR (British Army of the Rhine) where she was shown the YMCA club in Hamburg and met W.A. volunteers.

It was decided that the application fee for a local auxiliary should be £1-0s-6d (52p) where the membership was under 50 and one guinea (£1-0s-5d) were over 50. The local auxiliary would pay £1 0s 6d to the Divisional Women's Auxiliary and the Divisional Women's Auxiliary pay a fee to the National Women's Auxiliary. The new constitution was then sent to the National Council of YMCA for approval (see appendices).

In 1949 **Miss Margison** secretary to the Lancashire and Cheshire Division WA reported that as in many parts of the country their buildings had suffered a good deal of bomb damage, which was slow to be reconstructed, however, the money raising capacity of the women had realised £3000 which was presented to the Princess Royal on her visit to Southport. Women who joined the WA during World War II were still keeping their affiliation to YMCA work, which was most pleasing.

Even in 1950 WA workers were still working overseas although the numbers were down on the war years, 100 still worked at BOAR, a few in Austria, two in Trieste and several in the Suez Canal zone, one in North Africa and two in West Africa. A reunion of former W.A. workers was held in London, which was well attended and addressed by the **Princess Royal**.

Far from the work of the WA recording it seemed to be growing. In the North East of England there were 16 WA's in the area with a membership of 1000 and a new WA in Sutherland opened that year.

Many of the wooded huts which had given excellent service to the movement since 1918 were now in poor repair and everywhere funds were being raised to replace them.

It was a time too for preparation for the 1951 Exhibition on London which would be an ideal time for the WA to help show how the work of the YMCA had grown since the Great Exhibition of 100 years previously, which had helped spread the YMCA throughout the world.

The YMCA was now determined to resume the emphasis on supporting work with young boy's, which had partly neglected since the late 1930's. Of course, the WA was expected to play a large part in delivering and supporting this expansion.



In 1951 came praise for the WA from the National Council of YMCA who thanked the WA's "there have been centres where committees would have faltered, but the Women's Auxiliary had faith and this has been supported by devoted service. The example and enterprise so characteristic of the WA's is an inspiration and own most sincere thanks was is given", praise indeed which was fully deserved.

The death was reported of the chairman of the north-east Division, **Mrs A. E. Hill M.B.E**, she was replaced by **Lady Noble of Walwick Hall Humshaugh**.

The WA did have a formidable presence in YMCA circles a story was told of during the war when sites and buildings were held up by the Ministries, the technique was to find the officer concerned and say "Do you know anything about the YMCA?, well all the members of the Royal House are in it, every wife of the cabinet minister and thousands and thousands of women all over the country work for it - you'd better get something done about it". This is a lovely story, which sums up the power and might which the WA's could muster.

On 6 June 1951, the YMCA held its 107th Birthday this was celebration in a service held in St Paul's Cathedral London, where founder, Sir George Williams was buried. It was attended by many W.A. members who heard a stunning speech by the Dean of St Paul's about the sterling work done by the movement. That evening a huge rally was held with members attending from all over the world it was a time of enjoyment and reflection on how the movement had changed during the time of its existence.



In his address **Mr Tucker, National Secretary of the YMCA**, said,

"The more I look at my colleagues the more I am convinced this movement owes its success to God, but God works through people like ourselves. What the Women's Auxiliary did for the movement was beyond thanks. Quite apart from all the hundred and one pieces of service they were rendering, women could help in local Associations to see that the YM is outward reaching - there is a terrible danger of thinking it is one sided. Women can help by bringing in a re - enforcement to the YMCA. Also the women could keep in the greatest need of all - to find the right men leaders. The whole time the secretariat was not getting enough of the right type of men coming into it."

This was praise indeed and shows how much respect the WA had achieved in their 20 - 50 years.



In August 1952, the long dream of a permanent camp at Lakeside, on the banks of Lake Windermere in the Lake District was opened. It was opened by W.A. President The Princess Royal.

Mrs Couchman of the South Western Division was presented with the Gold Order of the Red Triangle for 40 years service to the YMCA by **Sir Frank Willis**. It was the continued service of the 'old guard' which continued to encourage new comers to the YMCA and W.A. work so important. He also commented that it was partly by the generosity of the people of South Africa who had subscribed £30,000 and the YMCA the final £20,000 which had meant the National Centre could be built.

In 1953, there was disappointment that Princess Royal could not attend the annual meeting of the N.W.A. but she was still working hard for the W.A. in attending functions. During the year, she had visited Sheffield, Darlington and North Gloucester, also the Women's Auxiliaries in British Guiana and Barbados. Mrs Marsham Chairman urged everyone to follow the example of the young Queen (Elizabeth II) and help carry on the work of the great association.

WA's were still thriving in the 1950's with new ones opening in Hereford and another in Wellington, under the name 'Wellington Women's House'. The WA was adapting to new conditions, becoming increasingly involved in major fundraising - rebuilding YMCA'S. A new building for the YMCA in Birmingham was opened by the Princess Royal in 1954.

Dame Joan (Mrs Marsham) had served the YMCA for over 40 years in 1954.

The work with boys was still seen as a very important strand of the YMCA/WA work. **Mr Tucker** National Secretary of the YMCA updated the National Committee at their meeting in 1957 on what he considered was still a vital part of the association. He continued -

"In the service to the boys and young men we try to touch them at very vital points of the lives. The first important point is when the boy leaves school for his first job. Greatest development in a boy's life is new influences coming to him, one vital place at which we must try to help these boys. Help the boy's camps did this - it was a venturesome scheme co - operated with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. There is a Sea Training Scheme roughly on average of 50 boys who want to go to sea."

"Then there is the **British Boys for British Farms** Scheme started in 1930 for training boys who had no future. Times have changed, boys who come into that scheme are town boys who have in them a love for the country and animals. The scheme had put 14,000 boys on the land, of these 23% had gone on to Agricultural Colleges and Universities. Afterwards these boys have become fathers and first class citizens. When a lad goes into the services, the local YMCA's give guest facilities. Women are leaders in our centres as well as in Germany. New YMCA's are being built in London, as throughout Britain - all of us are helping to equip our boys and young men".

The Women's Auxiliary of the YMCA is a membership of women, believing in principles and ideals of the YMCA banded together to work for, and further those principles, and to do whatever lies in their power to co-operate with the leaders of the YMCA movement, first of all in their town, then in their county, and in the national and world-wide work.

Question 1 In some Red Triangle Clubs our representatives have found the same experiences - that is, women seem to be doing the drudgery, but a great deal depends upon the women themselves. If they are enterprising they will see that they are not kept too much in the background, seem content to be allowed to combine in social gatherings in which they help in refreshments etc.

Question 2 WA's should be a separate organisation and their work is to assist and co-operate with the local secretary in the local work, and when opportunities occur in the county and worldwide work. Secretaries are not always willing to allow co-operation, but the only thing to do is to show them by work done, that the help of the WA will be an advantage to him in his work. The idea is to have one or more members of the WA on the local Men's Committee, to give and get first hand reliable information as to the work, progress and otherwise, but this is often a question of time and patience.

Question 3. Re- forming WA's, subscriptions etc. Where WA's already exist in connection with clubs, see that they are constitutionally formed, that they meet regularly and have a representative on the Men's Committee.

The subscription must be decided locally, but I would suggest 5/-s officers and 2/6d the other members, the subscriptions to be retained by the Auxiliary to meet expenses of printing etc.

Question 4. The NWA is in favour of mixed clubs where these can be run successfully and in such there is a special need for a WA or committee.

Members of the WA's and women members of the Red Triangle Clubs, are not one and the same thing. Experience has proved, however, that where there is a women's section in a Red Triangle Club and also a WA, the latter should be members of the former for women members resent anything in the way of patronage. If, however, those who are helping to organise the women's section become members and take part and mix with them in the club a great deal of good may be done.

If it was preferred an inclusive subscription for both might be arranged according to local conditions.

In the case of small Red Triangle Clubs where there are women members and no WA's the Divisional WA try to help them, perhaps with their programme, or in attending any special function, and also try to link them up by having their secretary or leading member on the Divisional Committee and so keep in touch with the women members.

**PRECISED MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE WOMENS AUXILIARY
11TH JULY 1963 IN THE PRESENCE OF
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL
The Honorary Mrs Sydney Marsham, DBE in the Chair.**

**The Countess Jowitt, The Viscountess Davidson,
Lady Blane, Sir Norman Tucker,
Mrs. Vernan Harcourt, Mr David Gunn**

Mrs. Bennington	Mrs. Griffin	Mrs. M. Philips
Mrs. Boston	Mrs. Harrison	Mrs. Pierce
Mrs. Botterill	Mrs. Hudson	Mrs. Redburn
Mrs. Baggott	Mrs. Iles	Mrs. Rudkin
Miss Boyden	Mrs. Johnson	Mrs. Richardson
Mrs. Bament	Mrs. Jackson	Mrs. Shaw
Miss Bartlett	Mrs. Joel	Mrs. Slingsby
Mrs. Barker	Mrs. D. Jackson	Miss Seaton
Mrs. Buglass	Mrs. Kirtley	Mrs. Shallcross
Mrs. Clark	Mrs. Leeson	Miss Tattersall
Mrs. Collins	Mrs. W. Lawrence	Miss Thompson
Mrs. Cartwright	Mrs. V. Lawrence	Miss M. Wykes
Mrs. Chivers	Miss Leavesley	Miss C. Wykes
Mrs. Casling	Mrs. Mc.Auklin	Miss Webb
Mrs. Cromwell	Mrs. Morton	Miss Woodford
Mrs. Chalk	Mrs. Marshall	Mrs. Wilkins
Miss Canning	Mrs. Mackenzie	Mrs. Willett
Mrs. Dutton	Miss Nicholas	Mrs. Wells
Mrs. Davies	Miss Nottage	Mrs. Walker
Mrs. Downie	Mrs. E. Philips	Mrs. White
Mrs. D'Eath	Miss Pearson	Mrs. Wad
Miss Evans	Mrs. Pullon	Mrs. Farthing
Mrs. Popplewell (secretary)		

The Meeting opened with a Prayer.

The Chairman said she knew she was speaking on behalf of all present how delighted everyone was to welcome our President. It was difficult to adequately express thanks to **The Princess Royal** who did so much to help our work. Last year Her Royal Highness visited Wales, Carlisle and Leeds, and during The Princess' tour overseas, visits were made to NWA Centres and workers in Cyprus, Tripoli, and BAOR.

Dame Joan said that this year, instead of the usual reports from Areas she would be calling upon special speakers whom she felt sure members would enjoy hearing and there would be just one Report - from Wales.

Brief reference was made to a report received from Lancashire and Cheshire where a new swimming pool had been installed in the Youth Centre and where the Blackburn ladies had played a large part in establishing a new Club.

The North-Eastern Area had reported another busy year and there were now eighteen Auxiliaries in the Division with a Membership of over 1100. A good report had come from the North Midland Region, and the Leicestershire and Rutland Division had reported a very good and busy year. The Coventry members had just come from the Royal Show and had seen the good work of the local NWA at that function. As usual, there was an excellent Report from the West Country, with a special reference that the Plymouth ladies had given over 10,000 hours service in the Centre, and that it had been a very good year in Bristol. The Cambridge centre had been as busy and helpful as ever, and two new Auxiliaries had been formed at Reigate and Southampton.

The Chairman then gave the number of The President's Award Badges as follows:-

TO DATE	47 members with	40 years' service
	130 members with	30 years' service
	370 members with	20 years' service
	709 members with	10 years' service

OVERSEAS WORK

The Chairman said,

"In Germany today we have 18 Centres. Most of them are run and staffed by our NWA workers. **Mr. Laing and Mr. Talbot** are in charge at Headquarters, and **Mrs. Gullick** who looks after all our staff is there also. New workers are always needed to replace those who have to leave. It is an interesting and satisfying job for those who want to help others - with very good accommodation provided and an allowance of £4.10s.0d. a week to start."

Dame Joan asked the delegates present to remember these facts when meeting anyone suitable, preferably between 21 and 45 Years of age.

NEW YMCA BROCHURE

The Chairman drew attention to the new Annual Report, covering every area of YMCA work and said she felt it was the best brochure the Association had ever produced and she hoped the delegates would each take a copy before leaving.

WORK FROM WALES

The Chairman then called upon **Mrs. Cartwright** from Wales to read her Report:-

Mrs Cartwright said that undoubtedly the "highlight" for the NWA in Wales had been the half-yearly Meeting in Bridgend, attended by The Princess Royal. This was followed by a Garden Party at Duffryn. Gifts were received for the "YMCA Capital Development" in South Wales. The result of this Appeal had made possible seven schemes, nearly completed, which will be followed by another seven already approved. The NWA had provided help of all sorts and types of work for the busy day at the RAF Station at St. Athan on Battle of Britain Day, in addition to giving the usual help with re-furnishing Centres. At the Glanymor Holiday Centre, Lord Aberdare unveiled a "Plaque" "The John Bruce Wing" - in remembrance of The Hon. John Bruce's 30 years service with the YMCA in Wales. At the College at Rhoose, Miss N. Nicholas, the Honorary Treasurer, gave an Alter Table in Memory of her Mother, Lady Nicholas.

Mrs. Cartwright concluded her Report by telling the Meeting of some of the remarks the Bishop of Llandaff had made when visiting the Centre at Port Talbot.

...The YMCA is what one might call a frontier force. It gets a hearing, it attracts interest, and it arouses sympathy where Institutional Religion is too often feared, or suspected of interference. Staffed, as we always hope and pray it always will be, by convinced Christians, it does not set itself up as a Church or Denomination. But it does provide a meeting place for many youthful minds. It does provide a clearing ground where questions and doubts and hesitations can be dispassionately and objectively considered.

Moving as we do into a period of increasing flux in all our affairs - where Philosophy; Economic, the Arts - and Morality itself seem all adrift - the opportunities and challenges to Movements like this have never been greater. I wish the Movement every Blessing and long continuance of the work it does....

THE PRINCESS ROYAL said,

"It has been the greatest pleasure to attend the Meeting this year. Last year I was away a great deal from this country but, nonetheless, I have travelled up and down the country as well as overseas and it has enabled me to see something of the work which is being done. I should like to mention the up-to-date building I opened recently - an extension to the Hostel in Leeds. I opened the original Hostel about ten years ago and at that time, the rooms slept 4 or 6, but in the new extension, many of the rooms are single ones and they are very nice and modern.

It only remains for me to thank you all for your devoted work, without which the YMCA could not continue. We are grateful to you in all branches for all the work you do. Thank you very much."

The Chairman then introduced **Mr Gunn who had just completed 50 years with the YMCA**. She briefly sketched his career with the Association in London - and before that in Plymouth.



Mr Gunn said that he wanted to pay tribute to Women's Auxiliaries everywhere. He had worked in the Plymouth Headquarters and saw there a story of dedication and devotion on the part of hundreds of women which should never be forgotten. Five YMCA's were destroyed in one night in the War. In 1943, with the London-war at its height, there were over 120 Centres running for HM Forces in the Metropolitan Area. Nearly all the Centres were staffed and run by NWA workers, many hundreds of them -and they also looked after the Mobile Vans which went out daily. But for the growth of the NWA not only would the YMCA have been a much smaller organisation, but a ministry of service and help would have been lost to this country.

The War, said Mr Gunn came to an end with the recollection not only of this extraordinary service in unhappy days, but of the wonderful fellowship amongst those who have served so faithfully. He went to speak of the post-war period and the realisation that the post-war YMCA had to meet a new generation, and how the YMCA – with the help of the Women's Auxiliary, set put to establish a new-thinking organisation.

Everything had changed, he said. Staff and Members had left - buildings had gone. A new and desperate need was apparent in London as more and more young men came to London for education and careers. What was to happen to them? Who was to look after them? How were they to be protected from the dangers of this big city? It was to the YMCA that so many turned, expecting something to be done for these young men.

So a plan was worked out whereby residential accommodation could be developed, in the London area, of 2,000 well-furnished bedrooms, so that each lad would have his own home in his own room, but without the loneliness of so many lodgings because, when he came from his room, he was in friendly familiar surroundings. The YMCA provided not only the beds, but also good influence and new interests which stop young people falling into the temptations of bad friendships which, unfortunately are often the ones which present themselves in this great city. Mr Gunn told the Meeting that there are 52 nationalities living happily under the auspices of the YMCA in London.

Some said that the one million pounds needed for this project would never be realised. The amazing thing is - that Faith again has been justified. With the good name of the YMCA and the keen desire to meet an urgent need a point had been reached where eight of the twelve projects had been completed. £2,000 is still needed to achieve the target, but he hoped that, by the time Her Royal Highness attends the Film Premiere at the end of this year, the rest of the money would have been raised.

Mr Gunn concluded by a further tribute to the NWA, "In no better way is the YMCA helped than by the Members of the Women's Auxiliary who, both in London and in the Provinces, have played their parts in tremendous ways and with whom the YMCA confidently faces the future of meeting any challenge which may arise."

LADY DAVIDSON

The Chairman then introduced the next speaker, The Viscountess Davidson whom, she said, would be very well-known to many Members as a Member of Parliament for many years.

Lady Davidson said how pleased she was to be invited to attend the Women's Auxiliary Annual Meeting, and went on to speak of the importance of the work and service which came from voluntary organisations. Many of the social services which we accept today stem from the collaboration of one or two dedicated voluntary helpers, years - or even centuries ago. In these times when so much publicity is given in newspapers and by the radio to the seamier sides of life, the work of the NWA is doubly important. Lady Davidson stressed that there were many nice young people with ideals and beliefs. She had met them - but little was heard about them because they were not "news". The work of the YMCA is to step in and offer a helping hand just when these young people were most needing it. Apart from anything else, Lady Davidson believed that the work that is done in this country by the YMCA is spreading all over the world, and nothing does so much good as young men who having experienced the benefits of the YMCA's in this country, took the ideas back to their own country.

Lady Davidson then told the Meeting of some of her experiences as a Member of Parliament and of the difficulties, which she was well able to appreciate, confronting a woman who is a wife and mother and who is also sharing her time with an outside occupation. "I know you have to cope with all these problems. May many blessings fall on the head of this Organisation."

The Chairman thanked Lady Davidson and seconded her views about the amount of publicity which goes to unpleasant happenings. Dame Joan then introduced **Mr Tucker**, saying that she would like to offer him, On behalf of The President - and all present - **congratulations on his Knighthood**, which he was to receive in a few days. Everyone connected with the YMCA was delighted he was to be thus honoured.

Mr Tucker spoke about the world service of the NWA. There are now, he said, more than 60,000 foreign students in this country, and more than 30,000 of them are in London. These young men coming here for training and education will be very important and influential men when they return to their own countries.

If, said Mr Tucker, while they are here they have a good experience they will be creative forces at work but, if they become embittered through lack of good influences, they can go back and be a menace to the world. Mr Tucker told Members that there were quite a number of Liaison Officers who spent their time with the students, helping them to find accommodation, friends, and encouraging their interests.

Some of the YMCAs most experienced men have been sent to the West Indies, British Guiana, Kenya, Nigeria, India, and other countries in order to help these countries to build their own YMCA Movement - suited to their way of life. The problem of these new countries could not be solved on the political field - that is only a fraction of the problem. Mr Tucker said he endorsed Lady Davidson's remark that the foundation of our life is Voluntary Service. If these new countries are going to build up a way of life that we would recognize as good for them, the young men must be aware of this and the YMCA is helping them to do this.

VOTE OF THANKS

Lady Jowitt said it gave her very great pleasure, as Vice-President of The National Women's Auxiliary to try and express thanks to all our speakers; to our President for her never-failing help and support; to Mr, Gunn, with whom she had worked throughout the War; to Mr Tucker, and to Lady Davidson for her delightful talk.

The Meeting adjourned at 4.20 pm and tea was served.

THE NATIONAL WOMENS AUXILIARY
Held at YMCA Headquarters, on Monday 21st June 1965 at 2.30pm
PRESENT
The Hon. Mrs. Sydney Marsham DBE (in the Chair)
The Countess Jowitt
Lady Blane OBE

Mrs. Vernon Hercourt MBE
Mr. R.E. Roberts YMCA National Secretary
Mr. G.D. Eddie YMCA Senior Representative in B.A.O.R.
Mrs. Baskcomb (secretary)

Mrs. Ashall	The Viscountess Downe	Mrs. Pullon
Mrs. Baggott	Miss D. Evans	Miss Porritt
Mrs. Bailey	Mrs. Freer	Mrs. Richards
Mrs. Barker	Mrs. Gilbert	Mrs. Roberts
Mrs. Barr	Mrs. Green	Mrs. Rudkin
Mrs. G.V. Boston	Mrs. Holmes	Mrs. Savory
Mrs. Botterill	Miss Howells MBE	Mrs. Shacklock
Mrs. Brown	Miss Isaac	Mrs. Stevenson
Miss Bruce-Clark	Mrs. Knight	Mrs. Stoddart
Miss Butters	Mrs. Lawrence	Mrs. Tattum
Mrs. Caban	Mrs. Leeson	Mrs. Thurmer
Miss Canning	Mrs. Mansfield	Mrs. Tod
Mrs. Catchpole	Mrs. Martin	Mrs. Tucker
Mrs. Chivers	The Lady Merriman	Mrs. Watkins
Mrs. P. Collins	Mrs. Morgan	Mrs. Webb
Mrs. D. Collins	Mrs. Nelson	Mrs. Weightman
Mrs. Cope	Miss Nicholas	J.P. Mrs. Willett
Mrs. Cutcliffe	Mrs. Nurse	Mrs. Wyatt
Mrs. Dawson The Countess of Plymouth		

The Meeting opened with a Prayer led by Mr. Roberts.

THE CHAIRMAN

"I feel it is the wish of you all that I should first refer for a moment to the sudden passing of our beloved President, The Princess Royal. The date of this Meeting was fixed by Her Royal Highness herself and when I last saw her about a week before her death, she reminded me how much she was looking forward to being here today. Alas it was not to be. Her sudden death was, I know, a most terrible shock to each and every one of us.

During her 17 years with us, Her Royal Highness never ceased to show the most wonderful example of service to others in its highest form, and we of the NWA - and the YMCA to which we belong - will indeed miss her never-failing interest, friendliness and kindness. I know that all the members of her own Yorkshire Division are particularly sad at losing their President.

I personally have lost a very valued friend of over forty years and one who has always inspired me to try and give service to others. But let us remember, too, that the Princess had a great sense of fun, so let us now try and make this meeting a happy one - as I am sure Her Royal Highness would have wished.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS.

The Chairman reported that it had been decided that the Long Service Award Medals should be continued. The Award had been instituted by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal and during the past years the following Awards had been made.-

AWARDS TO DATE	51 awards to members with	40 years service
	163 awards to members with	30 years service
	459 awards to members with	20 years service
	994 awards to members with	10 years service

A total of 1,667 Awards since the scheme was started.

NEW BRANCHES - The Chairman expressed her pleasure that there was now an Eastern Counties Division with **Lady Romney** as President.

Northern Ireland had held a very useful inaugural meeting at which it had been decided to start a Northern Ireland NWA with Lady Merriman as its President

The Chairman also welcomed the new NWA formed to cover Reigate and Redhill, under the Chairmanship of **Mrs. K. Knight**.

BRITISH GUIANA – Dame Joan informed the Meeting that the Secretary, **Mrs Collins** was now in England, but not available to attend the meeting. Reference was made to the excellent Annual report which showed a remarkable 'picture' of all their efforts and activities surrounding fund raising. In a 'May Day Fair' they were able to donate one million dollars to the YMCA.

REPORTS. The Chairman called first on Mrs Cartwright to give the Report on behalf of the WELSH NATIONAL WA.

Mrs Cartwright said she was very glad to be able report continued interest and progress in the affairs of the Welsh NWA but first she wished to associate herself and all their members with the expression of sadness at the death of **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal**, and of the **National Secretary, Sir Norman Tucker**. **Mrs Cartwright** then voiced the pleasure of everyone in Wales at the great honour which had come to the **Welsh National Secretary, Mr Roberts** - now back at the London Head-quarters on being appointed the new National Secretary of the English YMCA. In Mr Roberts place they had been able to welcome **Mr RL Jones** as a worthy successor.

ABERPORTH had raised £200 by their Annual Bazaar, RHONDDA who had organised a house-to-house collection..and raised £250. SWANSEA who held a week of Musical Concerts and used part of the money raised to buy a considerable amount of equipment for the use of Y.M.C.A. boys.

CARDIFF CENTRAL have entertained Old Age Pensioners, whilst LLANELLY raised the magnificent sum of £500 by a "Christmas Fayre." MOUNTAIN ASH are helping with their new building which opened on June 18th.

It was reported that, in place of the usual Annual Rally, a Garden Party will be held this year on 1st July at Mrs. Cartwright's home. Special. mention was made, too, of the splendid Annual Meeting which had been held, also a very successful Coffee Morning, at the home of their President, Lady Plymouth.

Mrs. Cartwright concluded her Report with a special tribute to the wonderful work of their Honorary Secretary, Miss Doreen Evans, and to the loyalty and splendid efforts of all the Welsh Auxiliaries.

NORTHERN IRELAND. Dame Joan then introduced the President of the new Northern Ireland N.W.A. - Lady Merriman.

Lady Merriman said she had little to report at present as the new Auxiliary was only now really beginning its activities after the visit of Mrs. Miles Burkitt who kindly went over towards the end of 1964 to speak at their inaugural luncheon.

This was a great success and they were now going ahead with their first task which was to co-ordinate all the small groups of workers in the provinces who had already been working for the YMCA. Lady Merriman referred to a most ambitious project to build a large Youth Camp for boys and girls in the Mourne Mountains. It was estimated that this would cost about half-a-million pounds and it was hoped that the NWA would be able to raise £25,000 towards this total.

At this point Lady Merriman referred to the very special problems concerning boys in Northern Ireland where, although people in England probably did not realize it, unemployment was very high and jobs for school-leavers almost unobtainable. The YMCA were making every effort, therefore, to provide suitable facilities to encourage boys to improve themselves - by training as well as recreation. Lady Merriman reported that, looking to the future, it was hoped to have a special money-raising effort in 1967, but details were still being discussed. In the meanwhile it was hoped to make other efforts to provide financial help for their Appeal Target.

The Chairman then introduced Lady Blane, a Vice-President of the NWA and also president of the London Metropolitan NWA.

Lady Blane - "I am very glad to be able to report increasing interest and activity in the various Branches of the London Metropolitan NWA. I have found that our members greatly appreciate attending meetings held in my own flat and I shall hope to go on doing this from time to time. At our last Meeting we were fortunate in having a talk from our **Divisional Secretary, Mr. Souttar**, his subject being - "The Women's Auxiliary in 1965.

The Dartford Branch has been very active and has raised a great deal of money. Both the Ealing and Woolwich Branches, though small, have done very good work. The Kingston Branch have no Centre of their own but they cling together and continue to raise funds. Two members from Wimbledon attended the Conference at Nottingham".

The Chairman then called for a Report on behalf of the North-Eastern Division and introduced the Divisional President, Mrs. Weightman.

Mrs Weightman reported tremendous activity in the Division. The Queen Mother came to open the new Gateshead premises in June, 1964 - and to visit a completely renovated Sunderland YMCA. A new Hall was opened as an extension to the Middlesbrough YMCA and both Morpeth and Consett had added extensions to their premises. Further very important developments are in hand - the total cost of all these projects is estimated to exceed half a million pounds.

In all these schemes the NWA have participated magnificently by organising many events to help raise funds. Only a week ago the Middlesbrough Auxiliary had raised the wonderful sum of £700 for their new building fund. At this Annual Rally - 230 ladies, some of them having travelled over 40 miles, were present. "Altogether we are very busy with our work for the YMCA in the North-East and it is with much pleasure - and a certain amount of pride as their new President - that I make this Report today".

Report from BAOR.

The Chairman introduced **Mr. Eddie, Senior YMCA Representative In BAOR** whom she said had been good enough to fly over from Germany to attend the Meeting. Dame Joan referred to the previous Speakers from Wales and Ireland and she said that, as the National Women's Auxiliary had no Branches in Scotland, she was particularly glad that Mr. Eddie was a Scot! After serving at Headquarters for over twenty years, he was now in Germany, having succeeded Mr. Laing who had done a wonderful job of work, out there ever since the Normandy Landings until the early part of this year when he had retired and come back to England.

Mr Eddie - "As I have only been doing this job for five months, I'm still very much learning the ropes of work as it exists in Germany today. Many of the NWA workers have, I know, worked continuously since 1939, first in London helping in Canteens, or in YMCA Centres up and down the country - then through "the Blitz" and eventually going into Europe and following behind the troops right through France into Germany. That was 20 years ago. I think it would be a good idea if we now looked back over those 20 years. At that time, BAOR was an Army of Occupation. Germany was a beaten country and in ruins. Eventually cities were re-built, factories re-started and, chiefly by the industriousness of the German people and the financial help given them, a new Germany was born."



"Then the National Service men were sent out from England and the YMCA did a really wonderful job for those young men who represented such a cross-section of the youth of our country. Some were very good, some were bad, but to most of them the YMCA proved a very real friend right up to the end of their time out there. Now times have changed. In place of the National Service men there is the professional Army. These men have joined up for a variety of reasons. Some did not find it easy to settle down, others had difficult homes. One has to remember, too, that it is no longer an Army of Occupation". It is part of NATO and, because of this; there is still not a great deal of fraternisation."

"One of the great problems for our Welfare Workers is trying to encourage the younger soldiers living in barracks to enjoy their leisure time. Some of them admit that they joined the Army so that they could serve abroad and learn the language, but a large number of these young men seem to have little desire to avail themselves of the efforts made to give them a variety of interests. The married serving man is more fortunate with a home and his family around him. Most of the Married Quarters are quite good, but here there is often the problem of the "lonely wives". When their husbands are away on Training Schemes, they find they are restricted to shopping at the N.A.A.F.I. and they cannot watch television because of the language difficulty."

"We have 17 Centres, each with its Leader, and 15 Mobiles. Beneath the Leaders there are a number of Welfare Workers - according to the size of the Centre. These Centres usually have a Bookshop covering the sale of books and newspapers. Sometimes they have a Library and often there is a shop which sells a variety of gifts and other stationary. All this is in addition to the Canteen which sells refreshments of all kinds. We are especially proud of the shop in our Berlin Centre which does a really wonderful job and where the Motto is - "If we haven't got It - we will get it"

Mr. Eddie concluded his talk with a tribute to all NWA women workers in BAOR who were doing a difficult task magnificently.

The Chairman thanked Mr Eddie. She referred to the continued difficulty experienced in the recruitment of suitable women for work in BAOR. She asked all present who might know or hear of suitable women, anxious to do such a worthwhile job for HM Forces, to refer them to her at 5 Draycott Place, London S.W.3.

NORTH MIDLAND REGION

Dame Joan then called for the Report of this Region from Mrs. Nelson.

Mrs. Nelson said they were very pleased to attend the Meeting as the NWA did not hold one last year. It had been a very successful year for the Division and over £1,000 had been raised for the YMCA. It is hoped to increase this figure during the current year.

An Annual Rally was held at Skegness in which members from the Leicestershire and Rutland NWA Division joined. Two business meetings are held which year as well as an Annual General and it is with very great interest that we hear of all the hard work done by each Auxiliary to help forward the work of the YMCA. Funds are raised by Sales of Work, Whist and Bridge Drives, Socials, Coffee Mornings and Evenings.

Mrs. Nelson concluded her report by expressing her hope that all Auxiliaries would continue to work together in happy co-operation for the benefit of "Our Great Association".

Dame Joan then asked for the following Reports:

YORKSHIRE UNION OF YMCA'S, NWA

This was given by Lady Downe who expressed the very great sorrow she and all her members felt in the loss of their beloved President, The Princess Royal. Only a few weeks previously Her Royal Highness had presided at the Annual General Meeting in Leeds and presented Long Service Awards. Her gracious interest over many years had been a wonderful inspiration, and her presence at so many YMCA occasions will always be remembered with gratitude and affection.

There has been quiet progress in the Division. There are now 18 Auxiliaries - including two new ones at Goole and Rotherham and approximately a membership of 700 and we hope to maintain our progress during the coming years. Although there has been no special Appeal, generous contributions have been made for overseas work. Sheffield in particular have worked very hard for their Hostel Extension Appeal and have collected their first contribution of £250 which is in addition to their usual help to the YMCA.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE DIVISIONAL NWA.

Mrs. Dawson said that their three meetings in Manchester have all been well attended. Forty-three ladies had received Long Service Awards - so bringing their total to 193.

Reports of continued activities and unceasing service have been received from various branches in the Division. Many events had been held, thus increasing the Association's funds by many hundreds of pounds. A notable feature of the work has been the contribution made in other spheres - outside the YMCA - so making our presence felt in other parts of our towns and this has been much appreciated.

EASTERN COUNTIES NWA.

The report was given by Mrs. Chivers who referred first to the Eastern Counties Division formed in October 1964 and which covered Brightlingsea, Ipswich, Chelmsford, Kings Lynn and Cambridge. They were very proud that Lady Romney kindly consented to become their Divisional President and the first meeting since the Division was formed was held in March of this year when Lady Romney kindly presented the Long Service Awards.

Mrs. Chivers then gave a brief report from each branch:

BRIGHTLINGSEA - This Auxiliary continues to be an outstanding success and without the help of the Auxiliary, the YMCA Centre would find it extremely difficult to maintain its financial commitments as they raise a substantial amount of money through various efforts to help finance the local work. They have also staffed Canteens and they organise the Sunday afternoon Service.

IPSWICH - Here they have undertaken the catering for the YMCA International Suppers. They also continue raise funds for specific projects and, in general, continue to render valuable service to the YMCA in Ipswich.

CHELMSFORD - The WA have continued to maintain its activities during the year. Although financial profits have been smaller than in previous years £85 was handed over as a result of the devoted work of the members under the Chairmanship of Mrs Farthing.

KINGS LYNN - This is a new WA which was formed at the beginning of the winter season in October 1964. At present there are 20 WA members who voluntarily staff the Canteen seven evenings a week and so render a great service to the Association by doing a job which was previously done by a paid member of the staff thus helping to reduce the total overheads of the running of the local Association.

CAMBRIDGE - This Auxiliary has a very proud history of 51 years and 40 years long Service Award amongst its present members. They contribute to the life of the Association and its activities in very many ways both financially and actively which includes staffing the Canteen 6 full days a week.

MIDLAND AREA - This was read on behalf of **Mrs. Johnson by Mrs. Collins of Northampton** who reported that, although the Midland Division is a small one - with only four Auxiliaries covering Coventry, Northampton, Wellington, and Worcester, nevertheless all of them contribute in no small measure to their local Associations by helping with the catering at social functions, raising funds by Coffee Evenings, Whist Drives, etc. and the Coventry and Wellington Auxiliaries also staff the Canteens daily.

Northampton this year gave £150 towards furnishing a new TV Room, whilst Worcester helped to raise £100 by a Bazaar. Wellington helped with a House-to-House Collection which raised £120, whilst a "Christmas Fayre raised over £100 and a further £70 was raised "by "Bring and Buy" Stalls.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

Mrs. Boston opened her Report by reminding the Meeting that Leicestershire and Rutland is the smallest Division in the country, and it is regarded, therefore, by all the members as an honour to be asked to report on the Division's activities during the past year.

The Report covered several small places where there is still much interest but where there is no central YMCA. In Rutland the NWA has no YMCA but in Leicestershire two remain, Leicester and Barwell. The Coalville members have joined Leicester on a temporary basis. Hinckley YMCA opened its new premises some 3 years ago but unfortunately the small Auxiliary there has ceased to function although it is much hoped a new one will be started.

Barwell is a wonderful little Auxiliary - a small number of ladies under the leadership of **Mrs. Lawrence**. Their efforts have been remarkable because, coupled with the bigger efforts of the remaining members of the YMCA they are having new premises built which, when finished, will be nearly free of debt. The ladies, only 8-10 in number, have contributed some remarkably large sums of money as well as their loyal service, and are an example of fortitude and endeavour.

Leicester itself - the "Mother Auxiliary" of the Division has had the best year on record with good membership and financial results. One of their efforts to raise funds was quite unique when a "Birthday Auction" was organised for one of their late Presidents, **Mrs. Govett**. It consisted of a Birthday cake with 82 candles, a really splendid and attractive tea, and each member brought a Birthday gift. These were opened by Mrs. Govett and then auctioned off to members and their friends and a considerable sum of money was raised.

A great many ideas and efforts were forthcoming to continue the raising of funds and special thanks are due to all the members who so kindly opened their homes for events. Nearly £600 was raised during the year from approximately 50 working members and from this new chairs were placed in the Restaurant, new lighting and curtains given to the Theatre, also a new Screen and rugs. Substantial cheques were donated both to the local YMCA and the Overseas Fund.

The Divisional Rally was held at Belvoir Castle by the kind invitation of the President, **The Duchess of Rutland** and the Leicestershire and Rutland Division was joined by a large contingent of members from the North Midlands and a special welcome was given to the newly-formed Lincoln WA.

Special tribute is due to all members of the Auxiliaries for their wonderful support in all our efforts, and we "offer our loyalty and affection" to our President, the Duchess of Rutland, who leads us with such enthusiasm.

The Chairman said she had listened to all the Reports with very great Interest. They certainly showed very clearly indeed the extensive and worthwhile efforts being made by the NWA Auxiliaries all over the country. Dame Joan then introduced the new **General Secretary of the National YMCA, Mr RE Roberts**. She recalled that her special association with him was in connection with the recruitment of women workers going over to Europe, chiefly Germany, between 1947 and 1956, when he was at the London Headquarters. She also referred to the fact that, in over 30 years with the YMCA, Mr. Roberts had held posts in the Midlands, in Ireland and Wales, and was now back in London.

MR RE ROBERTS

"I was not expecting to be called upon to speak to you as General Secretary, but I should certainly like to say how very glad I am to be with you all and to see so many of our NWA ladies here this afternoon. I know so well the really wonderful work they do in Wales where I had many opportunities of meeting them and hearing about their varied activities. "

"I always was so very sorry that, during my stay in Ireland, I never succeeded in getting an NWA going, so I was more than pleased to hear from Lady Merriman today that one has now been started and I am looking forward to hearing more about this when I go to Ireland next month.



The Chairman

As Dame Joan has said, I have worked with her for many years and together we recruited and sent out - probably well over 2,000 women. I saw much of them and their splendid work in our Centres overseas as we followed the troop's right through to Berlin."

"I enjoyed my work in Wales immensely, but I'm still wondering if the huge cheer which went up from everyone when it was announced that I was coming to London as the new General Secretary was in my honour - or because they were glad I was going!!"

"I will now ask Lady Jowitt to propose a Vote of Thanks to all our Speakers. Lady Jowitt has worked with me on many Committees and she is, as you know, one of our NWA Vice-Presidents."

LADY JOWITT

"It gives me very great pleasure, to join you all here this afternoon, and I am more than glad to be asked to propose this Vote of Thanks - to Mr. Roberts and Mr. Eddie, who have so kindly spared us their valuable time and all our other Speakers. I have listened with the greatest interest to all they have been able to tell us, and I have been particularly impressed by the very varied and splendid efforts made and the quite wonderful results achieved in the Divisions and, above all - by the feeling of optimism that future endeavours will produce even better results. On behalf of The National Women's Auxiliary I do indeed say "Thank you" to you all.

The Meeting then closed, after which Tea was served.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY COMMITTEE**
held at The Y.M.C.A. Headquarters,
112 Great Russell Street, London. W.C,1,
on WEDNESDAY July 6th. 1966 at 2.45pm

PRESENT

'The Hon. Mrs. S. Marsham, D.B.E. (Chairman)
The Countess Jowitt (Vice-Chairman)
Lady Blane, O.B.E.

Sir Knox Cunningham, Bt.t Q.C.v M.P. (Chairman of The National Council of Y.M.C.A.)

Mr. B.E. Roberts Y.M.C.A. National Secretary

Mrs. Ambrose	Mrs. Cutcliffe	The Lady Merriman
Mrs. Archer	Mrs. C. Davies	Miss N. Nicholas JP
Mrs. Baggott	Mrs. I. Davies	Miss Ogle
Mrs. Bennington	Mrs. Dent	Mrs. Oselton
Mrs. Boston	Miss D. Evans	Mrs. Pearson
Mrs. Botterill	Mrs. Gill	Mrs. Pollard
Miss Bruce-Clark	Mrs. Gray	Mrs. Pullon
Mrs. Bristow	Mrs. Groves	Mrs. Roberts
Mrs. Busby	Mrs. Howell	Mrs. Rose
Miss Butters	Mrs. Hughes	Mrs. Rowell
Miss Canning	Mrs. Jackson	Mrs. Rudkin
Mrs. Constantine	Mrs. Johnson	Mrs. Stevenson
Mrs. Cooke	Mrs. A. Lawrence	Mrs. Turnbull
Mrs. Coathup	Mrs. Leeson	Mrs. Watkin
Mrs. Couzens	Mrs. Maddox	Mrs. Wilkins
Miss Cummings	Mrs. Mansfield	Mrs. Williams

In attendance - Mrs. Baskcomb (secretary)

PRAYER - The Chairman asked Mr RE Roberts to offer the Opening Prayer.

The Chairman asked leave of the Meeting at this point to introduce the **Chairman of the YMCA National Council, Sir Knox Cunningham, so that he might talk to the Members - and return to The House of Commons without delay.**

Sir Knox opened his talk with his thanks for being invited to join Members at their Annual Meeting and said "I have heard a great deal about the NWA and the work that it does and I have been delighted to recently see quite a lot of your members 'in action' overseas. I thought I would like, therefore, to tell you about a journey which I and my wife recently took on behalf of the YMCA.

We went to see as much as possible of the work which is being done in BAOR and we stayed there from April 11th to the 17th. During this time we managed to see nearly every Centre so that I could see and hear just what each one is doing. This was my first objective. My second objective was to consult with the Army Personnel, and also with our Senior Representative out there - Grant Eddie. From all of them I was able to bring back very good reports of all that was being achieved.

I found that at HOHNE the YMCA shares a hut with the NAAFI. It covers a wide variety of activities, including such things as Concerts and even Bingo! I was told that the Army Authorities take a great interest in what we are trying to do for the serving man and his family.

Our next stop was at NIENBURG. Here light refreshments were being dispensed to a background of Juke Box music. I learned that the "Beatles" records are played incessantly which suggests that, in these days, "noise" is also part of our service!

BOOKSHOPS AND GIFT SHOPS.

Here I think I should try and make clear to you that the Army of today is quite different to the Army of, say, fifteen years ago. It is essentially a young professional Army and most married serving men now have their families living with them. This brings with it the problems of trying to help not only the men but also their wives and families, as there is not a great deal for them to do, and there is always the language difficulty - which means little or no television for them.

This is where the Bookshops provide the much-needed newspapers and magazines. I was interested to learn that the most popular newspaper is The Daily Mirror, followed by "The Daily Express -and that they even get asked for "The Financial Times". The Centres carry an excellent stock of magazines and books, including "Paper-backs" and you will also find they have copies of Mrs. Beaton's Cookery Books.

The men particularly appreciate the variety of gifts which we stock, a service of which they and their families take full advantage.

TEEN-AGE PILOT SCHEME

I gathered that, like us, they have their teen-age problems out there and that much serious thought has been given to try and overcome some of the more urgent difficulties. I was very interested to learn therefore, that a "pilot scheme" has been devised and that two specially trained helpers will now be devoting themselves to helping the young people. One must remember that, in the minds of many of the younger generation, there is still a very real fear of another War.



Our next call was to the famous "WINDMILL CENTRE" in RHEINDARHLEN; This Centre is a very special attraction to the Forces in Germany and is widely praised. It has recently been "spruced up" and re-painted. I feel that, by now, you may be thinking, 20 years after the Second World War - is all this effort out there really necessary, and should the YMCA have to spend some £20,000 as they did last year, to meet the cost of running our various Centres?" I should at once reply, "Yes it is".

They need and want us out there. The women NWA workers whom Dame Joan selects and sends out are doing a really grand job, and it is up to all of you to try and help her to find the right type of women needed for this very special and responsible work which we of the YMCA are doing for HM Forces in Germany."

The Chairman, "I am sure we have all listened with great interest Sir Knox, to what you have been able to tell us about your visit to BAOR and I can assure you that we, on our part, will do all we possibly can to provide the women workers for our Centres everywhere, both at home, in Germany, and even further afield.

We of the NWA are greatly honoured that you have spared time from your Parliamentary duties to be with us this afternoon and we do indeed Thank You for joining us."

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Dame Joan reported that since the LONG SERVICE AWARD BADGE was instituted by our late President, a total of 1,732 Badges and Award Certificates have been issued and that, since the last Annual Meeting, the following Awards have been made:-

1 award to members with	40 years' of service
3 awards to members with	30 years of service
16 awards to members with	20 years' of service
45 awards to members with	10 years' of service

NWA WORK OVERSEAS

Following Sir Knox Cunningham's reference to NWA personnel in the YMCA with BAOR, Dame Joan said she would like to amplify this and stress the very great difficulty experienced in getting the right type of women for this very important work and she emphasised the tremendous help members present could give her by sending up names of any women they could recommend and to whom she would then send full details of the duties to be undertaken, etc. Dame Joan said that the preferable age-group was between 25 and 50. The commencing weekly allowance is £5 with free board and lodging and all uniform provided. Generous yearly leave is given. Above all it was a very worth-while job of work for those prepared to work hard and turn their hands to anything and quite briefly, to give real "service" to the members of H.M. Forces overseas.

AREA REPORTS

The Chairman asked for the first Report from the Welsh NWA to be given by the Honorary Secretary, **Miss Dorine Evans**.

"First of all may I apologise for their absence, on behalf of our Chairman, Mrs. Cartwright, and the Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Wade. Our President, Lady Plymouth, has now resigned from the Welsh Auxiliary as she has gone to live in Sussex. Lady Plymouth has been our President since 1924 and it was our pleasure at our half-yearly meeting to make her a small presentation.

It has been a year full of varied activities, including joining in the YMCA Conference at Nottingham which we felt was a great privilege. The Garden Party held at the home of our Chairman was a great success and resulted in the sum of £220 being raised for overseas work. Fetes, etc. have been held and, at the one held at Abertridwr, our Honorary Treasurer, Miss Nora Nicholas, was asked to judge the "Baby Show".

The Welsh Auxiliary Fete is to be held this year on July 28th at Magma Abbey by kind invitation of Sir David and Lady Evans Bevan.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Report was given by Lady Merriman, Chairman of the Northern Ireland NWA.

Lady Morrigan reminded members that this was only the second year of the Northern Ireland NWA. as a central organisation but that individual groups have been very busy throughout the past year and it was very heartening to hear from the various Secretaries that they were able to report good attendances at their meetings.

The Ballymoney Group meets monthly in the YMCA Lounge under the leadership of **Mrs. Holmes**. Their activities have been varied and interesting. A sum of £120 for local YMCA funds was raised by an Evening Coffee Party. In addition, the members had painted and redecorated the Lounge.

The Carrickfergus Branch made their first effort last October when His Excellency the Governor of Northern Ireland officially opened the new YMCA premises there. The NWA catered most successfully for some 300 guests - under the leadership of **Mrs. Ardill**. Unfortunately Mrs Ardill has now had to resign through overwork but it is hoped to elect another Chairman shortly.

There is no YMCA Centre at Garvagh but **Mrs. Templeton**, as Chairman of the NWA has successfully led the work there and they have raised a considerable sum of money for the Camp at Newcastle in County Down - by means of Whist Drives, Concerts etc.

The Newcastle Auxiliary are looking forward to the building of the permanent Camp on the Green Hill in the Mourne Mountains, which they hope will give the people of Newcastle a greater interest in the YMCA. Each year they arrange some special effort and this year the attraction was a **Public Lecture by Patrick Moore the Astronomer**. Over £400 has been raised for the Camp funds under the leadership of **Mrs Squire**.

The Shankhill Group, under the leadership of **Miss Ogle**, organised a demonstration of Flower Arrangement to assist with the cost of redecorating a room in the local YMCA Youth Club - a Club in which all the members help to run.

In addition to these individual efforts, there was a collective NWA effort when the catering for the opening of the Newforge Playing Fields was undertaken. This was the first joint enterprise and every branch took part. We are now looking forward to a very special effort which is to be made in **1967 when the first Marks and Spencer Store will be opened in Belfast** - in connection with which a Pre-opening Fashion Parade in aid of the YMCA Camp Fund is being organised.

LONDON METROPOLITAN

Dame Joan then asked Lady Blane, as President of the London Metropolitan NWA to give her report.

Lady Blane paid a special tribute to the three largest and most flourishing Auxiliaries - DARTFORD, HORNSEY and WIMBLEDON all of them having done most excellent work. Also to the smaller Centres in EALING, KINGSTON and WOOLWICH, who do a good job under difficult circumstances. Also ROMFORD which, although small, has been helping on the catering side with a school holiday scheme. The Branch has also increased its Membership.

Lady Blane referred to a small and simple leaflet, outlining the work of the NWA - and what it is seeking to do - which she said had been prepared and issued to help her Auxiliaries recruit new members. She said that special thanks went to Mrs Holmes of Wimbledon for this effort and she was pleased to say that the leaflet was already proving very successful.

YMCA FAIR

Lady Blane told the meeting that just over £1,910 had been raised at last year's Fair and that she much hoped to be able to increase that figure at this year's Fair which she was organising and which was to take place at the Chelsea Town Hall on November 8th.

WESTERN DIVISION

The Chairman introduced the Divisional Chairman, Mrs Jackson who told the meeting that her Division consisted of 8 Auxiliaries, all of them varying in size and in the amount of work they were called upon to do. On three occasions each year they were able to all meet together and it was interesting to note how over the years, the pattern of the work had changed - especially in the smaller Auxiliaries. Much more is now done for the younger members - such as helping to train girls for the Venture Schemes, and also by raising funds to assist in sending boys and girls to Conferences abroad.

Mrs Jackson spoke of the very special efforts made by the Auxiliaries in Bath, Bristol, Bridgwater and Weston-Super-Mare, where new YMCA buildings were being planned and where all the Auxiliaries were making very special efforts to raise funds to help meet the high costs of these very essential extensions. She also referred to the NWA Conference which is to be held in Weston-Super-Mare in November when about 30 representative members will meet to talk and pray about the work.

EASTERN COUNTIES NWA.

The Report was given by Mrs Chivers who referred to the five Auxiliaries which make up the Division - which was formed in 1964.

BRIGHTLINGSEA - Here the NWA has a Membership of 26 members, the Nurse, received her 10-year Award for Long Service recently. Efforts have been made to help both financially and socially and the sum of £60 was raised by their Annual Bazaar.

CHELMSFORD - **Mrs Barr**, one of their members, recently received her 20-year Long Service Award. Fund-raising efforts have included a Garden Party and Jumble Sale.

CAMBRIDGE - Here **Miss Webb** was awarded a 20-Year Long Service Badge. At their Annual Meeting they always hold a 'Bring and Buy' Sale which usually raises something between £40 and £50. In addition the members have done much in helping to staff the Canteen on six days a week.

IPSWICH - One of the members' special efforts is to organise the catering for International Suppers. By their efforts, too, they have contributed very generous financial help to the beautiful YMCA Hostel.

KINGS LYNN - This is a comparatively new Auxiliary, a very active one which staffs the Canteen seven evenings a week - in the wonderful new YMCA building.

Mrs. Chivers concluded her Report by a reference to their Annual Meeting held in June, at which there were representatives from all the various Auxiliaries in the Division. To their very great regret it was not possible for their President, Lady Romney, to be with them, owing to a car accident, but they all looked forward to her full recovery in time to be with them at their Divisional Meeting later in the year.

SOUTH WESTERN DIVISION

The Report was given by **Mrs. Mansfield** and covered activities in Exmouth, Exeter, Paignton, Plymouth and Torquay.

EXMOUTH - Here the NWA is small, but now that there a new YMCA Youth Club there - the NWA always manages to support it very well and continues to raise at least £100 each year.

EXETER -The Auxiliary has not done too well in the past, but they have started up again and the members are doing their best in the circumstances.

PAIGNTON - This is a very vigorous Auxiliary, doing a variety of things to raise at least £100 each year for their YMCA including some very successful Sales.

TORQUAY - Here it is possible to report an increase in membership and several ladies have qualified for Long-Service Award Badges. Successful Coffee Mornings, Jumble Sales, Concerts and other activities have allowed the usual £100 to be collected and among the useful gifts for the YMCA provided are, a new floor for the Lecture Room and now curtains for the Hostel which is much used during summer. In addition, members have undertaken such tasks as mending and repairing fabrics.

PLYMOUTH - During the year - large sums of money have been raised to help certain special Appeals, including £153 by an Old-Time Dance, £150 by Bridge and Whist Drives, and over £350 by the Annual Bazaar. On the social side, a party of 50 people went for an outing to Dartington Hall which was much enjoyed. This concluded the Report and Dame Joan congratulated Mrs. Mansfield on the successful efforts of her Division.

The Chairman commented on the fact that, for the first time in recent years, it was impossible for the Yorkshire Division to send a delegate to the Meeting, but they have forwarded a report which would be briefly incorporated in the Minutes.

YORKSHIRE DIVISION

The Division had been able to welcome their new President, **The Hon. Lady Parkinson**. There are 17 Auxiliaries and a total membership of 701. The Castleford YMCA has closed and the NWA there

disbanded, but Goole have reformed and the NWA in Rotherham has re-started. Some Centres are larger than others, but, according to their size, and their respective efforts, a very great deal of hard work has been done and large sums of money raised, including £1,000 for the Huddersfield Boys Club, £500 by Sheffield for their new Hostel Extension, and sums of £200 have been contributed by activities organised by Barnsley, Dewsbury, Deighton, Leeds, Lockwood and Scarborough. Halifax complains of lack of younger members, but they work hard by staffing canteens and organising social events and this applies, too, to Rotherham.

In conclusion the Report registers the great regret of Members in losing **Divisional Secretary Mrs. Lund**, after 11 years. In her place, they have been able to welcome **Mrs Tattersall**, and they also express their thanks for all the help given them by **Lady Parkinson and Lady Downe**.

THE MIDLAND DIVISION

Was read by the Division Secretary, **Mrs Johnson**, who started by stressing that, in her view, the chief requirements of NWA's was to continue to raise funds to support local YMCA's. This was expected of them and all the help they gave was vital, and in no small way helps to keep the YMCA Flag flying! To do this, the various Auxiliaries made splendid efforts to organise Coffee Mornings, Whist Drives, Rummage Sales, Flag Days and with the funds so raised provided a variety of things, including re-furnishing a room, providing new curtains, buying new china and sports equipment.

Plans are in hand for a development in Coventry which it is hoped will result in a fine new Hostel. We are delighted to welcome a new Auxiliary at West Bromwich. Their YMCA is embarking on an exciting new project and no doubt the NWA ladies will be called upon to play an important part in this effort.

4 Long-Service Badges have been awarded, 2 for 30 years and 2 for 20 years. The Division was pleased to be able to send 2 delegates to the Nottingham Conference.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND DIVISION

A very full Report on the activities of the Division was given by the honorary Secretary, Mrs. Boston and it was one of continued progressive expansion of activities, including a Joint Conference at Skegness with the Midland Division, when all members were very happy to welcome Mr. Eddie, Senior Representative of the YMCA in BAOR who was able to give a progress report on his activities in Germany.

Mrs. Boston reported on the very successful Summer Rally at Belvoir Castle organised by their **President - Her Grace, The Duchess of Rutland** - in which they were joined by members of the North Midland Division and at which a Collection for The World Service Fund was taken.

Hinckley YMCA has just completed a new extension and a meeting is to be held to try and reform a new Auxiliary from a group of ladies who have been doing Voluntary Work in the original building.

Coalville premises have been sold, so the forming of a new Auxiliary awaits a new site.

Barwell's excellent little band of ladies have been helping to raise funds for a new building, the amount to date being over £140.

In conclusion Mrs. Boston commented on the pleasure it had been to the Division to be able to be represented at the Nottingham Conference last July, and of how they had been inspired to greater efforts as a result of the reports given by the two delegates who attended. Mrs. Boston was also able to give the Meeting an excellent report on the general activities of the Leicester Auxiliary, and of the very substantial support given to the parent YMCA - including over £350 in cash and kind. Reference was also made to the fact that **Mrs. Rudkin** had now been appointed Chairman in place of **Mr. VG Lawrence**.

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION

This Report was also given by the Chairman, **Mrs Coathup** who told the Meeting that they had 18 Auxiliaries in the Division with a total Membership of 1,200. All these Auxiliaries have contributed

most useful financial help to the YMCA Centres with whom they are linked, and they have also been able to concentrate specially on providing soft-furnishings for new buildings.

Mrs. Coathup felt a special mention should be made of the efforts made by the Herrington Burn NWA under the **Divisional President, Mrs. Wesley Weightman**. The old YMCA building was completely destroyed by fire but now preparations are in hand for a new Centre and large amounts of money towards this purpose have been raised by Mrs. Weightman and her members.

The Division as a whole has made a special effort to support collectively The World Service Fund but special mention should be made of the £100 raised by the North Shields Auxiliary in arranging a most successful Produce Stall in the town and for which all the produce was made or provided by their members.

Mrs Coathup described the Divisional Rally held on June 6th in the new YMCA premises in Whitley Bay, when **Dame Irene Ward, MP** delighted members with a talk on Parliamentary Traditions. Long-Service Badges were presented by The Mayoress of Whitley Bay. Mrs Coathup commented on the fact that when it is realised that a number of their members have given over 40 years invaluable service, the time has come to make every effort to try and recruit more younger members. It is very heartening to know, therefore, that the new Secretary, **Mrs. Holmes** of Herrington Burn, is young and most enthusiastic, and this augurs well for the future. At the Rally a Silver Salver was presented to **Mrs. Ralph** to thank her for her 15 years as Chairman.

Mrs Coathup concluded her report with the assurance that the Auxiliary in the North-East is thriving and that with St. Paul - we realise "**FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD**".

NORTH MIDLAND DIVISION

A very varied and interesting report was given by **Mrs. Bennington**. The Division covers 4 Branches, Nottingham, Lincoln, Grimsby and Derby.

Mrs. Bennington first expressed her pleasure that it was again possible for the Division to be represented at the London Meeting and she went on to stress the importance of the help received from their President - Her Grace the Duchess of Portland. **Mrs. Bennington** also spoke of the pleasure it gave her Division to be invited to other Annual Rallies - such as the one extended to them by the Leicestershire and Rutland Division.

All the members continue to support their local YMCA's in every possible way and money-raising efforts have produced the splendid total of over £1,400 between the four branches. In addition to this sum, money is also raised separately to support The World Service Fund and here again it is additional to the money subscribed for Overseas work generally by the ladies within their own Associations. A great effort was being made by the ladies in Derby who have been very busy working towards the opening of the new Derby YMCA in October.

Particular pleasure was expressed at the privilege of having the Division represented at the Nottingham Conference. The WA delegates to the Conference held an unofficial meeting during the weekend and several ladies there expressed the view that a National YMCA Women's Auxiliary Conference, in the not too distant future, would be worth consideration. **Following on from the Nottingham Conference, Mrs. Bennington said they had been in touch with Dame Joan to "advise us on the question of members of WA's becoming full members of the YMCAs - now that such membership is open to women and girls? We were very pleased to learn that, subject to the terms of the local Constitution of a YMCA, a member of a Women's Auxiliary would be fully entitled to become eligible as a full member of her local YMCA.**

THE CHAIRMAN

I should very much like to stress how impressed I have been by the very high standard of effort which has so far been recorded in the reports to which we have listened.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE DIVISION

Mrs. Williams said that the most important point in their year's work was the fact that there has been an increase in the number of Auxiliaries. Between them they have raised the splendid total of £3,000.

At the Annual Meeting held at St. Helens' YMCA in April, 17 Long-Service Badges were awarded and were presented by the **President, Lady Mary Hesketh. This brought the total for the Division to 213 which, all told, represented 3,500 years of service.**

Mrs. Williams outlined the very varied methods used by the various Auxiliaries to help raise funds. She also commented on the special work of staffing YMCA buffets and Reception Desks in Hostels undertaken by NWA members and, also on their very valuable contribution in helping to keep the linen and other furnishings in the Hostels, in good order.

Before concluding her report, Mrs. Williams paid a very high tribute on behalf of her Division to their **retiring Chairman, Mrs. Torrington MBE**, who has now handed over to **Mrs. Tillotson** of Bolton. Special thanks were also paid to **Mrs. Hubbard** who, after several years as Divisional Secretary, has had to resign her office as she is going to Bristol, where her husband will be the new YMCA General Secretary. On behalf of the Lancashire and Cheshire Division, Mrs. Williams wished all success to NWA everywhere in their work for this worldwide cause.

BRIGHTON NWA

Mrs. Busby made the report and was able to give the Meeting a very interesting "picture" of the splendid efforts which have been made to support the YMCA at Steine House, during the past year. The very large total of £3,800 has been raised during the past ten years and this money has been used for a variety of purposes - including interior decorating, fresh furnishings and for such special requirements as kitchen equipment.

A variety of general duties at Steine House are undertaken by NWA members as the YMCA secretary there has no paid staff for general secretarial and accounting duties. They also help at the cash desk in the Lunch Club - thus saving salaries. During the vacations the 'Mixed Hostel for Students' is used as a Holiday Centre. Here the NWA members do a splendid job of work by looking after the linen and undertaking many other useful tasks as a contribution towards the smooth running of the Centre.

THE CHAIRMAN

"This brings us to the end of our Divisional Reports but I should like to refer to a splendid report recently sent to me on behalf of the National Women's Auxiliary in GUYANA (British Guiana). Their membership totals 69 - an increase of nine members. They are quite wonderful in the funds they raise for their YMCA and they have now been able to report their highest total yet when, as a result of their Annual May Day Fair the net proceeds amounted to \$1,700. I am told they held a most successful Chinese Tea Party and the money raised they used to provide kitchen equipment for the Auxiliary.

Dame Joan remarked that she felt she should specially comment on the conclusion of the report for record purposes. **It reads: "The Guyana Auxiliary has fulfilled its mission to serve the YMCA and has answered all calls made upon it most willingly as the 'Spirit of Service' is always its keynote".**

MR RE ROBERTS

The Chairman then introduced the YMCA. National Secretary, Mr Roberts. In doing so, she recalled her many years of work with him on NWA matters and took the opportunity of paying her tribute for the never-failing help he had always accorded her.

Mr. Roberts commenced his talk with the story of a man who went to the aid of someone who had met with an accident in the street, but who was pushed aside by an over-enthusiastic member of the Red Cross. After attending to the patient, the lady turned to the man and said sharply, "Get a doctor" to which he replied, "I am a doctor".

Mr Roberts continued "Look upon the members of the WA as 'General Practitioners' and I can assure you that the work you all do, wherever and whatever it may be, holds a very high place indeed in our Association. Since I took office just over 12 months ago, I have travelled very extensively throughout the

country and I have visited every Division in The British Isles. Everywhere I have gone I have been able to see the results of the tremendous efforts made to raise funds and so help forward the work and projects of the various Centres, and I know that many of these fund-raising efforts have been undertaken by members of the NWA because I have learned about it from the Regional Secretaries."

"Then there is the Welfare Work undertaken by your members overseas. This is of tremendous value and the contribution they make in helping to keep up the morale of the troops in BAOR and Cyprus cannot be truly assessed."

Mr. Roberts then described some of the special YMCA activities, particularly the coming opening of the new Centre at Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, the final cost of which would be around £45,000. **The Centre has a special link with the NWA as it is to be called "THE PRINCESS ROYAL CENTRE" after the NWA's late President.** He also referred to the new Centre which has been opened at Oswestry, involving the expenditure of many thousands of pounds. Also to the International Boys' Conference being held now in Sweden, embracing some 87 countries, to which the **Chairman of the YMCA, Lord Rupert Neville**, had gone, and Mr. Roberts concluded "All these projects are examples of the lively experience of contributing to the well-being of the YMCA - an experience in which you all share".

THE CHAIRMAN

"I know we all greatly appreciate Mr Roberts' remarks and I, too, would like to express to you my personal thanks for the splendid support you, one and all, continue to give me - as your Chairman. It is a great sadness to me that I cannot today tell you the name of our new President, but I am very much hoping that we shall have one in the not too distant future.

May I once again express my admiration and appreciation for the excellent reports to which we have listened this afternoon, showing as they do such sustained and willing efforts by our members - everywhere. The need today for the YMCA, particularly in its Youth Work, is very great, and I am confident that our members are taking their share - and making a very large contribution to this most vital work.

Sometimes when I am attending the meetings of The National Council, I chide the male members of the Council for their apparent lack of interest in our peace-time efforts as opposed to their praise for our War-time work, so it is especially heartening to me to have proof, expressed to all of us here today by Mr Roberts, that the efforts of our women are noted!

We are indeed most grateful to him for joining us here today."

LADY JOWITT (Joint Vice-Chairman)

Dame Joan then asked Lady Jowitt to propose a Vote of Thanks to all the speakers and she said: "It is a very great honour to me to be asked to propose a Vote of Thanks to our speakers and to all those who have given us such excellent Area reports. I have been absolutely fascinated listening to them, first because they covered such a wide variety of activities including the raising of huge sums of money, the staffing of Canteens, besides the organisation of Fetes, Bazaars, Jumble Sales, Coffee Mornings and many other similar efforts. Secondly, because they continue to emphasise the tremendous enthusiasm for these tasks, it is impossible for me to mention everyone by name, but I do particularly want to express our very warm thanks to Sir Knox Cunningham and to Mr. Roberts for so kindly sparing their time to come and talk to us this afternoon. Thank you all very much."

TOWELS

Before closing the Meeting, Dame Joan briefly referred to the supply of YMCA Tea Towels from Northern Ireland which, would shortly be on sale in this country. Lady Merriman had brought over some samples and, when the details as to the price had been worked out between our Headquarters and the Northern Ireland Branch, it was much hoped that all NWA Divisions would be able to participate in the Tea Towel Selling Scheme.

The Meeting then closed and tea was served.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YMCA

46 Belgrave Square. London S.W.1.

**MINUTES of the AGM held at the YMCA Headquarters, 112 Great Russell Street, London W.C.1 on
Thursday October 19th, 1967, at 2.45 p.m.**

PRESENT Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent (President)

The Hon. Mrs. S. Marsham, DBE (Chairman)

Lord Rupert Neville, DL, JP (President of the YMCA National Council)

Colonel Gerard Leigh, MVA (Chairman of the YMCA National Council)

Mr. RE Roberts (YMCA General Secretary)

Lady Blane, OBE Joint Vice-Chairmen of the N.W.A.

The Countess Jowitt

Mrs. L. Baskcomb (NWA Secretary)

Mrs. W.A. Anderson	Mrs. J. Jones	Mrs. M. Ashton
Mrs. Kergan	Miss M. Ashton	Mrs. Knight
Mrs. Baggott	Mrs. A. Lawrence	Mrs. Barr
Mrs. Leavesley	Miss D.M. Bartlett	Mrs. Leeson
Mrs. Bennington	Mrs. Lister	Mrs. Berriman
Mrs. Mansfield	Mrs. GV Boston	Mrs. G. Marshall
Mrs. L. Bottrill	Mrs. Mathias	Mrs. J. Brasier
Mrs. M.T. Mawe	Mrs. J.C. Brown	The Lady Merriman
Miss Bruce-Clarke	Miss N. Nicholas JP	Mrs. B. Burton
Miss C.B. Nottage	Mrs. F Cartwright	Lady Parkinson
Mrs. W.B. Chivers	Miss E.R. Pearson	Mrs. Coathup
Miss D.Price	Mrs. Cole	Mrs. Pulsford
Mrs. Cope	Mrs. Reid	Mrs. Corbett
Mrs. Ricketts	Mrs. Cram	Mrs. J. Rowell
Mrs. Cutcliffe	Mrs. Rudkin	Mrs. M.G. Death
Mrs. Sambrook	Mrs. B. Dickinson	Miss F.M. Scott
Lady Evans-Bevan	Mrs. Shacklock	Mrs. F. Evans
Miss Skempton	Miss D. Evans	Mrs. G. Smith
Mrs. Finlay	Mrs. Stanford	Mrs. Gibb
Mrs. H.E. Stevenson	Mrs. Grimwade	Mrs. G. Tattersall
Mrs. V. Harcourt	Mrs. Tod	Miss Hickman
Mrs. E.M. Tillotson	Mrs. Higson	Mrs. Turnbull
Mrs. J.G. Holmes	Mrs. R. Watkin	Mrs. E.N. Howell
Mrs. Wesley Weightman	Mrs. Howells	Mrs. Williams
Mrs WR Jackson	Mrs G Wilkins	

WELCOME TO THE NEW PRESIDENT



The Chairman welcomed **Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent** and said,

"Your Royal Highness. It gives me very great pleasure to welcome you here this afternoon as our new President, and I can assure Your Royal Highness that all the members of The National Women's Auxiliary of the YMCA greatly appreciated your acceptance of this Office.

"Our work began in 1914 at the outbreak of the First World War. Before then the YMCA had been an entirely male organisation. Women were then needed to staff the many Centres organised for H.M. Forces - and many of them went over to France.

"Princess Helena Victoria our Founding President , personally "headed up" our work throughout the War. At the end of the War and its aftermath, Her Highness decided to start The National Women's Auxiliary. Auxiliaries were started in areas all over this country working in and with the men's side of the work. Her Highness told The Princess Royal that she would like her to take her place after her death and so, when this happened. **The Princess Royal became our second President.**

With the outbreak of the 1939 War, again it was all War-work and thousands of women worked in this country and overseas. They served, I think, in about every part of the world where our Troops were fighting, and even went to such places as Iceland and West Africa.

So our many women became the very much respected Junior Branch of the YMCA.

Now Ma'am - we have **Your Royal Highness as our third President** and may I say how delighted I am to be able to welcome someone young to take the place of our much-loved Princess Royal."

Mr Roberts then gave an opening prayer

LORD RUPERT NEVILLE

"As President of The YMCA National Council there is nothing which gives me greater pleasure than to welcome Your Royal Highness here this afternoon. You have delighted us all by accepting the Presidency of The National Women's Auxiliary. As you know, you have succeeded Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, and I can assure you we appreciate it very much. You are possibly 'rather at sea about what is being done by the YMCA but we are looking forward very much to showing Your Royal Highness just what the YMCA is doing.

This is the first time I have been able to attend the Annual Meeting of the NWA and, on behalf of The National Council of the YMCA's I would like to take this opportunity of saying "Thank You" to all its members for the splendid work which is being done for the YMCA. May I say once again to Your Royal Highness, how much we appreciate your presence here this afternoon."

THE CHAIRMAN

"As there are 9 Divisions in England each with their own President, Chairmen and Honorary Secretaries, and as The London Metropolitan has its own Division, and Wales and Northern Ireland have their own National Councils we felt it would be best if we called for Reports from Wales and Northern Ireland and from the Divisions in England having the largest number of Auxiliaries, as time does not allow for a Report from every Division. I hope you will feel that this was the right and proper thing to do and so I will now call upon Lady Evans-Bevan to give the Report for Wales."

LADY EVANS-BEVAN

"We are very pleased on this occasion to welcome our new President and we trust that, in the future, Your Royal Highness will be able to visit Wales, as we should be delighted to welcome you. To date we have 18 Auxiliaries in South Wales and reports show that all of them have experienced a very successful year. We hold a very successful Garden Party at the YMCA College at Rhoose, when I was supported by our Chairman Mrs. Cartwright and Lady Plymouth. There was a large attendance and a sum of £270 was raised for work overseas. Members of the Glamorgan Constabulary gave a very interesting demonstration with their trained dogs. The local Auxiliaries continue to arrange Coffee Mornings, Entertainments for Old Age Pensioners and Film Shows whilst continuing to help their own YMCA Centres."

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Report was given by the Chairman, **Lady Merriman** who reminded the Meeting that her Auxiliaries had only been working for three years, but that she was glad to report all the branches continued to flourish with great success.

Members had raised £400 to be spent on site works at the Newcastle Youth Camp, and the establishment of a canteen at the Youth Centre in Shankill is proving a great attraction. A new Auxiliary was opened in April at Finaghy whilst the Fashion Show which had been organised in co-operation with Marks and Spencers, when they opened their first store in Ireland was a tremendous attraction. All the Auxiliaries were represented. There were 1100 people in the audience and to date the profit had reached the splendid sum of £667.14.8d.

Lady Merriman concluded - "If from this report it sounds as if we in Northern Ireland are concerned only with money raising, it is because we feel that by helping to provide money so that Youth Centres can become free of debt, we are helping the Youth Leaders to carry on their work."

BAOR

The Chairman then introduced her Senior Representative in Germany, **Mrs Gullick**, to the Meeting. As a preface to her Report, Mrs Gullick reminded members that Her Royal Highness had already been in Germany and consequently knew quite a lot about the work which NWA women were doing for HM Forces in BAOR

The British Zone in Germany extends from Hamburg in the north to the borders of Holland. Here the married men live with their families in houses provided for them. Their children go to British Schools by buses provided for them. There are Garrison Churches for the various denominations within reasonable distance. Although there are a number of Clubs run by various organisations, under the CVWW by far the largest organisation is that of the YMCA who run 15 Centres with a total of 35 women and 2 non staff. The workers live together in small groups of two or three. Uniform is worn by all NWA members.

One of the great difficulties for the serving man and his family is the German language and for this reason they cannot go to theatres or cinemas neither can they enjoy Television. The YMCA Clubs, therefore provide what these people miss most - a friendly atmosphere where they can relax play games, read their newspapers, or just chat. There is a particularly pathetic group of lonely young wives who often have to live in one room in a German hotel, so they almost make the YMCA Centre their second home. In fact one NWA Leader remarked, "That baby has been here with Mum every day since it was born. I've watched it graduate from a bottle - to chips." In one or two of the Clubs, apart from the usual activities such as darts, table-tennis and the juke box, there are opportunities for what we call Programme work. The local Padre holds services and a room is set aside for Sunday School.

Shops are run, staffed by local British wives or daughters who are an invaluable help. In addition we cover the sale of newspapers magazines and 'paperbacks'. It is really a wonderful service as it means everything to the British Community to be able to buy their daily papers on the day they are published. Through the cooperation of WH Smith & Son, the supplies are flown in very early in the morning, and on a normal day, are on sale around 9am each morning.

Before closing her report, Mrs Gullick described the very special, and certainly more than famous, "Windmill" on the Autobahn. It is a real Windmill with its wings shorn off and it is one of the most appreciated of all the YMCA Centres as it is open from 7am until 11pm and is always full of troops on their way up and down the Autobahn.

THE CHAIRMAN



"I think you will all agree that Mrs. Gullick has given us a very interesting report of the work done by the NWA/YMCA In Germany, and I feel sure that the President and Chairman of the YMCA National Council who are with us here today - and who are leaving almost immediately for a short tour of the YMCA Centres In BAOR, will be taking the opportunity of seeing for themselves much of the work described by Mrs. Gullick - to whom I extend our sincere thanks for coming over to join us today."

YORKSHIRE DIVISION

Lady Parkinson, as President of the Yorkshire Divisions then gave her report. This centred on the main effort of the year - the opening of the new Catterick Camp and the splendid total of £460 raised by the Auxiliaries to help meet the cost. Other efforts to continue their financial help for this purpose are also being planned.

There are 17 Auxiliaries in Yorkshire and, besides staffing Canteens, the members continue their financial support to the YMCA by organising Bazaars, Bring and Buy Sales, Suppers, Whist Drives and Lunches. Altogether these efforts have resulted in a total contribution of £3,000 during the year.

Since we last gave a report, we have suffered the loss of our Chairman, The Viscountess Downe, but we are now looking forward to meeting our new Chairman - **Mrs Noel Nickols** of Harrogate.

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION

The report was given by the President **Mrs. Wesley Weightman** who was able to give a most encouraging "picture" of the many activities covered by the Auxiliaries In her Division, Including:- The Middlesbrough Auxiliary have done excellent work in raising large amounts of money for the Association.

The Gateshead Branch has had to be closed, but it is hoped that the Auxiliary will continue to work until they have a new Centre.

Barnard Castle, in spite of many difficulties, have increased their membership, and they also arranged a most successful Garden Party.

The Bedlington Auxiliary have shown a great deal of initiative in their efforts, particularly in attracting young people as new members.

The Herrington Burn Auxiliary are very proud of their new building which is to be opened in December by The Bishop of Durham.

There are 17 Auxiliaries in the Division, numbering more than 1,000 members, some 350 of whom attended a most successful Rally at Scarborough In the Summer and everyone was delighted to learn that HRH The Duchess of Kent was our new NWA President.

All members of the Division were extremely sorry at the death in September of **Mrs. Davies**, wife of the YMCA Divisional Secretary who, over the years, had given a tremendous amount of help to the NWA and was loved by everyone.

Mrs. Weightman concluded her report by saying "The Auxiliary in the North-East is thriving, and I am privileged and proud to be their President."

NORTH-WESTERN

In the absence of the **President Lady Mary Hesketh** the report was given by the **Chairman of the Lancashire and Cheshire Division, Mrs. Tillotson**, who told the Meeting there were 14 Auxiliaries in the Division. They meet three times a year to hear the reports of a great variety of activities such as Garden Parties, Bazaars Jumble Sales and Buffet lunches and the funds they raise are donated to support several of the YMCA rebuilding projects - such efforts being tackled with cheerfulness and much enthusiasm.

In March 1967 a week-end Conference incorporating the Division's Annual Meeting, was held at St. Anne's-on-Sea during which time a talk was given by the Architect responsible for new YMCA Centre at St. Anne's.

THE CHAIRMAN

"As I have previously explained, time this year does not allow for reports from all our Auxiliaries, but we shall hope to, incorporate in the Minutes, some of the more important items which have come to our notice during the year, and here I should like to pay a tribute to the excellent work done by The Metropolitan Division under their President, Lady Blane also to the Leicester and Rutland Division ' under their President, The Duchess of Rutland who, although she could not be with us this afternoon, wrote most enthusiastically of the work being done in the Division, and of the excellent and very successful Rally which had given great pleasure to many of their members."

CATTERICK CAMP APPEAL

Dame Joan referred to the appeal for contributions made at last year's NWA Annual Meeting that, wherever possible, Auxiliaries should make a very special effort to support this Appeal especially as it was to be a Memorial to our late President, HRH The Princess Royal, and she wished to express her thanks to all those who had made special gifts for this purpose.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT

The Chairman then asked our now President if she would like to address the Meeting, and Her Royal Highness said:-

"I am very touched by the warm welcome you have given me here today and I do want to say how very pleased I am to be with you all at the first Meeting which has been held since you asked me to become your President. I have been very interested to hear your reports as these have told me much more about the work which is being done and I was particularly interested In the Report from BA0R because, as you know, I was out in Germany for two years and had the chance, on several occasions, of seeing at first hand, the work being done out there by the YMCA.

I know that many of you have travelled long distances to be here today and I hope I shall have the opportunity of talking with some of you later and that I shall be able to see more of the work you are all doing In various parts of the country. Thank you very much indeed."

THE PRINCESS ROYAL AWARD BADGE.

Since the last Meeting, 142 Long Service Award Badges have been awarded.

THE MIDLAND DIVISION

The Duchess of Portland, their President, presided at their Annual Meeting held in March and the members were very interested to be able to visit the splendid new Centre In Derby.

An Inter-change of Rally invitations between the North Midland and the Leicestershire and Rutland Divisions gave much pleasure and interest to members. Excellent supporting efforts have been made by many of the Auxiliaries on behalf of their local YMCA Centres covering a variety of activities including Spring Fairs (Grimsby and Nottingham), Bazaars, running Canteens, the provision of equipment, curtains and the repair of linen. Fund-raising efforts have resulted in the Auxiliaries presenting over £1,200 to YMCA's in the Division. In addition, donations have been made to help the work overseas, and also to The Catterick Camp Appeal.

EASTERN COUNTIES DIVISION

The Division consists of 5 Auxiliaries under their President The Countess of Romney. Brightlingsea has 22 members, whilst Cambridge has over 70 members - including one member 90 who is still active 3 mornings a week!

Chelmsford has held various money-raising efforts including a most successful Garden Party. Ipswich has been able to give £51 to the YMCA as part of a £100 target - to help furnish a room in the Hostel. In Kings Lynn 40 ladies have carried out a wide programme of activities including the raising of £55 by 2 Cake Stalls and also the splendid amount of £120 which was raised by an "Open Day" at Gayton Hall, organised by "The Friends of the Y.M.C.A." A further £80 resulted from a Jumble Sale.

REIGATE, AND REDHILL

This Auxiliary has now been running for two years and the main activities are carried out by 15 members. Funds are raised by Jumble Sales and Gift Shops and these have resulted in the provision of a TV Room at the YMCA Centre, also a new reception desk. A contribution was also made to allow a member to attend the Youth Conference at Stavanger in 1966.

BRIGHTON NWA

The Committee were able to report that the Auxiliary had continued to do splendid work in a variety of ways in support of the YMCA at Steine House.

GUYANA NWA COMMITTEE.

The main Centre is in Georgetown and in 1966 they had a Membership of 69. The main efforts consist of raising funds to help the work of the YMCA in Guyana and as a result of the May Day Fair which is held each year, they were able to donate the splendid amount of \$1,700.00 for this purpose. A variety of other activities were equally successful, including a Chinese Tea-Party (organised to provide kitchen equipment for the Auxiliary), a prize-drawing and a Bring and Buy sale. Other efforts covered catering for and serving at the YMCA Annual Christmas Supper and events such as the Fellowship Tea for the YMCA Members and the Executive Members of the Auxiliary and at the **Albuoystown** YMCA Xmas Party. So once again all those special efforts have demonstrated that the keynote of the Guyana NWA is "to serve".

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND DIVISION

The Division has made most contributions to The World Service Fund, HRH The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, and the splendid total of £350 in cash and kind was raised by the Leicester Auxiliary and donated to the YMCA. The members of the Barwell Auxiliary have "continued to give invaluable help, particularly by their efforts on behalf of the new building. Co-operation with the North Midland Division covered a Joint Conference at Skegness in May and a Rally at Belvoir Castle, both of which were greatly enjoyed.

THE WESTERN DIVISION

The Spring Meeting was held in Bristol Central YMCA and took the form of a one-day Conference. Very useful contact has been made with the South-Western Division and in 1968 they will cooperate with the Western Division and hold a Joint NWA Meeting in Exeter.

MR ROBERTS - NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

The Chairman then asked Mr Roberts to speak to the Meeting, and he said, "In the past 48 hours I have been making some Regional visits. During that time I have visited 8 Centres where particular developments to meet the needs of young people are taking place. At one Centre, due to open in December, whilst having lunch with the President and Chairman who are working on this truly wonderful project, they said "Do you know, if it had not been for the Women's Auxiliary this Scheme would never have taken shape". I feel this is not an isolated case but that it is representative of the value which is placed on the help given by all the Auxiliaries. Altogether there have been 80 major YMCA developments including new Hostels, and the total cost will run into something like £5,000,000."

"On the 14th November Your Royal Highness will be going to Maidstone to open the new YMCA Youth Centre and Your Royal Highness has also promised to visit our Centre in Birkenhead so I hope, Ma'am, you will gradually have a fairly vivid "picture" of what we, as a Service Agency are trying to do for young people, and for HM Forces. The Tour which Lord Rupert Neville and Colonel Gerard Leigh are doing shortly In BA0R will take then, to Berlin, and they will also be seeing NWA women at work in several other Centres."

"Overseas we have very important Centres in Hong Kong and Singapore, and there is much good work being done in Cyprus. It is interesting to note the changing pattern of our work in those areas where, in addition to caring for the serving single man, we also now look after the family unit. We are very proud of the new Centre at Catterick and I hope that if any of you are in the area, you will go and see it because it is a most attractive Centre."

"In 1969 we shall be celebrating the 125th Birthday of the YMCA. Colonel Gerard Leigh is leading a group here at Headquarters - looking at ways in which we may celebrate this occasion and the message which you can take back to your Auxiliaries is that we hope you will all take steps to see that the Anniversary is well and truly remembered."

"Although we can now look back over our shoulder to our work in two World Wars we are certainly looking very much to the future and the needs to be met and I hope that as we go forwards you in your WA's will continue to give us your very valuable support, because I can assure you that the YMCA Executive Council are very grateful for all you are doing. Thank you all very much."

THE CHAIRMAN

"I should like to thank Mr Roberts for his appreciative remarks regarding our NWA work on behalf of the YMCA. I recently attended the Executive Council Meeting and was able to hear of the very important plans being made to further the help being given to young people and this made me even more pleased that we now have such a youthful President, as I feel it is a very good "omen" for the future of the NWA. I will now ask Colonel Gerard Leigh, Chairman of the YMCA National Council, to speak to us.

COLONEL GERARD LEIGH

"I would like to add my thanks to the members of The NWA for the splendid work which they have done - and are doing - in so many areas and to say how much I have enjoyed listening to the various reports which have been given here today. I am looking forward immensely to the short tour which I shall be making shortly in Germany with Lord Rupert Neville and which will give us a much greater opportunity to see more of the very wonderful work which your NWA members are doing in our YMCA Centres in BAOR. Thank you all very much for coming here this afternoon, and also for the splendid work which you - and all the Auxiliary members are doing in our YMCA Centres and Clubs."

The Chairman then formally closed the Meeting, saying that tea would be served, after which she hoped to be able to present the delegates to the President, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent.

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY COMMITTEE OF THE YMCA

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held at The YMCA Headquarters, 112, Great Russell Street. London, .C.I. on THURSDAY November 6th 1968 at 2.45pm

PRESENT Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent (President)

Miss Piona Pilkington (Lady-in-waiting)

The Hon. Mrs. S. Marsham. DBE (Chairman)

Sir Knox Cunningham, Bt. QC MP

Mr RE Roberts (YMCA General Secretary)

Lady Blane, OBE.

The Countess Jowitt Joint Vice-Presidents of the N,W.A,

Mrs. L. Baskcomb (NWA Secretary)

Mrs, D. Anderson	Mrs. Harland	Mrs. L. Anderson
Mrs. Harrison	Mrs. Archer	Mrs. Hodgkinson
Mrs. D. Armetage	Mrs. Howell	Mrs. Baggott
Mrs. Hubbard	Mrs. Barrand	Mrs. Iles
Mrs. Bater	Mrs. W.R. Jackson	Mrs. Bennington
Miss D. Jackson	Mrs. Berrinan	Mrs. Johnson
Mrs. Bird	Mrs. J. Jones	Mrs. Bishop
Miss G. Jones	Mrs. Boston	Mrs. Lawrence
Mrs. Leeson	Mrs. Brasier	Mrs. Ledger
Mrs. Botterill	Mrs. Brassey	Mrs. Bremner
Mrs. Lightbrown	Mrs. Brookes	Mrs. Longdon
Miss P Bruce-Clarke	Mrs. Mansfield	Mrs. Bryers
Mrs. Milligan	Mrs. Bufton	Miss N. Nicholas JP
Mrs. Caborn	Miss Nottage	Mrs. Carter
Miss Pearson	Mrs.Chalk	Mrs. Philpott
Mrs. Charman	Mrs. Pullon	Mrs. Chivers
Mrs. Rees	Mrs. Clayson	Mrs. Rowell
Lady Cloutman	Mrs. Rudkin	Mrs. Coleman
Mrs. Savery	Mrs. R.P. Collins	Mrs. Shalleross
Mrs. Collingwood	Mrs. L. Shaw	Mrs. Collinson
Mrs. Bentley Smith	Mrs. Corbett	Mrs. Spencer
Mrs. Cromwell	Mrs. Thompson	Mrs. Cutcliffe
Mrs. Tillotson	Mrs. Davies	Mrs. Tillyard
Mrs. D.L. Davies	Mrs. Toner	Miss G. Dawson-Caves
Mrs. Turnbull	Lady Evans-Bevan	Mr . Watkin
Miss D. Evans	Mrs. A. Weightman	Mrs. Golland
Mrs. J. Williams	Mrs. Griffiths	Mrs. Woolmington
Mrs. Guele	Mrs. Wyatt	

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

"It is a very great pleasure for us to welcome our President this afternoon and I am sure you will all agree that we feel very honoured that Her Royal Highness has again been good enough to spare time from her very busy life to be with us.

We are very sorry indeed that owing to illness, the **Chairman of The National Council. Colonel Gerard Leigh**, cannot be with us but I am so glad we have Mr. Roberts and he will be covering the report which Colonel Leigh was to have made this afternoon.

We are very pleased to welcome delegates from Wales from the London Metropolitan Area 2 and from some 10 Counties. I am very sorry that Lady Merriman could not come from Northern Ireland to join us.

Since we last met our President has been very busy seeing the variety of work being done in various parts of the country including visits to the North-Eastern Area Lytham St. Annes, and Maidstone but I will leave Mr Roberts to tell you more about these visits.

Reports show that the work in the various Divisions continues to bring generous support to the various YMCA Centres with whom they are linked. In particular I feel that a special tribute should be paid to Mrs. Johnson Honorary Secretary of the Midland Division. For a long time there has not been either a President or a Chairman for the Division and Mrs. Johnson has continued to co-ordinate the splendid work done throughout the Division and we are very grateful indeed to her and all her members. We are hoping that it may be possible to establish an NWA link with the Portsmouth YMCA and I am delighted to welcome Lady Portal here this afternoon, coming as she does from that area.

Lady Blane. President of The Metropolitan Area,, continues to lead her members and reports very well on the efforts made by the individual Branches in the Area. For some years now Lady Blane has organised a very successful Annual Fair on behalf of the YMCA. This was held yesterday and we are all very hopeful that the results will be as successful as in past years and we are all more than grateful to Lady Blane for her continued efforts.

OVERSEAS WORK

The "highlight" of our work for HM Forces in BAOR was the recent visit paid by our President to the large Centre at Krefeld. Here our NWA Leaders, led by Mr. Eddie, the Senior YMCA Representative out there and Mrs. Gullick. the Senior NWA Representative gathered to meet Her Royal Highness and very great pleasure was expressed by everyone fortunate enough to be present. One of them was Mrs. Armetage who has worked in BAOR for 16 years most of them as the Leader of the YMCA Centre in Lubbecke. This Centre has now closed and Mrs. Armetage has retired and returned to England. We are very glad to have her here with us today, and I hope that later this afternoon anyone who wants to hear more about our work in BAOR will have a talk with her.

In May of this year, I was able to send our **Secretary Mrs Baskcomb** out to Germany. She visited every Centre in the British Zone and the first-hand knowledge gained by the visit has been a very' great help to us.

CYPRUS

Here the YMCA has 2 Centres under the Control of the **Senior Secretary. Mr. David Air**. The main Centre which consists of a very successful Canteen. looked after by a small team of workers led by **Mr and Mrs. Air** is at Episkopi. There is also a quite separate and very successful bookshop which is run by Miss Olive Whitney and her assistant. Miss Whitney has been in charge there for over 10 years and during this, time has been responsible for the excellent results which have been achieved.

The other Centre is some 70 miles away - at Nicosia - a smaller but very important Centre, as here they receive and distribute to all the Forces on the island, the newspapers, magazines and paperbacks which are flown in daily from England.

I am afraid this is only a very brief "picture" of the work our NWA staff do overseas, but I do feel that knowing the tremendous effort they make we should be very proud of them and pay our tribute to the splendid work they are doing - wherever there is a YMCA Centre for HM Forces.

GUYANA

Our YMCA Centre in Georgetown is so many hundreds of miles away that it is almost impossible for us ever to be fortunate enough to have an NWA Delegate with us at our Annual Meeting here in London. but I am always more than pleased to receive a copy of their Annual report and thus be able to read of

their continued, most successful efforts to raise funds in support of their local YMCA. I understand they now have over 60 NWA members in their group and that they have managed to raise thousands of dollars over the years. In their most recent report, I was delighted to learn that by two special efforts, they raised \$2000 for the YMCA. We are indeed most grateful to each and every one of them."

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Since the last Meeting. 196 Badges have been awarded, including 4 covering the highest Award for 40-years Service. The decision of our President to personally sign the Award Certificates has given tremendous pleasure to the recipients. On a show of hands, it was noted that practically every Delegate present had already received one at least of the Long Service Badges.

SIR KNOX CUNNINGHAM

The Chairman expressed her pleasure at being able to welcome Sir Knox to the Meeting, and she then asked him to speak on the subject of "The World Conference" which was to be held in 1969 in Nottingham.

Sir Knox prefaced his talk by expressing his very real pleasure at being asked to be present, and also to be given the opportunity of speaking about the World Conference planned for next year and which, owing to the 125th Birthday of the YMCA, was to be held in this country in Nottingham. Sir Knox explained that the YMCA supported the work of The World Alliance which amongst other things, is deeply concerned with looking after refugees and migrants and that Conferences in connection with this work, are held all over the world as its international membership covers France, Greece, Japan, Germany and a host of other countries.

The last time the Conference was held in this country was in 1947. Next year, late in July and early August, it will meet in England again. In 1965, it was the turn of Japan to be the host country for The World Conference and here Sir Knox described some of the social events to which the YMCA delegates had been invited, particularly an evening party which started with a dramatic performance and ended with the guests being offered green tea, a beverage which Sir Knox found extremely difficult to swallow! However, in spite of this there was no question as to the great success of the Conference and he had the highest praise for the generous Japanese 'hospitality which they had received.

In fact, said Sir Knox. "Following such splendid hospitality is not going to make our task at The Nottingham Conference very easy, although I feel that we are extremely fortunate to be able to hold it in Nottingham and I am sure that any of you here this afternoon, who live in or around Nottingham and support the YMCA up there will do everything asked of you and will give us all the support possible to bring every success to the efforts which are now being made - and will be made - in 1969."

Sir Knox concluded: "Once again, I should like to thank you all for listening to the 'unofficial delegate from Ireland and for inviting me to join you here today".

The Chairman thanked Sir Knox for his talk and for sparing time from his busy life to be with us. Sir Knox, with the approval of the President, then left the Meeting to return to his political duties.

The Chairman then called for the reports from Wales and The Eastern Counties and Yorkshire.

WALES

The Report was given by the Hon Secretary for the Welsh NWA **Miss D. Evans** who once again was able to show an excellent record of achievements, including the raising of £270 by a Coffee Morning given by Lady Evans-Bevan, their President and by donations from the Auxiliaries. This contribution was sent to The Princess Royal Memorial Fund and this effort was greatly helped by the proceeds from a Stall of Welsh Wools and Tweeds donated from his Mill by Sir David Evans-Bevan and by a Stall of Christmas Decorations.

The Annual Garden Party was held in June at the YMCA College at Coleg-y-Fro, at which Lady Plymouth and the Mayor and Mayoress of Barry were present. In spite of a very wet day it was very pleasing to the organisers to find that the proceeds were higher than in previous years.'

The Rhondda Auxiliary had been able to give much-needed and practical help to a Czech girl who could not return to Prague in August, and with the help of Mr. R.L. Jones, it was arranged for her to help at the Barry YMCA Holiday Centre until she can decide what to do.

Various Meetings and Social Events have been attended by NWA Officers including The Welsh National Council of YMCAs Annual Meeting at Abertridwr, the Annual Fair organised by the Llanelli Auxiliary and the Annual Meeting of the Llantwit Vardre Group where their Folk Song Group gave a delightful programme of Welsh Folk Songs.

A special programme to mark the 125th Birthday of the YMCA is being arranged including a Floral Demonstration by Sheila Mc Queen and a Service at Llandaff Cathedral.

THE EASTERN COUNTIES

The Report. on behalf of the Division was given by Mrs WB Chivers Chairman of the Cambridge NWA. Mrs Chivers reminded the Meeting that the Eastern Counties is now in its 5th year as a Division.

It represents 5 Auxiliaries. Two Meetings are held each year, the Annual Meeting and one other and these are held in different Centres at which a good representation from each Auxiliary is always present. One of the meetings was held at the Lowestoft Holiday Centre and this was followed by a most enjoyable visit to Somerleyton Hall and Gardens by the kind permission of **Lord Somerleyton**.

The Division was very sorry indeed when their **President Lady Romney**. had to resign. as she had always shown immense interest in all the work done in the Division and had given everyone great support and all the Auxiliaries were most grateful to her. In her place the Division had been very fortunate and delighted to be able to welcome **The Dowager Lady Somerleyton** as their new President, and it was much regretted that it was not possible for her to be present today.

Mrs. Chivers then gave brief reports for each Auxiliary and these showed the variety of efforts made.

Kings Lynn - (which has 40 members) where, by the efforts of the members in arranging to staff the YMCA Canteen, a surplus of over £600 resulted and two money-raising efforts produced £120 between them.

Chelmsford - Here, in spite of difficulties, the members have managed to contribute both actively and financially towards Rummage Sales, Coffee mornings and the Autumn Sale - which is run in conjunction with the YMCA Bazaar and they have also helped with the YMCA Flag Day.

Ipswich - Meetings are held regularly, at which a variety of topics are discussed and which in turn brings a close relationship between the NWA and the YMCA. Beetle Drives and Market Stalls are organised to raise funds. One special effort by the Women's Auxiliary was the International Supper for 150 guests.

Brightlingsea - This is a small but very hard-working Auxiliary and they have been able to arrange most useful money-making efforts in order to provide furnishings for the Hall.

Cambridge - The total membership is over 60 of whom 30 take an active part in the Association. The Cambridge YMCA Centre is 117 years old and the building is quite unsuitable for present-day requirements but the NWA members staff the Canteen from 10am to 4pm each day - thus making a very valuable contribution, both to the finances of the Association and providing, in addition. a daily contact with members in all walks of life and of all nationalities. The Auxiliary members also took an active part at the Spring Fair where they organised Stalls, also a Buffet-Lunch.

YORKSHIRE

The report was given by the Honorary Treasurer, **Mrs. J. Bentley Smith**. The Division covers 17 Auxiliaries ranging from Ripon with 8 members to Huddersfield with 120 members. All of them are doing great service for the YMCA both with personal help and by raising money. This has usually been by such well-known methods as Bring and Buy Sales, Whist Drives and Bazaars and some Auxiliaries arranged special efforts such as a Cutlery Survey and a Treasure Auction.

Bradford and Halifax are reporting declining membership whilst Sheffield, Leeds and Huddersfield seem spurred to fresh activity by their building programme. Dewsbury are still working in spite of the uncertain future of their Club.

A visit to the 'Princess Royal Memorial Services Centre' at Catterick Camp was arranged for this year's Summer Meeting and it was a pleasure to see the young servicemen queuing up to go into the Centre. One of the highlights of the Divisional activities was a concerted effort, sponsored by the Mayor of Harrogate, to raise money for the Catterick Centre. A "Fashion Parade" and later on in the year, a Fair at The Royal Hall made £,1 200 towards wiping out the large amount still owing for the Centre.

In conclusion. Mrs. Smith expressed the gratitude of the to their President, Lady Parkinson, for her continued interest and willing service and also to Mrs. Noel Nickols who has taken on the Chairmanship of the Division.

The Chairman then asked Mr. Roberts, the General Secretary, to speak to the Meeting.

MR ROBERTS expressed his regrets that the Chairman, Colonel Gerard Leigh, was unable to be present but that he had asked that his notes concerning the plans for celebrating the 125th Birthday in this country would be given on his behalf.

"Colonel Gerard Leigh and his Committee have been very busy discussing and deciding the form our Celebrations in 1969 should take. Some people may ask - "Why a 125th Birthday celebration"?



To this I would only reply that our 100th Birthday happened when all our energies were being harnessed to the D-Day Landings - with some 100 Mobile Vans ready to follow our troops on to the Normandy Beaches. As we could not celebrate the 100th Birthday then - we are going to celebrate our 125th Birthday - now.

Here in London there is going to be a large Thanksgiving Service in St. Pauls Cathedral and another gathering in The Central Hall, Westminster. Several other celebrations are being planned including a big Fireworks Display on the Thames, so let us look forward, therefore, to 1969 as a year which will be full of activity and interest for the YMCA and one which will lead us to an even brighter future".

At the Nottingham Conference some 60 Nations will be joining in our celebrations and here Mr Roberts said he wanted to endorse what Sir Knox Cunningham had already said - by making a special appeal to all NWA members who lived in and around Nottingham to do everything possible to help make the Conference a success, more especially by making the wives of the Delegates welcome and in looking after them whilst their husbands are concerned with the day-to-day deliberations of the Conference.

Mr Roberts then briefly outlined some of the new main projects undertaken by the YMCA in 1967/1968. including a new 9-storey building in ROMFORD, which incorporated a large Study-Block and costing half-a million pounds. whilst at Waltham Forest there is a new Hall of Residence bringing with it an outlay of over £300,000.

In this world of rapid change, discussion as to the future of the YMCA, and the role it will be called upon to play, are of great importance and to delve more deeply into this great problem The National Council has decided to set up a Commission to examine very closely and carefully how the work of the YMCA should be planned for the 1970's - onwards. The Chairman of the Commission is Sir Francis Portal and, like Dame Joan, I am delighted that we have his wife, Lady Portal here with us this afternoon.

The visits paid to Lytham St. Annes, to the North Eastern Area and to the new Maidstone Centre by Her Royal Highness had given very great pleasure and Mr Roberts also stressed the great encouragement given to the NWA in BAOR by the short visit to Krefeld paid by the President in October and for which he would like to convey the most sincere thanks of The National Council and The Women's Auxiliary to Her Royal Highness for the great interest shown in the work of the YMCA and the NWA on all these occasions.

Mr Roberts then paid tribute to the personal efforts made by Dame Joan, not only in dealing with the general day-to-day work of the NWA but more especially in looking for - and finding the suitable women needed to go out to Germany and Cyprus to staff the YMCA Centres in these areas. It is not an easy task - with many applying but so few chosen as being the right type required for this very special work. Here Mr Roberts asked all the delegates remember this particular need and to send Dame Joan the names of any women they might know who would be interested in going to work overseas.

In conclusion Mr Roberts expressed the warmest thanks of The National Council to each and every member of the NWA for their constant support - both in the Divisions - and to the World Service.

Dame Joan then expressed her personal thanks to Mr Roberts, not only for speaking to the delegates but also for his never-failing help to her on NWA problems over many years.

CLOSING

The Chairman then asked Mr Roberts to give the Closing Prayer.

Tea was then served.