

remind her that robins never grow old and we are sure she is no exception.

**Rolt** writes from Penrith: "Andy's two daughters are quite near here. Giles and her husband after a spell in the Shetlands are now in Fife. I am still running the big garden here," etc. In spite of all her adventures getting away from Paris in 1940, Rolt ends her letter, "one longs to be more 'in it.'"

**B. Simms** who was in Paris from January 1941 to June working at the American hospital there is now a member of the Civil Nursing Reserve. She writes, "Does anyone know what has happened to Smeal. The last news I had of her was that she was giving English lessons in a village in Unoccupied France."

**Ramsay Smith** writes: "I made out a list of my appointments and it makes much more important reading than it actually is: W.V.S.—Deputy to County Organiser, Area Representative; Assistant Training Officer, Peebles Rest Centre Organiser and Supervisor; V.C.P.—Car driver if required; C.D.—Fire Guard, but only during a raid. Fortunately now hardly needed; Girl Guides—County Secretary and Treasurer; S.S. and A.F.A.—County President; S.S.P.C.A.—Hon. County Treasurer; Q.I.D.N., Peebles Branch—Vice-President and Chairman, Executive Committee; Barnardo Helpers' League, Peebles—President; Member of Committee of Association of Insurance Committees. I'm also part-time tablemaid as we've only got a cook, and have hens and bees. The latter have done very well this year and I have lots of honey. I'm organising "Their Day" Flag Day in Peebles this month and Poppy Day in November."

**Starr** (Mrs Manson) writes: "Living in Montreal I see a lot of Dr Henry, though I didn't know her at Royaumont as I was before her time. I met her here years ago through friends and we have done a spot of war work together this war. She gave me the last Royaumont letter this week to read, and I was thrilled at getting the news of you and Yeaman and Sister Lindsay from your letter. This war it's my girls' turn. I have no sons, just 3 daughters. One is in the Canadian Wrens, one a Red Cross Nursing Auxiliary (V.A.D. to you), and the middle one runs the X-ray department of a big war industry where bomber parts are cast. My husband went over to England for the first 3 years of the war with the British Aluminium Company. I often think of our days together at Royaumont and had often wondered what had become of you and Yeaman—that's why I was so thrilled to read your letter. It sounded so like the old you that I almost see you before me as I write."

**Wilson** is also at home in Perth and kept very busy looking after her invalid mother. Wilson is always ready to meet, as well as lend a helping hand with a suit case, any Royaumontite who has occasion to pass through Perth en route for the North or the South.

**Winstanley**: Still very busy and active at her Nursing Home, Fernbrae, Dundee. It is run most efficiently as Royaumontites might expect. Miller stayed with her during her examining expeditions to Dundee. Her wartime dinners were something to dream about. (No nightmares meant!)

**Yeaman**, another of our Royaumontites who has many home duties. She was most interested to get news of Starr.

# Royaumont News - Letter

War-time Economy Edition.

AUGUST 1943

No. 7

**Object of the Association:** To maintain and strengthen our war-time comradeship.

**Subscription:** Half-a-crown per annum due December 1st for the following year.

*President:* Mrs IVENS-KNOWLES, C.B.E., M.S.

*Vice-Presidents:* Miss RUTH NICHOLSON, M.S. Miss ELIZABETH COURTAULD, M.D.

*Chairman:* Vacant.

*Hon. Secretary:* Mrs SANDERSON.

*Hon. Treasurer:* Miss F. M. TOLLIT, 12 Woodchurch Road, N.W.6.

*Hon. Editor:* Miss C. F. N. MACKAY, 31 Markham Square, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

## EDITORIAL

Since the last *Royaumont News-Letter*, which most of you received in January of this year, a great deal of interest has taken place in our small circle. For just in time, or so it would seem to many of us, we have made an effort and put our house in order, and as of old our Medecin Chef has been the guiding power behind us. She took the chair at a meeting of the Committee of the S.W.H. Royaumont Association which took place on the morning of March 31st at Moor's Hotel, 10 Craven Hill, and again in the afternoon when a general meeting of the S.W.H. Royaumont Association and Relief Unit was held. At this meeting Morgan read a report of the work so far accomplished by the S.W.H. Royaumont Association and Relief Unit. Both this report and the minutes of both the other meetings will be found in this *News-Letter*, as we think in these times when communications between Royaumont members are so restricted, and when it is very difficult to attend meetings anywhere they will be of great interest to everyone here and abroad.

Arising out of these different reports there are, however, one or two points which we should like to bring to the notice of readers.

Firstly, that the Royaumont Relief Unit is a part of our old original Royaumont Association and not a small detached group; and secondly, that as readers will see the collection of funds is no longer our major concern but rather the collection of personnel as we are most anxious to have at least twenty volunteers ready to send out when the time comes. There must be many daughters, nieces, or (is it possible), grand-daughters, of Royaumont members who might welcome this opportunity of doing post-war relief work in France, so will all readers who know of any younger women friends or relations ask them to get in touch with Lady Tew (formerly Sister Houston), 301 Grove End Gardens, St. John's Wood, N.W. (Telephone, Maida Vale 4776). They should write to Lady Tew in the first instance and she will arrange for an interview.

On Saturday, June 26th, a most successful S.W.H. Royaumont Association luncheon party was held at Moor's Hotel, where in delightful surroundings we had a marvellous lunch which

Moor, with her unflinching skill, had managed to make quite pre-war. Unfortunately, Mrs Ivens-Knowles was not able to be present, but Dr Agnes Savill and Dr Estcourt Oswald were both there, and others present were M. Moor, Merrylees, Lady Tew, Mrs Alison, Collum, Percival, Grandage, Morgan, Mrs Clements (Kennedy), Stewart, Banks, Salway, Little Andy, McGregor, J. C. Murray, F. B. Simms, Mrs Dashwood (Burrard), Miss Macfie, who on account of her work with the Royaumont Canteens in France in 1940 was asked to come, Howard-Smith, Betty Bruce and Mackay.

All old Royaumontites will hear with much regret of Tollit's loss in the death of her sister, and send her their sincere sympathy. The death, too, of Dr Hallam (McGregor's husband) has just been announced, and we all feel deeply for McGregor whose only son is a prisoner of war in Germany. McGregor has a charming daughter in the W.A.A.F.'s who is a great comfort to her mother.

May I in conclusion ask you to write to me. We should like your news and views, for without news, as Alice might have asked, how can we have a *News-Letter*? [Editor.]

## Royaumont Association Funds Report

From THE TREASURER

Since the last balance sheet in 1941 there has been no outlay up to December 1942. Our balance in hand was £91 7s 2d. In our next *News-Letter* we hope to publish the balance sheet for 1943.

## Letter from Our Medecin Chef

KILLAGORDEN,

TRURO,

CORNWALL.

1st August 1943.

MY DEAR MACKAY,

I am delighted to hear that you are soon bringing out another *News-Letter*, especially as I was unable to be present at the "lunch," so do not know what is "doing." I myself have been doing

what I can for "France Combattante." We have started a Cornwall Association, with Viscount Clifden as President, and myself as Chairman. I enclose a report of our last effort in Truro which will explain what we are trying to do. I very much wish U.S. and our Government would recognise the "French National Committee." Next week we are having an exhibition of modern French art and I am putting up Miss Vogt, who is to explain them to visitors. Events in Italy are very exciting, and I hope soon to hear they are giving in, which will help us with France.

Glossop is now living in Truro and I am hoping to see more of her and her charming young daughter.

Red Cross efforts keep us busy and are marvelously successful. A little show in a village field made £200 and my bouquet sold for over £6. I am hoping to get one up in September, but the days fly, and it takes me all my time to get through the ordinary routine. I have far too many irons in the fire.

Now with all good wishes to the Unit, and hope that before long we may all meet again.

Yours affectionately,

FRANCES IVENS-KNOWLES.

#### Minutes of Meetings and Report of S.W.H. Canteen

The Committee of the S.W.H. Royaumont Association held a meeting on Wednesday morning, March 31st, at Moor's Hotel, 10 Craven Hill.

It was very gracious of the President, Mrs Ivens-Knowles, C.B.E., to come up from Cornwall for it. Others present were Inglis, Chairman; Tollit, Treasurer; Salway (Mrs McIntosh) took Smieton's (Mrs Sanderson) place as Secretary as she was ill and unable to be present; Banks, Treasurer of the Emergency Fund; and Mackay, who is Editor of the *News-Letter*.

The President asked the Committee if they were willing for the S.W.H. Royaumont Association Canteen Funds to be passed on to the S.W.H. Royaumont Relief Unit, to be used for relief in France. It was unanimously agreed to.

It was next decided that the present Royaumont Association Committee should remain as it was for the duration. The President thought more names should be added to it. Those who could come to a meeting when possible, and if not would try and meet other Old Royaumontites in their vicinity and get news of them.

The Committee was duly elected as follows:—President, Mrs Ivens-Knowles, C.B.E.; Vice-Presidents, Miss Nicholson and Miss Courtauld; Chairman, Inglis; Secretary, Mrs Sanderson (Smieton); Treasurer, Tollit; Mrs Hills (Carter), Mrs McIntosh (Salway), Mrs Simmonds (Banks), Treasurer of Emergency Fund; Mackay, Editor of *News-Letter*; Ramsay Smith, Peebles; Miller, Edinburgh; MacLeod and Tushman, Glasgow; Sister Winstanley, Dundee; Wilson, Perth; Holt,

N. of England; Madam Petitpierre, London; Collum, Guildford and District.

Tollit gave an account of the Association funds, which stand at £106.

Banks said the Emergency Fund stood at £227 15s 3d, and it was in the Post Office.

It was suggested that there should be a lunch party for members of the S.W.H. Royaumont Association, and Salway to fix it up with Moor, at whose hotel it would be held.

The Committee agreed that there should be another short *News-Letter*.

After a vote of thanks to the President, the meeting adjourned.

A general meeting of the S.W.H. Royaumont Association and Relief Unit was held at 10 Craven Hill on Wednesday, March 31st, at 2.50 p.m.

The President, Mrs Ivens-Knowles, C.B.E., took the Chair.

Salway read the minutes of the S.W.H. Royaumont Association Committee meeting held in the morning.

This allowed the funds of the S.W.H. Royaumont Canteen to be passed on to the Royaumont Relief Unit.

The general meeting unanimously agreed to this decision.

Morgan, Secretary of the S.W.H. Royaumont Relief Unit, read an account of the Unit since it started in January 1942.

The Committee is—President, Mrs Ivens-Knowles, C.B.E.; Chairman, Mrs Alison; Vice-Chairman, Inglis; Secretary, Morgan; Treasurer, Salway; Mme. Petitpierre, Miss Macfie, Howard Smith, Tollit and Grandage.

A motion was put forward that the Committee should be enlarged.

Miss Hamilton stated that in her opinion a large Committee was not to be recommended, but Collum proposed that Mackay be asked to come on the Committee, and she agreed to do so.

It was unanimously agreed that if possible the R.R. Unit should join the Conference of the Council of Voluntary Societies on the chance that the Royaumont Relief Unit would go to France on its own.

If the Council insisted on application to some larger Society or Unit, it was agreed we should be affiliated to the Friends or, failing this, to the Red Cross Society.

Ramsay Smith put forward the motion—

That the Royaumont Association delegates its powers to the Committee of the Royaumont Relief Unit to act for them in consultation with the President. In case of serious difficulties, the President to summon a meeting of the Royaumont Association.

The motion was seconded by Morgan and passed unanimously.

A letter of thanks was to be sent to Moor for the use of the room and the excellent tea.

A vote of thanks proposed by Miss Hamilton and seconded by Mrs Saville, was given to the President for coming up from Cornwall and taking the meeting.

#### S.W.H. Canteen and Royaumont Relief Unit Report to General Meeting

31st March 1943.

This general meeting of the subscribers to the Royaumont Canteen and the members of the Royaumont Association has been called in order that an account should be given of the activities of the Canteen and also of what has been done since the formation of the new Committee of the Royaumont Relief Unit in 1942, and that a vote may be taken on the policy to be pursued in the future. The Royaumont Canteen was launched as the result of the concerted idea of one or two members of the original S.W.H. Royaumont Hospital Unit, and a Committee was formed through whose efforts the Royaumont Canteen came into being. The overhearing by Mme. de Wendel (cousin of the Vicomtesse de la Panouse) of a chance word at a reception in Paris gave us the opportunity we sought. Through her the Canteen was installed on the Maginot Line in Lorraine and there continued to work from February 1940 until the fall of France in June necessitated the return of the Unit to England. In the ensuing months the Committee was able to arrange for the opening of a canteen and clubroom near Liverpool for French sailors awaiting repatriation, also staffed an allied club in Portsmouth under Lady James and gave donations to the Free French Club at Camberley, besides giving financial aid to French sailors in Cornwall. Then came the Battle of Britain and the blitz on London and the inevitable scattering of the Committee to other parts of England and other forms of work, leaving Miss Hamilton to carry on single-handed. In January 1942 it was decided to call a meeting of members of the Canteen Committee, members of the Canteen Unit, and any available members of the S.W.H. Royaumont Unit and Association and decide by vote whether (a) an effort be made to revive the work of the Royaumont Canteen, or (b) whether the remaining funds should be handed over to some other organisation working for the Free French in this country. The meeting, which numbered 12, voted unanimously that the Royaumont Canteen should continue as an active Unit, and a new Committee was formed by general consent. The new Committee found that before it could begin its activities it was obliged by law to register under the War Charities Act (1940). This registration was a long involved process and entailed much correspondence and interviews with the L.C.C., but finally all objections were surmounted and our certificate of registration duly arrived at the end of July. A new law of July 23 obliged us get the permission of the Under-Secretary of State before launching an appeal overseas. This started us off on another lengthy correspondence, but December 1942 brought us permission to appeal for funds in any country except the U.S.A., for whose permission we are still waiting.

In the meanwhile it had been decided that, as the changed conditions in France meant that a Canteen would not be of much practical use, we

would endeavour to form a Mobile Relief Unit, to go to some chosen centre in France and work from there—the Relief Unit to consist of a clinic, with doctor, nurses, ambulances and drivers, soup kitchens, food vans, etc., equipped with medical stores and comforts. This more ambitious scheme would mean the need for funds and personnel and even the possibility of being attached to some bigger organisation than ourselves, while preserving the S.W.H. identity. With this idea we proceeded to explore every avenue open to us.

An appointment was made with a Colonel of the Fighting French and later with M. Dulin, the representative of General Gsé. The answer to our query was that offers of staffed and equipped units prepared to go to Africa and follow the armies were acceptable to General de Gaulle, but offers concerning post-war relief in France should be made to the British Government, who were making all arrangements for this work.

A visit was next paid to the Secretary of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Red Cross at Clarence House, St. James. Miss Warner said that the Red Cross had not been approached by Government re post-war reconstruction but a questionnaire was being got out with the idea of placing offers of help, but in her opinion we should apply to the Friends.

An appointment was made with the Secretary of the Post-War Service Committee of the Friends, and Mr Brooks saw us in his office. He explained that there were many Societies anxious to do relief work in Europe, such as Friends, Red Cross, Y.M. and Y.W., Save the Children Fund, Girl Guides, etc. So a Council had been formed with a Committee representing the main Societies, and a conference was being formed where all Societies would be represented and advised us to get in touch with the Council's Secretary, Mr Hogarth. Before leaving we asked Mr Brooks to ask his Committee if they would be willing, should our general meeting so desire, to let our Relief Unit be affiliated to them, while keeping our own identity. He promised to put the matter forward at their next meeting.

An appointment was then made with Mr Hogarth of the Council of Voluntary Societies, but before going there I received a letter from the Secretary of the Post-War Requirements Bureau, Board of Trade, asking me to go and see her. Supported by Mrs Alison I went to see her on March 10. Mrs Sowerby told us that the P.W.R. Bureau is the Leith Ross Commission. The Governments of all the Allied and European nations are to work together for post-war reconstruction, and the Leith Ross Commission is in charge of the British Government's part of the Allied nations' relief work. As a country is freed so it can ask any of the Governments to supply relief, and only the Government applied to will send relief. At first it will mean the sending out of experts such as builders, road-makers, agriculturalists, and the necessary materials, implements, seeds, etc. When social workers are wanted the Council of Voluntary Societies will be appealed to and relief units sent as requested by the various oppressed countries. As all shipping

and transport will be rationed by the Government and all food and medical stores also, each Unit will be dependent for its supplies on the Government which sends it out. Mrs Sowerby urged us not to make a public appeal for funds other than what would be needed to maintain the personnel. Our meeting with Mr Hogarth took place on March 17 and bore out all we had heard from Mrs Sowerby. He was anxious that we should, if possible, affiliate ourselves to some larger organisation and suggested the Red Cross or the Friends, with a special recommendation towards the latter on the grounds of their lack of red tape and their past experience in the matter of reconstruction. As he said, the Red Cross had not done this work before whereas the Friends have all the machinery for it in existence.

Feeling we must leave no stone unturned, Mrs Alison made an appointment to see Lady Falmouth of the Red Cross. After an initial set-back, Lady Falmouth was kind but rather vague. She suggested our being attached to the Scottish Branch of the Red Cross, if indeed it was possible to attach us at all. She said there had not been any idea of sending out units for the Red Cross other than Red Cross Units.

That, I think, covers all the information we have been able to glean. But one thing has emerged, and that is that we must not expect our relief work to fall into any known category. I understand that one of the earliest problems to be tackled will probably be the repatriation of the millions of civilians who have been taken from their homes and sent to distant places in Europe, and that probably big camps will have to be set up for their reception in transmission and that relief workers will certainly be wanted in these camps.

Mr Hogarth urged us to get our Relief Unit personnel together so that we could go out if necessary at a moment's notice, but he warned us we might need patience to keep our members together as other Units left for their various destinations and we perhaps did not at once get our call.

As regards funds, it seems we shall not be called on to finance our Unit but we shall need a certain amount to support our staff, and we can continue to raise funds privately for this purpose. Since the present Committee took over, there has been a small increase in the funds owing to enterprise of various members.

D. CAREY MORGAN,  
Hon. Secretary,

33 Hunter House, Hunter Street, W.C.1.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	
From 1st January 1942 to 30th April 1943	
To Balance transferred from Scottish Women's Hospital (Royaumont)	
Canteen .....	£403 2 7
„ Subscriptions and Donations .....	87 13 0
„ Interest on P.O.S.B. Deposit .....	5 2 1
	<hr/>
	£495 17 8

By Secretarial Expenses, including Printing, Postages, Advertising and L.C.C. Registration Fee under War Charities Act, 1940	£18 6 11
„ Balances, 30th April 1943—	
At Bank .....	£122 8 8
P.O.S.B. .....	355 2 1
	<hr/>
	477 10 9
	<hr/>
	£495 17 8

We have prepared this Statement of Accounts from the Books and Vouchers and certify it to be correct and in accordance therewith. We have verified the Deposit with the Post Office Savings Bank.

HARTLEYS, WILKINS & FIEW,  
Chartered Accountants,  
1 Central Buildings, Westminster,  
S.W.1.

#### FROM FAR AND NEAR

**Alison** (Mrs) is a whole-time worker in the Civil Defence Ambulance Corps which, as everyone knows, has been no light job in London. Mrs Alison, however, looks very well, both her children are married, and she is Chairman of our Royaumont Relief Unit Committee.

“**Betty**” leads a very busy life in London with the W.M.C.A. Betty's organising experience in clubs and canteens should be valuable later on when the S.W. Canteen Unit gets its marching orders.

**Bruce**, who has got a little house near her old home in Colinton, is helping with prisoners of war parcels. She offered her services as a masseuse but so far has not been called up for this job.

**Buckley** (Dr G. L.) in a letter to Tollit written early this year writes: “I was at the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, for 9½ months and was extremely happy there, though it was a very heavy job.” Buckley is now working at the Military Hospital, Chepstow Moor. She ends her letter thus: “We are indeed not getting any younger, alas, but I admit I'd like to go to France with the new Expeditionary Force.”

**Bunyan** since returning from Canada at the beginning of the war has taken a man's place in a school for boys in Edinburgh, where she teaches English and History. She writes: “I should like to go to France later if the S.W.H. have a canteen.”

**Burrard** (Mrs Dashwood) is living in a cottage at Farnborough. Her daughter is studying at Edinburgh University.

**Cannon** (Mrs Walford) at last has a house of her own in Suffolk. She and her daughter expect to go there this month (August).

**Churchill** (Mrs Latham) still lives at Pangbourne and is very busy running her home and doing W.V.S. work.

**Courtauld** (Dr Elizabeth) we are sorry to hear suffers very much from lameness caused by arthritis, but writes that she is always interested in hearing of the doings of Royaumontites.

**Day** has been working for the W.V.S. and driving a mobile canteen after the raids in Southampton. When she wrote early in the year she was recovering from a poisoned arm.

**Forest** is working for the British Red Cross at St. James's Palace.

**Goss** (Mrs Harper) writes: “I get news of Willmot. She is living in Exmouth and has two W.R.N.'s billeted on her. ‘Little Andy,’ Mme. Petitpierre's husband, is in the Free French Army and she works at a first-aid post at Pinner. My daughter is training as a nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.” Besides doing work on local committees and W.V.S., Goss helps at a Y.M.C.A. Canteen.

**Hancock** (Dr): Mrs Barfelt, who some of the early Royaumont members will remember, writes: “At present besides one baby welfare clinic once a fortnight, I do no other medical work. My daughter is at home helping me with domestic duties. My son is a curate at Gosport.”

**Inglis**, we are sorry to learn, has been ill and forced to give up her Civil Defence job. She is spending the summer with Morgan in Suffolk and is very much better.

**Jamieson** (“Jamie”) is at the M.O.I. in Glasgow. Don't ask questions!

**Keil** writes from South Africa: “I met a lady who had been a sister at Royaumont the week before I got the *News-Letter*. She was Sister Paterson (now Mrs Dunn). My work consists only of knitting and helping to raise money for various funds; we all work very strenuously for the Navy, Merchant Navy, and Red Cross, etc. My daughter is doing social welfare work and my son has just matriculated and wants to join the tanks. As he is only 17 he will have to wait for a little.”

**Kennedy** (Mrs Clements) is working for the American Red Cross at Rainbow Corner (formerly Lyons Corner House), Piccadilly. Recently her daughter was married to an American officer she met over here.

**Leishman** has just moved into a new flat in Glasgow. Her father has been ill for some time, so Leishie cannot venture very far afield. Miller and she foregather occasionally in Edinburgh.

**Leng** has still her flat in Edinburgh, but since the beginning of the war lives mostly at her home

in Newport. Miller and Yeaman spent a very pleasant evening with her in Edinburgh in early spring.

**Lindsay** (Sister) is still the very indispensable nurse-companion to a solicitor's wife in Dundee. She enjoys nothing better than a Royaumont evening at Fernbrae, where the celebrations are quite typical of the old days. If Royaumontites want a real hilarious “frisky” evening, Miss Winstanley will provide it.

**Macgregor** (Mrs Hallam): We were all delighted to see Macgregor again at the Royaumont luncheon in June. Two old friends were reunited when Young (who was so ill last year) went down to East Yalding to stay with the Hallams, and where in Young's own words “I spent a marvellous ten days.”

**Macpherson** (“Mac”) has got a little flat in the Merchiston district of Edinburgh. She can be very amusing about Royaumont. Her stories of life in the kitchen, 1915-16, are real “thrillers”!

**Middleton** runs a children's clinic at Peckham and drives for the W.V.S.

**Miller** is still doling out porridge and teaching young recruits at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

**Moffat** writes that she is very busy with lots of patients. “I never seem to manage to get to Dundee now, so have not seen Matron Winstanley or Sister Lindsay for years.”

**Sister Morris**: Miller has met Sister Morris in Edinburgh. She looks remarkably young and unchanged. She does private work and is kept very busy.

**Murray** (Big) who puts up such a good fight against ill-health was able to attend the Royaumont luncheon. She has about 35 children under her care at Bradford-on-Avon, which, as she writes, “is no joke and takes all the stuffing out of one at the end of a 14-hour non-stop day.”

**Nicky** (Nicholson) writes: “Like everyone else I suppose I'm working at pretty full steam ahead. I am in charge of the woollen comforts side of Northumberland and Durham War Needs Fund. I have between five and six hundred knitting parties. They all have fads and peculiarities and it behoves me to be tactful. I also do a good deal of Red Cross work and have lately acquired a Youth Detachment.”

**Richmond** (Mrs Haydon) is working with the B.B.C. in London. She is bringing her daughter back from America.

**Robin** (Miss Loudon) writes from North Berwick: “I spent a very nice week a few days ago with Gillies Smith. She and her sister have a delightful cottage.” Our Robin also writes that she is too old and is retiring from W.V.S. work “to grow tomatoes and knit helmets,” but let us

ORO/3/16

remind her that robins never grow old and we are sure she is no exception.

**Rolt** writes from Penrith: "Andy's two daughters are quite near here. Giles and her husband after a spell in the Shetlands are now in Fife. I am still running the big garden here," etc. In spite of all her adventures getting away from Paris in 1940, Rolt ends her letter, "one longs to be more 'in it.'"

**B. Simms** who was in Paris from January 1941 to June working at the American hospital there is now a member of the Civil Nursing Reserve. She writes, "Does anyone know what has happened to Smeal. The last news I had of her was that she was giving English lessons in a village in Unoccupied France."

**Ramsay Smith** writes: "I made out a list of my appointments and it makes much more important reading than it actually is: W.V.S.—Deputy to County Organiser, Area Representative; Assistant Training Officer, Peebles Rest Centre Organiser and Supervisor; V.C.P.—Car driver if required; C.D.—Fire Guard, but only during a raid. Fortunately now hardly needed; Girl Guides—County Secretary and Treasurer; S.S. and A.F.A.—County President; S.S.P.C.A.—Hon. County Treasurer; Q.I.D.N., Peebles Branch—Vice-President and Chairman, Executive Committee; Barnardo Helpers' League, Peebles—President; Member of Committee of Association of Insurance Committees. I'm also part-time tablemaid as we've only got a cook, and have hens and bees. The latter have done very well this year and I have lots of honey. I'm organising "Their Day" Flag Day in Peebles this month and Poppy Day in November."

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**Winstanley**: Still very busy and active at her Nursing Home, Fernbrae, Dundee. It is run most efficiently as Royaumontites might expect. Miller stayed with her during her examining expeditions to Dundee. Her wartime dinners were something to dream about. (No nightmares meant!)

**Yeaman**, another of our Royaumontites who has many home duties. She was most interested to get news of Starr.