

Our War Album.—2. The French War Chief



General Gamelin

French Commander in Chief and Chief of the General Staff for National Defence, General Gamelin first came into prominence during the Battle of the Marne in 1914.

VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY

In this page we are giving week by week particulars of Britain's Auxiliary Services in which men and women may play their part in the work of National Defence. A second selection is given below.

DURING the last war the women of the British Commonwealth responded nobly to the call made upon their services, and the present conflict finds them no less willing to play their part in defence of British freedom.

As soon as the call to National Service was issued, they hastened to join the various auxiliary services open to women. There follows a brief resumé of what is being done by some half-dozen groups:



W.A.T.S. (Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service)

This service was formed so that in time of war women could release soldiers from routine work which they could perform equally well, such as cooking, typing, laundry work and storekeeping. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., has been appointed Director of the A.T.S. at the War Office. She will be responsible directly to the Director-General T.A. She is the daughter of a Scots Guards officer, a Fellow of King's College, London, and during the Great War was Chief Controller of Queen Mary's Auxiliary Corps with the British Armies in France. Today she is President of the Women's Royal Air Force Old Comrades' Association, Chairman of the Council Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association, and Chairman of the Executive Girl Guides' Association.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S AIR RESERVE

All classes of girls—typists, shop-assistants, dressmakers, telephone operators—are to be found in the ranks of this organization, the aim of which is to provide a body of capable and intelligent young women trained to take on flying duties behind the lines in war-time. When fully trained they will keep the country's civil air lines in operation or drive flying ambulances. They go through a thorough course of ground training first, covering all subjects from the theory of flight to the working of the aero-engine.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY AIR FORCE

This force is for duty with the Royal Air Force in time of war. Its director, with rank of Senior Controller, is Miss J. Trefusis Forbes.



W.V.S. (Women's Voluntary Services, Civil Defence)

The Women's Voluntary Service for Civil Defence is a national voluntary organization which, in co-operation with the various departments concerned, undertakes the enrolment of women in the different branches of Civil Defence work. The services with which it particularly deals are Air Raid Precautions, Nursing and First-Aid services, and Evacuation services.

The address of the headquarters of the organization is 41, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1; and in Scotland, 7, Coates Gardens, Edinburgh, 3.

Under A.R.P. women are stationed at the First-Aid posts to give treatment to minor casualties or serve as drivers and attendants for the fleet of ambulances.

OBSERVER CORPS (ANTI-AIRCRAFT)

This organization is at present considered as part of the Special Constabulary, and its function is to man observer posts for spotting aircraft in country districts and certain towns. Men are required to be above 30 years of age, with good eyesight and hearing.



NATIONAL DEFENCE COMPANIES

National Defence Companies are formed from ex-soldiers who are prepared to give an honourable undertaking that in time of emergency they will come up to defend important points. The companies are affiliated to units of the Territorial Army. The minimum age for enrolment is 45.

CIVIL AIR GUARD

Body of men and women with a knowledge of flying, consisting mainly of units attached to Light Aeroplane Clubs throughout the country. They were pledged to give their services in wartime in connexion with aviation.



WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

The women's land army is active and full of enthusiasm. Country girls from all over Britain, and some town girls, too, have enrolled in this essential service. They are being trained at farm institutes in such things as tractor management and various agricultural jobs which will release men for other duties.

R.A.F. CIVILIAN WIRELESS RESERVE and R.N. VOLUNTEER (WIRELESS) RESERVE

This organization is composed of proficient amateur wireless operators, mainly holders of G.P.O. Transmitting and Experimental licences.



AIR DEFENCE CADETS

Some time ago the Air League undertook to raise 20,000 Air Cadets in the country, to provide a reservoir from which British aviation could draw in time of emergency. In a year 156 squadrons were raised with a personnel of 15,600 cadets. Cadets are enrolled between the ages of 14 and 18, and are given instruction in the general theory of flight, airmanship, air navigation, aircraft engineering and maintenance, wireless and A.R.P., operations of the observer corps, balloon barrage, searchlight and anti-aircraft gunners.

The cadets also receive some tuition in workshop processes, and pay periodical visits to R.A.F. and civil aerodromes.