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SERVICES CENTRAL BOOK DEPOT

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Her Majesty The Queen to-day visits the Services Central Book Depot, which has been set up by the three Service Departments to receive from the public through the medium of the post office, books magazines and other recreational literature for distribution to the men and women of the three fighting Services on every front and at practically every station where our fighting men are to be found.

Since the Depot was instituted some 14 months ago over 5 million books and some 3 million magazines etc., have been sent out to the Fighting Forces.

In the Depot the various types of literature received are sorted, either into large libraries for static camps, small libraries for anti-aircraft posts and R.A.F. stations, and field libraries, which are placed in Institutes at the bases and on the lines of communication overseas. In addition, regular supplies of bundles of periodicals are sent out to units at home and abroad.

Supplies are generally received from the public through the medium of the post office, and almost all post offices in Great Britain and Northern Ireland will accept at the counter books and magazines for free transmission to the Central Book Depot and other sub-depots established in the country. Books and magazines should be handed in at the post offices unwrapped, unstamped and unaddressed. The public, however, are asked not to send old and out-of-date volumes or large tomes which are of no use, nor should such things as ancient editions of Mrs. Beeton's Cookery Book, or obsolete telephone directories be sent. These had better be handed to the local authorities as salvage.

Almost all types of illustrated literature are welcome, no matter how old, as the men and women of the Services are voracious readers.

Large supplies are being sent to the Middle East, and more are required. In fact, the authorities there state that books and magazines are probably the most acceptable form of gift to troops and airmen.

In order to make up large formed libraries many books have to be purchased which the public do not present, and for this purpose money is required. The Lord Mayor of London, at the request of the three Service Departments, has instituted a Fund, called the Service Libraries and Books Fund, for this purpose. The Fund's Executive Committee is under the Chairmanship of Sir Herbert Creedy, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., formerly Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War. This Committee controls propaganda and issues national appeals for books and money, advises on the types of books, etc., suitable for distribution to the Services and other connected matters, and co-ordinates the efforts of other bodies having similar objects. Members of the public who desire to send money for the purchase of books should send it to The Lord Mayor of London, The Mansion House, London, E.C. 4 (Marking the envelope "BOOKS").

The Services Central Book Depot is controlled by the War Office on behalf of all three Services. The Officer-in-Charge of the Central Book Depot and in general control of the distribution scheme is Major Donovan Jackson.