

More than half the awards made in the last three years have been to women. In the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the service corps, are 124 nursing brigades and 103 ambulance brigades, with about 10,000 persons serving in them.

Y.W.C.A.
The national war services department of the Young Women's Christian Association in Canada has made its greatest contribution to the nation in providing hostess houses for the use of relatives and friends of servicemen and women and in establishing recreation centres in several barracks for men and women of the armed forces.

Eight new hostess houses were established during 1942 and early 1943, and by May there were 38. Three former hostess houses had been reclassified as recreation centres and hostess rooms. More than 60 weddings, 45 christenings, 27 confirmations and 17 receptions had been held in hostess houses by the end of 1942. There are three hostess rooms at St. Thomas, Ontario, Prince Rupert, British Columbia, and the Guelph, Ontario, wireless school.

During 1942 the Y.W.C.A. expanded the principle of hostess house service to provide recreation centres for the Canadian Women's Army Corps at 10 points.

A new project providing "overseas" establishments in Canada and Newfoundland was commenced in 1942 with the opening of three leave hostels at St. John's, Newfoundland, Victoria and Vancouver, B.C. Authorization for a leave hostel at Halifax has been granted, the hostel to open when suitable quarters are obtained. The three centres provided 12,329 services to women in uniform during the first quarter of 1943.

Filling an increasing need, rooms registry services of the Y.W.C.A. for 1942 almost quadrupled those of 1941. Through Y.W. associations 40,922 persons were directed to inspected lodgings in 1942, compared with 12,413 in 1941. Hostess houses provided a rooms registry service also to 24,905 persons during the first 10 months of 1942, as compared with 3,906 for the whole of 1941.

Although the women's voluntary service committees and the consumer branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board are endeavoring to meet the general housing need by co-ordinating rooms registry services, the Y.W.C.A.