

1982

No 2

Lioness



NAAFI HAS PLANS TO SAVE YOU POUNDS

All these plans have been developed specially by Naafi for the needs of Service personnel, to save you money and safeguard your interests. To find out more, just tick the appropriate box, fill in the coupon and send off the complete advertisement.

- ☐ **Cars** – special discounts and HP terms make ownership easy.
- ☐ **Touring Caravans** – buying through Naafi saves time and money.
- ☐ **Motorcycles/Mopeds** – for speed plus savings ask Naafi.
- ☐ **Boats** – a Naafi service to help you get afloat.
- ☐ **Car insurance** – it's quick and simple through Naafi.
- ☐ **HP deposit saving plan** – to help you save the deposit for a new car.
- ☐ **Life assurance** – Naafi offers competitive terms with independent advice.
- ☐ **House purchase** – a Naafi plan to help you save for a home.
- ☐ **Savings plans** – at a discount price plus automatic life assurance.
- ☐ **Personal/Household insurance** – get worldwide protection for your possessions through Naafi.
- ☐ **Holiday/Travel Insurance** – a Naafi service to safeguard your holiday.
- ☐ **Self-drive car hire** – it's cheaper through Naafi.

To: Manager Marketing Dept., MKG/C/2
Naafi, London SE11 5QX.

Rank.....

Name.....

Address.....

Tel. No.

NAAFI
EXCLUSIVELY
YOURS



Lioness

Vol. LV

1982

No. 2

WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1919

Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH

Tel: Aldershot (0252) 24431 Ext. Guildford 283

PRESIDENT

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT, GCVO

Controller Commandant

Vice-President

Brigadier E J Nolan, CB

Deputy Controller Commandant

Chairman:

Mrs H E C Weldon

Vice-Chairman:

Colonel F M Cook

General Secretary:

Brigadier N C King, MBE (Retd)

ATS/WRAC Benevolent Fund:

Mrs J Laurence-Smith

(Case Secretary)

Editor:

Major D R M Parker (Retd)

Advertising Representative:

Major E O Coven, JP (Retd)

Nuview Advertising, 22 Cadogan Court,

Draycott Avenue, SW3. Telephone: 01-589 8286

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Shopping List	36	Unit News	52
Staff Band Engagements	36	Recruiters	57
Appointment of DWRAC	37	WAIFS	58
Congratulations	38	TA	60
Prize Crossword Competition	40	UOTC	60
Aldershot Military Historical Trust	41	Association News	61
Tenerife (Part 2)	43	Grand Reunion Plymouth	62
Berlin Revisited	44	Reunion Notices	64
Moir Macpherson in Hong Kong	46	Branch News	65
The Guards Depot	47	Correspondence	67
Sport	48	Tributes	69
Exercise Snowdrift	50	Obituary	69
Exercise Bamse V	51	London Gazette	70
		Personal Column	71

SHOPPING LIST

	£	p & p
ATS silver plated brooches	1.50	15p (up to 6)
Biro pens	.25	20p (up to 6)
Bookmarks, leather	.40	20p (up to 6)
Brief Cases	1.65	35p
Clipboards	2.50	60p
Coasters, leather	.40	15p
Coasters, leather (boxes of 6)	2.30	35p
Corps Drum Ice Bucket	8.95	1.10p
Corps History (hardback)	5.50	45p
Corps History (paperback)	3.00	35p
Corps Shield	6.75	60p
Document Cases	.75	25p
Glass Ash/Pin Tray	.95	30p
ID Card/Season Ticket/ Bank Card Holder	.25	15p (up to 6)
Jewel Cases (blue velvet)	1.20	25p
Key Cases (to hold 6 keys)	1.10	25p
Key Rings:		
Acrylic	.45	20p (up to 6)
Green Leather	.40	20p (up to 6)
T-shirts (white with green badge)	2.75	40p
Sweatshirts (green with gold badge and black with white badge)	6.10	55p
WRAC Association badges	.60	15p (up to 6)
Pewter Figures:		
WRAC NCO	11.50	50p
WRAC NCO with RMP	11.50	50p
Prints by Ken Howard:		
Signed (indoor only)	5.00	50p (up to 3)
Unsigned	3.00	50p (up to 3)
Table Mats 9¼" x 7¼":		
(green with gold badge)	3.30	38p
(boxes of 6)	19.50	1.50p
WRAC Brooches	1.75	15p (up to 6)

Most items are in green with the Corps crest in gold. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to CORPS HQ A/C and sent to Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

WRAC STAFF BAND

Engagements

August 22-29	Concerts – Regents Park Sundays 3 – 4.30 pm & 6 – 7.30 pm Mon – Sat 12.30 – 2 pm & 5.30 – 7 pm
30	Concerts – Greenwich Park 3 – 4.30 pm & 6 – 7.30 pm
November 6	Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Bristol
13	Lord Mayor's Procession, London
and many additional military engagements	

Author-signed Copies of

'THE WINGED MESSENGER'

By Retired R.S.M.

401 pages autobiography of Royal Signals in war and peace 1930 to 1961 period. De luxe hard cover edition costs UK £8.00. With post packing within UK £9.25. Write to:

Mr. P. E. A. Hall, Kohima. 1030 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middx. HA0 2QT. Tel. 01-908 0202.



Brigadier Helen Meechie Hon ADC MA
(Courtesy Soldier Magazine).

NEW DIRECTOR WRAC

Brigadier H G Meechie Hon ADC MA

Brigadier Helen Meechie assumed the appointment of Director Women's Royal Army Corps on March 7th this year when she was also appointed Honorary Aide de Camp to the Queen.

Brigadier Meechie was born in Dundee and educated at Morgan Academy Dundee and St Andrew's University where she obtained a degree in modern languages, after which she completed a course at Dundee College of Education and obtained a Teaching Diploma. She was a member of St Andrew's University Officers Training Corps.

Brigadier Meechie was commissioned into the WRAC in December 1960. She was a staff officer in Cyprus for two years from 1964 and came home to instruct at the WRAC College before going on to command the WRAC Squadron of 6 Training Regiment RCT.

She attended the Staff College, Camberley in 1969 and this was followed by two staff appointments, the second of which was with HQ Land Forces in Hong Kong. Then followed regimental duty commanding 10 Company WRAC in Aldershot before attending the National Defence College, Latimer in 1976. Before her last appointment as Deputy Director WRAC in the Ministry of Defence she was the Assistant Director WRAC in HQ BAOR.

Our new Director, who is the youngest ever officer to hold this appointment, is a keen golfer and also enjoys tennis, gardening, music and travel.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that Association subscriptions run from 1 January to 31 December and should be paid by 31 December. The February issue of *Lioness* is not sent to members whose subscriptions have not been paid.

Cover Photograph

The WRAC Band leading the parade past the saluting base at the Association Reunion in Plymouth.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

Private Ann Duncan who rescued a lady from a serious fire last year and was presented with the Commander in Chief's Certificate of Commendation for her prompt and courageous action. Private Duncan is a stewardess at the Royal School of Artillery.



Private Ann Duncan receiving her Certificate of Commendation from Brigadier D M Jones, Commandant Royal School of Artillery.

2 Lt Carolyn Dryburgh on becoming the Inter Service Slalom and Giant Slalom champion for 1982. 2 Lt Dryburgh won the title while representing the Army during the Inter-Service ski-ing championship at Aviemore.

Mr and Mrs Victor Roberts who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on April 2nd and had a specially prepared postmark for the occasion. It was a tribute from their two daughters and, according to the head postmaster of Walsall, was the first time in Post Office history that it was done for private individuals.

Private Joanne Knowles who married Corporal Michael Williams in April. Our photograph shows Mrs Williams, a chef in the District Officers Mess, being presented with a silver picture frame before her wedding by Major General Ian Baker GOC North East District. The picture frame was a wedding present from the members of the Officers Mess at District Headquarters.



Major General Baker and Private Knowles.

Corporal and Mrs Peter Drabble (Private Frances Hughes) who were married on April 3rd and are now in Hong Kong. Private Hughes was a hairdresser at the WRAC Centre before her marriage.



The happy pair and their charming bridesmaids.

Miss Muriel Cridland who has been awarded a BA by the Open University, and received her results in the same month as her sixtieth birthday. Miss Cridland served in the ATS from January 1943 until June 1946 and was stationed at No 12 Infantry Training Centre, Canterbury, the training centre for the Buffs and East Surreys.

Lieutenant Commander and Mrs Robert Kirby Harris (Captain Abigail Kirby Harris) on the birth of their son Alexander James Ross on 15th May 1982.

Two teams from 242 Signal Squadron, Edinburgh who took part in a sponsored charity walk in aid of Scottish charities and raised more than £200. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh presented them with a plaque to mark their achievement.

W02 Pat Swailes, 2 Lt Phillipa Wright and Major Rosemary Warne of the WRAC Centre who completed the London Marathon and raised between them nearly £600 for charity.



Left to right:- 2 Lt Wright, W02 Swailes and Major Warne in triumphant mood.



The Rt Hon Tom Morgan OBE, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, presenting the plaque to Sgt Linda Parker and LCpl Ruth Reece. (Courtesy Edinburgh Evening News).

HILLIERS COUTURE Ltd.

27 CORK STREET, LONDON W1X 1PB

Telephone: 01-437 1421/2

Appointed Dressmakers to

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS

**QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL ARMY
NURSING CORPS**

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE

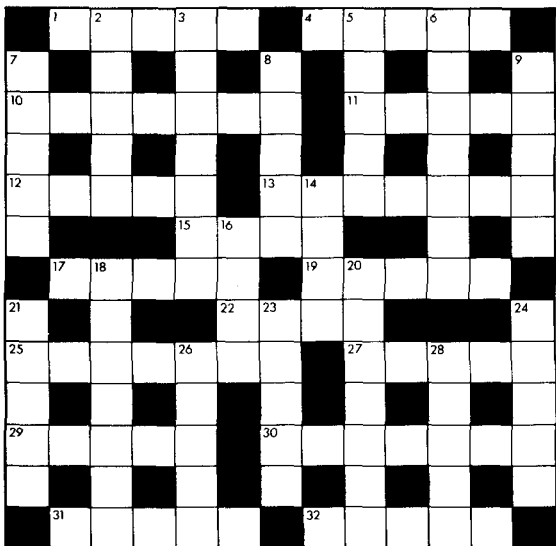
**MESS DRESS (Evening Gowns)
OVERSEAS BEIGE LINEN DRESS**

Enquiries from Officers,
Warrant Officers and
Sergeants will be welcomed.

PRIZE CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Compiled by Captain Penny Gold WRAC

A prize of £5 will be sent to the reader who submits the first correct solution opened on 1st November 1982. Please send your solution to the Editor at Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH and mark your envelope "CROSSWORD COMPETITION".



Name

Address

.....

.....

ACROSS

1. Wearied by tedious talk after hole drilled. (5)
4. Corpulent Old Boy on compass bearing. (5)
10. Guest calling or it named in movable front part of helmet. (7)
11. Impressive size of sea mammal. (5)
12. Part of intestine used in punctuation. (5)
13. Dizziness making me leave after French green. (7)
15. Tied in knots to get thin. (4)
17. Love in the fog, rather damp! (5)
19. Chokes up with Dutch footwear. (5)
22. Repetition of sound. (4)
25. Hour for retiring for sheep counting exercise. (7)
27. Description of destitute person. (5)
29. Scandinavian mythological being, strolling without uttering melodious sounds. (5)
30. Open minded political party. (7)
31. A fish on ice can do this. (5)
32. Draws backwards an expanse of turf. (5)

DOWN

2. Louse reformed into type of Blackbird. (5)
3. Draws out, Ed's next. (7)
5. Debt in British Rail or leafy nook. (5)
6. Climbing, drawing to size. (7)
7. Expel legally from part of time victim. (5)
8. Test and quietly wander. (5)
9. Person without pole called Eva. (5)
14. Scratch on metal; abbreviated so on, with aspirate. (4)
16. Mite altered to one thing. (4)
18. Uneven glance given to something strange. (3-4).
20. A tall 5 without hesitation is an old lethal weapon. (7)
21. Diminish but sounds like food put in a trap. (5)
23. Musical instrument used in prison room with love. (5)
24. Recurrent period for pedal power. (5)
26. Rented house situated on small arm of sea. (5)
28. Hesitate or mistake. (5)

OUR HISTORY

It seems that there are still a number of ex ATS who do not appreciate that the book "The Women's Royal Army Corps" covers the start of the Corps in 1917 by the WAAC and then concentrates on the formation and activities of the ATS during the war years.

It is not a large book and six of its eight chapters are devoted to the ATS. The paperback edition costs £3.45 p & p from Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

ALDERSHOT HOME OF THE BRITISH ARMY

The Aldershot Military Historical Trust

What picture does the name Aldershot conjure up in your mind? Serried ranks of red-brick Victorian barrack blocks, sergeant majors, drill, and freezing barrack rooms? Or perhaps it is the clusters of concrete cubes familiar to the present generation.

Over a million soldiers have passed through Aldershot since the Second World War and perhaps there are still another million who knew it before the war. But to most of them the camp will be largely unrecognizable as the modernization of the last two decades has swept away almost all of the Victorian barracks, and visitors returning after 20 years or more can hardly believe the transformation.

Prior to the establishment of the 'Camp at Aldershot' in 1854 no garrison nor camp existed in the whole United Kingdom for the concentration of training of troops on a large scale. The British Army was stationed in long-established garrisons most of which had been military centres from the earliest times and the soldiers occupied castles, forts or similar old defensive installations. There had never been a sufficient number of troops concentrated in any one area to permit even brigade-size field days. Troops not stationed in such recognized garrisons were quartered in the main cities and county towns, for the most part in small detachments billeted on the civil population.

As part of the training programme for the Army in 1853 a summer camp was established on Chobham Common in Surrey under the direction of Lord Hardinge, who had succeeded the Duke of Wellington as Commander-in-Chief, and exercises were conducted for two divisions in succession. The success of this experiment and the imminent enclosure of much common land in the vicinity led to a proposal for a permanent training camp in the area. Aldershot Heath was selected; the proprietors agreed to sell for £12 an acre and so a tract of 10,000 acres was purchased early in 1854.

Only a summer tented camp was first envisaged but the need to accommodate the militia called out during the Crimean War led to the erection of two hutted camps, each for a division, north and south of the Basingstoke Canal. Construction

began in February 1855 and the first troops moved into their huts in North Camp in May that year. At the same time permanent brick barracks for another two brigades of cavalry, infantry and artillery were built close up against the village of Aldershot which then had a population of about 850. Although intended only as temporary accommodation for training purposes, the hutted camps soon became the permanent home of troops returning from the Crimea.

In the 1880s and 1890s these camps were replaced by permanent brick barracks including schools, hospitals, a reservoir, sewage works, gas works, power station, indeed everything, even its own bye-laws, needed to make Aldershot Camp the only complete military town built in the Kingdom since the Roman occupation.

Aldershot became the home of the 1st and 2nd Divisions comprising the bulk of the 1st British Army Corps and it was from Aldershot that the British Expeditionary Forces set out for France in 1914 and again in 1939. Reviews, manoeuvres, sporting events, the famous Searchlight Tattoos and a military population of 25,000 had made Aldershot synonymous with 'The Home of the British Army'.

In 1939, when the main body of the regular Army departed for France, Aldershot became the base for the Canadian Army in the United Kingdom for the duration of the war, while many British units and formations continued to use Aldershot as a transit area before embarking for North Africa, Europe and almost every theatre of war. When the Canadians left in 1945 a complete change was to take place in the character of the camp, for it became a great training centre for the National Service Army, including the famous Mons Officer Cadet School. It embraced, too, the depots and training centres of eight corps of the British Army, and the home of the newly created Parachute Regiment. Soon the camp's outward appearance was also to change.

The latest rebuilding programme started in 1960 but it was not until 1970 that the Aldershot Garrison Historical Committee was formed at the instigation of the then GOC Aldershot District, Maj-Gen Penfold, and his deputy, Brig (now Maj-Gen) Mans. Conscious of the losses to local military history resulting from the almost complete rebuild of the camp, they sought to preserve Aldershot's military history 'both in its written and material form'. Much valuable material was initially collected, but there was nowhere to display it, and enthusiasm gradually waned. It was to be rekindled with the arrival of Brig Reed as

Garrison Commander in 1978.

The Historical Committee was reconstituted and two years later, with valuable help and encouragement from Hampshire County Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and the Southern Tourist Board, a charitable trust was created with His Grace the Duke of Wellington as president, and three vice-presidents, The Marquess of Anglesey, Gen Sir Edwin Bramall, and Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley. The Trust's aim is to preserve the history of military Aldershot and present to the public the story of the most famous military town in the world.

Most of the fascinating old military buildings have, alas, been lost for ever, but fortunately, enough remain from the previous camps to see in Aldershot a panorama of military buildings covering the last 125 years, that is, the whole period since the Army has been quartered in custom-built barracks. Among the Victorian buildings still standing is the last pair of bungalow-type barrack blocks which used to cover the whole of North Camp. These unique buildings have been saved from demolition and the surrounding area has been landscaped. One is available for lease by the Trust now; the second, in a few years time when its present military use ceases. So our plans cover two phases.

Phase 1 is to create in the first block a Visitor's Centre and Museum of the camp, where the public can see the history of Aldershot laid out in chronological order with plans, maps, photographs, models, films and recordings. A section of the building will be recreated as a barrack room at the turn of the century.

To guide the public around the historic features of the camp a trail is being created and the buildings and monuments included will be provided with plaques briefly describing their history and significance. Visitors will also be directed to the many local regimental museums. Phase 1 should be complete by early 1983. The post-1939 era will be greatly expanded in the second phase. If anyone has documents, letters, militaria, photographs, etc, relating to Aldershot, or knows the whereabouts of any barrack furniture of pre-World War Two vintage, the honorary director of the Trust would be very pleased to hear from them.

Aldershot, Home of the British Army, is part of the national heritage and we owe it to posterity to preserve its history and its treasures, and present these to the public for the recreation, education and interest of both present and future generations. The Museum and Visitors' Centre will

stand, too, as a fitting tribute to the British Soldier, past and present, in the home of the British Army.

The project will not be cheap and we cannot draw on the public funds of the Ministry of Defence which are, of course, required to meet our direct defence needs. The Trust is a registered charity and donations of any size will be greatly welcomed. There are many ways of giving, eg, cash, legacies, donation and covenant forms can be obtained from the Appeal Director, Aldershot Military Historical Trust, FREEPOST, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2BR. The first two phases will each cost about £200,000 a total of £400,000 at today's prices, and the Trust seeks the support of all who feel that the story of this unique and famous military camp should not be forgotten.



ATS parading in Princes Gardens, Aldershot in 1942. The Gardens cover the site of the first military huts erected in Aldershot in 1854.



HRH The Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant WRAC, formally opening the Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot on 11 July 1969. With her is Dame Mary Pihl, then Brig the Hon Dame Mary Anderson, DWRAC.

TENERIFE

P M Matty

Since arriving in Tenerife I have been able to make a few trips to various places on the island with my good Spanish friends.

The first was to Bajamar a seaside resort which reminded me in many ways of Devon and Cornwall. The small town is very pleasant and the beach, behind which are craggy rock cliffs, is reminiscent of the quieter resorts in the West country. There is one large hotel in front of which are man made pools of natural sea water, and the promenade has many attractive flower beds. All types of shops can be found and there are many flats and Spanish type houses. A large number of retired people live in Bajamar which is rapidly becoming the second tourist resort of Tenerife.

Soon after this trip we visited the Mercedes mountains. Our first stop was a picnic area at the start of the forest. To my surprise there were Spanish families cooking meals on open fires in the rock "ovens" which are provided. While some members of the family were cooking, others were putting tablecloths on the rock tables which are also supplied! All the family then sat on the rock benches to enjoy the meal. This area also contains a huge cavern where water is collected from the mountains and supplied to the water system in La Laguna. We continued through the forest to the "miradors" which are look-out points at the most beautiful spots, and on the Pico De Ingles one of the most noted in the area. The scenery is magnificent; wild, rugged and awe inspiring, and one needs a good head for heights as the road twists and winds round and up the mountains.

Next we went to Bailadero and then to the northern-most point of Tenerife to Punta Anaga in the Anaga range of mountains and the steep descent to Taganana, a lovely village on the coast where we were able to enjoy the famous local wine. This wine is only sold in Taganana as its keeping quality is not of the best. It is excellent and very reasonable at 200 pesetas a litre, and should you require to take some home, then you must provide your own containers! The local bar also served very good fish meals at a very reasonable price. Having satisfied the pangs of hunger

and thirst we made our way homewards via San Andres with its famous yellow sand beach Playa De Las Teresitas. The sand here was imported from Africa and this large beach is interspersed with palm trees against a background of masses of geraniums and beyond them tower the lava rocks and mountains. There were a number of women fishing from the beach and they had enormously long rope lines, and on enquiring as to the catch they were hoping for, the answer was octopus! On now to Santa Cruz, the capital and home after a trip which was virtually a tour of the whole of the northern triangle of Tenerife. The vegetation is of pine trees (many are the Canarian pines), varieties of shrubs and Canarian laurels.

The next experience was Christmas in a climate very un-Christmassy! It is not celebrated as at home although it is a one day holiday, Boxing day being unknown here. Great hospitality was shown and many strange drinks offered plus "turro", an edible substance which all Canarians buy at Christmas. I can only describe it as a very sweet sweetmeat! The Spanish actually celebrate their Christmas on January 6th so the children have a long wait for Santa Noel! However, in between comes New Year, a family occasion when at midnight on New Year's Eve they drink wine and each have twelve grapes, eating one grape after each stroke of the clock.

My third visit was to Candelaria where there is a shrine to "La Senora de Candelaria", the patron saint of the Canary Islands. The original inhabitants of Tenerife were called "Guanches", a fair haired and blue eyed race of people, their origin unknown. It was at Candelaria that the ten Guanche Kings reigned and where they saw the "Virgen of Candelaria". The Basilica de la Virgen is a large church containing a huge and extremely ornate altar. This Basilica seems to have an unending stream of visitors including people from all over Spain. Along by the beach are statues of the Guanche King which are hundreds of years old and weatherbeaten but still in a good state of repair.

On next to Puertito De Guimar a pretty village and fishing port. Finally, I went with my good Spanish friends to El Teide, the volcano which dominates the island, and again the scenery was magnificent. We went through the forest of La Esperanza where the eucalyptus trees abound, along winding road which are climbing all the way and where the vegetation changes to various species of pines until we reached Izana where the observatory and TV station are unobtrusively sited. On to Las Canadas a wild rugged terrain of

strange rock formations of many colours and Elteide towering over all.

Apart from these trips I have been on many walks in the mountains and have found them very interesting. There are many caves, a few of which are still inhabited! In parts it seems and looks like Lunar Land with a strange and very deep silence that one can almost feel. The wild life appears to consist of rabbits and lizards and occasionally one can hear a few birds singing. There are huge, rather grotesque cacti some of which bear edible fruit and in the valleys are many trees with their fruit nisperros. This fruit is similar in size and colour to apricots with a pleasant tang. The wild spring flowers abound and are of vivid colours. The goats are still taken on to the mountains every day, much as one imagines they were hundred of years ago. Living here is like taking a vast step back in time.

BERLIN RE-VISITED

Eileen Needham

As the British military train pulled into a gutted, but still standing Charlottenburg, I, a young khaki-clad ATS driver, had my first glimpse of Berlin. Beyond the station as far as the eye could see was an undulating landscape of desolation, where the only movement came from bowed women scratching amongst the piles of rubble for anything that could be re-used or bartered. Cigarettes were the currency of the day and a black market flourished.

Thirty two years later, thanks to service friends old and new I had the opportunity to return. From the remembered ruins had risen a bustling and attractive city, unrecognisable, yet strangely familiar. The fine memorial to the "Rubble Women" contrasted sharply with the smartly dressed, sophisticated Berliner of today.

Thanks to an excellent guide I was able to enjoy the delights of this fascinating city — a serene luncheon by a lake in the Tiergarten, afternoon tea in the restored Reichstag and Sunday morning coffee at Kranzlers, watching the world go by on the Kurfurstendamm. The coffee incidentally cost far more than my

weekly pay at the time of my first visit.

After dark the Kurfurstendamm was transformed by multicoloured neon lights, a sort of psychedelic strasse, with entertainments to cater for all tastes and a far cry from the NAAFI of old!

My heart was saddened, however, by the stark reality of the "Wall" and the very great contrast of East Berlin. The presence of young allied servicemen was re-assuring as we crossed via "Checkpoint Charlie". Never very far away, the lamentable "wall" served to remind me of a blockade that failed, and a City divided but not defeated. Serving in HQ BAOR (Bad Oeynhausen) from 1948 to 1951 I now understood that the extra details and cancelled off duty time during the "Airlift" had been more worthwhile than I had realised.

Thanks Berlin — I enjoyed every minute.



Berlin 1950.



Berlin 1982.

DWRAC'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

This Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service and exists to help servicemen and women to find suitable employment when they leave the Forces. It also takes a long term interest in ex-regulars who may use its services as often as they wish.

The Association has 40 branches covering the UK, and all services are provided free. For the address of your nearest branch, ask your post office or look in your telephone directory.

From April 1981 to the end of March 1982 1,465 men and women from the Army were found employment of whom 26 were ex WRAC.



A lighter moment during DWRAC's Conference at the WRAC College on June 3rd.

Left to right:- HRH The Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant WRAC, Brigadier E J Nolan CB, Deputy Controller Commandant WRAC and Brigadier H G Meechie Hon ADC MA, Director WRAC.

A black and white photograph of a large, multi-story building with many windows, surrounded by trees. The building has a classic architectural style with a central tower and a chimney.

Van-Dal

Ladies fashion shoes with that little extra width

The traditional craftsmanship of the Norwich shoe industry enables Van-Dal to create the fashion shoe with that little extra width in attractively designed styles.

For further information and full colour catalogue write to Van-Dal, Dibden Road, Norwich.

MOIRA MACPHERSON

Many readers of "The Lioness" will remember SSgt Moira Macpherson who worked in Guildford and Mill Hill before becoming a Welfare Assistant, when she then worked at Chattendeau and Londonderry. Others will remember reading the account of her holiday in the Holy Land with Cpl Julie Greaves.

We were discussing Moira's future on leaving the WRAC when she surprised me by saying "I think I should go to Hong Kong and see if this is the next step for me". Among many options, needless to say Hong Kong had never struck me as a possibility, although I knew Moira had been impressed by Jackie Pullinger's work there among drug addicts.

After this conversation in January, I next received a letter from her written at Gatwick Airport just before she boarded a plane for Hong Kong. Then silence until Easter, when she wrote that within four days of arrival she had taken a job as secretary to the American pastor of the International Christian Assembly and had found accommodation with a British Service family. This was just a week before the end of her terminal leave from the Army.

The church has no building, but meets in a hotel, and is composed of people of all nationalities, languages, cultures and, no doubt, creeds. Moira is kept very busy and finds it all extremely interesting.

Already she has been to Canton for a weekend, which she says was a fairly successful trip, finishing with a very good hovercraft journey down the Pearl River back to Hong Kong. And later she was able to go to Taiwan for a week.

Speaking of the pastor's desire and prayer that whoever filled this vacancy should be someone who regarded the job as a ministry, Moira said "Haven't we got a wonderful God, in that, in answering the pastor's prayer — and this is said in humility — he answered mine perfectly too"! She added "It's marvellous to look back and see how the past can be used so much in the present, eg having been brought up in Africa and lived in London, I have found it very easy to adapt to Hong Kong, which many people find it difficult to do".

JG



In the grounds of the Royal Army Chaplain's Centre, Bagshot Park. Moira (on the right) with the Chaplain's Assistant and a recruit.

VACANCIES AS RETIRED OFFICERS ON THE ARMY RECRUITING STAFF

A vacancy will become available in the Army Careers Information Officer Glasgow in June 1983 for an Army Careers Officer equating to R01. Conditions of service are laid down in AGAI Issue 5/77, Vol 2, Chap 41. MOD (DAR 2c) will supply more details if required.

Applications are invited from colonels and lieutenant colonels and should be submitted direct to MOD (DAR 2c) Room 430, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA to arrive by 10 September 1982. Records of service are required and applicants should give previous appointments held, qualifications or experience which would be of value in this appointment.

The successful applicant will be required to report for duty on 20 May 1983.

A vacancy will become available in the Army Careers Information Office Southend in June 1983 for an Army Careers Officer equating to R02. Conditions of service are laid down in AGAI, Issue 5/77, Vol 2, Chap 41. MOD (DAR 2c) will supply more details if required.

Applications are invited from lieutenant colonels and majors and should be submitted direct to MOD (DAR 2c), Room 430, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA to arrive by 25 October 1982. Records of service are required and applicants should give previous appointments held, qualifications or experience which would be of value in this appointment.

The successful applicant will be required to report for duty on 10 June 1983.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE GUARDS DEPOT

Lt E J Gorringe WRAC

The morning begins with a short walk to the office, dodging squads of marching boots and extremely short hair. Salutes fly round at every possible opportunity, and as I approach Depot Headquarters "The Square" resounds with piercing regularity. Having reached the confines of my desk – "GET IN HERE! YOU . . . ?! Left, right, left, right!!". The Regimental Sergeant Major's unmistakable voice booms down the corridor as he sharpens his talons for the day's first prey. The building shakes from its foundations before the victim is marched sharply before my window to await the Adjutant's Orders. A long line of similar culprits follow suit, ranging from the gullible guardsman who overstayed his welcome in "The White Hart", to the Pay Sergeant, for producing a rusty knife with which to cut the Sergeant Major's birthday cake! They are duly and briskly marched in to receive their appropriate rewards.

The Adjutant's Orders over, now begin the series of Inspections and Parades which herald the approach of another Passing Out Parade. No one escapes these inspections and, with the threat of back-squadding even at this late stage looming over the platoon, the tension in the air is breathtaking.

Where does the Women's Royal Army Corps fit into all this? You may well ask. To the nineteen chosen service-women who found themselves at the doorstep of this daunting establishment, it was really a case of jumping in at the deep end. Within two weeks of the majority of the platoon arriving, they were launched into the challenge of parading with the whole of guards Depot on the Major General's Annual Inspection. Needless to say we survived, partly because female guile ensured that expert assistance was available to polish our shoes into mirror like perfection. We were then able to get on with the task of coming to terms with the way of life, the customs and traditions of The Household Division, not forgetting the Sergeant Major and drill.

By the end of the morning an immaculately turned out line of offenders is formed up in the Drill Shed awaiting the Commandant's Orders. The whole rigmarole starts again with even more sparkle than before. And so the day goes on, until 5 o'clock when the Last Post is sounded, and all is quiet you've got to be joking. Night ranges, Guard Mounting, Shining Parades the day has only just begun!



Pte Hayman (left) and Pte Williams looking up to Drummer Allan of the Coldstream Guards.

Your elderly relatives need not be a worry to you –
"Weatherpoint" will really care for them.

WEATHERPOINT

Residential and Convalescent Home

(Registered) on the

South Coast seafront between Brighton & Eastbourne.

First class varied cuisine.

Central Heating throughout.

Well furnished bedrooms H & C.

Sun Lounge. Lift. Coloured T.V.

Terraced garden to seafront.

Permanent or short stay.

Concession for long term guest.

Resident Director: Miss A. Pryer M.B.E.,
"Weatherpoint", Marine Parade, Seaford, Sussex.



SPORT

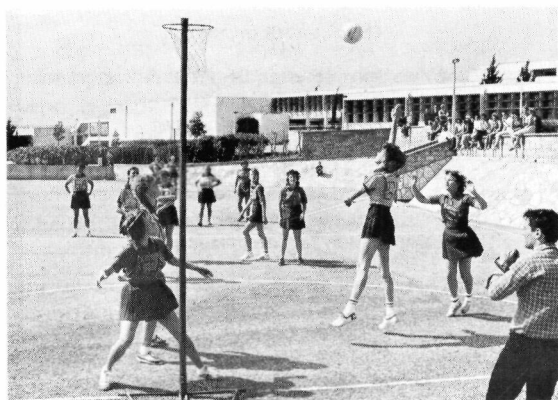
ARMY (WOMEN) CYPRUS WINTER SEASON SPORT VICTORIES

The Army (Women) Cyprus have had a clean sweep in all their winter sport Inter-Services matches. The following matches were played:

Volleyball	Army (W) 3	RAF (W) 2
Table Tennis	Army (W) 2	RAF (W) 1
Hockey	Army (W) 1	RAF (W) 0
Squash	Army (W) 5	RAF (W) 0
Netball	Army (W) 29	RAF (W) 7
Badminton	Army (W) 7	RAF (W) 4

The Volleyball and Hockey matches were extremely exciting as the close scores illustrate. The Army Squash and Netball teams were by far the strongest but did not allow their standard to drop. Congratulations are due to all members of the teams who have deservedly won their Army (Cyprus) Colours by enthusiastically training and playing well on the day.

The summer season is now under way and the Army aims to be equally successful in Athletics, Swimming and Tennis and to reclaim the cup from the RAF (W) in the latter two events.



LCpl Stokoe shooting another goal.



The successful hockey team.

Left to right:- Cpl Lane, SSgt Thorburn, Maj Coe, Cpl Reeves, Cpl Hobby, Maj Taylor, LCpl Scullion.
Front Row:- Sgt Keen, LCpl Burrows, Sgt Hopkins, LCpl Finan, Sgt Block, Capt Reynolds.



SSgt Thorburn, captain of the team receives the Hockey Cup from Wing Commander Essai RAF.

FLY LIKE A BIRD

Captain P A Binnie WRAC

I have the somewhat dubious honour of being the first member of the WRAC to attend a Hang Gliding Course at the Army Centre in Sennybridge. Flying is a tremendous feeling, but it is also very hard work as not many hills have roads to the top and a Hang Glider weighs 55-70 lbs! Initially, I learnt on low gentle slopes with ropes on the nose and wings called feathers. This

helped me to master control in one dimension at a time. As I progressed, so the hills got higher and steeper.

Being able to fly on any one particular day depends on the wind speed and direction. For a beginner it must be less than 18 mph and not gusting, and it must be coming directly up the slope. It takes about 15 mph to get airborne, so if there is no wind you have to run very fast!

Landings were usually the most difficult thing to master and I had lots of bruises to prove it. I also managed to land in a cow pat on one occasion and a gorse bush on another! It is a fantastic feeling to jump off a 700' hill and gently float down to earth with only the wind in your ears and birds for company.

Eventually, my aim is to go up using thermals and lift, but that will take a bit more practice and a few more aching muscles.

UP UP AND AWAY

Pte Sue Shiel WRAC

On Saturday, I along with other members of 1 Squadron and HQ UKLF decided to risk life and limb by trying para-ascending. This involves wearing an open chute with a rope attached by the harness to a land rover. As the land rover drives forward, the parachute inflates and you are up, up and away!

However, what goes up must come down and before you go up, you learn how to fall correctly to avoid injury. We used boxes to practise jumping off until we got it right. The first few lifts were up to three hundred feet, and then we went on to eight hundred feet. It is possible to go to over two thousand feet eventually. After getting over the first bout of nerves, I managed to relax and enjoy the peace and quiet, and view of the surrounding countryside.

The weather deteriorated very quickly in the afternoon and we were forced to abandon because of thunder, lightning and torrential rain. At the end of the day, you start to feel the aches and can count up the bruises, but all things considered I can't wait to go up again.

SKI CHAMPION

Last February twentytwo year old Cpl Maggie Allerton from Milford Haven became the first member of the WRAC to compete in a World Ski Championship for Great Britain. The British Women's Nordic Ski Team was competing in the World Championships at the famous Holmekollen Arena in Oslo, Norway. This was the first time our girls have rubbed shoulders with the Finns, Russians, Norwegians, Swedes and East Germans, the world's cross-country skiing elite.

Cpl Allerton joined the WRAC in 1977 and soon made her name as a physical training instructor. She first became interested in cross-country skiing when she went to Austria on a winter holiday. Later, and after she had won the WRAC cross-country running championships in UK she was selected for training with the British Team.

At the end of the 5 Km race Cpl Allerton was congratulated by HRH Crown Prince Harald of Norway on being the first girl from the Women's Royal Army Corps to represent Britain on skis. The roses were presented to her by British troops currently on NATO manoeuvres in Norway who came to the Holmenkollen to cheer her on.



Congratulations from HRH Crown Prince Harald of Norway.

WRAC AND MODERN PENTATHLON

Since taking up the sport of modern pentathlon by competing in Biathlon (run-swim) competition in 1978 Corporal Jeanne Challinor has proved the most outstanding member of the WRAC having represented Great Britain Ladies team in international competition on a number of occasions. In addition she is the first member of the Corps to have been awarded Army colours for the sport and was presented with the award by Major General J M Palmer, President Army Modern Pentathlon Association, on 28 March 1982.

In April she represented Great Britain at an international competition in Compiègne, France. The British Ladies' Team won the Riding and Running events and were the overall team winners.



Cpl Challinor at a riding training session at Sandhurst.

EXERCISE SNOWDRIFT IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

W02 Pat Rosewell WRAC

I was very excited when I heard of my detachment to the British Army Training Unit Suffield in Canada to teach the servicemen and their families downhill skiing. I said my farewells to ASPT and 10 Coy and arrived at Calgary Airport on December 10th 1981. From there I reported to Suffield in the middle of the prairies. The nearest town was Medicine Hat, some 46km to the east. My first task was to prepare the skiing equipment,

clothing and stores that would be required for the 3½ months skiing ahead. The Exercise was held in Banff 400km away from Suffield in the heart of the Canadian Rockies, so it was important that we had sufficient stores and equipment to last for the duration of the Exercise.

After spending a quiet Christmas and a lively New Year at Suffield with the Canadians, the advance party left Suffield on January 6th and headed for the Rockies. I was very excited as I knew the mountains would be breathtaking after my stay in the barren prairie lands of Suffield.

The Ski Courses ran from January 11th to April 11th with an option of a one or two week course. The skiing was the best I had ever seen, large wide open slopes above the treeline, then the excellent pistes running through forest with all the trees capped with snow. The months of January and February were cold, so I had to be very careful with my class because there was a high risk of frost-bite. On many days the sun would be shining, but because of windchill factor, temperatures were as low as -22 celcius. The months of March and April were glorious, and at times I was skiing in a tee-shirt and enjoying a barbecue lunch and the occasional beer. Because it was a dry cold, the snow was in excellent condition. There was a fresh fall nearly every night which meant an early start, as every skier's ambition is to ski the deep virgin snow and look back up at your tracks.

The ski classes were divided into groups according to ability. We had wives and children on many courses. The youngest I taught was a four year old, and the oldest was a fifty year old Major.

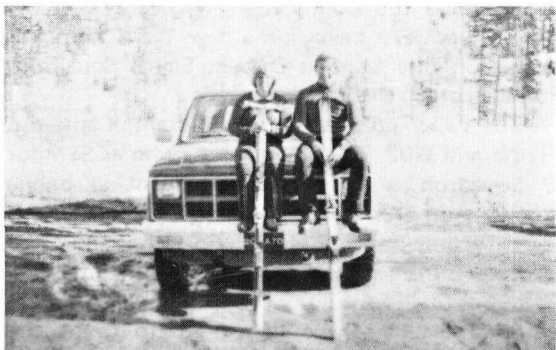
Our weekends were free and I managed to visit the Columbia Ice Field, the Athabasca glacier, Jasper National Park and Montana in the United States.

The highlight of my tour was when I met a civilian helicopter pilot and was invited to go heliskiing. I flew to the top of Mount Sparrowhawk, some 9,000ft high with a group of five men. Once there the helicopter flew off, and I could hardly believe my eyes looking down on 4,000ft of unskied deep powder snow. This trip was filmed for Canadian Television as a documentary since Sparrowhawk is a possible site for the 1988 Winter Olympics. I was very pleased indeed to be the first woman down those 4,000 ft.

Exercise Snowdrift was drawing to an end and the last week was spent free skiing. I returned to Suffield for the last four days of my stay in Canada where a party was held for the instructors and some 130 students who had attended Exercise

Snowdrift. Corps plaques were exchanged and I received some lovely gifts, including a beaver skin. I was then whisked away by the Army Air Corps, for a sight seeing tour in a Gazelle helicopter. They took me on a tour of the training area, which consists of 1,000 square miles of treeless undulating country. I was lucky enough to see a vast variety of wildlife, including coyotes, elk and lynx.

I arrived back in England on April 25th to see the green grass again after the beautiful Rocky Mountains and the flat prairie lands.



W02 Rosewell and SSI Mackie after the last day of skiing.

EX BAMSE V

Capt Katy Dyer WRAC

EX BAMSE V (Bamse means bear) was the fifth Norwegian High level cross country skiing exercise run by the British Outward Bound Centre, Norway from March 22nd to April 8th. The aim was to traverse the high mountain areas of Southern Norway on skis from north to south, providing participants with expedition experience in a winter mountain environment. It was an exhausting but really enjoyable 400kms, skied in 10 days through some of the most beautiful mountain scenery.

We reached Norway via Germany and Denmark and after a day's rest and ski practice went by minibus to the Jotunheimen Mountains to start the expedition. There were about forty of us on

the expedition and we were divided into eight groups, two of which were to do the long route (600kms), four to do the medium route (400kms) and two to do the short route (300kms). Each group had an instructor from BOBC as leader. We spent each night in one of the Norwegian mountain huts that dot the countryside. Some huts were staffed and meals were provided, others were unstaffed and there we had to do our own cooking.

My group was excellent. There was Sgt Bond our instructor, four Royal Marines, one SAS soldier, a male civilian and myself.

Marine Bracknell had learned to ski only two months earlier but put up a very creditable performance usually head first down the steepest slopes! Cpl Hall was our "fast" skier and wore socks with stripes to show off. Ian Anderson the civilian plodded happily with those at the back and lost weight despite the failure of his diet on the first day. Sgt Bond, our leader, curbed his impatience to get going while the group changed waxes in difficult snow. He kept the group together and graciously accepted advice on navigation (from yours truly) when we suspected he might possibly be slightly out in his map reading. Marines Dobie and Barnes provided the earthy humour which one values when enthusiasm disappears in strong winds and fatigue. Cpl Ross SAS resolutely took up the position of last man on the trail and prevented tailenders from vanishing from sight.

We stayed in nine different huts and had one shower in ten days. We skied on average 40kms a day carrying about 30lbs in rucksacks in all sorts of weather conditions. There was snow, gale force winds, brilliant sunshine and heatwave conditions. Two members of the group suffered from mild but exceedingly painful snow blindness from failing to wear sun glasses. As we approached the end of the expedition the holiday tourists became more apparent and the huts became more crowded. We spent one night in the woodshed of a mountain hut and eight of us were huddled in a space the size of a modest garden shed! Of course the Ministry of Defence found us and the other groups, somewhere in the wilds of Norway when the Falklands crisis first became apparent. Several Marines were called away including one from our party.

For anyone with at least one season of cross-country skiing behind them I can recommend EX BAMSE. But you must be fit and you must have a sense of humour. After all we did go to Belfast by Hercules on the way home to England!

UNIT NEWS

ROYAL INSPECTION

WRAC DETACHMENT, ARMY AIR CORPS

100 MILE SPONSORED RUN FOR THE NSPCC 2 Lt S J Abbott

Sunday May 23rd began at 8 am with spasmodic thunderstorms, but with 100 miles to run in 12 hours the WRAC detachment at Middle Wallop carried on regardless.

For the benefit of the NSPCC the WRAC PTI had designed a marathon event — 100 miles in one mile relays between 10 girls. To complete the 100 miles in the allotted 12 hours an average of approximately 7 minutes a mile had to be maintained. This meant strict and accurate time keeping. In between running, a good supply of soup and coffee not to mention biscuits and toasted cheese sandwiches was the order of the day!

To everyone's surprise the 12 hours went very quickly, the sun came out and the 100 miles was completed with 48 minutes to spare. All the runners kept up their averages even as the day wore on.

The following week the Commandant awarded all the runners with a certificate and big thank you for their splendid efforts which had raised £267 for the NSPCC.



Colonel M G Badger DFC, Commandant AAC Centre with the successful WRAC runners.

On December 8th last year elements of 10 Signal Regiment paraded at Buckingham Palace for an inspection by Her Majesty The Queen. The Parade was in recognition of the duties carried out by the Regiment in respect of State and Ceremonial occasions in London. Although these duties are mostly carried out by male soldiers, well over half of our military strength is female, and the Commanding Officer Lt Col D Miller was very keen for a few WRAC from 2 Squadron (the London District Signal Squadron) to take part in the Parade.

The lucky ones were the Adjutant, Captain L Relph and W02 (SSM) M Livings, who as SSM for 2 Squadron is a regular participant in public duties. Also from SWS Tp one of the few WRAC TE Technicians, LCpl R Borwell, and two operators from Oscar Troop, LCpl D Amps and Pte S Smith.

As a result of the help given to us by the WRAC Centre and the WRAC College we were able to obtain the coveted No 1 Dress which made us as smart as the men in their "blues".

As readers might expect, an enormous amount of preparation was required for this event. The parade was to take the form of an informal inspection, and along with the officers and soldiers would be a small number of vehicles and equipment used by the Regiment. The Parade was to form up on the Quadrangle of Buckingham Palace at 12 noon on December 8th.

After many weeks of preparation and hours of rehearsal it was sad when the "big day" started with a thick blanket of snow covering London. The convoy of vehicles and parade personnel joined the snow covered, slow moving sea of London traffic. There were moments when sheer desperation set in as the minutes ticked away and the prompt arrival at Buckingham Palace became more remote.

The convoy was spread out along the A4, their only comfort being the radio contact they had with RHQ and each other. Suddenly, the roads cleared leaving the final part of the journey uncongested.

Upon the eventual arrival at Buckingham Palace it was discovered that the format for the parade had changed. The Quadrangle was snow bound so the parade was to take place inside the Palace in the Foyer of the Grand Entrance.

Her Majesty The Queen arrived in the Foyer at 1205 and after being met by Major General H D A Langley, Commander London District and the Commanding Officer with Lt Col C Brown, CR Signals London District in attendance, The Queen began the inspection. Her Majesty spoke to everyone on parade before moving across the Foyer to speak to the families and civilian members of the regiment. Throughout the proceedings Her Majesty put everyone at their ease.

It was a proud day for the Regiment and a memorable one for those on parade as at last we had come out from behind the scenes and met our Sovereign.

10 COY WRAC

The last six months have been busy for 10 Coy covering activities as wide ranging as a trip to the "Sound of Music" and a parascending weekend. Pony trekking and ice skating also featured on the programme, along with a day visit to the Hypermarket in Calais when it was shut! A walking/camping week in Snowdonia and a week's introduction to adventure training at HMS Osprey added to the outdoor pursuits, not to mention two weekends of military training. The latter caused the OC, Major Margaret King and W01 (RSM) Joan Beresford to fear they had lost the whole company whilst map reading on Barossa.

Frequent movement of senior ranks and officers has kept the blood circulating within the Company in the absence of our normal throughput of post basic cook, PTI and Med Asst trainees. W01 (RSM) Ann Maskens-McIntyre left on commissioning. W0s1 Mo Jepson and Jean Mowe have retired and been replaced by W01 Audrey Norris and Sgt Elaine Smart respectively. W02 Pat Swailes and Susie did a direct swop with W02 Sue Taylor and Peggy. The Chief Clerk Sgt Karen Latham went "Down Under" on Ex LONG LOOK before going over to HQ BAOR to display her tan. Sgt Angela Bailey (nee Rylands) replaced her (and her tan) from Cyprus. Cyprus in turn gained Sgt Alison Mummery and the Comd WRAC is now organised by SSgt Karen Lynas.

2 Lt Wendy Loughman (nee Still) replaced Karen James who went to the Centre on promotion to Capt.

W02 Pat (Budgie) Rosewell returned from being the first WRAC instructor of ski-ing at Batus in Canada. Sgt Ann Alker must go into the hall of fame as losing 3 stone in weight and completing a half marathon to round off her efforts.

Lt Victoria Hammick ends her service in style by Scottish Country Bouncing with the AYATS in Fort George.

The photograph features some of the members or the successful Table Tennis, Badminton, Netball and Squash teams which won SE District competitions.



Left to right back row:- Lt Terry Simpson, Sgt Marie Senior, Sgt Madge Smith, Pte Stephanie Gilbert, Pte Kim Mackinlay, Sgt Ann Alker, Capt Julia Dixon. Front row:- Capt Lindsay Blake, Cpl Diane Milner, Maj Margaret King, Sgt Dee Bostock, Sgt Sue King.

RAC CENTRE

WRAC FULL BORE TARGET RIFLE SHOOTING

Captain Fiona Walthall

This is the first year that the WRAC are officially eligible to shoot in all army shooting competitions, and we were invited to enter a team in the Inter Corps Target Rifle Match at Bisley on June 6th. It was an extremely hot weekend with oc-

casional torrential outbursts of rain, hardly ideal for shooting. The WRAC team was obviously very inexperienced and had some trouble getting rifles with short enough butts. Four ranges were shot, including 1000 yds which is a very long distance. The sight of a tiny dot on a white target over half a mile away is rather daunting for anyone let alone almost a complete beginner. The members of the team and their scores are shown below.

Scores at each range are out of 50.

	300	600	900	1000yds	Total
Capt Walthall	49	45	44	44	182
Sgt Muir	34	37	31	30	132
Cpl McKeon	44	40	39	28	151
LCpl Chinery	41	32	43	29	145
					610

Thirteen Corps teams competed in the match, including some very experienced Army shots. The Medical Services came first, and the WRAC brought up the rear. However the fact that the Corps was represented at last was very much appreciated, and in honour of this historic occasion, each member of the team was presented with ARA bronze medals. Members of the Corps are now encouraged to shoot with their units, ready for team practices and selection early next year. With the right equipment and training, the Corps should soon be able to produce a strong team to make its way up the order of merit.

'SLIMMERS' AT THE RAC CENTRE

Prompted by the "Year of the Disabled" campaign the larger members of the WRAC at the RAC Centre decided to undertake a Sponsored Slim in aid of the Disabled. For 4 weeks, the block was full of cries such as "Oh for some fish and chips"! The pounds gradually came off, and on the final day of reckoning the detachment was a total of 60 lbs lighter. This resulted in £110 being collected from sponsors, £30 of which was raised by Pte McKaigg — an excellent contribution. A cheque for £110 was presented to the Cheshire Home for Mentally Handicapped Children in Dorchester, and a group

of girls from the detachment were shown round the Home. We were all impressed by the marvellous work being done in the Home, and the dedication and patience of those involved. It was very nice to be told exactly what our money would be used for, namely some toys and equipment for a new self-contained flatlet for three of the older children.

We have now "adopted" the Home, and hope to be able to help them again in the near future.

12 COMPANY WRAC

12 Company WRAC boasted an active winter and the summer looks to be equally busy. During the latter part of 1981, 12 Company WRAC hosted visits by the Adjutant General and the Armed Forces Pay Review Board (blame us for the 6.2% pay rise). Two successful Corporals' Cadre Courses were enjoyed by students and DS alike.

Our regimental weekend coincided with Remembrance Sunday. The weekend began with a series of lectures about subjects as diverse as the NAAFI and First Aid and it ended with a Cross Country competition in which all members of the Company took part. A number of personnel took part in the Cenotaph Parade in Whitehall whilst other members represented the WRAC in services at Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral.

A Company as large as ours has a great deal of sporting talent, thus we have no trouble in fielding teams for the inter platoon sports league. Throughout the summer and winter months the platoons played each other in various sports culminating in an "It's a Knock Out" competition. At the London and Eastern Districts inter unit Cross Country competitions at Pirbright, 12 Company WRAC came first with many of the team going on to Tweseldown in February to represent the District again. London District emerged the winners of this Championship. Once again we are putting in a team for the Chichester March. Having completed the 15km march last year, the team is entering the 25km march this year. The Postal and Courier Depot, with whom this unit is co located, ran a ski-ing exercise in Glenshee in

March. Many servicewomen were able to take part despite a lack of snow in the final week. 12 Company WRAC personnel have represented the Army in inter service sports; Cpl Dolan and Pte Clare in hockey and SSgt Mangan in netball and table tennis. The London Gillette Marathon was entered by the husband and wife partnership of PTIs the Corporals Gilbert, both of whom completed the 26 mile course through London.

On May 7th the Worshipful the Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet Councillor Mrs Rosa Freedman visited the Company. It was the day after the local elections and the Mayor was revived in the Sergeants' Mess. Major Cornwell, OC 12 Company WRAC, presented her with a generous cheque for the Mayor's Appeal, the money for which was collected by 12 Company over the year.

On July 16th HM The Queen visited the Postal and Courier Depot to mark their Centenary. Servicewomen with the unit have been particularly busy preparing for the Royal Visit which was part of the Centenary celebrations and also handling the large quantity of mail for the men of the Task Force in the Falklands.



Major R E Cornwell, OC 12 Coy WRAC, presenting a cheque for the Mayor's Appeal to the Worshipful the Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet, Councillor Mrs Rosa Freedman.

Warrant Officer Retirements

Two well known Warrant Officers have retired from the Corps in the last year.

AW01 Mo Jepson has been a "Mum" and a "Ma'am" to a great many WRAC Cooks (and ACC no doubt), especially during the last nine years while serving at the Army School of Catering in Aldershot. Thankfully, Mo's many talents and lovely warm character are not entirely lost to the Corps and she can now be seen in the Museum at Queen Elizabeth Park — working as Assistant Curator I hasten to add!

W01 Jean Mowe ("wée Jeannie") started off her career as a clerk before becoming a pioneer in the Welfare Assistant world some nine years ago. Her humour and practical common sense stood her and her "families" in good stead, not to mention her administrators. While in Aldershot, she was a faithful member of a ladies Barber Shop organisation called Sweet Adelines which gave a great deal of musical pleasure to many. Jean is continuing her social work and is to take up a management position in an Old Peoples home in the Coventry area.

Both ladies are sorely missed. We wish them both every happiness and success in their second careers.



The husband and wife partnership of PTIs the Corporals Gilbert.

COMMS AND SY GP (UK)

WRAC ORIENTEERING TEAM

Capt Katy Dyer WRAC

Orienteering is a sport which goes on all the year round, in snow, rain, hail and sun. On Sunday June 6th it was the sun which nearly defeated the Comms and Sy Gp (UK) WRAC orienteering team at the Army Orienteering Championships. But five months of effort were not overcome so easily and to our great delight we were declared the Womens' Unit Champions.

It all began on February 27th this year. I drove down from Scotland where I had been living in a tent in the snow to join SSgt Bolland WRAC and Cpl Godfrey WRAC at Mildenhall, Cambridgeshire for the London/Eastern District Orienteering Championships. Running in Forestry Commission plantations, we all put up splendid times and won the District Championships.

The UKLF Orienteering Championships were held near Thetford on May 8th and 9th. We were accommodated in a TA training camp and it was just as well the weather was warm. The individual races on the Saturday were held near the royal establishment at Sandringham. The standard of the courses was good and our aggregate times put us third, behind 3 UDR and the London WRAC Provost Company. On the Sunday we ran in the relay event. Orienteering relays are tense and exciting, especially when the competing teams are close in standard. Cpl Godfrey ran first and must take the credit for volunteering for this nerve-racking choice. Again we all ran well and made up many minutes. In the end it turned out that we had won the relay event, but on aggregate time we were second to 3 UDR by a few minutes in the UKLF championships.

So we qualified for the Army Championships, held on Barossa training area by Sandhurst, on June 5th and 6th. It was very, very hot and humid and the air felt close and still. In the forestry plantations on the training area there was no relief from the heat. I am sure that none of us enjoyed running, but it is surprising what can be achieved with effort, and our team had good reserves of stamina. At the end of the individual

races on the Saturday we were first on aggregate times. The standard of these Army level events was very high and tested all age groups, men and women. The ground was by no means easy, and dense undergrowth hindered movement. I passed one soldier swearing and sweating profusely as he searched in the bracken and brushwood for the missing control.

On the Sunday in even greater heat we ran in the relay event. Cpl Godfrey went off first and came back with a good time. SSgt Bolland went second and was the first second leg runner to return. I was the last runner for the team and desperate to keep our lead over the other teams. Well, we made it! We won the relay event and we won the Army Championships. Although we travelled great distances to the qualifying events and used three whole weekends we all feel it was very worthwhile.

Commissioning Parchments

Commissioning parchments are usually scripted some time after commissioning, and occasionally after the officer has left the Corps. Although they are sent to the last known address, recipients may have moved and the parchment is then returned to MOD(A) for storage.

If you were commissioned in the WRAC and have since left the service and have never received a parchment, you should write to:

MOD (Army)
MS2 (B) Parchments
London Road
Stanmore HA7 4PZ

Serving officers should not apply. If you have lost your parchment no replacement can be given.

RECRUITER RETIRES

After 22 years as a Women's Services Recruiter, SSgt Terry McGuinness retired on 27th March 1982.

SSgt McGuinness served in the ATS for four years during the war. She married in 1944 and left the ATS two years later. She served for a while in the Territorial Army and then in 1960 enlisted into the WRAC on a Type 'R' Engagement. On 26th February this year a farewell party was held in Newcastle upon Tyne. This was attended by SSgt McGuinness' daughter and son-in-law together with the staff of ACIO Newcastle upon Tyne and its outstations and other colleagues and friends, some of whom came from as far afield as Cambridge and Glasgow to say farewell to her.

On behalf of her colleagues and friends Lt Col (Retd) D Roberts, AC0 presented SSgt McGuinness with an inscribed silver cigarette box,

sherry glasses and a silver tray and with them went our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.



SSgt McGuinness receiving her farewell gifts from Lt Col Roberts.



WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from both world wars. We come from Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus ... and from Ulster.

Now, disabled, we must look to you for help. Please help by helping our Association.

BLESMA looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps to overcome the shock of losing arms, or legs or an eye. And, for the severely handicapped, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help the disabled by helping BLESMA. We promise you that not one penny of your donation will be wasted.

Donations and information:
Major The Earl of Ancaster, KCVO, TD
Midland Bank Ltd., 60 West Smithfield,
London EC1A 9DX



Give to those who gave — please

BLESMA

BRITISH LIMBLESS
EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

WAIFS

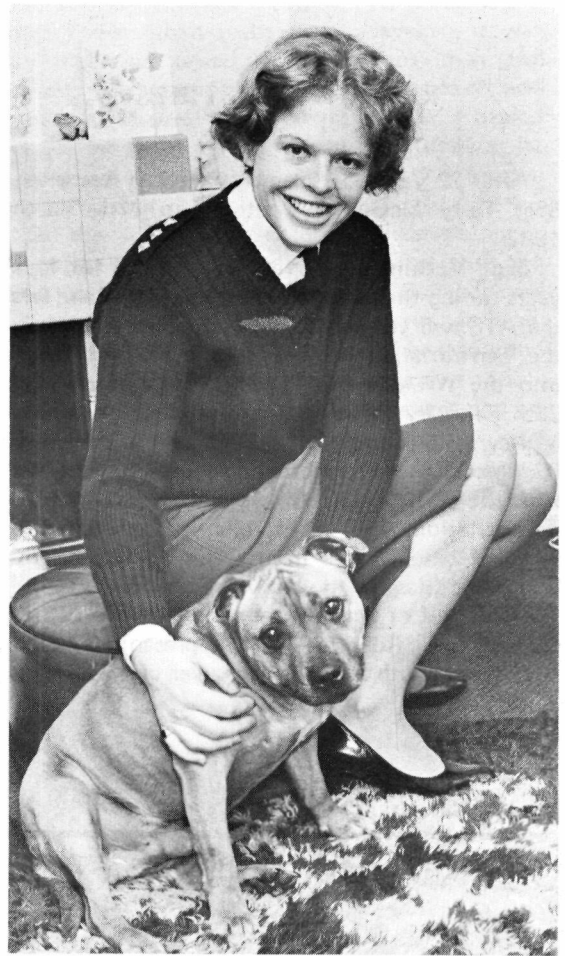
(Welfare for Animals in the Forces Society)

Waifs is an animal welfare society set up by Captain Mandy Stevens and a colleague to look after and find homes for stray or unwanted animals belonging to Army families or found abandoned in the Colchester Garrison area. Captain Stevens who is the Women's Services Liaison Officer in Colchester says "We feel we should look after animals from the Army patch rather than burden the RSPCA with them. We are the first such organisation to be set up within the Army, but we hope other large garrisons may follow our example. The situation in the married quarters area is no worse than any similar sized housing estate, but there is the additional problem of families being posted overseas at short notice and having to find homes for their pets very quickly".

Snoopy, pictured with Captain Stevens, was one such case and has now been found a happy permanent home.

Captain Stevens and her colleague work closely with the MOD Police, Housing Commandant's Department and SSAFA as well as individuals who seek help. All potential homes are strictly vetted and the society is funded only by donations and self help.

If anybody in the area would like to give a temporary or a permanent home to a cat or dog, they should get in touch with Captain Stevens at 4 Napier Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7ST.



Captain Mandy Stevens with Snoopy.

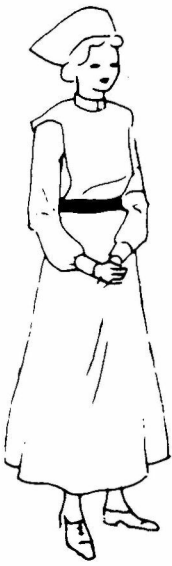
ANY TRACE?

The Officers Posting Branch (AG 16/17/18) are trying to trace the following ex WRAC Officers:

P420479	2 Lt Susan Neville WOOD	Commissioned 13 Dec 51
	2 Lt Anne Rosemary HUMPHRIES	Commissioned 13 Dec 51
P435346	2 Lt Pamela Ann ROGERS	Commissioned 12 Apr 54
P375528	Lt Jill Elizabeth Margaret NEWPORT (nee COURTNEY)	Commissioned 26 Feb 60

If you are able to give any information as to their whereabouts would you please write to:

Major M S Wing WRAC,
MOD (A) (AG16/17/18), Government Buildings,
London Road, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4PZ.



Remember her?

She is now being cared for by RUKBA with a life long annuity and, should it ever be necessary, a place in a Residential Home or a Sheltered flat, but we have no pictures of the ever growing number of others like her who are in desperate need of RUKBA's help.

RUKBA is the Charity which looks after the impoverished and/or infirm elderly of professional or similar backgrounds – people who, in their prime, did so much for others, and are today struggling to exist themselves. Will you help us now to give them the security and help they so greatly need?

Last year we spent more than £1½m assisting over 4,800 people. Only the amount of your donations and legacies can decide how many more we can help this year. Please be kind and support our work with a generous contribution – and please remember RUKBA in your Will.



Please do!

**THE ROYAL
UNITED KINGDOM
BENEFICENT
ASSOCIATION**

(Founded 1863)

Patron:

H.M. Queen Elizabeth
the Queen Mother

RUKBA

To: The General Secretary,
RUKBA,
6 AVONMORE ROAD,
LONDON W14 8RL.

I'd like to help – here's my contribution

Name _____

Address _____

Amongst its many Annuitants, RUKBA is helping to support Ex ATS Officers and a considerable number of Widows and relatives of Army Officers.

Apart from perhaps becoming Subscribers to RUKBA, Members might care to help its work by volunteering to be our local representatives, known as Honorary Secretaries, who are needed in various parts of the Country. They are our personal link with our Beneficiaries and keep us in touch by visiting and reporting their needs, or by helping them in any way they can. We shall be very pleased to hear from any Members who would like to help the elderly or infirm in this very practical way.

TA

33 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

Promotion for Krypton Finalist

Congratulations to Major Jennie Hindshaw who has recently been promoted to command the Regiment's Headquarters Squadron at Huyton, Merseyside. Television viewers will remember that Major Hindshaw reached the final of the Krypton Factor in 1979. She continues as the senior WRAC officer in the Regiment which now has more than 100 WRAC members.

Major Hindshaw is married and in civilian life is a chartered accountant.



Taking part in Exercise MARCH HARE in Delamere Forest last spring.

93 (East Lancashire) Signal Squadron

Keeping the Squadron Teleprinters running smoothly during Ex Short Order last March were the data telegraphists of 93 (East Lancashire) Signal Squadron whose TA Centres are at Blackburn and Manchester.



Fourth from the right at the back is Sgt Linda Byrom and first on the right is her second-in-command Cpl Gwyneth Fitzgerald.

UOTC

EAST MIDLANDS UNIVERSITIES OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

4 Platoon (WRAC)

2 Lt H M Roy WRAC TA

It is a long time since anything has been heard of the WRAC of East Midlands UOTC, at least in print, so I thought that it was about time to set the record straight.

East Midlands is a fairly large UOTC, recruiting from Universities and Polytechnics in Loughborough, Leicester and Nottingham, and Derby Lonsdale College. As our training is exclusively infantry-based, we work as a Company organisation. The WRAC receive exactly the same training as the men, and 4 Platoon takes pride in the challenge to "beat the men at their own job"! After having successfully achieved this aim during the past two Annual Camps, being judged "best

out on exercise" in 1980 and winning the Drill Cup in 1981, there has been a lot to live up to this year.

A good number of recruits last October has given us a basic wing of a high standard, and the girls have taken to their training very well. The second year students demonstrated that they had remembered all they had been taught with some good passes in the CMT examinations, both at Christmas and at Easter. We have had candidates for TA Officer Selection at Camberley, and earlier this year the Platoon Commander became the first WRAC Officer to take the Boat Operators and Safety Officers course at RSME Chatham. We were also pleased to learn that one of our TA girls on the administrative side had gained a certificate of distinction during recruit training at Guildford.

Throughout the year 4 Platoon has taken part in all the unit training exercises, but one of the highlights of our years was the annual WRAC weekend (we have to "do our own thing" sometimes!), which included a 20 mile sponsored walk through typically wet and windy Derbyshire countryside, during which we raised money for the West Nepal Expedition.

Members of the platoon have also joined in unit adventurous training in Wales and the Scottish Highlands; been parachuting at Netheravon and, on the sporting side, produced some excellent times at the 1982 UKLF Orienteering Championships.

Everybody is now looking forward to Annual Camp which is being held on Salisbury Plain as a change from two years in Yorkshire, and should make the ideal end to a memorable year.



Waiting for the debrief after a hard day's work.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1982

The Annual General Meeting was held at The Guildhall, Plymouth on Saturday 17 April 1982. Brigadier E J Nolan CB Vice President of the Association was in the Chair.

Mrs H E C Weldon Chairman of the Association reported that the Association was in a sound and lively state and that the Chester branch had been re-formed. While there had been some branches which had disappeared during the last few years they had been replaced by new branches. Branches which faded away tended to be those where the Secretary, who was often the main organiser, had been the same person for so many years that other members were apprehensive of taking it on. It was therefore best for the long term health of a branch if officials changed hands at regular intervals.

For the last ten years the Association ex Service membership had hovered around the 3000 mark and at that strength was hardly viable without the support of serving members to whom the Association was indebted.

Each year the vigorous branches improve their membership but at the same time other branches lose ground so that the losses offset the gains. It is important that Branches are active and friendly and attract younger members if the Association is to flourish and provide the comradeship we have enjoyed.

The Association was represented on the Remembrance Day Parade in Whitehall by the Greater London Branch who laid the Association wreath at the Cenotaph. The branch was supported by members of Aldershot, London, Wimbledon and Kent branches making 81 members on parade.

Mrs Weldon said that this was her last report as

Chairman and she thanked everybody for their consideration and wished them many happy years in the Association.

Mrs E Laurence-Smith the Honorary Treasurer reported that the Association was financially sound due primarily to the support of serving members and the steadily improving income from investments which provided a hedge against inflation. The cost of printing and distributing *Lioness* continued to rise but we had been able to meet this.

Brigadier E J Nolan the Chairman of the Benevolent Funds reported that grants totalled £35,808 which was £6,737 more than the previous year. This was a great deal of money and there was every indication that the need would continue to grow.

Brigadier Nolan gave examples of the help given. The Trustees were most grateful to everybody who donated to the Fund and in particular the serving members of the Corps who gave a day's pay annually.

The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund did not benefit from these donations and it was requested that the Fund is remembered when fund raising was undertaken. At the end of the year there were 31 annuitants which it was hoped to increase to 40 in the near future, and the amount they received would be increased to £3 per week.

Brigadier E J Nolan as Chairman of the Museum Trustees reported that the walls of the Museum had been boarded in to reduce the damaging effect of ultra violet light and humidifiers had been installed in the glass uniform cases to reduce the rate of deterioration of the materials.

Lady Soames had presented the Museum with an original sketch of her father Sir Winston Churchill visiting a Mixed Anti-Aircraft Battery in Hyde Park during the 1939-45 War.

Colonel F M Cook was elected to be Chairman on 1 November 1982 when Mrs H E C Weldon completes her term as Chairman.

Brigadier E J Nolan suggested that Branches should encourage their members to put on paper or record on a cassette their experiences in WAAC, QMAAC, ATS and WRAC so that there was a permanent record of interesting historical experiences.

It was agreed that the AGM in 1983 should be held at The Victory Services Club, London.

Copies of the Minutes of the AGM are held by Branch Secretaries but any member requiring a personal copy can obtain it from the General Secretary.

GRAND REUNION PLYMOUTH

After months of preparation, Friday April 16th arrived and there was no turning back! Throughout the day buses and trains arrived and were met by Association members and serving members alike.

On Saturday morning members gathered outside the Guildhall to listen to the WRAC Staff Band, and this became the rallying point for meeting old friends. During this time, the Secretaries met in the Guildhall, followed by a luncheon for Council Members and Secretaries at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel. It was interesting to note that on leaving the Duke of Cornwall, the red carpet was out, albeit for a wedding!

It was gratifying to see a record attendance at the AGM in the afternoon, and many members appreciated the opportunity of seeing the latest WRAC recruiting film after the meeting.

In the early evening, the Lord Mayor honoured us with a Civic Reception for 400 in the beautiful Council Chambers, and he and the Lady Mayoress clearly enjoyed it as much as we did. The Lady Mayoress was wearing the diamonds which had been presented to the City by Lady Astor, and after the Reception the Lord Mayor gave some of our senior officers a short sight-seeing tour in his Mayoral Rolls Royce.

After a short reception in the Charter Room for our guests, our 84 year old Toastmaster announced their arrival for Dinner. The Band has probably never had to play "The Roast Beef of Old England" so many times. (Who put the top table name-plates back to front?!) The Dinner was a very happy occasion, and speeches were made by the Chairman Plymouth Branch, the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Controller Commandant and the Director WRAC.

The Band played throughout the Dinner, and their rendering of the Posthorn Gallop was magnificent. Everyone enjoyed the music which culminated in the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

On Sunday, we were joined by members of the WRNS Association, Women's Section of the Royal British Legion, members of the Plymouth Federation of Ex-Service Associations and the Royal

British Legion, along with their Standards at a Reunion Service in St Andrews Church. The Standard Bearers formed a Guard of Honour for the entrance of the VIPs. Our Branch Chaplain conducted the Service, the President of the Plymouth Branch read the lesson, and the address was given by the Lord Bishop of Plymouth. The Service was attended by all our guests, and the Deputy Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. The Service was both memorable and uplifting and St Andrews Church was full to overflowing, with people standing at the back. The Band again played for the Service. (Who moved the chairs which were to be for the Standard Bearers on the right?!).

After the Service there followed a March Past, led by the WRAC Staff Band, of a large proportion of those taking part in the Service. The column appeared to be never-ending, with marchers six abreast. There were many in the crowds lining the route who wished afterwards that they had joined in.

The weekend ended with refreshments in the Guildhall for all those taking part in the Service and Parade.

It truly was a magnificent weekend — the weather was perfect, the transport arrangements went smoothly, the caterer and bar staff worked hard, the Band was excellent and the Church and Guildhall administrators were most co-operative. We are indebted to the serving members, both Regular and TA who worked hard manning the Information Point and doing numerous other tasks. The Parade Marshalls, the Branch Chaplain and the Lord Bishop, The Commander South West District (who interrupted his leave to be present), and all our other guests, helped to make it an unforgettable weekend, and to them our sincere thanks. Our thanks too must go to the Lord Mayor of Plymouth for allowing us the use of the Guildhall and giving the Reception, but our final thanks must go to all the Association members who attended and made the hard work worthwhile.

We would like to end with a quote or two from the hundred of letters we have received:

"Ladies, your marching was grand — it made me proud to be an Englishman".

"As a lapsed member of the Association, I have now made an application to re-join".

And from the Lord Mayor — "I think I can safely assume that you had a most successful Reunion and I know that I am speaking on behalf of the City Council when I say that your organisation will always be most welcome for a return any time they wish to do so".



Left to right:- Major General M S Gray OBE, Brigadier H G Meechie Hon ADC, Brigadier E J Nolan CB, The Rt Reverend Kenneth Newing, Bishop of Plymouth, Councillor John Pascoe, Miss Pascoe, Lt Col C G Parsons, President Plymouth Branch. (Courtesy Western Morning News.)



The standard bearers leading the March Past. (Courtesy Western Morning News).



Members of the Association passing the saluting base. (Courtesy Western Morning News.)



Standard bearers of the Plymouth Federation of Ex Service Associations bringing up the rear. (Courtesy Western Morning News.)

REUNION NOTICES

NORTHERN AREA REUNION – 1982

The Northern Area Reunion will be held in the Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate on Saturday 23 October from 2.30 to 6 pm.

Tickets £2.25, including tea, obtainable from Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 9BY (tel: 0423-57023) not later than Saturday 16 October. Please send stamped addressed envelope with remittance payable to "WRAC Association – Northern Area". (No tickets will be available for sale at the door).

There will be a "Produce" Bring and Buy stall in aid of The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

REUNIONS

NO 2 SUB AREA REUNION 1982

The No 2 Sub Area Reunion was held this year at Bovington Camp in Dorset on Sunday May 23rd. There were representatives from all but two branches, and a total attendance of 160 members.

The afternoon began with a tour round the RAC Tank Museum followed by a visit to the WRAC accommodation and a chance to talk to the girls there. The new WRAC officer recruiting film was then shown followed by tea in the Garrison Memorial Hall served by the girls from the camp at Lulworth. The afternoon ended with the No 2 sub area meeting, bringing a successful and enjoyable reunion to a close.

DIDCOT GARRISON GROUP ATS

Members of Didcot Garrison Group ATS Old Comrades had a very enjoyable reunion on April 24th at the Union Jack Club in London. Letters from those unable to attend were passed round and read with great pleasure.

Many members were saddened to learn of the death of the Rev Harold Beck on February 2nd. He was the padre at Didcot and confirmed a number of the ATS.

If you served at Didcot from 1939–1945, and would like to join us, please contact Mrs Wagstaff, 127B St Julian's Farm Road, West Norwood, London SE27 0RP. Tel: 01-670-1840.

WORLD WAR TWO CWAC VETERANS

24th ANNUAL REUNION 1982

We still haven't located all our CWAC friends of those great days of World War II.

This event is sponsored by the Canadian Corps Association, CWAC 47, the last weekend in September 1982, in Toronto, Canada. This is the 24th Annual Reunion for our Canadian Women's Army Corps.

For complete Reunion Brochure write to: CWAC Veterans' Reunion Chairman, Mrs Shirley Wood Heesaker, 201 Niagara Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1C9. Tel: 781-2872, 781-3821 and 488-4027.

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1983

The Annual General Meeting will be held at The Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W1 on Saturday 12 March 1983 at 2.30 pm. Tickets will be required for admittance to The Victory Services Club and will be available from Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

ATS DINNER CLUB

Enquiries for membership of the Club are still being received, and we are glad to report that we reached and passed the 550 mark in May.

Mrs Iris Boytor (nee Addinal) who lives in New Zealand and was in the ATS from 1942–46, mostly in HAA, wrote that she would very much like to hear from anyone who served with her in 577, 575 or 490 Batteries. She has joined as a Life Member and hopes to be at the Luncheon.

Enquiries were also received after the Plymouth Reunion, and some have joined. Thank you, Plymouth!

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the Luncheon on Saturday 2nd October at the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel London. Any ex ATS who are interested in joining the Club are invited to write to the Hon Secretary, Miss C I Lawrence, 23 Trinity Close, The Pavement, London SW4 0JD.

QMAAC TEA PARTY 1983

The Annual QMAAC Tea Party will be held at The Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W1 on Friday 11th March 1983 from 3 pm to 5.30 pm. Tickets price £1 from Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

BRANCH NEWS

BRADFORD. We are very pleased with our recruiting drive which resulted in 33 new members. After jogging along for a number of years with an average turn-up at meetings of 17, our meeting room is now bulging at the seams.

We have to thank the local evening paper who put an article in headed "Come and join us — say ATS 'girls' ". They published a photograph of the original members and asked "Where are

Bradford's ATS girls of 1939–45"?

We have had some very good meetings, and an excellent dinner at a City centre hotel in May. Three members attended the Royal Naval Association Dedication, and a party supported the Dunkirk Veterans Association on their Dunkirk Parade at the Bradford Cathedral. One of our new members Mrs Norah Kendall volunteered to carry our Standard.

Two of our members have celebrated their ruby weddings, Mr and Mrs Frank Dearden (nee Florence Grey) and Mr and Mrs Ernest Owen (nee Ada White). We send them our best wishes.

We hope our new members will continue to attend meetings as we are very pleased to see them.

CAMBRIDGE. This branch was formed in April 1980, and now has 47 members of whom some 20 regularly attend monthly meetings. We are fortunate in having the facilities of the local TA Centre for a meeting place, with a large room and bar indoors, and pleasant grounds with a lake for outdoor functions like summer picnics and bonfire night parties.

In the past twelve months our functions have included a car rally, a tour of historic Cambridge, a talk by local police and a darts match against a League side, when we were defeated but by no means disgraced.

At Christmas/New Year we have a formal dinner which was held at the University Centre in 1981 and at the Red Lion Inn at Grantchester in 1982. Our 1982 dinner was a cause for special celebration, as one of our members, Major Pat Ruston, was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List.

CHELTENHAM. Our membership continues to remain steady, although sadly five members have died during the year, one having held the office of Mayor of Cheltenham for only six weeks.

We visited Windsor Castle last September as the guests of a Military Knight who is in residence there. He is steeped in the history of the Castle and St George's Chapel so we had a wonderful afternoon, finishing with an excellent tea at the Castle Hotel.

Our usual autumn party (held instead of a Christmas party because so many of our members live in the Cotswolds) was attended by the great

majority of our members and was a very enjoyable evening. Our cheese and wine party was postponed from January to April because of the appalling weather and was most successful. Raffles held at both parties enabled us to send a generous cheque to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

CHESTER. Our branch is growing from strength to strength, and total membership to date is 67. At our monthly meetings we have a White Elephant Stall, a collecting box and of course the raffle which all helps towards our funds.

For the members who live a good distance from Chester and who find it difficult to attend all our meetings we endeavour to have an afternoon meeting occasionally to keep them up to date with events. We also have a raffle so that everyone is helping with the Fund raising. We also send out the minutes and a newsletter.

We have an 84 year old member Miss Jane Smith BEM, ex RSM who has been in hospital for the past two years. She recently had a hip operation but is recovering very well and she keeps us in order when we visit her. If anyone remembers her and would care to write the address is "Trevalyn Nursing Hospital", Rossett, Wrexham, Clwyd. We are sure it would mean a lot to her.

Our official birthday is in August but as that is a very awkward month with holidays etc, we are holding our celebrations in October. We hope that our neighbouring branches will attend, and will send them details when arrangements are complete.

GLASGOW. We are still an active branch and have had an enjoyable and successful year with a varied programme. Our December meeting was a Cheese and Wine Party and our guest on that occasion was Major Wendy Le Gassick DADWRAC.

Our friends from the Association of WRNS joined us for our February meeting which was a talk about life on a lighthouse. Twenty-four of our members attended the Reunion at Plymouth. We enjoyed the wonderful reception and comradeship, and those members who took part in the March Past soon showed that we hadn't forgotten how to march. Thank you Plymouth for an unforgettable weekend.

SHROPSHIRE. The Branch is now two years old. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, usually in the Oakengates Community Centre, Telford at 7.30 pm. During the past twelve months, we have had a Cheese and Wine Party, Beetle Drive, Fish and Chip Supper, visited The King's Shropshire Light Infantry Museum in Shrewsbury, The Head Post Office in Telford and a local Wild Garden and Apiary.

Last October we were hostesses for the Western Area Reunion held at The British Legion Club in Oakengates when Brigadier E J Nolan CB was our guest of honour. Well over one hundred members attended, coming from Wolverhampton, Stafford, Liverpool, Chester and Huddersfield. An eighty-five year old who had served as a driver in the First World War was warmly welcomed by us all.

We held our Christmas Dinner in the Sergeants' Mess, at COD Donnington. Serving WRAC SNCO's kindly entertained us to sherry before dinner.

Miss Joan Garwood, The Army Chaplain's Assistant, came to our Meeting in March and told us of her work both at the WRAC Centre, Guildford and at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot.

Several members attended the Plymouth Reunion in April and agreed it was a splendid and unforgettable occasion.

ULSTER. We are extremely pleased to report that more ex ATS are showing an interest in joining our organisation.

We held our Annual Luncheon in "The Highwayman", Comber, County Down on March 6th, which was well attended.

Once again we were most fortunate in the weather and surroundings for our Wine and Cheese Party at Government House Hillsborough, on 13th May. We were delighted to welcome Major Linda Ganter. It was a most successful evening.

Congratulations to Major Helen Homewood from Ulster Branch on the birth of your daughter. We all wish you great happiness.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Royal British Legion Hall, Bangor, County Down on Saturday 20th November 1982 at 2.30 pm.

Correspondence

Miss Joan Biddlecombe of 2 Parsonage Road, Bridport, Dorset wrote: "I was very interested to read Miss Doreen Preston's account of the Fifth Anniversary Parade of the ATS. I was fortunate enough to be one of the three subalterns from Southern Command to take part in the Parade, which took place on Sunday October 17th 1943 with a service at Westminster Abbey before the "March-Past" at Buckingham Palace where the Queen (now Queen Mother) took the salute. I have a copy of the service and several "cartoons" of the parade.

We spent several days being drilled by Irish Guards at Chelsea Barracks and by another Guards regiment at St James's. We had to rehearse carrying our heavy greatcoats over our left arms in case of bad weather — how thankful we were not to need them on The Day!"

Mrs Pat Longland (ex Subaltern Baxter) of 157c Park Avenue, Purbrook, Portsmouth PO7 5EY writes that she was delighted to see in the last *Lioness* the name and address of a fellow member of 93 (M) SL Regt RA. The regiment was formed in 1942 and they were the only ATS to work on operational search-lights. In spite of training under very primitive conditions where there was no water or sanitation, and they had to dig their own latrine pits, they had many laughs and she still misses the comradeship of those days. She would dearly love to hear from any other ex ATS with similar memories.



Training at Lower March, Somerset in 1942.

Mrs J Jones (ex Private June Turner) of 39 Macaulay Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 6 NQ has sent us this photograph taken at the ATS Training Centre in Guildford in May 1947. She is third from the left in the middle row and she hopes to hear from anyone who was training with her and remembers those days. Mrs Jones went to Portsmouth to train as a cook and then to Donnington.



2 Platoon, 3 Company, ATS Training Centre, Guildford in May 1947.

Miss P M Matty of Jardina 7, Las Mercedes, La Laguna, Tenerife writes: "I must report an unusual event. On March 13th I answered a knock on my door and to my surprise two English ladies were standing there who addressed me by name. They were Mrs Bailey (ex ATS Chief Commander, CO of the Pontefract Training Centre) and her niece from Watford. They had seen my report on Tenerife in *Lioness*, and were on holiday in Candelaria. What a lovely surprise, and I look forward to their next visit, and hope there will be other equally surprising and welcome visits."

Mrs Kathleen Green (nee Pritchard) of 10 Nash Grove, Newport, Gwent enjoys reading of the "achievements and ventures of the modern Army girls". She served with 520 (M) HAA Battery A & B Sections, and would like to hear from anyone who served with her.

Mrs Tessa Sellars of 1 Eduo Road, Winthorpe, Skegness wrote a long letter praising the Plymouth Branch for the wonderful organisation of the Grand Reunion. She enjoyed the comradeship, she praised the WRAC Band and she was very proud to be part of the occasion. She spoke for many other enthusiastic members when she said "Many words will be written about the AGM itself. I just want to say a most sincere thank you and well done to the Plymouth Branch".

Mrs E J Holmes of "Berrow", Milton Avenue, Rustington, West Sussex has sent us a press cutting of the ATS Fifth Birthday Parade in 1943. She writes "I was in the Parade (known then as Cpl E J Meaker) with one other member from our unit, 579 CMT Company. We were stationed at Harpenden and attached to Eastern Command HQ. I remember it very well, especially the days before the parade when we stayed in London rehearsing most of the time".

Mme Alice Gilis Spittle of 3 Kraaienbos, 3081 Perk, Belgium (ex Pte Alice Spittle) would like news of old ATS friends who served with her from 1942-1946. She would particularly like to hear from Kathy Broadhurst, Madge Archer, Olga Desoura and Doreen Dawkins, and anyone who remembers Little Cray in Devon in P1/7 of 2nd Echelon 21st Army Group in Brussels.



Thank God you're not in their situation.

Like a number of young soldiers trying to keep the precarious peace in Ireland, he was killed. His wife and child were still in married quarters in Germany, his former posting.

They were flown back to England. SSAFA organised an escort to accompany them from the airport to a London station where the train took them to Scotland. SSAFA had booked a sleeper and, at the end of this long journey, another SSAFA representative had arranged for their relatives to meet them at the station.

This could be the end of the story. Except that SSAFA will continue to watch over them. For once a man or woman has served in war, or in any of the Regular Armed Forces, their dependants can turn to SSAFA for the rest of their lives. But the demand for our help is increasing as a growing number of ex-Service men and women of two world wars reach retirement age. We need both funds and voluntary helpers, especially in urban areas. You can play your part by giving some of your time as a SSAFA representative, signing a deed of covenant or remembering SSAFA in your will.* Offers of help will be welcomed by the Secretary, SSAFA, on 01-222 9221.

* Legacies up to £200,000 are now exempt from Capital Transfer Tax.

SSAFA

Soldiers' Sailors' & Airmen's
Families Association,
27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BZ.

TRIBUTES

The Dowager Viscountess Monckton of Brenchley CBE

Many of our members will be sad to learn of the death of the Dowager Viscountess Monckton in April.

Better known to ex ATS members as Controller the Countess of Carlisle, Lady Monckton joined the ATS in 1938 and by May 1942 had risen to the rank of Controller when she held the appointment of DDATS South Eastern Command. In July 1944 she was appointed Director Women's Army Corps India and promoted to Senior Controller. It was in India that Senior Controller the Countess of Carlisle met Sir Walter Monckton whom she married in 1947, the same year that she was made a CBE.

Lady Monckton was a life member of the Association for 40 years, and until her death subscribed regularly to the Benevolent Funds.

Lt Colonel "Tommy" Tompkins OBE

"Tommy" Tompkins who died on 27th May served in the ATS and WRAC from 1942 until her retirement in 1959 when she was ADWRAC Northern Ireland.

In 1961 she returned to the Army when she took up an R03 appointment in the Ministry of Defence (MS) where she remained for twelve years, during which time she rose to R01 in charge of the Army's Confidential Reporting System for Officers. She was well known throughout the Service for her sound judgment and wise counselling, and those of us who served in the WRAC Directorate and Personnel Branch at Stanmore have every reason to remember her excellent staff work and advice with gratitude.

Tommy loved the Corps and was a devoted and enthusiastic member of the Association and Headquarters Mess throughout her retirement. I visited her the week before her death, and, although desperately ill, she wanted to be brought up to date with all the news of the Grand Reunion at Plymouth.

Illness dogged her whole life, but she fought her misfortunes with characteristic fortitude and cheerfulness. She will be much missed.

E J N

Miss M V Druitt

It is with sadness that Ilford Branch reported the death on the 3rd February 1982 at the age of 91 of Miss M V Druitt known affectionately to us all as "Madge".

Madge Druitt served in both world wars and was a founder member of London and Ilford branches. She was Chairman of London Branch for several years after the second world war and had been a member of the committee at London Branch for many years.

In bidding farewell to Madge, we at Ilford branch feel we have come to the end of an era. We shall miss her kindness, and will recall with pleasure the many happy meetings we had together.

E M H

OBITUARY

Baker. Mrs M (Ginger) Baker (nee Chamken) of Cheltenham on 23 April 1982. ATS.

Beston. Major D M Beston TD of Stratford-on-Avon on 24 June 1982. ATS and WRAC. Life member of the Association for 38 years.

Bradley. Mrs Barbara Bradley (nee Evans) of Westbury, Wilts on 7 May 1982. ATS.

Brown. Mrs E M Brown (nee Wilson) of Southampton in January 1982. WAAC and QMAAC.

Darby. Miss Margaret E J Darby MBE of Ford, Nr Shrewsbury on 2 February 1982. ATS and WRAC.

Druitt. Miss Madge V Druitt of Ilford, Essex on 3 February 1982. QMAAC and ATS.

Fleming. Miss E M Fleming of Brentford, Middlesex on 14 December 1981.

Graham. Mrs Marjorie Graham of Boston Spa, Yorkshire in May 1982. ATS.

Hawley. Mrs I W Hawley MBE of Ilkley, Yorkshire on 2 February 1982. Senior Commander ATS.

Hardy. Mrs G D Hardy (nee Reardon) of Alverstoke, Hampshire on 21 March 1982. WAAC Wimereux.

Hubbard. Mrs M H Hubbard of Leicester on 8 April 1982. WAAC and QMAAC. Served at Calais, Rouen and Wimereux.

Isaacson. Miss Phoebe E Isaacson of Pinhoe, Devon on 13 January 1982. ATS.

Locke. Major Anne Locke BA of Oxford on 4 June 1982. ATS and WRAC.

McMurray. Miss Mary R McMurray of Saltcoats. Ayrshire. ATS.

Monckton. The Dowager Viscountess Monckton of Brenchley CBE of Eaton Square, London in April 1982. Senior Controller ATS and Director Women's Auxiliary Corps (India).

Parsons. Mrs Margaret Parsons (nee McVey) of Maidstone, Kent in March 1982. ATS.

Paton. Miss H (Jean) Paton of Telford, Shropshire on 6 February 1982. Sergeant WRAC.

Piggie. Miss I J Piggie of New Malden, Surrey on 14 January 1982. WAAC Wimereux and WRAF.

Ransford. Major Paddy Ransford of Mullion, Cornwall on 15 March 1982. WRAC.

Reid. Mrs Susan Reid (nee Brown) of Uddingston, Nr Glasgow on 25 December 1981. ATS.

Slight. Miss Karen Slight in London on 4 June 1982, aged 36. For 14 years a radio operator in 39 (City of London) Signal Regiment TA.

Tompkins. Lt Colonel M (Tommy) Tompkins OBE of Swindon, Wiltshire on 27 May 1982. ATS and WRAC.

LONDON GAZETTE

APPOINTMENT TO THE QUEEN Honorary ADC

Brigadier H G Meechie

SERVICE AWARDS IN ULSTER

MBE

Major E D Elliott

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Brigadier: H G Meechie

Colonel: S P Nield

Major (Director of Music): L A E Hopkin MBE

Captains: L C Gurney, E M Walters, D Hay, P A Boram, J L Ransom, L J Esslemont

2 Lieutenant: F J Grundy

Short Service Commissions

Captains: M F Lauder, B Flaherty, C M Daybell, A E Jones, C G Snedden, A C Williams, A H Jordan

Lieutenants: J A Coats, F J W Dennis, B O'Hara, R D Symes, C L Lee, S Rostron, S K Reed, J R Edwards

2 Lieutenant: A J Scarff

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Brigadier: A Field CB
Colonel: D P Clark MBE
Lieutenant Colonel (QM): E K Anton MBE
Majors: G Dexter, L C Browne
Major (QM): E A Henderson BEM
Captains: H E Homewood, K M Howard, A L Tritton, D Wrigley, C M Willing

Special Regular Commissions

Captains: W K Hereford, C M Felton

Short Service Commissions

Lieutenants: A S Rose, E V Moorsom, P M Smith,
J E Sawyer
2 Lieutenant: C J Watson

THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY, relieves distress among ex-officers and dependants, with financial grants, help in finding places in Residential Homes for the elderly, Nursing Homes and Convalescent Homes and, if necessary, assistance with fees. It has a bungalow estate in Hertfordshire for disabled ex-officers and their families. It gives help and advice regarding retired pay and pensions and in the preparation of appeals and regarding Disability or War Widows Pensions. It has a Clothing Store for ex-officers in need. The Resettlement and Employment Department is part of the Regular Forces Resettlement Service and helps any unemployed ex-officer to find employment.

If you hear of any ex-officers or officers' widows in distress, please tell them to write to The General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY. (01-930-0125)

Contributions for next issue by
13th December 1982 in double
spacing. Photographs in black & white.

PERSONAL COLUMN

PERSONAL COLUMN CHARGES - 3 lines
£1.25, additional lines 40p each. Non-members
50% extra. Write to the Editor at Corps HQ.

FOR SALE No 2 Dress complete with hat
and beret, Mess Dress with sash, size 12, £50
ono. Tel: Norwich 410539 or write to 12
Falcon Mews, Sprowston, Norwich NR7 8LA.

FOR SALE No 2 Dress, Mess Dress, Greatcoat.
Size 12, height 5'5". Contact Mrs Smith, 2
Balfour Mews, Station Road, Sidmouth.
Tel: 039-55-3670.

FOR SALE No 2 Dress (Bernard Weatherill)
£50 and Mess Dress £40. Size 10/12, height
5'1". Both as new. Contact Mrs L C Browne,
c/o Major G J Browne MBE RAOC, 3 BAD RAOC,
BFPO 40.

FOR SALE Officers Greatcoat and No 2 Dress,
excellent condition. Also Mess Dress. All size
14, height 5'9". Tel: Royston (0763) 42271 ext
219.

WANTED Mess Dress with set of pips. Size 12/14,
5'7". Write 2 Lt G L Cable, 7 Lambton Close,
Woodside Grange, Crawcrook, Ryton, Tyne and
Wear.

WANTED Gold pin with ATS crest in gold or
enamel. Mrs E I Tracey, 9 Appleshaw Close, Hare-
stock, Winchester, Hants SO22 6SP. Tel: 0962-
880405.

WANTED Copy of "Mad Mitch" by Lt Col
Mitchell, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. Please
contact Miss M E Jepson, WRAC Museum, Queen
Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

LOW CONTINENTAL PRICES mean an even better deal from the Forces No.1 — Natocars of Bridgwater.



**Our low
continental prices
cover a whole range of models
so we're bound to have just the
car you want at a price you'll like.**

But with Natocars you get more than just a low price. Our team of salesgirls are there to make sure you get the best possible deal with the minimum of fuss and bother.

At our end Pam Davis assigns an experienced member of staff to personally take care of your transaction. She'll look after all the documentation and organise the factory to build your car to your exact specifications; or, if you're in a hurry, supply one from our very extensive stock. She'll see the right accessories are fitted and arrange collection or delivery

where and when you say. She'll even send you a free ferry ticket for UK collection from Europe.

It's unsurpassed friendly and helpful service like that which brings customers back to us time after time. Send for our free guide, it's packed with all the latest information on prices, tells you about insurance, premature repatriation cover, low interest DM loans if you're going to or serving in Germany, part-exchange, in fact everything you need to know. It's absolutely free so send off the coupon today.

Please send me Natocars tax free guide

LS

Name _____ Rank _____

Present Address _____

Car for use in (Country) _____ Delivery date (approx) _____ **Tick boxes for details:**

**NATOCARS
OF BRIDGWATER**

Peugeot ☐ Talbot ☐ Ford ☐ Vauxhall ☐
 BL Cars: Austin ☐ Rover ☐ Daimler ☐
 Jaguar ☐ Triumph ☐ Morris ☐
 Motor Caravans ☐ Used Cars ☐ Trade-In ☐

Wyllys Estate · Bristol Road · Bridgwater · Somerset · TA6 4DG

Tel: Bridgwater (0278) 55555 · Telex: 46285

To telephone from Germany dial 0044-278-55555