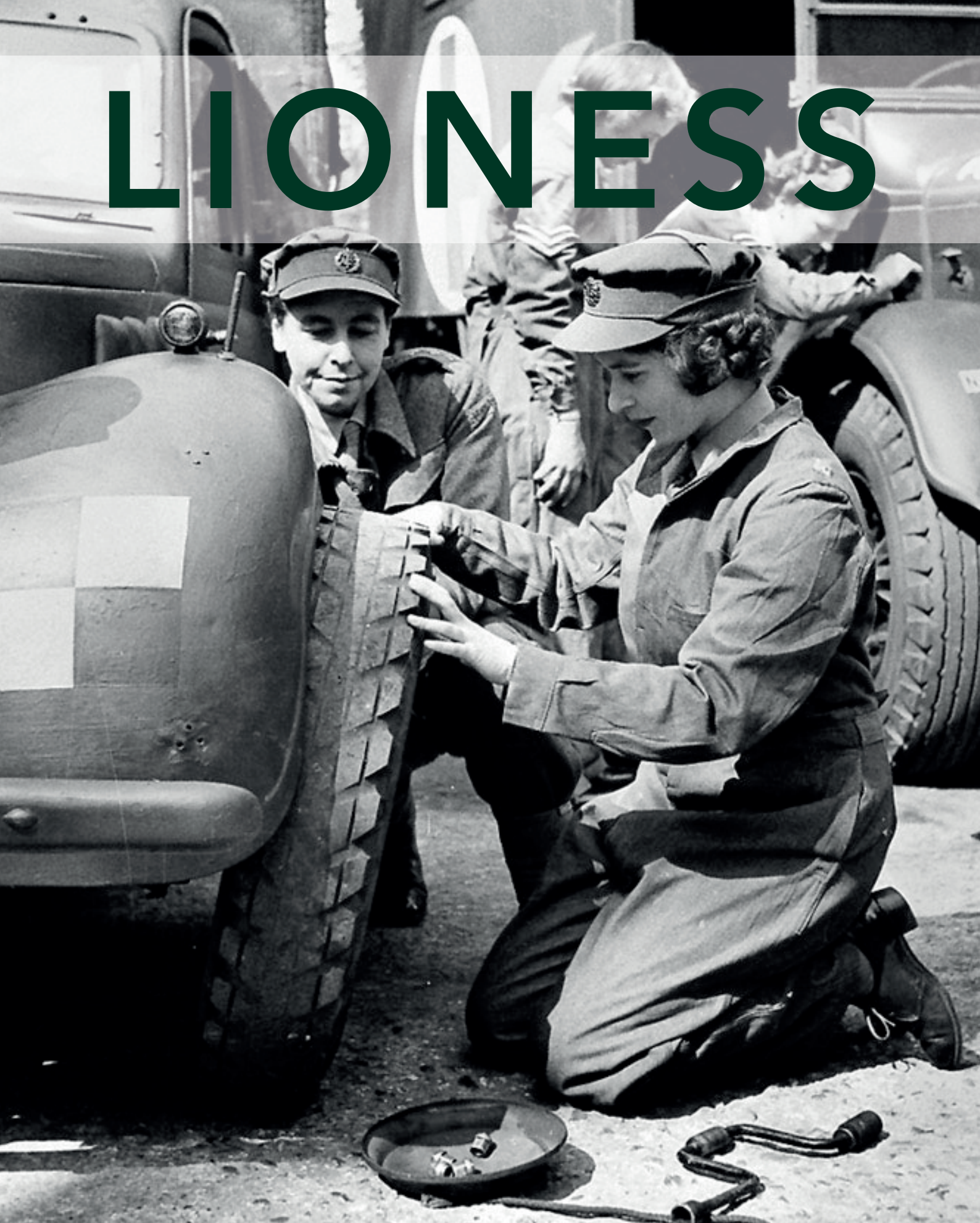


LIONESS



QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 - 2022

Poet Laureate's poem

On death of HM Queen Elizabeth

FLORAL TRIBUTE BY SIMON ARMITAGE

Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,
Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September mist.

I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,
Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.

A promise made and kept for life - that was your gift -
Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,
Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.
The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,
Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.

Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.

Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower
Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained
Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence
A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day
Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and
Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,
This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness
Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.



EDITORIAL

This special commemorative edition of *Lioness* celebrates the connections that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had with the

ATS, WRAC and Association. As with each of you, indeed it seemed the whole country, Commonwealth and world, the Association was very saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty the Queen, Elizabeth II. As well as being the Association's Patron, since 2003, Her Majesty was also a Life member. So let us celebrate all those many occasions when Her Majesty confirmed her dedication to service in, and through, the armed forces and particularly with the Army through her enlisting into the ATS, subsequent service as Colonel-in-Chief and Patronage of the WRAC Association.



The links with Her Majesty went back to 1944/1945 when, as Princess Elizabeth, she became the first female member of the royal family to enlist into the military services – joining up into the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), where she enrolled on a driving and vehicle maintenance course. Her service within the ATS lasted until the end of World War II when she cited “other duties” that would preclude her from continuing to serve in the army.

On the death of her father, King George VI, when she was just 25, she became Queen, Head of the Armed Forces and Colonel-in-Chief of 16 British Army regiments and corps. Therefore, it was in this capacity that you would have served under her. How many of you took part in preparations for her visits and/or actually got to meet her?

In 2003, while on a visit to Worthy Down, Lt Col Sue Westlake (now one of our Life Vice Presidents) enquired of Her Majesty if she would consider taking on the position of Patron, following the death of her mother (Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother), our previous Patron, in 2002. Her Majesty asked that a letter be sent to her Private Secretary so she may respond accordingly – which she did, and which she accepted. Sue's recollections appear in this special edition.

Although she had a very busy diary, we still got to enjoy Her Majesty's company on various occasions and at different events. We always sent her Loyal Greetings for her birthday, at the time of our Annual General Meetings and Grand Reunions. Her Majesty always most graciously responded to these messages, demonstrating an interest in the Association and its members.

The Association quickly organised a Service of Thanksgiving in Stirling. The Scotland & Northern Ireland Area AGM was already scheduled to take place on the Saturday afternoon, and so the Service was organised for that same morning. Along with the service being attended by over 30 Association members it was also live-streamed on social media and a copy remains on our website. Lt Col (Retd) Rowena Naile, Chair of the Membership Committee, represented the Association and her report is contained herein.

The Association was honoured to receive an invitation to The Queen's funeral in Westminster Abbey and Brig (Retd) Fiona Gardner, our Vice President, represented us there. Fiona's report of the day is also contained within this edition.

On Her Majesty's death it was agreed to issue this special Commemorative edition bringing together occasions when Her Majesty appeared in past copies of the *Lioness*. We hope it revives many happy memories for you all.

If this has sparked memories of your own please do send into the Editor for consideration for inclusion in future editions of the *Lioness*.

Your duty is done. Rest in peace, your Majesty.

Editor



QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 - 2022

Message from the Vice President

The Funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Westminster Abbey, Monday 19th September 2022

Having had the honour of attending the funeral of Her Late Majesty in Westminster Abbey as the representative of the WRAC Association, one of many representatives from the charities and organisations of which she was patron, I wanted to record and share my recollections and experiences of the event for this special edition of the Lioness, but where to start?

The service itself was a snapshot in time during the period of National Mourning that commenced on the very sad news of the passing of Her Majesty. I believe that we will all always remember where we were and who we were with when we heard the news. I was on holiday in France, with 6 former members of the WRAC, ladies I went to RMA Sandhurst with in 1985, close friends, with a common bond and shared values. We watched as events unfolded and drew comfort from sharing that experience with people who understood the profundity of what we were watching. Ladies who had sworn an oath of allegiance, an oath that meant something then, and continued to do so. It was so moving because we all had the sense that it was the end of an era – our era. I am sure that many of you had similar thoughts. I will treasure the memory of mutual support from fellow former members of the WRAC at that time and hope that many of you shared a similar experience.

With the news barely sinking in, it was on Saturday 10th September, as I was returning from France, that I realised I would be attending the funeral. Ladies, you know how this works – first thought was what to wear? So began a five-day hunt for a hat suitable for a funeral (as opposed to Ascot), and of course it was a charity shop that came through. At the same time, I was sending letters of condolence to His Majesty King Charles III and to our President, HRH The Duchess of Kent. The office posted pre-prepared statements and issued press releases, handling queries and arranging the Service of Thanksgiving. It was a very busy time, and I am extremely grateful to Paula and the team who pulled out all the stops. For over a week I watched the television coverage and read the papers, seeing the public outpouring of love and respect in the parks of London, at the Royal Palaces and of course in The Queue for the Lying in State. The arrangements, the transfer from Edinburgh to London, the Lying in State were perfect – but just a taster of the solemn pageantry that would forever be imprinted in our memories on the day of the funeral.

Others will talk about the atmosphere and experience watching The Procession, from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey, on to Wellington Arch and thence to Windsor. My experience was of the funeral service in the Abbey. I was early, of course I was, my task was to be on time and I had no intention of allowing crowds, road closures or the Metropolitan Police to prevent me from being where I needed to be. So at 0645 on Monday I was standing outside Victoria Tower Gardens with hat and medals, waiting for the gate to open. I was not alone. There were officers in frock coats, clergy in purple cassocks, ladies and gentlemen from all walks of life; recipients of awards in the 2022 Birthday Honours List, people from the NHS, the Arts, Sport and community volunteers. As the gates opened at 0745 we filtered through the ID check, took advantage of the final pitstop, navigated security and were guided past the Houses of Parliament into the Abbey grounds and in through

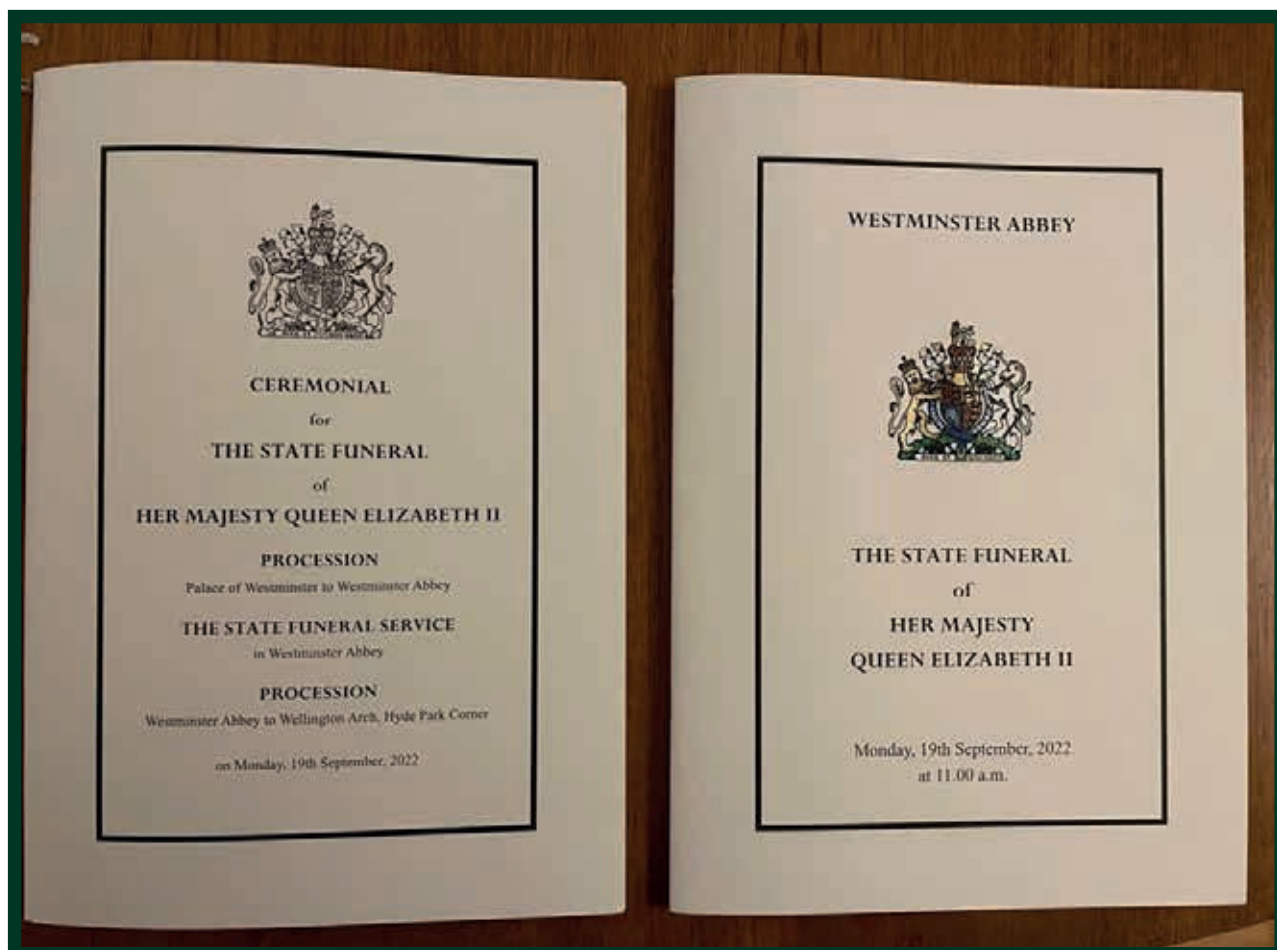
the North Door. There was no detailed seating plan; green and purple tickets holders found their area; my yellow ticket took me to the Nave where it was 'fill from the front'. By chance I found myself filing into the third row toward the West Door; past the end of the 1st and 2nd rows and landed 2nd chair from the end, with no-one in front of me; very close to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. On our chairs were two documents; the Order of Service, and the Ceremonial for the State Funeral including the Procession to the Abbey, and from the Abbey to Wellington Arch. It detailed who, what, when and how – to the minute, to the mode of transport, naming those in The Procession both within the Abbey and outside. A fascinating insight into the planning and attention to detail that had gone into the day.

Seated by 0825, as the Abbey started to fill the atmosphere was respectful, but not mournful. I had the impression that people were awed and humbled to be there, grateful for the opportunity to pay their respects, and to recognise a life of selfless commitment and duty. I watched as the politicians, dignitaries, British and foreign royalty entered, passing within a few feet of me, as the various processions took place up the Nave, including that of VC and GC holders, which for me was very poignant.



The atmosphere changed as Her Late Majesty's coffin entered the Abbey; a sombre silence settled within, people bowed heads as she passed, a tiny coffin covered in State splendour. A few had tears in their eyes as the finality of what had happened dawned; and genuine sorrow was etched on the faces of the Royal Family in procession behind the coffin. This was the point where I felt your presence; I could feel the respect and comradeship you all felt for Her Late Majesty, as if the whole of the Nave was filled by Association members. It was deeply moving. The Service passed so quickly, it was measured and calming, hymns we all knew, a sermon that celebrated a life well lived. I could hear everything but of course could see little from where I was seated. And then we heard the piper, high on a balcony directly opposite to me, sending shivers down my spine and testing my self-control. Her Late Majesty's coffin was carried past me and back through the West Door, followed by His Majesty the King and other senior members of the Royal Family. The great and the good departed in reverse order. I lingered in the Nave, absorbing the atmosphere, trying to remember the details, but very conscious that I had been enormously privileged to be able to say farewell to our Patron, and that I had just witnessed history, on your behalf. The WRAC Association was honoured to have Her Late Majesty as Patron for 19 years; but first she was a member, one of us, women who served. Rest in peace Your Majesty.

Fiona Gardner
Vice President



WRAC ASSOCIATION SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH II Saturday 17th September 2022

On a cool crisp Saturday morning in Stirling the WRAC Assn hijacked the Scotland and NI AGM to have an Assn Service of Thanksgiving for the life and service of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, our Patron. The Service was attended in person by about 30 members of the Assn and on-line by 341 members across the UK.

We were very fortunate to have Capt Helen Froud from the Salvation Army lead our Service; she served in the WRAC and was in my platoon at RMAS. She led us in a beautiful service with a wonderful address summing up qualities of our late Queen and reminding us all that, in the words of the Salvation Army, Her Majesty had been promoted to Glory. We were honoured to have Rosie Garrison from the Birmingham Branch bring their Standard up and it made for a perfect accompaniment to the altar.

Thanks to some clever moves by Paula Rogers, our CEO, we were able to have Musician Michael Garner play the organ and the trumpet for us. It made sure that the singing voices of those attending were in action, and I hope that our noise was not too excruciating for those who could hear us on-line. Singing God Save the King was still new to us, but we were all word perfect (or almost!) and I am sure that very quickly it will become second nature to us all.

Many thanks to those who made the service possible especially Paula Rogers and the behind-the-scenes team at Assn HQ.

The service can be viewed on the Assn Website.

Rowena Naile
Chair of Membership Council

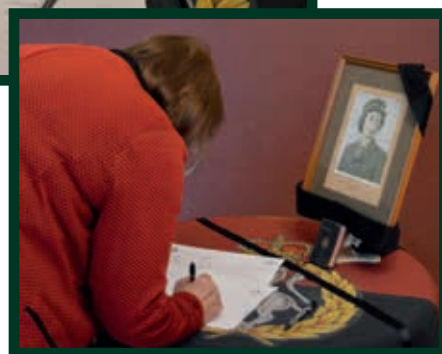


**Service of Thanksgiving
for the life and service of
Her Late Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II
Patron of the
Women's Royal Army Corps
Association**

**Saturday 17 September 2022
11.00am
Stirling**



Book of Condolence



The service



Rowena Naile reading the lesson



Capt Helen Froud



The Last Post and The Rouse



Musician Michael Garner



Standard at end of service



Stirling members, participants and guests

Memories of The Lying in State Of Her Majesty the Queen Westminster Hall, London

Ironically, I was on the way to Newmarket Rowley Mile Racecourse to meet my daughter Hannah when the death of Queen Elizabeth II was announced on BBC Radio 4. I arrived at Rowley Mile (which is named after Charles II's favourite stallion Old Rowley) in disbelief. I continued to listen to the radio and tears kept falling. Her Majesty was the only monarch I had known and served; it was the end of an era. I got some comfort knowing I was at a racecourse where the Queen had visited as often as she could.

Instantly I knew I would queue for Her Majesty the Queen's Lying in State, as I had queued eight hours for Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in 2002.

As soon as the dates were announced I booked a train ticket for the first day. I knew the queue would be long and would be continuous until the day of the funeral. People were travelling from all over the world to join the queue. They wanted to be part of this historic occasion and pay their respects to OUR Queen. It was humbling that so many from around the world knew of our Queen, she really was "The Queen" of all Queens.

I travelled to London on the first day, Wednesday 14th September, and found the end of the queue. It was announced Southwark Park would be the end of the queue so I went to Tower Bridge where I would be walking either left or right!

Fortunately, I went right and joined the queue at London Bridge at 1630hrs. There was large black signage directing people to the Lying in State queue and plenty of event staff enroute. It was very well organised.

The queue moved quickly, I felt I was on a route march!! I was at Blackfriars in 45 minutes and the OXO Tower in an hour. I met some lovely people, in particular a couple from Hong Kong who lived in Hampshire and loved living here. As I had been stationed in Hong Kong for 2 years we had lots to talk about. Another chap by me had been in the REME and had also lived in Hong Kong.... A small world.

I had seen some beautiful views both sides of the Thames including St Paul's and Westminster. The Festival Hall and Lambeth Bridge were both illuminated in purple.



I didn't get a wristband until I reached the London Eye, but this changed the next day as the queue was by then starting at Southwark Park.

I finally got over Lambeth Bridge into The Victoria Tower Gardens next to Westminster Hall at 1930hrs. I thought how quickly the queue was moving, but that was where the quickness ended! I queued in The Victoria Tower Gardens for five hours! The queue was similar to passport control, like a snake. At one time we stood stationary for an hour.... Security was a white marquee 5/10 mins before entering Westminster Hall. All mobile phones had to be completely switched off and all food, drinks/liquids disposed of in the bins provided.

As I approached the steps to go into Westminster Hall there was complete silence. People quietly gasped, some were tearful, others in awe at the sight before them, the Queen's coffin on the catafalque. To see it was the final realisation that our Queen really had died. It was done so majestically, the Imperial State Crown was magnificent, sparkling in the light with the orb and sceptre. The Royal Standard looked glorious draped over the coffin. The guards were brilliant too, immaculate in their uniforms and perfect drill when changing guards. Sadly, one of the Royal Company of Archers stumbled then fell while I was in there so live stream was temporarily paused.

Nobody was rushed, we were all allowed to pay our respects in our own way. There were people of all nationalities and all walks of life, it was so humbling. I stopped, saluted, gave my thanks for her being our patron and some personal thank you's.

I continued to walk through Westminster Hall but kept glancing back at this spectacular sight. It was a moment in time that will stay in my heart and memory forever.

Big Ben was showing 0042hrs as I walked out from Westminster Hall through the Parliament gates onto the street. I had waited eight hours for that moment, and would do it all again.

GOD SAVE THE KING

Wendy Hooton



The Funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Westminster Abbey, Monday 19th September 2022

On hearing our most gracious Queen Elizabeth II had passed away at Balmoral I knew I had to travel to London for the funeral. After a few days I guessed the date as they said it would be a Bank Holiday. I booked a night's accommodation at the Union Jack Club with my sister Lyn. We had both been to Princess Diana's funeral in 1997.

I had been watching Her Majesty's journey from Balmoral. I even tracked the flight from Edinburgh airport to RAF Northolt (I often track planes it's one of my things...). Our Queen had a wonderful send off in Scotland. I was really pleased she would be travelling almost the length of her Kingdom by the time she arrived in Windsor.

We made our way to Horse Guards Parade at 4am passing The Festival Hall. Not only was it illuminated in purple but there was classical music playing, it was magical. We found a spot on Horse Guards for our chairs; we were in the 2nd row across from the Guards Memorial in Horse Guards Road. Karen Radford, Jan Foster and Maxine McQue were on the opposite side of Horse Guards Parade. The route left clear on Horse Guards Parade for the funeral procession to pass through the gateway from Whitehall was much wider than I had seen previously.

The Salvation Army were amazing providing free tea, coffee and hot chocolate from their truck on the square. They had also given out blankets during the night as it had turned chilly. People were in good spirits and showed kindness and consideration to each other.

There was a beautiful sunrise, and we could soon hear the band and the troops on the move from Wellington Barracks. It really was a spectacle to see, so many military from the UK and the Commonwealth marching onto Horse Guards Parade. They passed through the gate onto Whitehall making their way to Westminster Abbey.

Then it was time for the King and other Royals to pass by in the State Royal Limousines on their way to Westminster Abbey. It was such an honour to be there watching this historical moment and see King Charles III for the first time as our King.

There were speakers at Horse Guards Parade but no screens. At 1100hrs we listened to the service of the Queen's funeral. People were very respectful, especially during the service. At the end of the service everyone stood and sang the national anthem for King Charles III, it was very emotional.

We then waited in anticipation for the funeral procession and to see the sailors from the Royal Navy pull the State Gun Carriage carrying our Queen on her journey to Wellington Arch. Our Life Vice President Sue Westlake was there. Her Majesty would then be transferred from the State Gun Carriage to the State hearse for her final journey to Windsor.

I feel so honoured to have been present for this once in a lifetime moment. The ceremonial procession was perfectly

executed and made me feel so proud of our Armed Forces and Police Force. The musicians were exceptional and the horses just perfect. The world was watching, and I couldn't have been prouder. Britain at its best.

May Queen Elizabeth rest in peace as we remember the Second Elizabethan Age with great pride. It was a privilege to have served such a dedicated, loyal "Boss" who had also been an ATS Veteran.

SUAVITER IN MODO FORTITER IN RE

Wendy Hooton



Memories of Her Majesty the Queen and her connection to the WRAC Association

I was honoured to become Vice President of the WRAC Association in 2003 and shortly after assuming the appointment HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip visited my unit, the Adjutant General's Corps (AGC) Centre at Worthy Down, in her capacity as Colonel-in-Chief AGC. I was PMC of the Officers' Mess at that time and was therefore responsible for all the arrangements whilst Her Majesty was in the Mess.



Prior to her arrival at the unit, Her Majesty had opened the AGC Museum in Winchester and had been thrilled to see her ATS Provisional Driving Licence on display! In the museum our Association General Secretary, Major Jane Freebairn, was presented to Her Majesty



On arrival at the Officers' Mess, I escorted Her Majesty and HRH Prince Philip to the VIP Suite to have a comfort break and rest before taking them to lunch with the Officers of the AGC. I pointed out to Her Majesty that I had put a newspaper cutting out of her visit the day before to the Imperial War Museum, where she had opened the 'Women and War' Exhibition, and where she had been surprised and delighted to be reunited with the six ATS ladies with whom she had undergone training! The article had a photo of the group in 1945 and then a photo of them all meeting up the day before.



Her Majesty The Queen meeting former fellow members of the ATS on arriving at the Imperial War Museum.

When I went to collect the Royal couple to escort them to lunch, I asked Her Majesty if she had seen the article and photos to which she replied "Oh yes, I have and I have put it in my handbag, I hope that's alright." I assured her it was more than alright (!) and as I was 'on a roll', so to speak and 'striking while the iron was hot', I said that we had all been desperately sad to lose Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, as our Patron the previous year. I then said that I appreciated that Her Majesty was beginning to hand over some of her patronages (she was 77 then) but I wondered if she would consider making an

exception for us and become our Patron given her service in the ATS. She smiled, as only Her Majesty could, and said "just write to my Private Secretary, I will tell him to expect a letter from you". No more was said by either of us. I wrote immediately. The rest, as they say, is history.

How fortunate we were, therefore, to have Her Majesty as our Patron for the next 19 years during which time we were privileged to see her on several occasions

Message from the Vice President



I am going to begin my message with some great news for the Association. You will recall that towards the end of last year I was privileged to be presented twice to HM The Queen; once at the "Women and War" Exhibition in the Imperial War Museum and again when she visited Winchester to open the AGC Museum. During these visits, The Queen met up with former ATS colleagues and saw her provisional Army driving licence from her days in the ATS. Striking while the iron was hot (!), I wrote to Buckingham Palace to ask if HM The Queen would graciously consider succeeding Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother as Patron of our Association. I am delighted to tell you all that she was happy to accept. I am sure you will agree that this is a great honour and will be a tremendous morale booster for the Association. My next mission is therefore to arrange for our new Patron to meet as many members of the Association as possible. So ... try not to miss any of our functions in case you miss the Patron as well!

Message from the General Secretary

It is a daunting task to be given a blank sheet of paper and asked to write your first letter to the readership of The Lioness! Of course, my first thoughts are to say what a privilege it is to be in such a position. One of the most special moments for me was to open the letter from Buckingham Palace to say that Her Majesty The Queen had agreed to be our Patron. After the AGM, I sent Loyal Greetings and Birthday Greetings to Her Majesty. Subsequently, I had to ask for permission to reprint the photograph on the cover of this edition. I am delighted to tell you that each time I have received a reply from the Palace, Her Majesty has asked that her Best Wishes and thanks be passed on to the whole membership of the Association. I am very proud to be able to do this through the Lioness.

At this time of year, our thoughts begin to focus on Armistice Day and all the ceremonies and services associated with this significant act of remembrance and thanksgiving. The Vice-President and I have the honour of going to the Field Of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. I would be more than happy to plant a cross on your behalf if you would like. You can obtain a small one from your local Poppy seller, write the name of the person you wish to be remembered on the back and send it to me at Winchester. I will then include it in our plot at the Abbey.

My next letter will be as Editor of the Lioness and I would like to thank Maggie Purkis for taking on the Editorship until the manning situation was resolved. It has been a great comfort to me to know that such an important means of communications in the Association was kept going efficiently. Thanks Maggie!

Having been the General Secretary "in waiting" for a year now, I have quite a good idea of the normal turn of events over a twelve-month period. With the arrival of the new Benevolent Fund Case Secretary, I look forward to being more proactive in moving the Association forward.

Jane Freebairn



In 2005 I went to the 60th Anniversary of the end of WW2 and for the unveiling of the Monument to Women of WW2 in Whitehall by Her Majesty. The ceremony was extremely moving and I was proud to be a part of it representing our Association. At the reception afterwards I was privileged to speak to our Patron, Lady Thatcher, Lady Soames (Winston Churchill's daughter and a member of the ATS throughout the War) and Baroness Boothroyd.

On 8 July 2008 we received an invitation for 20 ATS members to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the ATS. I presented four of our most active and stalwart ATS members to Her Majesty during the afternoon - a memorable day for us all. Our Patron was pleased to be reminded that it was the 70th Anniversary! She was most relaxed and chatted to the five of us for about 10 minutes. She was delighted to hear that our ATS members were still active, like her(!), particularly within the Association, and long may it be continued.

Her Majesty attended the Royal British Legion's Field of Remembrance during Remembrance Week several times after becoming our Patron and always stopped to speak to us and our ATS veterans who had proudly braved the cold and the rain to see her in their ATS uniforms.



In 2014 I was honoured to receive an MBE 'for service to female veterans'. Imagine how thrilled I was on arrival at Windsor Castle on this special occasions to discover that it was Her Majesty herself presenting the awards that day. She smiled to put me at my ease and said "I always look forward to receiving 'Lioness' magazine and reading the reminiscences of our female veterans". Wow! I wasn't expecting that so I liked to think that as well as being well briefed she may have just remembered me.....



The last time I saw Her Majesty was at the Army and Navy Club in 2017 when we celebrated the 'Women at War Centenary', including the Centenary of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC later to be QMAAC) and the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS).



Following the announcement of Her Majesty's death I was asked to do some local radio broadcasts about how I was instrumental in getting Her Majesty to be our Patron. I was interviewed by the following local radio stations: Solent, Surrey, Derby, Somerset, Leicester, Berkshire, Cambridgeshire and Teeside. On the morning of Sunday 11th September I spoke to Callum MacDonald from Times Radio - he was standing outside the gates at Balmoral waiting for the Cortège to leave the castle, so that was a most moving interview. Subsequently the BBC asked me to be available on the morning of HM's Funeral to speak live to Sophie Raworth on BBC 1 television in Parliament Square but sadly, due to security implications, this was cancelled at the 11th hour. It would have been a huge privilege to have done this interview on behalf of our Association, but it wasn't to be. However, how lovely and appropriate that Brigadier (Retd) Fiona Gardner, our Association Vice President, was able to represent us in Westminster Abbey for the funeral, and I know her memories of the day are included in this special edition of Lioness.

Words are inadequate at times like these. Her Majesty was loved beyond measure by so many people for her dedication to service and duty, her empathy, her compassion, her ability to forgive and most of all, for her love. Her Majesty sprinkled her own unique blend of stardust wherever she went and on whomsoever she met. Whilst we in the WRAC Association mourn her passing profoundly, we are also proud to be British and a Veteran, as she was herself.

Lt Col (Retd) Sue Westlake MBE
Life Vice President

Archive articles of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Her Majesty the Queen's connections to and links with the WRAC Association spanned most of her life. The following are excerpts from previous issues of *Lioness*.

In 1944 she was granted permission from her father, King George VI, to enlist into the Army – namely the Auxiliary Territorial Service.



1945

LIFE MEMBER				
NAME <u>HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH ALEXANDRA MARY.</u>				
		RECEIPT NUMBER	AMOUNT	DATE OF PAYMENT
ADDRESS	Buckingham Palace, London, S.W.1.	1945	6323	£5 - 23.May.
PERMANENT ADDRESS				
NEXT OF KIN (Father) His Majesty THE KING GEORGE VI. <i>(Husband) H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh</i>				
MARRIED OR SINGLE				
DATE OF ENROLMENT				
DATE OF DISCHARGE				
ARMY CATEGORY <u>Officer in the A.T.S.</u>				
REMARKS				
BRANCH				

NAME <u>HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH ALEXANDRA MARY</u>		SERVICE NO. <u>1734</u>		
		RECEIPT NUMBER	AMOUNT	DATE OF PAYMENT
ADDRESS	Buckingham Palace, London S.W.1.	1945	6323	£5 - 23.May.
PERMANENT ADDRESS				
NEXT OF KIN <u>Husband</u> His Royal Highness the Duke Of Edinburgh.				
MARRIED OR SINGLE				
SERVICE FROM TO				
OVERSEAS FROM TO				
ARMY TRADE OR EMPLOYMENT <u>Officer in the A.T.S.</u>				
Feb 65 <i>Lioness sent.</i>				
MARKS <i>HL 14/65</i>				
BRANCH				

PRINCESS ELIZABETH

Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth has joined the Comrades' Association as a Life Member.

We welcome her with pride and hope in our next issue to be able to reproduce a photograph of our new comrade in her A.T.S. uniform.



[Crown Copyright Reserved]

PRINCESS ELIZABETH TRAINS AS A.T.S. OFFICER

Photograph of Princess Elizabeth, who is a Second Subaltern in the A.T.S., undergoing training at an A.T.S. Training Centre in Southern England.

PRINCESS ON OTHER SIDE OF A ROYAL VISIT

Princess Elizabeth has left No. 1 A.T.S. Mechanical Training Centre with a certificate that she is a tested driver capable of driving and maintaining all classes of Army vehicles.

She had taken her final test and passed theoretical and practical.

Those who trained with her on the three-weeks course say the Princess was a jolly companion.

It was fun for the Princess when first her aunt, the Princess Royal, and then the King and Queen, came to inspect the training centre.

The Princess said: "I have never seen a royal visit from the inside before. I did not know how much preparation went on."

Princess Elizabeth will be 19 on Saturday, April 21st.



[Crown Copyright Reserved]

PRINCESS ELIZABETH TRAINS AS A.T.S. OFFICER

Princess Elizabeth, who is a Second Subaltern in the A.T.S., is undergoing training at an A.T.S. Training Centre in Southern England. Recently a visit was paid to the centre by their Majesties the King and Queen and Princess Margaret, who saw training in progress. They were very interested in the Motor Transport Section, in which Princess Elizabeth was undergoing instruction, and they watched her learning about car maintenance. Picture shows:—The Royal party watch as the engine is cranked up and started.



H.R.H. PRINCESS ELIZABETH

This delightful informal photograph of Princess Elizabeth was taken when she was in training at Camberley. It was at that time that Her Royal Highness became a member of the Comrades Association.

VISIT OF H.R.H. PRINCESS ELIZABETH

The Women's United Services Club Ltd., in Edinburgh, were very proud when they were honoured with a visit of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth on Friday, 28th June, during the visit of the Royal Family to the Scottish capital.

Princess Elizabeth, who was accompanied by the Queen's lady-in-waiting, Lady Mary Herbert, arrived at the Club, greeted by cheers from the crowd who had gathered outside, at four o'clock. She was looking very attractive in a tailored coat of biscuit colour and a smart little white straw cap trimmed in front with white carnations.

Three principal office-bearers of the Club received the Princess—Mrs. Russell Simpson, President (Chief Commander, A.T.S.); Miss Mary Innes, B.E.M., Vice-President (Forewoman, Q.M.A.A.C.); Miss Margaret J. Urquhart, Resident Secretary (First Officer, W.R.N.S.).

Her Royal Highness was then conducted to the dining-room where the following patrons of the Appeal Committee, Trustees of the Club, and representatives of the Women's Services were presented:—Lieut.-General Sir Neil M. Ritchie, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.; the Very Rev. Dr. Charles L. Warr, C.V.O.; Harriet, Lady Findlay, D.B.E.; Controller V. H. C. Stirling (A.T.S.); Chief Officer Weild (W.R.N.S.); Flight Officer Lee (W.A.A.F.); Mr. Leonard Bilton (W.S.); Miss Alice Low, O.B.E. (Q.M.A.A.C.); Miss M. A. Finlay, M.B.E. (Q.M.A.A.C., and Hon. President of the Club); and Miss I. Wann (Hon. Treasurer of the Club).

The Princess made a thorough tour of the Club premises, and charmed everyone by her natural graciousness, her obvious appreciation of the Club's amenities, and her easy conversational manner. She talked with a number of ex-Service members, among them being Mrs. Eric Melvin, who presented Her Royal Highness with a bouquet of roses on behalf of the members of the Club. Mrs. Melvin, who has visited the Club since she was a little girl, served four years in the A.T.S. during the recent war. Her mother, Mrs. Riach, served in the Q.M.A.A.C. in the 1914-1918 war, and Her Royal Highness, in speaking to them both, remarked how pleasant it was that two generations of Service women could find a common meeting place in the Club.

Another member to whom the Princess spoke was Mrs. J. H. Hislop, who was one of the original members of the Club when it was first opened in 1922. Since then she has spent nineteen years in India with her husband, who is in the Indian Medical Service.

After touring the premises, the Princess was taken down to the new Snack Bar, where she had tea, and where she met her former Commanding Officer in the A.T.S., Miss McLellan, who commanded the training centre at Camberley where the Princess took her initial training, and who now lives in Glasgow. Her Royal Highness expressed great pleasure at this surprise meeting with her former Commanding Officer. The following members of the Club Committee and Appeal Committee were presented to Her Royal Highness before tea was served:—Miss Betty Harvie-Anderson (A.T.S.); Mrs. Beaton (Q.M.A.A.C.); Mrs. Durward (W.R.N.S.); Mrs. Eckford (A.T.S.); Miss E. Douglas Elliot (W.A.A.F.); Miss Fett (W.R.N.S.); Mrs. Moodie (W.R.N.S.); Mrs. Munro (A.T.S.); Miss Neilson (W.R.N.S.); Mrs. Rattray (A.T.S.); Miss Ritchie (A.T.S.); Miss Eileen Sanderson (A.T.S.); Miss Shand (W.R.N.S.); Miss White (W.R.N.S.) and Mrs. J. A. Wilson (Q.M.A.A.C.).

Before leaving the Princess signed the visitors' book. She was heartily cheered as she drove off. Grateful thanks are due to Controller Stirling and her staff for the excellent arrangements made for the Royal visit; to Miss M. J. Urquhart, Secretary, and her staff, for all the hard work they put in to make the Club look as attractive as it did that day; and to all the very kind friends who sent such lovely flowers. The Royal visit will remain a very happy memory with all who were privileged to take part in it.

MARY INNES, *Vice-President.*

1947

THE EDITOR'S NOTES

ALL our thoughts and good wishes at the time of going to press are with Princess Elizabeth and Lieut. Mountbatten and when we read of the fairytale bride we are more than ever proud that she is a member of the Comrades Association.

Their Majesties invited Mrs. Johnston, for many years our General Secretary, and Mrs. Pakenham to the wedding, to the view of the wedding presents and to the evening party.

A sum of £300, of which the Comrades Association subscribed £35, was collected by the A.T.S. as a wedding present. Her Royal Highness has chosen an antique walnut writing table and will spend the remainder of the money after the wedding.

The *Gazette* wishes all its readers a very happy Christmas. Those of us who can spend it at home will spare a thought for the others who are still serving or who are separated through work. And for 1948 we have the highest hopes and intentions. Each of us will do what work is before us as hard and as happily as we can. Our spirit of comradeship is what the country needs most of all. Let us spread it this year and with God's help, Christmas, 1948, may be a really festive holiday.



[Photograph: "South Wales Argus"]

H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth talks with C.A. Members

While H.R.H., herself a member of the Comrades Association, was visiting Cardiff to receive the Freedom of the City in May, she spoke with Miss Chadwick (Secretary of South Wales Branch) and Miss Howell who is now a driver in the A.T.S. (T.A.)

1948

On the conclusion of the war, and after spending an evening among the crowds with her sister, Princess Margaret, celebrating VE-Day, she did not take up the suggestion of remaining in the ATS, rather she returned to 'other duties'.

THE 1949 REUNION

THE full reports of the events which make up the Annual Reunion cannot be included in this *Gazette*, but will be found in our next issue. This brief note is simply to tell absent friends what a success it all was and particularly how much we all loved H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth who honoured the Reunion at the Royal Albert Hall with her presence. The Annual Reunion begins for many people on the eve of the Annual General Meeting of the Comrades' Association. The A.G.M. of the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund is always a very happy occasion under the gracious Chairmanship of H.R.H. The Princess Royal. It is excellently arranged by Miss Perceval and her staff.

That evening many units held Reunions in London the chief one being that of the Q.M.A.A.C., who held a great party at the Duke of York's H.Q.

On 26th March, Branch Secretaries arrived for lunch—some hot, panting and tanned from the Boat Race!—at the Duke of York's H.Q. Mrs. Terry (herself an old W.A.A.C.) had nobly carried on in spite of Mr. Terry's severe illness and we enjoyed our meal. Afterwards, at the Branch Secretaries Meeting, it was impressive to see our great strength these days and to hear of the varied activities all over the country. The A.G.M. was well attended and it was agreed to open the Comrades' Association to members of the W.R.A.C.

Many members had tea together and then we had to get ready to go to the Royal Albert Hall.

All day we had missed Dame Leslie Whateley's presence among us as the Chairman of Council and everyone wished that she had not been in hospital. This feeling was intensified at the Reunion which was the best we have had.

The Princess Royal welcomed Princess Elizabeth who spoke so clearly that every word was heard in every corner and there were many cheers, especially when she said that the modern army would be no use at all without the women behind it. Later, Their Royal Highnesses walked among the comrades who pressed on every side and talked to many of us. It was a wonderful evening and it will be reported in full in the next *Gazette*. We thought much of the comrades who could not be there and take this opportunity of sending our best wishes to all of them.



[Photo: Planet News]

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH, DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH, TALKING TO ONE OF THE COMRADES AT THE REUNION

PRINCESS ELIZABETH'S SPEECH AT THE REUNION

PRINCESS ELIZABETH: said "Four years ago, perhaps even three, most of you here tonight were still in uniform, still serving members of the largest women's service this country has ever raised. In the years between many of you have lived so differently that experiences still recent in time must seem to belong to a very distant past. But it is well that we should reassemble, so that, in meeting old friends and talking of the times we spent together, we may recollect the advantages they brought us, the discomforts that many gladly underwent at the call of duty, and the good company we all shared.

"I am sure that each one of us gained something, and most of us a good deal from our service with the Colours. The rough, no less than the smooth, gave us a chance to develop qualities which should make us better wives, mothers, and citizens. Perhaps above all we should be proud of belonging to a body which, in days when far too many worship at the shrine of material advantage, has always put service to the community as the first of its ideals."

Speaking of the future of the Women's Royal Army Corps, her Royal Highness said: "I feel it is my duty to impress on you how important it is that those of you not tied by the claims of your children, and in particular ex-officers and N.C.Os. of the A.T.S., should hold yourselves ready to serve again as Territorials. For, if it is necessary to have more men in the Army, it is vital to keep the W.R.A.C. up to strength.

"As there are very few men here tonight, I run little risk in saying that the modern Army would be no use at all without the women behind it. It will be a great feather in our caps if, as the months go by, we can show the country that women are answering the call."



H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, walking across the arena of the Royal Albert Hall with our President, H.R.H. The Princess Royal. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, the first Director A.T.S., is behind the Princess. Later in the evening Their Royal Highnesses were almost invisible as they walked among the crowds of eager Comrades. Dame Helen received one of the greatest ovations of the evening.



H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth lays her wreath at the Cenotaph



THE LIONESS

Vol. XXXVIII

February, 1965

No. 1

A Royal Occasion

DEPOT AND TRAINING CENTRE

FRIDAY, 30th October, 1964, dawned with overcast skies and an autumn "nip" in the air. At Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Guildford, the day heralding the Official Opening of the new barracks by Her Majesty The Queen started in the same way as any other, except for an air of excitement, which hung over every member of the Unit. Last-minute preparations completed, everyone adjourned for lunch with the realisation that the great event which we had been anxiously awaiting was upon us.

At 1.30 p.m. past and present members of the Corps started to arrive and take their seats on the parade ground.

They were followed by a number of official guests, including The Rt. Hon. Fred Mulley, M.P., Minister of Defence, Miss Jennie Lee, M.P., General Sir Richard Hull, C.I.G.S., General Sir Reginald Hewetson, A.G., and General Sir Roderick McLeod, G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command.

At 2.40 p.m. the Guard of Honour of 100 women of the Permanent Staff marched on to parade, led by the W.R.A.C. Staff Band. Ten minutes later Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal arrived and was received with a Royal Salute.



Photo by courtesy of "Soldier" Magazine

H.R.H. The Princess Royal presents The Rt. Hon. Fred Mulley, Minister of Defence



Photo by the Associated Press Ltd.

Her Majesty in the Other Ranks' Mess

At 3 p.m. the Royal Standard being broken from the flag-pole heralded the arrival of Her Majesty The Queen, who looked very lovely in cherry red. On alighting from her car, Her Majesty was met by H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who presented members of the official party.

Her Majesty then took her place on the dais and was received with a Royal Salute. Her Majesty then inspected the Guard of Honour under the command of Major J. Wilson and the W.R.A.C. Staff Band under the direction of Lieut. E. Crowcroft, L.R.A.M., the Director of Music. On leaving the parade ground, Her Majesty unveiled a plaque outside the Museum, commemorating the Official Opening of the Depot and Training Centre.

After the unveiling of the plaque, the architect, Mr.

F. C. Jepson, and representatives of the builders were presented to Her Majesty, who was then conducted round the Museum by Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, the Chairman of Trustees. Among the many items of interest was the chassis of the vehicle on which Her Majesty learned maintenance when, as H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth, she served in the A.T.S. Sgt. N. Adam, who taught Her Majesty firefighting at Camberley in 1945, was presented at this point.

After signing a portrait and the visitors' book, Her Majesty left in company with H.R.H. The Princess Royal and Colonel L. M. Davies, the Commandant, to start a tour of the Barracks. Her Majesty's first visit was to the Q.M. Stores, where, after the Quartermaster, Capt. G. P.



Her Majesty after unveiling the memorial plaque

Photo by courtesy of "Soldier" Magazine

Blay, and the Assistant Quartermaster, Lieut. H. M. Shenton, had been presented, Her Majesty saw the "Q" staff in No. 2 Dress and Tropical Dress. Leaving the Q.M. Stores, the Royal Party walked to the Rank and File Mess, where 2/Lieut. L. D. Merrin, the Messing Officer, was presented, and Her Majesty talked to the cooks and stewardesses.

From the Rank and File Mess, Her Majesty drove to Block 17, the living quarters of Holding and Drafting Company, where Capt. M. L. Edmondson, the O.C., and W.O.II K. Carney, the C.S.M. of the Company, were presented, and where Her Majesty spoke to the women in their rooms.

The Royal Party then went to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess, where W.O.I M. J. Evans, the R.S.M., presented the P.S.M., W.O.II J. Gallagher, Mess members and staff. On leaving, Her Majesty and H.R.H. The Princess Royal were invited to sign the visitors' book before going to the Depot Church of St. Mark and meeting Miss M. Robertson, the Chaplain's Assistant. From

the church the Royal Party drove to the Junior Ranks' Club, where Mr. W. Cook, the NAAFI District Manager, and Mrs. Johnson, the Manageress, were presented, and Her Majesty talked to junior N.C.O.s and privates before inspecting the Unit M.T., which had been assembled in the car park, under Sgt. E. Malone, N.C.O. i/c Transport.

The Royal Party then drove to the Officers' Mess, where a group photograph was taken and tea was served. Among the guests at Her Majesty's table were Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake and Lieut. (Q.M.) E. J. Morgan, who was the Co-ordinating Officer for the Opening, and whose valuable assistance was appreciated by all.

Just before departure at 4.55 p.m., Her Majesty was invited to sign the visitors' book, after which she left the Mess, driving through cheering crowds of guests and Permanent Staff, the latter lining the route, to end what had been a memorable day for the Corps and an unforgettable one for everyone at the Depot and Training Centre.



H.M. The Queen inspecting the Guard of Honour at the W.R.A.C. Depot

Photo by C.I. Reproductions (A.D.)

Dear Editor

I enclose a photograph which might be of interest to your readers.

It was taken in late 1943 or early 1944 just before Princess Elizabeth, as she then was, joined the Service. The Queen and the princess visited No 11 ATSTC at Newbattle Abbey, Dalkeith and delighted everyone. I was at that time Assistant Adjutant.

In front is J/C Ruth Whittaker followed by C/C Helen Nimmo (on left) and C/C Aylmer (right).

Mrs D J Coleman (nee J/C Alison Clark)





Brigadier Field greeting HM The Queen at the Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden
(Photo courtesy of Winchester Gazette)



Brig Field, her Majesty, Brig Dame Joanna Kelleher, Brig The Hon Dame Mary Pihl, Brig Nolan, Brig Ramsey, Padre Robson
(Photo Dave Harris)



London Branch members in prime position for ceremony to dedicate the rose garden

PRINCESS ROYAL'S MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN

In the early summer of 1965 the Council of the WRAC Association decided to sponsor a Fund in memory of their late Controller Comandant, General, Her Royal Highness, Princess Mary, Princess Royal. The purpose of the Fund was to allow each member the opportunity to show her personal appreciation of Her Royal Highness's service in both the war and the post war years. The money raised was used to provide the Memorial Rose Garden at the Women's Royal Army Corps Centre, Guildford, as well as a Trust Fund. Commercial rose growers also contributed gifts so that the garden was quickly established with some 900 roses. The Trust Fund has been equally successful and to date has paid out £155,330 to 148 annuitants. There are currently 62 annuitants.

On the formation of the Adjutant General's Corps in 1992 and the consequent incorporation of Women's Royal Army Corps members into the newly formed Corps and the closure of the WRAC Centre at Guildford it was decided that the Memorial Rose Garden should be moved to the new Centre at Worthy Down.

14 varieties of roses have been planted in 14 beds surrounding the memorial fountain and pool and the garden has been sited where it can be seen by all who pass along the main road through the Adjutant General Corps Centre at Worthy Down.

The relocated garden was formally opened by Her Majesty the Queen on 4 June 1993 during the Corps Day 1992 when she unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

Brigadier Anne Field CB Deputy Commandant of the AG Corps and Vice-President of the WRAC Association greeted Her Majesty and presented Brigadier Dame Joanna Kelleher, Brigadier The Honorable Dame Mary Pihl, Brigadier Eileen Nolan CB and Brigadier Gael Ramsey CBE to the Queen.



Reverend Bill Robson conducts Service of Dedication at Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden
(Photo Simon Brooke-Ward)

Brigadier Field then invited the Chaplain "to dedicate this Memorial Rose Garden to the Glory of God and in memory of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, Controller Commandant of the Auxiliary Territorial Services and the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1941 until her death in 1965".

The Chaplain then made the following dedication -

"To the Glory of God and in memory of Thy servant Mary we dedicate this Memorial Rose Garden as a token of our esteem and respect in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Her Majesty then unveiled the plaque. It will be in addition to the one on the memorial fountain which reads:

THE ROSES IN THIS GARDEN
WERE GIVEN
IN MEMORY OF
GENERAL HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE PRINCESS ROYAL
CONTROLLER COMMANDANT
AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE
AND
WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS
8 August 1941 to 28 March 1965

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent, President of the WRAC Association and Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester both spoke to members of the



**New plaque for Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden
(Photo courtesy of Winchester Gazette)**



**HRH Duchess of Kent talks with Brigadier Nolan and
Brigadier Ramsey (former Directors WRAC)**



**Chaplain dedicates the memorial
(Photo courtesy of Winchester Gazette)**



**HRH The Duchess of Kent talks to Association members
(Photo Simon Brooke-Webb)**



**HRH Duchess of Kent talks with Brigadier Dame
Joanna Kelleher (Brig Henderson when DWRAC)
and Brigadier The Hon Dame Mary Pihl
(Brig Anderson when DWRAC)**



***HM The Queen talking to Association members
(Photo by Chris Fletcher)***



***Her Majesty meets members of the Association on
AG Corps Day 4 June 1993***

Association who had been given special viewing facilities for the ceremony.

Later in the day Her Majesty was able to meet members

of the Association informally on a walk about and 19 secretaries and 10 council members joined her for tea before the evening ceremonies and displays.



With Her Majesty on Corps Day 1993



1979



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today with my two Deputy Colonels-in-Chief. We are delighted to be with you, just fifteen months after the formation of the Adjutant General's Corps, and to see so many old comrades of the former constituent Corps here as well. On your formation, I took particular pride in becoming your Colonel-in-Chief and, from all I have seen today, I can already tell that that pride was not misplaced.

This morning I unveiled a plaque on The Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden, which was previously at the Women's Royal Army Corps Centre at Guildford. This symbolises to me, and I hope to you - all of you, past and present, families and friends - that Worthy Down has become the true home of the Corps. I hope that the qualities of this unique body will flourish here among these splendid surroundings.

This is a time of tremendous change in the Army and I know that a sense of sadness and loss are always part of change. Many of you are sad at leaving behind the Corps that you have served devotedly for years, and which had become part of your lives. I am confident that this feeling of loss will be overcome by the determination, typical of the Serviceman and woman, to deliver to the Army the support it needs in its changed world. It is a hard challenge for you, but I know that you will vindicate the confidence that others have in your ability to meet it.

I have been greatly impressed today by the range of activities of the Corps and the enthusiasm of all those to whom I have spoken for what they are doing. Many clearly recognise that there are now opportunities for them which simply did not exist before, and if at the same time the service to the Army improves, then this must surely be for the better.

I was especially interested to find today that one third of the Corps is female - a statistic in which I hope are included your Colonel-in-Chief and my two Deputies. An even more striking fact is that 11% of the Corps are presently involved in operations.

It is clear to me that the Corps, in its new form, has drawn upon the best of all that went before. The Corps' motto - With Resolution and Fidelity - reflects a proud tradition and confidence in the future.

Thank you, Colonel Commandant, for the drawing - I shall treasure it as a reminder of a most happy day. I wish each and every one of you, including your comrades who could not be here today, every success in the future.

4th June, 1993.

**MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY AT CORPS DAY -
4 JUNE 1993**



1993

No2

Lioness



Betty Anderson (née Day) of the ATS Reunion Association chats with Her Majesty during the Royal Visit to London, Ontario, on June 26 1997



Royalty and the Army – a special exhibition at the National Army Museum

This Special Exhibition explores the historic relationship of the British Army with the British Royal Family. From the first formation of a standing army by Charles II in 1660 to the duties undertaken by soldiers on royal occasions today, the Exhibition traces the ties between the monarch and the military.

With the words "Now Boys! Now for the honour of England! Fire and behave brave and the French will run!" George II led his troops into battle in 1743. Members of the Royal Family have since sent gifts to thousands of soldiers on active service, made morale-boosting visits to battlefields, or, like Queen Elizabeth II, have served alongside servicemen and women in the Army. Soldiers on ceremonial duty have attended the Monarch at Coronations, State visits, Royal weddings, birthdays and funerals.

Exhibits range from early medals to a depiction of the first award ceremony for the Victoria Cross, and from a Christmas gift box sent by Princess Mary in 1914 to the vehicle chassis that Princess Elizabeth worked on as part of her ATS training. All are displayed to illustrate and celebrate the bonds that link soldiers with the Crown in this, the year of Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee.

In 2003, at the request of the Association's then Vice President, Sue Westlake, Her Majesty agreed to be Patron of the Association – a patronage that was to last for 19 years up to her death in September 2022.



Her Majesty The Queen arriving at the Imperial War Museum.



2004

No. 2

LIONESS

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH
1945



The photograph is reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen

*Her Majesty The Queen, our new Patron, served in the ATS
and is a life member of the Association*

Vol. LXXXVIII

2004

No. 2



THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 206184

Founded in 1919

PATRON

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

PRESIDENT

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT GCVO

VICE-PRESIDENT

Lieutenant Colonel S J Westlake AGC (SPS)

Chairman:

Vice-Chairman:

Life Vice-Presidents of Council:

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Miss M M Thomson TD

Brigadier E J Nolan CB

Brigadier A Field CB CBE

Lieutenant Colonel The Lady Martha Bruce OBE TD DL

Lieutenant Colonel M W Soames OBE

Brigadier Dame Joanna Kelleher DBE

Brigadier The Honourable Dame Mary Pihl DBE

Brigadier G K Ramsey CBE

Brigadier S F Nield CBE

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Lieutenant Colonel S J Westlake AGC (SPS)

Colonel A J Smith

Mrs M E Wroot

Headquarters, WRAC Association, AGC Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG

General Secretary: Direct (01962) 887570 or ATN (94271) 2570

Chief Clerk: Direct (01962) 887478 or ATN (94271) 2478

Fax: (01962) 887478

Benevolent Funds: (01962) 887612 or ATN (94271) 2512

E-mail: wracassociation@milnet.uk.net

Website: www.wracassociation.co.uk

Cover Photographs

Front Cover
HRH The Princess Elizabeth
1945

Back Cover
ATS Continental Group arriving
in Normandy, July 1944

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ROYAL GREETINGS

Please convey my warm thanks to the Vice-President, Council and Members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association (incorporating the Queen Mary's Auxiliary Army Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades' Association) for their message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of their Annual General Meeting which was held on 9th April.

As your Patron, I much appreciate your congratulations for my birthday and for the Wedding of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall and send my best wishes to all those who were present.

ELIZABETH R

April 2005

Message from the Vice President



2004 was yet another very successful year for the Association and for one of our members in particular – Kelly Holmes! Congratulations to her on achieving her dream – Olympic Gold – not once, but twice in Athens in August! I wrote to her on behalf of the Association and told her how proud we were of these tremendous achievements and of her past service in the WRAC. Her determination and courage in overcoming the setbacks and injuries she endured during the 1990's made her achievement all the more inspiring. The Association received a lovely acknowledgement from Kelly; she also said how sorry she was to have missed the WRAC PTI Reunion in September but she was out of the country and rather busy! However, we hope she will be able to attend the next PTI Reunion and our Grand Reunion in 2006 – I know she will try. We were also thrilled to hear that she was awarded the DBE in the New Year Honours List – Congratulations Dame Kelly!

I have continued to enjoy my travels around the Association 'Parish' during the past six months and meeting up with so many of you. September was the PTI Reunion and you will see we had a good turnout by the photo on the back cover of this Lioness – regrettably I

was unable to attend the Wales and West and N.E. Area Reunions during that month as I was on holiday – nevertheless I hear that they were both memorable occasions – so sorry I had to miss them. October took me (and the General Secretary) North to the Scottish Area Reunion in Perth and to Stoke on Trent to the WRAC Dinner Club (those of you who are not members yet are missing a treat!). I attended the Army Benevolent Fund 60th Anniversary Service at Westminster Abbey on 28th October in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal and then in the evening I accompanied Brigadier Anne Field to St James' Palace for a Reception where we were presented to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. Our Patron was there, but on the other side of the room! However, on the 11th November, at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, HM The Queen did stop at our Association 'plot' and I was able to say briefly how thrilled we were that she had agreed to be our Patron – she replied that she was delighted. I was privileged to

represent you all at the Royal Hospital Chelsea's Annual Carol Service in December where I read a lesson – albeit a John Betjeman Christmas poem! To end off the year, I was invited to Bath Branch's Christmas Lunch – thank you again, Ladies, for a very enjoyable day and for your generous hospitality (I didn't escape entirely though as I had to speak after Lunch!).

I am conscious that by the time you receive this journal, we will be well into 2005. I look forward to meeting more Association members over the coming months and to hearing your views and suggestions. Please keep writing to us and please keep supporting the various social events.

All that remains is for me to wish you all Good Health and Happiness for 2005.

Sue Westlake

Message from the Vice President



I am writing this having just returned from a very memorable weekend in London to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War 2. It was wonderful to be there and to see so many of you from the Association in Whitehall for the Unveiling of the Monument to Women of World War II by HM The Queen.

The ceremony was extremely moving and I was very proud to be part of it representing our Association. At the Reception afterwards, I was privileged to speak to our Patron and to Baroness

Boothroyd, Lady Thatcher and Lady Soames, as well, of course, as catching up with so many friends from the Association.

WHO ARE YOU? Editor



This photograph was obviously taken at the unveiling of the Memorial to the Women of World War II. Mrs Kathleen Brownbill of Bournemouth Branch took it. She does not know the lady in the ATS Blazer but would like her to have the photograph.

Mrs Brownbill has sent the photograph to the *Lioness* so, if you are the lady in the photograph, please contact The Editor on 01962 887570.



Courtesy of Pat Pierrepont, Winchester Branch



AND AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE *Comrades Association Gazette*

General Secretary: Mrs. Pakenham, Q.M.A.A.C. and A.T.S., Comrade Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.
Telephone: SLOane 4165
Editor: Same Address

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A copy of the photograph which appeared in the QMAAC & ATS Comrades Association Gazette in early 1949. Note the badge – the 'Lioness' existed before the WRAC!

2007

No. 2

LIONESS



HAPPY MEMORIES OF EDINBURGH, CAMBERLEY AND WINDSOR

W/140633 Cpl Irene Warren née Burman
"Woodlands", 4A Newmarket Road, Cringleford,
Norwich, Norfolk NR4 6UE

A visit to Edinburgh last year brought back happy memories of my ATS Service. In 1942, I did my initial training at Glen Parva Barracks in Leicester and my most vivid memory was having to do PT in our khaki knickers! I then went to No 1 Motor Transport Training Centre at Camberley and already being a driver, I trained to be an instructor. My first posting was to No 3 MTTC Dreghorn Barracks in Edinburgh where we took over from the men of the RASC who went to Burma. We trained on 30 cwt Bedford lorries that had frame covered canopies which juttied out 6" either side behind the cabins. The students never allowed for this and going along Princes Street the side mirrors were often taken off the trams – many an accident report I had to make! How different Princes Street looks now.

After a year, No 3 MTTC was disbanded and I went back to Camberley where I spent the next three years driving, instructing and as a spell as a mechanic. We had a 16 task system which I had to teach the students, each on the care and maintenance of the vehicles. On a theory paper, one question was, 'What do you do if your lorry gets stuck under a bridge?' One student answered, 'Jack up the bridge'!



Her Majesty the Queen being presented with the clock

When the students passed their driving tests they were allowed to drive through Windsor Great Park on their own. This was usually on a Saturday morning but they had to leave their log books behind as I had to make them up for the week. Two students hadn't left them and, as I was on a weekend pass, I thought I'd better go and find them. I had a motor bike to do convoy training, so off I went on my bike through the park and, not being able to find them and coming to a sharp bend, my bike went up a bank and I was thrown into the middle of the road. An American soldier who was quietly taking pictures of the Castle came to my rescue and taking off my crash helmet his first words were "Gosh you're a Gal"! Luckily I was not hurt and was able to ride my bike back to camp – without the log books!

Her Majesty the Queen completed her ATS training whilst I was there and when the course ended she was presented with a clock made in wood by the workshop people; on one side of the clock was a truck and on the other a field ambulance – I often wondered if it ever stood on her mantelpiece?

After we disbanded at Camberley in 1945, we had to clear the camp and we found a few bicycles that were left behind we loaded them into a field ambulance and sent them to a worthy cause. I was then posted to Southampton to the RASC as a mechanic and I did inspections on vehicles and lorries up to 5 tons and on test drives – I found it very hard going with crash gear boxes and no power steering!



Hannah and myself at Sandhurst

My granddaughter Hannah is now serving in the British Army and was at Sandhurst at the same time as Prince William. It was wonderful to attend Sovereign's Parade and to see Her Majesty the Queen take the salute at her grandson's commissioning. Hannah has just completed a posting to Afghanistan where she served in the front line with the Grenadier Guards. I am so proud of her.

The ATS girls employed with the RAPC were accommodated in hostels until 1945. Ours (Nancherrow) was troubled with rats and we were placed on the lodging list in 1944. Four of us were lucky to find a home with a Mrs Young who had three daughters who were away from home – one in the WAAF, one in the WRNS and one was a policewoman. On VE Day, three ATS and a friend, the WAAF and the Wren went to dance on the Exeter ruins in front of the Theatre Royal. Everyone was dancing in the streets that day! The six girls swapped hats to dance the "Palais Glide" and a passing friend took this snap which appeared in the Express and Echo in May 1945.

In 2002, a book was published titled "Exeter Burning" and one page referred to the Holloway Street raid on 30 December 1942. As one of the RAPC offices was damaged in this raid, I wrote to the editor of Nostalgia (a supplement to the Express and Echo) to clarify the number of planes involved and their target. I included a copy of the photograph taken on VE Day. Since then, it has appeared in several editions of E & E whenever the Exeter blitz is mentioned. The last time was in 2007 – the 65th anniversary of the raid.

In spring 1946, the gardens of High Leigh Hall, Cheshire, the home of the RAPC OCTU, were especially pretty with primroses and bluebells. (*Editor: The journal of the RAPC Association is called Primrose and Blue!*) Gathered there were nineteen ATS, mainly senior NCOs, who had served in Regimental Pay Offices throughout the country during the War. The War Office had decided that these girls could now be commissioned as "Paymistresses". It is believed that the RAPC OCTU at High Leigh Hall was, therefore the only mixed OCTU in the country.

There were two intakes that spring. Before No1 course departed, a farewell dinner was held and the top table was decorated with primroses and bluebells and the other two "legs" were decked with rhododendrons in a wide range of colours from white through pink to purple. Then the nineteen officer cadets went off for a month to join the ATS OCTU at Windsor. We were very fortunate that the then Princess Elizabeth took the Parade. We were so proud that she especially mentioned the nineteen female RAPC Officers.



Princess Elizabeth inspects the Parade at Windsor OCTU in June 1946. Captain Mary Matheson, Course Instructor, is on the left.

LIONESS



A CENTURY OF PROGRESSION CELEBRATION WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION Ali Brown

On 12th October 2017 the Army and Navy Club hosted a Reception to mark 100 years of women serving in the Army in non-nursing roles. The Reception was in the presence of our Patron HM The Queen, and we were fortunate enough to have 37 members of the WRAC Association present including veterans from the ATS and the WRAC and a serving officer from the AGC (SPS). The Reception was also held to mark the Centenary of the WRNS, and veterans of the "senior" service were present along with serving members of the RN. The Patron of the WRNS, HRH The Princess Royal accompanied Her Majesty.



Under Army Council Instruction 1069 of July 1917 the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs) was formed and the first party of 14 WAACs arrived in France on 31 March 1917. Eventually 9,000 women were to serve there. On 9 April 1918, largely as a result of their sterling conduct during the German March offensive of that year, the service was renamed Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC), with the Queen becoming Commander-in-Chief. Once the QMAAC were disbanded they were quickly followed by the formation of the ATS on the outbreak of World War 2. In 1949 the ATS was disbanded and the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) was established. During the next 43 years WRAC servicewomen were involved in emergencies, security threats and incidents involving the British Army worldwide. The WRAC was disbanded in 1992, and 2016 was the milestone year with women being able to serve in all roles including front line combat with the Royal Armoured Corps and Infantry.

Her Majesty was welcomed into the Library by the Vice President of the WRAC Association, Colonel (retired) Ali Brown and then went on to meet four groups of Army veterans. The first three of these saw service from the 1950s to the 1990s and beyond and had built up some 500 years of service. Her Majesty chatted to each and every veteran and some smiles were raised with the telling of anecdotes from training days. Her Majesty was very interested in the different roles that women have filled over the decades represented.

The next stage of the Reception was a move into the Wellington Room to see a photographic display charting the progression of

of women serving in the Army from 1917 to the current day. The images were selected to reflect the changing roles and the widening of opportunities within the Army over the last 100 years. Her Majesty met more veterans alongside the display including three members of the ATS in which Her Majesty also served during World War 2. The ATS ladies present were Barbara Danter who worked in the Army Post Office, Joan de Val who served in Anti Aircraft (Ack Ack) Batteries and finally, Betty Webb MBE who was stationed at Bletchley Park from 1940 to 1945 and then went on to serve at the Pentagon in Washington.



Joan de Vall, HM The Queen & Rowena Griffiths

This marked the end of the Reception as Her Majesty and HRH The Princess Royal moved through to the Pall Mall Room to meet club members. A truly enjoyable evening and thank you so much to all at the Army and Navy Club for making it happen.

Website: www.wraccassociation.org.uk
Supporting Women Who Served

CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE AND THE WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS Club Report

The Patron of the Army & Navy Club, HM The Queen, and HRH The Princess Royal attended a Reception at the Army & Navy Club which celebrated the Centenary of the formation of the Women's Royal Naval Service and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

The Queen was greeted by the Club Chairman, Colonel Ian Paterson OBE TD, and Senior Trustee of the Army & Navy Club, Major General Michael Shellard CBE, on arrival.



In the Library, the Queen and the Princess Royal were met by Commander Rosie Wilson, Chairman of the WRNS100 Project Group and Colonel Alison K Brown, Vice-President of the WRAC Association. The Queen and Princess Anne were then introduced to several serving officers, as well as veterans who joined the ATS in 1941 and worked at Bletchley Park until VE Day, during the 45-minute engagement.

In the Wellington Room, the Queen viewed a photographic display which showed the progression of women serving in the Army from 1917 to the current day. The images have been chosen to reflect the changing roles and the widening of opportunities for women over the last 100 years. Her Majesty met three members of the ATS, in which Her Majesty also served during World War 2 - Barbara Danter, who worked in the Army Post Office, Joan de Val who served in Anti-Aircraft (Ack Ack) Batteries, and finally, Betty Webb MBE who was stationed at Bletchley Park from 1940 to 1945 and then went on to serve at the Pentagon in Washington. A total of 37 Members of the WRAC Association were present.



Rowena Griffiths showing HM The Queen the new display stand

The Queen became the first female member of the Royal Family to join the Armed Services as a full-time active member when she became a member of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in 1945. The ATS is now incorporated by the WRAC Association, of which she is patron.

In the Nelson Room, the display of the Women's Royal Naval Service showed the formation and history of the WRNS and the role of women in the Royal Navy today. It also celebrated the valuable work still done by the WRNS Benevolent Trust and the Association of Wrens. A cross section of veterans from all generations attended. Among them was Joan Berfield, a wartime WREN coder and a sprightly 95 years of age. Serving members of the Royal Navy, included Chief Air Engineering Officer Sandra Parkinson, were also in attendance.

Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, is Patron and supporter of the WRNS Benevolent Trust, Patron of the Association of Wrens and is also the Patron of the WRNS100 Project. She is Admiral and Chief Commandant for Women in the Royal Navy.

The Queen and Princess Anne signed the Club's visitor's book in the Front Hall before departing.

THE QUEEN & PRINCESS ROYAL CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY OF THE WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE AND THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY ARMY CORPS.

From 'Royal UK' website

The reception celebrated 100 years since women were recruited for service in the Army and Navy in a non-nursing capacity for the first time.



The Queen is the Patron of the Women's Royal Auxiliary Corps (WRAC) Association, which incorporates the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) and the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). The WAAC later became the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, when The Queen's Grandmother, Queen Mary, became its Patron.

The Princess Royal has a long connection with the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS); she is Patron of the WRNS Benevolent Trust, the Association of Wrens and the WRNS100 Project. HRH is also the Admiral and Chief Commandant for Women in the Royal Navy.

At the reception, The Queen and The Princess Royal met many members of the Association's and heard about their experiences. The Queen joined the ATS 1945, aged 18, and became the first female member of The Royal Family to join the Armed Services as a full-time active member.



HM The Queen with WRAC Assoc. members

The WRNS and WRAC Association also put on a display that charted the progression of women serving in the Army from 1917 to the present day.

The WAAC and WRNS were originally established in 1917 in reaction to the deteriorating man power situation, as so many men had been killed or injured. By the end of WWI, the WRNS had approximately 5,000 ratings and nearly 450 officers. Jobs included sail-making, driving, signalling & coding.

THE QUEEN MET A BLETCHLEY PARK VETERAN AS SHE HELPED MARK THE CENTENARY OF THE WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE (WRNS) AND THE WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS

Nicola Harley, *The Telegraph*
12 October 2017

The visit to the Army and Navy Club was the Queen's first public event in London since her Balmoral summer break.

It comes a day after the announcement she will not lay a wreath at the Cenotaph this year as part of the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony.

Accompanied by the Princess Royal, the Queen was given an insight into the work of the WRNS100 project, which is celebrating the formation and history of the organisation and recognising the role of women in the Royal Navy today.



HM The Queen & HRH The Princess Royal

The Queen, who is patron of the WRAC Association, met senior naval and army members alongside veterans who joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in 1941 and worked at Bletchley Park until VE Day.

Betty Webb, 94, of Birmingham, was with the ATS from 1941 until 1946. She worked at Bletchley Park registering the messages which came in and said she felt "very privileged" after meeting the Queen.



Barbara Danter, HM The Queen & Rowena Griffiths

The Queen will watch the Remembrance Sunday ceremony on November 12 in Whitehall from the balcony of the Foreign Office and the Prince of Wales will take her place in laying the floral tribute on behalf of the nation.

Mrs Webb said: "It is saddening but I think it is wise because all that standing for that length of time - it would frighten me to death. Just knowing that she will be there will be important. "We were both in the ATS at the same time. The Queen was younger than me - she was serving as a mechanic when I was serving in Bletchley Park." After meeting the Queen, Mrs Webb said: "It was absolutely wonderful. She was so sweet. She is such a gracious lady."

The Queen asked a small group of ATS veterans - all aged between 90 and 94 - where they served. Joan De Vall, 92, of Leicestershire, was in the ATS from 1943 until 1946. After speaking to the Queen, Mrs De Vall said: "She (the Queen) said I was looking very well and I said 'so are you ma'am'." She added that being part of the ATS had made her feel "that every soldier to me is (like) my brother."

WRNS100 in 2017 is celebrating the valuable work still done by the WRNS Benevolent Trust and the Association of Wrens.

There are about 116 national and regional events planned, culminating in a service at Portsmouth Cathedral in November, during which a commemorative stone marking the formation of the WRNS and all the women of the Naval services will be dedicated.



Ali Brown with HRH The Princess Royal

WRAC Association, Unit 39, Basepoint Business Centre, 1 Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, SO23 0LD
Tel: 0300 400 1992 (local rate call, including mobiles) Email: office.manager@wracassociation.org.uk
Benevolence: benfund@wracassociation.org.uk Lioness: editor@wracassociation.org.uk
Website: www.wracassociation.org.uk





Scotland group meeting The Queen



Queen Elizabeth II unveiling plaque for Grand Reunion for the 60th anniversary of the Association, 1979

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM 'RISE OF THE LIONESSES' EXHIBITION & ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME EVENTS Thursday 27th June – October 2019

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM **PRESS RELEASE** **RISE OF THE LIONESSES NEW EXHIBITION EXPLORES CHANGING ROLES OF WOMEN IN THE BRITISH ARMY**

A new spotlight exhibition at the National Army Museum in Chelsea, explores the changing roles of women in the British Army from 1917 to the present day. The free exhibition is written in partnership with the WRAC Association and runs until 20 October 2019.

The exhibition charts the major contributions women have made to the Army's history. On display for the first time, is the combat shirt and medical kit belonging to Sergeant Chantelle Taylor,

who was the first female British soldier to kill in combat. Additional highlights of the exhibition include the first Army-issue bra and the vehicle chassis used to train Princess Elizabeth (now Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II) in vehicle maintenance while she served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) during the Second World War.



The exhibition examines the relationship between society and the Army.

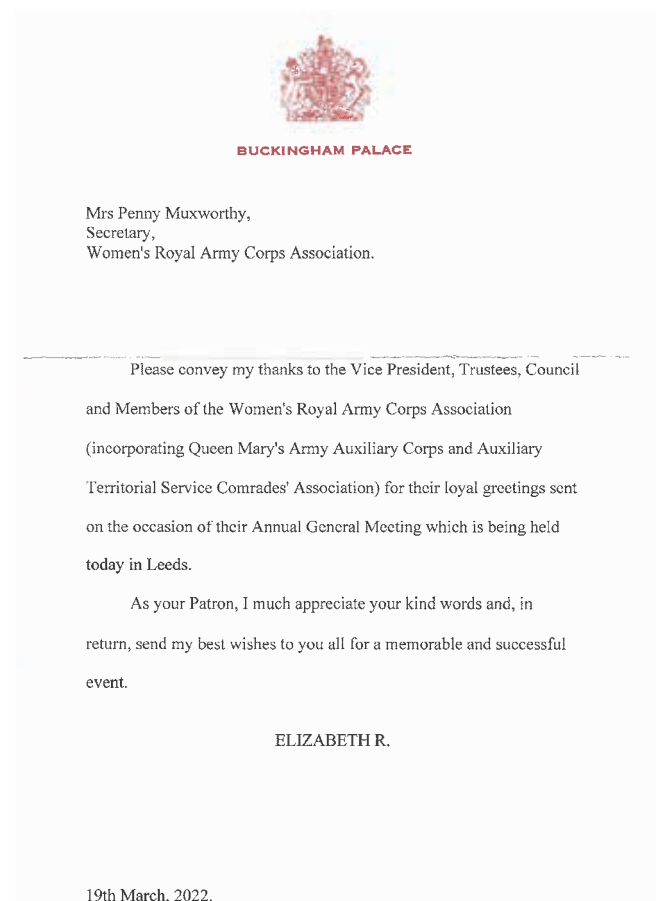
It considers how the perception of 'appropriate' feminine roles affected the contributions of female soldiers and how women fought to redefine those roles. Ali Brown, vice president of the WRAC Association and retired British Army colonel, says, ***"Without the women who have gone before - who faced and broke down so many societal norms, myself and many like me would not have had the full careers, with operational deployments, that we had. All barriers are now down to women serving in the Army and that is what this exhibition is about: where we have come from, where we are and where we are going."***

This year is a significant opportunity to recognise the presence of gender balance in the Army, for three significant reasons:

1. in October last year, the Ministry of Defence announced that all roles in the British Army would now be open to women, finally including combat roles in the infantry and special forces
2. this year is the centenary of the WRAC Association, which was the first, and remains the only charity that cares for veteran and serving female soldiers in the British Army
3. 2019 marks 70 years since the formation of the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC). It was disbanded in 1992 when women were integrated into the rest of the Army's regiments and corps, instead of being in their own unique unit.

The show runs until 20 October 2019 with an extensive public programme alongside. - ends

The Association annually sent birthday, Christmas and New Year, and AGM greetings to HM The Queen, our Patron. On the death of HRH the Prince Philip we also sent a message of condolence. The following are replies we received:





QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 - 2022

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WRAC Association, Unit 11, Basepoint Business Centre, 1 Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, SO23 0LD

Tel: 0300 400 1992 (local rate call, including mobiles) Email: office.manager@wraca.org.uk

Benevolence: benfund@wraca.org.uk Lioness: editor@wraca.org.uk

Website: www.wraca.org.uk