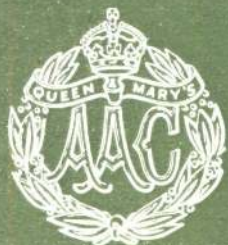


THE LIONESS

VOL XLIV

NOVEMBER 1971

No. 4



You're bound to find exactly what you want at Peter Robinson

We're proud to say we have everything for the woman who cares about fashion. From wigs all the way down to shoes.

Whatever you want, we're bound to have it. And at the right price, too.

Super Large Sizes

If you're a larger lady there's a whole department specially for you. Super Sizes is dedicated to flattering the fuller figure. Here you'll find the same fashionable styles as in the rest of the store for the woman with 42" - 48" hips.

Top Shop

This is the place for trend conscious birds. For nobody gets the latest faster than Top Shop. In fact, our fashion here changes so fast you'd do well to snap up

anything you see as soon as you see it. If you don't somebody else will.

Money Back

Snap purchases are fun and at Peter Robinson they're backed by the knowledge that should you make a mistake we'll refund your money

without question. Maybe that's because we don't often have to.

Monthly Accounts

To make life easier still, there's our monthly account system. You can use your account at any Peter Robinson.

You can also spend up to eight

times the amount you put in every month. Drop in next time you're passing and get the details. Remember you can't do better than buy at Peter Robinson.



Oxford Circus & The Strand

Branches throughout Southern England
including Bennetts of Guildford

Contents

	Page
Editorial	51
Unit News	51
W.R.A.C. College	57
Crooke's Tour	57
Visit to Vietnam	59
Free Fall	61
Annual Training in Camp	61
W.R.A.C. Provost on Exercise	62
Association News	63
Here and There	65
Where are they now	65
Branch News... ..	68
Correspondence	68
Premium Bond Draw	68
Officers' Postings	68
Warrant Officers' Postings	68
London Gazette	68
Christmas Shopping List	69
Obituary	69

WHO'S WHO

W.R.A.C. Association
Duke of York's Headquarters
King's Road, London, S.W.3.

GENERAL SECRETARY

Major E. B. Dixon (Retd.)
(All correspondence re membership and distribution
of The Lioness)

EDITOR

Lieut.-Colonel M. S. F. Millington,
O.B.E., T.D. (Retd.)
(Contributions and personal column advertisements)

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Capt. J.L.M.Brady WRAC
Ministry of Defence PRQ(A),
Old War Office Building,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

ADVERTISEMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Nuview Advertising (Major E. O. Coven, J.P. (Retd.))
22, Cadogan Court, Draycott Avenue,
London, S.W.3. Telephone: 01-589 8286

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY
31st DECEMBER

Personal Column

Personal Column. 3 lines 30p each additional line 10p, box office numbers included. Non members 50% more. Notices of forthcoming reunions where admission is charged may be inserted at a cost 10p a line.

For Sale. Officers Green Greatcoat. Size 38-28-40, height Medium/Tall. Very Cheap. Box No. 5/71.

Leaving the Service? Why cut yourself off from your friends entirely? The R.A.P.C. needs women up to 34 as W.R.A.C. in its T. & A.V.R. Pool of Soldiers. Training is carried out, initially at Worthy Down, for 15 days in summer and 4 days in winter each year and you get full Regular Army rates of pay for all training plus annual bounties of at least £63. There are opportunities for promotion and if you join without delay after finishing regular service with the R.A.P.C. you may be re-granted your rank and trade classification at once. Write for further details to:—Major J. W. Evans, M.C., Commander C.V.H.Q., R.A.P.C. Worthy Down, Winchester.

SERVICE WOMEN'S CLUB

Applications are invited for Membership of the

SERVICE WOMEN'S CLUB

52 Lower Sloane Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Spacious Public Rooms: Cocktail Bar; All Rooms with Washbasins; Central Heating throughout. All Meals served. Early Dinner for Theatre-goers. Sloane Square Tube Station; Buses to West End, Kensington, Oxford Street; Two minutes walk from Club. SERVICE, ASSOCIATE and JUNIOR Membership.

Maximum Subscription £5.25

Further particulars from:—

THE SECRETARY



Brigadier S. A. E. Heaney Presenting the Long Service
and Good Conduct Medal to W.O. II Young, Chief Clerk
at the Directorate.

Photo by O.S. 14 M.O.D.



THE LIONESS

Vol. XLIV

NOVEMBER, 1971

No. 4

Editorial

SMART new offices are being built for the Corps Headquarters at the W.R.A.C. Centre in Guildford. The date of the move is not yet firm but it will probably be early in 1972. In any case the Association functions in March will take place as planned.

After more than 50 years it will be a wrench to leave the Duke of York's Headquarters where we have had so much friendly co-operation and goodwill. We will not be completely severing our connections as Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon has kindly agreed to let us go on holding some of our meetings at the 'Dukes' and we are most grateful for this concession.

The move will inevitably bring changes in Staff. After 10 years as the R.O.III Major E. B. Dixon would in any case have to leave as she is due to retire at the end of December. Much of her work has been in connection with the Association and she will be greatly missed by all members. It seems probable that Major Dixon will be given a short extension, which will allow her to be with us in March, so members will be able to say Goodbye and express their thanks in person. At any rate we wish her a very happy retirement, and we will hope to see her at all

our functions in future when she will be able to enjoy herself instead of working so hard on our behalf.

Colonel Phoebe Lipscomb, who retired about 2 years ago and lives in Farnham, has accepted the appointment. Members will recall that Colonel Lipscomb has always taken a keen interest in the Association and Benevolent Funds. She served on Council for a number of years so is no stranger to the affairs of the Association. In spite of her previous experience, to take over a new job and to be involved in the major upheaval of a move at the same time, will not be easy. We are sure that Branch Secretaries will give Colonel Lipscomb as much help as possible until she has had a chance to settle down and get to know them better.

For the greater safety and security of all concerned, the staff of the T. & A.V.R. Association have been instructed to stop and question visitors to the Duke of York's Headquarters on entering, or leaving, the compound. Members of the Association are asked to co-operate and make the gateman's difficult task as easy as possible.

The Lioness wishes all members a very happy Christmas and good fortune in 1972.

Unit News

12 COMPANY IN THE LIMELIGHT

12 COMPANY, Mill Hill, have been in the limelight recently, and the centre of the attraction was W.O.II Young, the W.R.A.C. Directorate's Chief Clerk.

On the 3rd of August, W.O.II Young presented a cheque for £250 to Mr. Dermott Cuddy, the Public Relations Officer of the Guide Dog Association for the purchase of a Guide Dog. She received in exchange a mounted six inch statuette of a Guide Dog which now has pride of place on the bar in the W.R.A.C. W.O's and Sgt's Mess at Mill Hill.

This little exchange represented the end of a year's hard work to raise the money. Last August a sponsored walk raised £111, plus some money for the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund. Among those taking part in the walk were S/Sgt. W. Armstrong, Sgt. E. Errand, Sgt. M. Dulcen, W.O.II E. Rhodie, Sgt. J. Hargreen, Sgt. Y. Kay, 4 Other Ranks, 3 W.R.N.S. and 1 member of the W.R.A.F. This was followed by a dance held last October by the W.O's and Sgt's Mess which raised £40 for the Guide Dog and the same amount for the Benevolent Fund. The remainder of the money was raised through Long Distance Tombola. This is the second cheque W.O.II

Young has presented to the Guide Dog Association, having previously raised money whilst in BAOR in 1968.

She was again the focus of attention on the 10th of August in the Mess, when she received from the Director her Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

W.O.II Young joined the Army in 1953, and having completed her Basic and Clerical Training was posted to H.Q. Northumbrian District; seven months after joining she was promoted to Lance Corporal, and on posting to H.Q. BAOR in 1955 was promoted to Corporal.

In 1957 she was posted to H.Q. Farelf, G. Int. (Singapore) for a normal tour during which she got her third stripe. 1959 saw her back in H.Q. BAOR until she returned to Singapore, two years later, as a Staff Sergeant. A tour at the College was followed by another stint in H.Q. BAOR. Then a brief return to Camberley for 5 months before taking up her current appointment on promotion to W.O.II in 1970.

The citation was read by Major D. P. Clark, M.B.E., B.A., Officer Commanding 12 Company and the presentation was also attended by the A.D. W.R.A.C. London District, Lt. Col. B. I. Forbes Adam, M.B.E.

12 Coy has reason to be proud of W.O.II Young's work for the Guide Dogs for the Blind and the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund.

13 SIGNAL REGIMENT

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND

OVER Whitsun weekend there was a flurry and a scurry at Birgelen as we prepared to greet 30 Mums and Dads and friends from U.K.

The relations arrived by bus during the evening of 28 May, tired but pleased to have arrived so quickly and safely. Saturday morning fortunately dawned bright and clear after a most forbidding, cold, wet week. Whilst our U.K. guests were taken by bus to our local shopping town of Roermond in Holland, we were all busy putting up stalls for our fete to be held that afternoon.

In all, there were about 58 stalls, three run by members of the W.R.A.C. Troop. We manned a very successful fortune teller's tent; our goldfish in jam jars proved most testing to ping-pong ball throwers, though we were not burdened with any goldfish at the end of the day! Our ducking stool proved to be the greatest attraction with bikini-clad W.R.A.C. girls being thrown into a pool of cold water if the aim was accurate enough to put a cricket ball through a hole.

The highlight of our fete was its opening, performed by none other than that well-known comedy actor Derek Nimmo (you may remember him in 'Charlie Girl' and 'All Gas and Gaiters') who having made a very witty and amusing speech, declared our Fete open.

In the evening we held a Bier Fest with an English Group, 'The Don Shake Sound' providing German drinking music, to which were invited some of our local German and Dutch neighbours.

Sunday dawned bright and clear and our Church Service, held in our little unit Church, was conducted by a guest padre the Reverend S. J. Davies, M.B.E., M.A., Assistant Chaplain General BAOR who had been a prisoner of war in Korea.

At 1500 hrs. Derek Nimmo was asked as our guest celebrity, to perform the opening ceremony. On a beautiful, sunny day Derek Nimmo, dressed in white slacks and superbly striped shirt, and bronzed from his interrupted holiday in Nice, stepped forward to make his speech. After a most amusing speech he stripped off his shoes and socks and loudly declaring 'I have great pleasure in announcing this pool open' jumped in and swam a length of the pool. Our Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Baldwin, the Second in Command, Maj. Nice and the Regimental Sergeant Major, W.O.I Filder all followed him in quick succession.

Unfortunately our Squadron Commander, Major Maisey was no-where to be found at this time!

After a variety of aquatic displays we watched the finals of the 6-a-side hockey competition and on Monday evening bid a sad farewell to all our parents and friends as they boarded the bus which was to take them back to England.

16th SIGNAL REGIMENT

DURING the summer, W.R.A.C. of the Regiment in Krefeld, and at the outposts of Bielefeld and Rheindahlen have taken part in a variety of outdoor activities.

In June, Comcen Ops from Krefeld and Switchboard Ops from 4 Sqn at Bielefeld lived together under canvas for a fortnight, as part of the Control H.Q. of Exercise 'Summer Sales'. This was held at Alverdissen, high up on farmland not far from the fashionable spa-town of Bad Pyrmont. Those who took part in the exercise had hopelessly packed bikinis and sun-tan lotion as essential kit, but as luck would have it, the weather forced us to sport wellingtons and as many clothes as could be piled on for the duration of the exercise.

Strictly segregated, all W.R.A.C. lived in a barbed wire and canvas enclosure, nick-named the 'bird-cage'. In spite of the rain, wind and mud, the W.R.A.C. rose to the occasion with usual aplomb. Hidden from the public gaze, the sight of Carmen-roller'd girls carefully pressing B.D's became the order of the day. Oh one occasion, early in the exercise, one C.C.O. was having difficulty in ironing her B.D. jacket. This was during the daily visit of the maintenance team of half-a-dozen 'tankies', who, true to form, went to the assistance of the 'damsel in distress'. The sight of two big soldiers holding down a sleeve, while a third ironed with astonishing skill, would have looked splendid in any regimental journal.

We were able to visit the bath unit every morning—in fact, after our first visit, we were bombed as we left by a battery of cameras, from the R.A.O.C. manning the unit—we were the first 'birds' ever to use it!

During July, 4 Sqn en masse joined Belgian and Dutch national service men at Camp d'Elsenborn, in Belgium, for their summer camp. Ten days were spent in occupations, both military and adventurous, including map-reading, First Aid, N.B.C., potted sports and canoeing. The weather was kinder than it had been for 'Summer Sales', and sun tans were very much in evidence.

A visit was paid to Bastogne, to The American War Museum and the 'Nuts Museum'—so called because on being asked by the Germans to surrender the Americans sent back a signal to the German High Command with one word of text . . . Nut's! The last day saw fond farewells and as vows of 'Write soon' were made, the popular question of 'Which is the quickest way to Bielefeld from Belgium' was heard. We've already had a request to accommodate 3 Dutch and 2 Belgian servicemen for a week-end!

On July 7th, two teams from 4 Sqn and one from 8 Op Tp entered the Rheindahlen marches, 15 kms. on a blisteringly hot day. All the teams swung on to the Garrison Square in fine style, and were presented with medals by the Garrison Commander, Colonel Eggleton. During the summer, members of 8 Op Tp have taken part in other marches during their free time—Pte Nancy

Pollock might well regard her status as professional, having now completed five marches!

In August, the BAOR Signal Troop together with camping equipment and enough compo to feed the whole of B.F.G., sallied forth to Cochem, one of the beauty spots of the Moselle. The journey was an adventure in itself, for Lt. Sue Healy had decided to drive past the Nurberg Ring, forgetting that the German Grand Prix was being held there that very day! Exercise 'Midsummer Venture' consisted of walking and climbing, with swimming and sunbathing for good measure. Some time was also spent in sampling the excellent local brew! Each of the four shifts spent a week in Cochem, all too short for the lovers-of-outdoor life, who are now demanding to know when 'Mid-Winter Venture' will start.

Also during August, the 'Moles of Krefeld' (the men and girls of 1 Squadron) enjoyed their annual airing on 'Exercise Beephit', held at Vogelsang in the Eifel at the southern end of the beautiful Rursee. Activities included a mapreading exercise around the lake which is a national beauty spot and was well worth the few blisters that developed later, and a 15K walk just in case one missed out on blisters the first time. However, all this was tempered by plenty of potted sports, sunbathing and swimming in the lake, plus a visit to Monschau, a very picturesque old German Town, and to Aachen, a cathedral town on the Belgian border, both of which afforded hours of pleasant browsing and not a few Deutsche Marks spent on souvenirs.

The weather was mainly hot and sunny although an occasional thunderstorm had everyone running for the mess tent to gaze out somewhat gloomily at the pouring rain with only a bottle of Amstel as consolation! Despite the unsettled weather, each shift held a barbeque on their last night at camp which was thoroughly enjoyed and all returned refreshed to Krefeld for another stint 'down the Hole' until next summer.

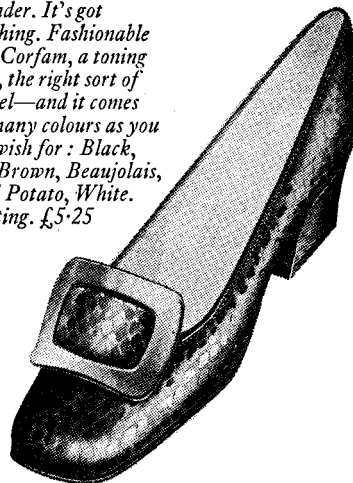
Skill in the more formal sports has been displayed in the Regiment this year—Pte Claude Oliverre and Cpl. Diane Winter won their BAOR Colours for Netball and Pte Oliverre was also selected for the U.K. Inter-Service Match. Lt. Sue Healy and Capt. Kathy Howard also won colours—for squash, and Lt. Sue Healy won the BAOR Individual Championship. Hockey Colours were awarded to Sgt. Sylvia Gardiner and Sgt. Beverly Daley of 8 Op Tp; Capt. Ruth Pearce reached the finals of the Army Swimming and Diving Championships, and Capt. Kathy Howard represented BAOR in the Inter-Zone Tennis Championships at Aldershot.

W.R.A.C. COMPANY HOUNSLOW GARRISON Sponsored Walk

THE W.R.A.C. Company, Hounslow held a meeting to decide on ideas to raise money for the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund, among other ideas a Charity Walk was suggested. The idea was discussed and a carefully planned

It's Smarter... it's Wider... Van-Dal

SHIRLEY Van-Dal's "snakey looking broad" that everyone's falling for. And no wonder. It's got everything. Fashionable Cobra Corfam, a toning buckle, the right sort of 1½" heel—and it comes in as many colours as you could wish for: Black, Blue, Brown, Beaujolais, Baked Potato, White. 'C' fitting. £5.25



Country Walk, avoiding busy main roads was considered suitable.

The route was chosen from the Map and an initial recce carried out taking notes for a route card and arranging where checkpoints should be set up. Particular care was taken to ensure that narrow roads were clearly marked. The walk was to be from Hounslow through Feltham, Sunbury, Chertsey and into the country through Virginia Water, Chobham and to the finish at Addlestone, a total distance of twenty-five miles.

Training walks were arranged over a period of two weeks and the seventeen women taking part were up at 0555 hrs. on four mornings for a five mile walk before breakfast, and a Thursday afternoon was used to hold a twelve mile practice. A further recce was carried out by the O.C. and the all clear was given for the walk to be on the 23rd. May, 71.

The O.C. and the M.T. S/Sgt., had kindly volunteered to use their cars and act as travelling Marshals complete with First Aid Kits, orange squash and sandwiches. Each checkpoint was manned by further volunteers, and after all this preparation we were ready.

Sunday 23rd, May dawned fine but very cloudy. The walkers were ready at 0800 hrs. and the walk began.

The first checkpoint (6 miles) was gained by all the groups with ease in dull but fine weather, then it began to rain and we all plodded on through Sunbury and

Chertsey to the halfway point, where lunch was being taken, getting wetter and wetter, those with spectacles wishing someone had invented mini windscreen wipers. During this stretch Group III took time off to try and drive a lost piglet off the road without success, so in the end it was left to the farmer.

Lunch was taken in a semi tropical storm and we all ate our haversack rations with relish which due to the special efforts and trouble the cookhouse staff had gone to were declared the best packed lunches ever. By now everyone was soaked but thankfully still warm and in high spirits, the O.C. meanwhile arranged that tracksuits and hot tea were brought out on the 3 tonner which was to meet us at the finish.

After everyone had eaten we pressed on to the next checkpoint (14 miles) which was a Public House in Virginia Water. This Pub had in fact a large summer house type building in the yard which was ideal for us. Group III arrived to find Group I had already left, (they were travelling at a terrific pace), Group II were enjoying a break with a couple of hikers who like us were sheltering in comfort. By now the Marshals were busy dealing with blisters mainly due to the weather i.e. wet socks and shoes. Most people took this opportunity to change into dry socks as the weather had slightly improved.

So on again, now we only had to manage two miles between checkpoints. At the next checkpoint (16 miles) two girls dropped out and it was a case of the mind being willing to continue but the body weak.

A further walker dropped out at the next checkpoint so leaving fourteen, by this time each checkpoint simply meant you were that much nearer the finish and the walk became a personal challenge. The weather had brightened up as each group went into the final five miles, Group I were told to slow down as they were going so fast the walkers were getting too far spread out for the Marshals to be able to cope.

So far we had been walking for eight hours with only short stops at checkpoints. At twenty minutes to five the last two walkers, W.O.2 Beresford and L/Cpl. Lawton, the latter of whom had completed the last three miles with a limp from a sore leg muscle but was determined to finish, arrived at Addlestone where the 3 tonner was waiting with dry clothes and, best of all, a welcome cup of hot tea.

So out of the seventeen taking part, fourteen completed the full twenty-five miles and the other three all did over sixteen miles. The total sum raised for the Benevolent Fund was approximately £170 which is an excellent result.

As a final picture, it was amusing to follow behind the 3 tonner back to camp as all that could be seen over the tailboard was a pair of bare Irish feet, a Welsh flag, and a Scottish head so our walk had a truly United Kingdom flavour.

29 COMPANY W.R.A.C.

MARCH—SWITZERLAND 1971

ON Thursday May 71, five of us, Sgt. 'Tich' Beaumont, Cpl. Pat Gray, Cpl. Taffy Williams, Pte Jackie Cooley and Pte Celia Simpson with five other girls and twenty men all from Rheindahlen Garrison boarded the coach at 0700 hrs. which was to take us to Switzerland. We arrived at Bern about 1930 hrs and were taken to the Ice Stadium which was to be our home for the following three days. To our horror we found the rooms were for 32 people, and there were communal showers, not quite the best hotel in town but we managed. We were up at 5 o'clock next morning as the Swiss Army were going to take us sight-seeing. After breakfast there was a parade outside the Swiss Military Academy for all Military participants. We were all given Swiss Officers' pocket knives as souvenirs.

We then climbed into buses and set off on our tour. The trip took us through Luzern and Interlaken and round some of the large Swiss lakes at the foot of the Pre-Alps. There was snow clearly visible on the mountain peaks but the weather was very warm, we were all in shirt sleeve order. After three hours we stopped and boarded one of the mountain railways which took us half way up what seemed to be the sheer face of the mountain. When we got off we were at the foot of the north side of the Eiger. After walking for one and a half hours we again caught the mountain train which took us back to the coaches. Our sight-seeing tour lasted until late afternoon and everyone was beginning to feel rather hungry. The evening meal was served, starting with a tasty soup, then in the same dish the main course followed by the sweet and this again they wanted to put in the same dish. As we were the only girls eating at the Academy amongst about 300 men everything we did was closely watched, and when we insisted on clean plates everyone went into near hysterics—but we got clean plates. That evening there was the official opening ceremony at the Ice Stadium. All the countries competing marched around the arena carrying their national flags and were officially welcomed. It was very impressive.

The marches began on Saturday morning. We were up at 0430 hrs, so that we would be ready to start marching at 0700 hrs, this is necessary because by the middle of the day it is too hot to march. The first day was reasonably easy, we only stopped once in order to have our lunch, and had completed the 30 Kms. (about 15 miles). by 1230, which considering the hills we had been up and down and the heat, was a very good time. By the time we had had a shower and got changed it was 1330 and we were in time to see the men finish. They, too, had been feeling the heat, they had walked 40 Kms, carrying 20lbs of kit plus a weapon, but evidently they had sung on the way, most of them having throats which were more sore than their feet.

Kitchen Manoeuvres

not quite the place to take a tank and you should know! All day long you've been driving tanks, tackling machine gun emplacements, and crawling through mine fields—mind you, you did have a break at midday when you made the Colonel a cup of tea in his bunker.

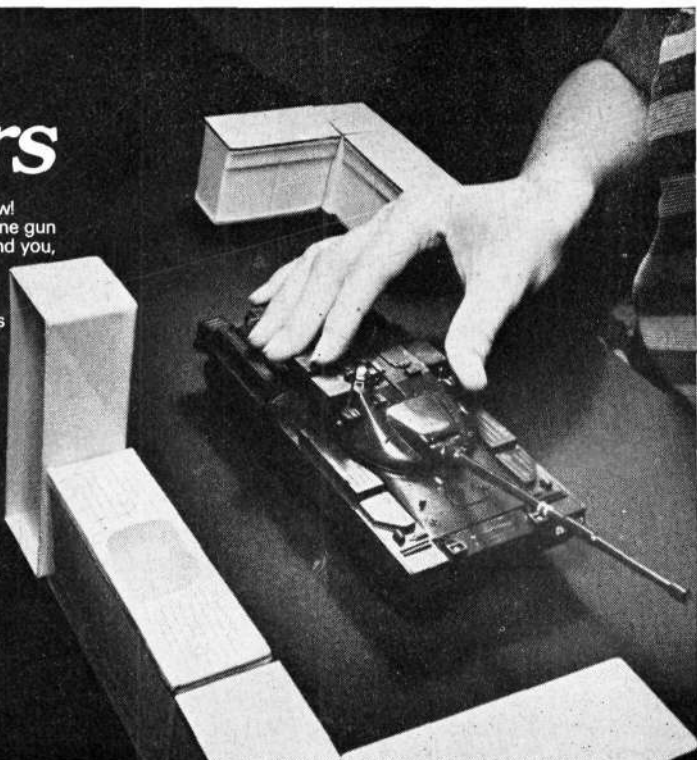
But now evening has come and you can become a woman again, out of that combat suit and heavy boots and back into nylons and lace, it's a wonderful feeling. It's nice to enter a woman's kitchen as well, instead of that smelly army field canteen with its primus stoves and tea chest cupboards.

How wise you were when you chose EASICLENE kitchen furniture, with its timeless good looks and hardwearing surfaces. It's as reassuring as if you were standing in the middle of the combined armed forces to know that if you ever want to add to your kitchen, EASICLENE's new range of SCENESTEALER units, with their new colours and features will compliment your already beautiful room.

Write for the wonderful new SCENESTEALER Catalogue today.

EASICLENE

EASICLENE DOMESTIC EQUIPMENT LTD.
Woden Road, Wolverhampton WV10 0AY.



Up again at 0430 on Sunday, almost everyone was stiff, but again we set off. We found the going much easier although several of us had badly blistered feet. The march started on an uphill route and soon we got rid of the aches and pains, the scenery we passed through was very beautiful. As this was the final day there was to be a march past, so when we had almost completed the distance we stopped to await the men, in order that we could march down into the town as the British Army team. It seemed as though half of Switzerland had turned out to cheer us on, people lined the streets clapping and shouting, bands were playing and people were thrusting flowers at us. We all felt terribly proud as we did the final march past, and collected our medals which were well worth having. Every single member of the British Army had completed the two day march which, we were told, was quite an achievement. So we all went out to celebrate that night, but some of us were feeling so shattered, we hardly had the strength to lift our glasses.

On Monday morning we were allowed to sleep in until 0600 hrs.—by now considered a big treat. We had breakfast and said goodbye to everyone at the Academy, and then boarded the coach for the long journey back to Rheindahlen. We all agreed, that we had a fantastic time, and we hope to be able to go again next year.

W.R.A.C. 12 R.S.M.E. REGIMENT R.E. Demonstration 1971

"Glamour saves Sappers Pride". This was the headline of a local Chatham Newspaper on June, 18th.

Four girls, L/Cpl. Dixon, L/Cpl. Bensted, Pte. Waters and Pte. Drewnicki, who are stationed at the R.S.M.E. displayed considerable skill and charm when they operated and drove the two largest earthmoving vehicles on display at the Bi-Annual R.E. Demonstration.

In front of an audience of high ranking officers from N.A.T.O. and other countries the girls, who had been trained by Captain Whitaker and his staff from the Plant, Roads and Airfields School, demonstrated the versatility of the machines with the assurance of experienced Plant Operators. The ease with which they handled the giant machines under appalling weather conditions drew praise from all who watched them, and caused the commentator to remark that it was a pity that W.R.A.C. operators are not found in operational units.

Two of the girls were interviewed by the B.B.C. for a five minute 'spot on' on the local Radio Station, Radio Medway. Due to these unusual activities the girls have now become restless and the question was asked 'why can't we drive these larger vehicles all the time, it's better than Staff Car work'. Our answer was 'that our Senior Officers would miss them and their charm!'.

242 SIGNAL SQUADRON (SCOTLAND) SUMMER CAMP

EMPLOYED with 242 Signal Squadron in Edinburgh are twenty members of the W.R.A.C. Throughout the year they are fully occupied with the operations of the switchboard and Communications Centre for Headquarters, Scotland. Consequently the annual camp with the remainder of the Squadron is looked forward to as a pleasant break from routine.

This year the site chosen was Applecross in Wester Ross in the Highlands of Scotland. Adjacent to Loch Carron and looking out on to the Inner Sound with the Isle of Rona, Scalpay and Raasay overshadowed by the peaks of the Cuillins of the Isle of Skye. Any tourist brochure would have been happy to advertise it as "the ideal place to get away from it all". The magic of Gaelic names like Meall Gorm and Beinn Damh left one in no doubt as to the national origins of the area and with outside world contact limited to daily visits to the local Post Office it was easy to picture oneself with native armies of bygone days preparing for the annual clash against the rival clan.

The Advance Party had proved their industry by having the camp set up in time for the invasion of the main body. They also demonstrated their humour by naming the male quarter 'Faith', 'Hope' and 'Charity' in direct opposition to the female apartments of 'Nunnery' and 'Willie's Choice'. Cooking arrangements were by courtesy of the Army Catering Corps and the high standard of cuisine was matched ably by the vastly increased appetites of the campers, who said they went to camp to lose weight?

Because of the need for continued operation of the Comcen and Exchange in Edinburgh, two separate parties attended Camp. The first was more fortunate with the weather and the girls took full advantage to fish and sail. The second Party being more active concentrated on hill walking and found the local terrain tested their powers of endurance.

Two W.R.A.C. members of 240 Sqn. were attached to assist with the extra work load as well as an ex-member of our Squadron who spent a week of her leave working at Camp.

Both groups involved themselves in the social activities of the Squadron and in addition to film shows a Fancy Dress and Bonfire Night proved popular. The men excelled in their choice of garb and W.O.I Norton resplendent as a clown compared favourably with Sgt. Holland. There is no truth in the rumour that Pte. Preston has been offered a job by a well known American Playboy.

Although the prime aim of the whole venture was to provide a break from routine, the military training angle was not forgotten and practical cooking in the field was covered by both Groups. An Assault craft was used to reach less accessible parts of the training area and this proved a useful mode of conveyance, till someone decided to drop the engine overboard. Fortunately the

Inner Sound is tidal.

The Fishermen undoubtedly lived up to their Faith, Hope and Charity maxim. The first two requisites were blatantly obvious as they left camp every morning armed with sufficient tackle to threaten the livelihood of all fishermen within the six mile limits. Charity showed itself on the last day when in deference to two weeks without so much as a bite a couple of senile flounders surrendered themselves to the mercies of the patient paladins who had toiled in vain to provide the Maid Marians at the camp with fresh fish for breakfast.

Nonetheless the camp was enjoyed and for several days afterwards the non-Signals residents in the Headquarters continued to be bemused by the healthy glow which radiated from so many of the campers—W.R.A.C. and Royal Signals alike.

8 C.P.C.C.D. R.E.

SINCE last taking up my pen, quite a lot has taken place within the unit. May saw us in the field either at Arsbeck with the Headquarters or at Grobbendonk with the Postal Unit. The activities varied from range classification to orienteering, night marches, helicopter training, N.B.C. and first aid. All returned sunburnt, fit and healthy but loath to go back to their offices. However, thoughts are now turned longingly to adventure training later this year and another escape from everyday mundane tasks.

All managed to return in time for Brigadier Heaney's visit on May 21st, although the last minute rush was more chaotic than usual. The Director's visit was all too short but she managed to meet all the women as well as visiting their places of work and the quarters.

We are now beginning to branch out into the sports field. Sgt. Phillips entered the BAOR Table Tennis Championships and put up an excellent show. Lt. Gwyn entered the BAOR Swimming Championships and kept the unit flag flying by winning both the freestyle and the backstroke. At the Army Championships she was second in the freestyle and has now been selected for the inter-service squad. Volleyball has become very popular and we are competing in a tournament against all the male units in Dusseldorf.

The Rheindahlen Allied Marches were held on 7th July and the six members of the unit, who entered, led by the O.C. and Sgt. Woolley succeeded in completing the 30Kms. course. Sore feet were certainly the order of the day but in retrospect all thoroughly enjoyed it and plan to enter again next year. Pte. Shaw went on to greater heights and completed the Nijmegen Marches in an integrated team from 13 Sig. Regt, 29 Coy W.R.A.C., 68 Coy R.C.T. and 8 C.P.C.C.D. R.E.

Since last April we have welcomed into the unit W.O.II Ramsden, Lcpl. Berridge, Lcpl. Stone and Lcpl. Foreman and said farewell to Cpl. Avellano, Cpl. Long, Pte. Hills, Pte. Hunter, Pte. Carlyle and Pte. Batchelor.

Marriages are still frequent but due to the phenomenal waiting list for quarters most women now serve on and we are rapidly becoming a married unit.

During the past few weeks we have had several members of the T. & A.V.R. with us for their annual camp. This has given us a chance to have many interesting chats and hear all about their organisation. We hope to be able to welcome them again next year, as it is felt their visit was most valuable to both sides.

W.R.A.C. College

LIFE at the W.R.A.C. College has been as busy as ever. Since our last article, two Commissioning Ceremonies have taken place, and the W.O. and N.C.O. Wing has been working almost non-stop with courses. The most recent being a T. & A.V.R. and U.O.T.C. Commissioning Course.

In service life people come and go, and naturally the College has been no exception to the rule. Officer Cadet Wing has seen the greatest change of all, and we now welcome Major Rooney as the Wing Commander and Capt. Erica Pattinson (nee Jones) and Capt Andy Peel as Instructors. We also welcome Capt. Jane Neeve (nee Dyer) to the W.O. and N.C.O. Wing.

In June, Headquarter Company participated in a walk in aid of the India/Pakistan Relief Fund. The walk took place around Virginia Water Lake, and despite a torrential downpour the walk and the beautiful surroundings were enjoyed by all. We were rewarded for our efforts by raising a total of £45 to be donated to this worthy cause.

On Wednesday 7 April 1971, at the Fifty Fourth Commissioning Ceremony, W.O. 2 (R.Q.M.S.) Amy Humphries was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by General Sir John Mogg, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Adjutant General.



General Sir John Mogg, with W.O.II A. Humphries

Photo by (O.S. 14 M.O.D.)

A visit was arranged for the Pinewood Women's Club, Camberley (which is affiliated to the National Association of Women's Clubs and the Surrey Association of Women's Clubs) to the W.R.A.C. College on Wednesday 15 September, 1971. 32 Members attended, some of whom had served in the A.T.S. during the War.

The evening started with the Club holding their own meeting and followed with the Commandant giving a quick resume of the History of the Corps and the W.R.-A.C. College. Major Rooney gave an interesting talk on Officer Cadet training and Major Clissitt on the work of W.O. & N.C.O. Wing.

This was followed by the film, 'Women's Royal Army Corps' and the Commandant showing slides of the College.

The evening closed with refreshments in the Officer's Mess.

The Club members thanked the Commandant for a most interesting and enjoyable evening and said how pleased they were to have been able to have an insight into the workings of the W.R.A.C. They were pleasantly surprised to find that life in the W.R.A.C. was not quite the 'hearty masculine' existence they had imagined!

Grooke's Tour

Major J. T. Crooke (Ret'd.)

READING in the May Lioness that the Director had been on tour to the Far East, Australia and New Zealand, and that Colonel Michell was intending to start her retirement with a world tour, setting off on a slow boat to Singapore, I thought perhaps some of your readers might like to know that is exactly what I have recently done.

It took me nine glorious months, and I looked up my ships in the ABC Shipping Guide—just like looking up train times—very exciting, particularly as I hadn't realised there was such a thing!

Sailing in a 9,000 ton cargo ship 'Loch Ryan', I went via the Azores, where we made an emergency call to land a seriously ill passenger, to Cristobal on the Atlantic side of the Panama Canal. Four of us made a quick tour of Panama City by taxi, seeing the squalor of the old and the splendour of the new. Then through the Panama Canal (a magnificent feat of engineering), part in daylight, part by night to the sound of croaking frogs, with the dark silent mass of jungle at the water's edge and pink tropical lightning adding it's magic. It takes eight hours to complete the passage out to the Pacific Ocean. Then we meandered up the West Coast of America to Los Angeles and onward—under the Golden Gate Bridge to the beautiful harbour of San Francisco, which we entered in brilliant sunshine—our luck was in as sometimes it is shrouded in mist.

I left my ship here and went out some 100 miles by Greyhound 'bus to the capital of California, Sacramento, to stay with friends. Whilst in California I climbed (by car, of course, on a many laned highway) to Lake Tahoe high in the mountains of the Sierra Nevada, a name which had entranced me as a schoolgirl. A temperature of 80 degrees in the valley; thick snow on the pines from 5,000 feet upward, breathtakingly beautiful.

Back in San Francisco, I saw the towering, swaying skyscrapers, rode on the street-cars, where you must have your correct fare of 20 cents ready—drivers have no time to give change—walked under the giant Redwood trees, which are as high as a 35 story building, in Mill Valley, visited the lovely National Park at Yosemite (pronounced YOSE-MENE), where a bear trotted across the road in front of the 'bus and raccoons fought and snarled in the hotel porch; slept in a chalet among the pines, with the great granite cliffs rising sheer from the valley which glowed with vivid colours of the fall, to the intense blue of the sky beyond their summits, and waterfalls cascaded down, with such charming and appropriate names as 'Bridal Veil'.

The people of California were hospitable and kind and very friendly. Most seem to work very fast, some doing both day and evening jobs, but the pace of living would be too fast for me!

One of the first things I had to do in America was to visit the dentist! An abscessed wisdom tooth had to be extracted. Imagine my surprise when the dentist, whom I hadn't yet seen, came into the surgery with the greeting 'Hi! Joan, so you have a tooth you want taken out.' I nearly fell out of the chair—but the task was accomplished with dexterity, completely painlessly, after mammoth injections, and he even rang up in the evening to see if I was O.K. His normal practice apparently.

A Dutch freighter, the 'Utrecht' took me across the Pacific, in not very kind weather to Hong Kong (meaning Fragrant Harbour), where we had only four hours ashore but managed to see quite a bit of this fabulous city and I had the pleasure of meeting an English friend for coffee in the Hong Kong Hilton. Oh the joy of hearing an English voice after a month at sea with Americans, Chinese, Dutch and Indonesians for company!

We left Hong Kong after nightfall, and the harbour, beautiful by day, is entrancing by night; thousands of lights of varied colours reminding one of opals, set in the heavy darkness of the East.

We sailed on to the little known and primitive port of Bitung, which is tucked away among the volcanic and lush jungle covered mountains of North Celebes in Indonesia. An unforgettable experience—the tiny, fragile native boats out at first light to barter bananas and pineapples for clothes, bottles, soap and matches. An American passenger was offered a parrot for his shirt! I got a clutch of fourteen bananas for a tablet of soap! The fine physique of the men, the happiness everywhere and the gentle courtesy and natural dignity of these people

were remarkable. The poor little Church with broken floor and artificial flowers in Coca-Cola tins on the altar, the tiny children, dressed in white, walking in procession to make their first Holy Communion, the celebration afterwards, to which we were invited (three Americans and myself and the Dutch Ship's Nurse) and placed in seats of honour; the various delicacies we were given to eat, including little sticky cakes in cups made out of banana leaves; the visit to an Indonesian home where the daughter spoke excellent English; the return to the ship on an open truck and being caught in the monsoon downpour; the terrifying drive, later, to Menado in a jeep-taxi with a native driver who drove with one foot on the accelerator and his hand on the horn—will always be remembered.

On, via Sandakan in Malaysia, where we unloaded four tractors, to Singapore, where Brigadier Warren, whose guest I was to be, sat out in a launch in the hot sunshine until he was allowed to come aboard to collect me. I stayed at the lovely home of Brigadier and Mrs. Warren, who made me very welcome and happy, and Major Anne Clissitt entertained me royally and had laid on a most interesting and gay week's programme for me. I also had the pleasure of being entertained by Colonel Nolan and met other friends I had known in England. I literally bumped into Major Jean Macdowall, one-time Director of Music and whose married name escapes me, in a Chinese Emporium on a Sunday afternoon shopping spree. She was not a little surprised to see me! My week in Singapore was all too short, but I enjoyed every minute of it, and particularly the shopping!

The 'Centaur', a passenger ship then conveyed me to Australia, via Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean, where Father Christmas, in all his finery, came out to the ship by launch to collect the mail and, to the delight of all the children aboard, myself included, wished us all a Merry Christmas.

The first city I saw in Australia was the gentle, charming and very clean city of Perth on the Swan River. Then across the Nullabor (treeless) Plain in a super train, where my roomette contained an easy chair, which converted to a bunk for sleeping, a cabinet fitted up with washbasin and mirror and even my very own loo! All neatly designed and compact, iced drinking water available and piped music could be switched on if required, to enliven the journey, which to Adelaide, my destination, took two days. An excellent dining car and several lounges, one containing a piano. I was most interested to get a glimpse, through glasses, of the Woomera Rocket Range. Particularly interesting to me as, when I commanded No. 3 Independent Company in 1960/61 at Manorbier, I sent out the first batch of Radar Operators, who converted to Experimental Assistants (Gunnery) to cover the trials on this range, although they were actually based nearer Adelaide. Here my friends met me and drove me to the comparatively new town of Elizabeth Downs, where began a splendid stay in Australia. A vast and vibrant

continent where all I saw intrigued me and I was very conscious of the influence of America. I never ceased to wonder at the spaciousness, the roads going straight for many miles, bereft of traffic, the bright blue and clear expanse of sky (although it did rain sometimes!). I spent Christmas here with Captain (ex-Signals) Bob Taylor and his wife Kath (nee Byrne—Captain attached Signals) and their six lovely children. It seemed odd to have tinsel and a tree and the traditional Christmas fare in a temperature of 90 odd degrees!

Time and space do not permit me to tell everything in detail, but during my stay I camped for the first time and even slept one night in the bush. I saw the bright green and reds of the parrots as they flashed past in the sunshine, the pink and grey of the galahs, heard the laugh of the kookaboro and the strange sound, like that of a cracked bell, of the bell birds; heard the 'tom-tom' rumble of the emu and watched the kangaroos. From Adelaide to Sydney by overnight train to stay with relatives who took me to the capital city of Canberra situated in stately beauty among the hills and I visited the famous War Memorial. I looked down at Sydney Harbour and the city from the skyscrapers revolving restaurant; visited the famous Blue Mountains; went to my first open-air cinema.

A day in Melbourne and the privilege of lunch at Government House at the kind invitation of the Governor Major General Sir Rohan Delacombe, on whose staff I once served as a very junior officer, and Lady Delacombe, and was shewn all the preparations made for the forthcoming visit of H.M. The Queen.

The ferry took me across to Tasmania, a charming island, where I was made very welcome at the home of Margaret Houston (nee Captain Margaret Moore) and relaxed in her lovely garden overlooking the River Tamar. She is very happily settled with her husband, David, and two small and delightful daughters. She showed me a lot of the countryside round her home in the north of the island. By train then south to Hobart from where I was able to visit the penal settlement of Port Arthur and the little village of Richmond where the oldest Catholic Church in Australia is situated, before boarding another cargo boat for Auckland, New Zealand. She was to have sailed to Bluff in the south of South Island, but, as is the way of women, changed her mind and proceeded to Auckland. However, all was well and I was given great hospitality by Colonel and Mrs. Henry Hoare. Staying in their pretty house in the gardens of Government House in Wellington, I had the pleasure and privilege of a close view of H.M. The Queen leaving for and returning from her many engagements on the Royal Tour.

New Zealand is a most beautiful country and the character of the North Island so different from the fiord-like scenery of the South Island. Like Brigadier Heaney I too was persuaded to fly among the peaks in the Mount Cook area and land on a glacier—an exhilarating experience. The people of New Zealand are charming and very

pro-England and I loved the Maori names and traditions. My tour of both islands, although fitted into a month, was extensive.

I flew back to Australia and arrived, quite deaf, on a brilliant morning. Long shall I remember looking down on the 'toy' bridge, seeing the bright sand along the coastline and the white dots on the water 'glowing' into yachts as we lost height. Sydney is now as familiar a city to me as London. I crossed the famous bridge several times by car and train, flew over it and sailed under it.

From Sydney I went by train up to tropical Queensland, got caught up in a rail strike at Brisbane—another splendid city where I went by river launch to a Koala bear reserve and now have a photograph of myself clutching one of these delightful little animals. My journey to Rockhampton, had to be completed by coach. A day's tedious journey ending at an outlandish spot by a filling station at midnight, but my generous and thoughtful friend was there to meet me. I spent a memorable week in Rockie (The Australians abbreviate every word they possibly can) and then moved up to Mackay where I visited a sugar cane farm, a rain forest, getting covered in leeches, flew out to one of the Barrier Reef islands, went by launch on a choppy sea through the Whit Sunday Passage to the Underwater Observatory at Hook Island, to see shoals of tropical fish and gaze at coral through a glass-bottomed boat. I saw also the havoc caused by the recent hurricane, the stripped and mutilated pine trees.

Returned by 'plane and train to Sydney and on to Elizabeth Downs, where I had two more weeks with my friends before embarking on the 'Port Melbourne' and sailing across the lonely and treacherous Australian Bight to home, via Capetown and Hamburg to Hull.

I haven't counted the miles, but they must be many thousand. It was the most wonderful experience although it now seems really rather like a dream, but I shall always remember the great hospitality I received everywhere, and the immense kindness of my relatives and many friends, without whom I could not, nor would not, have attempted such a tour.

Visit to Vietnam 12-14 July 1971

By

Major D. A. Crofton

ONE of my most interesting trips as D.A.D.W.R.A.C. FARELF took me to Siagon, Vietnam, where Sgt. Muriel Hetherington is the P.A. to the Defence Attache. Whilst I was in Vietnam the Assistant Military Attache laid on a most interesting series of visits for me.

I left my quarter at 6 a.m. on 12 July 1971 for Paya Lebar Airport, Singapore, to catch the Air Vietnam plane for Saigon. We ran into bad weather and low cloud south of Saigon, but when we got below the cloud ceiling we could see miles and miles of rice padi in the Mekong Delta. It was the rice planting season and the padi was

flooded and planting was in progress. The customs formalities in Saigon Airport were fantastic. Every piece of luggage was minutely searched due to a 'drug drive'. I was carrying a bottle of pickled onions for W.O.2 Mary Woolford in Bangkok where I was going after Saigon, and these were viewed with grave suspicion! Saigon Airport is now reputed to be one of the busiest in the world as it is both a military and a civil airport; planes and helicopters are taking off and landing the whole time.

After meeting the Defence Attache and his wife, Col. and Mrs. John Waddy, and the Ambassador, Mr. John Moreton, I had a long chat with Sgt. Hetherington, W.R.A.C., and we then returned to the D.A.'s residence, where I was staying, for a luncheon party with all the military staff—the Chief Clerk and his wife, the Int. Corps Sgt. and his wife, the Assistant Military Attache and his wife and Sgt. Hetherington. This was a delightful occasion. In the evening Col and Mrs. Waddy took me out to dinner at a typical Vietnamese restaurant, which was quite an experience! Saigon is filthy, with refuse thrown everywhere, and great poverty and squalor very evident. This has apparently been caused by the tremendous influx of people from the North of the country and one has to remind oneself that the country has been at war for 25 years. The cars and lorries are all old and decrepit., (with the exception of military vehicles), and the traffic is further snarled up by thousands of Honda mopeds which whiz in and out of the traffic lanes, over red lights etc., all burning the most incredible fuel, which has utterly polluted the atmosphere. The noise and smell are indescribable. The roads are bad but still one can see traces of what the old French Saigon must have been like, with its treelined boulevards—The Paris of the East. They are unfortunately cutting down the trees,—rumour has it that cans that had contained defoliants had been used for the petrol and oil burned in the mopeds, and the fuel fumes have polluted the trees. This may only be a myth!

On Tuesday morning 13th July, the A.M.A., Maj. Denyer, R.A., and I started off early on our visits to the Women's Armed Forces Vietnam. We went first to the W.A.F.C. Training Centre, where we were met by Lt. Col. Thai Ho Ve, the Commandant, Lt. Col. J. E. Eslick W.A.C., Senior American Adviser to W.A.F.C. and had a long discussion about our respective Corps, training, uniforms, conditions of service etc. over numerous cups of Jasmine tea. The W.A.F.C. uniform is very attractive, short sleeved pale blue dacron and cotton suits, (modelled on the W.A.C. Summer uniform), black court shoes, and a delicious little blue side cap (air hostess type). Vietnamese women are mostly small, neat and very attractive and look charming in their uniform. For training the girls wear olive green combat kit. It was interesting to find that we had so many similarities in our terms of service problems, dress etc. The girls are all volunteers and their term of service is 4 years capable of extension. They may not marry for the first year of service; after that they can marry, and be posted to work with their

husbands, except in combat zones. If they become pregnant, they are allowed to wear civilian clothes after the fifth month and are given two months maternity leave in due course.

We toured the Training Centre. There are normally two classes (platoons) of recruits, and their training is much like our basic training. The recruits sleep on iron double bunks in spartan accommodation. We visited the kitchen—a W.R.A.C. Messing Officers' nightmare!! It was like a black witch's cave, with bubbling cauldrons of rice and oriental dishes. In the Q.M. Store we saw items of uniform, including a very pleasant black issue handbag, and bales of the blue material from which the unit tailor makes W.A.F.C. uniforms. Throughout the visit, and indeed all the visits I made in Saigon, I was struck by the keenness and enthusiasm of the W.A.F.C. and their great charm of manner. Also throughout the tour we were shadowed by Vietnamese P.R. photographers—very unnerving.

After their basic training, the girls go on to advanced training, (what we call trade training), and do this with the men, either in a training school or on the job. They do not live in any more, but live in their own homes. The Director W.A.F.C., who I met later in the day, wants to get more residential accommodation for them.

After the W.A.F.C. Training Centre, I went to a family luncheon party with the Ambassador and Mrs. Moreton. Mrs. Morton was in the A.T.S. during the war—a great point of contact! After luncheon, I was taken to the Joint General Staff H.Q. to meet Colonel Tran Cam Huong, Director W.A.F.C. She is the most delightful person, a widow with four children, who was actually the founder of her Corps. She gave me a commemorative plaque and a short history of the W.A.F.C. which are both now in the W.R.A.C. Museum at Guildford. We then went off under the care of Lieutenant Lam-My-The to visit the Computer and Logistic Data Processing Centres and the Personnel Records Centre, in which W.A.F.C. personnel are employed alongside the men. The I.B.M. machines are all the very latest type and the W.A.F.C. operators wear the most delightful, smart white overalls, (which gave me an idea for our ever-present overall problem!!).

From there we went to the Navy W.A.F.C. Sub Detachment in the Naval Base. (The W.A.F.C. provide women for all three services,—four, if you include Marines). At this Sub Detachment there is, for the first time, living accommodation for a W.A.F.C. working unit. We had a delightful tea party there. The A.M.A. by this time was getting used to being the only man in the party, apart from the ever present photographers! He speaks fluent French, which was most useful in some places.

On Wednesday, 14th July, the A.M.A. and I visited the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion Aerial Reconnaissance Support, which is the only battalion in the U.S. Army with a woman Adjutant, Captain Elaine Jones W.A.C.

We then went on to H.Q. M.A.C.V., (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, not the Scottish name for an American Camp, as I has supposed!!). There Lt. Col. Eslick W.A.C., who had been instrumental in arranging the programme on the previous day, met us and introduced us to Col. Metzger, U.S. Army, who gave us a quick rundown on the U.S. Military Assistance programme. Lt. Col. Eslick then took us along to meet Colonel Branch W.A.C., one of the official historians of the Vietnam war,—a most interesting and unusual job.

The W.A.C. wear combat kit if they are out and about, —largely, as they say, to keep themselves clean. It was the monsoon season and the mud in some of the camps was ankle deep. In offices they wear their pale green summer uniform. They get the same pay as the men, and those serving in Vietnam also get combat pay. No 'X' factor for them!

I caught the afternoon Thai International plane to Bangkok after what had been a most fascinating visit, and one I shall long remember. I have now sent off commemorative Corps plaques to the Director W.A.F.C., Commandant W.A.F.C. Training Centre and Lt. Col. Eslick, W.A.C.

Free Fall

By

Lance-Corporal Jackie Smith
3 Squadron 10th Signal Regiment

I FIRST experienced the thrill of free-fall parachuting in March this year when I attended a mini course at the A.P.A. Centre, Netheravon. After four days training 15 boys and three other girls were ready to make our first descent from a 'Rapide' aeroplane. We had already packed our chutes, done aircraft drills and emergency procedures. All we were waiting for was some good weather.

On the day before we were due to leave, the winds dropped and the chief instructor C. S. M. Stevenson told everyone to get 'kitted up' as we would be jumping shortly. Boy, did some of those faces go white! I was on the first lift along with Dianne Burns, five boys and a jumpmaster. I was No. 2 to go out.

The plane circled then the jumpmaster told the pilot to cut the engines, pointed to the wing and the first one to go out. He climbed onto the wing, very slowly, as though he didn't want to go, but then he got the dig in the ribs from the jumpmaster and he was gone. I thought, 'Well, here goes.' I climbed onto the wing, got my position and I felt a tremendous punch in my ribs. This was the jumpmaster's indication to let me know I had to jump off. I can't explain how I felt, because you have to experience free-fall to know what it's like. I completed the mini course then, in June, went on a longer course, which lasted three weeks.

There were about 43 people on the course but only about 12 completed it. Immediately after this course I was entered for the novices accuracy championships.



L/Cpl. Jackie Smith

Photo by Cassidy and Leigh, Guildford.

I met various people from other teams and all of them were anxious to see me do well. We jumped from a Wessex helicopter and the marks counted from how near you land to the disc which lies in the middle of 'the pit' (the target). I got really close and thought it was beginner's luck, then got even closer the next time.

Weather conditions stopped the competition so the score was taken from how many jumps we had completed. I was most surprised when I found out I was in the lead. General Mogg presented the prizes and I was awarded a huge silver cup and a tankard. I owe everything I learned, to the instructors at Netheravon and without their patience and wit, would not have been able to enjoy free-fall the way I do.

Editors Note:- The Director has agreed to L/Cpl. Smith being attached to the Red Devils.

"Annual Training in Camp"

By

2/Lt. D. M. Henderson, G.S.U.O.T.C.

THE wording of the official notice sounds rather formidable and conjures up tents and the Girl Guide image, but for the W.R.A.C. of the Officer's Training Corps this is far from the truth.

When Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer's Training Corps trained at Monmouth fifteen girls made up the W.R.A.C. section, being Doctors, Lawyers and students of History, Science and Languages etc., all of which for the fortnight became Officer Cadets, joining in the training with a vengeance.

There is so much talked of long haired, dirty students that many people find it difficult to accept the University Cadet, or to take them seriously, but with the interesting, varied and challenging programme set before us the girls proved their versatility and came through with flying colours.

Perhaps most rewarding of all was the Orienteering Exercise set in the Brecon Beacon area where some of us "Manned" the radio checkpoints and others completed the course taking in the summits of Pen y Fan and Corn Du. Our two newly graduated Doctors, Officer Cadets Sharp and Ryrie had only one minor "casualty", and it says something for the determination and fitness of the girls that they all finished the course of seven miles in good order to thoroughly enjoy the Mess Dinner organised for that evening.

With amongst other things, two nights bivvying in the field, a visit to the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington and assisting in a bridging exercise at Monmouth, there is no doubt that this was one of the Corps most active and interesting camps and the W.R.A.C. Cadets under

S.U.O. Wendy Ormond and J.U.O. Alison Trehern made sure that there is a place for the student, and a very feminine one at that, in the Messes of the University O.T.C's.

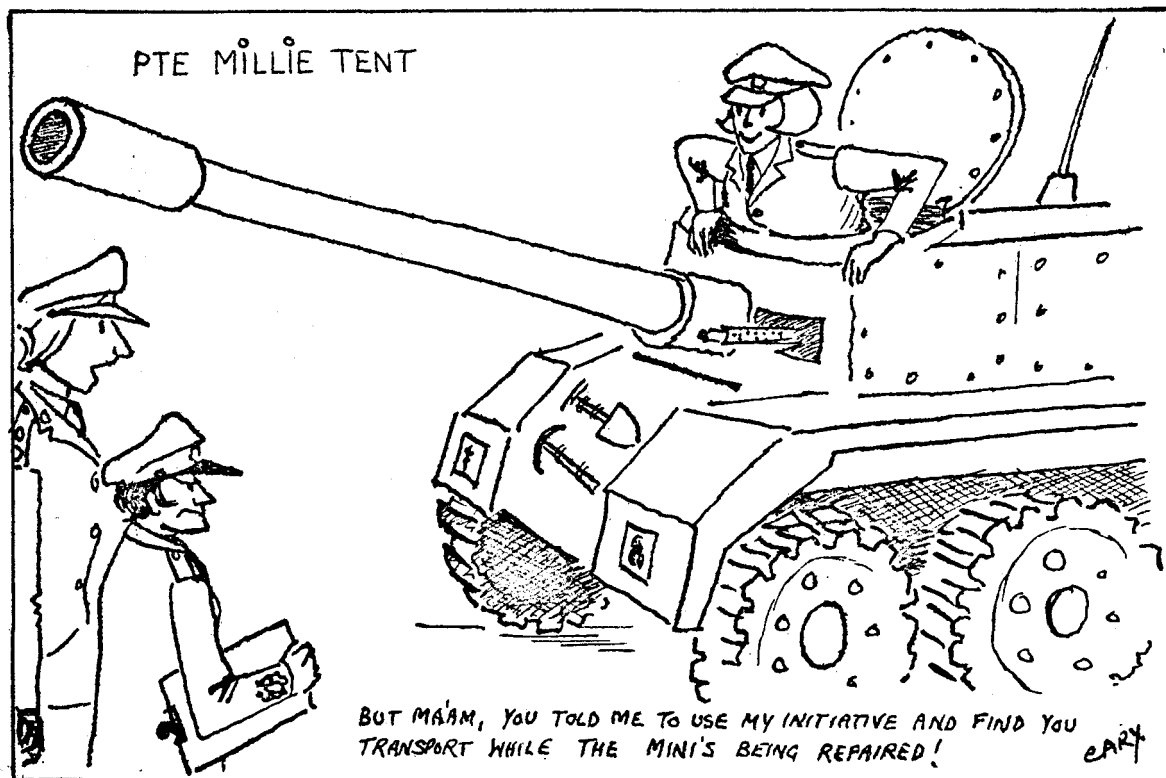
WRAC Provost on Exercise

Capt. P. A. Gray, W.R.A.C.

THE morning of Tuesday 24th August 1971 saw six W.R.A.C. members of the London District Provost Company (plus Pte. Fagg, chef d'extraordinaire of the W.R.A.C. Detachment, Hounslow) plodding their weary way up the M1 in two landrovers and a mini-bus with the remainder of the contingent also heading northwards, enjoying the luxury of British Rail. Their destination? The Lake District National Park. Their purpose. Adventure Training!

For ten days the Army Hut at Ambleside was treated to a different kind of inhabitant from usual, and the neighbours to a different array of washing on the line, as the sign on the door 'S.A.S. W.R.A.C. H.Q.' proudly announced its new arrivals.

'Exercise Tramp; the programme said, was a straightforward and gentle exercise in the area of Grasmere and Rydal Water. The sweltering and breathless sun, how-



ever, turned those taking part in the 'gentle exercise' into wilting, exhausted wrecks, with barely the energy to fight for the solitary shower that evening. Little did our heroines know that this was the last they were to see of the sun for a very long time!

Next on the programme was a day's canoeing on Ullswater with the assistance of 8 Signal Regiment, which provided the canoes and two instructors. Despite pleas for mercy, all were thrown in at the deep-end—literally, but luckily the only casualty was Lcpl Jan Pini who, insisting on practising her capsize in two inches of water, banged her head on the bottom collecting a mouthful of weeds.

The 3, 118 steep rough, blistering feet (no pun intended) of Hevellyn were bravely conquered on the third day. After slithering down from Dollywagon Pike accompanied by cries of encouragement through the loudhailer from Sgts Devonshire and Hill, the victory was celebrated by the side of Grisedale Tarn with a brew up of mock turtle soup (compo style) and Irish stew.

The best part of Saturday was spent in blissful oblivion, curled up on those beautiful bunks back at Ambleside; medical orderly Lcpl Marie Telfer flitting from bedside to bedside, ministering to blisters, bruises and aching muscles with undying devotion to duty.

Unfortunately the temperamental weather from which the Lake District seems to suffer, meant that the second day's canoeing had to be abandoned completely. Nothing daunted, our merry band, on their way back from Ullswater, stopped in Patterdale to attend morning service in St. Patrick's Church and if the vicar did notice the rather inappropriate garb, he was too polite to comment.

On 'Exercise Quest', three groups were sent out to different areas to carry out surveys of the geography, both physical and human, with a presentation of their findings in the afternoon. Cpl. Joyce Gillison and her group explored the weaving establishments and perfumery of Grasmere, while Lcpl Eve Parrish's group set off to interview the oldest inhabitant of Skelwith Bridge, and Lcpl Babs Lindon's group discovered, much to their disgust, that very little grew on the land around Trout-back.

'Exercise Boomerang' lived up to its name rather more rapidly than expected. After an interesting (delicacy forbids a more picturesque adjective) day's walk, through rain, wind, mist and innumerable bogs, our noble S.A.S. W.R.A.Cs. finally arrived at their campsite. Gloom and despondency struck every heart, as they gazed at the bleak, windswept field, and the tiny, forlorn bivouacs which were to provide their shelter for the night. Just in the nick of time, however, came a message from London—girls were needed for duty in Edinburgh—so camp was hastily broken, and a not too disappointed crew made their way back to Ambleside.

On the remaining days, the girls who were left completed a study of Ambleside, did some last-minute souvenir shopping, and set off, to make the Hut spotless for

its next inhabitants.

In the way of evening entertainment, Ambleside offers rather less than the West End. However, the tiny cinema was quickly discovered, and heart-rending sobs echoed through the hall, as Lcpl Karen Smith's tears dripped into her sherbet dab! Homemade entertainment was enjoyed in the form of the antics of 'Our Nellie' (Lcpl Telfer) and 'Our Eli' (Lcpl Pini), with apologies to Hylda Baker, and Lcpl Terry Pleshkins' immaculate imitation of Charlie Chaplin. The last evening was celebrated in grand style at the Kirkstone Inn, where Ma'am was taken out 'on the grape'.

Perhaps the inhabitants of Ambleside, not to mention the W.R.A.C. members of London District Provost Company, need at least another year to recover before the next 'invasion'.

Association News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, by kind permission of Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon, C.B.E., D.L., on Saturday, 18th March, 1972, at 3 p.m.

BRANCH SECRETARIES MEETING

THE Secretaries Meeting will be held at 11.30 a.m. in the Canteen of 'E' Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, by kind permission of Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon C.B.E., D.L.

Members of Council look forward to meeting all Branch Secretaries for lunch as their guests. Please notify the General Secretary by 28th February, 1972 if you are able to attend.

GRAND REUNION

THE Grand Reunion will be held in the Carisbrooke Hall, The Victory Club, Seymour Street, London, W.2. on Saturday, 18th March, 1972 from 7-10 p.m. Tickets (Members £1.20p, non-members £1.40p, including refreshments) may be obtained from the General secretary, W.R.A.C. Association Block 'E', Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3. 4 RX

Applications for tickets should be submitted between 1st January, 1972 and 4th March, 1972 only. They will be dealt with in strict rotation, NO tickets will be available at the door.

Please enclose stamped addressed envelope with application.

Q.M.A.A.C. REUNION

THE Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion will be held in the O.C.A. Room, The Victory Club, Seymour Street, London, W.2. on Friday, 17th March, 1972 from 3-6 p.m. Tickets

to include afternoon tea, 62p each. Applications may be submitted between 15th January, 1972 and 4th March, 1972 only. *NO* tickets will be available for sale at the door. Please apply to the General Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association, Address as above, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope. *Notice*—A vote will be taken at the Q.M.A.A.C. Re-Union to decide whether it should continue or not.

CHURCH SERVICE

BY kind permission of the Governor, General Sir Charles Jones, G.C.B., C.B.E., M.C., members of the Association may attend morning service in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Sunday 19th March, 1972.

ACCOMMODATION

IN addition to those who are already entitled to stay at the Victory Club the Secretary has kindly made bedroom accommodation available to a further 20 of our members who are attending the Grand Reunion, at a cost of £1.25p per head. This covers accommodation and temporary membership fee, but is exclusive of the charge for breakfast.

Members of the Victory Club, will, of course, make their own arrangements but others, who wish to avail themselves of this special offer, should apply through the General Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association when applying for the Reunion tickets and enclosing the £1.25p.

GREEN SHIELD STAMPS

THE General Secretary wishes to thank all members who have continued to send their Green Shield Stamps, some arriving at the Headquarters without the name of the donor being enclosed. Please continue to send more so that we can turn them into really good prizes for the Draw at the Grand Reunion.

Here and There

THANKS to the co-operation of members we have been able to trace Miss Cynthia de Saram and have also had an interesting letter from Colonel H. V. Ewbank who actually presented the ceremonial sword. He writes:-

"Colonel Morgan sent me a cutting from the W.R.A.C. Magazine about a Japanese Sword presented by me to Senior Commander Cynthia de Saram A.T.S.(C).

In 1944 I was C.O. of Ceylon Army Signals, and later S.C.O. Ceylon, in Colombo. There was an A.T.S. Coy in Colombo whose C.O. was the wife of a local business man, She was much admired for her personality and efficiency and we got her the M.B.E.

The O.C. of the A.T.S. Unit was S. Comd. C. de Saram. I knew both of these ladies well as most of the A.T.S. Unit was employed on Signal duties in conjunction with Ceylon Army Signals. Our commitments included communications for Lord Louis Mountbatten's Headquarters at Kandy when he was Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia.

Immediately after the Japanese surrender I was posted to Singapore and 'liberated' (was given) a number of captured Japanese swords. I had small silver presentation plates mounted on several of these and sent them to military friends, including S. Comd. de Saram. Her sword is the one referred to.....

My best wishes to all ranks now serving with the W.R.A.C. You do, and always have done, a very fine job".

We congratulate Miss V. K. Stead, Vice Chairman of Northern Area, on the honour of being appointed Deputy Lieutenant for the West Riding of Yorkshire. The announcement was made just too late to be mentioned in the May issue.

Mrs. J. J. Wells, the Secretary of Canterbury Branch, tells us that her Father-in-law's three sisters all joined the W.A.A.C. in 1917. They were Alice, Emily and Lily Wells. Lily went to France, Alice was at Uckfield and later at Shorncliffe, and wonders if anyone knew them. She sends The Lioness to Alice as all the family, except her Father-in-law, emigrated to Australia.

Miss Joan Underwood one of our members tells us that:-

A magnum of champagne and other gifts were donated by the W.R.A.C., Troop, 12 Driver Training Regt., Buller Barracks, Aldershot, who ran a stall for Help the Aged, a charity run by Voluntary and Christian Service, at the barracks' AT HOME on Saturday 17th July, raising over £32.

A sunny afternoon and colourful stall attracted many visitors to a programme of free fall parachuting, bands and contests, and the charity stall was a popular venue between displays and was manned by Ptes. Elizabeth Jack, Sandra Bell, Christine Wolf, Joy Loder, Glenis Sells and Elizabeth Casson. The team was organised by Capt. J. Perry assisted by 2nd Lt. C. Howe and are now considering the formation of a permanent group to aid the charity and support its sheltered flatlet scheme in Aldershot.

The National Army Museum's splendid new building, next to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, will be opened by Her Majesty the Queen at a private ceremony on 11 Nov. 1971. It will then be open to the public every day, except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday, from 10 a.m.-5.30 p.m. (Sundays 2 p.m.- 5.30 a.m.) Admission will be free until the end of 1971. Charges may be introduced in Jan. 72 to conform with the recent White Paper.

Where are they now

Mrs. Margaret Webb (nee Templeton) who was a Driving Instructor at Gresford, Edinburgh and Inverness would like to hear from old friends.

Miss A. D. Burrows wishes to send her very good wishes to members who served with her at the Connaught Club, Hastings, Folkestone and Le Touquet.

Any member who has information regarding the whereabouts of the following is asked to get in touch with Mrs. M. J. Hay, 3, Angus Avenue, Prestwick, Ayrshire, who has the names and addresses of the enquirers.

Capt. Darrelly and **Miss Percival Brown** who served with 476 (M) H.A.A. Bty in Coventry, **Cpl. Jess** who served at Inverness, **Isobel Frases** of Edinburgh, who served at Burrow Head, **Cathy McDonald** (nee Whyte) of Dundee.

Holidays can bring their problems as one of our members **Mrs. Giruck** recently found out during a journey to the South of France. Her husband accidentally pulled the communication cord and brought the express train screeching to a halt. Language problems presented difficulties but eventually both sides got the message. Mr. Giruck's pull on the cord cost him 40 francs.

Branch News

BRADFORD. The highlight of this year's activities was the visit to Guildford for W.R.A.C. Corps Day. A coach party of Bradford and Leeds members and friends travelled down fully intended 'to see everything' and they were not disappointed. They appreciated all the efforts which had been made by the staff to make this successful. Those who had served at Guildford were truly amazed at the changes and think the present Corps are very fortunate.

They enjoyed seeing the Museum and realised they belong to a great tradition. Our late President Miss Gummersall always took a great interest in this. They enjoyed all the excitement of the Display Teams etc., and the Amusement Area, and many prizes were won.

The driver of the coach being the winner of several Bottles of Spirits'. Because of the cold weather they did not stay to the Drumhead Service but unfortunately the coach burst a tyre on the return journey and they had to stand out in the cold on the motorway until this was changed, making the return home rather late.

A party enjoyed a visit to a local Carpet Factory arranged by Vi Holdsworth in June.

We closed in July and in August Vi and Nora Holdsworth showed us holiday slides and there were some surprise ones of the White Helmets Motor Cycle Display Team and the Police Pegging Tent taken at Guildford. These were most appreciated.

In September we hoped to have our Q.M.A.A.C. members as Guests of Honour but due to incapacity etc., we were only able to entertain our President Mrs.

Gertie Armitage, but she fully appreciated our thoughts.

Mrs. Edna Wilson our Standard Bearer and a very active social member has moved out of the district to Darlington.

This being the Golden Jubilee Year of the Royal British Legion members of our Branch have received the following awards:—Mrs. Dorothy O'Neil has been made a life member for her services to Keighley Women's Legion Section, and Misses B. Henegan, E. M. Gill, M. Brett and M. Mitchell have been awarded Poppy Day Certificates.

Miss M. Mitchell is also Chairman of Bradford Central Branch, but unfortunately is at present in Hospital and to her we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Madge, Mary and Dorothy also attended the Legion Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and Madge was thrilled to be singled out for a chat with H.M. The Queen Mother.

We welcome as new members Miss J. Binns, Mrs. B. Cummins and Mrs. Spiby.

Our best wishes to May Coe who is recovering from a serious operation and to Mrs. Lumb, Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Slack our Q.M.A.A.C. members who are not enjoying very good health.

CHELTENHAM. The Annual Meeting was held in March with Miss E. G. Marshall President, in the Chair. We were delighted to welcome Col. M. S. F. Millington as our Guest and Speaker this year—her talk on the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund brought home to Members the great need that exists among ex-service women for the help given by this Fund and how very necessary it is that we give it our whole hearted support. After a satisfactory meeting members had refreshments and then listened with great interest to a talk on Ceramics and antique China by Miss Pitt.

Mrs. A. Cresswell attended the W.R.A.C. Association Annual General Meeting in London as Branch Representative and brought back a report to the May meeting which was held at Bredons Norton by the kind invitation of Miss N. Sheward and Miss M. Rock. It was a really lovely evening—their clever gardening was well demonstrated by lots of colour and interest for us to see. After refreshments in the house a short meeting was held. It was reported that the usual donation had been sent to the Benevolent Fund, also a parcel of woollies knitted by Miss Ayshford Sandford and Mrs. Rea, and that 58 books of tickets for the Premium Bond Draw had been sold. After the business of the Meeting was over Mrs. Vera Miles gave a most interesting talk on the making of silver both antique and modern and jewelry. Mrs. Miles is herself a trained silversmith which made it doubly interesting.

On Sunday July 4th Members were invited to Quennington by Miss I. Pelly who had made arrangements for them to see several of the lovely gardens in the pretty Cotswold village and to have tea at her house. In spite of thunderstorms everywhere else hardly a drop of rain fell

on Quennington and everyone had a most enjoyable afternoon and were so very grateful to Miss Pelly for taking so much trouble on their behalf.

The Branch took a block of seats again this year for the Royal British Legion Searchlight Tattoo held in Cheltenham. After meeting for supper at the Legion Club by the kind invitation of the Club Committee the party of about 35 went on to the Tattoo. Again the weather was kind and a nice warm evening was spent watching a first class display of Free Fall Parachuters, Helicopters, R.A.F. Police Dogs, Massed Bands of the Coldstream Guards, H.M. Royal Marines C. in C. Western Fleet. The King's Own Royal Border Regiment and the 11th Royal Hussars, conducted by Major Trevor L. Sharp, M.B.E., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M. Director of Music Coldstream Guards who takes such a personal interest each year in this Tattoo.

GLASGOW. In January we had an Inter Services Social Evening when a travel firm showed a holiday film of Spain and a Cruise and in February a W.R.A.C. film and an interesting talk on life in the W.R.A.C. today. One very sharp contrast was the question of pay compared with what we got on War Service, even allowing for devaluation. Our Annual General Meeting was held in March.

In April we held a Whist Drive at our new meeting place, a newly built Church Centre in Bath Street, and we are delighted with the modern and attractive facilities. In May we had a most enjoyable evening of music and songs from a talented group of singers, kindly arranged by Miss Cook, one of our members. In June we had an 'At Home'.

We all enjoyed the wonderful Reunion at Ayr on the 3rd. April and on Saturday, 11th September, we met at the Country Club for a meal and then a visit to the theatre.

HARROGATE. Since last bursting into print a year ago we seem to have had quite a varied and action-packed programme of events which have been loyally supported by members.

In July 1970 we arranged a meal at the Bay Horse in Green Hammerton (halfway between York and Harrogate) with the object of joining forces with members living in York who could not easily attend meetings. This proved to be a most enjoyable evening and was a good opportunity for us to get to know each other.

At the August meeting a member who had seen the Passion Play at Oberammergau gave a talk on the play and its history and showed the beautiful official colour slides depicting characters and scenes. In September, being on 'home ground', we attended the Northern Area Reunion in Harrogate and found ourselves well occupied in collecting tickets and helping generally with sundry admin. duties, and at our meeting at the end of the month P. W. Sgt. Firth of the West Yorkshire Constabulary gave an interesting talk on her experiences as a Policewoman.

Our A.G.M. was held in October and on 19th November members and friends congregated at the home of Mrs. Collier for a Coffee Party at which a useful sum was raised for the Benevolent Fund and a good time apparently had by all. At the November meeting Mr. Peter Buck, a local butcher, came and gave us an illuminating demonstration on meat. Unfortunately Mr. Buck was not able to bring the succulent samples we had hoped for but as a result of his instruction our families are now no doubt more efficiently and economically fed! On 16th December we held our Christmas Dinner at Knox Manor, Summerbridge, where a sumptuous meal was devoured with such relish that we are staging a repeat visit this year.

The 1971 programme opened in January with a talk by Captain Keith Bertenshaw of the Church Army on his experiences as a Youth Leader. Captain Bertenshaw runs a large and flourishing youth centre in Harrogate and everyone was most interested in his racy description of how it 'ticked' and of the problems involving young people today. Yorkshire weather being what it is in February, we had a general get-together and meeting that month to catch up on the news and make plans for the future. In March Station Officer Pasque of Harrogate Fire Brigade came to tell us about Fire Prevention in the Home and the work of the Fire Brigade and in April we repaired to the showrooms of the North Eastern Electricity Board for a cookery demonstration of 'Savoury Dishes and Snacks'.

The Association of WRENS held their Reunion in Harrogate on 15th May and we received an invitation for a representative from the Branch to join them, so our Chairman, Miss Georgina Winterburn, attended to fly the W.R.A.C. flag! At the May meeting we had a demonstration by 'Berbrook Fashion Bargains' which, due to the profusion of garments and additional guests, we evacuated to one of the large Club rooms upstairs and aroused no small interest amongst the displaced males!

As holidays and other commitments in June resulted in members being rather thin on the ground we had a general gossip session with no set programme. Our Summer Outing was held in July and took the form of dinner at the Blue Bell in Arkendale, and in August we had an evening of holiday slides, 'visiting' Majorca, Austria and Bavaria.

LONDON. We have had some very interesting evenings in recent months. In May Mr. Miller of John Grooms showed us a very interesting film of the work at the Cripplegate and we had an opportunity of buying artificial flowers which are made there, also in May we held a successful Bring and Buy Sale. In June we were given a programme of songs by the Acton Male Voice Choir. In July, one of our members Miss Joan Wager gave us a talk on Home Made Wine and provided generous samples of her excellent wines. Later in the month Miss Bridgeman demonstrated some very lovely flower arrangements.

In September we enjoyed an evening of colour slides given by Miss Curtis and Miss Martin, including some very interesting slides of Spain and Northern Europe.

On 18th September ten members travelled by mini coach to visit our President Mrs. Giles who together with her family made us very welcome. We were given a lovely lunch and tea and had time to enjoy the sunshine and pleasant scenery at Lockerley. We left at six in the evening and everyone agreed that it had been a wonderful day.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE. September 1971 saw the re-forming of a W.R.A.C. Association Branch in Newcastle upon Tyne brought about through the enterprise of Mrs. O. Jobling. There has been a very steady response to the call for members and it is hoped that many more will contact us. (Perhaps there are some future members from Units who are due to end their Service and would like to continue the Association).

We hope to have some very interesting meetings in the future and look forward to a very happy Branch.

STAFFORD. Since our last report six months ago, we have had a variety of doings at our monthly meetings. In March we had a talk with colour slides of British Canals, most enjoyable and interesting especially to see the old barges and to hear the history of the colourful markings on them and on their utensils on board.

Lively chatter got us through the A.G.M. in April, followed by a good old get together with our usual very good spread made up by members bringing something to eat and drink. All agreed a most enjoyable evening. Our trip to Fordhall Farm in May was blessed with a much better evening than on our visit last year. We were able to walk round and enjoy the beautiful gardens as well as seeing where the work gets done. We had an excellent meal which included the Farm's products of cheeses and yogurt, too many varieties to mention. The end of a very enjoyable evening saw members leaving laden with the 'goodies' they had purchased.

Our Speaker for June was a member of the Society for the Preservation of Birds. We had no idea there were people doing so much around the countryside. The colour slides showed us some wonderful 'close ups' of many species of birds as well as the work done by the Society. We also had a Jumble Sale. We had difficulty getting a Speaker for July so one of our much travelled members, Miss Shelley, ably assisted by her brother showed us a wonderful collection of colour slides of their holidays, giving us a very interesting entertaining evening.

Our August meeting was taken up by business and especially making the final arrangements for the Autumn Fayre on 23rd October. Our Chairman Major D. Jervis, arranged our trip up the canal on the 4th August and we had an ideal calm evening. The coach of 48 members and friends set off to Brewood where we boarded the motor narrow boat named David. After a little over an hour gliding through the pleasant, peaceful countryside, with the odd ripple made by a moorhen or water rat, we arrived at Wheaton Aston where refreshments had been laid on at the canal-side Inn and an enjoyable hour was spent

ashore. The roll call completed and all aboard for the return. Another pleasant hour spent on the moonlit waters, we returned to Brewood and the coach back to Stafford. Altogether a very pleasant evening enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to our local H.Q. member joining us at our meetings and only wish there were more near enough to come along.

ULSTER. The Malone Gold Club meeting on 15th June turned out, inadvertently, to be our first social function of 1971, since the Annual Dinner scheduled for 20th March had to be cancelled. This was a big disappointment, as everyone had been looking forward very much to what never fails to be a memorable evening, but with the 'mad bombers' hard at it in Belfast it was felt that people—particularly those with cars, which are always in peril these days—might be wary of a late gathering in the city centre.

After the initial glad cries of recognition, sundry warmers at the bar and a brisk trade in raffle tickets, the Chairman, Mrs. Sheila Kerr, welcomed 34 members and guests, including Major Ironmonger, Lt. Dyer and W.O.II Brook from the Regular W.R.A.C. Element at H.Q. NI, Lisburn. She then raised hearty (if surprised) applause by breaking the news that Miss Frances Mayne, one of the stalwart originals of the Branch, had abandoned her long-standing status as a bachelor girl to become Mrs. Mayne Elliott. Mrs. Elliott's blushes were spared by the opening of the mini bring and buy which, temptingly arrayed on two tables, had been the focus of many speculative eyes. Popular items vanished in a matter of minutes, and the slower lines were later mopped up at bargain prices.

Major Ironmonger was then asked to draw the raffle, which turned up First Prize of a home-made fruit cake for W.O.II Brook, some slight recompense for the fact that her car insurance premium has rocketed on posting to the sinister hinterlands of Northern Ireland!

With 25 years of soldiering behind her and, she hopes, plenty more ahead. W.O.II Brook obviously has her finger on the morale-pulse of serving personnel, and we were relieved to learn from her that, despite the restrictions the W.R.A.C. seem to be enjoying their spell in Ulster and are making the most of their opportunities to see the country and the fine coastline.

The cowardly campaign of hit-and-run murder directed at British Troops, to whom we owe such a vast debt, is a source of grief and helpless fury to the loyal people of Northern Ireland, themselves on the receiving end of terrorist violence and destruction. It is therefore heartening, particularly for ex-servicewomen, to be assured that the Army doesn't regard us en masse as a nation of treacherous rats.

We hope however faintly, that by the time our next Branch functions comes around life in this battered province will have resumed some semblance of normality.

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

I see that you are interested in hearing about ex-service members and their present state. I have recently retired from work partly because of ill-health and partly because my aged mother now needs my care and company.

Looking back over the years since I left the A.T.S., I realise that quite a lot of my time has been spent in the Army's service. I served in uniform from August 1940 to April, 1949, and on leaving worked for the Church of England Children's Society and later for Ministry of Transport. In 1957 however I took a job with the City of London Yeomanry (R) at Yeomanry House, as a civilian clerk, dealing with the documents of National Servicemen.

I went to camp with them twice, once to Castlemartin in Wales and on each occasion was accommodated in W.R.A.C. (T.A.) quarters. I also went to camp on St. Martin's Plain and as an ex-Sgt. had my meals with the W.R.A.C. Sgts. (T.A.). They happened to have their Regimental Dinner night while we were in camp and very kindly invited me to join them.

My father was murdered in January 1959 and after a while I was ill with shock so that I was only able to do part-time work but in June 1969 I found myself working in the offices of the Army Benevolent Fund. I was only there a short time but one of the things I remember is how very nicely Maj. General (Ret'd.) Napier White would ask me to make the coffee!

But to bring my story up to date, I have also spent six interesting years with the Royal Signals at Blandford Camp in Dorset.

My mother had been living with friends near Poole, and after being on a waiting list for about three years, I started work there as a Clerical Assistant with 30th Signal Regt. in 1964. Blandford is some distance from where I was then living and a special coach would pick me up each morning and others would join the coach at various points. I often see contributions from W.R.A.C. serving with Royal Signals and wonder if any of them have ever been to Blandford.

The School of Signals is also on the same camp and I worked there for about six months prior to retirement.

(Miss) E. M. E. Mullins.

PREMIUM BOND DRAW 1971

The following £1 prizes have not been claimed.

Ticket No.	10162	Sgt. O'Dell, B.F.P.O. 40.
" "	14037	Sgt. Jones, Brighton.
" "	25786	R. C. Waugh, S.E.25.

Any member who can help to trace the above is asked to get in touch with the General Secretary.

Officers' Postings

(1 July—30 Sept, 71)

Maj. M. R. Ashplant, D.A.A.G. (O.R.G.) H.Q. Western Command
 Maj. J. M. Clements, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 Maj. M. J. Hall, 4 Communications Unit.
 Maj. A. E. A. Herdman-Grant, Depot R.A.
 Maj. E. I. Millington, 10 Coy W.R.A.C.
 Maj. B. F. G. Moore, W.R.A.C. Centre—H.S. (Hospital).
 Maj. F. Odell, W.R.A.C. Centre—H.S. (attending resettlement course)
 Maj. S. P. Richards, W.S.L.O. Shrewsbury.
 Maj. D. J. Temple, Army School of Physical Training.
 Capt. C. D. Green, S.C. A/Q U.K. National Cell ANZUK Force.
 Capt. H. R. Greenland, 39 Signal Regiment (V)
 Capt. R. E. Smith, W.L.S.O. Preston.
 Capt. J. M. Roulstone, C.A.D. Kington.
 A/Capt. M. L. Earnshaw, 12 R.S.M.E. Regiment.
 A/Capt. L. Hancock, S.C.A. R.S.M.E. Chatham.
 A/Capt. J. G. R. Laurie, C.O.D. Bicester.
 A/Capt. M. R. Lloyd, Army School of Catering.
 A/Capt. J. A. Mason, Army Work Study Group.
 A/Capt. J. Neeve, W.R.A.C. College.
 A/Capt. M. J. Rook, 10 Signal Regiment.
 A/Capt. M. W. Rosser, S.C. W.R.A.C. H.Q. BAOR.
 A/Capt. E. M. Roualle, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 A/Capt. S. Taylor, S.C. A. H.Q. Land Forces Hong Kong.
 Lt. A. D. Larkins, 10 A.E.C. Tidworth.
 2/Lt. P. A. Hanna, 8 Signal Regiment.
 2/Lt. C. M. Kimber, 7 A.E.C. C.O.D. Donnington.
 2/Lt. W. A. Le Gassick, 16 Signal Regiment.
 2/Lt. E. J. Womack, 10 Company W.R.A.C.
 2/Lt. L. D. Cowley, 12 Company W.R.A.C.
 2/Lt. Bellingham-Smith, H.Q. Hounslow Garrison.
 2/Lt. S. M. Brown, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 2/Lt. J. M. Denholm, Regimental Depot, R.A.O.C.
 2/Lt. C. E. Farr, H.Q. Western Command.
 2/Lt. M. R. Gibb, 12 Company W.R.A.C.
 2/Lt. D. J. Killbery, C.O.D. Bicester.
 2/Lt. R. E. Longden, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 2/Lt. A. M. F. Pote, 10 Signal Regiment.
 2/Lt. N. J. Pratt, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 2/Lt. S. F. Terry, 10 Company W.R.A.C.
 2/Lt. J. E. Webber, W.R.A.C. Centre.

Warrant Officers' Postings

(1 July—30 Sept. 71)

W/416084 W.O.II J. L. Beresford, 10 Sig. Reg. 4 Sqn.
 W/385756 W.O.II E. Stevenson, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 W/319186 W.O.II M. M. T. Powell-Price, W.R.A.C. Coy 17th Trg. Regt. and Depot R.A.
 W/387686 W.O.II P. M. Bartlett, W.R.A.C. Centre.
 W/378675 W.O.II A. Mercer, 12 Coy W.R.A.C.
 W/211528 W.O.II B. T. Lewis, H.Q. Southern Cmd.
 W/393392 A/W.O.II G. Obbard, H.Q. and Admin. Unit Dhekelia.

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

REGULAR ARMY

Major (Q.M.) Capt. (Q.M.) E. E. Mailey
 Captain Lieuts. M. J. Craggs, D. F. Rumsey, P. A. Broad, P. A. Ames.
 Captain (Q.M.) Lieut. (Q.M.) D. Jones, from S.S.C.
 Lieutenants. 2/Lieuts. R. A. Ridley, I. Thwaites, J. D. Wilson, J. E. Marrs.

SPECIAL REGULAR COMMISSIONS

Major Capt. B. M. Laverack, M.B.E.
 2/Lieut. on probation S. M. Arnold is confirmed in her appointment.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Lieutenants 2/Lieuts. S. E. Rice, C. A. Sykes.
 2/Lieutenants on probation C. M. Kimber, R. M. Lawrence are confirmed in their appointments.

RETIREMENT ETC.

REGULAR ARMY

Major: S. P. Greenslade.
 Captains J. Lowe, M. A. Patrick, J. M. Hill.
 Lieutenants M. A. Lillie, D. E. Shee.
 2/Lieutenant M. T. McKenzie.

SPECIAL REGULAR COMMISSIONS

Lieutenant S. J. Goodall

Captain **SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS**
Lieutenant K. R. O'Shea.
J. K. Campbell

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LIST

<i>Diaries 1972</i>		<i>Cost</i>	<i>Postage and Packing</i>
Leather Wallets	£1.05		3p
Rexalon with pencil	35p		3p
Rexalon without pencil	31p		3p
Refills for wallets	22p		3p
W.R.A.C. Key rings	22p	3p for any number up to 6	
Clip boards, green plastic with W.R.A.C. badge in gold.	85p	15p	
Scripton pens	6p	3p for any number up to 12.	
Identity Card Season ticket holder	7p	3p for any number up to 6.	
Ash tray, green with W.R.A.C. Badge in gold and silver.	32p	5p	
Memo pad, green plastic with W.R.A.C. badge in gold. (Refills available on order at 20p).	40p	7p	

Obituary

Miss Baxter

GLASGOW Branch regret to announce the death of Miss Betty Baxter in August 1971, after an illness lasting several months.

She was a life member of the Association and during the war she served with the Royal Corps of Signals in No. 5 Command Signals, Scottish Command. She held the rank of Sergeant. Her loss is deeply felt by all her friends in the West of Scotland.

Mrs. M. M. Bousfield
Miss M. M. C. Kean
Mrs. D. M. Millican

WE regret to announce the deaths of three ex-A.T.S. members. Mrs. Margaret Bousfield (Nee Ruddick) a Life member of H.Q. Area, Miss May Kean of Ayshire Branch and Mrs. Millican (nee Etheridge) of Bath Branch.

Miss M. Boucher

WE regret to announce the death of Miss Margaret Boucher, ex-Sgt. W.R.A.C. who was killed in a car crash in South Africa in July, 1971.

Mrs. Franklyn

D.M.B. writes: 'Those of us who served at Aldermaston (1941-42) with Mrs. Gwen Franklyn (Silvester) will have been saddened to learn of her death after a long illness on 22nd August 1971. She was always such an approachable, gay and loyal friend, and members of the Aldermaston Association have happy memories of her many kindnesses when she entertained us in London and at her home in Speen. She will be much missed at our reunions'.

Miss D. Hayes

WE regret to announce the death of ex-W.O.II Doreen Hayes who joined the Corps in 1953, and will be remembered by many as training W.O./N.C.O. at the W.R.A.C. Depot. After a period of ill-health and hospitalisation she was posted to Hounslow until her discharge to civilian life and subsequent residence in Oadby, Leicestershire.

Miss N. Piggins

WE announce with regret the death of Miss Nancy Piggins who served in the A.T.S. from 1940-47 with the rank of W.O.II. Her courage and humour during her long years of illness were an example to all who knew her and we send our sympathy to her widowed mother Mrs. Piggins.

Mrs. D. M. Prudent

SOUTHAMPTON Branch regret to announce the death of Mrs. Doris Prudent (nee) Reddington on Wednesday 1st September 1971.

'Pru' as she was known, served in France from 1917-1919 as a member of the Q.M.A.A.C. She was a loyal member of the Association since 1948, and will be missed by all members.

Miss V. Wellesley, M.B.E.

WE regret to announce the death of Miss Violet Wellesley, aged 74. Miss Wellesley served as a despatch rider and ambulance driver in France during the First World War and joined the A.T.S. in 1939. She spent most of her time as Chief Driving Instructor at Camberley her most distinguished pupil being Her Majesty the Queen, then H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth. Since the War Miss Wellesley has played an important part in a wide variety of public work as well as running a farm near Taunton. She suffered from chronic arthritis which she fought with great courage and spirit. A memorial service was held at St. Mary's Church Taunton on 10th Sept, 1971.

Why wait till tomorrow?

It's yours today with
NAAFI
INSTALMENT
CREDIT
when you pay the first instalment



*Make your choice
from the wonderful variety
of household and personal
goods costing £10 or more
which Naafi offers*