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THE LIONESS

VOL XLV

FEBRUARY 1972

No. 1



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WHO'S WHO

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY
30th APRIL

IMPORTANT NOTICE CHANGE OF ADDRESS

THE Corps Headquarters office will close at the
Duke of York's Headquarters on Friday March 24th,
1972, and open at the:-

W.R.A.C. CENTRE,
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on Tuesday April, 4th, 1972.

Correspondence for the following should be sent to the
Guildford address:-

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Further particulars from:-

THE SECRETARY





Leaving the Helicopters on Exercise "Whirlybirds".



THE LIONESS

Vol. XLV

FEBRUARY, 1972

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Editorial

HER Majesty The Queen's Christmas Broadcast this year was a particularly memorable occasion for us all. We were pleased and proud to note that the Family Album being shown contained not only a photograph of Her Majesty Queen Mary inspecting Q.M.A.A.C. during the First World War, but also reminders of Her Majesty's own connections with the A.T.S. The photographs shown can all be seen in the Corps Museum at Guildford.

Members will be delighted to learn that our President, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent, will honour us by attending our Grand Reunion at the Victory Club on Saturday 18th March, 1972.

Major E. B. Dixon's retirement took place rather sooner than was forecast in the last issue. She is now installed as House Supervisor of the new Womens Section, Royal British Legion flatlets at Shottermill near Haslemere. We wish the venture every success and hope she will be very happy in her new home.

Members are asked to note that the Headquarters will open in its new home at Guildford after the Easter Bank Holiday. Every effort will be made to avoid unnecessary delay in dealing with urgent letters but it would be

appreciated if correspondence could be kept to minimum during the second half of March, and addressed to Guildford after March 24th.

Unfortunately Mrs. J. W. Aggleton's family commitments prevent her from commuting to Guildford so she will be relinquishing her appointment with the Benevolent Fund when the office closes at the Duke of Yorks. We are most grateful for all she has done for the Funds and are glad to know that she has agreed to continue as a member of the Grants Committee. We hope that her work as Case Secretary will be taken over by Major Marion Coverdale who served in both the A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. and has been a Life member of the Association since 1942.

Guildford also is too far away for the Editor who will be giving up her appointment as Corps Secretary later this year. Although the date is not yet finally settled it will probably be before the next issue of the Lioness. She would like to take this opportunity of thanking all contributors for their help and co-operation over the past eleven years and to wish the Journal every success in the future.

Unit News

NORTHERN IRELAND EXERCISE 'WHIRLYBIRDS'

by

Lt. S. D. McWade, W.R.A.C.

YOU would think that life in Northern Ireland was 'adventurous' enough in the present troubles, but the girls of the W.R.A.C. here decided that Adventure Training was what they wanted! So late in August a gallant party of thirteen! took off from Lisburn in two Wessex Helicopters (by kind arrangement with the R.A.F) and flew to the shore of Lussa Loch in the Mull of Kintyre in Scotland. True to form, Northern Irish weather produced a rainy and overcast day, and we were delayed for twenty four hours until it was clear enough at both ends of the journey for us to fly, and to be gently deposited in what G Training (in comfortable Lisburn) had cosily called 'a meadow'.

We waved farewell to the two helicopters, and as they disappeared behind the hill, we looked around and finally realised that we were on our own. Miles and miles of rolling heath, the Loch, and nothing else greeted our eyes; all forms of civilisation, that we normally took for

granted, were missing; there were no shops, no houses, and for running water we had a mountain stream (which was at least ten degrees below zero). We did have one contact, the farmer on the *other* side of the lake, about two miles away, who arrived shortly after we did, and mentioned that he had removed the bull who was normally resident in our particular patch of heath. We were relieved! And we did have a ruined cottage, which was instantly converted into a kitchen, and store room. Undeterred we pitched our tents and unpacked. We battled with the problem of trying to master the demon No. 2 Cookers and managed to prepare a meal consisting mostly of beans, and then to keep us warm C.S.M. Brook suggested a game of football, which proved to be highly entertaining, although hardly Wembley standard! Finally, in the thankful warmth of our sleeping bags we smiled at the unforgettable memory of C.S.M. settling down for the night with skicap and scarf over her nightie, and sang ourselves to sleep; the mists were full of the sound of 'The Girls in Green' drifting over a remote Scottish Lake in a pink twilight.

Despite all protests, dawns dawned, bright and early and cold. Some brave souls ventured down to the stream for a wash, but it was not obligatory! After breakfast, prepared by duty cooks sitting on the farm-

house floor, slaving over a hot Gaz stove (the Cookers had defeated us!) we were set to work. Armed with maps and Silva compasses our minds were the first to be strained; 'Now then, ladies, which way is North?... 'Er...?' Nonetheless we set off on Exercise Loch Explorer. We braved the dangers of three hundred sheep and a couple of dozen cows to pay a courtesy call on the farmer, Mr. Laing, and his wife, and then marched on, with rest breaks in which Pte. Welsh, our Medical Orderly, dressed our 'War Wounds' (blisters!) We investigated at first hand (and foot) the problems of walking through bog, heather and more bog and returned to camp through descending mists to the luxury of compot stew prepared by C.S.M.'s own fair hand (from a secret recipe handed down through generations of C.S.M.'s) Obviously C.S.M.'s Stew had magic revival ingredients, for with sudden bursts of renewed energy an intrepid party shot to their feet and scrambled to the top of the hill behind the camp, in a record time of twenty minutes; they were rewarded with due ceremony, by a presentation of a bar of compot chocolate.

On our last night 'under Canvas', we invited Mr. and Mrs. Laing to join us for a cup of hot chocolate, and we entertained them with varied songs from our increasing repertoire until it was dark and time for bed. It had started to rain at about eight o'clock that evening and it showed no signs of stopping.

The next morning was wet and windy, and we looked at the forbidding skies, and secretly wondered whether the helicopters would be able to get through. Mentally we prepared for another night in our field, although by this time we were all looking forward to a meal at a table, instead of a floor, a good hot bath, and our nice comfortable beds in cosy Thiepval Barracks. We left the tents up for as long as possible, until half an hour before the helicopters were due to arrive and then, in wet and wind, we managed to dismantle our tents and get them under cover in the farmhouse. We settled down for a long wait.

We had only been settled for five minutes when one of the anxious watchers outside yelled 'They're here!' We could not believe it, but there they were, two lovable, noisy shapes, buzzing gently round the hill and aiming straight for us through the mist and rain. Never had so many stores and bodies been loaded in so short a time. Thirteen sleepy and slightly grubby girls were taken in luxury back across the seas to a 'Welcome Home Committee' headed by the O.C. at civilised Lisburn.

Believe it or not, we all want to go again!

W.R.A.C. COLLEGE Exercise Black Button

IN May of last year the permanent staff and officer cadets of the W.R.A.C. College were invited to take part in an Exercise, organised by R.M.A. Sandhurst. The purpose of the Exercise, we gathered, was to give

Sandhurst Officer Cadets experience primarily at mob and riot control, and road block security.

The permanent staff girls took part in the road block exercises on the evenings of the 13th and 14th May. On both occasions a minibus full of excited expectant participants made its way to a rendezvous with the Exercise co-ordinator, alias 007½! Everyone was then briefed as to their role in the exercise and once again set forth with assumed identities to the scene of the road block, hidden deep in the grounds of Minley Manor. For the purpose of the exercise this typically English countryside was supposed to take on the appearance of a Middle East country.

Both evenings, proved a great success, and the girls joined in wholeheartedly, and really entered into the spirit of the exercise. Their role was to act as a group of suspects who had to be searched and questioned by the W.R.A.C. Provost, and handed over to the Sandhurst Officer Cadets for safe keeping. Needless to say many of our suspects decided to act out the part to the full, and decided to escape from the barbed wire compound, only to be faced by a barrage of sub-machine guns. Nevertheless several managed to reach the safety of the undergrowth, despite high heels, mini skirts and frantic shrieks of 'Halt or we fire'—blank cartridges, of course! Surprisingly enough no injuries were sustained apart from thousands of mosquito bites and a few grazed knees.

When we had all been vetted, 007½ did his customary smooth talking act, and invited his by now devoted followers to celebrate the success of the exercise, in a local tavern.

The W.R.A.C. Officer Cadets took part in the mob control exercise which took place in the early hours of the 15th May. By all accounts they enjoyed their role as much as the permanent staff girls had done and suffered just as many mosquito bites!

A WEEK WITH NATO

WHEN I was first told that I was to report to Old Sarum to help with the Administration of a Senior Officers Study Period, I truly thought I was in for a nice rest for a week. Goodness me how wrong I was!

The Study Period in question was for Senior NATO Officers, these included Belgians, Danes, Norwegians, Turks, Greeks, Germans, Dutch, Italians, Canadians, Americans, and of course British. No one was below the rank of Colonel and even these were very few, the remaining Officers all being Brigadiers and above or their equivalent rank.

There were three representatives of the Women's Services, a W.R.N.S. 3rd Officer, a W.R.A.F. Flying Officer and a W.R.A.C. Captain; we were to be known as information officers.

The Study Period consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Our work pressure was such that, unfortunately we were not able to attend any of the lectures, but we

were able to see the demonstration of the harrier and the hovercraft.

Our job as information officers was to see to all the Administrative needs of the 120 visiting officers, some of whom had brought wives. These needs included booking travel back to their countries, changing travel arrangements, booking hotel rooms, changing hotel reservations, booking telephone calls etc. The work was fascinating and each day brought new tasks. It was nothing to ring SHAPE in Brussels several times a day, in between calls to Italy, Austria and France. We all became quite blasé by the end of the week, although I wouldn't like to see the telephone bill for the week's Study Period!

The climax of the week was a visit from General Goodpastor, SACEUR, himself, who was extremely charming and interesting.

The week was busy and extremely tiring. It's fascination lay in working closely with other services both male and female sides, and from meeting many interesting people from so many different countries. I know that it is hoped to make the representation of the Women's Services a regular occurrence, and I wish luck to the next W.R.A.C. representative. She will need plenty of patience, lots of stamina and shoe leather, but I can guarantee an interesting and a very enjoyable week.

W.R.A.C. CANOE SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS

by

O.I.C. CANOEING

THIS year the W.R.A.C. Slalom Championships were held at Llandysul in West Wales on the 18 September 1971. Originally ten were entered but owing to unavoidable circumstances only six W.R.A.C. actually competed.

All of us were comparatively inexperienced in white water canoeing so to begin with the W.R.A.C. provided free pantomime for the spectators. Before the actual Slalom began we were able to practice on the course so as to get the 'feel' of the water. This was alright for half a second and then the canoe was swept at full speed into the main current towards rocks, rapids and every type of aquatic hazard possible. Blood curdling screams could be heard from the team as one by one we shot into the gorge of rushing water at 90 m.p.h. After several runs and capsizes we managed to get the better of the water and no longer did we have to ask the men to wade out and heave us off the rocks! Already the W.R.A.C. had made their name in the canoeing world (one member went tearing down the course backwards!)

Once the practising was over the Slalom began. Each competitor did extremely well and handled the water with great skill and dexterity. The final position was taken from the best of two runs by each competitor. The results were 1st. Capt. A. Barcroft, 2nd. 2/Lt. Howell, 3rd. Pte. Orlinski, 4th. Pte. Waldron.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the week-end and the final cry was "see you again next year"!

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AS always we are still 'swinging' along. Pride of place this issue goes to our W.R.A.C. members. They have recently been showing a shapely leg or two at the noble art of Orienteering. They commenced intensive training on 4 Oct in preparation for the Army Championships in U.K. to be held on 31 Oct. First we had to teach them to hold a map the right way up. After this they were put 'through the mill' with gruelling courses at Rinteln, Lippstadt and the Teutoburger Wald. This training was organised by Capt. Ruth Pearse and S.S.M. Joe Farmer assisted by Sgt. 'Wink' Martindale and the technicians; with of course the O.C. and his dog Huckii. The girls worked hard in all weather and at all hours. I was impressed by their spirit, determination, good humour and progress.

The team plus two reserves left for U.K. on 20 Oct. Then followed a week of training in the Catterick area. The great day dawned and the girls found that the course was set in Cropton Forest, north of Pickering in Yorkshire.

It was a 7 km. course with 9 checkpoints. The course was a mixture of thick forest, open backs and open forest; checkpoints were difficult to find; hidden near streams, tucked behind trees and in ditches. It was a well planned but difficult course with a great deal of variety.

Sometimes easy tracks, others over walls and ditches or through thick forest.

The result:—The team were runners up to 8 Signal Regiment with Captain Ruth Pearse winning the individual championship with a time of 1 hour 16 minutes and 29 seconds.

Look out 8 Signal Regiment we are going to return next year.

W.R.A.C. CENTRE First Recruits from Kenya

FOUR Kenyan recruits arrived at the Centre for the course starting 13 September 71. They completed their basic recruit training, then went to the W.R.A.C. College to complete the Corporals Course before returning to the Centre for further training as Sergeants. They will in due course return to Kenya to help train recruits into their own new Women's Corps.

The Kenyans, Pte Odari, Pte Kuriah, Pte Banwa and Pte Mwangi, settled in very well at the Centre, and appeared to enjoy themselves. We put them in separate platoons, and the other recruits took them under their

wings and really looked after them, spending a lot of their free time showing them the sights of Guildford, and helping them with their English, and they took the Kenyans home with them at weekends.

On their Passing Out Parade, the Kenyans were very smart indeed. Major General Scotter, Chief of Staff Southern Command, was the Inspecting Officer, and the Bishop of Dorking conducted the Church Service. We had as our guests Major and Mrs. Kipsaita from the Kenyan High Commission, and the Kenyan Press Attache. We have enjoyed having the Kenyans with us, and are quite sure that they will be of enormous help to Captain Anton, who is going to Kenya for a tour of duty in January 1972.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Captain Mick Lane, Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) took over as Director of Music on 14th December 1971. We extend a very warm welcome to Capt. Lane and his family, and hope that his tour with our Staff Band will be happy and interesting.

Capt. Dane took part with verve and talent in the



The first Kenyan recruits find an umbrella useful in England.

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.

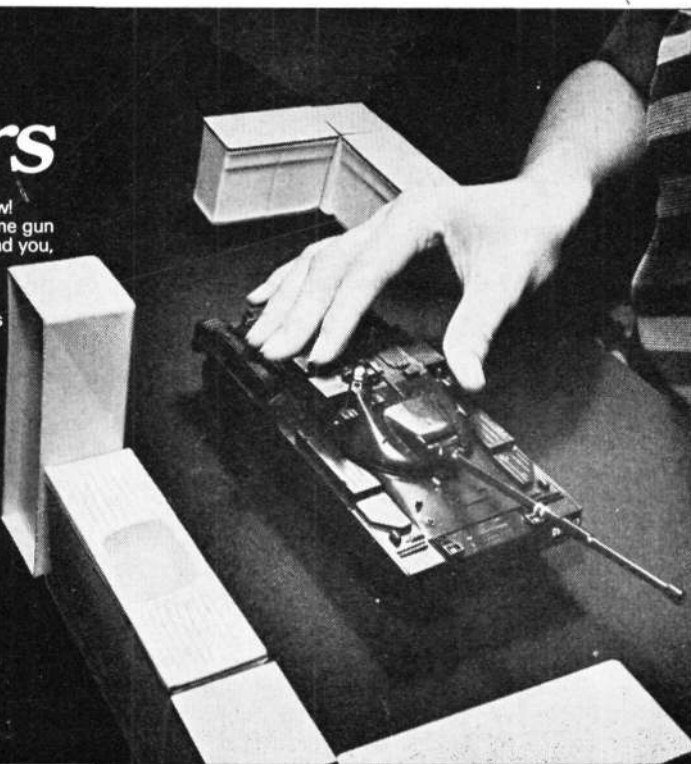
But now evening has come and you can become a woman again, out of that combat suit and heavy boots and back into nylons and lace, it's a wonderful feeling. It's nice to enter a woman's kitchen as well, instead of that smelly army field canteen with its primus stoves and tea chest cupboards.

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Band Concert and carried out his first official engagement at the W.R.A.C. College Commissioning Ceremony on 15th December. He arrived at the Centre in time for the first Band Inspection to be carried out since 1952 and has very quickly settled down. He has joined in everything from Carol Services to serving Christmas dinners and we all feel he is very much part of the Corps already.

EXERCISE SANDSTORM

THROUGHOUT the summer the W.R.A.C. girls in 68 Squadron R.C.T. sat back and watched the male element go away to their 'Summer Camp' and wondered why the W.R.A.C. should not go on exercise. After much deliberation and careful planning, a W.R.A.C. scheme was devised to take place over the weekend of 3/4 Sep. 71.

On Friday 2 Sep 71, the advance party consisting of Captain Hollingbury, S/Sgt. McDougall, L/Cpl. Loraine Nicholson and Ptes Maggie Lees, Cindy Hague and Pte. Tony Gray (A.C.C.) set off for the Army Training Area, Haltern. On arrival the accommodation was found to be even more spartan than had been imagined, and it was decided that even camp beds would be preferable to those provided. When the sleeping arrangements had been completed, the cross country rally route was laid out and the map-reading course re-checked.

All the preparations complete, the advance party sat

down to the first of Pte Gray's excellent meals, while waiting for the main party. When everyone was assembled, the advance party showed the others around the camp. There were some dubious glances thrown at the showers, as there were no curtains. However, everyone agreed that this would not matter as there were no lights either.

Saturday morning started bright and early, with showers taken wearing the latest fashion in shower caps—N.A.A.F.I. Jubilee plastic bags! After breakfast the exercise started in earnest. The map readers were taken out and told to make their way back to camp, solving the clues along the way, the swimmers were taken down to the lake, and the cross country drivers were paired off and each allotted a land rover and an instructor. After deciding that the course was too easy, S/Sgt. McDougall and her crew set off to find a more difficult course, only to find Captain Hollingbury's vehicle leaning over, half in and half out if a ditch. After recovering that and another land rover, the brave adventurers decided it was time for lunch.

The afternoon went without a hitch, and after tea, it was discovered that the advance party had recce'd the area so thoroughly that they were able to lead the way to a local Gasthaus (German for Pub). From there, 68 Squadron's female population moved off to find a Schnell Imbiss—for those who have not served in

B.A.O.R., a chip shop, and from there back to camp for an early night.

On Sunday morning, the expedition was visited by the A.D.W.R.A.C., Lt. Col. Field and Major Thomas the O.C. 68 Sqn. R.C.T. They too went over the cross-country course, but unlike the rest of the participants managed to return as cool, calm and collected as when they set off.

After lunch, the camp was packed up and the long trek home began. By popular vote, it was decided that Captain Hollingbury would arrange another exercise for the following month.

CONTINENTAL CAMP

THE 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment carried out a rehearsal of their mobilisation role on the Continent during their recent Annual Camp. The 'girls' as usual were the fulcrum around which the rest of the Regiment revolved, providing the communication staff for the mobilisation exercise, and making a real contribution to the social success of camp.

They worked extremely hard, drawing all their equipment from the stockpile, setting up a Tape Relay Centre and a Communication Head, and preparing the traffic. They then provided a 24 hour service throughout the three day exercise, during which a record amount of traffic was passed. Other girls were hard at work in the Messes and Junior Ranks Club keeping 500 Irishmen supplied with very necessary nourishment.

It wasn't all work though, for during the middle weekend the CO had directed that everyone was to get about on the Continent and enjoy themselves. Some girls went to Brussels, some on a tour of the battlefields, some to watch members of the Regiment take part in the Ceremony of the Menin Gate, but the favorite trip was to Amsterdam.

An account of O.Cdt. Jennifer Trevithick's day out gives you the flavour of this most enjoyable camp, which finished up with the usual round of troop and squadron parties where the girls were very much in demand.

DAY-TRIP TO AMSTERDAM

Officer Cadet J. J. Trevithick

DURING the mid-weekend of 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (T.A.V.R.) two weeks camp in Belgium, a coach tour to Amsterdam was arranged, scheduled to leave base early on Saturday morning and return much earlier on Sunday morning. Immediately our romantic imaginations conjured up visions of tulips and wind mills and little boys in wooden clogs stopping holes in dams with their thumbs. This was certainly an opportunity not to be missed and a party of four of us set off.

The journey through Belgium and Holland was long and the landscape rather flat and uninteresting so we dozed for most of the morning. I was disappointed to

discover that it was the wrong season for tulips, but we arrived at the centre of the enormous city of Amsterdam at noon and indulged in a mammoth shopping spree; many hours, hundreds of yards, tankards, Dutch dolls, painted wooden clogs and other souvenirs, later our male companions were quite prepared to abandon us and retire to a bar for the remainder of the day.

Lt. Linda Squance came to the rescue by suggesting a tour of the canals on a pleasure boat, to which the men readily agreed as it meant that they could at least sit down comfortably in the open-air vessel. The guide spoke four different languages, including English, and the information she gave us as we sailed along was most interesting. The old buildings of Amsterdam were quite enchanting; towering up out of the water they seemed almost to float like up-ended match boxes topped by pretty gables, stepped, spiralled, arched, some with magnificent statues in the niches. The maze of narrow waterways crossed by numerous little pedestrians bridges was confusing to the eye and we sat in silent awe until suddenly on a wider stretch of water we sailed alongside some 'hippy' barges. These were painted in bright colours and strewn with oddments of furniture and the guide informed us that the cost for one night's stay is one dollar. We were determined to store all the information and facts we could in order to impress everyone back at camp, but as it turned out, all I could recall was that there are forty marriages and four divorces per day in Amsterdam and there are one million bicycles in the city.

Evening was drawing in by the time we returned to the mooring and we were looking forward to seeing some of the night life of the city. We visited several small, friendly 'drinking houses' where we sampled some of the many Dutch beers and listened to gay music, sometimes provided by musicians but more often than not by juke-boxes. We were beginning to feel tired and hungry so decided that we should have a good dinner and relax for the remainder of the evening. We entered one of the many large hotels and made our way towards the dining-room fully expecting to find the usual air of quiet geniality. Instead, we were greeted by the rhythmic rendering of a popular Latin-American number by a colourful six-man 'combo'. The atmosphere was one of merriment and we quickly adapted ourselves to the mood of conviviality. We enjoyed an excellent meal and afterwards joined in the communal singing. The band's repertoire was very comprehensive, they even managed to fit in a tear-jerking 'When Irish Eyes are Smiling'. All too soon the time came for us to leave and we plodded our way back to where the bus was waiting to take us back to Belgium. We exchanged details and descriptions of the day's events with our fellow day-trippers and we realised that one day, in a city the size of Amsterdam, was insufficient time to take in all that the city has to offer.

Before falling sound asleep, we promised ourselves another, much longer, visit to Amsterdam, preferably when the tulips are in season.

Association News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 18th March, 1972 at the Duke of York's Headquarters, London. SW3 4RX at 3 p.m.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 24th April, 1971. (Circulated in the August issue of The Lioness).
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. To receive the Report of the Council.
4. To receive the Report of the Hon. Treasurer.
5. To receive the Report of the Editor of The Lioness.
6. To receive the Reports of the Committees.
7. Resolutions.
 - (i) Council Resolution:

'That, in order to reduce the loss now being incurred, due to continuing rising costs, the Lioness be published three times in the year and that Rule 5 be amended accordingly'.
 - (ii) Branch Resolution:

'That in order to make the voting more equitable between all members of the Association each member attending the Annual General Meeting of the Association be allowed to record an individual Vote'.
8. Election of Officers.
9. Any Other Business.
10. Date of Next Meeting.

PLEASE BRING THIS COPY OF THE LIONESS WITH YOU TO THE MEETING.

Members of Headquarter Branch are reminded that, as a Branch, they are no longer entitled to an individual vote and should therefore let their Chairman, Mrs. A. J. Stevenson, have their views in advance, in order that she may cast a block vote on their behalf.

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 Branch Secretaries for lunch, as their guests.

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 £1.00 non-members £1.40, including refreshments) may be obtained from the General Secretary, W.R.A.C. Association Block 'E' Duke of York's Headquarters, London, SW3 4RX.

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 enclosed stamped addressed envelope with application.

The October Meeting of Council decided that members should only pay £1.00 for their admission tickets, unfortunately the November Lioness had already gone to the printers and due to an oversight the amount was not amended when the proofs were corrected. Any inconvenience is very much regretted.

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. Reunion 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 the 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. **N.B.—NAMES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL FUNCTIONS AT THE VICTORY CLUB.**

**THE WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATING
QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS AND AUXILIARY
TERRITORIAL SERVICE COMRADES ASSOCIATION**

BALANCE SHEET 31st OCTOBER, 1971

1970	£	£	£	£	£	£
			GENERAL FUND			
	2,750		Balance, 1st November, 1970	2,657.64		
	—		Less: Net Loss on Sales of Investments	70.42		
				<u>2,587.22</u>		
	92		Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ...	153.27		
2,658	—					2,740.49
			LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND			
	976		Membership Life Subscriptions	991.53		
	768		Lioness Life Subscriptions	786.12		
1,744	—			<u>786.12</u>		1,777.65
<u>4,402</u>						<u>4,518.14</u>
			SPECIAL FUND			
	572		Legacy—Lt.-Col. C. A. Cecil			572.0
<u>£4,974</u>						<u>£5,090.14</u>

REPRESENTED BY:-

			FIXED ASSETS			
			OFFICE FURNITURE			
	111		Balance, 1st November, 1970	100.00		
	11		Less: Depreciation for the year	10.00		
100	—					90.00
4,158			INVESTMENTS, at cost (per schedule) (£4,300 Market Value £5,143)			4,286.26
			CURRENT ASSETS			
	81		Stock of Badges	80.60		
	75		Interest accrued and Income tax recoverable	72.38		
	38		Sundry Debtors	30.00		
			<i>Cash at National Westminster Bank Ltd.</i>			
	221		Current Account	236.18		
	200		Deposit Account	200.00		
421	—			<u>436.18</u>		
4			Cash in Hand	2.77		
619				<u>621.93</u>		
			LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES			
	187		Membership Subscriptions paid in advance	169.50		
	216		Lioness Subscriptions paid in advance	222.55		
	72		Sundry Creditors	88.00		
	475			<u>480.05</u>		
144	—					141.88
<u>4,402</u>						<u>4,518.14</u>
			SPECIAL FUND			
			<i>Cash at National Westminster Bank Ltd.</i>			
	572		Deposit Account			572.00
<u>£4,974</u>						<u>£5,090.14</u>

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1971

[illegible]

**THE WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATING
QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS AND AUXILIARY
TERRITORIAL SERVICE COMRADES ASSOCIATION**

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS HELD ON 31st OCTOBER, 1971, AT COST

		Market Value Cost 31/10/71	
1970			
600	BRITISH ELECTRICITY 4½% GUARANTEED STOCK 1974-79 £596.92		
	Stock.	599.73	531
588	6% CONVERSION STOCK 1972 £600 Stock	587.45	600
1,193	EQUITIES INVESTMENT FUND FOR CHARITIES 940 Units	1,193.37	2,125
494	LONDON COUNTY 6% STOCK 1972 £500 Stock	494.16	500
300	LONDON COUNTY 5½% STOCK 1985-87 £300.65 Stock	300.00	234
50	BRITISH LEGION HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD. £50 Bond.	50.00	50
—	8½ TREASURY LOAN 1997 £1,091.71 "A" Stock	1,061.55	1,118
	<i>INVESTMENT SOLD DURING YEAR:-</i>		
800	3% SAVINGS BONDS 1965-75 £800 Stock	—	—
	<i>INVESTMENT REDEEMED DURING YEAR:-</i>		
133	5% CONVERSION STOCK 1971 £146.82 Stock.	—	—
<u>£4,158</u>		<u>£4,286.26</u>	<u>£5,158</u>

Slow Flight

Lt. Col. E. E. Michell

IN my letter in the August issue I said I was going on a slow flight. I started on 1st August with a three-day visit to Rome; there were one or two things that I particularly wanted to see at leisure. Two things for the record; the six charming sculptured birds and animals on the new bronze doors for Pope John XXIII at St. Peters; and a performance of 'Aida' at the Caracalla Baths. This was on an epic scale, most suitable for the size of the setting, which is one of the largest ruins in Rome. The end of the second act brings the hero back with his captives and his victorious army to be greeted by the entire Egyptian court from the Pharaoh down; there were over 300 on the stage plus four horses and a lot of coloured smoke, and in the middle of all the excitement I found myself suddenly transported back to Kneller Hall and '1812'—the two productions had a lot in common!

On to Beirut, where I had intended renewing acquaintance with various places previously visited on leave from Cyprus. However, the vagaries of travel agents decreed otherwise and I went instead to Tyre and Sidon and to a gigantic cavern called the Grotto of Jeita. It hasn't long been opened and they have taken immense care with the lighting, which is lovely. I had a pleasant and surprising encounter on my last afternoon—swimming near my hotel I met ex-Captain Celia Smith (Mrs Exley) who was there with her husband on leave from Bahrain.

Next stop Teheran for a day in Isfahan, which was busily preparing for the celebrations in October of the 2500th anniversary of the Persian monarchy; this makes York's 1900th anniversary celebrations look a little

premature! I also saw the Crown Jewels in Teheran itself—Straight out of the Arabian Nights.

Next Bangkok. It is a remarkable mixture of a Europe (or rather America) and Asia—air conditioned hotels and squalor, six-lane highways and women carrying portable stoves on 8ft. bamboo poles; beautiful shops and people sitting eating on the pavement outside; palaces, temples and skyscrapers. I went to the floating market in the early morning, a four hour trip by motor launch through narrow channels whose water looked like melted milk chocolate but was full of people washing themselves and their clothes and cleaning their teeth. The channels are flanked by tiny villages, shop-houses facing the water, plantations of every kind and temples in every stage of disrepair.

Singapore came next. This was a key point of the journey as I had arranged to get there well before Major Crofton left, to enable us to spend a fortnight in Malaysia. During the time I was in Singapore the talk was all of dates of departure and there was a general feeling of running down; I think most people will be glad when the move is finished. R.S.M. Henderson very kindly invited me to her Mess, which was full of old friends whom I was delighted to meet again.

The fortnight in Malaysia was full of interest. We drove up the west coast, through plantations of rubber, coconut and oil palms, pineapple, rice, tapioca, banana and all kinds of tropical fruit, and past tin mines, stopping for two nights on the way before reaching Penang. I've never seen so many school children. In every little town and village there were scores if not hundreds coming or going or waiting for the school bus, all looking unbelievably clean, particularly considering the primitive

conditions they appeared to have come from. They have a 2 shift system morning and afternoon, so one saw them on the move at almost any time of the day.

We stopped in one small town to watch a Chinese opera street performance for about quarter of an hour—all we could take! We were about the only members of the audience who were not (as some children were) propping their chins on the edge of the stage or eating and drinking from portable stalls. No wonder the singers shout their heads off!

In Georgetown in Penang we both got into one trisha and jammed—subsequent hysteria impeded our view for several minutes! We visited the Snake Temple—it has had a clean up recently and most of the snakes that were in the roof have come down to earth, so there are a lot to be seen. I handled the safe ones—they felt pleasant, dry and cool and slightly rough—and offered them to a party of schoolgirls, but there were no takers. We were shown round a Batik factory by one of the workers; a delightfully simple process reminiscent of the old flat duplicators we used to use before Roneo. At the other extreme we went up to the revolving restaurant at the top of Penang's newest hotels, but the revolving part felt very unstable and we were glad to get off it and eat somewhere firmer under foot.

After Penang we went over to the East coast, stopping for night on the way at Fraser's hill, about 4,500 ft. up (I believe it is rather like the Cameron Highlands, which closed as a 'Change-of-Air Station' last February). One of the objects of the East Coast visit was to try to see a turtle coming ashore to lay eggs, and in this we were lucky. A long and uncertain wait ended with a voice in the dark saying 'Come now' and we made our way to a torch and there she was, in a trench of her own digging and with a hole beneath her full of shiny pingpong balls. Her attempt to cover them with sand was cursory in the extreme; she merely kicked all the sand she could reach with her back flippers very hard in a general backwards direction; and having kicked it all away she left nothing for a toe-hold to start her on her return journey to the sea. No wonder they are so vulnerable.

Back to Singapore for a few days and then to Hongkong, where I hadn't been since I was 12. Some of it was surprisingly familiar, much of it totally different. Major Latham met me and we did several trips together, and I met a number of friends from other places; and I also caught up with a school friend whose husband and his brother run an extremely interesting experimental farm and farm school in the New Territories. The weather was against very energetic exploring most of the time—around 90F and 90% humidity—but I managed to do quite a lot in spite of it.

Now I am in Canberra, staying with my brother. The contrast with Hongkong is startling in every way. Here it is spring and the early blossom is out; there was frost the first two nights after my arrival. In Hongkong the main impression is of crowds, the endless movement of

people, cheerful noise, and the bustle of building yet more skyscrapers where there seems hardly room; here there is room to move and no-one seems in a hurry and outside the towns there is apparently limitless empty land. But the building here is of individual houses; my brother has a new house in a new suburb—they are pioneering a garden out of the bricklike soil—and during the day there is always the sound of housebuilding somewhere near. It is interesting to have come through so many places full of ancient history and haphazard growth to a place deliberately planned from scratch and still with a new shine on it.

Next stop New Zealand and then Central America—more about them another time.

Sponsored Walk

by An Old Soldier!

HAVING read of the activities of the Servicewomen from Hounslow Garrison in the November Lioness some of your readers may be interested in the efforts of one of the 'older brigade' in this field.

It all began when the local organisation, The New Centre for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (to which I belong) was trying to raise funds for the extension of the premises. The Centre is unique in that it has been provided by the voluntary efforts of the members of the Clubs for those handicapped by hearing loss (of varying degrees) and the parents of deaf children. Not only is it used extensively for various social activities by all members but local Welfare Officers, Hospital Specialists, Teachers of the Deaf etc, in helping children and adolescents who are handicapped.

A Charity Walk was planned and I intended to help as a Marshal, having my car available for those that might need a ride.

I took some of the forms along to my office hoping to get some of the young people on the staff to volunteer as walkers. However, I'm sorry to say I wasn't getting much response (so many had other things to do on a Sunday or couldn't walk further than a bus stop!) so in sheer desperation I said 'Well, if you won't walk for me will you pay me to walk?' The surprising answer was 'Yes' and I quickly filled a form with over 30 sponsors!! The price per mile fluctuated between a penny and a shilling as I had no idea how far I could go and even though still fairly active, taking my dog for little walks etc, the general feeling was that five miles would be enough for an 'over 50'.

A fortnight before the Walk I put in some practice by taking the dog for a longer walk than usual each evening stepping out a brisk mile or so and on the week-end before went a bit further. I also took the advice of a chiropodist member of the Club in wiping my feet with surgical spirit rather than putting them in water so that the skin hardened up. (Picture me in the bath with my feet hanging over the side!!)

Sunday came—a lovely fresh autumn morning and we joined the rest of the party (about 50). Most of them were young folk from the schools and colleges and all in good spirits. Sue, my little dog came too, the only 4 legged participant!

The route had been planned mainly along the towpaths of the river and canal and country footpaths round the neighbouring countryside of Oxford, starting and finishing at The Centre in town.

I decided to keep up a good steady swinging stride rather than taking a leisurely stroll and so even though the towpaths were narrow and slippery in some places had no difficulty in keeping within sight of the leaders, half a dozen 'dedicated' walkers! Sue found it all so exciting and she wanted to run to catch up with everyone else so that in the end had to be restrained on a long lead as she was in danger of disappearing and there were cattle in some of the fields which she might have disturbed.

I carried a rucksack containing a flask of coffee, lunch pack and fruit for myself and meat, dog biscuits and a bottle of water for Sue as well as a spare pair of shoes and socks and a waterproof jacket in case of rain.

The first two hours went very quickly and I called a halt at a little pub by the towpath for a lunch break, where the marshal greeted me with the fact that I had covered about six miles! and how did I feel? Well, I felt fine and after a short stop and a freshen up in the Pub's cloakroom was on my way again and still well ahead of most of the younger brigade!

The going now became trickier as the paths crossed rough meadow near the river with many stiles to watch for and no clearly defined route. The advance Markers (local Venture Scouts) had done a good job with putting in flag markers but in some cases they had become dislodged either by cattle or passers-by and replaced inaccurately by others which added to the confusion, but I had taken the precaution of bringing a copy of the local footpath map with me which helped. Nevertheless, there was one spot where 3 paths converged where I was led off in the wrong direction and had to retrace my steps, that was the one occasion when I might have welcomed a chance of giving up, however the last check point was quite a long way back so I chose to press on. After that it became a challenge to me to complete the course despite the offers of a 'car ride home' at the next check point!!

The last leg of the trip had been planned through the Park and then the City Streets so before entering the Park I had my final rest, changed my shoes and socks, freshened up and then stepped lightly on to the soft springy turf of the playing fields, it was like a feather bed after some of the open country footpaths and I swung along steadily humming many of our old favourite marching tunes of war-time days, and so I reached The Centre, at 5.30 p.m. not a record breaker but at least not the last home! We were greeted with a very welcome cup of tea

and the news that in view of the errors in 'markers' along the course it was estimated that we had completed EIGHTEEN MILES! (the original course was supposed to be 15 miles).

Our chiropodist friend was on hand to give free attention and I thoroughly enjoyed having my feet 'freshened up' professionally before going home to a good soak in the bath, supper and an early night. It was most satisfying to know that I was still physically fit and most rewarding when I was able to hand over £18 towards the Funds, although some of my sponsors found that they had to dig deeper in their pockets than they expected and I surprised everyone with my achievement. There were no ill-effects apart from a few days of stiff muscles.

J. McLennan—Ex. W.O.II (A.T.S.)
(Ex-Western Command, Middle East
and Southern Command).

W.R.A.A.C. School Kaleidoscope

Capt. C. Hickman

W.R.A.A.C. School, Georges Heights, commanding an enviable location atop Middle Head (the most central of the three headlands which guard the entrance to Sydney Harbour) overlooks one of the most beautiful harbours in the world. Luxury homes and apartments, covering the headlands from horizon to beach, present a colourful backcloth for the innumerable yachts, liners, tankers, ferries, destroyers and other vessels that slowly bend their way into the inner recesses of the harbour.

Coves, Beaches, ships, cool seas—all are easily visible from the parade ground which, exposed to all natural elements by its cliff-top position, falls away to steeply wooded slopes that cease at the water's edge. Visible too are the other headlands—North Head and South Head, occupied by the Royal Australian Artillery and the Royal Australian Navy respectively—which mark the dividing line between the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean beyond and the sheltered coves of the harbour itself.

To the west lies the heart of Sydney Harbour—the ferry wharves, over-seas passenger terminals and the cargo docks. This bustling marine metropolis is overshadowed by the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, which dominate the harbour skyline to such an extent that even the tallest skyscrapers appears insignificant. The Bridge, carrying an eight lane highway, four railway lines and two footways across a water span of almost a mile, looks just like a giant coathanger. It's black steelwork contrasts dramatically with the resplendent white sail-like roofs of the yet incomplete Opera House—an architectural masterpiece which should see realisation in 1973. Whether viewed by day or night, from the air, the land, the water or from the Harbour Bridge itself, Sydney Harbour lives up to its reputation of impressive scenic splendour.

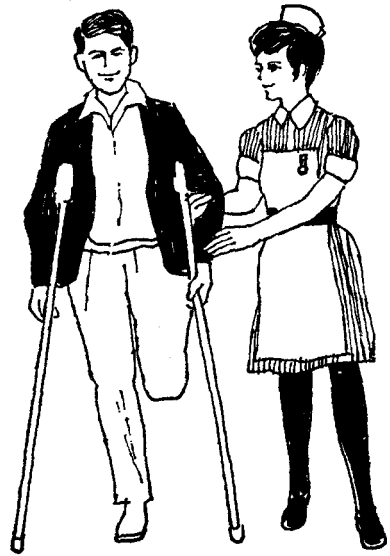
18,000 Limbless Ex-Servicemen need your help

We urgently need money to help these men to conquer their handicap. And to equip and maintain homes in which they convalesce and are given care and comfort in their old age.

We are not aided by the State. So we depend on you. These veterans gave much when they lost arms or legs or eyes fighting for their country. Now won't you give something? Please, please help.

Please remember them in your will and send a donation to Major the Earl of Ancaster, KCVO, TD, Midland Bank Limited, 60, West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX.

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION



All School buildings, with the exception of the officers' mess, are wooden or weatherboard constructions with corrugated roofs. Such seemingly frail buildings remain totally unaffected by the gales and thunderstorms that lash this exposed part of the headland. The officers' mess, a delightfully attractive sandstone building constructed in 1873, is already classified an 'historical building' by the government department that deals with ancient constructions. Australian antiquities are certainly young compared with our own! Situated beyond the School boundaries, the mess and officers' quarters lie in complete seclusion amidst a garden of tropical shrubs, tunnels and gun-emplacements. The latter, relics of the days when the artillery occupied Georges Heights, retain the present-day purpose of providing a home for the goldfish and an unusual talking point for visitors.

Empty your wastepaper-basket after dusk and you run the risk of being startled by an unusual occupant in the rubbish bin. Possums, delightful yet harmless nocturnal creatures with enormous eyes and bushy tails, are great scavengers and delight in hiding amongst the refuse! No alarm-clock is required to shake you from morning slumber—the magpies and kookaburras act as very effective substitutes even though their morning starts far earlier than your own! Warm weather encourages the mosquitoes, moths and ants (snakes and spiders too?) to seek human company—a fact which all residents of W.R.A.A.C. School realize only too well.

Those requiring more than the incessant chatter of kookaburras ('laughing jackasses') to awaken them fully can, in the warmer weather, enjoy an early morning dip in the sea. Several beaches lie within half a mile of the School, and provided that swimming is restricted to the shark-nets then everyone can be sure of making breakfast in one piece! For the sports-minded person the local area offers a variety of pastimes—from basketball, squash and hockey to softball, sailing and tennis.

The local shopping centre of Mosman is a leisurely 15 minutes stroll away, whilst the quickest, easiest and most attractive means of reaching the heart of Sydney (some 8 miles distant) is to catch a harbour ferry. These depart at regular intervals from Taronga Park Zoo, which is situated on an adjacent promontory and from which on a still day the roar of the lions can be heard at W.R.A.A.C. School.

The permanent staff of W.R.A.A.C. School numbers some 8 officers and 30 rank and file, whilst accommodation and messing facilities are provided for an extra 30 personnel working at units within the Sydney metropolis. All W.R.A.A.C. regimental courses are run at the school. Seven Basic Training Courses (each of 5 weeks' duration), six N.C.O. Promotion Courses (5 weeks for Cpls, 6 weeks for Sgts and W.O's), and one Officer Cadet Course (27 weeks' duration) are conducted annually, and as these run continuously from late January to early December there is very little breathing space for the instructional

and administrative staff of the School. The Christmas holidays are greeted with an audible sigh of relief.

Idyllically situated in one of Sydney's most exclusive suburbs, W.R.A.A.C. School must surely be the envy of all those posted to less spectacular locations. Certainly the privilege of serving there has made this 'Pommie' realize the good fortune of her Aussie counterparts!

CAROL SINGING IN THE HEBRIDES

ONE Sunday afternoon in December saw the members of the W.R.A.C. Detachment R.A. Range Hebrides setting off in the direction of the Senior Citizens' Residence at Daliburgh in South Uist. They were not quite laden down with gold, frankincense or myrrh as is the Christmas theme, but took with them a hamper of food, a leg of lamb, Christmas cake iced with Gaelic greetings, presents for each old person and, most important of all in Scotland, a bottle of whisky.

The 'excuse' for this expedition was to sing carols most beautiful, at least that was the intention. The leader of this merry throng was Captain Bennett, who was aided and abetted by L/Cpl Sanderson who arranged everything from the transport to getting Santa Claus down from his winter hideout—namely SSgt. Wheatley R.E.M.E. On arrival we were given a very warm welcome by the sisters who run the home, the staff and the residents, many of whom remembered us from last year. Whilst the girls gave their renderings of 'Good King Wenceslas', 'We Three Kings' etc, SSgt. Wheatley was led away to be dressed in his best No. 1 Mk. 1 Santa gear. He handed out gifts to the residents and thoroughly enjoyed his beard being tickled by all the old ladies. We also visited the Sacred Heart Hospital and sang a few carols which no doubt delayed the patients' recuperation by several months!

On our return to 'Uist House' we were given an excellent tea by the sisters and were then asked to sing more carols. At last, voiceless and weary, we left for the hour's journey home, having been made to promise we would go and liven up the Old Folks' New Year "ceilidh" in January.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I read the contribution from 16th Sig. Regt. describing their exercise 'Summer Sales' and smiled to myself! I thought back over a quarter of a century (my goodness—I sound really ancient) to the era of the 'Doodle-Bug'.

In 1944 I was a member of 571 H(M) A.A. Bty. and was stationed at Strood just outside Chatham, Kent. In June of that year the whole Battery moved to become an eight gun site at Leysdown Point, Isle of Sheppey. From our camp at Strood, we moved lock, stock and barrel, everything that was movable was moved. Our new site was just a large large expanse of grass, right on the corner

of the Isle. In the field was ONE COLD WATER TAP.

Within 24 hrs. the site was operational and we eventually had a few more pipe lines and taps. Next to the tap (A.T.S. for the use of) were two large Soya stoves and the drill was, that for every pail of hot water taken out, a pailful of cold was poured in and the fire stoked up. Fortunately, the single track—stop at every level crossing while the guard opens and then closes the gates—railway lines, ran alongside, and many a donation was heaved out by sympathetic drivers to help the stokers of the Soyas.

After washing in pails for weeks, great excitement. The Mobile Bath Unit was coming. The great day came and with it—yes the R.A.O.C. with a huge tanker. Rapid erection of large marquee, connected to the tanker by yards and yards of hoses, suspiciously like fire hoses. R.A.O.C. personnel scurried around, over and under the tanker, turning wheels, pumping handles and enjoying themselves tremendously. At the hour stated in Part I Orders we dutifully marched to the marquee, and to loud applause, entered. Divided into changing and washing areas, this was IT! No baths—just showers and wooden duckboards to stand on. Whether you had a cold shower or a boiling hot one, depended on the chap at the other end of your pipe-line. No happy medium. After weeks of 'pail' washing we were entranced. I think the showers only came every two weeks or so from then on and believe me, we made the most of them.

Maybe we were not the first 'birds' to use them, but I'm sure that very few, if any, of the 'birds' of 16 Sig. Regt., were even 'hatched'! I wonder if anyone else reading this, remembers and like me, has a quiet smile and hears a long way away, a distant voice calling 'On Target' 'Fire'.

Dorothy Oldham

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the Branch Secretaries, and others, who have sent me such kind letters regarding my retirement. I have been deeply touched by them and can only repeat how much I have enjoyed working with all the members of the Association over the past ten years.

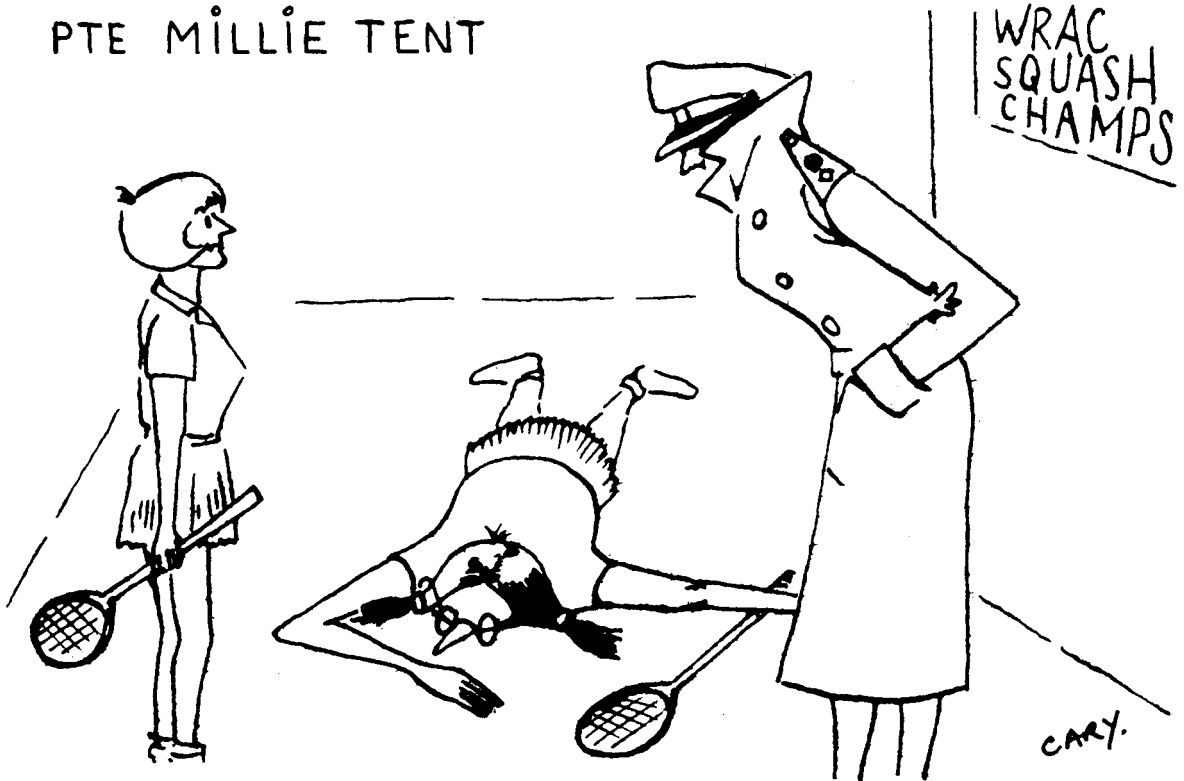
I look forward to meeting all my friends at the Reunions.

Eveline Dixon.

W.R.A.C. STAFF BAND ENGAGEMENTS

March 3rd	Concert Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke
March 18th	W.R.A.C. Association Reunion, Victory Club
March 27th	Concert Brighton Dome (subject to confirmation)
May 29th	St. James's Park
June 2nd-5th	Le Mans, France
June 10th	Vauxhall Motor Spectacular, Luton
June 20th-22nd	Lincolnshire Show.

PTE MILLIE TENT



YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO TAKE THE GAME LITERALLY PTE TENT

Here and There

THE National Army Museum, which was opened by Her Majesty the Queen on 11th November, 1971, is not, of course, an Army Museum alone but a National collection, recording over 400 years of the Army's service to the Nation.

Although the Museum is now open to the public the building is not yet finished and a further £350,000 is still needed to complete the project. The Adjutant General hopes that the Army will lead the way in raising this amount so that we, and the Nation, can have a Museum to be proud of.

Donations and enquiries should be sent to:-

The Secretary,
The National Army Museum Building Appeal
Lansdowne House,
Berkeley Square.
London. W1X 6AA.

KENT MOTORIST OF THE YEAR

The Services were successfully represented in the Womens Section of The Kent Motorist of the Year Competition by Cpl Mildon W.R.A.C. and Lcpl Mansell W.R.A.C. both from 12 R.S.M.E. Regiment.

The Finals took place on Sunday 5 September at Maidstone, where the competition was extremely keen and plentiful. After a Road Test and a series of Car Handling Tests, their final placings were as follows:-

Lcpl Cath Mansell—2nd
Cpl Val Mildon — 3rd

Credit should also be given to their navigators, Lcpl Boltwood and Pte Nolan.

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

The Central Chancery of The Orders of Knighthood has announced a change in the Statutes of the Order of the British Empire.

The Queen has approved a proposal that the Statutes of the Order of the British Empire should be amended so that, when a person is promoted in the Order from the Military Division to the Civil Division or vice versa, the insignia of the lower class may be retained and worn together with those of the higher class on the appropriate occasions.

Members of the Order who wish to apply for the return to insignia previously handed in on promotion from one

Division to the other Division should write, stating full Christian and Surname to:-

The Secretary,
Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood
8, Buckingham Gate,
London, S.W.1.

THE LORD KITCHENER MEMORIAL HOLIDAY HOME

THIS Holiday Home for ex-service men is in Lowestoft. It is situated on the front with an unbroken view of the beach and sea. It is on the main road with ample bus services to and from the station, about a mile away. The cost of a holiday there is £14.00 for two weeks, which includes 3 meals a day.

It has been suggested that ex-service women might like to take advantage of a 'bargain' holiday there and if the numbers warranted it, one bedroom floor would be made available to them. There is a lift to both bedroom floors. There are no single bedrooms and to take advantage of this very cheap holiday members would have to be prepared to share.

The present Charter of the Home does not cover women and before asking to have it changed the Trustees would like some idea of the possible demand for such holidays starting in 1973.

If you are interested please let the General Secretary of the W.R.A.C. Association know as soon as possible.

A.T.S. EAST AFRICAN ASSOCIATION

Major M. G. Fahy writes to tell us that, as a result of her article in the August issue, they had a very representative gathering at their Re-Union on 4th December. They were delighted to welcome their most senior "East African", Brigadier S. A. E. Heaney, and to see so many ex-A.T.S. Officers. By kind permission of the Vice-President and Committee, Capt. Elaine Anton was invited to attend. As she is going to Kenya shortly, for a duty tour, it was thought appropriate for her to meet, in particular, members who had recently returned to the U.K. from various East African Countries.

RE-UNION

NORTHERN AREA

AN afternoon of brilliant sunshine greeted those attending the Northern Area Reunion which took place in the Crescent Room of the Royal Baths Assembly Rooms in Harrogate on Saturday 9th October.

There was a record attendance of members of Northern Area Branches from Bradford, Catterick, Harrogate, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield and York and many individuals from further afield, including groups from Manchester and Liverpool and Mrs. Mary Evans from Wales. We

were pleased to welcome our new Northern Area Chairman, Lt. Col. R. M. Engel, A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, who was supported by the Vice-Chairman Col. V. K. Stead, O.B.E., T.D., J.P. and Area Secretary Mrs. E. M. Suttle.

Lt. Col. Engel opened the proceedings by welcoming everyone to the Reunion and saying how delighted she was to see so many present. She extended a warm welcome to our special guests—Lt. Col. R. J. King, O.B.E., J.P., Chairman of Council, Col. L. M. Davies, C.B.E., Deputy Controller Commandant and Vice President of the Association, Lt. Col. M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., a former Northern Area Chairman and Major E. B. Dixon, General Secretary, who, sadly, was attending for the last time in her official capacity. Also present was Mrs. M. L. Jarvie, The National Chairman of the Association of W.R.E.N.S. whom we were very pleased to welcome. An apology for absence had been received from Mrs. Enid Cox who sent best wishes to everyone. She concluded by thanking all those who had worked so hard to make the Reunion possible, those responsible for arranging the room, raffle and stall and everybody from varied branches who had contributed towards it.

Following some brief notices from the Secretary, Lt. Col. Engel introduced Lt. Col. R. J. King, Chairman of Council, who said she was delighted to be present as she had completed a lot of service in the North. She had seen the Director a few days previously and Brigadier Heaney had expressed disappointment at being unable to come to the Reunion and sent her best wishes to all present.

Since the last A.G.M. there had been a reorganization of H.Q. Area which had now become H.Q. Branch, and Lt. Col. King thanked all the Secretaries for their help in making the changeover work successfully. A new Branch of 80 members had been formed in London, a new Branch opened in Newcastle and York Branch had been re-opened, so the results were most encouraging and it was hoped membership would continue to increase.

The Benevolent Fund continues to do wonderful work in helping those who fall on hard times and it is sad to see how much demand there is. She asked all members to try and raise as much money as possible to further this good work and concluded by thanking the Chairman for inviting her and Col. V. K. Stead for hospitality and wished everyone an enjoyable afternoon.

A vote of thanks to Lt. Col. King was proposed by Mrs. Watson of Leeds and seconded by Mrs. Harrison of Bradford.

Lt. Col. Engel then welcomed and introduced Miss Edith Simpson who was to speak on the subject of 'Be Fifty and Like It' and there followed a fascinating and hilarious half hour or so as everyone listened enthralled to what she had to say. It is seldom one comes across such a witty and competent speaker as Miss Simpson and amidst the laughter she gave us much food for thought on the role of women in the world today. Certainly

anyone around the 'half century mark' who tended to feel a 'has-been' must have emerged rejuvenated and determined, to explore fresh fields and pastures new.

A hearty vote of thanks to Miss Simpson was proposed by Col. V. K. Stead and seconded by Mrs. Baker of Hull.

An excellent buffet tea was then served and afterwards the raffle prizes were presented to lucky ticket holders. The proceeds of the raffle and the collection for the Benevolent Funds amounted to £30.65 and the sale of goods on the stall raised £12.03. The Reunion drew to a close towards 6 p.m. as everyone began dispersing in the direction of home and it seemed that a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

A.T.S. DINNER CLUB 1971

THE annual meeting of the A.T.S. Dinner Club, held at Derry and Toms on Saturday, 2nd. October, 1971, was attended by 136 members and their guests.

It was a most successful evening and though the number present was smaller than in former years, this did not detract in any way from the general enjoyment of a really excellent dinner and good company.

Among the very welcome guests was Mrs. Ferguson, who many A.T.S. will remember as Commandant of Aldermaston and Honiton Training Centres. It was good to see her again. Dame Leslie Whateley, Dame Mary Tyrwhitt and Brigadier S. A. E. Heaney were among the members present who regularly attend the dinner.

As usual, members had come from many parts of the country and on this occasion had travelled as far afield as Liverpool, Warrington, Swansea, Burton-on-Trent and Bath. It is appreciated that some find difficulty in attending an evening gathering, so, as an experiment, it has been decided to hold a luncheon in 1972 in place of the usual dinner. This will take place at Derry and Toms on Saturday, October 14th, 1972 when it is hoped that a larger number of members and their guests will be able to come.

Anyone who served in the A.T.S. who is interested in joining the A.T.S. Dinner Club should write to the Hon. Secretary, Miss O. A. Rutter, M.V.O., M.B.E., 11, Roundhill Grove, Southdown, Bath, BA2 1JT for particulars.

RETIREMENT

Colonel M. N. Jamieson

COLONEL M. N. Jamieson retires later this year after more than 31 years service. She joined the A.T.S. in Northern Ireland in March 1940, and served in Ulster on three further occasions. First as a Staff Captain at N.I.D. 1944-45, later for 2 years as W.R.A.C. Adviser 51 A.A. Bde. R.A. (T.A.) and finally as A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Ireland Command from 1965-68, when she was, of course, a member of Council and was instrumental in forming the flourishing Ulster Branch of the Association of which she is still the President.

Colonel Jamieson also had two interesting overseas postings, one to the British Army Staff in Ottawa in 1942, and a two-year tour in Gibraltar as O.C. 18 Indep. Coy and Staff Capt. A. Her last appointment has been as D.D.W.R.A.C. at the Ministry of Defence.

Colonel Jamieson has always taken a great interest in the Territorial Army. As well as her appointment as Adviser 51 A.A. Bde. she was G.S.O. 2 A.E.R./T.A. at the War Office for two years and C.W.R.A.C. 48 Div./Dist. T.A. before the reorganization of the Reserve Army.

We hope that the sad state of unrest in Northern Ireland will soon settle down so that she too can do the same and enjoy a happy and peaceful retirement, while still remaining in touch with her many friends.

Branch News

OMAGH. It may be a long time since we appeared in print but, though our numbers are small, we manage to keep going. We have been waiting for something important to happen to us, so it is with great pleasure that we now report that we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the formation of our Branch last August. By way of celebration our very first "Senior Leader" in C Company, Mrs. M. Glasgow, who is also a founder member of the Branch, held a Cocktail Party at her home, The Old Mill House, Omagh. The weather was most favourable and we were privileged to enjoy her beautiful garden in the evening sunlight. Then on 9th October when the holidays were over we met for a luncheon party in the Silver Birch Hotel, which building is in fact C Company A.T.S. Camp converted into a very modern and comfortable hotel. It goes without saying that all present were in agreement that it was a fitting meeting place on this our Silver Anniversary for so many who first soldiered there from the year 1940, when the Camp was first occupied, until the end of the war and for some time afterwards. Now we go forward for another twenty-five in the hope that we may be able to do our bit for the furtherance of the good work being done by the Association for those members not so fortunate as we are.

We wish all our fellow members well.

SALISBURY. This past year has been saddened for us by the deaths of two of our members. In January Miss Potter died after a short illness. Several of our members were able to attend her memorial service in Salisbury Cathedral. We miss her very much, especially as she was at the College of Sarum St. Michael where we hold our meetings. In August our oldest member, Miss Jones, died peacefully. She always took a great interest in our affairs and although not able to come to our meetings very much latterly she liked to know what was going on and always supported our efforts. We were glad that, in spite of the holidays, some of us were able to attend her funeral service in St. Paul's Church.

In February we enjoyed a talk and slide show on the

history of the College of Sarum St. Michael given by Miss Tood, one of the lecturers. We held a Jumble Sale in March to help our donation to the Benevolent Fund. During the summer we had two meetings out of Salisbury when we were invited to visit the homes of our Treasurer, Mrs. Pyke, at Landford and in July we made our annual visit to Colonel Macfie at Middle Wallop. Both of these were blessed with good weather and we were able to spend some time out of doors in beautiful surroundings.

The Secretary attended the Annual General Meeting in London in April and a small number went to the Southern Area Re-Union in May arranged by Weymouth Branch. We congratulate them on their excellent organisation of this event. In October we had a talk on flower arrangement and then in November it was the Annual General Meeting. We have a new Chairman, Mrs. Sparrow, with the other officers as before. The Treasurer was able to report a satisfactory balance in our funds.

In place of our usual Christmas Dinner we held a Wine and Cheese Party in December at the College of Sarum St. Michael. This was well attended and seemed to be a popular change with everyone. We were glad to have so many of our old friends with us and also some serving members from nearby units. We were most grateful to Miss Walker for all her hard work in arranging this function for us. Indeed we are most fortunate in being able to hold our meetings at the College, thanks to the Principal Miss Ashley and Miss Walker.

WOLVERHAMPTON. During the past months we have had some very pleasant meetings seeing more members (now that their families have grown up) and renewing old friendships. We are pleased to welcome back to our Branch Mrs. Pat Hill, and to enrol a new member Mrs. McNish (Q.M.A.A.C.) A dry mild evening in February and we had enough members come to the meeting and have a Beetle drive. In April, a taste of wine, after seeing a wine making demonstration given by Mrs. Smith of the Wine Makers Circle. May and our visit to Saughton Camp where the hospitality of the W.R.A.C. members makes us eager for the next visit, thank you ladies. Our members were all delighted with the colour slides of Brigadier Heaney's World Tour. A very special Thank You to Mrs. Moorcroft, Vice-Chairman Western Area, also Mr. Moorcroft for making the journey from Chester to Wolverhampton, on a dreadful night, to give a fine demonstration of flower arrangements. In September a Bring and Buy Sale, October a Suki Party and November a Lingerie Party. Our membership remains around 30 and our meetings are in the Public Library, Snow Hill, on the fourth Monday of the month. I would like to take this opportunity of inviting any serving, or ex-service, W.R.A.C. along to our meetings. If you have any difficulty in finding us a line to the Editor will get you in touch with the Branch Secretary.

Obituary

Miss M. J. G. Chardon

L EEDS Branch regret to announce the death of one of their members Miss Molly Chardon who served as a L/Cpl. A.T.S. from 1938-48 and as a driver with the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) until 1967.

**Miss A. Doyle
Mrs. L. H. Green
Miss L. Machin
Mrs. A. M. Pape
Miss E. Regan**

W E regret to announce the deaths of Miss Ada Doyle ex-Sgt. A.T.S. and a Life member of the Association. Mrs. L. H. Green, telephonist Q.M.A.A.C. 1917-19 of Sheffield Branch. Miss L. Machin of London Branch, Worker Q.M.A.A.C. Rouen, Mrs. Audrey Pape ex-S.Comd. A.T.S. and Miss Elizabeth Regan of Manchester Branch who served with Q.M.A.A.C. from 1918-19.

Lieutenant Colonel A. D. S. Hurburgh

C.B.M. Writes

'With regret we announce the death of Lieutenant Colonel Hurburgh on 23rd October, 1971 after a long illness bravely borne.

'Herbie' joined the A.T.S. as a private in 1939 and was commissioned in 1942. After serving in a number of regimental and staff appointments she was promoted Lieutenant Colonel in 1953 and appointed A.D. W.R.A.C 4 A.A. Group and later Deputy O.I.C. Medical and W.R.A.C. Records. In 1958 she retired and was appointed to the W.R.A.C. Depot as a Retired Officer Grade 3 and joined Royal Signals Records in the same capacity in 1965.

During the six years that she was with Royal Signals Records she identified herself completely with the Corps of her adoption and by her fair and sympathetic handling of the posting, promotion and personal problems of the operating trades her name became a byword among all units of the Corps world-wide.

With her death, Records and the soldiers of the Corps lose not only a loyal and selfless servant but a warm hearted friend who at all times had the interests of the Corps and its soldiers at heart.

To her relatives we extend our deepest sympathy'

Miss V. M. Jones

W ITH deep regret Salisbury Branch reports the death of Queenie Jones on 8th August. She was a founder, and most loyal, member of the Branch which had a deep affection and respect for her.

Miss Jones served in the W.A.A.C./Q.M.A.A.C. and was a Senior Administrative Officer in Southern Comm-

and. Other public service included 26 years with the Scout Movement in the Salisbury area and for which she was awarded the Medal of Merit. She also worked for the National Life Boat Institution and the House Wives Service (Civil Defence).

Our sympathy is extended to her sister Miss Eileen Jones who has always taken an active interest in the branch.

Mrs F. Powell

WITH great regret we heard of the death of Mrs. Florence Powell (nee Wildish). She was seriously injured in a road accident on December 6th 1971 and died three days later. When she joined Q.M.A.A.C. she was a fully qualified telegraphist and was among the first signals to be sent to France in 1917, and was stationed at Dieppe. She married during her first leave but returned to her unit. She was very musical and very popular with the Signallers and a happy member of London Branch and the Luncheon Club.

Mrs. L. Green

SHEFFIELD Branch sadly announce the death of Mrs. Lily (Topsy) Green (nee Johnson) who served in Q.M.A.A.C. She lived only for others.

Warrant Officers' Postings

(1 Oct-31 Dec. 71)

W/397925 W.O. I.J. Foulds, 16 Signal Regt.
W/397463 W.O. I.H. D. Griffith, 10 Signal Regt.
W/327305 W.O. I.J. Beard B.E.M., C.P.O. Northern & Southern Commands.
W/340869 W.O. I.E. A. Henderson, B.E.M., H. & D. Coy W.R.A.C. (H.S.).
W/395484 W.O. 2 E. M. Rhodie, Staff of Defence Adviser, Singapore.
W/413553 W.O. 2 V. Rogers, R.P.O. Winchester.
W/327555 W.O. 2 B. Brewster, H. & D. Coy W.R.A.C. (H.S.).
W/405627 W.O. 2 C. A. Marriott, R.M.P. Trg. Centre.
W/342079 W.O. 2 C. H. Wales, H. & D. Coy W.R.A.C. (H.S.).
W/374755 W.O. 2 E. M. Bird, 3 Sqn. 10 Sig. Regt.

London Gazette

HONOUR AWARDS

M.B.E. Acting Staff Sgt. Edith Leach W.R.A.C. (Retd.)

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS REGULAR ARMY

Captain Lieutenants Lieuts Z. E. Bowness Smith, A. A. Kelly.
2/Lieuts. C. M. Crawford, K. H. E. Meachem, J. A. Flake, L. D. Cowley, S. P. Binns, from S.S.C.
2/Lieuts: M. R. Gibb, A. M. F. Pote, D. J. Killberry, C. E. Farr, S. M. Brown.
2/Lieuts: on probation, M. R. King, L. D. Cowley, C. M. Crawford, K. H. E. Meachem, are confirmed in their appointments.

SPECIAL REGULAR COMMISSION

Captain M. Mackenzie, from S.S.C.
Lieutenant 2/Lieut. H. D. Fenn.
2/Lieut: J. E. M. Webber, R. E. Longden.
2/Lieuts: on probation, E. J. Womack, L. D. R. Watkin, are confirmed in their appointments.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Captain Lieutenants 2/Lieut: Lieut. M. R. Gardner.
2/Lieuts. P. H. Dukes, S. Macintosh, R. D. Patrick.
J. M. Denholm, H. Bellingham Smith, N. J. Pratt, S. F. Terry.

RETIREMENTS ETC. REGULAR ARMY

Majors Captains Lieuts: B. F. G. Moore, F. Odell, D. D. W. Brousson.
L. C. Stubbs, S. J. R. Watson.
H. J. Newby Grant, J. D. Wilson, C. A. Wade.

Personal Column

Personal Column, Charges. 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 of 10p per line.

Middle East Reunion, 1972. The 1972 Reunion for all ranks will be held on Saturday May 20th at the Helena Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, London, S.W.1. at 7 p.m. On this occasion members are invited to bring husbands or boy friends. Tickets 50p. from Miss Sally Healey, Camellia Cottage, Church Street, Nunney, Nr. Frome, Somerset.

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DAVID HARRIS, British Forces Insurance Broker, Carbon Chambers, 7B, Hall Gate, Doncaster, Yorks.

Situation Vacant. 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V), T. & A.V.R. Clonaver Park Belfast, pleasantly situated in a suburban area, has a vacancy for a Permanent Staff Instructor, W.R.A.C., to undertake training of W.R.A.C. Volunteers in teleprinter operating, switchboard operating, and message handling, and to take full part in the administrative duties of a popular regiment having a thriving W.R.A.C. membership. The successful applicant will have had full time service with one of the Womens Services, preferably with communications experience. She will be enlisted on a Type 'R' engagement, given suitable training, and granted the acting rank of Sergeant. She will live at home and be prepared to travel occasionally for short courses or exercises. Pay is £26.88 per week, with increments after every three years. The engagement is pensionable subject to its renewal after the initial 3 years engagement. Applications giving details of past service, other qualifications, and date available to start should be addressed: Commanding Officer, 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V), Clonaver Park, Belfast, BT4 2EY.

Wanted. Bright intelligent lady for light domestic work in Ladies Residential Club in lovely Bedfordshire village. (24 Residents). Must live in. No children or pets. Wage negotiable. Write to the Secretary, Sharnbrook House, Sharnbrook, Bedford.

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