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THE LIONESS

VOL XLVI

JUNE 1973

No. 2



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Contents

	Page
Editorial	27
Annual General Meeting	27
Retirement	29
News of Members	29
Australian Glimpses	30
Pte Millie Tent	31
Unit News	32
Report of Council	35
Personal Column	35
Poets Corner	36
Obituary	38
Reorganisation of Areas	40
Area Branch News	41
Notes for Secretaries	44
Branch Meetings	44
Correspondence	44
Grand Draw—Prize winners	45
Prize Competition	46
Regular Forces Employment Association	46
Postings and London Gazette	47
Re-unions	47
Branch Directory	48

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W.R.A.C. Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park
Guildford, Surrey.

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Colonel (now Brigadier) E J Nolan, newly appointed Director

Colonel E J Nolan, who will have assumed the appointment of Director WRAC by the time this edition of the *Lioness* appears, joined the ATS in 1942, and was appointed to a Regular Commission three years later. For two years from 1952 she commanded the locally enlisted company of the WRAC in Jamaica. Her other overseas service has been in Libya and in Singapore where she was Assistant Director WRAC from 1968-70.

Following the WRAC Staff College Course in 1954, Colonel Nolan became a movements staff officer in London at the time of the Suez operation. She was Women's Services Liaison Officer at HQ Northern Command, York in 1961 and later commanded the Office Cadet Wing of the WRAC College at Camberley. Before going to Singapore she was Assistant Director WRAC, HQ Scottish Command, Edinburgh. On returning from Singapore Colonel Nolan took up her present appointment as AAG in the WRAC personnel branch at the Ministry of Defence, which she leaves in May when she assumes her new appointment of Director.

We offer our sincere congratulations and best wishes for a happy and successful tour in her new appointment.



THE LIONESS

Vol. XLVI

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Editorial

THIS time last year Lieutenant Colonel Millington was busy welcoming a new Editor to the Lioness. Now the wheel has turned full cycle and we are in the position of welcoming another new Editor (only we hasten to add, because the present one is moving away from the area!). Fortunately Major Pam Wyndham-Tate, who will be the new Assistant Corps Secretary, has not yet taken fright at the prospect of editing the Lioness and I am sure, with the help and support so readily given by members, that she will have as much fun as I have had in producing the journal.

Although one hardly dares mention Christmas as early as this, members should know now that it will not be possible to provide Corps diaries or refills this year. So few people order the diary that it is not economical to order even the minimum number we would have to order, and although we were promised that refills would still be available, Letts now inform us that this is not so—except, that is, at a highly inflated price. Any ordinary Letts refill on sale generally in the shops will, however, fit the Corps wallets.

In spite of having to pay VAT on the Corps goods we sell we shall not be increasing the prices so please support Corps HQ funds by using our Shopping List when you are considering buying presents.

Annual General Meeting 1973

THE Annual General Meeting was held at 3 pm on Saturday the 17th March, 1973, at the Duke of York's Headquarters by kind permission of Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon, CBE, DL.

Colonel L M Davies CBE, Vice President of the WRAC Association, presiding.

Col Davies opened the meeting by welcoming the members present. Apologies had been received from 21 members and 28 Ex-Service and Unit Branch Secretaries.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday the 18th March, 1972, having been circulated in the June issue of the Lioness were taken as read and signed as correct.

2. BUSINESS ARISING

- The move of Headquarters was completed in March, 1972.
- The Devon/Exeter Branch approved by Council had not yet been formed.
- Three copies of the Lioness started in June, 1972.

REPORTS

3.—REPORT OF COUNCIL

The report of Council was given by Lieutenant Colonel R J King, OBE, JP, (Retd) and is printed elsewhere.

4.—HONORARY TREASURER

Lieutenant Colonel A R Robertson, Honorary Treasurer of the Association, said the audited accounts had been published in full in the February issue of the Lioness. She was glad to say that 1971/1972 had been another good year, income exceeding expenditure by £219.41, and continued by giving an explanation of the accounts. The Life Member Subscription Fund showed an increase of £138. A profit of £706 had been made by the sale of 440 Charifund Units. Small profits had also been made on 6% Conversion Stock (£13) and LCC 6% Stock (£5). After re-investment in 5% Exchequer Loan Stock and 8% Treasury Stock, total funds invested had increased by just under £1,000 at cost. £175 Life Membership had been invested. The market value of investments had fallen by £248 since the last balance sheet, there was however no need for alarm as most of our investments were dated stocks, which if held until redemption dates would incur no loss of capital.

Total subscriptions had increased by £69, interest on investments by £50, donations had been fewer, but income from the sale of badges and publications had increased. £5 grants had been made to two Branches.

Administrative expenditure had been kept down despite rising costs. QMAAC members were thanked for always sending stamped addressed envelopes when replies were needed.

The Treasurer concluded by proposing the adoption of the audited account, this was seconded by Mrs W Whitelaw and carried unanimously.

5. EDITOR

The Editor, Major F Odell, said that during the past year changes had taken place in the production side of the

Lioness. Both the Editor and the Assistant Editor had changed as Captain H Carey had left on posting to Hong Kong. Maj Odell thanked her for her contribution of cartoons and for keeping a good liaison with serving members.

The financial position had begun to be a little more hopeful partly due to increased advertising revenue and the encouraging response from branches and units in contributing towards the cost of photographs accompanying articles. As Corps HQ paid for the frontispiece, the photographic content should prove less of a financial problem in future.

The Editor said new features and ideas would be welcomed. A prize competition had been started, and it was hoped to get a lively and interesting feature on short news items about members. The Editor asked all members to assist over this by sending in brief items about themselves, their families and their postings.

6.—REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a. *ATS/WRAC Benevolent Fund*

Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, DBE, Chairman of the Trustees said that the Trustees met three times during the year. The move of the Fund's Offices from London to Guildford had taken place at the end of March.

Due to the move Mrs Aggelton had been unable to continue as Case Secretary and her place had been taken by Major M Coverdale (Retd). Lieutenant Colonel M S F Millington OBE (Retd), retired in June and her place had been taken by Colonel P M Lipscomb (Retd). The Trustees were grateful to both Col Millington and Mrs Aggelton for all they had done for the Funds.

During the year the Grants Committee had dealt with 634 applications, an increase of 113 on the previous year. The number of ex-ATS had also increased. Out of the total number of applications considered no action had been taken in 83 cases because the Committee were unable to establish need. No new loans were made. Long term unemployment, often through illness, had been a noticeable factor behind many of the cases. There were 6 ex-ATS members in receipt of £1 per week supplementary allowance from the Army Benevolent Fund.

A total of £8,324 had been spent on grants. This was over £2,000 more than the previous year, and unfortunately the income for the same period had decreased by nearly £200. Although the Trustees hoped this was a temporary drop it needed to be thought about.

Nine mothers and their children went on one week holidays to Pontins Holiday Camps; these were paid for by Mr Pontin and the Army Benevolent Fund. Widows had been given preference, and the benefit and enjoyment given to the families was immense as shown from letters received.

The Trustees wished to thank all those who supported the funds by subscriptions and donations, and were most

grateful to the servicewomen who had agreed to make regular contributions deducted by the Paymaster. They also wished to express their appreciation to those who had knitted children's clothes.

The Trustees acknowledged with gratitude a legacy of £2,000 for the ATS Benevolent Fund and £60 for the WRAC Benevolent Fund donated by branches and members in memory of the late Mrs Suttle. The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund had benefited from a generous and anonymous donation of £1,000. There were now 16 Annuitants, QMAAC, ATS and WRAC, receiving 50p per week.

The Trustees had learned with regret of the death of Miss E Gowers, who had been a valued member of the Grants Committee since the early days of the Funds.

b. *WRAC Regimental Museum*

The Chairman of the Trustees, Col Davies, said that during the year two major changes affecting the Museum had taken place. Firstly, Dame Mary Railton had resigned as Chairman of the Trustees, and Col Davies on behalf of the Trustees expressed their sincere appreciation to Dame Mary for the interest she had shown in the Museum during her 10 years as Chairman. It was fortunate for the Museum that she had agreed to continue to act as a Trustee. The second change was that all Regimental Museums were now officially recognised and sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. The advantages were that all works services, furniture and fittings would be provided by the Department of the Environment, so leaving funds free for the purchase of items of interest.

The financial position remained healthy, and once again the reason for this was almost entirely Mrs Bell's contribution from the gifts she makes and sells, which this year, together with a small sum from the Museum Box, amounted to a record sum of £112.44.

The number of visitors to the Museum had been 4,389, a drop on last year, but there had been no Corps Day. The majority of visitors were recruits and their families although there had been an increase in the numbers of civilian visitors doing research of one type or another. Enquiries from the public and requests for loan of uniforms continued.

On the opening of the NZWRAC Museum a wooden plaque was sent from our Museum. Acquisitions had been varied and a variety of sports trophies and plaques from units now disbanded had been received. Four very interesting albums of photographs from 327 Bn WRAC TA, giving the history of the battalion were a great addition to the TA section. Col Rankin presented a plaque given to her by the Commander Republic of Korea WAC on her visit to the Centre and Lt Col Millington had donated her OBE parchment and her two commissioning parchments. An unusual medal given to the Museum was the King Christian X Liberty Medal which had been awarded to the late Miss E Gowers 'for services to Denmark'.

Col Davies said the Trustees would welcome any gifts.

particularly of QMAAC officers felt hats and OR felt hats. Col Davies concluded by thanking Mrs Bell, the Assistant Curator, for her invaluable help in the Museum and for the unceasing efforts she continued to make for the Museum funds.

7.—RESOLUTIONS

a. "That the wording of Rule 10 published in the February Lioness be approved" and

b. "That the amendments to Rule 7, 8b 9, 11 and 12, and Standing Orders for AGM Para 3 as published in the February Lioness be approved" (Council Resolution).

The Resolution was proposed by Colonel M D M Humphery, CBE (Retd), seconded by Lieutenant Colonel L E Holt (Retd), and carried unanimously.

8.—ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a. *Chairman of Council*

The Vice President said that Lt Col King completed her tour of office on the 31st October, 1973. Council nomination was Colonel D H I Wilson OBE (Retd), there were no other nominations. Mrs W Whitelaw seconded, Col Wilson was declared elected.

b. *Vice President of Council*

Col Davies said there was one vacancy as Colonel M K Crewe-Read CBE TD (Retd), had completed her term of office. Council nomination was Lieutenant Colonel G E M Saunders-Davies TD (Retd). There were no other nominations, seconded by Dame Mary Railton and declared elected.

Mrs H E C Weldon, Mrs W Whitelaw and Col D H I Wilson were eligible for re-election. As there had been no other nominations the Vice President declared them re-elected.

Col Davies thanked the Chairman for all she had done during her term of office and for the great interest she had taken in the Association, she also thanked Col Crewe-Read for her valuable assistance as a Council Vice President.

9.—ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reminded members that the Service at the Royal Hospital Chapel was at 11 am the next day.

Mrs Rumbold urged all branches to plant a tree in 1973 with a commemorative Association plaque.

10.—DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced that the AGM would be on the 16th March, 1974 and said Council would be discussing arrangements for the Reunion, normally on the same day, at their next meeting.

Lt Col King proposed a vote of thanks to Col Davies for presiding.

Retirement

Brigadier S A E Heaney, MBE, TD, Hon ADC
by

The Deputy Controller Commandant

SADLY it is time to say goodbye to Brigadier Heaney on her retirement. Her time as DWRAC has been all too short.

She was our longest serving officer, having joined the ATS in January, 1939 and was the last regular serving officer to have the distinction of being able to add the letters TD after her name.

She had a very wide experience in many employments and served overseas in East Africa and Egypt. She was also one of the few to attend a staff course in the United States.

We have been very fortunate to have Brigadier Heaney as DWRAC during a time of great changes. Her progressive thinking, realistic outlook and genuine interest in all ranks has been an enormous help to us in overcoming many difficulties.

On her retirement I am sure Brigadier Heaney carries with her our warmest good wishes for her future happiness. I am sure she will put her talents to good use in the civilian world and we wish her success in whatever she undertakes.

Although we are saying goodbye to her as DWRAC we very much hope she will keep up her connection with the Corps and that we shall see her at Council meetings and Corps functions in the future.

News of Members

MAJOR BRENDA GODIN. As she is unable, as yet, to use her right hand since her accident, Major Brenda Godin wishes to say how very very touched she has been by the number of beautiful flowers, letters and cards she has received. She hopes her friends will accept this message as a token of her extreme gratitude and sincere thanks for their kindness.

MARRIAGE. On 24th March, 1973, at Liverpool. Mrs D Hulme (née W/239315 D Hitchen, No 1 War Office Signals) to Mr A Cook.

MARRIAGE. Miss C Coid of Glasgow Branch to Mr Fossey—now living at 46, Jopling Way, Hauxton, Cambridge.

ATS CLERKS' SCHOOL, STRATHPEPPER. Does anyone remember the song we used to sing? The last two lines have been haunting me (Miss Doris Lee) for years.

"You'll no get in the shelter
for it's far too wee!"

Replies please through the Association.

Australian Glimpses

Captain C V Hickman

EACH journey into the Australian outback is an adventure, and every state expresses its individuality in many diverse forms. It is hoped that the following personal glimpses, gathered together over a period of two years, will reveal just how diverse the characteristics of each state can be.

NEW SOUTH WALES the adopted "home state" of a Pommie on exchange duties, offered many activities previously inexperienced; fossicking for opals at Lightning Ridge in the heat of an October sun; wine-tasting in the Hunter Valley; riding on an outback sheep-station; crossing open paddocks, gentle creeks and cantering through gum forests disturbing kangaroos and sending multicoloured parakeets screeching from the trees; travelling 1,000 miles by car during a weekend simply to observe some outback scenery and thinking nothing of the distance involved; cruising on the blue waters of Sydney Harbour; crossing the Harbour Bridge into the city and paying a 20 cent toll; sunbathing on Bondi Beach and observing a marked lack of bronzed, athletic Australian males; breathing in the varied scents of native flora whilst walking in the Blue Mountains; climbing into the inner recesses of the Jenolan Caves and staring in wonderment at the fairyland of stalactites and stalagmites.

The **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**, a state specifically created to house the national capital of Canberra, lies in the south-east corner of New South Wales, close to the Victorian border. Graceful architectural styles of the modern era dominate the city centre and the numerous, ever-expanding suburbs, planned down to the last tree and footpath, provide a worthy showground for Australian architects. Critics refer to Canberra as "the city without a heart", but whilst its lack of history prevents the presence of any "character" it unfailingly symbolises the progress of a young country and offers beauty to the beholder.

VICTORIA revealed its gold "ghost towns", their decaying buildings and machinery remnants of a former era. Small deposits of gold remain a reward for the ardent panner but first you must be prepared to get your feet wet! "The Green, Green Grass of Home" is evident in the pastoral scenery, and the hilly, wooded countryside adds a further touch of nostalgia. The river Yarra, its silt permanently visible, runs through the city of Melbourne, complementing the brown sandstone of the Victorian architecture which lines its banks. Acres of vines flourish in the rich, red soil of Central Victoria and assist in providing Australia with her excellent, inexpensive varieties of wine.

TASMANIA often referred to as the "Apple Isle", is probably better known for its convict associations. Port Arthur, the main penal settlement of the early 1800s and grave of many an unfortunate wretch, remains in well

preserved ruins for all to be reminded of the island's grim past. Tasmania offers a touch of the British Isles to those from "that other small island", with its tudor-style houses, topiary, apple orchards, hedged fields, thick pine forests, hop gardens, narrow country lanes, rhododendron bushes and abundant daffodils. Much of the west remains unexplored but the stark, barren country around Queens-town provides Tasmania with one of its main industries—copper mining; the other major sources of income result from tourism and timber.

Port Lincoln, a tuna-fishing town on the South East Coast of South Australia offered big game fishing in the form of a seven foot sting-ray, whilst Ceduna, with salt water gushing forth from every tap and shower, marked the start of a two day journey across the Nullabor Plain. Coober Pedy, where the miners live in underground 'dugouts' to avoid the extremes of temperature which nature delivers during the summer (over 130°F) and winter (down to 40°F) months, draws thousands of multi-national prospectors each year, all prepared to face the dust, heat, water restrictions (50 gallons per person per week; one bucket a day for the tourist!) and desolation for the shimmering reward hidden beneath the sandstone surface; opals are very big business in Australia.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA owns a large proportion of barren terrain, none more so than the Nullabor Plain, extending through South Australia but having its greater portion in Western Australia. Observing the horizon bears a marked similarity to the meeting of the sea and sky; but salt bush (very low scrub) is visible for twenty or thirty miles and eventually the earth just merges with the sky. The climate reaches unbearable temperatures, whilst dust from the dirt roads has no respect for anyone or anything and penetrates vehicles, hair, clothing, alike. Western Australia is acknowledged as the "wild-flower state" and during spring these perennial wonders add colour to an otherwise drab scene. Perth, resembling a mini-Sydney by its situation along the shores of the Swan River (home for the state emblem, the black swan), rates second only to Sydney as the most attractive of the capital cities.

The **NORTHERN TERRITORY** houses the real Australia and "Central Australia", which embraces for the most part the Northern Territory but additionally includes portions of South and Western Australia, is aptly named "The Red Heart". The cracked, parched deep-red soil contrasts dramatically with the stark whiteness of the gum trees, the brilliance of a cloudless sky, and the rainbow colourings of the rocks. Aborigines permanently barefooted, living in "humpies" (tin shacks or abandoned cars) and scratching an existence by carving wooden animals, boomerangs and other native artifacts for purchase by the tourist, are in greater profusion in the Northern Territory than elsewhere in Australia. Darwin, the capital, is little more than a country town whilst Alice Springs is refreshingly modern and an oasis in an otherwise arid area. The Flying Doctor oper-

PTE MILLIE TENT LOOKS AT POSSIBLE NEW UNIFORM HATS

As many readers will know, a competition is being held to choose a design for a new WRAC forage cap. Although the designs depicted below may not win the prize they are at least models and unlikely to be repeated!



"SOMETHING WHICH WILL NOT
DATE, WILL LOOK LIKE A
UNIFORM HAT

AND WILL NOT JUST SUIT
THE MAJORITY OF WEARERS
BUT WILL ARREST ATTENTION"

TROPICAL VERSION—
INCORPORATING BOTH
UMBRELLA AND
MOSQUITO NET

ates amongst the remote stations, and the School of Air, also based in "the Alice" (as the town is affectionately nicknamed), educates those children who are prevented from receiving a formal education because their residence is far removed from civilization and local schools. Ayers Rock draws the tourists in their thousands and its magnificence never ceases to impress, whether viewed by sunset, sunrise, by day or by moonlight. This enormous monolith can be scaled by those desirous of an energetic uphill struggle (1,200 feet in 30 minutes is considered very good) provided of course that the climber doesn't suffer from vertigo. The route to the summit weaves around and over steep precipices and narrow ledges, but to view the Olgas from the pinnacle of Ayers Rock more than compensates for such an adventurous trek; the red, purple, and orange hues remain in the memory long after the aching limbs are forgotten.

The tropical state of QUEENSLAND produces such edible delicacies as pineapples, mangoes, paw paws, oranges, passionfruits and bananas and to travel through the various plantations is a journey tinged with an "exotic flavour". Surfers' Paradise, the major holiday

resort in Australia, lives up to its name with superb surfing beaches, endless sunshine, blue skies, and tropical vegetation. Offshore, to the north-east lies the Great Barrier Reef; truly a wonder of the world with its multi-coloured layers of coral and strikingly beautiful species of fish. Inland, separated from the coast by rugged, desolate scenery, the copper and lead mines of Mt Isa, bringing work and wealth to an industrious population, issue forth columns of pollution to hang in the balmy atmosphere. Fumes from sugar-cane factories nauseate a stranger's nostril whilst tropical storms, typhoons, cyclones, snakes and cane toads are to be avoided rather than experienced. From the lushness of the northern rain forests to the tobacco plantations overshadowed by the Glasshouse Mountains, from the quiet pastures of the Atherton Tablelands to the fly-blown atmosphere of a Cloncurry station, Queensland offers so much that is "just different".

Australia offers eight distinct States. All typify what the rest of the world acknowledges as "Australian", yet each has its own individual characteristics which must be discovered to be appreciated.

Unit News

COD DONNINGTON

WORK in the Depot here at Donnington has been as hectic as ever. This did not stop the WRAC taking part in many activities. Lcpl Clarke PTI, played the part of crew in a Charity Bed Race, organised by 59 Army Youth Team, and helped contribute towards the raising of £185 for the Westcroft Special School. The WRAC have assisted 59 and 31 Army Youth Teams, who, at weekends, take parties of 15-year old boys and girls rock climbing and camping in North Wales. The WRAC also assist at Brecon when Counter Revolutionary Operations Exercises take place. They play the part of Policewomen and wives, adding realism to the situation.

In sport, three WRAC were selected for the Junior Team (under 19 years) All England Inter-Counties Netball Tournament and Pte Stoneman who plays Badminton for the mixed Donnington Team, won all her matches thus contributing greatly to their success in the recent League. Our Rifle Shooting has improved and WO2 Merton won the WRAC Individual Championship and the team won the postal league competition. Ptes Brown and Kennedy attended a gymnastic course earlier this year and Pte Brown was selected for training for the Royal Tournament.



Three technical storewomen members of the Saddle Club



Lcpl Clarke (PTI) in the Charity Bed Race

In February, 10 WRAC took part in exercise "Spring Frolic" when they had the opportunity to learn to Ski near the Aviemore Centre in the Cairngorms. Meanwhile, many of the women are enjoying the facilities of the Saddle Club and three are attending courses at RAVC Training Centre, Melton Mowbray. Sports afternoons are popular and now that the swimming pool has opened for the season we look forward to participating in the various water sports.

Lastly all at Donnington send greetings to the WRAC in Northern Ireland and especially the eight WRAC from our Unit who volunteered for special duties.

1 RMP WRAC COMPANY

THE WRAC Provost, together with volunteers from other WRAC trades, who now form the WRAC Company of 1 RMP under Captain Janet Lawson, continues to make a tremendous contribution towards peacekeeping in Northern Ireland. The way the women carry out their difficult task is the admiration of everyone who sees them. The only regret is that there are never enough.

But life in Northern Ireland is not all anti-terrorist operations, and an interesting insight on the good relations which can be developed by the Military Police, even under the worst conditions, appeared in the correspondence section of the Belfast Newsletter of 1st December, 1972.

The letter read:

"Sir,

I have my own ideas about the British Army good, and bad, but I hope through your paper that you will let me thank a corporal and a woman of the Royal Military Police who assisted my daughter and my wife at Ardoyne, on Crumlin Road, when my daughter aged 3½ years collapsed in a convulsion.

They were kind and considerate to the extreme and I hope through your paper that you will let me thank them.

This happened on Friday 24th November.

Yours etc.,

Norman McArthur."

There were in fact two members of the WRAC Provost, Lcpl Anne Byford and Lcpl Barbara Hitchins. The RMP NCO was Cpl Raymond Miller of 1 RMP.



Minister of Defence, Lord Carrington, speaking to Cpls Ward and Locke, WRAC Provost in Londonderry

NORTHERN IRELAND

LIFE here is never dull! There is always something happening. The big "happening" was the marriage of Major Elaine Ironmonger to Major 'Pat' Beaumont of the Parachute Regiment on the 26th January, 1973. All members of the WRAC were delighted and sincerely wish them every happiness in the future.

During February, Colonel E J Nolan kindly paid a flying visit to Northern Ireland where she managed to meet all the Regular WRAC Officers and many of the WRAC on duty in the Province—all in one day!

Although it is not always possible to produce players for sports, Cpl Robertson, and Lcpl Reid played in the Inter Zone Badminton, while Lt R Wheelock, Cpl Robertson, Lcpl Nickels, Pte Huddleston, Pte Marner, Pte Lee and Pte Rogers took part in the Army (Women's) Netball Association Inter Unit Competition final at Aldershot. Netball matches are arranged against local teams and volley ball is growing in popularity. Now the Sailing season has started!

During March, Cpl Hawkhead, Lcpl Mc Dougall, Lcpl Nickels and Pte Vandenkerkhof attended a skiing course at Aviemore which they thoroughly enjoyed.

There are no shortages of invitations to attend dances /discos and the Unit organised a successful and enjoyable St Valentine's Dance. There have also been outings to Tollymore Forest Park, Castlewellsan and Bangor.

For the more serious minded members, the unit has entered two teams to take part in the 39 Brigade Quiz and were delighted that "The Dabblers" (WOII Brook, Cpl Smith, Lcpl Hill and Lcpl Wilson-Hamilton) won their first round against Comms Tp 'B' Team. We also look forward to our "Wheelers" team (Lt Wheelock, Lcpl Nickels, Pte Lee and Pte Rogers) being as successful when they compete.

Finally, 233 Signal Squadron celebrated its twenty-fourth birthday on 13-15 April, 1973, and completed the weekend festivities with a Church Parade in which the 233 Signal Squadron WRAC took part and attracted creditable comment for their turnout and bearing.

Exercise Hot Splash

by

Corporal Jane Purdie

"Have you seen the notice on the Notice Board, advertising a free holiday in Cyprus, with just spending money and a few clothes needed?"

"There must be a catch in it, but let's put our name down and see."

This conversation took place in the WRAC Element of the Headquarters, Northern Ireland in October between two of us and much to our surprise we found ourselves

in Cyprus a short time later. In all, sixteen girls were able to go in two groups, and we were accommodated in Nightingale Barracks in Dhekelia by kind courtesy of the Officer Commanding HQ Company, HQ NEARELF, Major Denne.

We were met on arrival by Major Denne and CSM Obbard who told us of the activities and outings they had organised for us. We then settled down to enjoy swimming in the Mediterranean, basking in the sun, snorkling, sailing and water skiing. We explored the old city of Famagusta, and visited the ruins of Salamis, an old Greek city built around the time of the Trojan wars. We even gave an impromptu concert in the Amphitheatre amidst rude comments and admiring snapshot takers.

There were castles to explore, such as Kantara which is situated in the Pendathektilos mountains. The journey there was breathtaking with narrow twisting roads, and a rather wide coach.

In the evenings there was the Spillia Disco in Larnaca, or the night life of Famagusta or Nicosia.

On the last few days we tried our hand (or seats!) at riding, and although our horses did not get very far, we all knew about it the following day when we tried to sit down!

After being in Northern Ireland, with all its tensions and restrictions, our holiday made an exciting and very welcome change. We would all like to thank those in Cyprus who did so much to make our holiday interesting and to make us feel at home, and also the people in Northern Ireland who managed to send some ninety soldiers, our small group amongst them, to Cyprus, and *happily* stood on the runway at Aldergrove to watch us go!

WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION

The Welsh Guards Association have recently accepted ex-ATS who were attached to the Welsh Guards, as Associate members, and at the St David's Day Parade at Chelsea Barracks, five of us met and watched the Parade.

There were comparatively few girls attached to the Welsh Guards during the war so for five of us to meet, it was a good percentage. They were Doris Lee, Rose Winch (née Sivial), Maisie Foard (née Seymour), Frankie Fox and myself Jenny Wells (née Flint). Rose, Maisie and Frankie married Welsh Guards as did Margaret Jenkins (née MacDonald) Joan Hunter (née Crawley) and Doris Docherty (née Lamprell) who we hope will join us next St David's Day.

The Duke of Edinburgh (Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment) presented the leeks and he came into the Junior Ranks Club afterwards.

We look forward to many social events run by the Association and are thrilled to have been accepted as Associate members of 'our' Regiment.

Report of Council

COUNCIL of the Association met four times during the year, and dealt with current business, which included the re-organisation of areas following a change in the Army's Command Structure; Membership of the Association; and revision of the Rules. The Executive Committee met three times.

Council is very pleased to report the formation in January of a new Branch in Swindon.

Our President Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent attended the happy Grand Reunion held last year in the Carisbrooke Hall of the Victory Club. Many members had the honour of being presented to Her Royal Highness during the evening. A presentation by the Director WRAC during which serving members spoke of their work in the Corps, aroused much interest and culminated in a delightful episode in which a young officer, her ex-ATS mother and ex-QMAAC grandmother were all on the stage together.

Successful Reunions were also held by Northern Area, No 2 and No 3 Sub Areas of Southern Area.

The Association continued to be represented on the Co-ordinating Committee for ex-Service Organisations, the World Veterans' Federation and the Women's Royal Voluntary Service Advisory Council.

Members attended the Service of Dedication of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey when a Cross was planted on our behalf by Lt Col B I Forbes Adam, MBE, ADWRAC London District. Our wreath was laid at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday by Miss M Tatum, MBE, of the Greater London Branch supported by members of the Association. Some members also attended the Service of Remembrance in Westminster Abbey.

The NZWRAC Association wrote they had altered the rule giving associate membership to 'all honourably discharged ex-Servicewomen resident in New Zealand' to give full membership with power to vote and hold office. They wrote that they would be happy to welcome any of our members visiting New Zealand and on your behalf we have reciprocated. Council decided to strengthen the link with our sister Association in New Zealand by sending them the Lioness.

During the year Mrs Scragg continued to collect and sell used stamps in aid of the Benevolent Fund. Council thank her most sincerely and also those who bring and send used stamps to Headquarters. Members have continued to send Green Shield Stamps and for these too, Council are most grateful.

We are most appreciative of the continued support from Branches to the Benevolent Fund and the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, and I again appeal to all Branches to try to send some donation, however small. You will hear when the Chairman of Trustees gives her report that the need for help is increasing among our less

fortunate comrades. We are grateful to those Branches who have, at our request visited and taken an interest in ex-Servicewomen who are alone, ill or in other difficulties. The time and effort made in doing this is so very worthwhile.

Members may be interested to know that Council have decided to accept the offer of the Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Home to allow our members to make use of the Home at Lowestoft for holidays at very favourable terms. We now await the change of charter but hope places will be available in September.

Area and Branch Officers have, as always, supported the Association loyally throughout the year. Their time is given so willingly to keep the Association active and to provide the members with pleasurable, interesting and worthwhile meetings and activities. This is the very spirit of the Association and keeps it going.

Council are giving much thought and discussion as to ways and means of increasing membership and ask members to do all they can to publicise the work of the Association and Benevolent Fund.

We also urge them to endeavour to increase the circulation of the Lioness which is our best way of keeping in touch with each other.

In my report last year I referred to the impending move from the Duke of York's Headquarters to Guildford. This took place as planned in March, resulting in a complete change of staff, except for our Assistant Curator, Mrs Bell.

We are pleased to welcome Maj Odell as Editor of the Lioness and Curator of the Museum, Maj Coverdale as Secretary of the Benevolent Fund and the new clerical staff Mrs Griffiths and Miss Briant. Many of you will I know have missed your visits to the Duke of York's during the year but you will be glad to know that the office in Guildford is very nice and that a very warm welcome awaits you should you ever be that way.

Finally I want to thank you all for making my term as your Chairman so happy and worthwhile.

Personal Column

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

Wanted. The Lioness back copy, February 1971. Box No 1/73.

Poets' Corner

MY LOVE

by
Private Carol Ashton

Without you I have only memories
Without you I will surely die
Without you I am not whole
My love

I need you by my side
I need your smile to cheer the world
I need you to lean on when I'm down
My love

Your understanding in all I try to do
Your sympathy when all goes wrong
Your laughter when the world is rosy
Your love, I need, to make me whole
My love.

DESOLATION OF THE HEART

by
Private Carol Ashton

The howling wind echoes the loneliness within my soul.
Rain splatting against the windowpane like life's blood,
Dripping from a lacerated wound in my heart
Time will heal the wound, they say.
Time.
How much time.
To dullen searing flashes into a dull throbbing ache?
To still the dull throbbing ache to numbness;
From numbness to re-birth?
Time,
A life-time!

Do not wear your heart upon your sleeve to show all,
they say.
So you smile, and jest and lead a normal life
While inside the wind never ceases to mourn,
Crying its unhappiness.
Life.
Empty Life.
A life with nothing upon which to lavish your hearts love
And no love to enfold and comfort you in turn.
I received a mocking love.
Love.
A lost love.

Oh cruel, cruel human race washing against the shores of
fate;

Surely someone amongst those swirling turbid waves
Will catch the line I throw and save me ere I drown;
Pull me up and heal the wound.
Love.

Gentle love.
Belief in God and pearly dew caught in a spider's web;
Of joy and comforting peace with serenity.

A child's happy innocence.

Peace.

What peace?

WITHDRAWAL

by
Sergeant Betsy Clewlow

Hot drops of sun
Plunge thro' tall pine
To splash, in pools,
About my feet.
Visual peace flown—
Now springs to mind
The blaze of war
And marching feet!

Oh! Let me find
A leafy glade
Whereto I'll creep,
All light shut out.
In Nature's womb
I'll restful sleep
Untroubled by
Atomic bout.

HOME THOUGHTS

by
Sergeant Betsy Clewlow

The distant roofs of Burslem streets
Gleam pearl-grey in the rain.
Above the slates stands St. John's church
And I am home again.

Her castellated tower guards
The sleeping Nave below.
And holy light from jewelled pane
Bathes Christians 'high' or 'low'.

Cool sandstone blocks and Norman arch
 August and austere seem.
 Not so to me, for as I gaze
 I see childhood scenes.

Of solo singing in the Nave
 On Anniversary Day.
 Of knowing pleasure that I gave
 As notes just flew away!

ACC RECRUITS

by
 Captain Elizabeth Saxon

Rows of boots and hands bitten at the nails.
 Young perplexed faces watch me
 As I calculate the profit and loss
 Of their mis-spent youths.

Boys who had thrown ink pellets,
 Cheeked teacher, joined in horse-play
 Are now struck dumb by simple fractions
 On an Army blackboard

There are little boys, young for seventeen
 With sad eyes, missing their mothers,
 And older men chewing pencils
 Dragging out long forgotten facts.

There are bruisers from Glasgow
 Dumb now
 And quiet boys from good homes
 Confused by the barrack room noise.

They will all pass out
 To the kitchen and drill square
 Secure in camaraderie
 And culinary skills.

They will be drunk in Aldershot,
 And chat up the girls
 Or write letters home SWALK
 And long for replies.

They will leave for their units
 Trained soldiers, men of the world.
 (for whom war is unknown
 Vietnam a nightmare terror).

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 and



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 Butter Cream Yogurt

LOVE, FIFTEEN

by
 Captain Elizabeth Saxon

Soon I will be thirty

Once I was twenty and felt no dread
 the world was about me and dead
 marches were exiled for jazz and pop
 and all the excitement of being at the world's top.

But soon I will be thirty

I see time going faster by
 and no longer am I excused for my
 youthful indiscretions, in fact they've gone
 absorbed in experience as I go on.

towards being thirty.

But now
 I must hurry to be wise, successful,
 smoothly beautiful, even naughty

for soon I will be forty.

Obituary

Mrs A E Bucklee

Major B Walmsley writes:

"I have known Ada Bucklee for well over 50 years. She served in the WAAC and in the Pay Corps in Preston in the 1914-18 war and again all through the 1939 war in the Army Pay Corps as a sergeant. She had been in hospital for about six months but in indifferent health for the past three years when she had a heart attack.

I have been a constant and regular visitor and last saw her on Sunday the day before she died. We shall miss her more than I dare think."

Mr R Mather, Secretary of the Preston and District Ex-Services Council writes:

"On behalf of the officers and members of this organisation I wish to pay tribute to Mrs Bucklee. As Chairman and Secretary of the Preston Branch of the WRAC Association she engineered the affiliation of the Branch to this Council in 1957, since when she has acted as one of the Branch's delegates. In 1959 she was elected to this Council's Committee on which she served continuously as a hard working and conscientious member until compelled to absent herself from meetings due to her failing health.

Mrs Bucklee was held in the highest esteem by all the ex-service fraternity in Preston and District and her untiring endeavours for this organisation will long be remembered. She will be greatly missed by the Preston Branch of the WRAC Association and indeed by this Council."

Miss E M Glass

Miss M Rose writes:

"Ex -CSM E M Glass, ATS died suddenly and peacefully on February 24th 1973, in Dartmouth Hospital.

Known varyingly as 'Auntie', 'Simon', 'Glassie' or just 'Mum' there will be many ex-ATS to whom this news will bring sadness, but also very many happy memories of a great friend.

Her Service career started at Seaton Barracks, Plymouth, and at the Staging Camp at Marsh Mills, cooking first of all for the BEF and afterwards for an Officer's Mess. Following this she was at Exeter cooking at Higher Barracks, and was there through most of the blitz on that city.

Her next move was to Guildford Training Centre until, in 1943, she returned to 'A' Company Exeter as CSM (Admin) where she remained until the end of the war.

A person of outstanding integrity and great character, she made a great many friends, particularly amongst the younger members, and kept in touch and also visited quite a number to the end. She never forgot her Service days and would often talk of them.

She had celebrated her 80th birthday a week before Christmas.

WO II D Heath, WRAC

SW writes:

"It was with great sadness that I heard of WO II Heath's death in South Africa on the 12th February 1973. She went home for a month's leave over the Christmas period and spent 10 days of this holiday in a Beach Cottage about 40 miles from Durban. Although her condition had deteriorated somewhat she was still able to go for her daily swim. I know that many of her friends will be glad to hear that she enjoyed the last month of her life and did not suffer any pain. She had such a warm and friendly personality which won her many friends and although she suffered serious operations her courage and unfailing cheerfulness was an inspiration to all who knew her during this period. A great favorite in the Sgts mess, she will be sadly missed by all her friends."

The Sister, Mrs Shirley Worsfold, and family of the late WO II Heath of Durban, South Africa, wish to thank friends and colleagues who sent floral tributes and condolences. They also wish to thank all concerned for their kindness and help to WO II Heath during her illness.

BS writes:

"We announce with deep regret the death of WO II Daphne Heath at her sister's home in Durban, South Africa, on 12th February, 1973.

Miss Heath was born in Johannesburg in 1923 and left South Africa in 1952 to join the Women's Royal Army Corps. She became a UK citizen in 1965. She served in Singapore, Hong Kong, Cyprus and BAOR.

Miss Heath will be remembered for her dedication to whatever job she was doing, and her tremendous courage in facing her illness, as well as for her engaging personality and sense of humour."

Mrs M J Henderson (nee Di Pollo)

Miss P E Yeates, Secretary of Edinburgh Branch writes:

"It is with sincere regret that we have to record the death on 8th February 1973 of Mrs Mary Josephine Henderson (née Di Rollo) who served Edinburgh Branch for 19 years, first as Joint Secretary and for 14 years as Chairman until her retirement in 1969.

Jo had been ill for almost two years but during that time she continued to take an interest in Branch activities and, indeed, had written to say she hoped to be present at the annual dinner in March. She will be greatly missed by her many friends, whose sympathy goes to her husband at this sad time."

Miss M I Innes, BEM, QMAAC

Miss P E Yeates, Secretary of Edinburgh Branch writes:

It is with a sense of deep loss that members of Edinburgh Branch report the death of their President, Miss Innes, on 17th March, 1973.

Based in Rouen during her war service, Miss Innes was a founder member of the Branch and of the Women's United Services Club and to both she gave untiring help and enthusiastic support.

She faced her handicap with great courage during her illness in the last two years and her cheerfulness and comradeship will be greatly missed by her many friends."

Miss P McMurdo

Miss A Gibson, Secretary of Dumfriesshire Branch writes:

"It is with deep regret that another sudden death of a member of Dumfriesshire Branch occurred in late Autumn. She was Miss Peggy McMurdo and had been a member for many years and was only in her 50s.

She had a quiet, pleasant personality and will be missed by all members."

Mrs E Shelvey (nee Church)

Mrs M Cheesman writes:

"I am sorry to have to report the death of Mrs Shelvey at Tunbridge Wells on 14th September, 1972, aged 80 years.

As Elsie Church she served at No 3 Rest Camp, Folkestone in the Mess of our lady officers caring for their well-being.

She had had a weak heart for some time. She is sadly missed."

Lady Potter (Subaltern Vivienne Cooke)

Dame Mary Colvin writes:

"Many of those who served in 14th Dorset MT Coy and at the RASC School of Instruction between 1941 and 1943 will be sad to hear of the death of Vivienne Potter (née Cooke) early in February 1973.

Vivienne Cooke joined in November 1939 and after two years in the ranks was commissioned in 1941 and posted to the 14th Dorset MT Coy then at Blandford Camp. From here, together with the majority of the 14th Dorset, she was posted to the ATS Company working for the RASC of Instruction first at Bournemouth and later at Southend-on-Sea. She was Adjt of the Company and although shy, she was an extremely competent and efficient officer and made a number of good friends among the predominantly Dorset/Somerset members of the Unit.

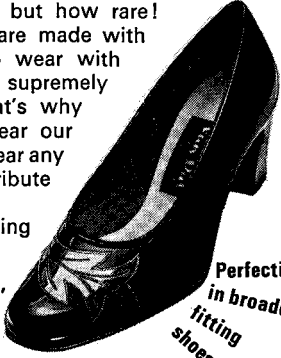
In 1943 she married Lieutenant Colonel John Potter

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"Daddy Potter" who was Chief Instructor RASC School of Instruction and the arrival of Jacqueline and later Simon terminated her service, in the ATS. Her husband continued his distinguished career in the Army and Vivienne and the children accompanied him in his various appointments including a period in Bangkok. He retired as a Major General with a Knighthood after being Director RCT and they moved to Yorkshire to take up a civilian appointment. Vivienne's health had sadly deteriorated and for the last four years of her life she was unable to move about without help. She was very delighted when they decided to move south to Bristol early in 1973 and their move was actually in progress when she died in a Bath nursing home.

Vivienne showed great courage under her disabilities and was cheerful and patient over her problems—she will be sadly missed and great sympathy must be felt for her husband and children who have looked after her and supported her so wonderfully during her years of illness."

Miss H J S Orr

Miss E de Bourbel writes:

"Jean Orr, who died suddenly on 18th February 1973, was an early member of the ATS, having been incorporated from the FANY. Her experience in transport took her to amongst other places the giant Chilwell Ordnance Depot near Nottingham and subsequently she went to Italy with the British Forces serving there in 1945 onwards.

After demob, she retired into private life but continued to keep in close touch with her service friends. She served for some time as a member of the ATS Benevolent Fund committee."

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Miss M Lawson

of Ealing, who died on 21st March 1973. During her service Miss Lawson was a fore-woman cook in an officers' mess in France and was also a founder member of the Ex-Service Women's Club in Buckingham Gate.

Miss E L Shoesmith

of West Kilbride, who was a member of Glasgow branch.

Mrs May Vuvan (nee Sanderson) OBE

Mrs May Vuvan (née Sanderson) OBE, died suddenly on the 28th March—just 16 days before her 80th birthday after a full and active life. May served from 1917 at Queen Mary's and Queen Alexandra's Camps in France as a Forewoman cook and for her valuable and devoted service was awarded a well earned OBE.

One of the pioneers of our Comrades Association, she was a most regular and loyal member of London Branch since its formation devoting many hours to help her fellow ex-service women and to further the cause of the Benevolent Fund, until these last winter months when arthritis kept her house-bound.

During World War II, May was at the Free French Club in the heart of London as a pastry cook. Our sincere and deepest sympathy go to her relatives and many friends and in particular to her husband and sister, Mrs Winnie Kirrage.

RE-ORGANISATION OF AREAS**EASTERN AREA**

Chairman: ADWRAC NE/NW/Eastern Districts.

Counties: Bedfordshire; Cambridgeshire; Essex (less London postal area); Hertfordshire; Huntingdonshire; Isle of Ely; Norfolk; Suffolk.

Ex-Service Branches: Nil

Serving Branches: P & EE Shoeburyness.

LONDON AREA

Chairman: ADWRAC London District

Counties: London; Middlesex; Essex (in London postal area).

Ex-Service Branches: London; Greater London; Wembleton; Ilford.

Service Branches: 12 Coy WRAC; 17 Trg Regt Depot RA; WRAC West London Admin Staff.

NORTHERN AREA

Chairman: ADWRAC/NE/NW/Eastern Districts.

Counties: Cumberland; Westmorland; Northumberland; Durham; Yorkshire; Nottinghamshire; Leicestershire; Lincolnshire; Derbyshire; Northamptonshire; Rutland.

Ex-Service Branches: Carlisle; Newcastle; Bradford; Leeds; Harrogate; Sheffield; York; Hull; Nottingham; Leicester.

Service Branches: Catterick.

SOUTH EAST AREA

Chairman: ADWRAC SE District.

No 1 SUB AREA

Counties: Berkshire; Buckinghamshire; Oxfordshire; North Hampshire.

Ex-Service Branches: Newbury; Oxford; Aldershot.

Service Branches: ASE Beaconsfield; NDC Latimer; RAOC Bicester; WRAC Wing ASPT; 3 Sqn 10 Sig Regt; 12 Trg Regt RCT; 10 Coy WRAC; WRAC College; RAPC Worthy Down

No 2 SUB AREA

Counties: Surrey; Sussex; Kent.

Ex-Service Branches: Brighton; Canterbury; Maidstone.

Service Branches: WRAC Centre; RAPC Brighton; 12 RSME Regt.

SOUTH WESTERN AREA

Chairman: ADWRAC WM/Wales/SW Districts.

No 1 SUB AREA

Counties: Cornwall; Devonshire.

Ex-Service Branches: Exeter/Devon.

Service Branches: Nil

No 2 SUB AREA

Counties: Dorset; Gloucestershire; Somerset; Wiltshire; Hampshire (less North).

Ex-Service Branches: Weymouth/Portland; Cheltenham; Bath; Salisbury; Swindon; Bournemouth; Portsmouth; Southampton.

Service Branches: WRAC Bovington; WRAC Bty Larkhill; WRAC Det UKLF.

WESTERN AREA

Chairman: ADWRAC WM/Wales/SW Districts.

Counties: Birmingham; Cheshire; Herefordshire; Lancashire; Shropshire; Staffordshire; Warwickshire.

Ex-Service Branches: Birmingham; Cheshire; Manchester; Liverpool; Preston; Stafford; Stafford North; Wolverhampton.

Service Branches: RAOC Donnington; RAOC Kineton.

The Areas and Sub Areas above have been approved by Council. All Sub Areas will have Chairmen, these are not shown as all have not yet been nominated.

Area/Branch News

EASTERN AREA: Those who attended the Annual General Meeting of the Association on 17 March 1973 will have heard—and others read somewhere else in these pages—that owing to the fact that the Army has restructured its Home Command the WRAC Association has had to re-organise their Areas and Sub Areas to a slight extent. Because of this I have suddenly found myself appointed as Chairman of Eastern Area.

As I was looking forward to exploring new fields and meeting old friends and acquaintances from the past, I tried to gather information about existing Branches in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Herefordshire, Huntingdonshire, and Isle of Ely and was eager to learn the names of their Secretaries. Imagine my dismay when I discovered that the only Branch in the newly formed Eastern Area is a serving unit one, in Shoeburyness! Now I know perfectly well that some country districts within these Counties are sparsely populated and that public transport is poor. But I know also that a number of our retired colleagues are living in these counties and more and more of those retiring or about to retire are joining them. Is there really not a single one of the ex WRAC members who would be willing to have a try to gather together a few ex WRAC, ex ATS and ex QMAAC to make a beginning and form at

least one Branch somewhere centrally within these counties? It is not at all necessary to meet frequently in order to maintain contact. Three or four times a year could be a beginning. However, the very first stage is to find out the names and addresses of those living there who could be contacted which I would be more than glad to undertake to do. Therefore, would anyone who lives within the boundaries of Eastern Area and would be interested in belonging to a Branch of the Association and anyone who knows the name and address of someone who does please send details to me:

Lieutenant Colonel R M Engel, WRAC,
Chairman Eastern Area WRAC Association,
c/o Headquarters North East District,
Fishergate, York YO1 4AU.

BOURNEMOUTH. We have continued our monthly meetings during the past year and these have been fairly well attended. Some of our members live some distance away and are not always able to be with us.

The AGM was held in November 1972, and we re-elected Miss Norah Tipper as our Chairman. The Secretary and Treasurer remain the same. We finished 1972 with the usual Christmas party attended by members and friends.

The Annual Dinner in February held at the Bourne Hall Hotel was a great success. In April we held a Bring and Buy Sale which was well attended. This meeting was also the last at which we shall see Miss McClure, who is taking up an appointment in Brussels. We shall miss her very much.

We are now looking forward to some interesting evenings and also the No 2 Sub Area Reunion at Larkhill.

CHELTENHAM. Cheltenham and District Branch have had a very successful year. The membership has increased and now stands at 60, and average attendances at our meetings have been well over 75% which is most encouraging.

Unfortunately the term of office for our Chairman expired last year, our Secretary resigned after nine years in office, and our Treasurer left the Area, which created difficulties of procedure, etc., but the Branch is extremely fortunate in having for their President Miss Marshall, who not only knows the ropes, but never fails when asked for advice at tricky moments.

In June we were the hostesses at the Sub Area Reunion, which was well attended by Branches of the Area, over 250 members being present, and was, from all reports much enjoyed by all.

Other meetings have been held at the houses of members in the lovely surrounding Cotswold country, so we were able, not only to enjoy these outings, but to save on expenses for the hiring of a Hall.

Our Christmas Party held in Cheltenham was a jolly happy evening, and we were honoured to have Dame Mary Raiton as our guest. All members provided something for this party, e.g. food and drink, decorations and items for raffles etc., which all goes to help to make the evening a friendly, happy one. The raffles made a record sum of £9.50 which was sent to the Benevolent Fund.

Meetings arranged for the current year will include a visit to Windsor Castle, at the invitation of one of the Military Knights in residence there.

GLASGOW. Our new session in 1972 started with a Whist Drive which was well attended in April, and in May we had an excellent concert from a party of singers. In June each member had to bring her favorite recipe and a sample; these were enjoyed by all and included meringue pear gateau, chocolate fudge and date and walnut loaf. In September we enjoyed our annual visit to Ayr Branch. It was a lovely day and the view of the Isle of Arran was superb. We had a nice meal at the Country Club and then went to the Gaiety Theatre.

We were all shocked by the death of our President Miss J McVean, TD, on the 17th September. She is sadly missed and was a wonderful person. We are grateful to Miss C Kelly who has taken over as President.

In October we had a most interesting talk on "Good Grooming". This was most comprehensive and we got useful hints on posture, deportment, make-up and how to sit and stand.

In November we said farewell to Miss Coid, our Vice President who on marriage has gone to live in Cambridge, and we presented her with a tray as a wedding gift. At the November meeting we had a most interesting talk and film show by a Superintendent of the Glasgow Parks Department. He made us realise what a wonderful choice of parks we have in the City and its surroundings.

In December we had a Christmas Party which was much enjoyed, and the main attraction seemed to be the excellent buffet supper which our Treasurer Mrs Armsstrong so ably organised for us.

In January we held a Burns Night and had some community singing of the songs of Burns and enjoyed bannocks and cheese. We were invited to attend a meeting of the WRNS Association and this was most enjoyable. It took the form of a talk by an American Nurse who came here during the war and returned to settle in Glasgow, having married an ex-Argyll and Sutherland Highlander.

GUERNSEY. Although we are a small Branch we have managed to keep active throughout the year.

A New Year's party in the form of a Whist Drive was held at Mrs Taylor's; each member also brought a small gift for a lucky dip.

In February a demonstration of crochet was given by one of the members.

In March members enjoyed a meal out at one of the hotels, and in April members had a very interesting talk given by Miss Brearley on her holiday in Athens. In May members were given a demonstration of the use of electric hair rollers two of them being models.

In June members went by boat across to the small island of Herm and had a lovely meal. As July is a busy month for holidays the Branch decided not to meet until August when once again it was decided to go over to the island of Herm but the weather was too bad so members made their way to one of the restaurants and enjoyed a buffet meal. One of the members who is learning the guitar entertained us in September. This same member invited us to her home in October and we were shown some beautiful colour slides of several of her holidays.

LONDON. We have continued to hold our meetings twice a month and we have had some very interesting evenings.

In January we were given a programme of songs by the Acton Male Voice Choir. In February, Miss Martin, one of our members, gave us a talk entitled "The Joys of Travel in Retirement" and showed us a variety of slides which included a large part of the continent and the Middle East. Also in February, Mrs Jean Palmer told us about her job as a Traffic Warden and the training she received. In March the Reverend A B Carver, Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square held an informal discussion on a variety of topics. In April we were given a talk on Australia by Mrs Simpson and we were shown some very unusual colour slides; also in April Mr Robinson gave us an interesting account of the work of the National Trust and showed us some slides of the properties owned by the Trust.

Mrs Giles our President has recently moved to "Jogram" Cliff Road, Wembury, Plymouth; we wish her happiness in her new home.

LONSDALE. It is with regret that we notify the closure of the Lonsdale Branch.



Mrs M P Beeston (Secretary), Miss M Davies (Chairman), Miss B Nutt (Treasurer) and the Mayoress of Wolverhampton

WOLVERHAMPTON. Since my last report some of our members Shelah Lambah, Marjorie Giruk, Rose Battey and Joan Fenney have had a spell in hospital but are now up and about again. In March last year we had a tour around Littlewoods Stores; this was of great interest, as we were able to see what goes on behind the scenes.

In August members were invited to Snakeys House Warming, where we were joined by members of the Airborne Force TA Birmingham. On arrival there was a glass of sherry, then a cookery demonstration and an officer from the Red Cross gave a talk and showed a film of some of the work done by this society. After this there was a discussion on central heating and fuel. The highlight this year was our New Year's Dinner, when the Mayoress of Wolverhampton Mrs Storer was our guest

of honour. There were 23 members and friends and we had a raffle with prizes donated by members. Our Chairman Miss Mary Davies welcomed two new members Mrs Beryl Riley and Mrs Madge O'Dell. Madge who suffers from Muscular Dystrophy, was determined to get to the Dinner and our thanks go to her husband for helping her to get there. Photographs were taken and appeared in the evening paper and two magazines. In February six members went to the Civic Hall to hear the band of the Royal Marines; it was a most enjoyable evening. Will we hear the WRAC Band there ? ? ? ? We felt it an honour for our Branch, when our Chairman was invited, along with other guests to luncheon with the Mayoress.

Our membership remains around the 30 mark. A donation of £5 was sent to the WRAC Benevolent Fund.

STAFFORD. Our meetings continue to be very well attended and we have had a variety of activities during the past year. We kept our members busy for our entertainment—Miss Shelley with her holiday slides, Mrs Hawes with her flower arranging and Mrs Lloyd ably assisted by her husband, satisfying our appetites with a barbecue after our good walk on Cannock Chase. The Chief Warden also gave a talk with coloured slides of Cannock Chase. Our Chairman, Major Jarvis, organised a very interesting trip to the BBC studios at Birmingham. Another visit made was to the National Trust Property to see 'Shugborough by Candlelight'.

On 7th October we were very happy to be the host Branch to the WRAC Association Western Area Secretaries' meeting and to entertain members of other Branches to tea. The spread—all home made by our members—was obviously thoroughly enjoyed by our visitors. We were delighted to have Lieutenant Colonel Norman with us and when drawing the lucky tea ticket, Mrs Hitchener was the winner of the box of chocolates presented by our Chairman, Major D Jarvis. The invitation from the Gas Board to an entertaining evening in cookery and Old Tyme Music Hall was enjoyed by 40 members and friends.

A small contingent took part in the Remembrance Sunday Wreath laying ceremony.

The successful jumble sale in November enabled us to send £10 to the WRAC Benevolent Fund and £5 to Link Local charity for Christmas. The WRNS Association invited us to the Dress Party and we had pleasure inviting them to join us at our Pottery Demonstration. Our annual talk on Staffordshire was most interesting—Stafford in the 20s. All members thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas Party in December and the Dinner in January in spite of the fog.

Notes for Secretaries

AT the Secretaries' meeting prior to the AGM secretaries were urged to send in any details which may help other branches to either recruit new members or to maintain interest in the branch. Below are details we have received so far:—

A list of firms, factories and organisations who welcome visitors to their premises can be obtained by writing to "Woman", Editorial Offices, 189, High Holborn, London WC1, and asking for their "Personally Yours" news sheet.

A list of speakers can also be obtained from "Woman", address as above.

Branch Meetings

WOLVERHAMPTON. The fourth Monday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Study, Public Library, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.

(No meetings in May, August and December).

Correspondence

OBITUARY

Mrs Irene Tracey (née Briggs)

Mrs Glad Isaac (née Warden) of Winchester write:—

"We have learnt with deep regret of the death of a dear friend and fellow Warrant Officer, the late Alice Bull, with whom we served for many memorable years, notably at Chilwell in the 1950s. Alice was one of the stalwarts of the Corps, completely dedicated, kind and understanding of other's problems, always cheerful, respected by all ranks, both male and female and a gentlewoman in every way.

We mourn the passing of a fine character and remember her with great affection."

CHINESE LABOUR CORPS

Dear Madam,

I am writing a history of the Chinese Labour Corps, the force of 100,000 Chinese labourers recruited by the British during the first World War. They helped to load and unload ships; to fill sandbags and dig trenches; to move munitions and timber; to build and maintain roads and railways; and to do many other jobs to release soldiers for fighting duties.

I am describing the inception of the idea, the recruitment in China, the voyages to Europe the work and leisure in France, the deaths of some and the repatriation of others.

I wonder whether any of your members who served during the First World War remember these Chinese workers?

If you have a magazine or some other publication, or a notice board, could you possibly ask your members about this?

If anyone has documents or photographs relating to this fascinating episode, I would be most interested to see them; they would be copied and returned at once and the cost of postage refunded.

Yours faithfully

M B Summerskill.

Replies please through the Association.

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Grand Draw—Prizewinners

Holiday for two	07649	Maj E M Harroway, MBE TD Grimsby
Wallace Arnold Holiday	09893	Miss M T Walker, Moffatt
Two nights in London Hotel	10261	Mrs A B Williamson, Aylesbury
Handbag	06917	M. Sycamore, Shepperton
Benson & Hedges cigarettes	11864	Miss O M Low, Newbury
Electric over-blanket	07157	Lady Crompton-Inglefield, Ashbourne
Hat and scarf set	10424	G Redpath, Crail
Knee rug	08432	Mrs P Harris, Oxshott
Tickets for Wimbledon	19967	Mrs J Stephens, Bridgenorth
Tickets for 2,000 Guineas	04768	Musn Coleman WRAC, WRAC Centre
Tickets for BBC Show	13068	WO I Whissell, HQ Northern Command
Marks and Spencers voucher—£10	04033	WO II A Humphries, WRAC, WRAC College
Subscription to Homes and Gardens	10660	Miss V Kidd, Carshalton
Boots voucher—£5	05551	Lcpl Bales, WRAC, Benbecula
Pair of sheets	03338	WO II Symon, Aberdeen
Six rose bushes	05362	Myers, 51 (H) Sig Sqn (V)
Electric kettle	01530	Pte Taylor, WRAC, Windsor
Tickets for Trooping the Colour	06999	Miss Ailsa Burley, Alverstoke
Tickets for Ebor Day	10979	Miss V Town, Hove
Theatre Tickets	08379	Eddie Gray, Stoughton
Boots voucher—£5	05360	I Grant, 51 (H) Sig Sqn (V)
Subscription to Woman's Journal	09585	Miss Leaman, Hayling Island
Wilton rug	04854	Musn Burrell, WRAC, WRAC Centre
Yardley beauty case	09130	Mrs F S Morgan, MBE, Bishopston

PRIZE COMPETITION**Elimination Word Game**

EACH of the clues below has to be answered by choosing two suitable words from the 37 words listed, eg. in clue No 3 the words to be chosen are No 4 and No 28. When you have used 18 pairs of words correctly (use each word only once) you will be left with one word remaining. Write this word in the space provided on the entry coupon.

A £2 prize will be awarded to the competitor whose correct answer is the first to be opened on the morning of 24th July. Please mark your envelopes "Competition".

CLUES

1. A pair of arms
2. The special feeling of owning your own lions(esses)
3. Two coupled with note
4. Two associations with milk
5. Whipcord trousers
6. Two palindromes
7. It's a heavenly sight at night
8. Two anagrams
9. Cause of useless tears
10. A dance for pupils
11. April 21st
12. Two synonyms
13. A skilled performer may cut quite a figure here.
14. Seat in the sun when you're going places
15. Not much of a catch
16. Two coupled with free
17. It stands in Trafalgar Square
18. Two coupled with horse.

WORDS

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Milk | 19. Full |
| 2. Reprints | 20. Fight |
| 3. Deck | 21. Column |
| 4. Promissory | 22. Level |
| 5. Birthday | 23. Herring |
| 6. Pride | 24. Eye |
| 7. Fire | 25. Ice |
| 8. Rink | 26. Chair |
| 9. Bags | 27. Personal |
| 10. Red | 28. Bank |
| 11. Yard | 29. String |
| 12. Nelson's | 30. Contest |
| 13. Clothes | 31. Ball |
| 14. Race | 32. False |
| 15. Kick | 33. Queen's |
| 16. Spilt | 34. Tooth |
| 17. Match | 35. Man |
| 18. Madam | 36. Sprinter |
| | 37. Moon |

Name

Address

Word

PRIZE WINNER

The winner of the Word Game Competition in the February issue was Miss Dorothy Leed of Salisbury Branch, who produced a magnificent total of 327 words, even after a few had been disallowed.

THE REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION**(NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF REGULAR SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN)**

THIS Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service and its object is to find suitable employment for men and women when they leave the Services and in the years thereafter. It is registered as a charity and draws its income from Public Funds and from the Services Benevolent and Welfare Organisations.

THE ASSOCIATION GIVES ALL ITS SERVICES FREE

Its services are available to all who have not taken commissioned rank in the Regular Forces and who leave with character assessments of "Good" or better after more than three years service, or have been invalided from the Services before completing three years.

The Association works in close co-operation with the Services, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Employment and operates through 32 Branches covering the United Kingdom, each of which is run by an Employment Officer who has been in the Service himself and is in close touch with local employers.

The experience of the Employment Officers and their close contacts with employers enable them to place ex-Regulars in jobs which suit them. In 1972 the Association placed 9,094 men and women from the Services in employment; of these jobs just over 3,300 were for men and women from the Army and 37 were from the WRAC.

The Association is at your service. The addresses and telephone numbers of its Branches can be obtained from Corps and Regimental Associations, from Post Offices and from Employment Exchanges.

Officers' Postings

(1 Feb 73-30 Apr 73)

Col M U Walker AAG MOD (AG16)
 Lt Col M B Latham Deputy OIC Medical & Women's Services
 Manning & Records
 Lt Col E J Bowles ADWRAC HQ BAOR
 Maj A M M Clissitt DADWRAC HQ Northern Ireland
 Maj A E A Herdman-Grant WRAC College
 Maj H G Meechie DAQMG (Ops/Maint/E Man) HQ LF Hong Kong
 Maj E G Pritchard-Davies 2IC WRAC College
 A/Maj E Beaumont Attached MOD (MSS)
 Capt M B Barlow WSLO Chatham
 Capt B Blueman Attached R & LS North East District
 Capt S C E Orr RAC Centre
 Capt (QM) T M Carroll 10 Coy WRAC
 Capt (QM) M J Evans 68 Sqn RCT
 A/Capt P S E Carson 8 Sig Regt
 A/Capt S F Healy 39 Sig Regt (V)
 A/Capt C A Howell WRAC College
 A/Capt J Martin PSO WRAC Centre
 A/Capt M J Palmer Staff Capt 'A' HQ RSME
 A/Capt R A Ridley WRAC College
 Lt V Batchelor Int & Svy Group, Germany
 Lt E D Elliott, 1 Regt RMP
 Lt R M Lawrence 9 Sig Regt
 Lt S D McWade Attached WRAC Centre
 Lt A B M Stead Attached 10 Sig Regt
 2/Lt C E Britwistle Attached 11 Sig Regt
 2/Lt S M Brown HQ Trg Brigade RA & Woolwich Garrison
 2/Lt F Y Cook 12 RSME Regt
 2/Lt A P Cox 22 Sqn RCT
 2/Lt W E Coupe (RAEC) RAEC Centre
 2/Lt S R Cosgrove Attached HQ SE District
 2/Lt M J Cunningham (RAEC) Attached RAEC Centre (Course)
 2/Lt J E Day 10 Coy WRAC
 2/Lt M E Davies 29 Coy WRAC
 2/Lt H E Erskine 26 Fd Regt RA
 2/Lt J A Freebairn 16 Sig Regt
 2/Lt S Hamer (RAEC) QARANC Trg Centre
 2/Lt G Harvey 12 Coy WRAC
 2/Lt T A Howie 233 Sig Regt
 2/Lt K M Howie 68 Sqn RCT
 2/Lt J L G Ivot (RAEC) Depot Regt RCT
 2/Lt M A Jones WRAC College
 2/Lt A E Lovat JARIC (UK)
 2/Lt J F M Luckyn-Malone WRAC Centre
 2/Lt M Randall WRAC Centre
 2/Lt J E M Webber 12 Regt RCT
 2/Lt S J Westlake WSLO Plymouth

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS Regular Army

Majors (QM) Capt S C Cushen, Capt E J Morgan
 Captains Lts C Armstrong, A M H Barcroft, J A Mason
 Lieutenants 2/Lts L D R Clayton, E D Elliott, B A Evans,
 B A Fraser, C M Kimber, R M Lawrence, A C Leach,
 M A White
 2/Lieutenants R A Hewlett, C V Jee, Y M T Phipps, C M Reynolds,
 F E Richards,
 2/Lieutenants on probation C E Birtwistle, M. Randall

Special Regular Commission
 Lieutenants 2/Lts P J Rigby, E J Stabler
 2/Lieutenants P M Barry, J M Whenmouth

Short Service Commission
 2/Lieutenant C I Buchanan
 2/Lieutenants on probation M J Cunningham, J E Day, S M Bishop,
 M J Elwis

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS Regular Army

Major F M Harford
 Major (QM) H L Sanders
 Captains C Armstrong, S W Brook (granted hon rank of Major),
 D F Legge, A F Tawney
 Captain (QM) I T Friend
 Lieutenants A G Draker, A Gwyn, P R Pearse, M G Silcock

Special Regular Commissions
 Major P Wyndham-Tate

Short Service Commission
 Lieutenant A T Swaby

Re-Unions

THE Northern Area Reunion will be held in the Crescent Room, Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate, on Saturday 22nd September 1973, from 3 pm to 6 pm. The Director Brigadier E J Nolan, has been invited and very much hopes to be able to attend. The Guest Speaker will be Miss Edith Simpson.

Tickets 50p, including refreshments, may be obtained from ADWRAC, HQ North East District, Fishergate, York YO1 4AU. Please send stamped addressed envelope with remittance by Thursday 13th September, 1973.

THE Western Area Reunion will be held on Saturday, 6th October, 1973, at the Catholic Chaplaincy to the University, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, from 3 pm to 6 pm. Tickets price 75p, available from Miss A Hayward, 163 Greenhill Road, Liverpool L18 7HH. Please enclose sae with your application for tickets. Closing date 8th September 1973.

Warrant Officers' Postings

(1 Jan 73-30 Apr 73)

WO I S Wolstenholme 10 Coy WRAC
 WO I A M Doig WRAC College
 WO I A M Kitchen Army School of PT
 WO I R E Southern H & D Coy WRAC
 A/WO I J McIntosh 12 Coy WRAC
 WO II V Bantock WRAC College
 A/WO II M Millar Office of HE the Governor & Commander-in-Chief
 Gibraltar.
 A/WO II H K Barnard 1 Regt RMP

Branch Directory

List of Branch Secretaries

Aberdeen: Miss H. T. Donaldson, 30, Burnie Boozle Crescent, Aberdeen, AB1 8NP.

Aldershot: Miss K. N. Edwards, MBE, TD, JP. 16, Stovolds Way, Aldershot, Hants.

Ayrshire: Miss M. F. Basnett, 28, Kyle Street, Ayr, and Miss C. McQuaker, 134, Prestwick Road Ayr.

Bath: Mrs J. Ferguson, 161, Lime Grove Gardens, Pulteney Road, Bath.

Belfast: Mrs P. Neilly, 382, Merville Garden Village, Newtonabbey, Co Antrim, N. Ireland.

Birmingham: Mrs M. Bolton, 26, Boden Road, Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

Bournemouth: Mrs A. Scott, 45A, Ophir Road, Bournemouth, Hants.

Bradford: Mrs K. Harrison, 2, Willow Villas, Bradford, Yorks 21 LU.

Brighton: Miss I. A. Durndall, 38, Toronto Terrace, Brighton, Sussex BN2 2UX.

Canterbury: Mrs J. J. Wells, Jewells, Street End, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7AJ.

Carlisle: Mrs G. Romanis, 77, Carlol Drive, Harraby, Carlisle, Cumberland.

Cheltenham: Miss M. Penfold, 18, Keynsham Road, Cheltenham, Glos.

Cheshire: Mrs F. Hope, 31, Churton Road, Chester.

Dumfriesshire: Miss A. Gibson, Tweedville, Eastfield Road, Dumfries.

Edinburgh: Miss P. E. Yeates, 20, Comely Bank Grove, Edinburgh EH4 1BU.

Glasgow: Miss D. A. Newton, 101, Mitre Road, Glasgow, W4.

Guernsey: Miss L. Le. Q. Sarre. Les Puits, Havelet, St Peter Port, Guernsey.

Greater London: Mrs. V. Barrington, 4, Barnstaple Mansions, 27, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4SN.

Harrogate: Miss M. Bradley, 60, West End Avenue, Harrogate, Yorks.

Headquarter Branch: Mrs A. J. Stevenson, Tudor Cottage, Stanford Dingley, Reading, Berks RG7 6LX.

Hull: Mrs L. M. Evison, 457, Beverley High Road, Hull, Yorks.

Ilford: Miss E. Holmes, 40, Shepherds Hill, Harold Wood, Essex.

Leeds: Mrs M. Watson, 7, St Chads Rise, Leeds 6.

Leicester: Miss D. Palmer, 40, Greenhill Road, Leicester.

Liverpool: Mrs M. J. Barton, 3, Fairfield Avenue, Roby, nr Liverpool, Lancs.

London: Miss M. Slocombe, 48, Gorefield House, Alpha Place, Kilburn, London N.W.6.

Maidstone: Miss N. Court, Flat 6, 107, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Manchester: Mrs. K. M. Brierley, 25, Cherry Lane, Sale, Cheshire.

Newbury: Miss K. Walker, 111, Gloucester Road, Newbury, Berks.

Newcastle: Sgt. A. Wilkinson, 17, Cowpen Road, Blyth, Northumberland.

Omagh: Mrs M. Roulston, 16, Rodgers Villas, Omagh, Co Tyrone, N. Ireland.

Oxford: Mrs M. A. Paton, MBE. 6, Napier Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 3JA.

Portsmouth: Miss I. Bray, 153, Clive Road, Fratton, Portsmouth, Hants.

Preston: (Treasurer) Mrs G. E. Norris, 49, Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs.

Salisbury: Mrs A. I. Bloom, 125, Church Road, Laverstock, Salisbury, Wilts.

Sheffield: Miss F. Bell, 60, Fairburn Drive, Stannington, Sheffield, Yorks S6 5QL.

Southampton: Mrs E. Chandler, 36, Cherbourg Road, Eastleigh, Hants.

Staffordshire North: Mrs L. Rhodes, 27, Dartmouth Avenue, Newcastle, Staffs.

Stafford: Miss M. E. Norcott, Greensleeves, 77, Salisbury Road, Stafford.

Swindon: Miss M. Hazell, 76, Montagu Street, Swindon, Wilts.

Ulster: Mrs. M. Wallace, Hillcrest, Greenbank Avenue, Donaghee, Co Down, N. Ireland.

Weymouth: Mrs A. P. Bartlett, 494, Chickerell Road, Weymouth, Dorset.

Wimbledon: Miss D. E. Lee, 9, Beaconsfield Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 9AW.

Wolverhampton: Mrs M. Beeston, 60 Campion House, Heath Town, Wolverhampton, Staffs.

York: Mrs J. Cockram, 136, Albermarle Road, York YO2 1HB.

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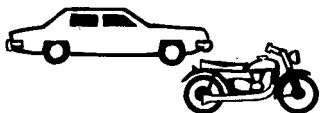
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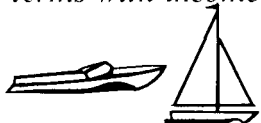
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