

THE LIONESS

VOL XLVI

OCTOBER 1973

No. 3



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Most items are in green with the Corps Crest in gold.
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Orders should be placed early for Christmas



Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent being met by Colonel B. M. Metcalfe, M.B.E., and the Commanding Officer, 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Lieutenant Colonel K. G. White.



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Editorial

IT has been estimated that nearly half a million women have served in the QMAAC, ATS, and WRAC, and yet the membership of the Association is less than 3,500. It is obvious that, unless we increase these numbers drastically, we cannot make the Lioness into the interesting, lively and relevant magazine you all want to read.

The cost of most newspapers and magazines is largely covered by the fees of advertisers, but unless a paper has a wide circulation, it is unlikely to attract enough advertisements to make it economically sound.

Therefore our first priority must be to get more members into the Association in order to increase the number of copies of the Lioness we publish. This is where we must all take a hand. Many members pass their copy of the Lioness to friends to read. If you, reading this now, are ex-service but not a member of the association, how about joining? You will notice that we have printed a copy of the application form in this issue. We should like everyone who reads this, to use that form to enrol a new member. Young women, still serving in the WRAC, often forget that they are an integral part of the Association and that it is not just an ex-service women's club. We appeal to them to extend membership among their friends and, also, to contribute lively and topical articles and photographs about their own activities, for publication in the Lioness.

Life and 4-year Membership costs £10 and £2 respectively and in these times of financial difficulty, this fee is not within everyone's reach. But if we get a sufficient number of members on a yearly basis of 50p, it would give us the opportunity to bring the Lioness into line with modern trends and independent thought.

At present we run full (£18) half (£9) and quarter (£5) page advertisements. Ex-service women employed in business or industry might help us by suggesting to the advertising managers of their firms, that they might care to advertise in the Lioness. In this case would they please contact Major E. O. Coven whose address can be found at the front of this journal.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Lcpl Sarah Warke on being awarded the Military Medal, the first ever to be gained by a member of the Womens' Royal Army Corps.

Retirement

Colonel J. L. Rankin

by

Director Women's Royal Army Corps

COLONEL Jane Rankin retired on 13th August, 1973, having handed over her appointment as Commandant of the WRAC Centre at Guildford.

She joined the ATS in 1940, was commissioned the next year and spent the last two war years with CMF Italy.

Col Rankin's first Staff appointment was in the old AG19 at Stanmore and from there she went to the WRAC Staff College. Her career in the Corps was very varied and she served in Berlin during the difficult days of 1948-51 and commanded the Company in Gibraltar in 1961-63 as well as twice serving with the TA and in several Staff appointments.

She will be remembered in more recent years as ADWRAC London District, DDWRAC Southern Command and in her last appointment at the Centre.

She gave a great deal to the Corps throughout her service and she takes our very best wishes with her on her retirement to her delightful new home at Milford-on Sea.

Services Resettlement Bulletin News

SERVICEWOMEN approaching the end of their engagement are advised to read the Services Resettlement Bulletins which are available in their unit Orderly Rooms and local Education Centres. These give details of job opportunities in the following areas:—

Bulletin No 1	Yorkshire and Humberside
No 2	North West Region
No 3	Northern Ireland
No 4	Midland Region

WRAC Staff Band

THE following engagements may be of interest to members:

Oct 8-12	KAPE tour Tyneside Area
Nov 14 at 3 pm	School Concert Epsom Girls' School
Jan 21 at 7.30 pm	Concert Guildhall Southampton



Colonel Vere Irene Fisher, Commandant WRAC Centre

COLONEL V. I. Fisher took up the appointment of Commandant WRAC Centre on the 16th July, 1973, on the retirement of Colonel J. L. Rankin. Col Fisher joined the ATS in January 1943 and trained as a kine-theodolite operator and later became a plotting officer in a M (H) AA Regt. In addition to working with the Royal Artillery Col Fisher has held regimental appointments with the Royal Signals, Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Royal Army Pay Corps. In her very varied career, she has been an Instructor at ATS OCTU and the WRAC School of Instruction, a Quartermaster, a Youth Liaison Officer, OC WRAC Cyprus, AIPT/WRAC and Deputy Officer IC Records.

Her staff appointments have included SC Q(Ops), PSO/DCIGS (both at the then War Office), PA to Commander Northern Army Group and DAAG (Manning) in Aden.

Col Fisher is keenly interested in all sports, having been an Army Netball and Hockey player herself, and she is at present Chairman of the Army (Women's) Fencing Association.

The Militaires

AT the beginning of 1973, nine years of a well-known organisation came to an end. Since 1964 the Militaires have given pleasure to millions of people through the media of television, radio and numerous public appearances. The Group's activities were always well reported in the National Press and their scrap book abounds with cuttings of them playing for disabled soldiers, handicapped children, guide dogs for the blind and many other charities. The WRAC Benevolent Fund also was a beneficiary of their work.

The group was started by Capt Tony Harrison, WRAC, ACO(WS) Whitehall, and with the aid of her Staff of recruiters—Sgts Heron, Plant and Bradberry QARANC, the 'Travellers' as they were at first called began to emerge into the limelight. Surprisingly the members of the group changed very little—Sgts Plant, Heron and Haynes and Ssgt Penny only left the Group on their departure from the Army and Sgts Telford and Clewlow were also members for some time. Sgt Bradberry QARANC remained throughout the entire time and was joined by Ssgt Mowe for the last few years. All of these people gave a tremendous amount in time, enthusiasm and effort.

Through their 'artistic' life the Group and Choir were chosen to appear at the British Legion Festival of Remembrance in 1969 and performed in front of Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family. This perhaps was the ultimate achievement of the Group, but it was an honour that they certainly deserved.

It is a little sad that the Militaires are gone, but praise and thanks must be extended to all who have worked so hard over the past nine years.

Aldershot Army Display 1973

THE Aldershot Army Display was held again this year at Rushmoor Arena from 21st-24th June. The WRAC played a big part; cook trainees on the ACC stands, Ordnance girls giving 'rides' to children on fork lift trucks, WRAC (TAVR) with the Royal Corps of Signals and WRAC representation on the AAC, RCT, RMP, RAVC, RAEC and Int Corps static displays and on the Recruiting caravans. In the arena the Corps Band performed as part of the Massed Bands and WRAC gymnasts took part with the men in the gymnastic display. A new and successful feature was introduced this year in the Finale, whereby representatives of all the static displays marched into the arena in their 'working' dress. This depicted all the soldiers and servicewomen who had worked together to produce the Aldershot Display 1973, and clearly made an impact on the public. WRAC also ran the Army Benevolent Fund Souvenir Stand, helped to

look after numerous lost children and worked as ushers and cleaners in the GOC's enclosure.

In addition this year, for the first time, the WRAC had its own Static Display. The theme for this was "What we do?" Where do we go? With whom do we work?" and was depicted largely through photographs. Our most colourful stand was the one showing all the Corps and Regiments with whom we work. This had not only colour photographs, but also the side hats and cap badges of the various Corps and Regiments—begged and borrowed, we must admit, but not stolen!

The WRAC of 3 Sqn, 10 Signal Regt operated a teleprinter which was connected to the Communications Centre in Aldershot. This attracted much interest from children of all ages who had fun sending a message and receiving a reply from the Comcen.

One very successful item was the WRAC Association Stand selling Corps souvenirs such as key rings, biro's and bookmarks and over £70 was taken by members of Corps HQ WRAC. We also had a display of some of our Corps silver. This was much admired, in particular the beautiful solid silver Ack-Ack Gun, which was presented to the Corps by the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

Visitors showed a great deal of interest in the Corps Display and many people expressed surprise at the varying trades and jobs that are open to the WRAC—which, after all, is what it was all about.

Museum Notes

by

Capt. M. Bolton (Retd) ACO(WS) Birmingham

ON 28th July I was privileged to attend the opening of the exhibition of Gold and Silver objects arranged in the Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery to celebrate the 1773-1973 Bi-centenary of the Birmingham Assay Office.

Over 1100 items were on display, not only paying tribute to an important Birmingham industry, but also providing a fascinating survey of the changing tastes and social needs over the past 200 years. Many of the pieces on display were, naturally, from the Birmingham Museum and Gallery itself, but others were loaned by both public and private owners, including three pieces lent by Her Majesty The Queen.

For me, the most important item was the one lent by the Women's Royal Army Corps, the scale model of the 3.7 AA Gun made by Hubert M. Brookes. Having spent three years in AA Command during the last war, it gave me a thrill of pride to be associated in some small way with an exhibition of this kind.

The exhibition was opened by Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, who spent nearly an hour viewing the exhibits before proceeding to the Council House for lunch.

Commander-in-Chief's Commendation

Private Marie Theresa Watson

TUESDAY the 17th July, 1973, was an important and exciting day for the WRAC stationed at Donnington. The RAOC and WRAC were on parade to hear the Commander-in-Chief's Commendation read and see the plaque being presented to Pte (now Lcpl) Watson, WRAC, by the Garrison Commander, Brig F. S. Goodwin, CBE. To share this proud and happy occasion the guests included Pte Watson's parents and younger sister, and Lt Col P. Norman, MBE, ADWRAC, West Midland District.



Presentation of the Commander-in-Chief's Commendation to Pte M. T. Watson by Brigadier F. S. Goodwin.

Earlier this year Pte Watson was with a party of ten soldiers and eight WRAC returning from an exercise, when the vehicle in which they were travelling was involved in an accident and overturned, damaging the cab and completely crushing the superstructure. Although badly shaken and injured, Pte Watson set about extricating the other casualties. She showed considerable skill and courage in tending the injured and when a doctor arrived at the scene, she gave him a complete and accurate diagnosis of each case. Pte Watson refused medical treatment herself until the severely injured had been taken to hospital. By her selfless devotion to duty and resourcefulness she did much to relieve the suffering and pain of the injured.

Unit News

Northern Ireland

SINCE the last contribution some members of the WRAC both of the Element and 1 Regt RMP were honoured to receive an invitation to tea at Stormont Castle from Mrs Whitelaw. It was an afternoon for servicewomen, and we had an enjoyable tea, meeting members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, St Johns Ambulance and Red Cross.

In April the Commander Land Forces Maj Gen R. C. Ford, CBE, paid the Element a farewell visit. Gen Sir John Mogg, GCB, CBE, DSO, ADC, the Adjutant General, also did the WRAC Element the honour of visiting us during the short time he was here in May.

A few WRAC members of 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V) spent a night with the unit during one of their exercises but we did not see very much of them because they were busy. The unit continues to take part in as many activities as possible. Our unit Tennis Tournament, which was played in between showers was won by Pte "Fred" Vandenkerkhof. Netball went on through May and has now given way to Rounders matches, mostly played against men as the Northern Irish don't play rounders. Over Easter the "Terrible Twins" Ptes Hayward and Traynor went Adventure Training with the AYT and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Lt Wheelock took Cpl Wilson, Lcpl Christie, Ptes Brownlie, Marnier, Rae and Webber pony trekking for a couple of hours on the sunny afternoon of Thursday 28 June 1973. All had a super time even if they could hardly walk that evening. We did not manage to win the 39 Brigade Inter Department Quiz but our darts team put the 39 Brigade Officers' team to flight 5-3! Talking of flights, Lt Wheelock took Cpls Gallacher and Robinson, Ptes Birchall, Greig, Jennings, Vandenkerkhof and Lcpl Youngs Adventure Training, they were picked up and flown out into the countryside where they walked, had a picnic lunch and came back in time for early tea. Cpl Brown, Lcpl Christie, Ptes Smith and Warnock managed to attend the Sailing Regatta during July. They were not crewing but got a ride in the rescue boat.

Lcpl Wickson and Pte Jenkinson did very well in the Army Cookery Competition 1—2 May 1973, at Aldershot by coming second. We were all thrilled with their success.

Lcpl McDougall and Pte McMahon were allowed off duty to swim at Catterick where they put up a creditable performance, Lcpl McDougall came second in the 100 yds Breast Stroke and Pte McMahon came second in the 100 yds Free Style, it is hoped that they might be available to compete in the Army Championships in September. Since she arrived here Pte Mallisch has spent more time on the mainland, running for the WRAC College, Camberley, in the Inter Unit Athletics and coming third in the 400 metres. She then trained with the Army Team and was selected to be reserve.

The members of the unit continue to take advantage

of the 'Disco' invitations and enjoy their coach trips to places of interest—or just to have a barbecue on one of the very pleasant beaches, rain or shine! On 1 June, 1973, the unit returned invitations and organised a really swinging "Hawaiian Beach Club" Disco, and dancing did not pause from 2030 hrs to 2300 hrs when the eats arrived.

The unit has said au revoir to WO2 D. A. 'DABS' Brook and Sgt Cole and welcomed WO2 J. Beresford and Sgt Scantlebury. We have a Special congratulations for Cpl Jane Purdie who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Operational List published on 2 July, 1973. We hope that she is enjoying her new post.

Scotland

242 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Odd Jobs and Swear Words pay for Children's Outing

THE 21 members of the Women's Royal Army Corps who work at HQ Scotland (Army), at Craigiehall, saw the reward of months of spare-time work on Wednesday, 22nd August, when they gave 17 handicapped children a day out at the Blair Drummond Safari Park.

To make the outing possible, the girls, whose average age is 20, raised money by acting as waitresses and washers-up for officers' mess parties, baby-sitting, making fluffy ducks for sale as Christmas presents, walking dogs, washing cars, sweeping paths and laundering (shirts washed and ironed for 10p).

They also instituted swear boxes in some parts of the Headquarters.

"You couldn't say damn in the Communications Centre," said the girls' Officer Commanding, Lt Anne Leach, ruefully. "I don't know how much it cost me."

The children left Challenor Lodge, accompanied by as many of the WRAC as could be spared from duty, at 10 am. After the outing to Blair Drummond, the handicapped children were given tea in the Junior Ranks Mess at Craigiehall before going home to Challenor Lodge.

Eastern District

RAVC TRAINING CENTRE

PRESSURE of work continues to be very heavy, with the emphasis on dog training, keeping our kennel-maids extremely busy. Due to work commitments we have unfortunately, been unable to compete as a team this year in any of the Command or Inter Unit games tournaments, but we have been able to enter some of the individual sporting events.

At the North East District Swimming Championships on 17 July, 1973, Lcpl Chris Trueman had a convincing win in both the 100 yds Breast Stroke and the 100 yds Medley events and qualified to go forward to the Army Championships in September. We wish her the best of luck. Pte Glenys Roberts, competing in a Service event for the first time, did very well in coming second to Lcpl Trueman in the 100 yds Individual Medley.

Also in July, individual WRAC competitors and a WRAC Team entered the Mounted Events at the Royal Tournament. Lcpl Louise Jenkins, Ptes Helen Beer, Hilary McKenzie and Carol Wilson went to Earls Court and made their home for the fortnight in a caravan on the Car Park! Pte Helen Beer did very well in the Prince of Wales Cup, getting through to the finals—4 riders remaining out of 88 starters. In the Final Jump-off she unfortunately took a fall, and finished fourth. In the special Team Jumping (Dismounted Corps), the WRAC team of Lcpl Louise Jenkins, Ptes Helen Beer and Carol Wilson came second, having been in the lead till the end, when they were pipped at the post by the Royal Marines, who had a clear round. A very creditable performance however, Pte Carol Wilson really raced round the course on Snip and got clear rounds in very fast times.

We are losing some of our "old soldiers". Cpl Yvonne Smith married Tpr Burns of The Life Guards at the Guards Chapel in August, and is being released after five years service. She made history at the Scottish Reunion earlier this year by helping her mother, (ex-ATS and a stalwart member of the Association), to propose the vote of thanks. Cpl Smith says her mother made her do all the talking! Pte Carol Pexton, who married Cpl Barry Pexton RAVC last year, has now taken her release.

Several marriages have taken place, or are in the offing, luckily some of them being "kept in the family"! Pte Anne Stein married Pte Christopher Gray, RAVC, in August, and is continuing to serve. Pte Anne Ramsden married Lcpl Brian Duerden, RAVC, in July and is still serving. Lcpl Chris Trueman is marrying Cpl Tony Scriven, RMP, early in 1974, fortunately not before she has competed (successfully we hope), in the Army Swimming Championships. Cpl Sylvia Newcombe, the QM's clerk and part-time Medical Orderly is marrying Gnr Kenneth Pensom, RHA.

A tragic event occurred in July, when Cpl Brian Criddle, BEM, RAVC, was killed in Northern Ireland. His wife, (ex-Pte Julie Flanagan WRAC), was left with three children, including 3 month old twin boys. She is coming back from Ireland to live in Melton for a while, so those of us who knew her in the service may be able to help at this sad time.

In June Sgt Pat Herbert and Pte Eileen Knight were lucky enough to get vacancies on a Basic Canoeing Course at the BOBC, Kristiansand, Norway. They came back, bronzed and fit, and very enthusiastic about the sport. The course was apparently strenuous, but most enjoyable. They both hope to continue canoeing with the Army Canoe Union in due course, and perhaps take part in competitions when the pressure of work eases a little.

We have had quite a few visitors in the past months, including Col V. I. Fisher, Commandant designate of the WRAC Centre, and Lt Col R. M. Engel, our ADWRAC. The RAVC Training Centre and its work has featured in many TV broadcasts recently; we hope this may encourage much needed kennelmaid recruits.

South West District

22 SQUADRON RCT

ON 27 February, 1973, a team representing 22 Sqn RCT, consisting of Lcpl Thorpe, Mrs Thorpe (ex-Pte Palmer), Lcpl Venn, WRAC and Pte Johnson, WRAC, entered for the Wilton Road Safety Quiz. We congratulate this team on coming second to a very "genned up" team of Primary School Teachers.

22 Sqn RCT had the honour of providing seven staff cars for the entourage of Her Majesty The Queen during her visit to the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, on Saturday, 7 April, 1973. Our seven WRAC drivers were: Cpl Cleeson, Lcpl Humphreys, Lcpls Bell, Bull, Cameron, Ptes Collymore, and Whitecross; they are to be congratulated on the immaculate turnout of themselves and their cars.



Members of 22 San RCT, HQ UKLF.

During a brief training visit to Old Sarum Airfield of the Royal Navy INTSAR (International Search and Rescue) teams, a number of WRAC girls from the Sqn took the opportunity of flying in a "chopper" and thoroughly enjoyed it. We thank the Royal Navy for their kindness in offering flights.

WRAC BATTERY, ROYAL SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY

ON Sunday 17th June, 1973, we started the busiest month of the year. The Battery was host to some 225 members and friends of the No 2 Sub Area, South Western Area of the WRAC Association. The afternoon started with a tour of Wilton House, the home of the sixteenth Earl of Pembroke. A record was created, as we were the biggest party ever to go round Wilton House.

Coaches then took everyone back to Larkhill, for tea and gossip in the Officers' Mess. The guests were wel-

comed by Col B. Metcalfe, MBE, and Maj K. Parson, who commands the WRAC Battery. Very welcome as principle guests were Col C. E. Hammond, CBE, and Col M. D. M. Humphery, CBE.

After tea, there was ample proof that the common idea that different generations cannot mix is not true. Members of the Battery joined their guests for a most enjoyable concert given by the WRAC Staff Band. 18 year olds listened spell-bound to the tales told of the "good old ATS days" and not to be out-done, took the guests round the modern accommodation.

After a pleasant and happy afternoon our guests went their various ways, to many different places as far apart as Cheltenham Portsmouth and Weymouth.

Monday the 18th saw us starting to get ready in earnest for the Garrison Fete on Saturday 30th June. Our main task was to sell raffle tickets for the Battery Grand Draw. Due to the generosity of local tradesmen we had nearly 50 prizes, ranging from a frozen turkey to a doll's hairdressing set. As a result of all the hard work, both before and during the Fete, the draw made £344.05p towards the Garrison Welfare Funds. Harry Secombe opened the Fete in glorious sunshine and again everyone enjoyed themselves.

Wednesday the 11th July seemed to come upon us very quickly. This was the day of the Massed Bands Concert. Again the Battery was out in force handing out programmes and taking up a collection which incidentally amounted to £237. We were very proud that the WRAC Staff Band were able to take part alongside the Bands of the Royal Artillery, the Royal Corps of Signals, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Junior Leaders RA. Perhaps we were biased in thinking that our own band was the best! Having spent the 11th preparing for Artillery Day, it was extra pleasant to relax and "listen to the Band".

Thursday morning saw us all back on Knighton Down preparing our static display for Artillery Day. We had no time to lose as Friday was the preview day which was attended mainly by military personnel. Our display (next to the VIP enclosure) drew large crowds and, believe it or not, over 2,000 people had a look in the 4MK 7/3 Surveillance Radar Set beside our tent which was manned by WRAC radar ops. Also on display, both inside and outside the tent, was every trade undertaken within our Battery, including EAsG, PTIs, Stewardesses, Cooks, etc. WO I Hodgson from Swindon and Sgt Waterman from Bournemouth were our recruiting representatives. DWRAC, Brig E. J. Nolan, Hon ADC, paid her first visit to Larkhill for Artillery Day, on Saturday 13th July, and, we hope, enjoyed her day.

By the end of the month, we were back at our jobs, noses once more to the grindstone, but thoroughly enjoying every minute of it. As a result of our efforts, some of us are now the proud possessors of a little round badge that loudly quotes

I'M A GUNNER—BOOM BOOM

London District

WRAC BATTERY 17 TRAINING REGIMENT & DEPOT RA

ON 31 March 1973 the WRAC Company with 17 Trg Regt and Depot RA became the WRAC Battery. This is the second WRAC Battery to be formed in the present day Army. All WRAC members now proudly wear the Gunner grenade on their No 2 Dress Jackets, and bit by bit the OC and CSM are becoming used to calling themselves BC and BSM. At the moment we are holding on to the ranks of Cpl and Lcpl as we feel there should be some differences between men and women.



Sgt Hall and Pte Bainbridge in the RA Mess

The WRAC cooks came into the forefront of unit activity by winning the London District WRAC Cooking Competition. There is now a splendid trophy in the Battery Office to prove this. The meal that was produced was of a very high standard and now all ranks are getting over-weight due to the good food they are eating.



Lcpl MacMillan and Sgt Butler, staff at the Garrison Officers' Mess

Sailing has become one of the outside activities in which the WRAC are taking an active part. So far the results have been large size blisters from holding ropes but the enthusiasm is still there.

A party of 10 WRAC have departed to the mountains of Wales for a week. So far nothing has been heard from them but as there hasn't been a news flash on radio or TV we assume all goes well with them.

(Printed by kind permission, of the Editor, Gunner Magazine)

419 TROOP RCT

OUR establishment is settled and wef 1 April, 1973, we are now 419 Troop officially, but work and training keep us too busy to notice the difference. Principle postings out this year so far are Cpl Walker (now Mrs Fry), Cpl Dyer to 3 RGJ, Ssgt White to BAOR and WO 2 Gough to Sandhurst. Postings in include Ssgt Henrick from Cyprus, Ssgt MacDougall from BAOR, and Cpl O'Connell from BAOR and Ulster at the same time, which is quite a trick! Lcpl Millar and Pte Law have gone to Woolwich, and we hope they all enjoy their new locations.



Within the unit the Staff Inspection Team have visited again and re-organised the LAD. We have said farewell to CVHQ RAOC and given them some vehicles to aid them in their new location. ADWRAC London District visited us in February and saw one of our new pre-driving courses under instruction; these are girls who would otherwise have a long pause before attending driving at Aldershot so they spend a few weeks with us first. We have also started teaching Road Safety in some local schools as well as entering the various Safe Driving Competitions. The first of which was at Croydon on 6 May, when the Ladies' Section results were : 1. Pte Murphy, 2. Pte Lynch (since left as a staff car driver to West Midland District), 3. Cpl Jeacock, 4. Pte Hogg and 5. Pte Rowlands. Mrs Gerdes (ex-Capt Heather Mugford, WRAC) did some training with us and got a very creditable place in the over 21 section.

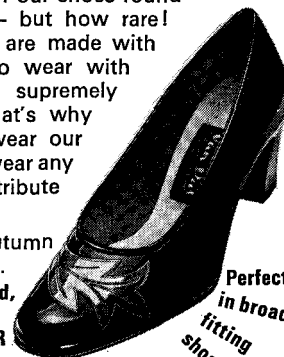
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When the RCT took over public duties in March, all our trainees went up to see them at Buckingham Palace, lunched at Regents Park and enjoyed a rather novel route learning session. Tpt Branch was quite near the March bombings in Whitehall and our drivers were involved in RAOC and Police support in consequence.

Our ambulances, beside their normal errands of mercy, have again attended the State visits, Queen's Birthday rehearsals, Beating Retreats and similar functions. Pte Forrest, at Chelsea Barracks for the Welsh Guards celebration of St David's Day, adopted His Royal Highness Prince Philip as her pin-up!

We all went to see the Army Cup Final to cheer the RCT winning team in April. Ssgt Brown turned the details office upside down when Sunderland won the cup, especially as on the same day London Welsh won the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham (next door to our unit) and Llanelli won the "Snellings" by 56—6.



Four of our girls Lcpl Donkin, Ptes Maddison, Rowlands and Bradford have been touring the Nation with the RCT Mobile Display Team and so far they've covered Ayr, Glasgow, Wolverhampton, Surbiton, Manchester, Chester, Birkenhead, Bath, Swindon and came to a temporary rest at the Aldershot Army Display 18—24 June. Lcpl Batty and Pte Evans were selected to go there too, to work with 29 Mov Control Regt RCT. We all visited and saw them. Lcpl Batty and Pte Bracewell went to learn fencing at Aldershot and came back with good reports and not too many scars. Sgt Loynes is busy preparing for the trip to Canada, convinced that the Rocky Mountains will be a nice stroll compared with Switzerland.

While still attending courses, we prepared for our annual inspection in July. The Inspecting Officer was

Brig. M. J. P. O'Cock, MC, ADC, Chief of Staff HQ London District. We attended and assisted in the Musical Pageant at Wembley and the Royal Tournament at Earls Court. Ssgt Henrick has received her LS & GC Medal and Pte Jane Kelly won the Savage Trophy accompanied by the usual write-up in the press.

Our most recent function was Beating Retreat by the RCT Staff Band at Regents Park Barracks before Maj Gen F. J. C. Bowes-Lyon, CB, OBE, MC, GOC London District.

South East District

D COMPANY, 16 BATTALION RAOC

MEMBERS of 'D' Company continue to make their presence felt in COD Bicester. Helping with arrangements for the Travers Clarke Athletics Meeting and parading on St Barbara's Day could be regarded as routine appearances, successful though these events were. What was a little out of the ordinary was the appearance, albeit fleeting, of two of the Company on BBC TV.

In February the Garrison was asked if it would help the town of Bicester with its entry for "It's a Knock-out" against Woodstock in April. A number of the Company volunteered and Bicester's team eventually included four from the Garrison; one RAOC, one RPC and two WRAC. These were Pte Jeanette Clay, a technical storewoman; and Pte Margaret Leitch, a Medical Orderly.

Bicester trained hard and, undeterred by the PE qualifications of most of the Woodstock team, won this competition and consequently a trip to Italy to represent the UK in the Eurovision version "Jeux sans Frontieres", Ptes Clay and Leitch flexing their, by now, supple muscles went with the team to Senigallia, a resort on the Adriatic coast, where the games were played on 6 June. They joined in the training and sightseeing but, as they became reserves in the final selection, did not appear on television in July when viewers saw Bicester come a close fourth. Even so, the whole thing can be voted an all-round success as our representatives have experienced the fun of competition with foreign travel included and the BBC's viewing figures must have been boosted by the friends and relatives of 'D' Company. Unfortunately this is a once only event for any town so we cannot suggest "Join the WRAC at Bicester to appear on TV and spend a day in Venice" to the Corps' advertising agency.

WRAC TROOP, 12 DRIVER TRAINING REGIMENT RCT

THE RCT Training Centre was honoured by a visit from His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh on Tuesday 22 May, 1973. Prior to his visit to Buller Barracks Prince Philip formally opened the new Civic Centre in Aldershot and planted a tree to commemorate the occasion.

During the week preceding the visit the inevitable rehearsals took place, and the value of this was clearly

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apparent when His Royal Highness arrived some fifteen minutes early. He was accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, the Earl of Malmesbury; and the GOC South East District, Lt Gen Sir Terence McMeekin, KCB, OBE.

The Duke saw both WRAC and RCT recruits undergoing training on the Redifon simulators, and talked to several students before moving on to the engine bay. It was explained that the students on B2-B1 Driver Upgrading Course No 5 were carrying out revision on fault finding techniques prior to their trade test. Prince Philip spent some time talking to Cpl Brenda Foster, the only WRAC member of the course, discussing her career and ambitions.

The RCT four-in-hand coach took the Duke to tea in the Officers' Mess where he was joined by the Civic Party and Officers of the Training Centre. He managed to talk to each and every one before climbing aboard to pilot his red helicopter to his next engagement.

At South Ruislip Eliminating Trials for the National Lorry Driver of the Year Competition, Lcpl Jan Pratley gained the Best Lady Award and Diploma of Merit. Her final overall position of 9th out of 102 competitors resulted in some very red faces amongst her male colleagues. Lcpl Pratley obtained her HGV licence in March 1973 and the WRAC Troop, is justly proud of this, her first achievement.

On return from a most instructive and enjoyable course in Norway, Cpl Ann Boltwood fired the small permanent staff element with so much enthusiasm to pursue this hobby, that it is questionable whether the nucleus of the WRAC Troop will be located in UK or Scandinavia in 1974.

BAOR

WRAC PROVOST DET 113 PROVOST COMPANY RMP

ALTHOUGH we are a small detachment of WRAC Provost here, we have a large area of responsibility. Much of our work concerns the families of soldiers serving in and around the Bielefeld area. We are also here as female police cover to the WRAC complement to HQ 1 (BR) Corps, which has a strength of about eighty. In addition we are on call to all RMP Units, both Provost and Special Investigation Branch in 1 (BR) Corps area, whenever they have problems with women and children or require female police assistance for any other purpose.

Lcpl Snaith has recently arrived from the Royal Military Police Training Centre at Chichester. In addition to her normal police duties she is at present employed in the field of photography. The Military Police have three Radar speed check vehicles which are equipped with cameras to photograph speeding vehicles. The exposed films are sent to our Special Investigation Branch here in

Bielefeld, where Lcpl Snaith takes over. Suitably dressed in an elegant white overall she sets to work in the SIB darkroom. There must be many a British driver in Germany who would like to sabotage Lcpl Snaith's darkroom!

Lcpl Shazell is our girl in the General Police Duties field, which is not the dull job that the title implies. She accompanies a Military Police NCO on police patrols of the town and surrounding area. Although she is mainly concerned with Army families, she is expected to be able to assist with any job involving the soldiers, when called on to do so.

The girls are often asked to assist in the training of troops who are going to Ireland. During this training 'mock riots' are staged and our girls are called in to act as searchers alongside the troops. This is necessary because the troops are not allowed to search women and children. Although this can prove to be an arduous job for them and despite the fact that it often entails being out in all types of weather, the girls go about this task cheerfully.

My job as the WRAC Provost Sergeant, includes the instruction of children in general Road Safety and the completion of records for the Army's Central Criminal Records and Intelligence Office (CCRIO).

However it is not all hard work for the girls here. There are adequate facilities for learning the German language, and they have plenty of opportunities to mix with the local community, either in the excellent shopping centre or the numerous discotheques and 'Guesthouses' in Bielefeld.

29 COMPANY WRAC *Marching Blistering 'Feat'*

DESPITE the fact that Lt (now Capt) Linda Cowley, the main instigator of recent marching in 29 Coy WRAC, left us in May, the unit has continued with its marching programme for 1973. On many occasions too, we have been joined by individuals from neighbouring BAOR units.

Up until July the team spent most weekends attending marches, usually in Holland. A team of five, led by Lt Val Batchelor of 6 Int Coy (PI), went to Berne in May to take part in the two day Swiss March. The other four members, Sgt Rita Clarke, (NORTHAG Signal Troop, 16th Signal Regt), Lcpls Helen Arnold, Sandy MacLeod and Chris Holland, together with Lt Batchelor were entertained as guests of the Swiss Government; as well as completing the 60 km march, they were able to see something of the countryside and were well wined and dined too. We spent also one full weekend camping and marching in the Eifel at the end of June; an "experience" which we hope to repeat soon.

All of these marches have been a means of training us up to the standard required to complete the Four Day

Nijmegen March held from 17th to 20th July 1973. Throughout our training we had been warned of the disasters that could befall a team when marching in hot weather. Last year during the Nijmegen March we had suffered a heat-wave and marching in track-suits had been very hot and uncomfortable. This year it was decided that we would march in PT kit which at least would be cool; our only problem was that the expected heat-wave didn't arrive and we began to wonder whether, instead of suffering from heat exhaustion, we'd succumb to frost-bite and pneumonia!

The Nijmegen March is the climax of the marching year. It is a four day march covering, for us, a distance of 40 kms (25 miles) each day. The marches have taken place annually since 1909 apart from the breaks caused by the two World Wars. Nowadays there are often more than ten thousand marchers—both service and civilian—taking part from all over the world. For example, marchers come from America, Canada, Brazil, Israel and Finland as well as from Western Europe. The four days are like a miniature United Nations and there is a tremendous feeling of camaraderie amongst the Nations who parade, both before and after the marches, with flags flying and bands playing.



WRAC Marching Team on second day at Nijmegen. L to R: Ptes M. Kirwan, Lcpl T. Hall, Lt V. Batchelor, Cpl B. Dyson, WO 2 L. Scott, 2Lt M. Davies.

This year the WRAC had only one team which consisted mainly of 29 Coy WRAC, NORTHAG Signal Tp and 68 Sqn RCT personnel. They were led by 2Lt Margaret Davies and comprised Lt Val Batchelor, WO2 Lesley Scott, Sgts Rita Clarke and Anne Curry (from Berlin) Cpl Beryl Dyson, Lcpls Hilary Fraser, Tina Hall,

Anne Wilson and Ptes Liz Donkin, Diane Faulkner, Iris Ferguson, Mary Kirwan and "Carrots" Millar, ably supported (in more than one sense) by our Cycle Orderly, Pte Pauline Dudley.

In past years the WRAF have done all the administration for the British Women's Services at Nijmegen; this year, however, we were able to help out by bringing with us Sgt Corrinne Harrison as medical cover and Pte Chris Wyatt from 8 CP & CCD RE to lend a hand to the Admin Staff.

One thing that we have all learnt is that physical fitness is a "Must" for marching. You can complete a march with the help of stamina and the right frame of mind, but to complete it comfortably requires a great deal of training and fitness. Our main problems this year were muscular trouble due partly to the cold, aching knee joints, the inevitable blisters and a distinct lack of voice due to over-enthusiasm when singing our marching songs!

Despite our ailments we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The atmosphere throughout the week, and more especially on the last day, is something that we will never forget. It's not every member of the WRAC who has marched through the streets of a large town to the accompaniment of cheering and shouting, not to mention wolf-whistles, from the mass of spectators lining the route, who thrust bouquets of beautiful fresh flowers into the arms of marchers. It not only gives one a sense of pride in oneself and the team, but also in the Corps as a whole. For each marcher in our team, probably a greater satisfaction than actually finishing the march itself was the knowledge that all fourteen who began it also completed it, having worked together as a team.

We hope to continue marching and strengthening our team in readiness for next years Nijmegen March. Let us hope that we can do as well then and possibly be joined by teams from other units.

Hong Kong

MANY Lioness readers will know Hong Kong, having at one time or other served here. However, unless you have recently returned from Hong Kong you would find the place unrecognisable. Many multi-storey buildings have sprung up, like mushrooms, virtually overnight. Probably the biggest change in recent years has been the opening of the Cross harbour tunnel. One can now catch a bus from Hong Kong Island to Kowloon for the princely sum of \$!

For those who are not familiar with Hong Kong; the climate is varied, very hot and humid during the summer months and comparatively cold in winter. Having been used to the heat of summer we are only too pleased to climb into English weight winter woollies when the cold weather begins. At present we are in the monsoon season—April to September—this normally indicates warm changeable weather with sudden downpours!

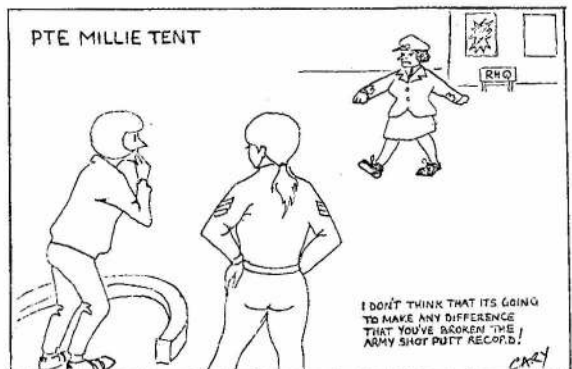
Because the climate is so hot and humid during the summer months it tends to discourage even the most active members of the unit from participating in Sport,

however, junk trips (the term "Junk" covers boats of nearly every shape and size) and the Sub Aqua Club replace netball, hockey and athletics. Several WRAC are members of the Sub Aqua Club. In April Ptes Val Nash and Lynn Martin went with the Club to Cyprus. We are most grateful to the WRAC element in Cyprus for their kind hospitality to these girls.



"Snakes in the Grass!"

The WRAC Hong Kong Athletics Team did exceptionally well this year. They competed against local Chinese women's teams and in the Omega Meeting—the biggest of the season—they beat two of these teams to come 3rd in the Colony. Lcpl "Rusty" Blake now holds the Hong Kong National Junior Discus title, Lcpl "Sandy" Murphy did well in shot putt and put us all to shame with her enthusiasm for training!



During February, 14 WRAC attended the 51 Infantry Bde Spring Camp. This involved map reading, first aid and participating in a night exercise. On the last day of this camp the WRAC took part in a beach landing from assault craft. Despite the many green faces during the 3 hour trip everybody claimed that they had enjoyed themselves!

As this issue of the Lioness will be the last before Christmas, WRAC Hong Kong would like to wish you all Happy Christmas and Kung Hai Fat Choy (Happy New Year)!

Inter-Service Athletic Championships



Army Women's Athletics Team 1973.

Back Row L to R: Sgt. J. Lister, Lcpl M. Maynard
 400M 4x100 M Relay
 Sgt B. Clewlow Pte B. Lewis Cpl B. Taylor
 Javelin High Jump Shot and Javelin
 Long Jump
 4x100 M Relay
 Lcpl B. Jones Pte S. Godwin Sgt D. Lodge
 High Jump Discus Hurdles & Long
 Jump

Front Row L to R: Pte S. Burgess Cpl Simpson
 100 M, 200 M, Hurdles
 4x100 M Relay
 WO 2 J. Dabbs Cpl M. Birt
 Discus 400 M
 (Captain) Cpl L. Wright
 100 M, 200 M,
 4x100 M Relay

FOR the third year running the Corps Athletic Team have achieved success at the Inter-Service Athletic Championships by winning the Women's Trophy.

Prior to 1969 there was a gap of ten years between a win for our team and before 1959 it was distinction. During the 1970 Championships we lost to the WRAF, by that nightmare of any relay team, a dropped baton. Since then it has been success all the way. This year out of a maximum 109 points we have achieved a total of 103 and this has meant that the Combined Services Women's Team to compete against the Hampshire and Surrey Athletic Association, a triangular match, has only three competitors who are not from our Corps.

The team photograph does not include Lt E. Elliott, WRAC, who again won Putting the Shot with a throw of 40' 6½". She had to hurry away to her duties in Northern Ireland. A new Inter-Service record for the High Jump

by Pte B. Lewis, WRAC, was exceeded by her a week later at the Army Inter-Unit Championships with a jump of 5' 8". We say goodbye to Cpl L. Wright, WRAC, this year for she has married recently and is off to Canada with her husband. Her excellent sprints in the 100 and 200 metres events have been a delight to watch and she will be missed.

Let us not forget that the successes earned by our team have meant a lot of hard work by each individual member. They have responded splendidly to the help and encouragement given by the male instructors of the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot and within units. One cannot end however without mentioning the person who has done so much for our Service team. She is the Team Captain WO 2 J. Dabbs, WRAC, and long may she continue to coach, advise and be "Mum" of our excellent team of athletes.



Pte Bernardine Lewis of 10 Coy WRAC creating a new Army (Women's) High Jump Record of 1.73 metres (5ft 8ins.) at the Army Inter Unit Team Athletic Championships in Aldershot on 25 July 1973. Pte Lewis had previously broken the Women's Inter Service High Jump Record, held by a member of the WRNS since 1963. Since the Army Championships, Pte Lewis has cleared 5ft 10½in. in practice at the Crystal Palace Sports Ground and is now a very firm contender for selection in Oct 73, for the Great Britain team to take part in the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand in January 1974.

Some of the members of 10 Coy WRAC with the trophies they have won this year for athletics, badminton and tennis. From left to right, Pte Lewis, Pte McAleney, Sgt Kemp, WO2 Dabbs, Sgt Somerville, Lcpl Dobson and Lcpl Moseley. (This photograph is reproduced by permission of Dennis Mustard, Aldershot.)

Since this photograph was taken 10 Coy have also acquired the Inter-Unit Rounders Trophy!



Lieutenant General Sir Terence McMeekin, KCB, OBE, General Officer Commanding South East District presenting the Army (Women's) Inter Unit Team Athletic Championship trophy to Sgt Kemp, captain of the 10 Coy WRAC athletics team at Aldershot on 25 July 1973. Also in the picture is Cpl Wright who in these championships established a new record for the 400 metres in 61.3 seconds. Cpl Wright is now Mrs Young and living in Toronto, Canada.

Army (W) Tennis Team

Guernsey Tour

ON the afternoon of Wednesday, 31 May, 1973, the Army Women's Tennis Team sailed out of Weymouth Bay in glorious sunshine; a welcoming lick of what was to come on our five day tour of Guernsey. We were six; Capt Travers, our secretary, and 2Lt Burwell, who played third couple, WO 2 Dabbs with Cpl Kerry as second string, 2Lt Day, with Maj Temple our captain at the helm.

A windswept practice the following morning saved us from appearing quite as at sea with the elements as we might have done. We had to contend with gusty winds and a blistering sun as well as our opponents, the Girls' Grammar School, in our first afternoon match. It turned out to be an encouraging start to the tour, with a win for the AWLTA 8½-3½.



Our next game was against the Island Ladies Team, and it was a memorable one. Each time a good shot was played the encouraging exclamation of "Peach"! came filtering through the wire netting not to mention the elusive tennis ball borrowers of eight year olds, who were eventually routed from their crouched position in the adjacent long grass and set to their heels by our stirring spectators! Meanwhile back at the forum, our first and second couples managed to hold on in an exciting finish to clinch the match by 5½-3½.

We had by this time become thoroughly intoxicated by the friendliness of the Island; its balmy nature and wonderful hosts. Healthy walks along the coastline, or a boat trip to an offshore sun drenched beach had almost claimed our allegiance. The third match, therefore, was perhaps the most enjoyable, and most hardly fought, with St Martins Ladies finally winning by 5 matches to 4.

Grass, surrounded by old high walls, was the secluded setting for our final game at the Ladies College. Like a reversible mackintosh, we were told this served for hockey in the winter too, which was remarkable, for the green was so smooth, it could have tripled up for a cricket pitch as well! It was a successful way to end a most enjoyable tour, with an 9-0 win for the AWLTA.

Sport in BAOR

THE good weather here in BAOR is certainly helping us to enjoy a very successful Summer Season. We have a record number of competitors in most competitions and the general standard especially in Tennis and Swimming is higher than ever before.

Seven teams competed in our Inter-Unit Tennis Championship which was won by Int & Sy Gp (Germany) with BMH Munster 2nd. In the Inter-Zone Championships at Aldershot on 30 and 31 July we were narrowly beaten by the strong South East District team. In the BAOR v WRAF (Germany) match at the end of July we were beaten but not disgraced.

Our Swimming Season started very successfully with a full course at Berlin. Several swimmers competed in local galas in preparation for the big day which was the BAOR (W) Individual and Team Championship, 47 swimmers took part in the various events and in all cases the swimmers in 1st and 2nd places were well within the Army qualifying times. The Inter-Unit 4 x 50 m relay was won by 16 Sig Regt in a time of 2 mins 47.4 seconds. Pte Phillips from 16 Sig Regt won the 50m Freestyle in 37 secs, the 50m Backstroke in 94.1 secs and the 3 x 30m Individual Medley in 1 min 27.2 secs. Pte Beckett also from 16 Sig Regt won the 50m Breaststroke in 51 secs.

At the Inter-Unit Team Athletics three BAOR (Women's) records were broken by members of 29 Coy WRAC; the 4 x 100m relay in a time of 57.8 secs, the long jump by Pte Burgess with a jump of 4.99m and the discus by Pte Knight with a throw of 28.92m. However not all the glory was to go to 29 Coy because at the end of the day 68 Sqn RCT had won the championships with 30 points pushing 29 Coy WRAC into 2nd place with 29 points, 16 Sig Regt and 13 Sig Regt tied with 15 points each.

In the Inter-Unit Championships at Aldershot on 25 July, 68 Sqn were beaten into second place by only 3 points. Again we hope to do better next year.

Pte Burgess competed in the Army Championships and won the long jump, was 2nd in the 100m and 200m. Both she and Lcpl Maynard of HQ Rhine Area were chosen to represent the Combined Services team. Pte Burgess in the sprints and the latter in the relay team.

Many units are also taking part in Adventurous Training pursuits covering a wide range of activities, the most popular being Canoeing, Potholing and Orienteering. Those who are attached to male units join in their "Summer Camps" and spend a few days at each activity.

"Marching" is still popular and with several organised 1 and 2 day marches throughout the year and most weekends one can find squads of WRAC tramping among the mountains in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium or the lowlands of Holland. The last official march before the 4 days Nijmegen marches is the Rheindahlen march and this year three WRAC teams took part, NORTHAG Sig Tp, 16 Sig Regt; 68 Sqn RCT and 29 Coy WRAC. The Nijmegen Marches from 17-20 July 1973, were completed successfully by a WRAC team of fourteen.

Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve

39th (CITY OF LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT
(VOLUNTEERS)



Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent talking in the Lynx Club to Cpl Moore, accompanied by Lt Col K. G. White, Royal Signals and Maj G. M. Drane, the SWO of the Regiment.

WITH its Regimental Headquarters situated in the City of London, only a short walk from the Mansion House, there is little wonder that this Regiment has many close ties within the City. Indeed, all members of the Regiment wear a tiny red sword on their uniforms, the Sword of the City of London.

Another emblem with which the Regiment is closely associated is that of a Lynx. The Regiment is patronised by the Worshipful Company of Skinners, whose emblem is a Lynx, hence the Regiment also uses this unusual emblem. Actually there is a real 39th Signal Regiment Lynx in the London Zoo, but last reports state that he's getting a bit old!

Once a year the Lord Mayor of London visits the Regiment and then dines with the Officers and their guests,

and he is always accompanied by the Sheriffs and the Esquire; once a year also the Master and Wardens of the Skinners' Company do the same. The Regiment takes part in the Lord Mayor's Show every November and the Remembrance Day Service in the Albert Hall. Members of the Star and Garter Homes come to the Regiment during the year and many other functions take place.

Although RHQ is in London, there are also Squadrons in Dundee, Tunbridge Wells and Banbury, each with their own close ties with these towns.

Apart from the colourful social side of the Regiment there is also an exciting work side! Every year members of the Regiment have the opportunity to travel, exercises are held in BAOR, Cyprus and Gibraltar as well as several 'out of the way' locations in this country. There

are opportunities for the separate squadrons to meet together in London, so new members are always reminded that they must like travelling!

Training is carried out twice a week during the evening in all four Squadrons, and it was to the London Squadrons that the Controller Commandant of the Women's Royal Army Corps came on May 22nd 1973.

Members of the Regiment from Dundee, Tunbridge Wells and Banbury travelled to London on May 22nd to be present when Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent came to the TAC at Worship Street. This was the first time that she had been to a TAVR Regiment and everyone was very proud that 39th Signal Regiment had been chosen for this honour.

During her visit Her Royal Highness visited members of the Regiment at their normal training, and afterwards was able to meet everyone informally in their respective Messes. The evening finished with a Buffet Supper in the Officers' Mess.

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY OTC

*How not to Succeed and Influence
People—Especially your CO*

SHEFFIELD OTC spent a very enjoyable fortnight at Crookham Camp, near Aldershot during July, 1973.

One of the highlights of this camp from the WRAC platoon's point of view was a visit by Brig. E. J. Nolan, Hon ADC, DWRAC, and Lt Col R. M. Engel, ADWRAC. On the day of their visit the WRAC platoon was out on exercise at Winkworth Arboretum, where the RE troop was building silt traps for the National Trust.

Our MTO 2Lt Frank Kirkham, had therefore to produce two military vehicles for WRAC use outside the officers' mess at 1230 hrs. At 1220, our CO Lt Col P. L. Bastock, RE, commented on the absence of the vehicles concerned, whereupon the RSM went to the MT garage and found the only military vehicle on camp being polished by the REME Staff Sergeant! "Where is the MTO?" asked a surprised RSM. "At Winkworth Arboretum" was the reply. The enterprising RSM then borrowed a landrover from Birmingham UOTC (who were sharing the camp) and gave Ssgt Lacey five minutes to make the vehicle presentable enough to carry high ranking WRAC officers. Our Colonel, in the absence of his personal landrover, set off for Winkworth Arboretum in his car.

Thus, when everything was satisfactorily organised, the MTO appeared. After suitable refreshment in the mess, the convoy departed, led by our Adjutant, Maj Benson, driving Brig Nolan, followed closely by our MTO, who did not know the exact location of the WRAC platoon, driving Lt Col Engel.

During the journey, the MTO became so engrossed in conversation with Lt Col Engel, he neglected to follow the adjutant, and took an incorrect turning, thus separating our two guests. Lt Col Engel eventually arrived at the destination some 20 minutes after Brig Nolan!

In spite of difficulties the visitors managed to talk to all our girls and see something of what they were doing. Then came the return journey, same arrangements, and—yes, you guessed it—the same thing happened again! Some three days prior to these events, a piece of military equipment, namely a compass, had disappeared, causing a furor. A Board of Inquiry was hastily set up to investigate its loss. On being asked to comment on his inability to follow the Adjutant, our MTO was heard to remark that the 'lost' item of equipment (which had in fact never left his possession) came in very handy when he lost his way!

Needless to say, all the above events took place on Friday the 13th!

EAST MIDLANDS UNIVERSITIES OTC

THE strength of the WRAC sub-unit of the UOTC continues to increase with 17 recruits to date. Attendance among more senior cadets has been equally good, our total strength being 4 officers and 41 officer cadets.

In the recent Inter UOTCs Motor Rally organised by the University of Birmingham OTC at Nesscliffe, Salop, our all WRAC team was placed 7th out of 13, being the highest placed WRAC team.

We were delighted by the success of 2Lt Ros Rendalls at the December 1972 Regular Commissions Board. She begins her training at the WRAC College for a Permanent Regular Commission in October 1973. Also by Philippa Maltby's Commissioning into the TAVR in March. At the Easter Certificate of Military Training Examination held at Ripon, North Yorkshire, all our candidates were successful.

Association News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, by kind permission of Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon, CBE, DL, on Saturday, 16th March, 1974, at 2.30 pm.

BRANCH SECRETARIES' MEETING

The Council of the Association has decided not to hold the Secretaries' Meeting or lunch before the AGM in 1974. Space will be allowed on the Agenda for the AGM, for Secretaries to raise points if they wish.

GRAND REUNION

The Grand Reunion will be held at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 6NQ, on Saturday 16th March, 1974, from 7-10 pm.

As 1974 marks the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the WRAC this is to be a very Special Reunion at which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, and Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent, have been invited to honour us with their presence. The Queen Mother has particularly said that she very much hopes to be with us on this occasion and we hope that our President will also be there.

Tickets price £1.50 (including refreshments) may be obtained from the General Secretary of the WRAC Association, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford GU2 6QH. Applications for tickets, which will be available to paid up members only should be submitted between the 1st January, and 4th March, 1974 only. Tickets will be dealt with in strict rotation; it is hoped that there will be ample space for all members who wish to come. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with the application.

No tickets will be available at the door and no refunds will be possible after the 4th March, 1974.

QMAAC REUNION

The QMAAC Reunion will be held in the Old Comrades Association Room at the Victory Club, Seymour Street, London, on Friday, the 15th March, 1974, from 3-6 pm. Tickets to include afternoon tea 65p each.

Applications for tickets may be submitted between the 15th January and the 4th March, 1974 only. No tickets will be available at the door. Please apply to the General Secretary WRAC Association, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford GU2 6QH, sending a stamped addressed envelope.

CHURCH SERVICE

By kind permission of the Governor, General Sir Charles Jones, GCB, CBE, MC, members of the Association may attend morning service in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, on Sunday 17th March, 1974, at 11 am.

Names of Members of Council wef 1 Nov 73**The President of the Association**

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent

Vice President of the Association

(Deputy Controller Commandant WRAC)

Colonel L. M. Davies, CBE

Life Vice Presidents of Council

Colonel C. E. Hammond, CBE (Retd)

Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, DBE (Retd)

Mrs D. Russell Simpson

Vice Presidents of Council

Lieutenant Colonel G. E. M. Saunders-Davies TD
(Retd)

Mrs H. E. C. Weldon

Mrs W. S. I. Whitelaw

The Chairman of Council

Colonel D. H. I. Wilson, OBE (Retd)

Vice Chairman of Council

Colonel M. D. M. Humphrey, CBE (Retd)

Hon Treasurer

Mrs J. Laurence-Smith

The Director WRAC

Brigadier E. J. Nolan, Hon ADC

Deputy Director UKLF

Colonel B. M. Metcalfe, MBE

Commandant WRAC Centre

Colonel V. I. Fisher

Commandant WRAC College

Colonel A. Field

Deputy OIC Medical & Women's Services Manning and Record Office

Lieutenant Colonel M. B. Latham,

Representative ex-QMAAC

Mrs N. Giles

2 Warrant Officers Nominated by the Director

WO I J. McIntosh

WO I E. Stevenson

Co-opted Members

Major K. Cooper (Retd)

Major E. O. Coven, JP (Retd)

Area Representatives*Eastern*

Chairman

Lieutenant Colonel R. M. Engel

London

Chairman

Lieutenant Colonel B. I. Forbes
Adam, MBE

Northern

Chairman

Lieutenant Colonel R. M. Engel

Vice Chairman

Colonel V. K. Stead, OBE, TD, DL,
JP (Retd)

Northern Ireland

Chairman

Major A. M. M. Clissitt

Vice Chairman

Mrs S. Kerr

South East Area

Chairman

Lieutenant Colonel H. Powell

South West Area

Chairman

Colonel B. M. Metcalfe, MBE

Scottish Area

Chairman

Major F. M. Cook

Vice Chairman

Miss M. M. Thomson

Western Area

Chairman

Lieutenant Colonel P. Norman,

MBE

Vice Chairman

Miss A. G. Learmouth, MBE, TD

Chairman ATS/WRAC Benevolent Fund Managing Trustees

Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, DBE (Retd)

Chairman Grants Committee ATS/WRAC Benevolent Fund

Mrs H. E. C. Weldon

Chairman Headquarter Branch

Mrs. A. J. Stevenson

Ex-Director WRAC

(for three years wef May 1973)

Brigadier S. A. E. Heaney, CB, MBE, TD (Retd)

General Secretary

Colonel P. M. Lipscomb, (Retd)

Amendment to June 1973 Lioness page 40

SOUTH WESTERN AREA

Chairman delete ADWRAC WM/WALES/
SW DISTRICTS
insert DDWRAC UKLF

Focus on Benevolent Fund

Message from Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, DBE, (Retd)

AS Chairman of the Trustees of the ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds I want to tell you of plans we have for giving you some information about these Funds.

Future issues of the Lioness will from time to time include some details about the way the money is used and on occasions will give examples of the type of case that is helped. Names and identifying details being excluded in all instances.

Then there is the side of the work where Association Branches and indeed individual members can and do help. This is with ex-Servicewomen who may be in hospital, ill at home or who for one reason or another would welcome a visit and someone to take a personal interest in them. In future we want to make an even greater use of this link with you all.

The Trustees are grateful to those officers and servicewomen who have recently joined the Army's scheme whereby they agree to make regular donations deducted by the Paymaster. This scheme has great value because it provides a steady income. Not enough for all our needs however and we still rely on units and branches to continue to support the Funds in the splendid way that they have done in the past, by running sales, raffles, etc.

As you know the Trustees of the ATS/WRAC Funds administer the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and I think you will be interested to hear about this Fund from time to time. As only interest can be used for these annuities the amount must of necessity be small, the number of annuitants being dependant on the capital held. The Trustees were most grateful for the wonderful support given to the Grand Draw run by the WRAC

Association. This resulted in £1,000 being donated to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, and so greatly helped to raise the total number of annuities granted. There are now twenty-three annuitants of whom five are ex-QMAAC, sixteen ex-ATS and two ex-WRAC.

I know that many of you see our Annual Report, which goes out to donors, branches and to all units, but if any further copies are required they can always be obtained from the Case Secretary, Major M. Coverdale, WRAC (Retd).

In cases financially beyond the scope of the ATS/WRAC Benevolent Fund, the assistance of the Army Benevolent Fund may be sought and several major rehabilitation grants, as well as some weekly grants have been made by this Fund. The Trustees are most grateful for this help and for the advice which is always so readily available.

Reunions

SCOTTISH REUNION 1973

ON Saturday June 16th, 225 ex-service members of the QMAAC, ATS and WRAC and serving members of the WRAC from many parts of the United Kingdom gathered in Stirling for the Bi-annual Scottish Reunion of the WRAC Association. The gathering was held in the Pathfoot building of the University of Stirling, an ideal venue for a reunion.

Lt-Col The Lady Martha Bruce, Chairman of the Reunion Committee and the guests were piped into the Dining Room by Pipe Major Laurie Georgeson ex Pipe Major of the 7th Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, where Lady Martha welcomed the guests and introduced The Lord Lieutenant of the County of Stirling, Viscount Younger of Leckie. Lord Younger welcomed the members to Stirling, our Vice-President Col Lucy Davies, CBE, brought to the Reunion the greetings of the Association and Maj Gen F. C. C. Graham, CB, DSO, DL,—the only male member of the Association—gave some of his amusing reminiscences of service life. The Director Brig E. J. Nolan, Hon ADC, brought us up to date in an interesting way on what is happening at present in the Regular Corps.

An innovation at this Reunion, possible because it was held in the University of Stirling, was the provision of bed and breakfast for those who had travelled some distance. One party from Liverpool enjoyed their visit so much that they extended their booking for a few days.

All the enrolment forms for the Association were taken and we hope to have many new members. It is also hoped that in the near future it will be possible to start a new branch of the Association in Stirling.

The evening ended with Auld Lang Syne but as members left, others remained to listen to Pipe Major Georgeson who was playing The Nutbrown Maiden.

ATS MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION

THE ATS Middle East Old Comrades Association Reunion will be held at the Helena Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, London, on Saturday 11th May, 1974 at 6.30 pm.

Tickets 75p including Buffet, may be obtained from Miss Sally Healey, Camellia Cottage, Nunney, nr Frome, Somerset. SAE please.

THE QMAAC OLD COMRADES DINNER CLUB

THE 24th Reunion of the QMAAC Old Comrades Dinner Club took place on Thursday 10 May at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, W.1., when we met for our annual luncheon.

Our Chairman on this occasion was Mrs G. Parry of Felixstowe, looking very charming, who received just over 100 guests, most of whom seemed as young as ever. We are more than pleased to welcome new members, and feel sure they will find old friends. The Loyal Toast was followed by those usual on such occasions and then we settled down to the AGM.

With considerable regret we accepted the resignation from the Committee of Mrs H. Clough and Mrs M. Mackenzie, both of whom have given such valuable service. In their place Miss Hadley and Miss Hayward were elected. The remainder of the Committee was re-elected en bloc. Following the AGM we had our usual get-together, when news of all sorts was exchanged. We gradually drifted into the Canteen to refresh ourselves with tea and more talk, and finally farewells and promises of next year were made, and so ended the 1973 Reunion.

Correspondence

In March this year I saw in the Yorkshire Evening Post a photograph of an ATS MT Platoon of 611 C(M) T Coy RASC, which one year during the War had won the Frothblowers' Rosebowl for being the best ATS MT Platoon in Northern Command. As my Platoon of 610 Coy had won the Rosebowl in 1945, I sent a photograph to the paper, saying that I wished more ex-servicewomen would come to the Northern Area Reunions. The result was that I had six letters from ex-ATS, who had never heard of the Reunion, and some did not realise there was an Old Comrades' Association. I also had a letter from a man, who had recognised his Aunt, who he had not seen for some years; could I trace her?! Surprisingly, I was able to do so!

I feel that we need some more publicity at this particular time. The Yorkshire Evening Post publishes a list of reunions and Old Comrades' Meetings, but unless one is a member, and on the look-out for such lists, they are not particularly eye-catching. I think that most wartime ATS are now in their fifties; they have raised their families, and will soon be retiring from jobs. This is a time when they will be looking back and reminiscing, and would welcome an opportunity to meet old friends. Do

we make sufficient use of local radio stations and wouldn't a short article about the Association in local weekly papers be a good thing? Though I served from 1940-1945 in York and Leeds, I do not think I have met more than five people at the Northern Area Reunion with whom I served during the War.

Kathleen Coffey (Miss)
ex-Subaltern (ATS)

News of Members



Do you remember us? L to R: Mrs N. Stevens, Horsham, Surrey; Mrs J. D. Smith, Clevedon, Somerset; Mrs M. E. Davis, Tadworth, Surrey.

Mrs. Davis writes to say that all three would be pleased to hear from any ex-ATS who remember them.

Mrs WELLS (née Sykes) would like to trace Diana Brookson who served in the ATS and was attached to a RASC unit in Leeds. Can anybody help? Replies please through the Association.

Mrs E. CHANDLER, Secretary of Southampton Branch would like to send greetings to all members of 508 (M) HAA Battery with whom she served. She writes:

"This year is the 30th wedding anniversary of quite a lot of our 'girls'. Since my marriage on the 5th June, 1943, I have lived in Eastleigh where we were stationed, and I wonder how many remember that wedding, when some of my ATS friends travelled from Fareham to Eastleigh for 8 o'clock service, to get to the church to find it was for 11 o'clock at a different church a mile or more away. At the time it was typical of Pte E. Jordan, as I then was. Mrs E. Wragg, née 'Ging' Newton, still lives near me and we have been together since our early army days. She still keeps in touch with Vee Davis. Nora Strand lives in Manchester but we have now lost touch. I am sorry to say Cpl Marjorie Holt, Mrs Smith of Gosport, passed away last year aged 49; many of our northern friends will remember her, we all joined up at Warrington in December 1941. Mrs Wragg and I still visit our homes in Birkenhead and Manchester, this year we went in August. We would like news of anyone who remembers us and perhaps we could meet next time we are in the area."

ATS CLERKS' SCHOOL, STRATHPEPPER—(Lioness June 1973)

Reply received from Mrs A. A. Dick, who not only supplied the words but also the author.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF WOLVERHAMPTON BRANCH to the following:

Ian Tolley on the occasion of his marriage last June. Ian is the son of Gladys Tolley one of our members.

Ex ATS member Marjory Harding on her forthcoming marriage to Mr Terry, on 22nd September, 1973.

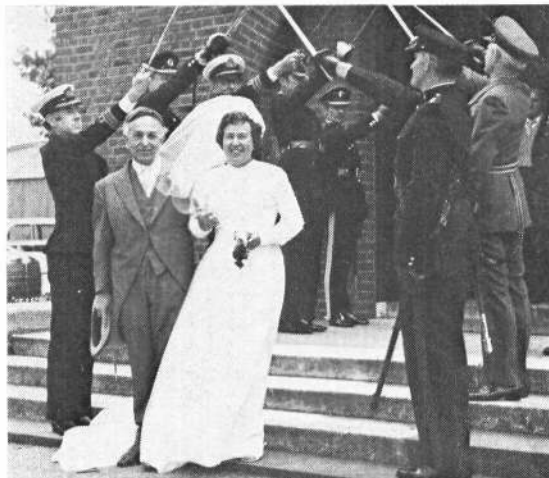
Ex ATS Beryl Riley and her husband on the birth of their first grandchild.

Ex ATS Mary Beeston and her husband on the occasion of their Silver Wedding, 18th September, 1973.

MARRIAGES

Brigadier The Hon Dame Mary Anderson, DBE, who was Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1967 to 1970 was married in Telemark, Norway, on 7th July, 1973, to Mr Frithjof Pihl.

Dame Mary was well known to many members both as Director and Member of Council, and on their behalf we send her and her husband our very best wishes for the future.



On 2nd June, 1973, at St Andrew's Church of Scotland, Aldershot, **Major Bunty Sergeant, WRAC**, was married to Commander John Howard, RN (Retd). The service was conducted by the Rev William Lamont, Chaplain R.N. Captain M. Lane, RH, Director of Music, WRAC Staff Band, was the organist and Sgt N. Jobson, WRAC, played the Trumpet Voluntary during the signing ceremony. The Guard of Honour was provided by officers of the three services.

On 23rd June, 1973, **W/6533 K. Burgess** (who served with 1st West Lancers in 1938 also Brigade HQ Mansfield) to Mr Robert Spencer at St Michael's Church, Blundellsands.

Obituary

Mrs L. M. Ferguson, OBE

D.M.B. writes:

"Those of us who served with Chief Commander Lesley Ferguson at Aldermaston 1939-41, and who have been in touch with her ever since through membership of the Aldermaston Depot (ATS) Association were much distressed by the news of her serious illness in 1971, but heartened by her cheerful and courageous fight in what she knew must be a losing battle with cancer; and although her death in December 1972 was not unexpected, and we would not under the circumstances have wished her to linger on, the news was received with great sadness.

We shall always remember "The Chief" as a wonderful person, for her devoted service to the Training Centre, for her many and generous acts of kindness, her great sense of what was fitting and right; and are proud to have served under her. To many of us our days at Aldermaston were amongst the happiest of our war service, and since then we have much appreciated her Presidency of our Association, and her attendance at nearly all our Reunions. She was indeed a good friend."

Mrs E. Lumb

Mrs K. Harrison of Bradford Branch writes:

"Mrs Edith Lumb, a founder member of the Bradford Branch, passed away on April 26th, 1973, after a long illness. She will be sadly missed by us all, although she had not been able to attend our meetings for the past two years. She had served as a cook in France during the First World War and had also served in Nottingham."

Mrs K. W. Martin

Miss O. Sheeve writes:

"Mrs K. W. Martin (ex Cpl Margaret Abbott) died suddenly on May 30th, 1973, at her home at Leamington Spa. She joined the ATS in March 1940 and served as a driver in Hereford, Church Stretton and Chilwell. Also with 721 Car Coy RASC in Germany from 1946 until her discharge at the end of demobilization in December 1948. I think many of her friends who served with her will be saddened by the news of such a kind and friendly person."

Major (Retd) M. McC. W. Eaton, WRAC

All who knew Molly Eaton will be sad to learn of her death on 8th July, 1973, in the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh.

She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in July 1941 and served for six years in the ranks as a convoy driver and as a general administrative NCO. She was commissioned in the ATS in December 1947 and served as a subaltern in the North Aldershot Group ATS and Western Command Group ATS until March 1949 when she relinquished her commission.

In June 1949 she was granted a TA Commission and served with No 1 (Dumfriesshire) Platoon, 'C' Company, 314 (Scottish Command) Battalion WRAC (TA). In July

1952 she was appointed Battalion Adjutant on consolidated rates and served in that capacity until December 1956 when she transferred to RARO in order to become Army Careers Officer (Women's Services) in Edinburgh.

Molly will always be remembered throughout the recruiting organisation in Scotland for her friendly, helpful and welcoming approach to all, especially newcomers both men and women. She was the only lady member of the Officers' Mess, HQ Lowland Area at The Castle helping to make it an attractive "home" for the members. Many members of both home and foreign contingents to the Edinburgh Tattoo will remember her help on the social side during their visits to the Scottish capital.

Molly was ill for only 5 months and tried hard to maintain her interest in her work despite failing health.

At the Cremation on 12 July there was a very representative gathering of all ranks Regular, Reserve and ex-Service men and women, the service ending with the last post, reveille and a piper playing the haunting lament "The Flowers of the Forest".

Mrs N. Carroll-Leahy

DCMH writes:

"Mrs Norah Carroll-Leahy, formerly Chief Commander Swift, died suddenly at her home in Ireland on August 5th, 1973. In 1945/46 she was ADATS Northumbrian District. She married Col J. H. Carroll-Leahy shortly after leaving there and went to live near Canterbury, where she was a member of the Canterbury Branch before going to live in Ireland. I remember her as an able, intelligent and helpful ADATS and as an entertaining and gay companion."

Mrs J. I. Darling

Miss A. Wilkinson of Newcastle Branch writes:

"Mrs Joyce Irving Darling (née Sowerby) was a very keen and loyal supporter of the Association and very active within the Branch acting as Vice Chairman. Joyce served in the ATS as a PTI and storewoman from 1939-1946 and was discharged on marriage. She joined the TA in 1948 and served until 1952, when she took up a Type 'R' engagement from 1952-1953."

Mrs H. M. McAssey

Miss A. Wilkinson of Newcastle Branch writes:

"We also regret to announce the death of Mrs H. M. McAssey, who was killed in an accident. Mrs McAssey became a Life Member of the Association in 1948."

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Miss I. M. Buck

of Ilford, Essex, who died in November 1972 and who was a member of the London Branch.

Miss A. E. Nicholson

of Crilly, Aghnacloy, Co Tyrone, who died on 28th February, 1973.

Area/Branch News

BRADFORD. We finished our programme for 1972 with our Annual Christmas Dinner, which was most enjoyable.

The first half of 1973 has seen an increase in our membership of five, and along with business meetings we have enjoyed a Bring and Buy Sale and Faith Supper, of which half the proceeds went to the Benevolent Fund; a slide show covering a journey through the Holy Land and a visit to some new British Legion flats, arranged by Mrs O'Neil, a member of our branch and also the Warden of the flats. This visit was followed by a buffet supper at a Country Club. We have an interesting programme planned for the remainder of the year and hope that we shall increase our membership still further.

LEEDS. On Sunday 10 June members of the Leeds Branch went by hired bus 25 miles to Cawthorne near Barnsley to Cannon Hall for an outing which we try to make an annual event. We had our picnic lunch before going round the Hall.



Leeds Branch outing 10 June, 1973.

In 1951 the Hall was bought by the County Borough of Barnsley and as it stands today it is a characteristic example of the smaller country houses of the Georgian Age. It contains an extensive collection of antique furniture and a comprehensive collection of fine glass. In June 1969 a new military section was opened to the public showing the history of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own). This Regiment does much of its recruiting in the Barnsley area and so it is particularly fitting that Cannon Hall should house its Regimental Museum. Before getting our bus back to Leeds we took tea in the Cafe in the grounds.

LIVERPOOL. A party of seven ATS from Liverpool Branch set off in high spirits on the morning of Friday 15th June to travel by coach to the Scottish Reunion to be held at Stirling University on the 16th. The journey to Glasgow was very pleasant and after a delicious meal there, they boarded the Stirling bus to arrive at the University at about 1030 pm, feeling by this time very dishevelled and tired, but were soon settled into their

very comfortable rooms. On the Saturday after breakfast they spent the morning sight-seeing at nearby Bridge of Allen, and after lunch took a bus to Stirling for a look at the town and then back to the University for the Reunion.

They spent a pleasant evening after the reception and dinner listening to the Piper who played the music for an Eightsome Reel, and although out of practice joined in the dance. They were delighted to renew their acquaintance with Miss Etta Howie of Ayr Branch, whom some of the members met at the London Branch and some of her friends, who afterwards joined our members in their rooms for a cup of tea and a chat which lasted until well after midnight.

After saying good-bye to our Scottish friends on Sunday morning, a pleasant afternoon was spent seeing Stirling Castle and all too soon it was time to make preparations for the long trip home, but resolved to make the trip to Edinburgh for the next Reunion in two years time.

The members recounted the events and their adventures at the June meeting of the Liverpool Branch and a discussion was held on the forthcoming Western Area Reunion to be held in Liverpool in October.

MANCHESTER. We have continued to meet as often as possible this year, in spite of the fact that we have had no permanent meeting place for nearly 18 months. We are, however, hoping to get a permanent place in September.

In May about 18 members and friends went to a cheese and wine party at our Treasurer's home in Worsley. The proceeds of the evening which amounted to £12.00 were given to Broughton House, the home for Disabled Soldiers. They are hoping to have a new laundry and we were glad to be able to contribute something towards it.

In July I received my ticket for the Royal Garden Party, and a few days later about ten members were able to meet at Miss Horsfall's house, when my Garden Party Hat was modelled and the ticket shown around. On this evening we were very pleased to welcome two new members to our fold: Miss J. Borthwick and Mrs. N. Murray, both have been out of the services for a long time.

Earlier this month we went to Mrs Harvey's home and I was able to give an account of my visit to the Garden Party.

I should like to thank the members mentioned for opening up their houses for our meetings, and also for the lovely refreshments provided on all three occasions. In October we hope to get a party together for the Western Area Reunion in Liverpool.

Our membership now stands at 35, although owing to various reasons, mostly distance we only get about 12 at meetings.

MIDDLE EAST. The Annual Reunion for 1973 which was held on Saturday 5 May, at the Helena Club, Lower Sloane Street, was attended by thirty members. A most

excellent buffet supper provided by the Club was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and following this a short Annual General Meeting was held with Mrs Chitty as usual in the Chair. Thanks were expressed by her to the Club and especially to Sally Healey for organising such a pleasant evening and for all her hard work during the year. The highlight of the evening was a presentation to Dot Harvey (Harrison) who is leaving shortly to live in Australia. Mrs Chitty presented her with a cheque and fountain pen with the best wishes of all for happiness in her future home. In expressing her thanks Dot mentioned that her first stop on the way to Australia would be Tel Aviv!

The evening ended pleasantly with general reminiscences and exchange of news, personal and otherwise, of which there appeared to be plenty.

SOUTH WESTERN AREA, SUB AREA 2 REUNION 1973: The No 2 Sub Area Reunion was held on Sunday, 17th June, 1973.

Over 200 members and friends from Bath, Cheltenham, Portsmouth, Salisbury, Southampton, Swindon and Weymouth, together with serving members from HQ UKLF assembled at Wilton House, near Salisbury at 2.00 pm, where they were greeted by the hostesses of the day—the Officer Commanding and members of the WRAC Battery, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill. Members were shown round the beautiful house and grounds by the official guides, who delightedly remarked that we were the largest single party they had ever had the pleasure of conducting round. Afterwards, the coaches and cars made their way to Larkhill where afternoon tea was served in the RA Mess, by kind permission of the Commandant, Royal School of Artillery. Speeches were made by Colonel B. M. Metcalfe, MBE, DDWRAC, UKLF, Colonel C. E. Hammond, CBE, Chairman of No 2 Sub Area and Major C. G. Parsons, OC WRAC Battery. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs Hicks, Southampton Branch and seconded by Mrs Williams, Portsmouth Branch. An excellent concert was given by the Staff Band of the WRAC on the terrace outside the RA Mess.

Members also had the opportunity of being shown round WRAC Quarters by the junior ranks and many comparisons were made as to conditions during the two world wars and those prevailing now, although everyone was agreed that the same wonderful spirit of comradeship still prevails despite the changes. The time of departure came all too quickly and members left for home full of appreciation to the OC and members of the WRAC Battery for a well organised and wonderful day.

SWINDON. This Branch of the Association formed on 1st January 1973. Prior to this several meetings were arranged during the latter part of 1972 as a recruiting campaign. Advertisements were placed in the local paper with surprising results. Over 30 people turned up in all. The majority were members of the 1st Wilts, formed in Swindon and stationed at Bulford in the early days of

World War II. Our oldest member is Mrs Blodwin Hughes, nee Davies, who is now 78 and a regular attender at all our meetings. She also served in World War I with Trowbridge Garrison, (Royal Artillery).

Major Betty Fisher (Retd) was elected Chairman, Capt Betty Clark (Retd) Vice Chairman, ex-Sgt Mary Hazell Secretary and ex-WO 2 Mary Cater Treasurer. Sixteen members finally joined in January 1973 and regularly attend on the third Wednesday of each month at The Drill Hall Swindon at 7.30 pm. We would very much like to see some of the other people who came along in 1972 and of course anyone else who may be living in the Swindon area.

During our very short existence we have had quite a varied programme. Instruction in crochet, games evening, raffles, bring and buy sale. In March we were very thrilled to entertain the Newbury Branch. Mr Willis from Upavon showed a film taken by himself of a walk from Avebury to Stonehenge through beautiful picturesque villages of quaint thatched cottages. This was on the lines of the "Johnny Morris" of Radio and TV fame programmes (and equally as good). There was also another film, using trick photography with the co-operation of a German girl student who was visiting this country. This was very clever, in fact the whole programme was excellent. A buffet was laid on which was much appreciated. Several members attended the Southern Area Reunion on 17th June, 1973, at Wilton House and Larkhill.

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from both world wars. We come from Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus... and from Ulster. From keeping the peace no less then from war we limbless look to you for help.

And you **can** help, by helping our Association. BLESMA (the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association) looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps, with advice and encouragement, to overcome the shock of losing arms, or legs or an eye. It sees that red-tape does not stand in the way of the right entitlement to pension. And, for the severely handicapped and the elderly, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help BLESMA, please. We need money desperately. And, we promise you, not a penny of it will be wasted.

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

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

'GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE-PLEASE'

Contact your local



depot

for an efficient
daily delivery of
fresh milk
and



products

Bread Potatoes Eggs
Butter Cream Yogurt



Are You a Member of the Association?

WHEN we are serving, we enjoy the security of an organised pattern of life, quite apart from any individual benefits which serving in the Army might bring.

The Association exists to continue some of the benefits of serving, by acting as a representative body in matters an individual cannot handle alone, by keeping individuals in touch with one another, and by helping members in need to obtain assistance from the ATS/WRAC and other service benevolent funds.

For this reason all of us who have enjoyed the ad-

vantages of service life, should be prepared to help extend them to those who are in difficulty, and to offer friendship to all those who have now left the service.

The best way to do both is to join the Association.

Members of Branches, with special knowledge of their locality, are most likely to hear of women who have served in the Army. Therefore it is to the benefit of all of us that Branches should be strengthened by attracting as many young members as possible and thus ensuring continuity for the future.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the General Secretary,

THE W.R.A.C. ASSOCIATION
QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK,
GUILDFORD,
SURREY.

I wish to join the W.R.A.C. Association as a

Life (£10)

4 year (£2)

Annual (50p)

member and enclose £

Please strike out whichever is not applicable.

Date..... Signature.....

All these subscriptions include the Gazette of the Association
(Please complete in Block Letters)

Full Christian Name
and Surname

Address for
Correspondence

Permanent Address (if different).....

Married or Single..... Surname when serving (if different).....

Next of Kin (a) Name..... (b) Relationship.....

(c) Address

Corps..... Army Number

Last Rank held (Present Rank if still serving)

Date of Enrolment..... Date of Release.....

Decorations, Mention in Despatches.....

If no longer serving, ground for retirement or discharge.....

.....

Officers' Postings

(1 May 73-31 July 73)

Col V. I. Fisher, Commandant WRAC Centre
 Maj N. R. Burgin, WRAC College, Camberley
 A/Maj B. Bluman, WSLO York
 A/Maj A. K. Brown, CI WRAC Centre
 A/Maj M. J. Craggs, 16 Signal Regiment
 A/Maj S. Halsey, DADWRAC HQ UKLF
 Capt A. C. E. Sharman, 3 AEC
 Capt M. R. Lloyd, Military Hospital, Catterick and HQ 7 Company RAMC
 A/Capt S. M. Arnold, WSLO Reading
 A/Capt W. M. Brown, Staff Capt 'Q' HQ Berlin Infantry Brigade
 A/Capt L. D. Cowley, Junior Leaders Regiment RA
 A/Capt P. K. Jarman, 10 Signal Regiment
 A/Capt S. P. L. Kavanagh, WRAC College
 A/Capt S. M. Osborne, HQ 1 (BR) Corps
 A/Capt A. M. Rowe, WRAC College
 Lt P. M. Lewis, WRAC Centre
 Lt W. A. Le Gassick, WSLO Bristol
 Lt R. J. Scoffham, 13 Signal Regiment
 Lt E. J. Stabler, RAEC Centre
 2/Lt S. M. Bishop, COD Donnington
 2/Lt K. F. Binks, Att 10 Signal Regiment
 2/Lt A. Chaganis, WRAC Centre
 2/Lt M. J. Cunningham, CAD Kineton
 2/Lt M. E. Davies, 29 Company WRAC
 2/Lt C. E. Farr, 9 Signal Regiment
 2/Lt C. A. Greenwood, 30 Signal Regiment
 2/Lt M. R. Gibbs, 16 Signal Regiment
 2/Lt J. J. Goldsmith, 12 Light Air Defence Regiment RA
 2/Lt J. C. Lodge, Att COD Bicester
 2/Lt J. W. Neale, WRAC College
 2/Lt R. P. Platt-Higgins, WRAC Centre
 2/Lt D. Platts, Att 10 Signal Regiment
 2/Lt S. A. Poulson, Att 10 Signal Regiment
 2/Lt C. A. S. Price, Att COD Bicester
 2/Lt P. J. Samson, Regimental Depot RAOC
 2/Lt W. H. Swinton-Eagle, Att 8 Signal Regiment
 2/Lt N. M. Treasure, Att COD Bicester
 2/Lt S. J. Westlake, WSLO Plymouth

Warrant Officers' Postings

(1 May - 31 Aug 73)

A/WOI S. J. Mitchell, Mechanical Documentation Unit RAOC
 WO2 E. M. Bird, Royal School of Artillery
 WO2 B. Thorpe, HQ UKLF
 WO2 J. L. Beresford, HQ Northern Ireland
 WO2 D. R. Cutler, Ministry of Defence
 WO2 E. V. Young, HQ UKLF
 WO2 D. A. Brook, 8 CP & CC Depot RE
 WO2 B. Green, HQ & Admin Unit Dhekelia
 WO2 A. Ramsden, 10 Signal Regt
 WO2 V. Laycock, WRAC Centre
 A/WO2 W. C. Armstrong, WRAC Centre
 A/WO2 N. J. O'Connell, 68 Sqn RCT
 A/WO2 H. R. Emmerson, Ministry of Defence

ARMY CAREERS OFFICE, BIRMINGHAM

SGT Eileen Smith retired from the Army in March 1973 after 27 years service. She served with the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in September 1941 as a medical clerk and was demobilised in June 1945 leaving the service as a corporal. In September 1949 she joined the WRAC/TA serving as a Sgt PSI (Clerk) for a short time and subsequently transferred to a Type 'T' engagement with 324 (Western Command) Bn WRAC/TA Shrewsbury. In March 1954 she joined the Recruiting Organisation as a Type 'R' Sgt working at the Army Careers Office, Shrewsbury until her retirement. She was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1964. All Eileen's friends wish her every good fortune in her retirement.

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Regular Army

Major (QM): Cpts (QM) E. K. Anton, M. J. Evans
 Captains: Lts S. P. Binns, J. Bryce, A. L. C. Cunningham, J. Lavers, A. M. Page
 2/Lieuts: K. F. Binks, J. C. Lodge, D. Platts, S. A. Poulson, C. A. S. Price, P. J. Samson, W. H. Swinton-Eagle.
 2/Lieut on probation: C. E. Birtwhistle.

Special Regular Commission

2/Lieut: J. F. M. Luckyn-Malone, N. M. Treasure

Short Service Commissions

Lieutenants: 2/Lts A. Bellingham-Smith, A. Chaganis, J. M. Denholm, C. A. Greenwood, R. P. Platt-Higgins, N. J. Pratt
 2/Lieut: (on probation) J. A. Freebairn is confirmed in her appointment
 2/Lieuts, on probation: S. R. Cosgrove, G. R. Harvey

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Brigadier: S. A. E. Heaney, CB, MBE, TD
 Major (QM): H. L. Sanders, MBE
 Captains: M. B. Barlow, E. Beaumont (granted hon rank of Major) J. Bryce, P. M. Crowe, MBE, C. Nettleship, E. W. Pattinson, I. Thwaites, S. C. A. Wilson
 Lieutenant: S. R. Green

Special Regular Commission

Lieutenant: P. J. Fisher

Short Service Commission

2/Lieut: M. A. Lawes

Prize Competition

Laughter in Uniform

I had only been in the WRAC for a few days and was wearing my newly issued PT Kit. I had been told my uniform skirt was ready and asked a harassed Sergeant what to do about it. She said, "You'd better go to the 'Q' ". The only queue I could see was near what I later found out was the Medical Centre, so I joined it. Only then did I discover that we were queuing to be blood donors. I was far too embarrassed to explain about my skirt so I meekly went through the process. You should have seen the Sergeant's face when I explained that I must have got into the wrong queue. "Oh!" said the Sergeant sarcastically.....and that is your cue for another one.

If this made you laugh, perhaps you can remember something amusing or embarrassing, which happened to you or friends of yours during your Army service. Tell us about it in not more than 150 words. The writer of the best anecdote will receive a prize of £2 and we hope to publish a selection of your stories.

By the way, don't worry about the laws of libel. If any reader recognises herself in your anecdote, I am sure she will take your humour in good part.

Please mark your envelope "Competition" and send it to The Editor by 23 November, 1973, clearly marked with your name and address.

PRIZE WINNER

The solution to the Elimination Word Game Competition in the June issue was FALSE. The winner was Mrs Marjorie Bolton, Secretary of the Birmingham Branch. There were 8 other correct entries.

Personal Column

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

For Sale. Officer's No 2 Dress, size 16, £7.50. Hat 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ (worn 1 week) £4 (cost £7). Shirts, shoes 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, jumper, etc. £5. Box No 2/73.

Wanted. Mess Dress size 14 or 16. Box No 3/73.

Vacancy for a Recruiting Sergeant at the Army Careers Office, St Albans. Applications are invited from Cpls and above WRAC. Applicants aged under 35, must hold current driving licence and preferably have had at least three years service. For further details apply to Capt L. Kingham, WRAC, ACO(WS), 24 Mill Road, Cambridge. Telephone Cambridge 59162.

For Sale. A specialised and well established Nursing and Employment Agency, in Colchester. Good returns, with possibilities of expansion. Interesting work, specializing in temporary relief help in the home.

Apply for particulars to Mrs Daphne Conway, The Mayday Service, Nursing & Employment Agency, 13 East Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex. Tel. 0206-72102 10 am—5pm.

Wanted. Officer's Mess Dress, Size 38" Bust, 40" hips. Height 5' 5". Box No 4/73.

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For further details write to
**DAVID HARRIS &
PARTNERS,
CARBON CHAMBERS,
HALL GATE,
DONCASTER.**

Notes for Secretaries

AT the Secretaries' meeting prior to the 1973 AGM it was agreed that Secretaries might find it helpful to have the names of local BBC stations. These are now printed below and we hope you will make good use of them for publicity for your branches.

BBC VHF Local Radio Transmitting Stations

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST

Radio London	94.9 MHz
Radio Medway	96.7 MHz
Radio Oxford	95.2 MHz.

MIDLANDS

Radio Birmingham	95.6 MHz
Radio Derby	96.5 MHz
Radio Leicester	95.1 MHz
Radio Nottingham	95.4 MHz
Radio Stoke-on-Trent	96.1 MHz

SOUTH

Radio Brighton	95.3 MHz
Radio Solent	96.1 MHz

WEST

Radio Bristol	95.5 MHz
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NORTH

Radio Humberside	96.9 MHz
Radio Leeds	92.4 MHz
Radio Sheffield (main)	97.4 MHz
(relay)	88.6 MHz

NORTH WEST

Radio Blackburn	96.4 MHz
Radio Manchester	95.1 MHz
Radio Merseyside	95.8 MHz

NORTH EAST

Radio Carlisle	
(not yet in service)	95.6 MHz
Radio Newcastle	95.4 MHz
Radio Teesside	96.6 MHz

THE KITE

by

E. J. Wilkes

They run together, wings on their feet,
Through the door and down the path,
Across the road, and over the wall,
Not once do they look back,
Around the barn, and into the field,
Away, and right out of sight,
I hope the wind is kind to them,
My two boys and their kite.

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

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

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

Money Back

Snap purchases are fun and at Peter Robinson they're backed by the knowledge that should you make a mistake we'll refund your money without question. Maybe that's because we don't often have to.

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