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THE LIONESS

VOL XLVII

FEBRUARY 1974

No. 1



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30th APRIL

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Leather Wallets	£1.05	5p	ID Card/season ticket/bank card	
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Bookmarks, leather	.20	4p (up to 6)		

Most items are in green with the Corps Crest in gold.
Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to CORPS
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For your Diary

Feb	8-9	Cruft's Dog Show
	23	Hockey, Oxford v Cambridge, Lord's, London
	25-Mar 2	National Stamp Exhibition, STAMPEX New Horticultural Halls London.
	28-Mar 2	Table Tennis English Open Championships, Brighton
Mar	1	St David's Day
	5-30	Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition, Olympia, London
	8-9	Horse Racing Sandown Park (Grand Military Meeting)
	12-14	Horse Racing Cheltenham (National Hunt Meeting)
	17	St Patrick's Day
	18-Apr 6	"Royal Windsor" Son et Lumiere Windsor Parish Church (excluding Sundays)
	23-24	International Hockey Tournament—England, Ireland, West Germany, Spain, Lord's London
	26	Horse Racing Sandown Park (Royal Artillery Meeting)
	30-31	Home Counties Quad (Hockey-England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales) Southampton
	30	Horse Racing, Grand National, Liverpool
Apr	6	Oxford v Cambridge Boat Race Putney to Mortlake, River Thames
	20-Aug 4	Royal Scottish Academy Exhibition, Edinburgh
	20-Sep 28	Pitlochry Festival Theatre Season, Pitlochry, Perthshire
	23	St George's Day
	24-27	Badminton Horse Trials, Badminton, Glos
May	4-Jul 29	Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London
	9-12	Royal Windsor Horse Show Home Park, Windsor
	22-24	Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London
	23-Aug 5	Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Glyndebourne, Sussex
Jun	5-8	Horse Racing Epsom (DERBY DAY—5th, the OAKS—8th)
	11-13	Three Counties Agricultural Show, Malvern, Worcestershire
	15	Her Majesty The Queen's Official Birthday, Trooping the Colour Horse Guards Parade, London

18	Royal Highland Agricultural Show Ingliston, Edinburgh
18-21	Horse Racing, Royal Ascot
21-22	Woolwich "At Home"
21-30	Bath Festival, Bath, Somerset.
24-30	Aldershot Army Display
24-Jul 6	Lawn Tennis Championships Wimbledon
26-27	Royal Norfolk Agricultural Show, New Costessey, Norwich

Services Resettlement Bulletin News

MOST servicewomen spend part of their service stationed on the continent and are familiar with such countries as Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg and Italy. When it comes to resettlement they gravitate back to the United Kingdom. Now, since Britain's entry into the Common Market on January 1 1973, they are offered some uncommon opportunities.

Full details about resettlement in the Common Market—applying for jobs, medical treatment, unemployment benefit, currency exchange control, examples of salaries and lists of firms—are given in the 20-page main feature of Services Resettlement Bulletin No 6 of 1973.

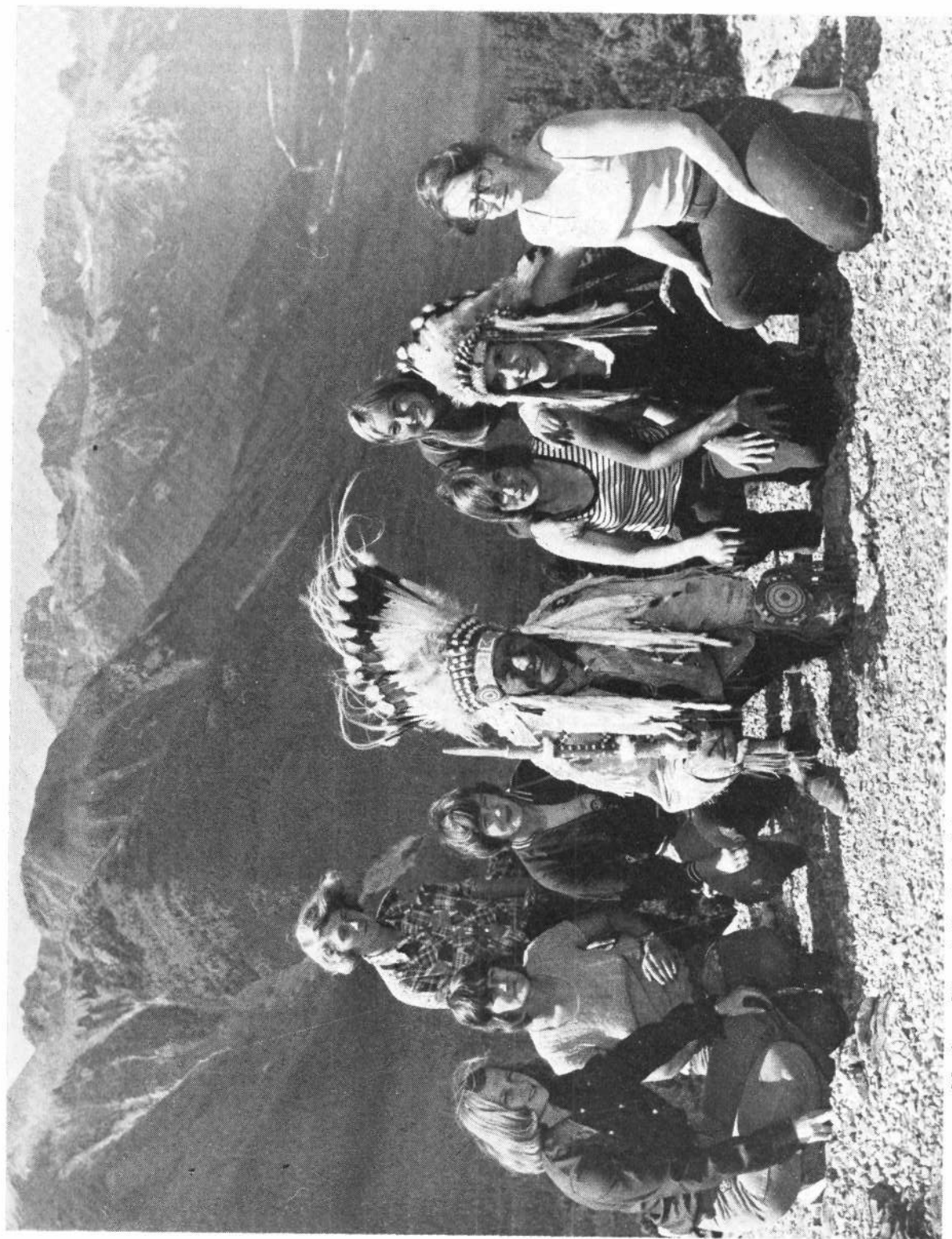
This issue also includes articles on learning a language, careers in youth work, employment opportunities in south west England, tables of resettlement courses and 12 pages of situations vacant.

Copies of the Services Resettlement Bulletin are obtainable from unit resettlement officers and Army Education Centres.

WRAC Staff Band

THE following are some of the known engagements at the time of going to press:

Mar	16	7.30 pm	Concert Civic Hall, Guildford
	15	8 pm	Police Ball, Dorking
	16	7 pm	Grand Reunion, Commonwealth Institute, London
May	20-27		Tidworth Tattoo
Jun	9-16	12-1 pm	Concerts Princes Gardens, Edinburgh
	Daily	5-6 pm	
	22	2 pm	Fete Cheshire Home, Hydon Hill, Surrey
	24-30		Aldershot Army Display



Members of Exercise Rocky Trail (see article) L to R: Capt. Patrick, Sgt Swailes, Capt Phillips (standing) Lcpl Hyndman,, Member Stoney Indian Tribe, Sgt Loynes, Cpl Westmore (standing) Lcpl Jones, Lcpl Vickers.



THE LIONESS

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Editorial

THE response to our appeal in the last issue for new members has produced nine applications and we were greatly encouraged by the generosity of units who paid for most of their own photographs to be printed. We shall continue to include the form of application for membership in each edition and hope members will take the opportunity, whenever possible, to persuade their friends to join. To make the *Lioness* more eye catching we are varying the background colour of each edition.

Reading the articles on white water canoeing, exploring the Rocky Mountains in Canada and parachute free falling, made us realise how much more exciting the leisure opportunities are today. Certainly canoeing, climbing and flying have always been done in the Women's Services, but modern travel has made it possible to accomplish in a couple of weeks, what could only have been achieved in the early days of the ATS, by mounting a major operation lasting several months.

When the ATS was formed under the impending threat of war, recruits were too busy to think in terms of recreational activity and there was adventure enough in day to day living. So it is all the more encouraging to realise that the servicewoman of determination, initiative and resource can still find the means to test her skills and measure her calibre against the natural elements in a peace time world.

By the time this issue is published the WRAC will have celebrated its 25th Anniversary. The adventures described in these pages are an indication of how far the Corps has progressed in extending the potential horizons of its members.

Expedition Rocky Trail

Captain R. Patrick

ON Friday 17th August 1973 eight women and two men flew westwards from RAF Brize Norton on flight No 2175 to Ottawa, Canada. After weeks of planning, blisters, rain, cold, sun and hayfever, the first WRAC expedition "Rocky Trail" was on its way. From 50 volunteers, two selection weekends in North Wales produced the following team. Capt Phillips, Sgt Loynes, Sgt Swailes, Cpl Westmore, Lcpls Jones, Hyndman and

Vickers and myself. Further training in Snowdonia, the Black Mountains, the Brecon Beacons and Hankley Common in Surrey prepared us for light weight camping and walking.

We landed in Ottawa with ten hours to spare before the Greyhound bus left for Calgary and the west. A quick sight seeing tour of Canada's Federal Capital enabled us a glimpse of the Government Buildings, the city and our first Royal Canadian Mounted Policemen in red tunics, breeches, and boots. We finally left Ottawa at midnight.

The following two nights and three days were spent travelling across Canada by Greyhound bus. Each bus holds 40 people, and travels at a speed of 60 mph on the vast trunk roads crossing the continent. Every three hours it stops enabling one to get out and stretch legs, buy coffee or hamburgers or a meal. Each passenger sits in an aircraft type seat which allows one some modicum of comfort for sleeping at night. The buses were very full because of a nationwide railways strike. Throughout the time we were in Canada, we did not see one train move.

The journey across Canada was extremely interesting—tantalizing glimpses of lakes, forests, dams and mines. Such is the size of Canada that it took us nearly 24 hours of driving to get from Ottawa to the Ontario Provincial Border. We passed along the side of Lake Superior, the largest of the Great Lakes, and the biggest inland lake in the world. It looked like the sea, and even from the air on our return journey, we were unable to see across to the southern shores and the United States of America. Driving through Manitoba and Saskatchewan and into Alberta meant driving across the Prairies to Winnipeg, or Fort Gary as it was once known. One hundred years ago it was the frontier, beyond this fort was the unknown filled with hostile Indians, mosquitos and the mysterious mountains somewhere in the west. Having driven through miles of wheat fields ripening in the sun it was a relief to arrive in small towns such as Moose Jaw or Swift Current (20 minutes of puns followed this town!) through Regina and Medicine Hat. From the bus it was possible to see gophers, hawks and one coyote and as we approached Suffield we spotted a rare creature in Canada.....a British Soldier.

The party stayed one night at the British Army Training Unit Suffield before loading equipment, food and supplies into two landrovers and driving off once more along the Trans Canadian Highway to Calgary, home of the Calgary Stampedes. Calgary is truly a cowboy and oilman's town and is growing rapidly into a modern

cosmopolitan city on the banks of the Bow River. We enjoyed our stay here and it is best remembered in my mind for its chinatown where even the street road signs are written in chinese, the Calgary Tower and the marvellous three tier sandwich I ate in a little coffee shop.

We left Calgary in the early evening "rush hour" and drove further westwards to the Rockies. Suddenly we drove up a hill around a corner and they were revealed to us in all their magnificence. Mile upon mile, they stretched as far as the eye could see, the evening sun shining on ice caps and glaciers in the far distance. Within two hours we were surrounded by these mountains, most of them over 8,000 feet a continual and ever changing pattern of light and dark, their glistening tops shining in the evening sun.

At the mining town of Canmore we left the Trans Canadian Highway and drove upwards into the mountains for twelve miles to a really glorious camp site next to Spray Lake, a man made reservoir at 6,000 feet. The following morning saw us filming chipmunks and walking along the lake in an endeavour to firm up muscles too used to sitting in buses or landrovers. We drove to Banff in the heart of the Banff National Park and finally camped again. It was here that we found unforeseen adventure.....Sgt Swailes went to a nearby tap for water and came back three minutes later complaining that a big black "woolly teddy" was in the garbage pit next to the tap and she didn't fancy him very much! We looked and there it was, our very first Canadian Black Bear. Needless to say we took to the trees, landrovers, cars and trailers. One Canadian lady confessed she came face to face with the bear and fled for the nearest refuge—the ladies loo! The bear seemed very interested in our tents, and inspected each one in turn before being frightened away by the warden.

The following days saw us meeting PR and being photographed with a Mountie and an Indian, wading through the Bow River—"Gosh, you weren't kidding when you said Adventure Training".....walking in snowstorm....."what month did you say this was?!" and climbing our first 9,000 feet peak. Although we started in cloud in the valley, we came out of the tree line, the cloud lifted and we were soon into thin air. At 9,001 feet we stood on Fairview Mountain, the clouds parted and there was Mount Temple our main objective a further 2,000 feet and more above us. In every direction were glorious views, mountains, ice caps, glaciers, lakes, trees and the thin line of the Trans Canadian Highway winding through the forest 4,000 feet below us.

We discovered that Mount Temple was impossible to climb without snow and ice equipment because of snow storms, so our next objective was Mount Eiffel next to it—10,101 feet in height.

So began the ultimate experience of climbing a real mountain. At 9,000 feet we were stopped by a severe snowstorm and the valley below us was hidden by cloud and snow. We sheltered under limestone cliffs for twenty

minutes before the wind dropped and we had a brief view of the sun. In that time the mountain had changed to white and black, running water was everywhere, but we struggled on moving upwards slowly and cautiously. From walking, the climb became a scramble on shale, and then a simple rock scramble until at last we stopped for a rest at the summit arete. Before us was a beautiful but dangerous cornice, a product of snow, ice and wind but a danger to the unwary, for beneath it was a 2,000 feet drop to the valley below. Climbing around and under this danger we reached the summit, a small shelf of rock and snow with spindrift everywhere. The clouds parted and moved eastwards, the sun came out and the small part of our world was spread at our feet. We did not linger, for the ascent had taken six hours, but descended to the valley carefully with patience until we reached the treeline and comparative safety. On looking back we could see no trace of where we had been, and the summit was once more shrouded in cloud.

Over the next two days the majority of the party visited the Columbia Icefields,—the largest Icefields south of the Arctic Circle, shopped, swam in sulphur springs and prepared to climb again. More snow fell, as it was now the end of August, and with the snow came the realization that all the mountains over 7,000 feet were beyond our grasp so were forced into lower level walks. We saw the magnificence of the Kicking Horse Pass, the Yoho Valley and the 1,248 feet Takakkaw Falls in British Columbia. Snow fell in our base camp at 6,000 feet and eight of the party left for Vancouver by Greyhound bus, where an interesting and informative visit to Canada's third city, provided a welcome break from the harsh mountains and their breath of winter. We returned from Vancouver on Labour Day—again driving through the night, to arrive mid afternoon back at the base camp.

Looking back now, what were the memorable moments on this trip?—perhaps standing on a 10,000 feet peak for the first time having finally climbed a real mountain, or maybe seeing the Canadian Rockies for the first time from Calgary; wading across the Bow River or watching the clouds lifting from the mountains after a storm. The main impression of the country was its vast size and of the Canadians themselves, friendly and kind and interested in all we did, and invariably young, enthusiastic and dressed in blue jeans! A young country with some British traditions still present, but looking forward to the future with traditions and life absolutely Canadian.

White Water Course, Norway

Captain C. A. Howell

A CHANCE remark, made almost in jest, was how I happened to spend two weeks canoeing some of the most challenging and exhilarating white water that I had ever tackled in a kayak. I had been standing by the Army

Canoe Union stand at the National Canoe Exhibition last year, looking enviously at photographs of white water canoeing in Norway. Their owner, Sgt Len Hartless, over from Norway for a few days, was exhorting anyone and everyone to get out to Norway and canoe some of the fantastic water, which is almost unknown in the canoeing world. He also talked about a new type of canoe course being run for the first time this year by the BOBC in Norway—this was a two week, mobile white water course, exploring many of the, as yet, untouched rapid rivers of Norway. Being a white water fanatic, I decided to strike a blow for women's lib (before this year BOBC had never accepted girls on any of their courses) and asked if there was any chance of being accepted for this course.

Suddenly, I was on my way. There were seven of us on the course—six men and me. All of us were proficient canoeists with some experience of white water, but none had tackled anything more difficult than grade III water, and everyone, I think, shared my apprehension. The first two days were spent at the centre in Kristiansand in the south of Norway. During this time we practiced paddle strokes and eskimo rolling.

On the third day we began travelling north suitably equipped with wet-suits and crash helmets. Our first stop was at a place called Bjelland on the River Mandalselva. Approximately two days were spent here, canoeing the Mandalselva at Bjelland, Hommor and another fairly tricky stretch of water graded III to IV by our instructors, at a place called Lardal. It was here that I made the first of a series of long swims, having parted company with my boat—a pattern all too often repeated, I regret to say. However, only a little daunted, and a few bruises better off, I was back in business the following day canoeing a good grade IV stretch of water on the River Otra at Syrtveitfosse. This was an exciting and impressive series of falls in some of the most beautiful country I have ever seen.

Our fourth day out took us further north again, to a place called Hovden. Here we were again canoeing on the Otra, but considerably further north, as we soon found out—the water, being largely melted snow from the mountains, was very much colder! Once again there was plenty of exciting canoeing mixed with really beautiful scenery. On leaving Hovden, we had an entire day of travelling before we reached Hemesedal, north of a line drawn between Bergen and Oslo where we stayed for three days. The real pleasure of being able to have a hot shower of unlimited duration after several long, tiring swims down some of the coldest rivers imaginable, can only be described, in the circumstances, as pure bliss!!!

However, there was to be no respite from our labours on the canoeing front and during the next few days we really did become explorers. The water we paddled was unknown to all of us, instructors and students alike and on more than one occasion that safety rope came into its own. The water was of varying difficulty, some a gentle grade II, other parts exciting grade V waterfalls. At one

such fall we thought we had lost one of the canoes, when its owner parted company from it and it got caught full of water between rocks. However, after a very determined effort on the part of our Chief Instructor it was finally freed, and we all stopped gratefully for a hard-earned lunch break.



Capt C. A. Howell canoeing at Syrtveitfosse, Norway.

Our final day of canoeing was perhaps one of the most enjoyable of all, with everyone really excelling themselves in displaying their canoeing skills. One of the highlights of this particular day for me was when we all decided to "shoot" a fall with approximately a six foot drop. Having stood for about fifteen minutes considering the feasibility of attempting it, (each of us was secretly hoping that the Chief Instructor would declare it impossible) it was decided to have a go. After watching the others come to no harm, I at last plucked up courage and went over myself—it was marvellous, giving one a tremendous feeling of exhilaration! I am told that my face, as I popped up at the bottom, still unable to believe that I was actually the right way up, was a picture. It certainly seemed to cause a great deal of amusement among my fellow paddlers.

Finally it was time to pack up the tents and equipment and after another complete day of travelling we arrived back at Kristiansand late on the Thursday evening. Next day, the damage was assessed—about three badly damaged canoes, half a dozen broken paddles and a few small patches needed on most of the other boats. However a day in the workshops soon put most of this to rights and then we were all away again on our separate ways.

I would certainly recommend this course to anyone who enjoys "white water" and has the opportunity to attend. I intend going back again myself some day—who knows, at the rate canoeing is at present expanding in the Women's Services (thirty four WRAC/QAs passed their canoeing proficiency tests last year, compared with only a handful in the last three years) we may even get a WRAC expedition organised! Anyone interested?

The Red Devils



The Red Beret changes hands at 3,000 ft as Corporals Bob Harman Parachute Regt and Jackie Smith WRAC hurtle down at 180mph.

CPL JACKIE SMITH is a 23 year old switchboard operator turned free-fall parachutist, who joined the WRAC in April 1969. After completing her basic and trade training she was posted to 10 Signal Regiment.

It was during her time with this Regiment, when she got her first stripe a year later, that Cpl Smith first became interested in free-fall parachuting. In March 1971 she completed the basic free-fall course, and in June of the same year she won the novices' championship at Netheravon.

It was at this point that the British Army Parachute Team, The Red Devils, began to take an interest in her. She was able to participate in some training exercises with them and progressed to demonstrations and competitions. In February 1973, although she had already

been part of the team for some time, the WRAC allowed her to become a full time member of the crack Red Devils free-fall team. She has travelled with them on displays up and down the country and around the world.

Cpl Smith has earned herself a position of respect with the British Army Parachute Team. With over 470 descents to her credit, her post training has been fully justified by her gaining third place overall in the Army Championships at Weston on the Green, Oxford, during May 1973.

In September 1973 Cpl Smith became the first girl to be presented with the Parachute Regiment's famous Red Beret. To prove she had earned it she was handed the beret at 3,000 feet, as she sky-dived in from 5,000 feet to land on an Aldershot parade ground.

A WRAC Officer's Experience in Norway

Lt P M Lewis WRAC

A SUNDAY evening in the Transit Camp in Hanover thirty people met up for the journey through Denmark across the Skagerrak and on to the British Outward Bound Centre, Mountain Wing at Gautestad in Norway. A group consisting mostly of volunteers who had little idea of what they were letting themselves in for, other than knowing we were en route to a Basic Mountain Leadership Course! At the time I did not know whether I was fortunate or not in being the first member of the WRAC to be selected to attend such a course in Norway, but with fingers crossed I hoped that I would not let the cause of women's liberation down.

Twenty four hours later the earth road terminated and we had arrived at a couple of two storey wooden buildings. I was placed in a patrol with five men under the charge of a bombardier instructor and we were to work and live together for the next twelve days. To my relief I was not expected to sleep in the barrack room but was given a bunk room of my own. This was about the only concession I was given by virtue of my sex throughout the course and little did I realise then that I was not to see another female for the next ten days. Shower and washing facilities were communal but with co-operation and good will this did not prove to be a problem.

Tuesday 0615 hours—the next hour was for me the worst of the whole course, the only time when I really wished that I had never set eyes on the DCI which prompted my application. Morning PT! A few quick warm ups and then in two columns jogging uphill on a dirt track, half way up and I had already dropped back to the next to the last man. Suddenly the first man bent down and then there was a string of men bent over as far as I could see into the darkness all waiting for me to leapfrog over them, still going uphill. My mind went into neutral and somehow I survived that arduous half hour. From then on PT was very enjoyable by comparison. From 0830 hours lectures and practical work based on the syllabus for the Mountain Leadership Certificate kept us busy until 2100 hours.

Wednesday's highlights were the river crossing and abseil instruction on a 150 foot rock face. To cross a 100 foot width of water which was about 20 inches in depth—despite the penetrating cold there was nothing for it but off with boots and trousers and get over as quickly as possible. Having completed my fourth crossing with blue legs and numb feet it was a rush up the bank to pull on dry trousers and woollen socks. They had forcibly made their point, when planning a route to avoid river crossings.

We left on Thursday on a 36 hour expedition which tested our ability to navigate and our endurance in being able to sleep out with tents. A brushwood lean-to was our

protection from the elements and securing a sleeping space between the two biggest men in our patrol I managed to get a good night's sleep, waking in the morning to be told the temperature was—5° centigrade. This was no weather for hanging around, the quicker we were on the move again the better.

0600 hours on Sunday we climbed aboard the bus pulling heavy rucksacks loaded down with ropes and ice axes. We were off on a 100 mile journey to take us north up above the tree line where we were to spend the next four days on an expedition. Equipped with two tents and lots of compo squashed up in plastic bags the six of us with our instructor, started out on a cold clear winters day in a land of hills, water, boulders and reindeer. Our first camp site was to be a sheltered ledge overlooking a rushing stream. With three of us in a small tent we had to be organised and so in a very short space of time we were lying in sleeping bags eating chicken supreme out of a communal mess tin. In between my two snoring companions I eventually fell asleep. We woke in the morning to find that a few inches of snow had fallen during the night, a blizzard was blowing and miraculously our tent was standing despite the absence of guy ropes. We packed up in bitter cold, consulted our alternative routes and headed for lower ground. Progress was slow as we slipped on icy boulders, pulled ourselves up again and pushed on into the wind with snow blowing in our faces. By mid afternoon we were all beginning to feel cold, wet and tired.

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Overtrousers and cagoules kept out the wet but there was nothing to prevent us becoming soaked by our own perspiration inside those sweat suits. A trecker's hut was spotted so we pushed on and after carefully removing the window frames (one advantage of having a sapper in the party) we all climbed in, lit the old stove and started to dry ourselves out. The weather had considerably improved by Tuesday morning, the sky was clear and the wind had dropped, so we pushed ahead on our route south. We had a lot of distance to cover to make up for the previous day so we pressed on for kilometre after kilometre. Camping that night was not too bad despite having to hammer open the frozen tents before we could erect them. We at least had the consolation that this would be the last night that we would be hugging our boots to stop them freezing and waking up to a breakfast of flattened baked beans squeezed out of polythene bags. Wednesday dawned and having walked down out of the cloud we reached a sunlit valley; trees, habitation and a road in the distance were all to be seen. We had our eyes fixed on the spot where we knew the Land Rover was waiting to take us back to the showers, clean clothes and appetising food. The expedition was over. It had been a tremendous experience which taught us a great deal about the Norwegian terrain and weather and also about our own and each others strength and weaknesses.

Thursday was assessment day. We sat hour long written papers in four subjects and participated in practical tests. A long hard day to finish off the course but it showed us our failings that had to be remedied before those of us who were recommended return to gain the Mountain Leadership Certificate.

Our last night at Gaustestad and it was the first evening that we were allowed out. The students and the instructors were determined to make the most of it—a disco and a buffet were laid on at the hotel in Evje and girls were invited from a nearby college. All the patrols had been told at the beginning of the course that they had to prepare a light hearted entertainment to be presented at the end of the course,—little did we realise that we would be performing our song and dance routine in front of over a hundred people!

Friday morning saw us packing up, returning kit and cleaning out the accommodation. There were handshakes and thanks all round for what had been an extremely well run and very worthwhile course. It was only a shame that we were taking back one student with severe frostbite in his feet.

My experience in Norway was over. It had been a demanding course but also very worthwhile and for the most part I had really enjoyed it. It is interesting to note that the British Outward Bound Centre in Norway have now agreed to accept women on mountain leadership courses. I am sure it is not every woman's ideal course but if you are exceptionally keen and fit, can cope with living roughly and enjoy the outdoor life then it has so much to offer.

Unit News

London District

LONDON DISTRICT PROVOST COMPANY

ONE of the less publicised special duties carried out by London District Provost Company RMP during recent years, has been the attachment of selected members of the unit to the security staff of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to accompany Government Ministers on overseas trips. Due to a shortage of RMP manpower brought about by commitments in Northern Ireland, it was decided to employ WRAC Provost NCOs on this type of duty for the first time.

A party of 17 NCOs, (which included 5 WRAC Provost) commanded by Major Paul Williams RMP CO London District Pro Coy accompanied the Prime Minister, Mr Edward Heath and the Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas Home to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Ottawa, Canada from 1-10 August 1973. The WRAC Members of the team included Cpl Joyce Gillison (together with her husband Cpl Jim Gillison) and Lcpls Aileen Mackie, Jenny Ranger, Pam Marguerie (now serving in Northern Ireland) and Ruth Horton.

Working in conjunction with the Foreign Office Security Staff, our function was to perform various security duties associated with guarding the Offices of the British Delegation, and the Foreign Secretary's private suite and safe hand courier escorts. The location was the world famous Chateau Laurier Hotel, overlooking Confederation Square and opposite the British High Commission in Ottawa.

Our party left the UK by BOAC civil flight on Saturday 28th July 1973, and arrived in Canada on Sunday 29th July. We were accommodated at a hotel overlooking the British High Commission in the centre of Ottawa. We shared double rooms, as did the men. Each room was self contained with 2 single beds, private bathroom, kitchenette, refrigerator, sitting room, colour TV, etc. The hotel was very clean and modern and much appreciated. We were granted a daily subsistence allowance of \$27.50 Canadian which more than covered the cost of our accommodation and all meals. Duties began on Monday 30th July in plain clothes, and continued on a 24 hour on/off basis for the duration of our stay.

Shopping expeditions provided a great source of amusement during the first couple of days. Such mundane items as washing powder were not to be found anywhere, until it was discovered that we should have been looking for "Detergent" which could only be bought from a "Drug Store". As members of the British Delegation, we had hired cars at our disposal both on and off duty as required. This facility was used to advantage on Thursday 2nd August, when we were taken on a guided tour of Ottawa City. Places of interest included the

French Sector (a great contrast to the rest of the city because of its poorer housing areas) and the Governor General's residence, where the Queen stayed during the Conference. We were most impressed by the high standard of cleanliness and order in the streets of Ottawa, but rather startled at some of the modes of dress encountered. It seems that the Canadians dress for comfort especially in hot weather and our first encounter with a rather large gentleman of 20 stone plus in shorts caused much merriment.

During the weekend of Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th August the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary were away at Premier Trudeau's mountain retreat at Mont Tremblant. Security duties continued at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, but the number of NCOs employed was reduced. On Saturday evening we visited the Canadian Armed Forces Airbase, Uplands, outside Ottawa for a party. Much later we were entertained at the Sergeants' Mess of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Ottawa City Centre, as their guests.

On each of the following three days, the off duty NCOs amongst us were taken on an outing to Lake Phillipe, 40 miles from Ottawa. This is a very lovely local beauty spot with carefully laid out picnic areas, sandy beaches and facilities for swimming, rowing and sunbathing. We had all taken swimming costumes, and the weather was more than hot enough for a most enjoyable day of swimming and general relaxation. Having been looked after extremely well by the Canadian Mounted Police during our first week, we decided to throw a party for them at our hotel. This proved a very popular move, and a good time was had by all.

On Wednesday 8th August, the Prime Minister held a reception in his suite for the whole British Delegation to which we were invited. Mr Heath and Sir Alec Douglas Home found time to chat with several of the WRAC Provost and RMP during the reception. The Prime Minister returned to the UK on Thursday 9th August and six members of the party returned on the same aircraft. The remaining NCOs left Canada on Friday 10th August with the Foreign Secretary in a RAF VC 10 arriving back in the UK on Saturday 11th August.

The trip was considered to be a great success, and from our point of view it certainly was. We look forward to the next Special Duty of this kind—who knows it could take us to Moscow.!

Northern Ireland

WRAC ELEMENT

ON a cold, wet morning in October, under the veil of darkness, myself (Lcpl McDougall), Sgt Scantlebury, Lcpl Gemmell, Ptes White and Hayward, piled into a four ton truck and set off for Aldergrove Airport, where we were to board the plane for Cyprus. There was a general atmosphere of excitement as we sat in the hangar, with 50 men, contributions of all units serving in N.

Ireland. We departed Aldergrove at 0900 hours, and in less than fifteen minutes, left Ireland behind us, Ex Hot Tail had begun.

The journey was smooth and undisturbed, except when we flew into a thunderstorm, the buffeting left many of us without stomachs. We touched down at Akrotiri, where we had a meal, and then moved on by coach to Nightengale Barracks at Dhekelia.

On the following morning we met the OC WRAC Dhekelia, Capt Baker, who welcomed us to Cyprus and briefed us on our programme over the next fortnight.

We saw most of the island during our holiday, and, as Cyprus is a beautiful and romantic island, with friendly people and sparkling wine, I can mention but a few of the many places we visited. For a day exploring the silent, haunting ruins of Salamis, was memorable indeed, we wandered around the marble pillars and amphitheatres, held in wonder. The old city of Famagusta captivated and won our hearts as we enjoyed its beaches in the day and clubs by night. Kyrenia, small and picturesque, built around the great walls of Kyrenia Castle, with its dark forbidding dungeons and beautiful Byzantine church. Further into the mountains we arrive at Bellapais Abbey where the view is breathtaking and the air is clean and fresh. Here, we saw the strange little tree in the Abbey courtyard that bears the fruit of both oranges and lemons. The wine factory at Limassol held all our attentions as we were shown the mechanics of the industry and presented with a miniature bottle of liqueur. On the last day of our holiday, we visited Paphos, legendary birthplace of Aphrodite, astounded by the beauty and simplicity of the town, we reluctantly returned to Dhekelia to prepare for our return to Ireland. We spent our last evening in Cyprus in Akrotiri, singing and dancing long into the night. Morning came and with many farewells to friends, we boarded the plane and all too soon were on our way home to Ireland.

181 WRAC PROVOST COMPANY

DECIDED to take a break in the hectic routine since we feel we should appear in "The Lioness".

Everyone wants girls! Here, there and everywhere. We just have not got enough to go round—and that's for work! Our individual tasks here are too many to detail but basically they boil down to searching, and occasionally arresting females. We are likely to turn up in any part of the province, at any time—much to the chagrin of some potential female terrorists.

In spite of the work, a goodly number, too many to mention individually, have found time to march up the aisle. We wish all of you every happiness. However, we are happy to say that many have set up homes locally on the Married Quarters patch and are still serving on.

During the autumn 16 lucky girls managed to get off to Cyprus on a series of R & R exercises. All returned with gorgeous tans, funds of stories, bottles of plonk and posting requests—for Cyprus.

We are happy to report that our First Aid Team, the only female team entered in the NI Inter Unit First Aid Competition, acquitted themselves well by coming sixth overall. The competition was held in field conditions. Our thanks to CSM Hazel Barnard and Cpl Joyner of the RAF for their excellent tuition. First Aid is an important part of our training and has been put to good use while on the job coping with such things as burst varicose veins, heart attacks, epileptic fits and other such occurrences as can happen on a busy street corner.



Pte Farmer 181 Provost Coy RMP at work on a Belfast Checkpoint.

Socially life is fairly bright. The company of the girls is greatly sought to attend discos and we have a thriving NAAFI club and good RMP clubs. We still reckon our own 'do'—a Shipwreck Evening—was the best. Many are interested in sport. Football seems to be becoming very popular, especially when we beat the RHQ team at their own game—and it was fair—the OC said so! Our swimming team managed to get off long enough to go to UK where they did well. We wish it were possible to send teams for every sport. With so many sporting enthusiasts in the unit we should do well, but unfortunately a little thing called work and the Irish situation does prevent us.

What a surprise when Pte Anne Klos popped in for a couple of days from BAOR. It was good to see her again, and hear all the news of those who have left us for more peaceful regions.

To end on a serious note, many searchers and police-women have carried out commendable work, both on check points and other types of duty, where their common sense and calm approach have led to the cooling of potentially hot situations. We thank all of those who volunteered to come and help, and hope that many more will join us.

Eastern District

224 SIGNAL SQUADRON—CORPORALS MESS

The Pacemakers

THE Cpls Mess of 224 Signal Squadron (Radio Trg) recently sponsored a 20 mile walk to aid handicapped children. Those who took part in this strenuous but rewarding task were Ptes Karen Walsh and Sue Brown both learning a trade with Det 4 Communications Unit. They walked alongside seven other members of the Squadron and Sam the dog. It is rewarding to note that between us, a sum of £116 was raised to help handicapped children for their christmas enjoyment.



"The Pacemakers", Back row L to R: Sgt T. Macox R Signals, Pte S. Cook ACC, Mr. J. Abbott NAAFI Manager, Lt J. A. Shepherd R Signals, Cpl. B. Milne R Signals, Mr M. Kerrigan. Centre: Cadet B. McCaughie, Front row L to R: Pte S. Brown WRAC, Mrs M. Shepherd and Son, Pte K. Walsh WRAC.

Our thanks and appreciation go to both Ptes Walsh and Brown for their efforts in helping those who are in need of a little kindness and happiness. One last comment—Egyptian PT went down very well after the initial shock. Well done girls, you're the PACEMAKERS of the future—PLODD ON!



"It's OK to drive, BUT I NEED A LADDER TO GET UP TO THE CAB!"

PROOF AND EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT SHOEBURYNESS

Reading this could damage your sanity.

Write to the Lioness, they said.
They said, write to the Lioness.
So I looked around at Shoeburyness
To see what was new to be said.
(Read on—it gets worse)

A Stewardess works in the Messes
In MRS an Orderly
On Foulness and so on southerly
Work Drivers and Gunneresses
(—and worse)

It's EAsG they're really called
They work both in and outside,
Often waiting for an ebb tide
Before 'to post' they're called.
(You might not believe this,
but the worst has yet to come)

In QM Stores we have a Corporal
But perhaps because I this am writin',
I think we're best—we here in Admin
Because our trade is Jack of All.
(Well I did warn you!)

After a decent interval of mourning there follows a more sober attempt at a poetic picture of the WRAC at Shoeburyness.

The Forage Cap is hardly seen
For on our heads it's berets green
The khaki trews and sweaters too
Replace the lovat number two
The working boot so firm and stout
Replace the shoe without a doubt

The Stewardess works her day away
To try and make us comfy
The Medics golden remedy
Will cure an upset tummy
The Clerk her fingers on the keys
Goes flashing on like lightning
The Drivers patiently do wait
To keep us all from hiking
The EAsG a hardy bunch
Toil through the wind and rain
But where the work is really done
In Admin will remain.

BAOR

16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Ramsgate Town Band Girl Plays at Army Remembrance Sunday

ON Remembrance Sunday the "Last Post" and "Reveille" must have been played all round the world by many Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Civilians, but we reckon that 18-year-old Private Wendy Kirkaldie was the only WRAC girl who had that honour in Germany.



Pte W. Kirkaldie receives congratulations from Padre B. Morris 16 Signal Regiment, Krefeld, for playing the "Last Post" and "Reveille" so well at their 1973 Remembrance Day service.

Pte Kirkaldie, whose parents live in Ramsgate, Kent, gave a beautiful rendering at the unit Remembrance Service held at Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld, Dusseldorf. Pte Kirkaldie, who joined the WRAC ten months ago, works in the Communications Centre of 16 Signal Regt.

"I've been playing the solo cornet lead for nine years, with the Ramsgate Town Band, but I still felt nervous playing at this service", said Wendy, who only joined the Ramsgate Town band as a dare when her brother went for an audition. "I applied to join the WRAC Band", she said, "But there were no vacancies, so here I am in the Communications Centre. It's interesting work. I'd love to play in a band again, but I don't think I will find one out here."

Before joining the WRAC Pte Kirkaldie was a member of Ramsgate Ranger Venture Corps.

SPORT

ORIENTEERING ACTIVITIES IN CATTERICK

ANOTHER Sunday morning dawns in Catterick, 40% of the living in members of the Royal Signals Mess are having an early breakfast and have ordered packed lunches. Meanwhile in Sergeants' Messes and Soldiers' dining rooms throughout Catterick Garrison, members of 8th Signal Regiment and 11th Signal Regiment are preparing for the hardest day of the week.

This small, but growing group are orienteers. Each Sunday they will travel to civilian or military orienteering events which are held up to 100 miles from Catterick Garrison.

Orienteering is a sport which takes place in woodlands and heathlands, competitors, armed with map and compass, set out on the course at one minute intervals. They run (or walk!) to the master maps and copy the control points onto their own maps. They decide on their own route between the controls, which must be visited in numerical order, and will either run through the forest on a compass bearing or go on an easier route along the forest paths and rides. There are a number of courses at each event, competitors enter a course which is designed specifically for their age, experience and sex, and there is usually a wayfinders course for beginners and a 'pram-pushers' course for mums and grans with small children.

The officers in charge of orienteering in both 8th and 11th Signal Regiments are WRAC officers. In 8th Signal Regiment (WRAC 5% of the military) Major Elizabeth Ross runs the orienteering activities and in 11th Signal Regiment (WRAC 0.4% of the strength) 2Lt Cathy Birtwistle maintains interest in the sport within her Regiment. Competition between the two Regiments is very keen. At civilian events we in 11th Signal Regiment do not worry about the results of the civilians, just as long as we beat, if only by seconds that other Regiment!

As neither Regiment have enough WRAC orienteers to enter a team of 5 competitors in the North Area and Army Orienteering Championships it was decided to enter a Catterick Garrison Women's Services team, which also included a member of the QARANC. The team comprised Major Elizabeth Ross, WRAC, Captain Hazel Cooper QARANC, 2Lt Cathy Birtwistle WRAC, and Staff Sergeant Marie Thomson, WRAC, the fifth member did not materialise!

We were the only women's team to compete in the North Area Championships and hence brought a lovely rose bowl back to Catterick Garrison, where it is now proudly displayed in 5 Sqn 8th Signal Regiment. We were not quite as lucky in the Army Championships and we came runners up to the HQ South East District WRAC team.

SQUASH

THIS season has seen and welcomed not only new faces on the squash court but also in the gallery in the form of our new chairman Lt Col B. Latham. We bade farewell to Col B. I. Forbes Adam at the Inter Zone Championships. We never did entice her to 'our side of the fence'. Lt Col Latham beware! (It's much warmer playing!)

The Inter Zone Championship was held on the 22/23 November 1973 at Aldershot, where six zones competed (30 players). It was a very close competition with some excellent matches and the result being undecided until the final match. South East (West Sector) were the eventual winners with BAOR a close second and South West/West Midland third. Most of the players stayed on in Aldershot to compete in the Army Championships. Again, there were some good matches which showed lots of skill and stamina. The final day was a 'White Spot' day (faster ball) remembered by players and supporters; the snow fell! Hats off to all the stoic spectators—and fur boots on. Capt Sue Taylor was victorious over Cpl Joyce Tuomey in what was a very closely fought match.



Army (Women's) Squash Racket Team saying farewell to their retiring Chairman Col B. I. Forbes Adam MBE. L to R: Lt M. Jones, WO 1 J. Whitehead, Col B. I. Forbes Adam, Cpl J. Tuomey, Capt J. Phillips (Secretary), Sgt P. Kelly, (Capt S. Taylor was unfortunately not present).

We have been preparing for the Inter-Services which will be played at Uxbridge 24/25 January 1974. Training weekends have been arranged along with matches, and younger players are being encouraged to join in. We are very glad to have Capt Taylor back with us from the Far East and Cpl Tuomey is getting back to peak fitness after her injury last season. Their return will strengthen the team and we are hopeful of a better result.

Three of our players were selected to attend the trials for the Combined Services Squash Team to tour America for two weeks in February. Capt Taylor was selected and Cpl Tuomey reserve. The team; 1 WRAC, 1 WRNS, 3 WRAF will play eight scheduled matches during the tour and will be doing some organised sight seeing. Good luck to them for a successful tour.

SKI-ING

DURING the autumn many have been taking advantage of the dry ski slope at Aldershot. Groups from D Company WRAC 16 Bn RAOC, 10 Company WRAC, the WRAC Centre and West London Admin Staff have braved the wind, rain and frost in order to learn the basic requirements of manoeuvring two planks of wood over a steep, slippery slope. At first it was thought the power cuts would end evening sessions; however, it was soon discovered that moonlight added charm to the otherwise rather bleak surroundings.



WRAC Units practicing on the Stainforth Ski Slope Aldershot.

8 Signal Regiment and other groups have been enjoying the ski slope at Catterick where the UKLF School of PT also hold their ski courses. At Woolwich Garrison a slope was opened at the beginning of December, while the impressive ski slope at Hillend has been used by 242 Signal Squadron, Edinburgh.

This practice is in preparation for the two Army Ski Association Meetings; one at Ischgl, Austria in January, which is in fact the BAOR Meeting but open to all Army Women's Services personnel, and the other at Aviemore, Scotland in March. The ASA Austrian Meeting is regarded as of too high a standard and remains something to be attained in later years.

A party of sixteen from the United Kingdom plan to join the Ischgl Meeting, travelling out to Austria with an Erna Low package tour. Adventure training funds have provided some of the cost while individuals have had to find the balance. Ski lift passes are a must to be able to appreciate the fine open bowl above the tree line that Ischgl offers to its skiers and to enjoy the men's racing. Last year we were able to sit on a rock in the sun and watch the men's exciting downhill. Snow reports are good for this season, so the party is hoping for sunshine and power to work the ski-tows. We do, of course, have the Ladies races, the MacFie Cup and the Army Ski Association Cup, one for beginners and the other for the better skiers.

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WRAC from BAOR have the opportunity to ski at Silberhutte in the Harz Mountains in December, before they take part in the Ischgl Ski Meeting. They have usually had more weeks ski-ing than those out from UK and have reached the stage of being able to accomplish some stylish turns.

The Women's ski course is over the same period as the ASA Scottish Meeting. This year there will be 32 from the QARANC and WRAC and 16 each from the WRNS and WRAF. The ladies race is an Inter-Zone competition with teams of four competing down a giant slalom course. (A BAOR team would be most welcome!) There is also an open event on the final Saturday when TAVR competitors as well as regular army racers all use the same giant slalom course. Snow conditions are not usually as good as the Alps, however, the Meeting has its own special atmosphere.

ARMY HOCKEY

overheard at the trials

"Play Left Wing? I put my name down for Goal Keeper."

"Good Heavens! Is she still playing? I thought she retired years ago."

"This girl I'm playing against is good—Oh! The Army Captain. Fancy putting me against her."

"Surely I haven't got to play again, I've already played for twenty minutes."

"Why are those ladies standing there with clipboards?—Selectors?—What are they?"

"We've got to play again this afternoon. I don't think my legs will stand it."

"I can't get past these two backs—they're so Big."

"If I have to play much longer I shall drop."

"Did I hear that properly—me for the 2nd team. But I only came because someone entered me by mistake."

Despite all, the Army Hockey Trials were a success and 28 players were selected for the Service Squad. Everyone is now trying to get fit in order to fight for a place in the team for the Inter Service tournament.

("Who's the little lady in the brown coat—umpiring? The Chairman! Can't be! She doesn't look fierce enough.")

INTER-SERVICE SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

ON Thursday 13th September, following the Army Swimming Championships, the Army Women's Swimming Squad started its training with a vengeance.

At the Aldershot Command Swimming Baths the training squad of 11 swimmers, under the auspices of SSI Tony Allen the team coach, started their daily 70 lengths of the pool. While the swimmers were dragging themselves up and down the pool the divers were being

subjected to intensive training at the Guildford civil baths, all in preparation for the Inter-Service Swimming, Diving and Water Polo championships, being held at HMS Caledonia, Rosyth, on the 21st and 22nd September.

On Friday 21st September, Cpl 'Budgie' Rosewall gave the Army Divers a good start by coming second in the 1 metre springboard, with Lcpl Judy Northcott coming third, and then winning the 5 metre firmboard with 94.90 points. The final results were: 1st—WRAC 17 points, 2nd—WRAF 16 points, 3rd—WRNS 8 points.

The swimming events took place on Saturday 22nd, and it was interesting, though somewhat daunting, to note that the WRNS team were a great deal stronger than previously and that the WRAF team was little changed from the team that had won the championships for the previous 4 years!

The final result was: 1st—WRAF 44 points, 2nd—WRNS 38 points, 3rd—WRAC 38 points.

Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve

EDINBURGH AND HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY
OTC

NOW that the Winter has set in we reflect with pleasure on five weeks during the summer vacation from University when sixteen of us took part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo 1973.

We were accommodated in the WRAC block at HQ Army Scotland, Craigiehall, and arrived there on 6th August to start rehearsing in earnest. We felt a little strange at first but soon got caught up in a round of rehearsals, costume fittings, and more rehearsals!

Before we could draw breath a fortnight had gone by and the first dress rehearsal was upon us—suddenly everything came alive—costumes, lights and an audience! Excitement ran high, the four 'extras' watched nervously as the others went through the Scottish Country Dance and then the Highland routine. The audience were clapping and it was over.

This was the performance we were to give another 27 times. Time passed quickly, all too quickly until we came sadly to the last performance. Programmes were autographed; photographs were purchased—the Finale ended with fireworks and it was over.

The anti-climax came after waving goodbye to each other and going our separate ways. But we shall always remember the time we danced in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

38th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Orienteering

IT was in 1971 that the Regiment first began to take an interest in the sport and put up their first intrepid male

competitors for the Northern District event. The following year the WRAC entered a team for the first time and after 12 weeks of theory and practice did quite well. One member actually qualified for the Army Championships; unhappily the rest of the team saw the White Tape and missed the last check point only to be disqualified. 1973 saw the sport firmly established in the Regiment with a Regimental Inter Squadron Competition at Annual Camp and teams or individuals from 64 Squadron and Support Group, both based at Sheffield, regularly entering civilian competitions.

On October 7th, 64 Squadron and Support Group were able to field four teams, two R Signals and two WRAC, for the annual Northern Area event. As usual it had rained, and the venue, Broxa Forest, was wet overhead and boggy underfoot.

The start was at 1100 hrs, with competitors leaving at 1 minute intervals. Mark the map amongst the trees, off down the hill to the first checkpoint by the waterfall, see the red and white marker, check the number, 49? yes, quickly mark the map and then, following the river, make for No 2. Source of the stream, oh dear! boggy, deep, deeper, plop, lost a shoe, find it, press on, there's the marker over the fence, oh bother, it's barbed wire. Carefully disentangle and over the hill to No 3. Take the path up the hill, no, that's too narrow, not there yet, on to the next one, a flash of blue disappears into the bushes, ah, got you, No 3 in sight and there's another member of the team lost no longer. On to No 4, what on earth is a re-entrant? many people searching for this one,—found. A long brisk trot on to No 5. Men from the two other courses flash past in other directions and the woods are silent again. No 5 was quite easy, now for the steep slope down to No 6. Easiest to sit down and slip; voices in the woods, sneak past, find the spur and down, down again to the river. Paths should converge, it's a long way, have I missed it? no up there, quick, someone is coming, move away from the marker and consult the map. Must cross the stream, can I wade it? no, too deep, find a bridge, back up the stream, careful, scramblers on motor bikes, avoid them up the path to No 8, ah yes, quite easy, only No 9 and the tape for home. Cross the paths of an old army camp, White Tape in the woods, 9 must be at the end, it is, and now for home, orange juice and a wash! Wait for the results, all tense, and yes, we won. 64 Squadron were first, Officer Cadet Helen Sheard with the fastest time, winning the individual event, and all Support Group team also finished, and we were through to the Army Championships to be held on 14th October.

On 13th October, 16 of us (6 R Signals and 10 WRAC) travelled to Stanford PTA, Norfolk, accompanied by Major (TOT) Stuart Cottage the Regimental Sports Officer. The WRAC were accommodated in a very comfortable hotel while our R Signals team had to endure the rigours of a very bleak army camp.

Sunday morning we set out for the afforested areas of windswept Stanford Training area. There was a cool

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breeze blowing, rather chilly for standing around but ideal for competitors. This really is a non spectator sport.

We found the course easier than the eliminating one and on approaching the finishing tape, were encouraged by seeing our CO Lt Col P. J. Garratt, with Major F. D. White our Senior WRAC Officer and Major A. Hawkesworth, OC 64 Squadron, waiting to cheer us home.

Although only two of our competitors failed to complete the course, (one was doing rather a good time until she sprained her ankle) it was not our day for winning awards. 64 Squadron Royal Signals team were placed 8th in the TAVR competition and 64 Squadron WRAC 3rd and Support Group 4th in the WRAC TAVR Competition.

We feel that progress has been made since 1972. Experience and confidence have been gained through entering civilian competitions earlier in the year. Placings were better, enabling more of us to go forward to the Army Championships and we hope that interest will be maintained and that we shall go forward again next year.

One member of our team, Lcpl Matulewicz, is leaving us to join the Regular Army in January, we are sorry to lose her but hope that our loss will be the Regular Army's gain.

Association News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 16th March 1974 at the Duke of York's Headquarters, London SW3 4RX at 2.30 p.m. in B Block.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 17th March 1973 (circulated in the June 1973 issue of the Lioness)
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. To receive the Report of the Council.
4. To receive the Report of the Honorary Treasurer.
5. To receive the Report of the Editor of the Lioness.
6. To receive the Report of the Committees.
7. Election of Officers.
8. Any other business.
9. Date of next meeting.

PLEASE BRING THIS COPY OF THE LIONESS WITH YOU TO THE MEETING: YOU WILL BE ASKED TO PRODUCE IT TO THE GUARD AT THE GATE.

CAR PARKING. Members should not expect to park cars in the Duke of York's HQ.

GRAND REUNION

THE Grand Reunion to mark the 25th Anniversary of the WRAC Association will be honoured by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent.

The Reunion will be held at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 6NQ on Saturday 16th March 1974 from 7-10 pm (doors open 6.30 pm).

Applications for tickets (£1.50 available to members only) should be sent to the General Secretary between 1st January and 4th March 1974 only. Please send stamped addressed envelope (if possible 4 inches by 7 inches) with application.

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

Arrangements can be made to park buses if requirement is notified by 4th March. Private cars can be parked in nearby streets.

Will any disabled member wishing to attend please notify the General Secretary by 4th March when suitable arrangements will be made.

QMAAC REUNION

THE QMAAC Reunion will be held in the Old Comrades Association Room, The Victory Club, Seymour Street, London W.2., on Friday 15th March, 1974, from 3-6 pm. Tickets which include tea 65p each. Applications must be received by 2nd March, 1974. Please apply to the General Secretary, WRAC Association, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford GU2 6QH, enclosing 65p and stamped addressed envelope.

CHURCH SERVICE

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

REMEMBRANCE DAY 1973

COL L. M. Davies CBE, Brig E. J. Nolan Hon ADC, Col D. H. I. Wilson OBE (Retd) and a number of ex-service and serving members were at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey when the Cross was planted by Lt Col P. Norman MBE, ADWRAC London District.

Ex-service members marched past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day, the Wreath-bearer was Miss D. Briant, BEM, of the Aldershot Branch.

PUBLICATIONS

MEMBERS may like to know that copies of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan's book "Service with the Army" and the "Short History of the QMAAC" are still available. Prices (which include postage) 24p and 35p respectively. Cheques/postal orders payable to the WRAC Association.

LIONESS FINANCES

Reluctantly in 1972, to avoid raising subscription rates, the Lioness was reduced from four issues a year to three. Since then, as we all know prices have risen sharply, particularly as far as the Lioness is concerned in newsprint and postage, with the result that each copy is costing more to print than is received through subscriptions. A situation your Council is looking into in detail.

Life membership has, since 1943 (when the subscription was £5) carried, and continues to carry the entitlement to the Lioness. Some of these life members may feel that they have had their subscription's worth over the years and anything towards the cost of the Lioness would be most welcome.

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

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1973

1972 Cost		Market Value 31st October, 1973
599.73	BRITISH ELECTRICITY 4½% GUARANTEED STOCK 1974-79 £596.92	599.73 447.69
634.57	EQUITIES INVESTMENT FUND FOR CHARITIES 1,000 UNITS ...	634.57 1,441.46
300.00	LONDON COUNTY 5½% STOCK 1985-87 £300.65 ...	300.00 186.40
50.00	BRITISH LEGION HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD. £50 BOND ...	50.00 50.00
1,061.55	8½% TREASURY LOAN 1997 £1,376.71 'A' Stock ...	1,331.55 1,101.37
1,791.47	5% EXCHEQUER STOCK 1976-78 £1,941.97 ...	1,791.47 1,553.57
743.25	8% TREASURY STOCK 2002-06 £1,026.61 ...	943.25 739.16
<u>£5,180.57</u>		<u>£5,650.57</u> <u>£5,519.65</u>

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION
(INCORPORATING QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS AND AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL
SERVICE COMRADES ASSOCIATION)
BALANCE SHEET 31st OCTOBER 1973

1972	£	£						£	£
			GENERAL FUND						
2,741			Balance at 1st November 1972	...	...	...	...	3,704.56	
745			Add: Net Profit on Sales of Investments	...	...	...	...		
219			Excess of Income over Expenditure	...	...	...	...	767.02	
	3,705								4,471.58
			LIFE SUBSCRIPTIONS FUND						
1,023			Membership Life Subscription	...	...	...	...	1,037.66	
872			Lioness Life Subscription	...	...	...	...	931.70	
	1896								1,969.36
			SPECIAL FUND						
	572		Legacy—Lt. Col. C. A. Cecil	...	...	...	...		572.00
	<u>£6,173</u>								<u>£7,012.94</u>

REPRESENTED BY:-

			FIXED ASSETS						
			OFFICE FURNITURE						
90			Balance at 1st November 1972	...	...	...	...	81.00	
9			Less: Depreciation for the year	...	...	...	...	8.00	
	81								73.00
	<u>5,181</u>		Investments at cost per schedule (Market Value £5,520)	...	...	...	...		<u>5,650.57</u>
			CURRENT ASSETS						
80			Stock of Badges at cost	...	...	...	...	80.60	
113			Interest Accrued and Income Tax Recoverable	...	...	...	...	75.07	
89			Sundry Debtors	...	...	...	...	295.31	
743			Cash at Bank:—Current Account	...	...	...	...	1,112.28	
777			Deposit Account	...	...	...	...	825.43	
1,520								1,937.71	
10			Cash in Hand	...	...	...	...	10.18	
<u>£1,812</u>								<u>£2,398.87</u>	
			Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES						
176			Membership Subscriptions Paid in Advance	...	...	...	...	177.85	
253			Lioness Subscriptions Paid in Advance	...	...	...	...	266.55	
472			Sundry Creditors	...	...	...	...	665.10	
<u>£901</u>								<u>£1,109.50</u>	
	911								1,289.37

£6,173

£7,012.94

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1973

1972	£	£		£	£	£
			INCOME			
			SUBSCRIPTIONS			
395			Annual		499.77	
194			Proportion of Four yearly and Membership Life Subscription		191.90	
	589					691.67
	355		Income from Investments			391.88
	22		Deposit Account Interest			48.19
	23		Donations			38.87
	11		Sale of Publications			3.74
	8		Sale of Badges			10.40
	—		Branch Funds Received on closure			4.99
22			Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion—Sale of Tickets		20.80	8.54
21	1		Less: Catering, Printing and Sundry Expenses		17.26	3.54
	1,009					1,193.28
			Sale of Work, Tombola etc.	357.10		
			Less: Expenses	8.35		
					348.75	
			Grand Draw—Sale of Tickets and Donations	780.03		
			Less: Expenses	38.99		
					741.04	
					1,089.79	
			Less: Donation to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund		1,000.00	
						89.79
406			Grand Reunion—Sale of Tickets			
404			Less: Printing and Prizes			
	2					
	1,011					1,283.07
	792		Less: Total Expenditure			516.05
	£219		Excess of Income over Expenditure			£767.02

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1973

1972	£	£				
			EXPENDITURE			
			BRANCHES			
135			Capitation Fees		140.92	
10			Grants... ..		5.00	
	145					145.92
			THE LIONESS PUBLICATION			
464			Annual Subscriptions		768.34	
231			Proportion of Four yearly and life subscriptions		239.95	
151			Advertisements		167.56	
	846				1,175.85	
1,263			Less: Printing, Postage etc.		1,183.37	
	417					7.52
	562					153.44
			EXPENSES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING			
			Teas... ..		11.53	
22			Secretary's Lunch		16.10	
	22					27.63
			ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
27			Printing and Stationery... ..		126.62	
55			Postages		64.01	
20			Subscriptions and Donations		16.10	
12			Sundry Expenses		6.25	
85			Audit and Accountancy Fee		114.00	
9			Depreciation of Office Furniture		8.00	
	208					334.98
	£792					£516.05

Branch Secretaries W.R.A.C. Units and Detachments

- 3 Sqn 10 Signal Regt.** WO 2 A. Ramsden, The Duchess of Kent Barracks, Maida Road, Aldershot.
- 12 Trg Regt RCT.** Sgt E. R. Bell, Buller Barracks, Aldershot. **Regimental Depot RAOC.** WO 2 J. Edwards, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey.
- D Coy 16 Bn RAOC.** WO 2 S. Cartmell, St Georges Barracks, Arncliffe, Bicester.
- Camp Admin Staff.** Sgt E. J. Dakin, Worthy Down, Winchester.
- RPO Brighton.** WO 2 D. V. Carter, Preston Barracks, Lewes Road, Brighton.
- RAEC Centre.** WO 2 A. S. Dick, Army School of Education, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.
- Army School of Physical Training.** Sgt Taylor, HQ and Depot APTC, Queens Avenue, Aldershot.
- WRAC Centre.** WO 1 E. Stevenson, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey.
- WRAC College.** WO 1 A. M. Doig, Portsmouth Road, Camberley, Surrey.
- 10 Coy.** WO 1 S. Wolstenholme, The Duchess of Kent Barracks, Maida Road, Aldershot, Hampshire.
- National Defence College.** Sgt. M. B. T. Coutts, Latimer, Chesham, Buckinghamshire.
- RAC Centre.** SSgt S. M. Flower, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.
- Royal School of Artillery.** WO 2 V. Bantock, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
- HQ UKLF Regiment.** WO 2 B. Thorpe, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
- Army Aviation Centre.** Sgt. D. Mitchell, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire.
- COD Donnington.** WO 2 A. J. L. Merton, Parsons Barracks, Telford, Shropshire.
- CAD Kineton.** WO 2 M. Jeffery, Temple Herdewyke, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
- 5 Sqn 8 Signal Regt.** WO 2 W. K. Pickard, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire.
- P & EE Military Wing.** WO 2 B. L. R. Hammond, Horseshoe Barracks, Southend-on-Sea.
- West London Admin Staff.** WO 2 D. E. Phillips, Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 6HD.
- 17 Trg Regt & Depot RA.** WO 2 S. Dawson, Woolwich S.E.18.
- 12 Coy.** WO 1 J. McIntosh, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London N.W.7.
- RA Ranges Hebrides.** Sgt M. B. Wheatley, Isle of Benbecula, Outer Hebrides.
- Northern Ireland.** WO 2 J. L. Beresford, NFPO 801.
- 29 Coy.** WO 1 S. Weatherill, BFPO 40.
- HQ NEARELF.** Sgt D. Hall, RAF Episkopi, BFPO 53.
- 12 RSME Regt.** SSgt R. Caldrow, Rochester, Kent.
- WRAC Det Hong Kong.** WO 2 G. Greensit, BFPO 1.

Focus on Benevolent Fund

MANY members will be interested in knowing how their donations and subscriptions to the Benevolent Fund are used. It is never possible to quote actual cases as each one is treated confidentially, but here are some general examples of the type of case we are most often asked to assist.

love is...



..... remembering
your annual contribution to
your favorite charity.

There is the couple with young children and the husband, who has been earning a good wage, is killed in an accident so that their income is suddenly reduced drastically. Once Social Security comes into action a reasonable amount is done to help a widowed mother, but there is often a gap during which children have to be fed and clothed, etc. A grant from the Funds can tide the family over until their affairs are settled. At the other end of the scale we have ex-servicewomen who served in the first World War—possible also in the second—now living on the old age pension with very little left over for replacement of clothing and winter fuel. Illness of the breadwinner reduces income unexpectedly and is frequently the cause of rent arrears and electricity being disconnected. A broken home, a deserted wife and the long drawn out business of obtaining maintenance is a fairly common cause of debt; long periods of illness another cause.

The Grants Committee meets weekly and considers each case very carefully, and before making a grant ensures that the person concerned has had all she is entitled to from the Department of Health and Social Security. All cases are investigated on the ground by SSAFA, Forces Help, The Royal British Legion, etc., to whom any grants made are sent (not to the woman) this is to make sure the money is actually used for the purpose intended. If need is not proved no grant is made.

Last year 7 mothers and their children went to one of Pontins Holiday Camps for a weeks much needed holiday. The accommodation is provided free by Mr Fred Pontin, the Army Benevolent Fund pays for return rail fares and the Funds provide a very small amount of spending money. We select widows and unsupported mothers who have been in bad health for these holidays, so that they can benefit most from a change of air and rest.

Another way in which we can help is with clothing; children's clothing and baby clothes are sent where there is a need and when available, and we are most grateful to the individuals and branches who knit and sew for us. We also try to keep a small supply of good second hand clothing for adults.

LORD KITCHENER MEMORIAL HOLIDAY CENTRE

In the February 1972 Lioness members were told of the possibility of a change in the Charter of the Holiday Centre which would allow ex-servicewomen to benefit from a very reasonably priced two weeks holiday by the sea in Lowestoft.

This change has now been made and we are glad to announce that any ex-servicewomen (with their husbands if both are ex-service) can now go to the Centre for 2 weeks during the following periods—30th April to 8th June 1974 and 3rd September to 1st October 1974 at a cost of £14.00 each for the two weeks.

The Centre is situated on the sea front, within easy reach of the main shopping area, there are two TV sets, and good home cooking, under the personal supervision of Mrs Wilson.

The General Secretary can supply full details, and the Centre's official application form. There is no resident medical staff at the Centre, and members are asked to provide a certificate of fitness, which forms part of the application form.

As these holidays are open to all ex-servicewomen, not only members of the Association, members with ex-service friends might like to go with them but all applications require the official form and nomination by the Association. Payment is made at the Centre, not through the Association.

Prize Competition

Bird Anagrams

BELOW is a list of anagrams. When the letters in each anagram are rearranged they spell the name of a well known bird. The bird's name may consist of one or two words and the number of words in the anagram is not necessarily the same. For example OUR THIN SEAM equals HOUSE MARTIN.

A £2 prize will be awarded to the competitor whose correct answer is the first to be opened on the morning 29th March. Please mark your envelopes "Competition".

ANAGRAMS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Rogues | 11. We heard sprog |
| 2. Roast slab | 12. A hen spat |
| 3. Peps drain | 13. Grans lit |
| 4. Rather stoccey | 14. Oh cat nest |
| 5. Fine general crop | 15. Hormone |
| 6. Wheres tara | 16. Ma parting |
| 7. To lie glum | 17. Roman troc |
| 8. Cowed poker | 18. Garbled ewes |
| 9. Trade grip | 19. Leg in a thing |
| 10. Pig lawn | 20. Tithe or what |

PRIZE WINNER

The entries for the Laughter in Uniform Competition were disappointing. The winner was Miss E. E. Martin of Wimbledon Branch, whose anecdote reads:

"901 Coy RASC (TA) were in Wales for their annual fortnight's camp. The newest WRAC recruit was feeling under the weather and was confined to bed in her quarters to await the MO's visit.

Having asked if she had to lie at attention and having been reassured that it wasn't necessary, she waited very anxiously for the MO to arrive, which he did shortly after.

He took her temperature and pulse and then asked 'Is your water clear?' Without a moment's hesitation back came the answer, 'Oh! Yes sir, it comes straight from the mountains.'

Reunions

NORTHERN AREA REUNION 1973

THE Crescent Room at the Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate, was once again the venue for the Northern Area Reunion on Saturday 22nd September. Unfortunately attendance was very much reduced for various reasons but it was nevertheless a most successful afternoon which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

Lt Col R. M. Engel, ADWRAC North East District and Northern Area Chairman presided and was supported

by the Vice Chairman, Col V. K. Stead, OBE, TD, JP, DL, and Miss M. Bradley, Northern Area Secretary.

The Chairman opened the programme by welcoming everyone to the Reunion and regretting that so many had been obliged to send apologies due to illness, holidays, etc. She extended a special welcome to Brigadier Nolan who was with us as Director for the first time, to the Guest Speaker, Miss E. Simpson and to Col Millington, and expressed thanks to the Secretary and all members who had helped by contributing goods for the stall and assisting in the arrangements. Col Stead said how much everyone would miss Lt Col Engel who had been with us for over three years and had done so much to make Northern Area such a happy and thriving one. We were very sorry to lose her but wished her well in the future.

Lt Col Engel said she, too, would miss everyone very much and then introduced Brigadier Nolan, who said she was delighted to be present particularly as the early part of her career in the ATS had been spent in Northern Command. As she had only taken over as Director three months previously she was so far unable to report on any exciting overseas visits, although visits to BAOR and a NATO Women's Services Directors' Conference in Brussels were planned in October and November. She was, however, able to give us up to date Corps news and said recruiting continues to be good even if the marriage rate keeps pace with it! WRAC units continued to serve in Germany, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Singapore and Gibraltar and at three Far East Embassies. In Northern Ireland they were doing a splendid job and morale was high. Progress was being made towards equal opportunity and therefore this was a challenging period in the history of the Corps.

Lt Col Engel then introduced Miss Simpson who entertained us with a talk entitled "Crotchets and Quavers", arising from her experiences in teaching singing and the piano for some 40 years. This was no mundane career and hilarity increased as the story unfolded—finishing up with the audience being assembled to render a part song and producing a very passable imitation of the Heavenly Choir!

Full justice was then done to a buffet tea, after which the raffle was drawn. The proceeds of the raffle, a bring and buy stall and a collecting box raised a very satisfactory £40 for the Benevolent Funds.

ATS DINNER CLUB

THE ATS Dinner Club met at the Royal Overseas League on Saturday, October 13th, 1973. 145 members attended the dinner which was followed by a business meeting.

A proposal from the Committee that the Club should have a President and a Vice-President, also that Dame Leslie Whately and Dame Mary Tyrwhitt be invited to hold these appointments was put to the vote and agreed to the obvious pleasure of all present.

For some time there has been a growing interest in changing from a dinner to a luncheon club. Following discussion, it was agreed that while no change should be made in the name of the Club, luncheons should normally be held, with a dinner from time to time.

Dame Jean Rivett-Drake has been succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel D. C. M. Hingston as Chairman and Miss O. A. Rutter by Mrs M. Storer as Hon Secretary/Treasurer.

In 1974, the Club will hold a luncheon at the Victory Club, Seymour Place, London W.1. on Saturday, October 26th, of which details will be published in due course.

Any former members of the ATS interested in joining the Club should apply to the Hon Secretary, Mrs M Storer, 33 North Drive, Ruislip, Middlesex.

Correspondence

Mrs Madeline E. Baker of The Cottage, Down Hatherley, Gloucester, who was a member of the party which visited the WRAC Battery, The Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill in June 1973 (see October 73 Lioness) writes in appreciation:

"On Sunday 17th June I had the pleasure of meeting some of your young ladies and I took some photographs. It gives me great pleasure to send them and if anyone would like prints, I will have them done, if they would just write to me.

During the last 2½ years I have been very ill and I am still in a "stepped corset", and cannot get about much, so an outing is a great thing to me and the visit to your Headquarters was wonderful. Everyone was so kind and helpful. I think our visit may have done a lot of good. The general good manners, intelligence and bearing of your girls, was a revelation to all of us. The youth of today get such a bad name, that one forgets that only the bad ones get noticed.

That happy Sunday brought back memories of my service days when I was about the same age as your WRAC girls. I now have another memory to add to the others of my life, they are a great asset when one becomes almost immobile.

Thank you all for a very happy day."

Dedication of WRAC Association Standard

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

FOR the Portsmouth branch Sunday 30th September 1973 was a memorable day. After months of hard work we had purchased a WRAC Association Standard. Then came more work in the arrangements for the dedication ceremony. The service was taken by the Vicar the Rev. K. Gibbons and the address was given by the Rev P. Dodd, Chaplain to the Forces. Our guests were the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Portsmouth, Col

B. M. Metcalfe, MBE, DDWRAC UKLF, who also read the lesson, Col M. D. M. Humphery, CBE (Retd), Col P. M. Lipscomb (Retd), and the Chairman and members of the Portsmouth Ex-Service Association Joint Council. The church was filled with members and friends from Portsmouth, Southampton, Bournemouth, Weymouth and Brighton branches. We were also supported by other ex-service associations and their standards from The Royal British Legion, The Dorset Regiment, The Eighth Army and the Dunkirk Veterans. The collection was taken by junior cadets from the British Red Cross.



Members of Portsmouth Branch parading their Association Standard at the dedication ceremony—with acknowledgement to The News, Portsmouth).

After the service our standard, carried very well indeed by our standard bearer, Mrs M. White and escorted by Mrs R. Thompson and Miss I. Bray, led the parade past the saluting dais, where the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress and Col Metcalfe took the salute. Although it was at least 25 years since most of us had marched in parades, as soon as the ATC Band started old memories returned and with arms swinging we all managed to march very smartly. It was a very proud and moving occasion and especially for our Chairman Mrs P. Williams who was at the saluting dais with our VIP guests.

Tea was held after the parade for 130 members and friends. A telegram received from Her Majesty The Queen was read by our Chairman and speeches were given by the Lord Mayor and Col Metcalfe, then baskets of flowers were presented from the branch to the Lady Mayoress and Col Metcalfe. Our standard was on view and admired by everyone. After a reunion and gossip with old friends our guests started on their homeward journeys leaving a tired but happy branch at the end of a very successful afternoon.

Thanks to the publicity in our local paper, we have received eight requests to join the Association. We shall be attending many parades and functions in the city with our standard and in this way hope to bring our Association to the attention of the public eye.

Advanced Motorist to the Fore

Daphne Hill (Late Daphne Chard)

I WONDER how many Institute of Advanced Motorist members we have in the Corps? Should we not have more to promote skill with responsibility?

While serving with 301 (EA) Bn WRAC (TA) I had the fun of being elected their 1,000th member in 1959. Recently I was asked to a luncheon in London to welcome the 100,000th member. On arrival at the Connaught Rooms I was rather overwhelmed by the number of people milling around and was delighted to be welcomed by the Chairman, Major General E. H. G. Lonsdale, wearing his RCT tie! The presentation to Mr Webster was made by His Royal Highness Prince Richard of Gloucester amid floodlights and TV cameras! I was introduced to Her Royal Highness Princess Richard who I thought most charming to talk to. She asked me about my test, and I told her how the late WO 2 Meekin PSI Sgts Jane Little and MacBailey and I had all reported with our champs one rather dull day and how surprised the examiner was to pass four ladies in one afternoon.

I sat at the top table, and on one side of me I met Mr Crane from Norfolk. We chatted about AA Command and found we both knew Joan Wilson late TA Norwich. I was told that she had married and left the Norwich Union. Among the guests I saw Miss Sheila Van Damm, who was Honorary Colonel to 329 (Warwickshire and Worcestershire) Bn WRAC (TA). Graham Hill signed his name under mine in the visitors' book with "what another Hill!" There may have been other Corps members there but I only saw Miss Elizabeth Manners TD in the programme. A happy reminder of the very happy days we all had in the TA.

News of Members

Miss DORIS LEE, Secretary Wimbledon Branch writes:

"I would like to trace war-time colleagues of one of our members, Mrs Josephine Banks (née Glenton) who has been ill in Ward 5 Wandale Valley Hospital, Mitcham Junction, Surrey for over 20 years. Mrs Banks joined the ATS in 1938 and rose to the rank of RSM. She is always very cheerful and would welcome visits from any of her ex-colleagues. Letters would also be acceptable but Mrs Banks would be unable to reply."

Ex Cpl CLARK would like to hear from anyone from 2 AA(M) Signal Regt, Bulford and Aldershot. Replies to Mrs E. M. Green, 22 West Road, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3 4SR.

Miss E. PALMER (ex W/37410 Pte E. Wilson) and a member of the Hull Branch would like to have news of anyone who was a member of J Coy 2nd MT Regt RE.

WERE YOU THERE?

Mr W. R. BISSON of 120 Baldwin Webb Avenue, Donnington, Telford TF2 8EN, Salop, writes to ask if any member of the Wolverhampton Branch ever served with 11th AA Workshop Coy REME at Moat Farm Lane Camp, Wednesfield, nr Wolverhampton during 1943-46, as he would very much like to arrange a reunion. None of the Wolverhampton members were apparently at that Camp but anyone who may be interested should write to Mr Bisson direct. He says he is already in contact with several ex-ATS from Moat Farm Lane Camp.

MARRIAGES



Miss A. Gibson of Dumfriesshire Branch writes:

"The wedding photograph of Cpl Yvonne Smith and Trooper Keith Burns of the Life Guards, which took place at the Guards Chapel in August, should be of interest to all our readers, as this is truly a "Lioness" romance. As has been told in these pages before, Yvonne joined the WRAC over 5 years ago, after she had read an article in her mother's copy of the Lioness in which the WRAC advertised for girls who were interested in handling dogs and animals. She did get doing just that after she joined, and met her fate, which is now to be Mrs Burns in a completely new sphere of life. We wish both Yvonne and Keith many happy years and success in the future.

Obituary

Mrs R. M. Bailey

Mr J. Hunter Bailey writes:

"I very much regret that Ruth Mary Bailey died in August 1973 after a long illness. She served throughout the war particularly in 232 ATS Training Regt RA, Devizes as Junior Commander and then 41 WOSB ATS, Hampstead as Senior Commander."

Mrs M. M. Charlton

Mr W. F. A. Charlton writes:

"I regret to inform you of the death of my dear wife, Mary Margaret (Greta) Charlton on 12th September 1973 at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast." Mrs Charlton served in the ATS from August 1941 to December 1945.

Mrs M. J. Wren

Mrs M. Thomas writes:

"Mrs M. J. Wren MBE died on 23rd October 1973. She was my RSM at Thiepval Barracks, Northern Ireland. I am sure there are many of her service and civilian friends who will be sorry to hear the sad news."

Miss Pat Savage

G. D. of RPO Brighton writes:

"It is with very deep regret that we announce the death of ex-Staff Sergeant "Pat" Savage on 19 December 1973. Miss Savage joined the ATS in October 1940 and served in Military Hospitals in BAOR, FARELF and UK. She was a Cookery Instructor at the WRAC CIC at the WRAC Depot from 1957 to 1961. She was discharged from the WRAC in September 1963 and was employed in the Regimental Pay Office, Brighton from February 1969 until her very recent retirement. She will be sadly missed by us all.

Mrs M. J. Allott

Miss G. Marshall writes:

"We are sad to have lost Mrs Allott who died on 23rd October 1973 at the age of 70." Mrs Allott served in the ATS from 1939 to 1945 and retired in the rank of Senior Commander.

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Mrs E. M. Burke

of 11 Kimberley Walk, Cheltenham, Glos. She was the oldest member of the Cheltenham Branch and a veteran of both world wars.

Miss McKinlay-Brown

of 5 de Walden Court, Eastbourne who died in October 1973. She served in the QMAAC from 1917 to 1920.

Miss I. Hutchison

of Cleeve Lodge, Esher in September 1973. She served in the ATS from 1940 to 1953.

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) } member and enclose £
4 year (£2)
Annual (50p)

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.....

Presentations



Brig. H. J. P. Baxter, OBE, GM, Commander UDR, presenting WO2 J. A. Brooker, Admin WO attached HQ UDR with her Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.



The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal being presented by Maj Gen H. P. Cunningham, OBE, GOC South West District, to Staff Sergeant A. Trickey, a Recruiter with the Army Careers Office, Bristol.

Area/Branch News

BATH Financially and socially the branch has enjoyed another successful year. We thank all members who have made this possible, both by their support and by all the hard work they have put into various functions which have been held to raise money.....the three main events were the Halloween Fair, held in November (part proceeds of which go to the WRAC Benevolent Fund and The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund), the luncheon held at the home of Mr and Mrs Mant last April in aid of a local charity, and our two Jumble Sales which are organised every six months. The Annual General Meeting and Dinner were held last March, and June saw us all enjoying our day at Wilton House and Larkhill for the Sub Area Reunion. The two meetings in Salisbury and the Annual General Meeting in London were attended, and our annual Christmas Dinner for members and friends was held in December. Mrs Ferguson, Secretary for nearly twenty years, resigned in December and her place has been taken by Miss Olive Rutter, 11 Roundhill Grove, Southdown, Bath. We know the Branch will be in good hands with Miss Rutter.

BOURNEMOUTH. The branch ended the year with their Annual Christmas Party which was enjoyed by all. In the new year they will be meeting at a new club room at St Michael's Church, Poole Hill, Bournemouth.

We have had a very interesting year with several outings and interesting meetings. The AGM was held in November and the same officers re-elected. Several members attended the WRNS dinner on December 7th 1973 and our own dinner will be held on Friday February 8th.

CARLISLE (CUMBRIA) The first meeting of 1973 took place in January at Carlisle Castle by kind permission of Major Purdham (Retd). In August we spent a pleasant evening at the home of Miss E. Shepherd at Penrith. Ours being such a scattered branch the choice of our Chairman, Mrs. I. Bridges, to hold the October meeting at Lowther, near Penrith, was a happy one, as it provided a central venue for members both from Carlisle and Kendal. Tea was provided by Penrith members and Miss V. Carlyle gave an account of her visit to the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in July. Owing to weather conditions in the winter making travel uncertain, it was decided that individual meetings be held at Penrith, Kendal and Carlisle and that members should meet again in the spring of 1974. In the meantime, Mrs. G. Romanis, the branch Secretary would make arrangements for members wishing to attend the Reunion in London.

DUMFRIESSHIRE. Our little country branch still flourishes and we keep our members up to standard, gaining one as we lose one. The Social evenings are always a pleasure, as it gives us a chance to meet.

A good number of us went to the Stirling Reunion and both enjoyed meeting old friends and also seeing over this most modern of Universities in its lovely setting. As was stated in the Lioness last October, we had the honour of having Cpl Smith propose the Vote of Thanks, which she did very well. There was no summer outing because of this, but we went to the Edinburgh Tattoo in August, as usual, and thought it better than ever.

We had the privilege of providing the venue for the AGM of the Scottish Secretaries on October 20th, and, although the weather was wet and dull, the meeting certainly wasn't either!!

Our programme is quite varied for the coming season, as we will be having slides and films of National Trust properties in January, and a member of the Speaker's Club to talk in February, and we hope to go on a conducted tour of "Conservation Areas" in April, after we have had our Annual Dinner in March.

HARROGATE. The past year has been quite a busy and successful one with good attendance at all our meetings. The programme has included "visits" by means of colour slides to Southern Italy and Australia, a tour of Harlow Car Gardens in Harrogate, Dinner at the Kimberley Hotel, a food demonstration and several informal social evenings when we were able to catch up on all our news.

In July the branch ran a competition stall at a Garden Party in aid of Henshaw's School for blind children in Harrogate and in spite of a deluge that afternoon, we managed to raise a useful sum for the cause.

Members attended the Northern Area Reunion in September, helping in various ways with the arrangements. We were delighted that Mrs Tedby was one of the four representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party this year. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience and as a result of the "visit to London to see The Queen", had her photograph featured amidst a blaze of publicity on the Branch in the local paper.

At the time of going to press we are planning the 1974 programme and hope to attract some new members to make it a record year.

LONDON. Our meetings have continued during the summer and autumn months. A successful bring and buy sale was held in May together with a flower arrangement competition which produced some very good entries. Each month we have been entertained with colour slide shows on various subjects, including members' holidays at home and abroad and the opening of the Castle of Mey British Legion flats by Her Majesty the Queen Mother.

Members of the branch attended the parade and service at the Cenotaph on 11th November and also the service of the planting of the cross at Westminster Abbey.

SALISBURY. This past year we have continued to meet monthly on the fourth Wednesday. Our new meeting place at the Royal British Legion Club has proved to be most comfortable and centrally situated in the city. Attendance during the year has been good on the whole.

Members enjoyed a slide show of the Holy Land, slides by members of holidays and a film of her mayoral year by a former mayor, Mrs Jo Benson. A bring and buy sale helped our funds and our contribution to the Benevolent Fund. During the summer, in wonderful weather we enjoyed a happy afternoon with Col Gibson at her home near Fordingbridge and another evening with Col MacFie at Middle Wallop, complete with hot dogs straight from her barbecue.

We continue to be represented on the British Legion Services Committee and also attended the annual Remembrance Day parade and placed our wreath on the War Memorial. The year finished with a Wine and Cheese party—a smaller number than usual attended but this was no doubt due to the uncertainty over petrol. We were pleased to welcome some serving members again this year. Several new members have been added to our list via HQ but so far we have not met any of them, but hope to seethem in the future at some of our meetings.

WIMBLEDON. On Sunday 19th August fourteen members of the Wimbledon Branch set off by car to Wiltshire to fulfill an invitation to tea previously extended by our President, Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E. Two car loads set off with the intention of first visiting Littlecote, a gabled Elizabethan Manor House of Tudor origin, situated near Hungerford. Near the outskirts of the town the ignition light in one of the cars glowed ominously and a quick look under the bonnet confirmed their fears of a slipping fan belt. Fortunately a garage was found open nearby and a mechanic quickly fitted a new belt, much to the relief of ex-MT members who hadn't relished that task when arrayed in their 'Sunday Best'.

On arriving at Littlecote, a picnic lunch was taken on the grass in one of the walled gardens, followed by a stroll through the attractively laid out grounds before embarking on a conducted tour of the house.

The party then proceeded to Great Bedwyn to join the other members who had arrived earlier and after much racking of brains to solve a most ingenious acrostic, afternoon tea was taken in the garden, followed by a croquet tournament which was played with rather more enthusiasm than skill.

Departure was then made after thanks had been extended to Dame Mary and Col Holt for a delightful day, and the return journey was then made without further incident.

Officers' Postings

(1 Aug 73—30 Nov 73)

Lt Col B. I. Forbes Adam MBE Attached MOD (JSJET)
 Lt Col P. Norman MBE ADWRAC HQ London District
 A/Lt Col F. M. Cook ADWRAC HQ NE/NW/Eastern Districts
 A/Lt Col D. J. Temple ADWRAC HQ SW/Wales/WM Districts
 Maj A. Bray AIPT/OCWRAC ASPT
 Maj J. M. Cato-Symonds DAAG (PS) HQ SW District
 Maj J. M. Clements OC 12 Coy WRAC
 Maj P. Ineson Attached WRAC Centre
 Maj E. I. Millington DAAG(a) MOD(AG16)
 Maj E. M. Miseroy OC 10 Coy WRAC
 Maj C. G. Parsons S02 Signals/DADWRAC HQ Scotland
 Maj B. A. Rooney DADWRAC MOD (WRAC 1)
 A/Maj C. D. Green Adjt WRAC Centre
 A/Maj M. McKenzie OC H&D Coy WRAC Centre
 A/Maj E. A. Robinson RSA Larkhill
 A/Maj E. Tye, HQ UDR
 A/Maj S. L. Williams BEM DAQMG HQ Wales
 Capt S. P. Binns SCWRAC HQ BAOR
 Capt P. H. Dixon MVEE Chertsey
 Capt E. A. Irvine 4 Comms Unit
 Capt J. A. Mason MOD (AG Mob)
 Capt M. J. Rook BAS Singapore
 Capt E. A. Saxon 7 AEC Donnington
 Capt (QM) G. W. Thompson SOPT WRAC HQ BAOR
 A/Capt J. M. Ball SC PRO HQ BAOR
 A/Capt R. M. Burns Army Work Study Group
 A/Capt E. D. Cameron SC 'A' SE District
 A/Capt L. D. R. Clayton SC 'A' HQ RSME Chatham
 A/Capt E. D. Elliott RA Ranges, Hebrides
 A/Capt W. K. Hall WRAC Centre
 A/Capt J. E. Hole Int & Sy Group BAOR
 A/Capt P. A. Laing-Morton HQ LF Hong Kong
 A/Capt J. Pilkington RAC Centre Bovington
 A/Capt F. D. Ponikowski WSLO Chatham
 A/Capt R. Wheelock RAVC Training Centre
 Lt H. Bellingham-Smith WRAC Det HQ Northern Ireland
 Lt P. Brennan AES HQ NEARELF
 Lt S. Burwell 1 Regt RMP
 Lt C. M. Collins 32 AEC
 Lt A. P. Cox 68 Sqn RCT
 Lt H. E. Erskine Attached HQ NEARELF
 Lt D. Kinchin WRAC Centre
 Lt A. D. Larkins 18 AEC Colchester
 Lt A. Leach 16 Sig Regt
 Lt S. A. Pennington School of Signals
 Lt A. M. F. Pote 16 Sig Regt
 Lt N. J. Pratt Int & Sy Group BAOR
 Lt J. E. M. Webber Attached 7 AAC Regt, Netheravon
 2 Lt C. M. Bates 22 Sqn RCT
 2/Lt K. F. Binks 233 Sig Sqn
 2/Lt P. J. Buckoke 12 Coy WRAC
 2/Lt C. I. Buchanan Attached MOD (PS12)
 2Lt M. G. Byrne SEME Bordon
 2Lt K. L. Carruthers WRAC Centre
 2Lt I. J. Croft Attached HQ Scotland
 2Lt D. F. Davies 29 Coy WRAC
 2Lt S. D. Ellis-Jones 242 Sig Sqn
 2Lt M. L. R. Graham WRAC Centre
 2Lt P. M. Hollingsworth COD Bicester
 2Lt J. C. Lodge CAD Kineton
 2Lt E. Lovelace 12 Coy WRAC
 2Lt I. E. McCulloch WRAC Centre
 2Lt Y. M. T. Phipps 8 Sig Regt
 2Lt D. Platts 10 Sig Regt
 2Lt S. A. Roughton 26 Fd Regt RA
 2Lt A. M. Stratford-Tuke RMCS Shrivenham
 2Lt A. B. Tombs Attached 10 Sig Regt
 2Lt F. E. Wilkie 12 Trg Regt RCT

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS
 Regular Army

Captain: M. J. Rook
 Captain (QM): C. H. Wales
 Lieutenants: H. E. Erskine, S. A. Pennington
 Lieut. (QM): A. B. M. Stead
 2/Lieuts: C. M. Bates, D. F. Davies, I. E. McCulloch, S. A. Roughton, A. B. Tombs,
 2/Lieut. on probation: J. A. Guthkelch, R. M. M. Rendall

Special Regular Commissions

2/Lieut. on probation: J. F. M. Luckyn-Malone is confirmed in her appointment

Short Service Commissions

Captain: A. C. Spencer
 Lieutenants: W. E. Coupe, J. A. Freebairn, K. M. Howie, T. A. Howie, I. L. G. Ivot, M. A. Jones, A. E. Lovatt, C. A. Maxted-Massey, J. W. Neale, M. J. Oakley, S. A. Strong
 2/Lieuts. on probation: S. Burwell, S. M. Bishop, S. R. Cosgrove, A. P. Cox, J. E. Day, G. R. Harvey, M. A. Harwood are confirmed in their appointments.
 2/Lieuts: P. J. Buckoke, K. L. Carruthers, M. L. R. Graham, E. Lovelace, F. E. Wilkie,
 2/Lieuts. on probation: P. L. Bradford, C. E. Broadley, D. M. Jones, R. Morgan, P. H. Sherratt

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Major: D. A. Crofton, G. A. Howard, M. I. Mech. E.
 Captain: V. C. Fraser
 Lieutenant: M. J. Jordan

Special Regular Commissions

Lieutenant: J. M. Whennmouth

Short Service Commissions

Lieutenants: S. Bristow, M. A. Hood, S. MacIntosh, J. M. Stevens
 2/Lieut: S. M. Tucker.

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For sale. Officers green greatcoat in good condition. Size 40-30-42, length 46", scarlet lining, little worn. Box No 1/74.

Vacancies available now for Recruiting Sergeants in the Army Careers Office Carlisle and Preston. Applications invited from ex-Cpls and above. Minimum regular service two years. For further details apply to Capt M. Muldoon, ACO (WS), QARANC and WRAC Information Office, Barnett House, 53 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AJ. Tel: 061-228-1820.

Wanted. Officers Mess Dresses. Sizes: 1. Bust 40½, waist 29, hips 40, height 5' 5½". 2. Bust 35, waist 24, hips 36, height 5'7". 3. Bust 36, waist 28, hips 38, height 5'5". 4. Bust 37, waist 27, hips 39, height 5'8". Box No 2/74.

For sale. Officers No 2 Dress, size 14. Greatcoat, shirts, beret, shoes 5½, jumper etc. Box No 3/74.

Wanted. No 1 Dress size 14/16, height 5'8". Must be in good condition. Box No 4/74.

Warrant Officers' Postings

(1 Sep—31 Dec 73)

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 WO2 J. P. Gray Housing Commandants Organisation UKLF
 WO2 L. E. Murphy Housing Commandants Organisation UKLF:

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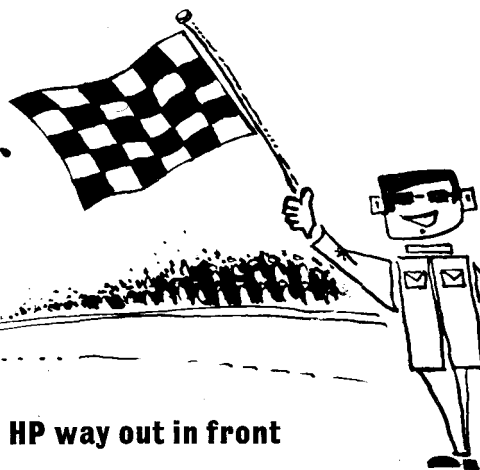
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