

June 1974

MSTR COPY

Issue No. 2

Lioness



Branch Directory

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WHO'S WHO

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 (Donations and general correspondence)

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE BY
31st AUGUST

Shopping List

		P. & P.			
Leather Wallets	.50	6p	Bookmarks, leather	.20	5p (up to 6)
Coasters Vinyl	.18		ID Card/season ticket/bank		
Key Rings			card holder	.11	5p (up to 6)
Acrylic	.25	5p (up to 6)	Glass ash/pin tray	.36	7p
Leather	.15	5p (up to 6)	WRAC biro pens	.08	5p (up to 6)
White Ivorine	.12	5p (up to 6)	WRAC Scripto pens (not		
Memo pads 4½" x 6"	.45	9p	refillable)	.03	5p (up to 6)
Refills	.20	6p	Corps shields, light oak	£2.45	12p
1975 Planner Diaries	.35	6p	Leather sew-on badges	.15	5p (up to 6)
Clipboards	.93	16p			
Briefcase, plastic (to fit					
clipboard)	.55	6p			

Most items are in green with the Corps Crest
 in gold. Cheques/postal orders should be made
 payable to CORPS HQ a/c.

For Your Diary

July

- 1-13 City of London Festival, London
- 1- 4 Royal Agricultural Show, Kenilworth, Warwicks
- 2- 7 Llangollen International Eisteddfod, Llangollen, Denbighshire
- 4- 7 Henley Royal Regatta, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon
- 5-14 Cheltenham International Festival of Music, Cheltenham, Glos
- 6-26 Observer/Royal Western Round Britain approx Sailing Race start and finish, Plymouth, Devon
- 9-11 Great Yorkshire Agricultural Show, Harrogate, Yorks
- 10-27 Royal Tournament—Displays by the Armed Forces, Earls Court, London
- 10-13 Open Golf Championship, Royal Lytham and St Anne's, Lancashire
- 13- Son et Lumiere, Winchester Cathedral (excluding Sundays)
- 17-21 World Show Jumping Championships Hickstead, nr Bolney, Sussex
- 19- Henry Wood Promenade Concerts
- Sep 14 Royal Albert Hall, London
- 22-27 Royal International Horse Show, Wembley
- 31- Colchester Tattoo, Colchester, Essex

August

- 4 Tall Ships Parade of Sail, Solent, Isle of Wight
- 5-16 International Festival of Youth Orchestras, Aberdeen
- 8-10 Tall Ships Race, St Malo, France/Nab Tower, Solent, Isle of Wight
- 16- Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Castle Esplanade, Edinburgh
- Sep 7 International Festival of Youth Orchestras, London
- 17- Royal Scottish Academy Festival Exhibition, Edinburgh
- Sep 8 Edinburgh International Festival
- Sep 7 Three Choirs Festival, Gloucester
- 23- International Handicrafts and Do-it-Yourself Exhibition, Olympia, London

September

- 2- 8 International Air Show, Farnborough, Hants
- 7 Braemar Royal Highland Gathering, Braemar

- 12-15 World 3-Day Event Championships (Horse Trials) Burghley, Stamford, Lincolnshire
- 14 Horse Racing: St Leger, Doncaster, Yorks
- 15 Battle of Britain Service, Westminster Abbey, London

October

- 4-12 Windsor Festival, Windsor Castle and Eton College, Windsor, Berks
- 7-12 Horse of the Year Show, Wembley, London
- 16-26 International Motor Exhibition, Earls Court, London
- 21-26 Kensington Antique Fair, Kensington, London

WRAC Staff Band

THE following engagements may be of interest to readers:

July

- 6 Dartmouth Carnival
- 10 Larkhill Display
- 13 RCT Display, Buller Bks, Aldershot
- 14 Alexandra Palace Park, Afternoon Concert
- 21 3-5 pm King George VI Steps, The Mall
- 28 3-4.30 pm Kensington Gardens Bandstand
- 31 12-2 pm Finsbury Circus

August

- 1- 4 Southsea Show
- 16 Brighton Dome, Evening Concert
- 18 Hyde Park, Afternoon Concert
- 19-24 St James's Park, Afternoon Concert
- 25 3-4.30 pm Greenwich Park
- and 6.30-8 pm
- 26 3-6.30 pm Regents Park
- 31 Petworth Park, RNLI Fete

September

- 1 Bishops Park, Hammer-smith



Lioness

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Editorial

IN the last issue we explained our intention of improving the financial position of the *Lioness* by increasing the number of copies sold. We hoped to achieve this by making the journal more eye-catching and readable. In addition to varying the colour we intend in future to print a topical photograph on the cover and this is the first issue incorporating the new layout. Reactions to the change of colour have been favourable and we are looking forward to the effect of this second innovation, especially as the circulation to serving members has already increased by nearly 600 copies. If this trend continues there is every hope of attracting sufficient advertising matter to ensure that the *Lioness* pays its way.

As an economy measure the printers advised us to revert to standard type which, because it is slightly larger, entails the loss of four or five columns. To cope with this loss, two measures are necessary. First, we would like Branch Secretaries to limit their reports to not more than 150 words and all contributors to be as concise as possible. Second, there is general agreement that the time has come to limit obituaries. We need hardly say that all deaths reported to us will be listed in the *Lioness* and anyone who would like fuller details should write to us for them.

In spite of a restriction in space we hope that readers who have had interesting, unusual or exciting experiences will continue to send us articles about them, so that those who are no longer able to participate in active adventures will be able to read about them in the *Lioness*.

The Grand Reunion was held on Saturday, 16th March coinciding with our 25th Anniversary and everyone who attended seemed to agree that it was the best ever held. Colonel Millington has described the evening elsewhere in this

issue but we cannot let the occasion pass without expressing our deep appreciation to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent for attending and making this important date in our history the more memorable.

Retirement

Colonel R. M. Green

COLONEL Rachel Green, who retired last February, began her Army career as a Territorial Volunteer with the City of London Fusilier Regiment in 1938. Her service with this City of London Regiment entitled her to wear the City of London Sword flash and she justly claims to be the last serving WRAC officer to wear this coveted flash.

Col Green was commissioned in 1940 and served with mixed Anti-Aircraft Regiments for four years. In 1944 she was posted to Rome where she worked with the Allied Commission for nearly two years. She looks back on those two years as perhaps the most interesting in an eventful career, when she made many Italian friends whom she still sees whenever time and travel allow and became a fluent Italian speaker. She has served in a variety of staff and regimental appointments in the UK, Germany and Gibraltar and was Commandant of the WRAC College for three years before her last appointment as Deputy Director in the Ministry of Defence.

Colonel Green contributed a great deal to her Corps throughout her Service, we shall miss her charm and friendly manner and we look forward to seeing her on future occasions. We wish her every happiness in her retirement.

Commemorative Service 25th Anniversary Women's Royal Army Corps

THE Commemoration Service to mark the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Army Corps was held in the Chapel of the 300-year old Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Friday, 1st February. In honour of the occasion the famous Gold Plate, first placed on the altar in 1688, was displayed.

In his address, the chaplain of the Royal Hospital, The Reverend E. W. Evans MBE, BA, Hon CF, spoke of a unique parade held there in 1969, which commemorated the raising, in June 1719, of the 41st of Foot from In-Pensioners of that day; old, tired, broken veterans who rallied to the colours and marched to Portsmouth where they relieved younger men for service overseas.

Like their present day descendants, the Welch Regiment, the Women's Royal Army Corps were honouring their own predecessors, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later renamed Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps) in World War I and the Auxiliary Territorial Service in World War II.

The Chaplain went on to speak of our Corps' even earlier predecessors. One was Catherine Davis who joined the Royal Scots Greys (as a man) and served on, after her true sex was discovered, with such gallantry and distinction as to merit a Royal Hospital Pension of a shilling a day and a grave in the Hospital Burial Ground when she died in 1739, aged 72.

The other, Hannah Snell, also became a Pensioner in 1750 and was buried, in 1793, alongside her male comrades-in-arms. So notable was her military career that a magazine of the day, recorded it in doggerel verse.

Because these women had to enlist as men to serve their country in the Army, whereas women are now accepted in their own right, the Chaplain felt that the Royal Hospital was the right and proper place to commemorate the old and honourable tradition which our Corps has inherited.

He then recalled the story of Martha and Mary and called upon members of our Corps to cut through trivialities and side issues, to learn the true meaning of dedication, as Mary did and which Martha missed. Our lives would be

richer, wiser and more rewarding if a sense of dedication always guided our actions as it had the lives of our illustrious predecessors Catherine Davis and Hannah Snell. Theirs would be the true peace if we accepted the courage, fortitude and, above all, dedication which they had handed down to us.

25th Anniversary Commemorative Cover

A COMMEMORATIVE cover in the series of Military Uniforms was produced to mark the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Army Corps on the 1st February 1949. A specially designed headstamp bearing the Corps badge and the British Forces Postal Service number 1432 was used.

Dame Mary Tyrwhitt DBE TD who, as Senior Controller M. J. C. Tyrwhitt, was the first Director of the Corps and the present Director, Brigadier E. J. Nolan Hon ADC, each signed a limited number of covers.

Covers have been presented to Her Majesty, The Queen and Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent. Requests for the cover have come from many countries including New Zealand, Faroe Islands, USA, Canada, Sweden, Spain, Denmark, South Africa, Belgium, Holland and BFPOs worldwide. To date over 2,500 covers have been sold and a profit of some £550 has been raised towards Corps Funds.

Unsigned covers at 30p (postage included for UK addresses) are still available from: The Philatelic Officer, WRAC Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford. Cheques or Postal orders should be made payable to Corps HQ WRAC.

Regular Forces Employment Association

THE object of the Association is to find suitable civilian employment for men and women, not only when they leave the Services but in the years to come. It is registered as a charity and anyone, below commissioned rank, who left the Regular Forces with a character

of not less than "Good" after three years is eligible for the Association's services, which are given free.

The Association has 42 Branches covering the whole country. During 1973 it found employment for 11,193 men and women. Of these just over 3,000 were from the Army and included 39 WRAC.

Association addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from the nearest post office or employment office.

Presentation

Meritorious Service Medal

WO2 Helen Thomson

ON 11th February 1974 the GOC South East District, Lieutenant General Sir Terence McMeekin KCB, OBE, presented WO2 Helen Thomson with the Meritorious Service Medal.



Lt Gen Sir Terence D. H. McMeekin, KCB, OBE, GOC South East District, presenting WO2 H. Thomson with her Meritorious Service Medal.

WO2 Thomson, who is at present stationed in Aldershot as Chief Clerk to MVEE, has had a long and varied career in the Army. Born in New Broughton, Edinburgh, she enlisted in the ATS in 1944 and spent the first six years of her service in various parts of Scotland. She then went on to serve in Germany and in the War Office. After completing 12 years WO2 Thomson left the service. She re-enlisted a year later and since then has served in Singapore, Cyprus and various posts throughout the UK. In 1965 she was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

From Chinese Weddings to Scottish Ski-Slopes

Private S. Wylie

ALMOST three years ago I joined the WRAC. Did I say three years? It seems in a way as if it were only yesterday and yet I have met so many people, made so many friends, done so many things and been to so many places that it seems I must have gone through three times that amount of time.

All WRAC begin their Army careers in Guildford, where we do our basic training. After six weeks each girl then goes her own way depending on which trade she has chosen to follow. My choice was with the Royal Signals and at their Training Camp at Catterick I had a super time. We must have worked pretty hard when we were in training but, looking back, I can only remember having lots of fun with the other girls and being very concerned in case we didn't pass our end of course exams. Very much a case of a trouble shared . . .

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At the end of my time in Catterick I was posted to my home Country—Scotland, to a Signal Squadron in Edinburgh where I started my life as a soldier proper.

It was marvellous to be, at last, a member of a working unit and to be finished with training. Edinburgh, although a small camp, certainly had all the variety of Army life and, to my own delight, I found that I had the opportunity for lots of sports. One time we travelled to York to play in a Netball Tournament and, to everyone's surprise, "The Haggis Bashers" (as our opponents "affectionately" christened us) came in second.

In June 1972 I was told to report to our Squadron Office, and, to my joy, was told that I was being posted to Hong Kong. For weeks I went about in a dream and could only think of the mystical Oriental East. Hong Kong, here I come!

When I reached my destination I found it very strange but, once I settled down, I really took to it like the proverbial duck to water. It was fantastic and something I will never forget. The Chinese are a fascinating people and, as Hong Kong's population is so cosmopolitan, I had the chance of meeting and mixing with people whom, normally, I would only read about or see on the television screen. I have many wonderful memories, but the one that stands out most is of an Army exercise. Ten girls and a larger party of men were issued with the necessary kit and a supply of "if you catch anything these will cure it pills" and off we went to an area on the mainland called Sek Kong. For a week we went over Assault Courses, did Map Reading, listened to First Aid Lectures, were taught how to "mingle with the surrounding scenery" and, best of all, shown how to handle various guns. This was really tremendous and all the girls did very well. Once we were all proficient in the various skills we rounded off the week with a 48 hour exercise. We enjoyed crawling through ditches and wading through marshes, all of which wasn't really necessary but we were determined not to let the WRAC down by being caught. It was a hectic week and very exhausting but somehow we always seemed to muster up enough energy to have a get-together in the NAAFI and we even managed to teach one of the young Chinese store lads some of our songs.

But it wasn't all play and no work. We usually tried to make up a party and go out together after work. I think I can safely say that we all had our fair share of parties, junk trips, sunbathing, sightseeing and the sampling

of Chinese food, plus of course, if one is lucky enough to be invited, Chinese Weddings or a Chow Party.

There was always something to do but we still found time for sport. I played a lot of Hockey and Squash but one of our girls did really well and set up a new record in Hong Kong (which WRAC Hong Kong sincerely hope they will be able to defend each year).

When I left Hong Kong I was very sorry, but also lucky enough to be given a posting back to Edinburgh where I am stationed now. The Camp is small and many old faces have gone but, in its own way, there is as much to do there as there was in the Far East, the difference in climates being the deciding factor. In March I am going on a Skiing course which I'm really looking forward to as that is one thing I couldn't do in Hong Kong, at least not on snow.

I don't know where I will be posted next; perhaps overseas or perhaps somewhere in Britain but I will be pleased with either. All Army Camps have girls and men of my own age and I know I will always have lots to do and an interesting job as well.

Alice Through the Dustbin

Capt R. D. Patrick

HAVING potholed with a small pilot scheme of WRAC at UKLF PT School North and also with the Officer Cadets' Adventure Trg week as part of their course I had been fired with enthusiasm to continue this rather peculiar occupation!

Just before Christmas, I again packed my size 7 DMS boots and army boiler suit and set off for the UKLF PT School North. The Headquarters shook their heads in disbelief that I was taking "leave underground". G Branch thought (and still do) that I had taken leave of my senses.

Issued with a rather battered and torn wet suit and old "woolly pully", I set off the following morning with three Instructors from the UKLF PT School North. Three of us had been underground before; one instructor hadn't. He puffed profusely on his pipe, moustache twitching and said he would "have a go".

We borrowed kit from the National Caving Centre in Dentdale, Yorkshire and set off to "do a dry cave". Caves and potholes are cate-

gorised into difficulties similar to climbing grades, ie, Super Severe, Severe, Difficult, Moderate, Easy. Equipment such as lightweight ladders, ropes, "spreaders", pulleys, karabiners and polypropylene rope are essential party equipment. Each speasologist wears a rubber wet suit to keep warm and has a belt to which is attached a dry cell battery. A helmet, miner's lamp attached, completes the outfit.

Suitably attired we climbed into the car and set off over the "tops". This was rather disastrous, as we soon discovered. The South facing slopes of Kingsdale (just north of Ingelton) Yorkshire, were covered in snow and we soon ran into trouble, endeavouring to drive up a hill. Three quarters of an hour passed with the sheep watching with interest as three rubber suited figures pushed the car up the slope again and again. Finally rescue came in the shape of a West Riding County Council sanding and gritting lorry. They were completely unconcerned that four strangely attired people were pushing a car up a snow covered road in late December. Apart from the fact that the lorry nearly left the road at one point in a skid and I ended up face down, panting on the snow covered road, having fallen over my size seven DMS boots, no injuries were sustained and SSI Dave Pattie was still puffing on his pipe.

We continued, and finally stopped in the "middle of nowhere" at 1500 ft.

We donned helmets and batteries and set off across the moor, round a corner of rocks and ended up facing a dustbin lid. SSI Reg Banks grinned and tested his lamp. "Thought I was joking when I said we were going down a dustbin didn't you?" he said. We all nodded in disbelief and looked round, wondering where "Candid Camera" or the "Goodies" were. Reg removed the lid to reveal a dustbin with no bottom, built into the hillside. He disappeared, followed by the remains of the party, leaving myself and Dave Pattie looking at each other—he nervously puffing his pipe. Shutting my eyes I slid down the dustbin head first and crawled along a narrow passage to join the others in a large, 20ft high opening.

This was where the irony of "Dry Cave" became apparent. Caves which do not flood with water are safe because the water level remains the same but we now had to crawl into a 4ft high tunnel filled with 3ft 6in of water; a very chilly experience as the freezing water poured into our wet suits. The shock is quite unbelievable but it certainly makes one crawl very fast! Reg had left a lifeline of polypropy-

lene rope for us to hold on to. It looks just like any other rope but its main property is that it floats and was easy to see as we crawled and spluttered through the passage. At the lowest point we had to turn our heads on one side and immerse one ear in the water in order to keep our noses clear to breathe.

The last one through was Dave Pattie—moustache quivering and yet, still clenching pipe between teeth. All we heard and saw was Georgie muttering, "My wretched pipe has gone out."

So on we went, through fast running water in the bottom of the passage, into small pools, past straw stalactites and stalagmites, calcite formations and bedding planes. Around us in the passage we saw evidence of millions of years of erosion by water. Continual dissolving of the limestone erodes these passages, often deepened by earth movements many years ago when dinosaurs were running about in the world above us. Down we went until at last we reached a ledge 30ft above a stream.

In to action went our leader. The lightweight ladder was hung to drop into the stream below, safety ropes and pulleys were fixed to the "spreaders"—two pieces of carefully constructed wire to hold the ladder around a piece of rock. Down we went through a waterfall on the ladder. A completely different technique is used while climbing down underground. "Keep the hips as close to the ladder as possible. Arms must wrap around the back of the ladder. Don't look down for the rungs, but feel for them with your boot". So, with the ladder swinging alarmingly and belayed from above on a safety rope, I arrived, five minutes later, in another shallow stream.

Five feet away the water disappeared further underground through a sump into another set of passages all under water. Some madmen take aqualung equipment, and cave dive through these sumps into areas unexplored by the normal caver. Reg said quietly: "There's a lad still down there. No one has ever been able to find him." Suitably impressed, we trooped silently off through a cathedral cavern and on through another set of passages into a very muddy area—"This bit floods" said Reg. On again until we reached the end of the passages known as "the Canals". We walked slowly as far as we could go until we stood up to our necks in cold silent water, beyond, the passage ceiling and water met, and only cave divers could swim through to the next system.

So we turned back, up past the ladder with the sump below, and back to the surface, Dave

Pattie still puffing and saying: "I like it! I like it!"—through the first passage, out to the dustbin lid and the world—and what a world—cold, frozen and snow covered. We closed the dustbin (to keep sheep from falling in) and wished we were back underground in the warmth, for the temperature of the rock is constant, all the year round, at about 46°F. Only the temperature of the water changes with the weather.

So we left Alice's underground world and returned to the normal, human environment of warm baths, hot drinks and food, and a long journey back to York and sanity.

Mad? Undoubtedly but, once you have experienced total darkness with the steady drip of water and know that these systems will be there long after you have gone, just as they have been there millions of years before you, then who can just live a normal life?—Here's to Alice's World through the Dustbin!

Watchbirds in a Walled City

SSgt Terry Simpson WRAC Provost

I AM, I suppose, one of the lucky ones in that I have had the unique pleasure of serving in all three of the WRAC units in Northern Ireland, that is Belfast, Armagh and here in Londonderry. Of all three, I don't think that the first two mentioned come up to the situation that exists here in Londonderry.

For those readers who have never served here, I feel that a little explanation is required. Londonderry is a walled city and the WRAC responsibility is to "man" the checkpoints situated within the walls. There are about thirteen checkpoints in all so we have our work cut out. But, being the miracle workers that we are, we always manage!

The reception we get on duty in "Derry" changes from day to day. Sometimes we are so popular that we can't do a thing wrong. On other days we are called all the usual names which our Mothers and Fathers strongly deny. But even though the overall reception is good, there is a daily element of "aggro". This takes many forms from stone throwing to actual shots being fired. A couple of incidents come to mind that, I feel, deserve note.

The first incident occurred on 15th November, 1973, when one of our girls, a driver by trade, was standing on checkpoint duty with three soldiers. Suddenly, a gunman approached the group and fired no less than eight shots, hitting all three of the soldiers, and missing the WRAC girl by inches. The girl ducked behind a sangar until the gunman ran away. She ran to the three injured soldiers and assisted in giving first aid until the arrival of the ambulance. She then resumed her duty until stood down.

The second incident, although not quite so serious, shows vigilance on the part of the two girls concerned, one of whom had only been in the unit for three weeks. The place was again a checkpoint and the girls were "doing their thing" when ten young ladies(?) rushed the checkpoint. They were told, in a polite but firm manner, to return to the back of the queue. Six of them did so, but four continued to push their way forward, only to be stopped by the second WRAC girl who also told them to return to the end of the queue. They ignored this request, and pushed and punched the girl to the ground. Between them, the WRAC managed to arrest two of the four girls there and then. The following day they arrested a third girl. Not a bad average—3 out of 4.

The ironical thing about the platoon is that they can stand gunfire, exploding bombs and aggro in all its shapes and forms, and their morale remains high. But let a mouse cross their path and just watch them run. It really makes me proud to be a member of the Walled City Platoon.

Times Remembered

Hilda M. Sellars

I WAS known during my ATS service as Tissie (Rule) I'm sorry to say for obvious reasons! Reading the last issue of the *Lioness* brought to mind the "old order of things". Where are they all now I wonder? The fellow recruits at Wrexham in September '42. Olive who never remembered she slept in the top bunk until it was too late to stop another bump, having to use greatcoats as dressing gowns to and from the ablutions and getting used to being woken up with the cry "outside everybody!"—this on the edge of the North Welsh Moors. Pat who, like me, seemed to get stuck in turn with leading the right-hand file for drill

and parades. With so many of the latter in our three weeks' training, no wonder I lost weight.

Then I was posted to London and 1st AA Command to arrive in thick fog, with eventual stays at various RA Batteries and Regiments, always making friends however long or short one's stay. We were housed in every type of building from a Nissen hut to beautiful old houses. Cold billets with not even a coarse mat on bare wooden floors and limited hot water. If you wanted a bath in one of the two provided for 35 girls, you made sure you collared one of the bath plugs first, no easy task! There were no wardrobes, you had to find your own wooden coathanger on which you piled your spare uniform and greatcoat and suspended it all from the nearest water pipe or picture rail.

During a visit to my daughter and son-in-law in Germany recently, I met a former member of the WRAC and an interesting conversation revealed that these days there are such refinements as dressing tables, armchairs and two-bedded rooms—what no more soldiers' boxes to sit on and clean one's shoes and buttons? Even no buttons to clean now, but we were proud of our brass buttons. The issue of a new tunic displaying the then new fangled bakerlite variety soon meant the use of housewife and scissors to change them over before handing in the old tunic.

We were as proud of the Regiment to which we were attached as we were of our own Service. In my case, years with the Royal Artillery, Searchlights, LAA Batteries and my last posting was with 19th AA(Z) Regt RHQ at Palace Court, W2, where we "Ops" girls manned the plotting boards and telecommunications during air raids and V1 and V2 attacks. We scorned a RA officer's suggestion that the men should take over at such times, we were the ATS and capable of doing the job as well as any man.

After 32 years Margaret Kelly and I have remained firm friends and we wonder where our former Junior Commanders P. Frost and Zena are these days, and the ATS Sergeant Darling; Cpl Pam Lord our heartless PT NCO, who insisted on an exercise session after a busy operational night; Margaret Pollock who taught me to "read" and knit and was an expert at darning stockings, Beryl our expert on French History, Ruby, who being a Scot, always maintained she was on "foreign service" and Marie who was fond of American cigarettes and could sniff out a supply from any distance. Then there were our male counterparts Col Watkins, Capt Jutsum, the Adjutant, Capt Bentley and

Lt Jones. These last were our favourites for their unfailing good manners even on parade and the RSM Mr Baldock, a pre-war soldier who had trained with the Guards but who never failed to tell us how smart we were and how proud he was of his ATS girls.

One thing which stands out in my memory, was our precious leave which was always regular except when the Normandy landings preparations curtailed the length of time allowed. In spite of danger and shortages they were great days.

Unit News

Northern Ireland

WRAC ELEMENT

CHRISTMAS came and went too quickly due to all the activities which were arranged. One activity was a Marathon Jigsaw Competition and Cpl Birt captained the non-stop 48 hour replay of puzzlers. We did not win but managed a prize for staying the course! We also had a 12th Night dance in January.

Our next big day was the 25th Anniversary of the WRAC, which we marked by having a combined church service and this was followed by a glass of sherry and piece of birthday cake in the Ulster Defence Regiment Drill Hall. Major General P. J. H. Leng MBE, MC, and many Heads of Arms and Services did us the honour of attending. We were delighted to have members of the WRAC TAVR from 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V), 204 (NI) General Hospital RAMC (V) and Queen's University OTC who completed the representation of serving members in Northern Ireland. Regrettably we were unable to include ex-members of the Corps.

North East District

8 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Riding for the Disabled

THE Association for Riding for the Disabled brings a party of children to Catterick Garrison Saddle Club every Tuesday morning, where they spend an hour in the riding school on ponies provided free by the Club.

Unfortunately the WRAC in Catterick have hardly ever been free to help on a week day morning, but when we heard that the Association was organising a week's riding holiday nearby in August 1973 several of us volunteered to help.

The holiday began on a Sunday, beautifully sunny and hot. The meeting-place was Jervaulx Abbey, and the OC and Sgt Mason went to help. The children were brought by minibus from Morris Grange, the Red Cross hostel near Scotch Corner. The ponies, lent by local children, arrived by road or horsebox. Half the party were to ride in the morning, the other half in the afternoon. The children were either physically handicapped or mentally sub-normal, but they were all very cheerful and courageous, friendly and very well-mannered, so the initial shyness of the helpers, particularly those who had come for the first time, quickly disappeared.

Special mounting blocks were used to help the disabled children, those who were in wheelchairs were lifted into their saddles, a helper led each pony, and another walked on each side in case the child needed support. So the party set off across the park towards the river.

Meanwhile the OC took the rest of the children to play in the ruins of the Abbey. Some of the boys quickly disappeared on hands and knees into dark subterranean tunnels which must have been the monks' sewerage system, fortunately disused for several centuries. The girls sat on tombstones in the sunshine, listening to stories told by the Red Cross cadet helpers. One little boy was fascinated by the old stone coffins and he insisted on getting in, lying down and calling to his friends to "put on t'lid".

The morning passed quickly, and we re-assembled for picnic lunch. Two kind American visitors to the Abbey noticed our party and bought every child an ice cream.

In the afternoon the OC went with the riding party, in charge of a boy who rode on a fat hairy white pony called, appropriately, Thelwell. The riding was very strenuous for the helpers, particularly when the ponies were trotting. Thelwell was so fat that his saddle kept sliding round under his tummy, but his disabled rider took it very calmly, and his helpers always managed to catch him. So the first day came to an end, with children and helpers tired but happy.

Next day LCpl Williams came to help Sgt Mason, and the OC returned to her office, pre-

sumably for a rest. By now the children were getting more accustomed to their ponies, and the helpers did not have to support them so much. But they had to run faster and farther when the ponies trotted. When the children were not riding, they helped to groom the ponies and clean the tack. Sometimes there was swimming in the Morris Grange Pool. One day there was a lovely visit to the race horses in a stable at Middleham. In the evening there were films, although the children were always ready for early bed. On the last day there was a gymkhana, at which there was so much shouting, running about and laughing that it was nearly the end of helpers and children alike.

At last the time came to say goodbye to the children. The helpers were tired, but we did not regret the time and effort we had spent. And we will not forget the wonderful courage, patience and good humour of the disabled children we had been privileged to help.

London District

WRAC BATTERY 17 TRAINING REGIMENT AND DEPOT RA



WO2 S. Dawson receiving her brass mounted cannon presented by 17 Trg Regt and Depot RA.

WO2 S DAWSON retired from the WRAC on 30th January 1974. She has now emigrated to Australia to join her sister in Bondi. The photograph was taken at Heathrow Airport where she was presented with a brass mounted cannon by the RSM WO1 J. Steele 17 Trg Regt and Depot RA. WO2 Dawson completed 22 years' service, having served in places as diverse as Singapore and Guildford. A thoroughly loyal member of the Corps she will be greatly missed.

South East District

D COMPANY, 16 BATTALION RAOC

Exercise "Lock Paddle"

THIS was a 16 Bn RAOC venture in which those taking part took turns in navigating, steering, cooking and working the locks as they travelled in two narrow boats on the Oxford Canal from Rugby to Oxford via Banbury and back. They had canoe instruction, too, and when not engaged in the activities listed above were to be seen paddling from lock to lock. D Coy were represented by LCpl Macmillan, Ptes Beevers, Cawdron, Knight, Kuszczak and Peck for the full week and by 2Lts Jones and Price for half the week each. There are easier ways of going from Rugby to Oxford and back but it is thought that the following comments would be of interest to swimmers from other units.

"Some of the bends were too sharp for a boat 70 feet long so we had some unplanned stops to get ourselves off the mudbanks and rebuild a few bridges." . . . "The next minute I was hanging on with my hands with my feet in the water and she couldn't do anything but laugh." . . . "I enjoyed the canoeing but I wouldn't take it up as a hobby." . . . "At first I was amazed at the sheer genius of the way the locks worked but by the end I was wishing there was an easier way to turn the handle and that the maintenance men would use more oil." . . . "When he said, 'Run on to the next lock' he'd forgotten it was three miles away, but run she did." . . . "The only thing I didn't like was sleeping in a sleeping bag." . . . "The weather could have been better. We did have a couple of nice days and the sun was shining when one of the girls fell in." . . . "Once in the canoe I enjoyed it." . . . "The boats were so narrow that if you weren't slim you had problems." . . . "The lad's boat flooded so while they took their saturated belongings to the launderette we went shopping." . . . "I played chess." . . . "It was a magnificent work of art. First you had to screw a tap on, then pump some water in from the canal, then use it, then pump the water out, then pump some more in with another pump, then screw back the tap to prevent more water coming in." . . . "The food was good and the whole trip was super." . . . "So without hesitation, she went headlong into the canal and in the excitement I forgot to take the lens cap off my camera." . . . "It was great fun and I learnt a lot." . . . "Not everyone can say they've lived on a barge for a week."

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The One That Got Away

Reports from D Coy WRAC at Bicester usually list all sorts of things that we have done. This time we thought we would be different and tell of something we haven't done and that is the story behind the accompanying photograph.



Each winter the RAOC Association runs a monthly games evening. The WRAC are always in evidence as members of departmental teams (the food is good, too) but for the final evening of the season we produced an all D Coy

team. They were confident of success at "Limbo", but that would be all, they thought. However, encouraged by their initial win at darts (we haven't a hope), the combination of storewomen, tech clerks, CCO and platoon officer went on to win all other games. When the RAOC recovered from the shock they pointed out that with only one other evening like that D Coy would have been the season's champions and insisted that the team had their photograph taken with the cup. Modesty prevented our remarking that we wouldn't have wished to embarrass them too often and it was their Association after all and, mindful of the generous contribution that the RAOC Association makes to our Benevolent Fund, we agreed. The resulting photograph shows Lt Col J. F. Shircliff and Capt H. Houseman, Chairman and Secretary of the Bicester Branch of the Association, with the team of 2Lt Treasure, Ptes Clark, Mitchel, Gray and Cunningham, and Cpl Whisken with their reserve, Major Athoe—not to mention the cup they didn't win.

BAOR

HEADQUARTERS BERLIN INFANTRY BRIGADE

THE highlight of the WRAC activities in Berlin this quarter was the visit in November. The plan was that the party would be collected by DWRAC, Brigadier E. J. Nolan, at the start of her tour of BAOR. On a lightning tour of our three main groups of WRAC, 247 (Berlin) Pro Coy RMP, 3 Squadron 13 Signal Regiment and the three Headquarters, DWRAC managed to meet most of us, apparently in good health and heart.

Our numbers have grown since that visit. Just before Christmas Cpl Toni Edwards arrived from Rheindahlen to lead a small contingent of encoding operators ADPI. They are attached to Ordnance Services Berlin and will work in a brand new Automatic Data Processing Centre in the north of the British Sector, near Alexander Barracks. Soon afterwards Pte Josie Clarke and Pte Gloria Dash arrived from COD Bicester.

Two WRAC marriages have taken place here recently, and in both cases 229 Signal Squadron was responsible. LCpl Chris Coombes became Mrs Alan Parry on 8th September, and LCpl Joyce Roberts became Mrs Eamonn O'Donnell in December. Mrs O'Donnell has decided to soldier on in Brigade Headquarters until her husband is posted.

On the sports front we have met with some measure of success. After taking part in the local Ladies' Netball League, our Netball Team comprising Cpl Chris Davison, LCpls Jenny Newton (Captain), Sue Corbishley, Jackie Pendlebury (Headquarters), Eileen Grainger (3 Squadron), Cpl Mary Allen and LCpl Vida Rickett (247 (Berlin) Pro Coy RMP) and Cpl Toni Edwards (Ordnance Services) in reserve, set off on the Military Train for Rheindahlen. They managed to beat Northag Troop and 13 Signal Regiment. However, the strength and experience of 29 Company defeated them, and also won the day. By all accounts the meeting was enjoyed by everyone.

We have facilities for plenty of sports in Berlin and individuals participate in squash, badminton and swimming. A most seasonable sport is skiing, and several girls are taking part in two courses for WRAC at Silberhütte.

4 SQUADRON (BIELEFELD), 16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Liaison visit to WRAF Gutersloh

ON Wednesday 28th November 1973, a party of nine WRAC visited WRAF Gutersloh from Ripon Barracks Sports Field and flown by Wessex helicopter to RAF Gutersloh. This all seemed very doubtful when we looked at the weather and gazed out across the vast stretches of snow in Bielefeld. However, at 0845 a tumultuous roar could be heard and, hovering above us was the Wessex helicopter. The helicopter landed safely, blowing the snow in a "powder cloud" all over us. We all scrambled aboard, and, at the direction of the Flight Master, fastened ourselves in, put on the ear defenders and listened to the various emergency procedures. Soon we were speeding through the air toward Gutersloh. The scenery looked very attractive with everything clothed in white beneath us. The flight took fifteen minutes and soon we were at Gutersloh.

On arrival, we were given a briefing on the functional role of the Wessex. The more athletic members of the party scrambled into the cockpit and had a look at the controls. We then went to WRAF accommodation where we were given coffee by the WRAF Cooks and Stewards. Whilst having coffee they gave us a small fashion parade of their various uniforms.

The party then proceeded to the Flight Simulator Building. Here we were able to see RAF Pilots going through all the motions of a Lightning Flight in a "mock-up" cabin. In view of

the power economy we did not see the whole procedure but we were able to get a very good idea of the mechanics and functions of the Simulator.

After lunch we went to the Parachute Packing Department. Here the WRAF packed the brake parachutes for the Lightnings and the smaller parachutes for the ejector seats. This was very definitely a tough and repetitive job. A great deal of strength was required to pack these enormous chutes into comparatively minute containers. The WRAF we spoke to seemed to enjoy the job because they got a great deal of spare time, more than in other trades.

Finally we went to the Air Traffic Control Tower. This job was an enviable one to all of the party. The excitement of listening to the planes being talked down through thick fog was the main attraction.

Sadly our day with the WRAF came to an end. All too soon we loaded ourselves into the minibus to travel back to Bielefeld. Listening to the general chatter at the back of the bus, it was obvious that no one was going to apply for transfer. But, at the same time, the WRAC were very impressed with the charming manners and by the way we were welcomed and looked after. We now look forward to a visit here from the WRAF and hope that we can give them as enjoyable a day as we had with them.

Sport

BADMINTON

THE BAOR Badminton Championships were held recently at Rheindahlen Garrison. Among the record number of entries, especially in the Ladies' sections, were members of the WRAC here in Germany. During past championships, ladies' events have been dominated by civilians, but this year the WRAC came into their own. After months of hard practice the standard of play of the girls has increased tremendously and when the time came for the championships to begin, the WRAC were ready for their civilian opponents.

On finals day 14th February three girls had reached the top. Cpl Joyce of 16 Signal Regt played Mrs Alexander in the final of the Ladies' plate, but unfortunately was beaten. However two young ladies of 29 Company WRAC had their heyday. In the morning Ptes Rolfe and Abbott beat Mrs Dore and Mrs Howlett in the Ladies' doubles: 10-15, 15-7, 15-3 to become Ladies' Doubles Champions. In the afternoon before a crowd of distinguished visitors Pte Rolfe soundly beat her finals opponent Mrs Cutler 11-2, 11-2, to become Ladies' Singles Champion 1974.



Ptes Rolfe and Abbott in action in the Ladies' Doubles Final.

This is the first time on record of the championships of a member of the WRAC winning any competition, it is a credit to their hard work and training and the very high standard reached in this competition.

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The Grand Reunion

LONG before the doors opened officially on Saturday, 16th March 1974, members were collecting at the Commonwealth Institute eager for the start of a very special Grand Reunion. Not only were we celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the WRAC, but we were being honoured by the presence of our two Royal Ladies, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent, and were meeting in a new and unusual venue.

The orchestra of the WRAC Staff Band played selections of light music while we greeted our friends and scrambled for tables and drinks. The first official guest to arrive was Alderman F. W. Marshall, Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, who was welcomed by our Chairman of Council, Colonel D. H. I. Wilson, accompanied by Colonel L. M. Davies, Vice-President of the Association, and Colonel M. D. M. Humphery, Chairman of the Reunion Committee.

Five minutes later the Mayor received Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent, who was wearing an attractive multicoloured dress. Shortly afterwards, Her Royal Highness, President of the WRAC Association, received Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. Various presentations were made in the foyer including Brigadier E. J. Nolan, Director WRAC, members of the Reunion Committee, Mr J. K. Thomson, Director of the Commonwealth Institute and Mr J. R. Turner, the Institute's Public Relations Officer.

Her Majesty, wearing a long dress and stole in shades of blue and green, walked up the ramp to the sound of a fanfare and the National Anthem was played as the platform party took their places for the speeches.

Colonel M. D. M. Humphery, Chairman of the Reunion Committee, in welcoming Her Majesty, stressed how proud and honoured we were to have our Commandant in Chief with us. Her Majesty was held in affection and admiration by us all and it was wonderful to have her there.

Alderman F. W. Marshall, Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, extended a warm welcome to Her Majesty on behalf of the Borough and regretted the end of the long association our Headquarters had had with Chelsea.



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent on arrival at the Commonwealth Institute.

Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant WRAC, spoke with knowledge and great interest of the work of the Corps today and the various stations she had visited.

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, said that, having started with the ATS, she had watched with pride the progress of the WRAC as a Corps of the Regular Army celebrating its 25th Anniversary that evening. The QMAAC, of the First World War, would be happy to see their traditions so well maintained. Her Majesty went on to say that she was sure many present would remember with affection Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal and referred to her interest in the Memorial Fund that bears Her Royal Highness' name.



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother during her address.

WO1 E. Stevenson WRAC proposed a vote of thanks to Her Majesty. This concluded the formal part of the evening.

After excellent, and lavish, refreshments had been served, the Royal Ladies circulated among members and representatives from all Areas were presented. Never can so little attention have been paid to the exhibits in the Commonwealth Institute as we dodged about among the showcases looking for friends. In the usual buzz of happy chatter the evening went like a flash till the sound of the National Anthem heralded the departure of Her Majesty who left to the sound of hearty, and heartfelt, cheers called for by WO1 Stevenson.

As ever the Reunion, for the rest of us, ended with Auld Lang Syne and we all went on our way with many expressions of gratitude to the Reunion Committee, and their other helpers, for all they had done to make this very memorable occasion so enjoyable and such a huge success.

Her Majesty's Speech

AS Commandant-in-Chief of the Auxiliary Territorial Service on its formation and now of the Women's Royal Army Corps, I have watched with pride your progress and achievements from a wartime Service to your role today as a well established Corps of the Regular Army. I am, therefore, especially happy to be with you this evening to join in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association.

There are here with us at this Reunion some whose service dates back to the days of the first World War, and we offer to them our especial welcome, and I feel certain that they must be happy to see that their tradition of service is being so worthily maintained by their successors of the WRAC.

A Reunion is naturally a time to look back, and all here this evening must have your own special memories; in the case of some of you they span many years, whereas for the young serving members it may be only a matter of months, but you are all united by the sense of comradeship and a pride in your Service in the Armed Forces. I too have my own special memories as the mother of a young wartime Officer in the ATS, from whom I learned something of the hopes and anxieties and also of the happiness of those who were enrolled in your Service in the second World War.

It is, I know, sometimes difficult for the young to realise that the time will come when they will turn to the Association to renew old friendships or, perhaps, for assistance in some financial crisis. As Patron of the ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds, I know how much has been done, and is being done all the time, for many ex-Servicewomen, and I rejoice too in the knowledge of the wonderful help being given by the Memorial Fund for The Princess Royal, who many of you here will remember with affection.

To all of you here this evening I offer my warmest good wishes and I hope that each one of you will find happiness and enjoyment in the renewal of old friendships and in the celebration of this important anniversary.

Reunion Highlights



Her Royal Highness talking to Members.

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother escorted by Col M. D. M. Humphery CBE (Retd), Chairman Reunion Committee.

Her Majesty talking to Members.



continued from page 37

SQUASH

The British are Coming
Major S Taylor

THE British are coming! So said a notice pinned to the board of the Berwyn Squash Club, near Philadelphia, USA, recently. What it really meant was, the Combined Services Women's Squash Team from Britain is coming.

I consider myself very fortunate to have been a member of that very team. The other four members were: 2nd Offr Jennie MacColl WRNS, Flt Lt Diana Donaldson WRAF, Fl Offr Liz Curtis WRAF and WO "Taff" Davies WRAF.

On 1st February, the five of us set off on what was a "first" in the history of Combined Services Women's Squash; a 2½ week tour of the east coast of the United States, to play the Americans at their own game of Squash. The American game of Squash differs from ours in several ways. The main differences are the size and type of ball, the extra weight and sturdiness of the racket, the narrower court, the wooden walls and the very different method of scoring. Undaunted, we set out to learn this new game, enjoy it and win as many matches as possible into the bargain.

We arrived in Washington DC at 1740 hours local time on 1st February. We were met by a very friendly American couple who hosted us for the weekend and who we were to meet again at the end of our tour. They were Carol and Terry Thesieres. Carol was ranked about number 4 Squash player in the USA. We soon found out how good she was when she played for us in our friendly match versus the men of the Pentagon. (The humiliating thing was that afterwards she took me on just for one game with an English ball and beat me!)

In the two weeks that followed we travelled to Columbia and Baltimore, both in Maryland, Wilmington Delaware, Hartford Connecticut, Boston Massachusetts and Philadelphia, before returning to Washington. The whole tour was beautifully organised. All we had to do was to get ourselves from place to place. This we learned to do quickly and were soon experts at loading luggage on to whatever form of transport we were faced with.

At the outset we were each presented with a squash racket to add to those we had taken with us. I really felt professional with no less than four rackets tucked under my arm (all different naturally)! The fact that I knew very well I was well nigh useless at their game was

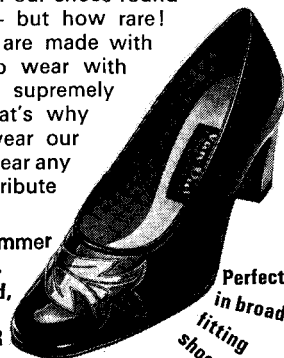
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just by the way. I jest a little here, because it was reckoned that our best player would have slipped in at 15th spot in the National ratings, so that would make me about 25th.

I cannot praise too highly our various hosts who were, without exception, players too. They were marvellous; nothing was too much trouble for them. They made sure we ate sticky buns, English muffins, waffles and maple syrup and scrapple at one breakfast or another. Hot dogs, hamburgers, hot pretzels (guaranteed to give you indigestion), and ice cream sundaes were also a must. Talk about sabotage! It's no wonder we didn't lose any weight!

Between travelling, eating, sightseeing, tobogganning down gentle snowy slopes and writing numerous postcards, we did fit in a lot of Squash. In fact we played on 13 out of the 16 days and at times found ourselves being driven by new hosts straight from the rail or coach terminus to the local squash club for some practice!

In all we played nine matches; three against men and the remainder against women. We beat one team of men 5-0, but lost against the other two teams. We won three matches against

women's teams and lost three, two of the losses being at the hands of teams containing the National Champion. All the matches were played in the friendliest spirit and usually followed by some double games. This was always great fun; never to be forgotten. On one occasion in Baltimore four of us had to be helped from the court, we were so weak from laughter.

We made a lot of friends in that short 2½ weeks. Several of them plan to come to Britain in the next 18 months. If they make it, then we will have the opportunity to return some of the hospitality they afforded us and it will give us the greatest pleasure to do so.

Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve

LEEDS UNIVERSITY OTC

SINCE the beginning of this academic year the strength of the WRAC Sub Unit has increased markedly and we can boast to being the biggest Sub Unit in the Corps. We have, after all, a reputation to uphold after winning both "Best Attended Sub Unit Cup", as a sub unit and "Best Recruiter of the Year Trophy".

Congratulations are due to O/Cdts Poole and Howles who during the year were successful on their commissioning courses at Camberley along with O/Cdt Bennell who was successful in the Christmas Certificate Military Training Exam at Strensall. Congratulations also to our OC, Capt May Conley, on her recent award of the Territorial Decoration.

We are looking forward now to our Annual Camp at Westdown where the possibility of seeing some of the displays at the Schools of Artillery and Infantry will, I am sure, combine well with the fortnight's training. We are also looking forward in summer to more cadets obtaining attachments with Regular WRAC Units in BAOR as were undertaken by O/Cdts Poole and Woodhouse in the previous year.

94 (BERKS YEO) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

What you can do in the Territorial Army

CAROLINE Franklin (27) of Clarence Road, Windsor, is a keen parachutist—an ambition catered for in the Army.

This enthusiastic and good looking young member of the Women's Royal Army Corps in 94 Signal Squadron, based in the TAVR Drill Hall at Windsor, has not only been engaged in her favourite sport, but has become so good at it that she has qualified as a fully-fledged member of the Blue Helmets—the free-fall team of the Royal Corps of Signals. The other members (all men) regard Caroline as a great sport and encourage her with advice on all aspects of free-fall jumping.



Pte Caroline Franklin after successfully completing her qualifying jump to join the Blue Helmets Free-Fall Parachute Team.

Having qualified with a near perfect landing at Aldershot, she was presented with the coveted badge by Brigadier J. C. Clinch, who commands 2 Signal Group. Caroline is training in her Squadron to be a data telegraphist, one of the more interesting jobs in the Royal Corps of Signals. In civil life, she is employed at the Berkshire College of Agriculture as the course organiser in veterinary nursing.

Association News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1974

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

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

Col Davies opened the meeting by welcoming the members present. Apologies had been received from 25 members and Branch Secretaries.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 17th March 1973, having been circulated in the June issue of the *Lioness* were taken as read and signed as correct.

2. BUSINESS ARISING

a. New Rule books had been printed and sent to members.

b. Plant a Tree in 1973. Three Branches, Portsmouth, Stafford and Bournemouth, had planted trees.

REPORTS

3. REPORT OF COUNCIL

The report of Council was given by Colonel D. H. I. Wilson OBE (Retd) and is printed elsewhere.

4. HONORARY TREASURER

Mrs Laurence-Smith, Honorary Treasurer of the Association, said the audited accounts had been published in the February issue of the *Lioness*. She was pleased to report that 1972/73 had been a good year with income exceeding expenditure by £767, and continued by giving an explanation of the account. The Life membership Subscription Fund showed a slight increase. £470 had been invested (£270 8½% Treasury Loan Stock and £200 8% Treasury Stock).

Subscriptions showed an increase due in part to the introduction of the Corps Subscription scheme for officers. Interest from investments was about the same, but that from deposit was up by £26. £1,000 had been donated to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund from the proceeds of a Grand Draw, Fund raising activities and donations. Administrative costs had risen, due largely to the printing of new Rule Books and application forms.

The *Lioness* account showed a loss of only £7. The Treasurer explained the reasons for this and said as it was already costing more to produce than is received and as costs were

rising rapidly we must be thankful for this year's nearly balanced budget.

Mrs Laurence-Smith concluded by proposing the adoption of the audited account, this was seconded by Lt Col R. J. King and carried unanimously.

5. EDITOR

The Editor, Major P. R. Wyndham Tate, said that everyone knew that the financial position had been a source of anxiety for some years, savings achieved had been swallowed by increased prices in production, postage and other items, and she had decided to tackle the situation by trying to increase sales. To achieve this she felt a more attractive up to date image was required, with content that would appeal to ex-servicewomen and the young servicewoman alike.

An appeal to Unit Commanders had increased sales dramatically, if this trend was maintained it might be possible to increase advertising to make the *Lioness* viable.

Major Wyndham Tate said changes would include alternating colours for the cover background with a topical photograph as centre-piece, and to make the *Lioness* more readable articles would be grouped by subjects and a competition with an outright winner would continue. A measure to cut costs would be the introduction of larger type, which would involve a loss of four to five columns. The Editor said obituaries would be cut down, but all deaths would be reported and members wishing to, could get further details from the Association. Major Wyndham Tate said it would help if articles and reports were kept concise and suggested 150 words for Branch reports, she also asked contributors to pay for printing photographs wherever possible.

The Editor concluded by thanking Major Coven for her untiring efforts to obtain advertisements, and the Assistant Editor Captain S. F. Healy for her assistance in getting contributions, especially from Reserve Units.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a. ATS/WRAC Benevolent Fund

Colonel L. M. Davies, Chairman of the Trustees, said that the Trustees of the Fund met three times during the year.

A major change in the income of the WRAC Fund had arisen through the introduction of the Corps Subscription Scheme for Officers and Servicewomen, under this scheme subscriptions were deducted quarterly by the Paymaster, thus providing an assured income for the Fund. Colonel Davies said the Trustees were very

grateful to those who support these schemes.

During the year the Grants Committee had continued to meet weekly and dealt with 441 cases, a drop on previous years, a total of £7,503 had been spent on grants. Seven mothers and their seventeen children went on one week holidays to Pontin's holiday camps through the generosity of Mr Pontin, and with financial help from the Army Benevolent Fund.

Colonel Davies thanked Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, and Mrs Wentworth Reeve who had retired as Trustees, Dame Mary after 20 years as a Trustee. Mrs Weldon, Chairman of the Grants Committee for six years, had retired from this office but remained on the Committee, she too was thanked. Lieutenant Colonel Soames was the new Chairman of the Grants Committee. The Trustees reported with regret the death of Miss H. J. S. Orr, a member of the Grants Committee for six years.

The Trustees had given approval for Warrant Officers Class 2 to attend Committee Meetings monthly, to help create a better understanding among servicewomen of the work of the Fund.

Colonel Davies expressed the gratitude of the Trustees for the WRAC Association's donation of £1,000 to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund raised by a Grand Draw and other fund raising activities. This, with donations from Areas and Branches, nearly £100 from Miss Vaughan Morgan's coffee party and a legacy, had enabled the Fund to raise the number of annuitants to 25 of whom 11 had been accepted during the year. The Fund had further benefited by an anonymous transfer of 1,500 Morgan Grampian shares.

Colonel Davies concluded by giving details of legacies and donations in Memoriam received during the year, and said how grateful the Trustees were for help given during the year.

Legacies

ATS Fund: Miss K. M. Donaldson, £200;
Mrs L. Garstin, £50.

Princess Royal's Memorial Fund: Miss A. E. Bull, £466.

Donations in Memoriam

ATS Fund: Miss H. J. S. Orr, £2; Miss E. M. Glass, £8.

WRAC Fund: Miss E. M. Glass, £56.

b. WRAC Regimental Museum

The Chairman of the Trustees, Col L. M. Davies, said that the number of visitors this year had risen to 4,920, an increase of 531 on last year. Mainly due to Mrs Bell's devoted efforts the income had practically doubled and reached a record £206.

The 3.7 AA gun had been lent to the Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery Exhibition to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Assay Office.

Col Davies said the Trustees had gratefully accepted several interesting exhibits including medals from relatives of former servicewomen, ATS and WRAC Sports trophies, a copy of a painting of the Royal School of Artillery and a bound programme of the visit of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent to Hong Kong in 1970. Two unusual gifts were the certificate of adoption of 3 P1 B Coy 323 (Stafford) Bn WRAC(TA) in 1953 by the Borough of Stafford, and a document of Hitler's family tree said to be painted by himself, a legacy from Mrs Barbara Armstrong (née Kentish).

A unique gift was the round bronze plaque embossed Britannia with the words "She died for freedom and honour", commemorating the death of Margaret Selina Caswell QMAAC in the 1914-18 war, although over a million of these plaques were issued for men, such an item naming a woman is extremely rare, and the whereabouts of any other is not known. The plaque is mounted with the scroll and letter signed by His Majesty King George V with Miss Caswell's General Service Medal and photograph.

Col Davies concluded by thanking the Assistant Curator, Mrs Bell for her untiring work, enthusiasm and for looking after the Museum so well.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Col Davies said there was one vacancy for Council Vice-President vice Col D. H. I. Wilson who was now Chairman of Council. Council nomination was Lt Col M. W. Soames MBE (Retd). There were no other nominations, elected unanimously.

Mrs H. E. C. Weldon, Mrs W. Whitehouse, and Lt Col G. E. M. Saunders-Davies TD (Retd) were eligible for re-election, declared elected.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Col Davies reminded members that the Service at the Royal Hospital Chelsea was at 11 am the next day.

b. Mrs A. J. Stevenson, Chairman Headquarter Branch identified herself and said she hoped to meet members of her Branch during the Reunion.

c. Branch Secretaries were (as they had not had their customary meeting) asked to raise any points. There were none. Col C. E. Hammond

thanked Council and Staff for keeping Secretaries so well informed.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Col Davies announced that the AGM would be on Saturday, 15th March 1975 in York.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

Council of the Association met four times during the year, and dealt with current business, which included publication of the revised Rules and the problems arising from the rapid increase in the cost of printing and postage during the year. The Executive Committee met three times, and among other business planned the Grand Reunion to be held this evening.

After last year's AGM a most successful and enjoyable fund raising event was held including the draw by Col L. M. Davies CBE for the winning Grand Draw tickets. Council are most grateful to all those who gave prizes, made donations, bought tickets and supported the stalls, so making it possible for £1,000 to be given to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

Council is sorry to note the closure of the Aberdeen Branch, but pleased to report the formation of a branch in Cardiff, the South Wales Branch, and a considerable increase in membership of serving officers.

Successful Reunions were held by Scottish, Northern and Western Areas and No 2 Sub Area of South West Area.

Ex-service members and a small detachment of WRAC attended the Service of Dedication of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey where the Association Cross was planted by Lt Col P. Norman, MBE, ADWRAC London District. The Association wreath was laid at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday by Miss D. Briant, BEM, of Aldershot Branch, supported by members from other Branches. Some members also attended the Service of Remembrance held this year in St Margaret's Westminster.

Many members have helped through the year by sending used stamps and Green Shield stamps to Headquarters, for these Council are most grateful. Mrs Scraggs continues to collect and sell the used stamps for the Benevolent Fund.

We are most grateful to those branches which have during the year made donations to the Benevolent Fund and the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, and to members who loyally year after year knit and send parcels of much needed knitted clothes. I want too to thank

those who have, at our request, visited and helped ex-servicewomen whose difficulties became known through the Benevolent Fund.

In last year's report of Council mention was made of the Lord Kitchener's Memorial Holiday Home, the change of charter to allow ex-servicewomen to use the Home took longer than expected, but ex-servicewomen can now enjoy very reasonably priced holidays there in April and September, details were given in the February Lioness.

Area and Branch office holders have, as always, supported the Association loyally throughout the year, many interesting meetings and functions have taken place so keeping branches active and the Association alive.

An analysis of membership carried out in July showed an active membership of 2,598 with an additional 700 life members not in touch for various reasons, this was almost the same as the previous year, as was the number whose subscriptions lapsed, 216. Once again council ask members to do all they can to publicise the Association, making the best possible use of local TV, radio and press, in an effort to increase substantially this figure in 1974.

The Association was represented during the year on the Co-ordinating Committee for Ex-Service Organisations, the World Veterans' Federation and the Advisory Council of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

Four members from branches attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in July and much enjoyed this privilege.

Finally I would like to say how honoured I am to be your Chairman, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and to serving you in that capacity.

News of Members

Miss Katherine Bottrell c/- Customs Mail, A & NZ Banking Group Ltd, Martin Place & George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia would like to hear news of anyone who served with her in 1st County of London GD Coy (Duke of York's) or attached to 339 S/L Battery RA (Swakelys, Middx) or 466 LAA Battery RA (Pinner, Middx)—in particular from the last named, Pte Winnie RASEY.

Mrs Elizabeth Bustard of Lyndon Square, Bramham, nr Leeds, demobbed from the ATS in 1948 and a member of the Royal British Legion for the last 25 years, has been presented with the Merit Award for "Outstanding Service".

Ex-Sgt R Joy Miller would be pleased to hear from any of her old friends or acquaintances she served with in the ATS/WRAC 1948-1960. Replies to 298 Leigh Road, Chandlers Ford, Hants, Tel: 67012.

Mrs Emily Mehaffey (ex Sgt Mehaffey C Coy ATS, Lisonelly Camp, Yaten Road, Omagh) would like to hear from any old friends who served with her 1939-45. Replies to 15 Mountjoy Road, Omagh, Tyrone NI.

Reunions

QMAAC REUNION



QMAAC members enjoying tea during their Reunion at the Victory Services Club, on Friday 15th March 1974.

WESTERN AREA REUNION 1973

IN October it was the turn of the Liverpool branch to act as host to the Western Area Reunion and we were very pleased to welcome about 140 members representing WAAC, QMAAC, ATS and WRAC Regular and Territorial Army, past and present, from a wide area. We were all delighted that our Director, Brig E. Nolan, was able to come despite her many other commitments. It was also a pleasure to have with us Lt Col P. Norman who has now left the area for a posting in London.

At the Reunion a gift was presented to Mrs Kay Moorcroft in appreciation of her work as Vice-Chairman and Area representative on the Association Council.

It was generally agreed that the Reunion was a great success and we are grateful to everyone who helped to make the event so enjoyable. We understand that the next reunion is to be held in the southern part of the area and we hope to meet members of the new Cardiff branch.

As a result of the Area Reunion the Liverpool branch have increased their membership considerably. Our new members have attended subsequent meetings and have contributed to our efforts to make the branch a lively body of ex-servicewomen in the locality.

THE Northern Area Reunion will be held in the Parliament Room, Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate on Saturday, 19th October 1974 from 3 pm to 6 pm. The Director, Brigadier E. J. Nolan and Colonel D. H. I. Wilson OBE (Retd), Chairman of Council have been invited and very much hope to be able to attend. Tickets 50p including refreshments may be obtained from ADWRAC, HQ North East District, Fishergate, York YO1 4AU. Please send stamped addressed envelope with remittance by Thursday, 10th October 1974.

WHY MR. SACCONE TURNED A HOSEPIPE ON MR. SPEED.

The incident occurred around the turn of the century when Mr. Saccone and Mr. Speed owned rival companies, each one determined to outdo the other in the quality of the wine they supplied to the British Fleet.

Mr. Saccone was aboard a warship, conducting his business when Mr. Speed came on board.

To deter the rival supplier, Mr. Saccone suggested to one of the sailors that he turn the hosepipe on the newcomer.

The sailor complied.

Now the point of this story is that incident was the last of its kind, because shortly afterwards Saccone and Speed joined forces, and ever since have enjoyed an excellent reputation for supplying the armed forces and the civilian population with fine quality wines.

And we certainly don't turn hosepipes on our rivals anymore.

SACCONE & SPEED LTD.

In association with Charles Kinloch & Co. Ltd.

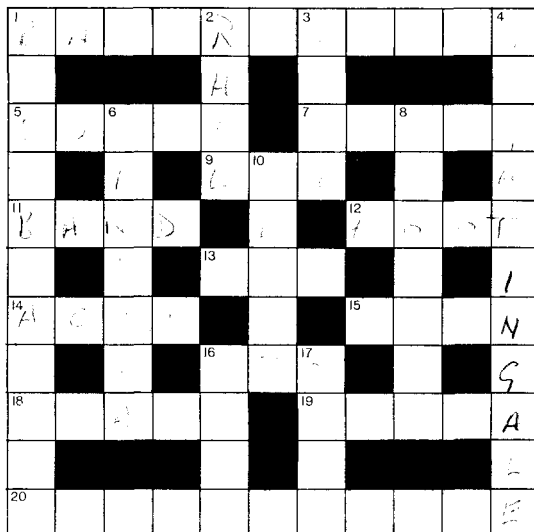
KINLOCH HOUSE, 17 CUMBERLAND AVENUE, LONDON NW10

Across

1. Cakes not sold thus with metrication (6, 5)
5. Dobbin's shoe reputed to be — (5)
7. But do Scots in this dance? (5)
9. Wedded to salt (3)
11. "Oh happy — of pilgrims" (4)
12. But not usually 12 inches (4)
13. Country dance step (3)
14. Sour unless dropped (4)
15. It fall on Spanish plains (4)
16. Rises or falls annually (3)
18. State capital is Boise (5)
19. Columbus failed to get there (5)
20. All on stage! (5, 6)

Down

1. I, Ben, grab all (anag) (11)
2. Welsh resort (4)
3. Describes people, not paving (4)
4. Philomel (11)
6. She can be Ida and one hundred (7)
8. Has this Island no grass? (7)
10. Observe but with no RV, needs a diet (5)
16. But not for the cabin trunk (4)
17. Major, minor, — (4)



Puzzle submitted by Col V. I. Fisher, WRAC Centre. The solution will be found on the last page.

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

I was very interested to read the "Editorial" of the *Lioness* (February) with regard to the servicewoman who "can test her skills against the natural elements in a peacetime world".

I left the WRAC in 1960 after 15 years' service and since then have been working and saving which has enabled me to travel all over the world. I have worked in Australia and New Zealand at various jobs, from packing biscuits in a factory to tending 30 little boys in a Home for problem children. I have seen the outback in Australia where I drove a tractor and have crossed this massive continent twice by train from Perth to Sydney.

Early in 1962 I started off with an ex-WRAC friend of mine in a Morris 1,000 traveller from England and we drove to Bingape, across Europe, West Pakistan and India, an enthralling but very hazardous journey, which took us six weeks and we lost about a stone in weight.

The cherry blossom in Japan had always been at the back of my mind, so four years ago I worked my way around Australia then flew from Sydney to Tokio and had a nine days tour around and I visited temples, saw Mount Fuji, drove on the Bullet train and wandered amongst the cherry blossom. From Tokio I flew to Moscow and spent three very apprehensive days in that lovely but depressing capital. Last year I returned to Australia via South Africa as I had already been through the Panama Canal twice and I worked in an hotel near Sydney for a few months. I was in Queensland, and saw the beginning of the floods early this year and had quite a bad time with regards to transport and paddled my way, sometimes carrying my case wrapped up in a towel! I returned home last week by cruiser jet, sailing from Sydney to Singapore via Papua, New Guinea, and Bali, where I had to leap for my life from ship to fishing smack, which took me the three miles to the shore. An 18 hour flight brought me back home safely once more. I start work on the 30th and with faith and good health, I hope to see China in 1976.

I work as a ward orderly at the Star and Garter Home, Richmond.

Davina Williams (ex-Cpl)

Dear Editor,

As a life member of the Association, I have been accepted as a member of the Ex-WAAC Association (Auckland), and have recently taken office as Secretary/Treasurer.

We would welcome members of the WRAC Association who may now be living in Auckland, New Zealand, and suggest that they write to me at 68 Tautarie Street, Orakei, Auckland 5, or telephone Auckland 546-681, for any information.

Joan White (Thomson)

Area/Branch News

CANTERBURY. The Branch celebrated its 25th Anniversary with dinners, parties and a church service and a presentation was made to Miss M. Machin in appreciation of her 25 years as our President. A presentation was also made to the Secretary whose Silver Wedding happened to fall at the same time. Although monthly meetings are not well attended, members who do turn up manage to enjoy themselves. Theatre outings, interesting visits, successful sales of goods, tea parties have all been part of our programme. The WRAC Benevolent Fund has benefited from a flow of knitted garments and money raised at sales and our Standard which is much admired has been carried in most of the City Parades and at the Thanet Festival of Remembrance.

CHEL TENHAM. The Branch has had an interesting and successful year. The membership has remained steady, the attendances have increased and there appears to be a happy feeling of fellowship among the members. We were very sorry to lose two keen and devoted members of our branch: Mrs Burke who died in July and Mrs Muriel Allott in October. Mrs Allott left a wish that donations to the branch could be given in lieu of flowers at her funeral, £30 was received and this amount has been sent to the Benevolent Fund.

Our activities have been versatile and have included a visit to Windsor Castle where the VIP treatment extended to us made the outing an outstanding success, and one which many of us will remember for many a day. In July we held our meeting at the Gloucestershire County Girl Guide Centre, Cowley, at the invitation of one of our members. It is a modern building,

beautifully designed, with all possible amenities and in a lovely setting.

Our bring and buy sale, held in October, raised a record sum of £28 for branch funds. Alas, our Christmas Party had to be cancelled owing to the National Energy emergency. Everyone was disappointed but as one member remarked: "It is no good eating good food with gloves on".

GLASGOW. Our session 1973/74 began with a Whist Drive and in May Miss M. M. Thomson gave a very interesting talk on her "East African Safari". Several members attended the Scottish Reunion at Stirling in June and as a result we gained three new members. During the autumn our activities included another Whist Drive, our annual visit to Ayr, a film show "Journey to Malawi" and a "Tuppa Party". Our annual dinner in November was a great success, and was well attended. More recently in February we were able to have Mr Howard Lockhart the radio personality to talk about "People I have met in Radio and TV". At our AGM in March Mrs M. Lang was appointed President, Mrs F. Calderwood Vice-President, Miss E. H. Butters, Secretary and Mrs F. Armstrong, Treasurer.

LONDON. We have had many interesting speakers at our meetings during recent months. Several of our members were present at the Grand Reunion at the Commonwealth Institute, where our Vice-President Mrs N. I. Giles had the pleasure of taking supper with Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. On 28th April 28 members travelled by coach to the New Metropole Restaurant, Folkestone, where we met up with members living in Kent. The Directors of the Restaurant gave us a very warm welcome and we were joined by the Mayor and Mayoress of Folkestone for sherry and an excellent lunch. Everyone seemed to take a great interest in our party; during the afternoon we were interviewed by a reporter from the local press and shown a short film of the amenities of Folkestone. We returned to London with happy memories that will remain with us for a long time.

WIMBLEDON. To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the branch in February, 25 members held a Cheese and Wine party. Brigadier Dame Mary Railton DBE gave the toast and Mrs Barbara Wyeth gave a short account of how the branch was formed. Mrs Grace Mathers and Mrs Olive Eddolls presented two beautifully iced cakes, decorated with the WRAC badge and ribbons in the Corps colours. The evening was concluded with a raffle draw and everyone ended up with a prize.

BRANCH MEETINGS

LONDON. First and third Thursday of month at 6.30 pm The Helena Club (fourth floor), 52 Lower Sloane St, SW1.

MANCHESTER. First Thursday of month (Mar-Dec), RAMC Barracks, corner of Kings Rd, Upper Chorlton Rd, Manchester 16. Visiting members welcome.

Personal Column

Vacancy. A vacancy exists in 87 Signal Squadron for a WRAC PSI to serve on a "R" Type engagement. Candidates should preferably be signals trained but those without signals training should apply as training can be given. Pay rates from £4.10 to £5.29 daily depending on rank. Apply to: Officer Commanding, 38 Signal Regiment (V), Manor TAVR Centre, Mansfield Rd, Sheffield S12 2AN.

To Let. Richmond-on-Thames Borough. Really spacious self-contained furnished flat in attractive riverside and parklands area about 12 mins Richmond Station (District Underground and Southern lines), St Margaret's Stn about 6 mins (Southern) and close shops and many bus services. Three bedrooms, large lounge and kitchen/diner, bathroom and sep WC. Garage. Three nice aspects and very sunny. Appointments only. £25 weekly for six month tenancy or longer—Box 65/74 or phone 01-892 0241 afternoons or evenings.

For Sale. Officer's No 2 Dress, Greatcoat size 14. Both little worn and in very good condition. Box 6/74.

For Sale. Officer's No 2 Dress size 12, Greatcoat size 12 and No 2 Dress skirt size 12. Box 8/74.

Are You a Member of the Association?

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the General Secretary,

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

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

Life (£10)

4 year (£2)

Annual (50p)

} member and enclose £

Please strike out whichever is not applicable.

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

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

Full Christian Name
and Surname

Address for
Correspondence

Permanent Address (if different).....

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

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

(c) Address

Corps..... Army Number

Last Rank held (Present Rank if still serving)

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

Decorations, Mention in Despatches.....

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

For Sale. No 1 Dress in good condition £8, Green Greatcoat £5. Both size 36-28-38. Height 5' 6". Box 9/74.

For Sale. Officer's Green Greatcoat, scarlet lining, size 16, height 5' 6". Very good condition £10. Latest style officer's No 2 Dress, plus spare skirt, size 14, brand new, £85. Officer's No 2 Dress, size 14, very good condition £15. White shirts, Weatheralls size 14, brand new, £1 each. Box 10/74.

Vacancy. Female Cook required for Senior Staff Club (resident post). 40 hour week, wages according to experience, within the range (resident) £21/£24 per week. Allowances payable for holders of Cookery Diplomas. Apply in writing to Miss Phipps, Catering Officer, The London Hospital Medical College, Turner Street, London E1 2AD.

Vacancy. Caterer (Female 25-40) for Academic Staff Club. About 150 lunches and snacks a day—Mondays to Fridays. Occasional dinners and receptions. Candidates, apart from good experience, must have suitable qualifications by examination and be prepared to demonstrate dishes to kitchen staff. Initial salary not less than £1,620 per annum. Four weeks' annual leave to be taken in August. Enquiries to Miss Phipps, Tel: 01-247 0644. Applications to the Secretary, The London Hospital Medical College, Turner Street, London E1 2AD within 14 days.

PRIZE WINNER

The solution to the Bird Anagram competition was as follows:

1. Grouse, 2. Albatross, 3. Sandpiper, 4. Oyster-Catcher, 5. Peregrine-Falcon, 6. Shearwater, 7. Guillemot, 8. Woodpecker, 9. Partridge, 10. Lapwing, 11. Hedge-Sparrow, 12. Pheasant, 13. Starling, 14. Stonechat, 15. Moorhen, 16. Ptarmigan, 17. Cormorant, 19. Nightingale, 20. Whitethroat.

Owing to a printer's error No 18 was discounted.

The winner was Miss A. M. Brearley, a member of the Guernsey Branch. There were 31 other correct entries.

Obituary

Carlisle. Controller Monica Carlisle CBE. As Inspector ATS she toured many units at home and abroad. The improvement in conditions that took place was largely due to her untiring work and she is remembered with great affection.

Cummings. On 7th March 1974, Miss Charlotte A. Cummings, ATS/WRAC 1945-1949.

Davison. On 5th February 1974, Mrs Gladys Mary Davison, QMAAC, aged 76.

Hawkins. On 14th December 1973, Miss (Capt) Eunice Hawkins, ATS/WRAC 1943-1950.

Headlam. In December 1973, Miss Mary Phylliss Headlam, ATS 1939-1945.

Hodder. On 14th October 1973, Mrs Clara Mary Hodder, ATS 1939-1940.

Johnson. In October 1973, Mrs Joyce Johnson, ATS 1942.

Jupp. On 9th January 1974, Mrs (Chief Commander) Cecil Mary Jupp, MBE, QMAAC and ATS.

King. On 16th February 1974, Mrs Alice Mary King, QMAAC.

Marlow. On 6th January 1974, Mrs G. Marlow (ex RSM) ATS 1940-1945.

McDonald. On 6th January 1974, Miss Catherine Isabella McDonald, QMAAC.

McDonnell. On 8th January 1974, Major Phyl McDonnell, ATS/WRAC 1938-1963.

Palmer. On 5th December 1973, Miss Mary C. Palmer, QMAAC.

Wade. In January 1974, Miss Gladys Wade, QMAAC 1917-1919.

Worling. On 9th December 1973, Miss Margaret Worling, QMAAC 1915-1918, aged 90.

Clarke. On 16th April 1974, Miss Edna Margaret Clarke, ex-RSM, ATS/WRAC.

Collier. On 18th March 1974, Mrs Janet Collier, ATS/WRAC 1939-1955.

Officers' Postings

(1 Dec 73—31 Mar 74)

Col B. I. Forbes Adam MBE Col GS MOD (WRAC 1)
 Lt Col D. P. Clark MBE LO WRAC MOD
 Maj P. M. Farwell WRAC Centre Held Strength
 Maj A. E. Herdman Grant 17 Trg Regt & Depot RA
 Maj V. C. Jones DAAG MOD (AG16)
 Maj J. M. F. S. Tait DAQMG (Qtg)/DADWRAC HQ NEARELF
 A Maj J. L. M. Brady 10 Signal Regt
 A Maj C. V. Hickman Attached RAEC Centre
 A Maj S. P. Taylor RAEC Centre
 Capt J. E. Blakeley SC "O" HQ Dhekelia Area
 Capt P. S. Davidson 49 AEC
 Capt E. R. C. Flanders CAD Kineton
 Capt J. M. Reid WSLO Catterick
 Capt A. C. Spencer Attached WRAC Centre
 A Capt D. L. Allen WRAC College
 A Capt J. A. Baker WSLO London District
 A Capt C. E. Birtwistle London District Provost Coy
 A Capt S. M. Bishop OC WRAC National Defence College
 A Capt S. M. Cannon 10 Coy WRAC
 A Capt S. D. Campbell GSO3 (Co-ord) HQ West Midland Dist
 A Capt M. L. Earnshaw SO3 WRAC HQ BAOR
 A Capt L. M. Ganter WRAC College
 A Capt G. K. Hammond SC (PS) HQ NEARELF
 A Capt R. E. R. Henderson 13 Signal Regt
 A Capt K. M. Howard 29 Coy WRAC
 A Capt M. A. S. Richey RSA Larkhill
 A Capt E. A. Ruffle 262 Signal Sqn
 A Capt R. G. Warne WRAC Centre
 Lt P. H. Bennetts 8 AEC
 Lt S. Hamer Depot Regt RCT
 Lt J. Neeve Attached 1 Regt RMP
 2Lt B. O. Allen SEME Bordon
 2Lt F. S. T. d'Apice Attached WRAC Centre
 2Lt P. M. Barry Attached 7 Regt AAC
 2Lt P. L. Bradford 20 AEC Kineton
 2Lt C. E. Bradley WRAC Centre
 2Lt E. Brown WRAC Centre
 2Lt C. I. Buchanan 16 Signal Regt
 2Lt C. A. Cardwell Attached RSA Larkhill
 2Lt S. R. Cosgrove Staff Capt to ADWRAC HQ SE District
 2Lt J. E. Day Attached as Asst Adjt 32 Lt Regt RA
 2Lt K. J. Edwards Attached as Asst Adjt to 25 Lt Regt RA
 2Lt H. G. Gage 8 Signal Regt
 2Lt C. A. Greenwood WRAC Centre
 2Lt J. A. Guthkelch Attached as Asst Adjt 22 Loc Bty RA
 2Lt G. R. Harvey SEME Bordon
 2Lt I. M. Hawes Attached as Asst Adjt 29 Cdo Regt RA
 2Lt R. A. Hewlett 30 Signal Regt
 2Lt C. V. Jee Attached 1 Regt RMP
 2Lt D. M. Jones COD Bicester
 2Lt J. A. Jones Attached WRAC Centre
 2Lt C. L. Lee Asst Adjt 11 Signal Regt
 2Lt P. S. Malcolm 10 AEC Tidworth
 2Lt R. Morgan 10 Coy WRAC
 2Lt A. C. Moules 12 Coy WRAC
 2Lt Y. M. T. Phipps 29 Coy WRAC
 2Lt L. A. Relph Attached 8 Signal Regt
 2Lt R. M. M. Rendall Attached 10 Signal Regt
 2Lt C. M. Reynolds Attached as Asst Adjt 4 Lt Regt RA
 2Lt P. H. Sherratt Attached 12 Trg Regt RCT
 2Lt J. C. A. Smith Attached HQ Trg Bde RA
 2Lt A. M. Steel Comms Projects Agency R Signals
 2Lt W. H. Swinton-Eagle 8 Signal Regt
 2Lt G. Taylor (SSVC) Attached WRAC Centre
 2Lt J. M. F. Veillard COD Donnington
 2Lt A. S. Williams Attached as Asst Adjt 47 Lt Regt RA

CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION

Across: 1. Bakers dozen, 5. Lucky, 7. Fling, 9. Lot, 11. Band, 12. Feet, 13. Set, 14. Acid, 15. Rain, 16. Hem, 18. Idaho, 19. India, 20. Grand Finale.

Down: 1. Ballbearing, 2. Rhyl, 3. Daft, 4. Nightingale, 6. Candida, 8. Iceland, 10. Obese, 16. Hold, 17. Mini.

London Gazette

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Regular Army

Colonel: B. I. Forbes Adam, MBE
 Lt-Col: D. P. Clarke, MBE, F. M. Cook, D. J. Temple
 Major: F. E. Greaves
 Captains: S. F. Healy, J. Martin, J. M. B. Phillips, J. M. Reid
 Lieutenants: C. E. Birtwistle, M. E. Davies, W. K. Hall, M. Randall, J. M. Reid, A. M. Stratford-Tuke
 2/Lieut: H. J. Gage
 2/Lieuts on probation: K. J. Edwards, L. C. Gosling, I. M. Hawes, A. C. Moules, A. M. Steel, S. M. F. Veillard

Special Regular Commissions

Lieutenant: J. Mackay
 2/Lieut: A. S. Williams
 2/Lieut on probation: L. A. Relph

Short Service Commissions

Captains: P. S. Davidson, S. Hamer, C. A. Marriott
 Lieutenants: D. L. Allen, S. Burwell, F. Y. Cook, A. P. Cox, M. J. Cunningham
 2/Lieut: C. A. Cardwell
 2/Lieuts on probation: B. O. Allen, E. Brown, F. S. T. d'Apice, J. A. Jones, J. C. A. Smith

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Lt-Col: R. M. Engel, C. H. Leese
 Captains: S. C. S. Bonavia, A. M. Page
 Lieutenant: S. A. Pennington

Special Regular Commissions

Lieutenant: J. E. M. Webber

Short Service Commissions

Lieutenants: T. A. Howie, M. J. Oakley

Warrant Officers' Postings

(1 Jan 74—30 Apr 74)

WO2 J. A. Brooker WRAC College
 WO2 H. R. Haynes 17 Trg Regt and Depot RA
 A/WO2 V. Trout HQ Northern Ireland
 WO2 J. L. Beresford 12 Coy WRAC
 A/WO1 J. McIntosh 1 Regt RMP
 A/WO2 G. Greensit RSA Larkhill
 A/WO2 H. K. Barnard COD Bicester

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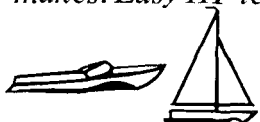
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