



A. Vidal-Duval 75

WRAC Staff Band

ENGAGEMENTS

March		
4-18		Tour of Gibraltar
20		Grand Reunion WRAC Association, Victory Services Club, London.
21		Church Service, Chapel Royal Hospital Chelsea.
May		
23-31		Tidworth Tattoo.
June		
5		British Amateur Athletic Board 'Kraft Games' Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.
6-12	Sun	} Concerts Regents Park, London.
	3-4.30 pm	
	6.30-8 pm	
	Mon-Sat	
	12.30-2 pm	
	5.30-7 pm	
13	3-5 pm	Concert Horniman Gardens, London SE23.
19		Cheshire Home Summer Fete, Hydon Hill, Surrey.
17-27		Aldershot Army Display, Rushmoor Arena.
July		
2-3		Royal Artillery 'At Home' Woolwich.
4	3-4.30 pm	} Concert Hyde Park, London.
	6.30-8 pm	
5-7		Royal School of Artillery Larkhill.
11	3-5 pm	Concert Alexandra Palace Park, London.
18-24	Sun	} Concert St James's Park, London.
	3-4 pm	
	6.30-8 pm	
	Mon-Sat	
	12.30-2 pm	
	5.30-7 pm	
25	3-4.30 pm	Concert Cutty Sark Gardens, Greenwich, London SE10.
August		
6		The Goschen 'Mini Tattoo' Nuneaton
8	3-5 pm	Concert Golders Hill, London.
15	3-4.30 pm	Concert Kensington Gardens, London.
21		Women's Amateur Athletic Association Championships, Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

22	3-4.30 pm	} Concert Hyde Park, London.
	6.30-8 pm	
29	3-5 pm	Concert Battersea Park, London.
30		Hospital Fete, Crowborough, Sussex.

COVER PICTURE

This portrait of HRH The Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant of the Women's Royal Army Corps was commissioned by the Officers and executed by Alejo Vidal-Quadras in May 1975.

Shopping List

		p&p
Coasters Vinyl	·30	7p
Key Rings:		
Acrylic	·30	11p (up to 6)
Brown calf	·16	9p (up to 6)
Refills	·50	15p
Clipboards	£1·25	42p
Brief cases, plastic	·75	19p
Bookmarks leather	·25	9p (up to 6)
ID Cards/season ticket/		
bank card holder	·15	11p (up to 6)
Glass ash/pin tray	·45	14p
WRAC biro pens	·15	9p (up to 6)
Corps shields light oak	£3·10	25p
Handbag mirrors	·40	11p
Combs in leather case	·45	9p
Car badges square	£1·70	11p
Pencils triangular	·07	7p (up to 6)
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

March	
9-Apr 3	Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition Olympia, London.
12-13	Horse Racing: Grand Military Meeting Sandown Park.
20	Oxford/Cambridge Boat Race Putney to Mortlake, River Thames, London.
April	
3	Grand National Aintree, Liverpool.
7-10	Badminton Horse Trials, Gloucestershire.
10	Scottish Grand National Ayr.
18	Easter Parade Battersea Park, London.
May	
14-16	International Air Fair Biggin Hill, Kent.
22	Lord Mayor's Show Birmingham (Band)
26-28	Chelsea Flower Show Royal Hospital Grounds, Chelsea.
29-31	Tidworth Tattoo.
29-31	Cardiff Army Display.

continued on page 1

WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1919

Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT
Controller Commandant

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Contributions for next issue by 30th June 1976

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Lioness

Vol. XLIX

1976

No. 1

Editorial

WE should like to draw readers' attention to two appeals in this issue. 1976 is the tenth anniversary of the first annuity granted to an ex-service member by the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. It is obvious, in the present economic climate, that there will increasingly be more women who desperately need this bonus. An article describing the annuity scheme is printed in this issue.

The QARANC Museum is unique because this Corps is the only one in the Army devoted exclusively to nursing. This means that its members have served in every theatre of war from the Crimea to the present day and the records of this service are irreplaceable. It is difficult to judge the value of these tangible relics to researchers, historians, potential nurses and, above all to schoolchildren. If through lack of funds these exhibits cannot adequately be displayed we shall all be the poorer.

FOR YOUR DIARY—continued

June

- 1-3 Household Division Massed Bands Beat Retreat Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 2 Horse Racing: The Derby Epsom.
- 4 Horse Racing: The Oaks Epsom.
- 5-6 Wrexham Army Display.
- 6 Open Day Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse.
- 12 Trooping the Colour: The Queen's Official Birthday Parade Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 15-18 Horse Racing: Royal Ascot Berkshire.
- 21-Jul 3 Lawn Tennis Championships Wimbledon.
- 25-27 Aldershot Army Display, Rushmoor Arena.

July

- 2-3 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich.
- 3 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 10 Artillery Day Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill.
- 14-31 Royal Tournament—Displays by the Armed Forces Earls Court.

August

- 4-7 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo Lower Castle Park, Colchester.
- 20-Sep 11 Military Tattoo Edinburgh.
- 22-Sep 11 Edinburgh International Festival.

Honour for The Director



Brigadier E J Nolan making a presentation to the retiring chairman Col Else Martinsen-Larsen Director of the Danish Women's Armed Forces.

BRIGADIER Eileen Nolan CB Hon ADC has received an international honour in being elected Chairman of the Committee of Women in NATO Armed Forces. This committee represents 120,000 servicewomen and the Director has Rear Admiral Maxine Condor, of the US Navy, as her deputy.

Presentations

MBE

Mrs Jean Armour Brown

LONDON Branch member, Mrs Jean Armour Brown, who has been awarded the MBE, is, at the age of 81, the longest serving secretary in the House of Commons.

She joined the WAAC, later QMAAC, in 1917 and served in France as a Technical Administrator Officer i/c Personnel, Army Pay Corps for two and a half years. She again joined up in 1939 and served as a Senior Leader Administration until 1941.

In 1944 Mrs Armour Brown went to work for Eleanor Rathbone, MP in the House of Commons and, since then, has "taken on" many famous Peers and Members including Michael Stewart whom she describes as a "wonderful man". But her all-time favourite was the charming, handsome Anthony Eden and, while with him, she met Sir Winston Churchill many times. Fellow Scot and former ATS Chief Commander Betty Harvie Anderson was among the first of many MPs who expressed their pleasure and congratulations at such a well deserved honour and we know all who have met Mrs Armour Brown at reunions in Scotland and London will join in these good wishes.

This kindly, gentle lady with a heart of gold and impish sense of humour is a pillar of strength to the young, inexperienced secretaries as her memory must be an encyclopedia of political personalities and events. Mrs Armour Brown vows she has no plans to retire—but we wish we could persuade her to write her memoirs!

BEM

SSgt M Rosie

THE 67th Commissioning Ceremony took place at the WRAC College on 13th August 1975. It was a memorable day not only for the Officer Cadets who received their Commissions but also for SSgt Margaret Rosie who was presented with the British Empire Medal by Lt Gen Sir James Wilson KBE MC, GOC South East District. All who know SSgt Rosie will wish to congratulate her on this very well deserved honour.

Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Winner

Pte Teresa Sewell

ON 11th November 1975 Pte Teresa Sewell, a driver from P&EE Shoeburyness, had the honour of attending Buckingham Palace to

receive her Gold Award from the Duke of Edinburgh. Teresa began to work for the award in 1972 and, after joining the WRAC, continued her projects one of which was a study, on foot, of the Bernese Oberland in Switzerland. In



September 1975 she was selected to take part in an expedition to the Pyrenees along with other gold award holders. This expedition involved much rock climbing as well as lessons in personal survival.

The Military Medal for Bravery

WILLIAM Carrigan is attempting to compile information for a book on the Military Medal and, as the story of the 150 or so women recipients has never been told, he is anxious to make this the first part of his book.

He is searching for first hand accounts of actions and citations, for photographs, press cuttings and any personal information about recipients which readers can give. All documents, photos and papers would be treated with great care and returned promptly and no information would be printed without the permission of relatives or owners of documents.

To refresh the memories of ex-QMAAC readers, the Military Medal was awarded to Unit Administrator Mrs Margaret Campbell Gibson, (who died of dysentery on 17 September 1918), to A/Administrator Geneste Penrose, to A/Administrator Miss E S Cross and to Forewoman Mrs E G Cartledge. Some readers may remember them and there may be others unknown to us. If anyone can help Mr Carrigan in this important and overdue account will they please write to him direct at 61 Sydney Road, Eastbourne, Sussex; Telephone Eastbourne 30324.

Operation Hannibal

NEARLY 2000 years after Hannibal made that famous crossing of the Alps, in 218 BC, the Royal Corps of Transport retraced his steps in an adventure exercise called "Jumbo's Trek" in honour of Hannibal's elephants. Famed as the Army's "go anywhere" Corps, the men—and one woman—members of the expedition made the 170 miles trans-Alpine crossing on foot and took 15 days to cover the exhausting route. The only concession expedition leader Lt Gerry Boyle made to the twentieth century was a back-up party to resupply his team every three days.

The only woman member, Pte Jane Cairns WRAC, a former insurance clerk from Stafford, writes: "Seeing a poster about Exercise "Jumbo's Trek", I volunteered and the expedition leader, Lt Boyle, after initially being quite dismayed at the prospect of having one woman amongst his party, later became very keen on the idea and luckily I was permitted to go. My job was to be a driver/radio operator. Never having operated a radio before, I learned that nets weren't only something for the hair! After finishing a short Operator's course I could, quite confidently, tune in and operate a radio set. I was not without my critics however and I can remember my voice procedure being likened to an angry Dalek!



Pte J Cairns WRAC with members of the RCT Expedition team prior to departure.

The expedition left Buller Barracks on the morning of 18th July, marched out of camp by RCT Staff Band. Our white, civilianised landrovers covered in stickers, signs and adverts looked more like something from a Safari Park than a military vehicle. It was my first trip across the channel and through France and the first two days were very exhausting because the journey from Aldershot to our first halt was almost 800 miles, driven in one stretch.

Hannibal made his trip with 52,000 men and 32 elephants. His route took him from Carthage in Spain across the Alps to Po in Italy. We had decided to follow what we believed to have been part of his route from Die in the French Alps to the Col de la Traversette 170 miles away and 10,000 feet above sea level on the French/Italian border. We calculated that Hannibal had taken eleven days to walk the 170 miles and this was the target we set ourselves. We added one day's halt every 3 days to give the opportunity to recce sites on the route ahead. For most of the journey I remained in my role of driver/radio operator but for the last stage of the trip Lt Boyle allowed me to forsake the "4 wheeled" life to accompany the foot weary walking party.

Ex Jumbo's Trek was an exciting adventure for me; the sort of thing that normally happens only once in a lifetime. The places I visited, the breath-taking views, the people I met, will be in my memories for many years to come."

Girl Guide Leaders Look to the Future

"FACING the Future" is the theme of a conference for Girl Guide Leaders held at Grey College, Durham University 29th August/1st September 1975. Membership of the Girl Guides Association in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland has risen to the record total of 834,660 but still the Guide Association, already Britain's largest youth organisation, cannot meet the demand. Waiting lists exist in many districts and hundreds of girls have to queue for up to 2 years before they can be enrolled.

Mrs Derek Parker Bowles, Chief Commissioner, said: "As the number of girls wanting to join continues to increase we are more and more turning for help to outside people willing and able to share their interests with young people. We welcome offers of help and in the Guide programme we can use skills of almost every kind—the sole essentials are integrity and a love of children. Your local Guide Commissioner will know the needs in your area and you can find her through the Education Department at your nearest Town Hall."

Guide and Brownie Units exist in almost all Service Stations both at home and overseas and by providing continuity in friendly, familiar surroundings give a great sense of security both to children and adults in the frequently changing conditions of service life. Any service-women who feel able to help this well established but progressive youth movement are asked to get in touch with their local Guide Commissioner.

American Exchange

Capt C V M Montanaro

THE Christmas period immediately prior to our departure for the United States as Exchange Officers was emotionally traumatic for Lt Pru Samson and myself. The prospect of flying to America to spend two years living and working with the US Army excited rather than alarmed us but our respective relatives seemed to consider it a formidable step and we were treated as if those weeks were the last moments we would ever be seen alive again!

So it was quite a relief to have the farewells behind us and our tour ahead of us as we flew to Washington where we were to spend a few days at the British Embassy for administrative purposes. The Army Staff there looked after us wonderfully. We were accommodated in the most palatial motel rooms either of us has ever seen with not only balcony, air conditioning, colour television and private bath with ultra violet tanning equipment but even two king-size beds and each of our rooms was large enough for a dance! Surprisingly neither of us suffered from jet-lag and, after a very American meal in the motel, (clam chowder, hamburgers, salad, root beer) and a long night's sleep, we felt fine the next day and ready to be shown the "trippy" sights of Washington by two WAC officers working at the Pentagon.

After three days we flew to Atlanta and thence to our final destination, Fort McClellan, Alabama, where we were met by what appeared to be a dozen WAC officers. We were whisked straight off to our BOQs, (Bachelor Officer Quarters), which are adjacent stone cottages and delightful. They are two of six such houses located on a hill overlooking the Appalachian Mountains and each consists of two bedrooms, bathroom, living-cum-dining room, kitchen, front porch, laundry room and small garden. We were slightly disconcerted to find that, apart from the basic furniture, beds, tables etc, there was nothing; not a plate, fork, pan or blanket though our beds had been made up with borrowed covers. So our immediate task for the next few weeks was to rush round trying to acquire the essentials with which to live, relying very much on the kindness of colleagues to provide transport since we had none at that time. We have since acquired American cars.

Work started immediately. My job as instructor in the WAC Officer Education Department allowed me time during the day to shop, meet the electrician, telephone connector and so on.

But Pru's job, as Training Officer for one of the Basic Training Companies, necessitated her being in her company area from 0600 until sometimes 2000 hours with little time off. She has continued doing this job for her year in Fort McClellan, although in time she was moved from Bravo Company to Alpha to become Executive Officer (2 i/c) there. Her job is a gruelling, demanding one. Every six weeks each Basic Training Company, of which there are nine, "fills" with approximately 200 enlisted WACs who go through a training consisting of classroom instruction, drill, PT, weapons training and FTX. The latter involves three days in the field, 7 mile day march, 4 mile night march, defensive training and NBC training. The Training Officer supervises or actually instructs in all these training areas and she has to be as good as or preferably better than, the required standard, which is high. There is strong emphasis on physical fitness and training for all Army personnel, male and female, officer and enlisted and every year all are required to take and pass a physical fitness test. In order to graduate enlisteds in training have to achieve the shuttle run within 28.5 seconds, (approximately 75 metres four times during which small bricks are transferred from one circle to another); the Run, Dodge and Jump twice, dodging four obstacles and jumping a small ditch; a minimum of 18, maximum of 40 situps, a minimum of 18, maximum of 40 pushups and a half-mile run within 4.48 minutes!

Pru's job is very much a time consuming one. She is in the office between 0530-0645 and, with 30 minutes off for lunch, returns home anytime from 1800 to 2100 hours and then has to prepare her uniform for the next day. She works on Saturdays as a matter of course, except in the one week's break between courses and, on many Sundays, has to spend several hours writing course reports. Her normal duty dress is "fatigues", similar to a plain green male combat kit and heavy boots.

My assignment as an Instructor has been totally different. The hours of work are 0700 to 1600 hours and the time is well filled. WAC Officer classes range in number from 110 to 170 divided into two or three platoons and they follow much the same sort of training as the enlisteds except that their course lasts for eleven weeks rather than six. The students are normally roused at 5 am for breakfast in the Mess Hall then drill and/or PT before being bussed to their classrooms for a full day's academic instruction. Subjects taught include Combat Operations, Land Navigation, Signal Communication, Leadership Fundamentals, Personnel Management,

Supply Management and Intelligence and Security. I, personally, am responsible for instructing "Organisation of Department of Defence", "Effective Oral Communication" and one aspect of "Command and Staff Functions and Management". Besides formal instruction I am responsible for "Guidance and Counselling" some 19 students per course in their academic progress and problems. Six days are devoted to Weapons Training. Pru and I were both required to qualify on the M16 rifle when we arrived here and we are very proud of our medals! On the Ranges we act as coaches to the WAC trainees or Student Officers, literally teaching them how to fire and correcting their mistakes. It is now mandatory for every WAC, male soldier and officer to be qualified on the M16. Weapons Training is something I enjoy—if the weather is favourable! With the temperature at 100°F or freezing point, there is not much comfort in standing by a foxhole for perhaps 11 hours non-stop. Towards the end of the course we have an FTX when the students spend a night under canvas and go through various exercises like the Gas Chamber, Compass Course, a class on Camouflage (for which I am the model!), a Terrain Walk and a Night Exercise. In this the students are camouflaged and have to make their unheard, unseen way to an unknown grid reference with compasses, learn various "secrets" from the "enemy" and return with the information. The girls always enjoy it though the poisonous snakes, hornets and Black Widow spiders are decidedly unnerving.

It was decided some months ago that Pru and I should spend our second year in other Army units so, at the end of this year, she goes to Fort Ord, California and I go to Fort Bliss in Texas. We are both very excited about seeing other parts of America and the Staff jobs to which we are going but we shall be sad to leave the friends we have made in Fort McClellan. For Pru, particularly, her unsociable working hours have meant she has had little time to make a full social life or see much of America and, for both of us, leave has been hard to get. Our next jobs will give us more free time and we intend to see as much of the States as time and money will allow!

Junior Command Staff Course

THE ultimate in Women's Lib seems to have been reached. A 50-ton Chieftain tank has been seen careering over Salisbury Plain with a good looking blonde giving orders to the all-male crew. Close behind, under the command of another attractive girl, roared an armoured

personnel carrier full of men of the Royal Irish Rangers. The scene occurred during an exercise code-named Boadicea's Chariot! It was, in fact, part of the normal course which captains from branches of the service undergo at the Junior Division, The Staff College.

On the course there were 108 officers and 2 members of the WRAC, Capt Annabelle Cunningham, at present on the staff of MOD and Capt Philippa Dixon, commanding HQ company at the WRAC Centre, Guildford.

Though there is no question of their manning armoured fighting vehicles in operations, women students complete the full syllabus on the course. This includes familiarisation visits to tank, artillery and infantry units so that officers from one arm learn something of the problems of others. Hence the presence of Capt Cunningham in the turret of a Chieftain of the Queen's Own Hussars and Capt Dixon in the hatch of the APC. It was no 'gimmick' but an essential part of their study of the capability and characteristics of teeth arm units.



Capt A Cunningham pictured in the turret of a Chieftain tank during exercises on Salisbury Plain.

The Junior Division, located within the area of the School of Infantry, Warminster, implemented the Junior Command and Staff Course in 1968. Soon afterwards it was decided to include two WRAC officers each year. This experiment proved so successful that today women are represented on each of the four courses held annually, emphasising the equality of opportunity in the modern Army. All students are trained in every aspect of army life to make them efficient young staff officers.

'The course gives a WRAC officer a wonderful insight into the purely military side of Army life', said Capt Cunningham. 'I used to take it for granted when all the men went off to take part in an exercise. I take a different view now I've seen how much work goes into one'.

Though the tactical side of the course is the most colourful, it is only a part of a tough nine-week studying session. More often than not students are in the classroom or the famous Blenheim lecture hall, known to infantrymen the world over, from early morning until early evening. Afterwards they have their homework to do. No special arrangements are made for WRAC students though they are accommodated in adjacent rooms in the officers' Mess. They study in different sections alongside groups of nine officers of similar age and rank. Does being outnumbered 54 to one cause any problems for two attractive unmarried WRAC officers? 'None at all', said Capt Cunningham, pointing out that there are now only two exclusively female units in the Corps. Most members of the WRAC are employed in mixed units.

There is one snag which all girls on the course have had to overcome and one in which men can be of little help. As the WRAC has no combat kit and is not issued with anything to compare with the Army's camouflage smock or 'flower power' as the girls jokingly call it, they have had to design their own rig for tactical exercises. Their creations would not exactly pass for haute couture but all are eminently practical for running about in tanks. Boadicea would have been proud of them!

WRAC Mounted Provost

READERS will remember that the front cover of the last issue of *Lioness* showed WRAC Mounted Provost. In response to many requests a short account of the RMP Mounted Troop and its WRAC members is given here.

There is now only one mounted RMP Troop. It is based in Aldershot and carries out ceremonial duties within South East District and elsewhere. These duties vary from 'Keeping the Ground' at Hyde Park during the firing of Royal salutes to acting as ceremonial escorts to VIPs on major parades. Its duties also include a share of routine Police patrols where horses are of special value such as on local ranges and training areas.

Selection of WRAC for mounted duties with the troop is restricted to volunteers from serving WRAC Provost who have some experience in equitation. Numbers are at present restricted to two and needless to say there is a waiting list. Once selected additional training is given to develop skills to Army standards.

All members of the troop, RMP and WRAC, take their full share of the hard work which lies behind the glamour. Horses have to be groomed and fed, stables cleaned and tack looked after. Most NCOs have full responsibility for one

horse but usually have the temporary care of more than one when colleagues are away on leave or courses.

A New Trade for WRAC

FOR many years now a number of WRAC have proudly worn the badge of a rose between two branches of laurel surmounted by a crown whilst serving with the Intelligence Corps, mainly as Analysts Special Intelligence or Clerks. In 1974 it was agreed that the Int Corps trade of Operator Intelligence and Security should be opened to WRAC and training started in February 1975.



Pte Burgess being presented with the Int Corps Badge by Brig K J Mears CBE, Commandant Intelligence Corps Centre.

The Passing Out Parade of the first mixed course took place in July 1975 and was attended by the Director Brig E J Nolan Hon ADC and other WRAC senior officers. The second course passed out in October 1975 and the first prize as the best in trade was awarded to Pte Burgess WRAC. A feature of the Passing Out Parade for newly qualified Int Corps tradesmen is the ceremonial issue of the Int Corps lanyard. Members of the WRAC are given their Int Corps badge instead.

Junior Leaders

THE possibility of the WRAC running a Junior Leaders scheme similar to that which has been so successful for the men in recent years has been under discussion for some time. However it was in October 1974 that we received the final green light from the Ministry of Defence to run two six-month pilot courses for 16½ year old girls at the WRAC Centre.

This new venture is designed to help combat the Corps short-fall in junior NCOs by producing militarily trained servicewomen with the

necessary character and leadership qualities so that they are prepared for possible promotion early in their adult service. Their syllabus is an expanded form of recruit training with an emphasis on project work and individual presentations, education and adventurous training and includes the basic three-weeks Clerks course at the RAOC Trg Centre. After Junior Leaders training these young women will go on to employment training in the many fields open to WRAC.

The first pilot course began on 1 September 1975 when 28 Junior Leaders arrived to take their place among the ranks of the WRAC. They had all been carefully selected by the Women's Services Selection Centre which tested and interviewed 80 applicants before allocating vacancies to the 28 most likely candidates. These Junior Leaders were chosen for their motivation, leadership potential, educational background and their ability to work as members of a team.

In addition to their daily training programme, their evenings and weekends are taken up by hobbies and classes including such diverse activities as rifle-shooting, enamel work, chess, cookery and collage work. They have "adopted" a local children's home which is in desperate need of funds and have raised, by means of sponsored walks and swims, over £150 and hope to make up a total of £250 by the end of the course.

Adventurous training has proved an enjoyable part of the course. The Junior Leaders have spent a week at Ripon learning the basic skills of rock-climbing, canoeing and abseiling, a week at the Joint Services Sailing Centre at Gosport undergoing off-shore sailing training and have been hillwalking in Scotland. This adventurous training has been tough and is designed to teach endurance, leadership and team spirit.

Socially the Junior Leaders are in much demand. Many of the Junior training establishments have invited them to discotheques and social evenings. Most of them can boast an impressive list of boyfriends from many Army regiments and even the Royal Navy!

The success or otherwise of WRAC Junior Leaders' Wing will not be known for some time. Clearly the progress of the Junior Leaders must be assessed throughout their careers in their chosen employments but we are certain that the Corps will find it has a nucleus of highly-trained, efficient and enthusiastic servicewomen.

A Visit to The Palace

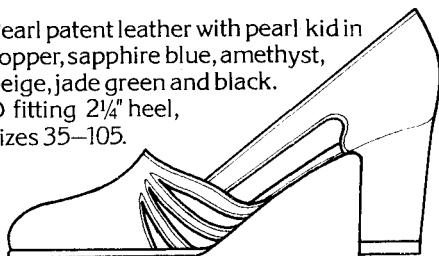
2Lt P M Longlands

THE time was 2.30pm, the date 11 Nov 1975, when LCpl Dudley and I walked through the

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archway into a great courtyard in the centre of Buckingham Palace. The majority of the people walking through with us looked overawed and, around us, cameras were snapping, carefully preserving the glory of the afternoon.

We all had one thing in common—the honour of gaining, or accompanying the recipient of, the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. This was the fitting end to several years hard work by all these young people who had covered many different activities from flower arranging to free fall jumping and rifle shooting to social work.

The entrance through which we were guided was recognisable as the place where visiting dignitaries are greeted and, as we entered, there was a decided aura of tension and excitement. The throng moved slowly and hesitantly up the Grand Staircase and down a long hallway the breadth of the Palace. The broad corridor was covered with a red carpet and enormous works of art decorated the walls. Having passed through the Drawing Rooms, the Throne Room and the Tapestry Room, we finally reached the Ballroom, the appointed place for the Award winners from the West Midlands.

After struggling through the multitudes collecting around the appropriate marshals, everyone was registered as present and the final

preparations were begun. Each little group of about 20 was arranged in a semicircle and gradually the hub-hub of noise reached such a pitch that the somniferous music of the Scots Guards Chamber Group was lost.

Proud parents and guests, seated around the dance floor, looked on while the 20 Award winners chatted amongst themselves, greeting old friends met during the activities in previous months. Nervous girls fidgeted with unaccustomed hats and boys were trying hard to look as if they weren't there at all. Tension mounted, the noise became more subdued and the official marshals took up their places. His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, casually walked in and began to wander round the room. Most people were amazed at his informal attitude, the manner in which he strolled around, hands in pockets, chatting to each group, sometimes turning to parents and friends, leaving everyone smiling and with a sense of achievement.

All too soon the 20 minutes passed. The Duke moved out of the ballroom and left behind the Steward who actually presented the certificates to the Award winners. Then the groups split up, guests flowed on to the floor amid congratulations and proud comments.

Then the long trek back to the Grand Entrance began. Outside it was dark and cold; those waiting for the official photographer shivered and gradually we all turned our back on the great Palace and went out through the archway to face the bleak London rush hour.

Sandes Soldiers' and Airmen's Homes

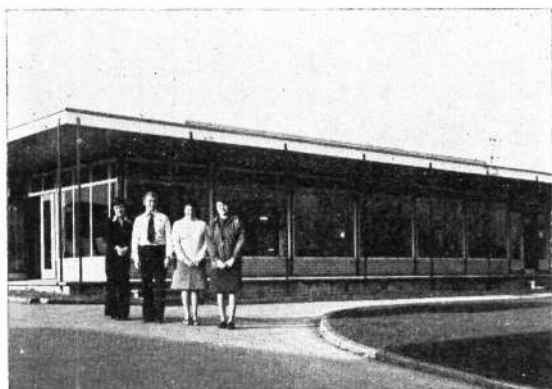
Helen Jeffrey, General Secretary

GIRLS leaving school now have a wide choice of occupations and may travel all over the world. Depending on their abilities and preferences they may work indoors or outdoors, alone or in groups, with their hands, their brains, or both. Working with men they have the same conditions and wages.

In the mid-nineteenth century the outlook for their counterparts was very different. Much depended on their station in life. Young girls of the middle class in Ireland faced a future spent in rounds of visits, fancy work or the occasional tour on the Continent and some rebelled. One was Elise Sandes. She had a firm Christian faith and wanted to use her life in God's service. Helped by her widowed mother she invited soldiers from the local garrison to her home in Tralee, County Kerry and thus her life-work began. Before she died at the age of 84 Miss Sandes had been responsible for opening about 40 Soldiers' Homes each with

its coffee room, recreational facilities, writing room and distinctive Christian witness. Though she never left the British Isles her influence in Army welfare is now world-wide as British Army changes or movements have resulted in the closure of Homes such as those in the Republic of Ireland and in India and the opening of new Homes where there is need and opportunity.

One Home which Miss Sandes could never have visualised was the one opened at the WRAC Centre in 1969, Sandes Soldiers' and Airmen's Homes' Centenary Year. The modern building according so well with its surroundings in the Camp, was built in 1964 for YWCA who decided to close it just at a time when reduction in RAF strength in Northern Ireland had caused Sandes to close two of their Homes and they were seeking openings for expansion elsewhere.



L to R: Joy Norman, Mr McCleod, Mrs McCleod and Judy Kerley.

Les and Eva Saunders from London, who had been successfully superintending the Sandes Home at Holywood near Belfast, were given the task of setting the Guildford Home on its feet and, with three daughters of their own, they had the right experience. In September 1975 they left for RAF St Athan and their place was taken by Roddy and May MacLeod whose service with Sandes has also been in Northern Ireland. Others who will be remembered in Guildford are Shirley Snaith, now on leave after 4 years with Sandes in Singapore and Jane Alcock now married to a soldier of the 1st Gordons. Judy, Joy and Angela are the present team.

The Sandes work in Singapore closed recently due to Defence cuts but there are still ten Sandes Homes two of which are in Hong Kong, one in the Republic of Ireland and the rest in the United Kingdom. The organisation is a registered charity and is controlled by a Council with Headquarters in Belfast.

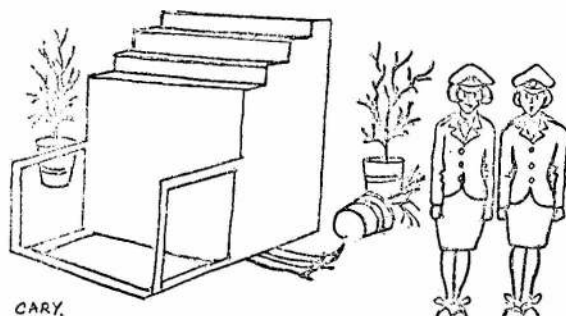
May all who read these lines be happy enough to be posted to Camps where Sandes Homes have been set up to care for their comfort.

Unit News South East District

10 COMPANY WRAC "The Aldershot Hilton?"

THOSE of you considering taking up residence in the Hampshire area might turn your attention to this well appointed self-contained "home from home". Accommodation can be provided for up to 400 but regrettably the great British Male has no place here. This desirable residence can be enjoyed for periods ranging from a few days gentle sojourn in the transit wing to a two year stay in more permanent surroundings. Imagine if you will, rising in the morning to wend your way to a well-cooked breakfast—and no washing up. Then to work, either a brisk walk across the Parade ground to the Comcen or a short wander to the Squadron Offices 3 Sqn 10 Signal Regt. NAAFI, with all the wonderful facilities that one word conjures up, is easily accessible beneath the same roof. Televisions abound, good company is all around one—what more could you ask for? Men? Yes, these too are provided, whole brigades of them for your enjoyment. So ladies, remember, when you get out the brochures to choose your next posting, consider Aldershot with the delights and wonders of the Duchess of Kent Barracks.

OH DEAR, THE RSM TOLD ME TO GET THE SALUTING BASE FIXED!



South West District

ARMY AIR CORPS CENTRE
Flying High



2 LT Karen Purveur is on a six month attachment to the Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, She was very keen to fly in a helicopter and who better for a pilot in a Gazelle than the Director Army Air Corps himself, Maj Gen R L C Dixon MC!

London District

12 COMPANY WRAC

IT was a very sad occasion when WO2 Margaret Grant MBE departed for civilian life. She completed her 22 years in the WRAC on the 1st October 1975 having served with the Royal Engineers Postal Service from 1953-1975. She was invested at Buckingham Palace with the MBE awarded in the New Year Honours 1967 for outstanding and loyal service in the British Forces Postal Service.

WO2 Grant will be greatly missed by all who wished her success and happiness when she received many silver presentations from the Postal Service, 12 Coy WRAC and friends. A regimental dinner was also held for her in the Sgts' Mess and what a splendid evening it was. In fact it was like a reunion as comrades came from all over the country to bid her farewell.

WO2 Grant has settled down very happily in her new house in Scotland and, naturally, is working in her local town Post Office. She still misses all her comrades but keeps in touch with many of them.

Eastern District

RAVC TRAINING CENTRE

Royal Tournament 1975

ONCE again the RAVC Trg Centre entered a WRAC Team in the Team Jumping competition at the Royal Tournament in July 1975, winning the Un-Horsed Corps Trophy and losing by only a single mark to the winners, the King's Troop RHA, in the Horsed Corps Competition. This was a remarkable achievement and the result of hard work, dedication and enthusiasm by Team members as well as a tribute to the assistance given by the RAVC Trg Centre equitation instructors. It is only the second time that this cup has been won by the WRAC and never before has a women's team come so close to winning the trophy.



L to R: Pte J Farmer on Rosettie, Cpl G Sawkins on Osprey and Pte G Groves on Athena.

The Team members were Cpl Sawkins from Bordon, Hants who had competed in one previous Royal Tournament, riding Osprey, Pte Farmer from Sidmouth, Devon riding Rosettie and Pte Evans, who has since taken her discharge on marriage, riding Dawn. Together with Pte Gillian Groves from Clwyd riding Athena the three also entered the individual events. The girls who take part in the Royal Tournament each year are employed as Rider-grooms at Melton Mowbray but only receive formal riding tuition in the month prior to the Tournament each year.

They are now all looking forward to the Royal Tournament in 1976 and hoping that they can achieve the same success again.

North East District

8th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Catterick '75 Week

THE Royal Corps of Signals has been stationed at Catterick Garrison for fifty years and to celebrate, a week was set aside for festivities. The 'Catterick '75 Week' started with a show by Morecambe and Wise and the Royal Signals Corps Band.

The highlight of the celebrations was the visit of HM The Queen to the Training Brigade Royal Signals on 10 July 1975. Preparation had begun in earnest before Christmas and the WRAC were soon involved, Maj Heath and 2Lt Finch acting as stand-ins for The Queen and the Lady-in-Waiting for the rehearsals.



The Queen talking to members of the Regiment and their families. In the background are WO2 S McDonald and Cpl C Gardiner.

The visit started with the inspection of the Guard of Honour provided by 8th Signal Regiment. The Queen unveiled a statue of two Signalmen, one in the uniform of 1925, the other in a uniform of 1975 and planted a memorial tree. She then went "Walkabout" to talk to servicemen and women and their families: WO2 McDonald, Cpls Gardiner, Jones and LCpl Johnston had the honour of meeting her. Maj Ross, 2Lt Jolley, now wife of Lt Malcolm McKinlay R Sigs, and 2Lt Finch were presented to The Queen during lunch.

In the afternoon the Queen visited the Trade Training School and, while there, met two WRAC Comcen Operator courses. She showed a keen interest in all aspects of their training and appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed her visit.

The WRAC were not so heavily involved in the celebrations during the rest of the week. Royal Signals, having previously been granted the Freedom of Richmond, exercised their right on the Friday to march through the town with bayonets fixed and Beat Retreat in Richmond

THE VICTORY SERVICES CLUB



Have you heard of the Victory Services Club and what excellent value it gives? The club, which is situated in the heart of the West End of London - only two minutes from Marble Arch - offers extremely good facilities to All Ranks, both Serving and Ex-Service, including the Women's Services, their wives and their husbands and widows of ex-servicemen for an Annual Membership Fee of only £3 plus V.A.T.

THIS IS LESS THAN 1p PER DAY

The club has 300 centrally heated bedrooms, most of which have hot and cold running water. 60 of these rooms are for the use of married couples at a cost varying between £2.60 to £3.50 per person per night. Single rooms range between £1.10 and £3.60 per night.

We also have fully licenced Bars, Dining Rooms and Cafeteria, comfortable lounges and Television Room etc.

The Club is an ideal centre for holding Reunion Dinners, Dinner/Dances, Buffets and the like. We also have suitable rooms for Conferences and Meetings.

Full details can be obtained by writing to:—

*The Secretary,
The Victory Services Club,
63/79 Seymour Street,
LONDON W2 2HF*

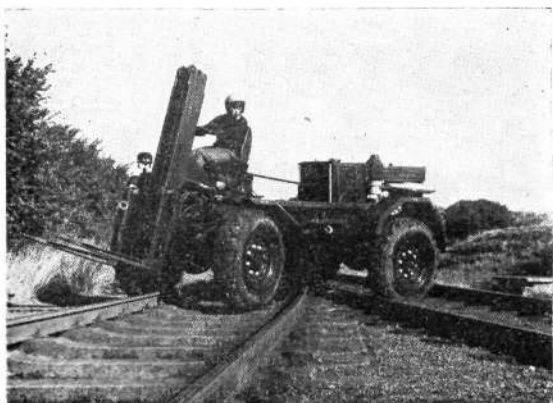
Castle. 2Lt Fergusson, 2Lt Finch and Pte Illsley represented the WRAC at a Reception held in Richmond Town Hall afterwards. A number of ex-Servicewomen who had served with ATS and WRAC Signals attended the Old Comrades Reunion on the Saturday and Sunday and twenty-three of them stayed in Katharine House, the WRAC accommodation.

After a tiring and very long week the Regiment settled down to normal life again. The WRAC all worked very hard but enjoyed themselves immensely.

West Midland District

CAD KINETON

A PAPER chase was held in September and a team with at least 1 WRAC from each department within the CAD was coaxed into entering. It caused a great increase in blood pressure to both competitors and neighbouring cattle farmers, an abundance of twisted ankles and a critical shortage of milk! It involved 7 miles of stumbling across ploughed fields, squelching ankle deep through semi-stagnant ditches and bulldozing a way through the undergrowth and tangles of barbed wire designed to keep people out and animals in.



An Eager Beaver being put through its paces by Cpl Jenny Rimell the only WRAC qualified to drive this difficult, easily overturned vehicle.

The distance between the athletes and the unfit soon broadened and some of those at the back, who were cutting corners in a desperate attempt to keep up, admitted later that they had lost both sight and sound of the front runners; the only clue they had of which direction to head in was when they observed a stampeding herd of terrified cows! Indeed it was hard to decide whether to watch where everyone else went, or to keep your eyes firmly down in case you had the misfortune to step in something very nasty! A good hour later the MT team, in which Pte Clay was a member, came a triumphant first;

the runner up was the A Coy 'A' team including Pte Gregory. Both teams sneakily disappeared to guzzle their well earned prizes in private. Congratulations to the organisers for such a successful and hilarious afternoon.

4 September 1975 was an important day for CAD Kineton, the Official Opening Day of the new Administrative Re-building Programme. Kineton has been undergoing radical changes over the last few years and there are now no nissen huts to be seen. Brigadier E Nolan, DWRAC, was among the many distinguished guests who were invited to tour the Administrative Area which included a visit to the WRAC accommodation block and ended with the formal unveiling ceremony by Lady Jackson, wife of General Sir William Jackson (QMG).

On the sporting front CAD Kineton won the Western Area District Athletic Championships at Tidworth in June and went forward to the Army Finals at Aldershot in July. In September we came runners up at the Unit Rounders Tournament held at Camberley, a well earned achievement made more difficult by the torrential rain and slippery pitches. With the onset of the cold weather, we took to playing hockey and acquired glowing complexions, chilblains and blue shins! So far we have come into conflict with Bovington (win to Kineton 4-1) and Wilton (win to Wilton 2-0).

We were sorry to lose our CSM, WO2 Pickard who was posted to BAOR in December. She was recently awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal which was presented to her in November by Maj Gen P J Minogue, Commander, Base Organisation. Our congratulations to her.

Northern Ireland

WRAC COMPANY

DESPITE the ceasefire 1975 has been a busy year. Tour length for the majority of the WRAC is now fifteen months although the searchers are on an eight month tour and a few on six month emergency tours.

Our visitors this year included the AAG AG16, Colonel H Powell, who visited Aldergrove, the Maze and Lisburn. The Director WRAC visited the Province in October for two days and, accompanied by DADWRAC, met the majority of WRAC serving in Northern Ireland thanks to the tremendous assistance of the Army Air Corps on day one and her own incredible stamina. The second day was spent visiting the Headquarters and the WRAC Coy at Lisburn.

Due to the excellent summer and thanks to the ceasefire the WRAC Company was able to send teams to the mainland and to take part in

various sporting and adventurous training activities with considerable success. Six adventurous ones went camping on Ballykinler ranges for a weekend 5-6 Jul 75 and christened it "Exercise Hayfever". In one hectic day Lt Hewlett and Sgt Owen drove two Ford Escorts full to brimming with equipment and food and with LCpl Sandford, Ptes Watson, Burgess and Thomson squeezed in between set up camp, cooked compo lunch and dinner, went pony trekking and walking in the Mountains of Mourne, explored Newcastle harbour and went to a disco with the QLR. Determined to enjoy their short stay they even went swimming on the beach at 1030 at night! Sunbathing was the main attraction next day but a few hundred yards from the camp site, they had a flat tyre. LCpl Sandford was so energetic in the mid-afternoon heat and quickly put them on the road again.

In September two groups of six and seven respectively set off by RAF helicopter for five days adventure training on Kintyre in Scotland and stayed in a hut by Loch Lussa which was kindly made available by the Rotary Club of Campbeltown. They went canoeing, walking, pony trekking and swimming, thoroughly enjoying the break away from Northern Ireland. Even in the wilds of Scotland they managed to find some social life, a disco at RAF Machrihannish and folk singing at Bellochantry. In addition soldiers from 3 Para on an escape and evasion exercise just happened to drop in in time for a party in the hut. Later the WRAC went to RAF Aldergrove to play the helicopter detachment at football. The score was an amicable 5 all (the men could only walk) and, with a recuperative party afterwards, great fun was had by all!

Our warmest thanks go out to the Ulster Branch of the WRAC Association who kindly gave a Christmas gift to everyone of the approximate 270 WRAC serving in Northern Ireland. DADWRAC delivered these Christmas gifts to the WRAC on her Christmas Eve and Christmas Day tour of the Province.

181 PROVOST COMPANY WRAC

THE glorious summer weather seemed to encourage everyone to make hay whilst the sun shone and with the terrorists also taking their summer break, our girls were able to get away from the daily grind of searching duties to spend a day at Portrush. As the hot weather continued Cpl Mangan, the company PTI, arranged several one day adventurous training expeditions to Ballykinler where as many girls as possible took part in canoeing and hill walking.

After a fairly leisurely summer a very different kind of heat has warmed our autumn days as the

terrorists' activity hots up. Hardest hit have been our country cousins in Portadown who have been extremely busy even though there is still a so called 'ceasefire' on. Hardly a day passes without some form of special operation be it house or pub searches, foot patrols or mobiles, never ending vehicle checkpoints and a very wide variety of other incidents. The hours are long but a variety of duties maintain everyone's interest. The Portadown girls even had a month under naval regime when 42 Royal Marine Commandos moved in on them. Our girls found it somewhat strange going to their berths, eating in the galley and going shopping by Liberty Boat. In fact during the last four months they have shared the camp with no fewer than six different units, all with their own peculiar ways and traditions.

BAOR

16th SIGNAL REGIMENT WRAC At Bradbury Fair

EACH year 16th Signal Regiment hold a Fair at Bradbury Barracks to raise money for a selected charity and for a month previous to D Day the RSM was looking for "volunteers" to run stalls and events. Suddenly the WRAC found themselves in charge of the raffle. So we borrowed some money from the PRI and despatched Maj Craggs to the town to buy prizes. Later that afternoon OC WRAC's office was transformed into an Aladdin's Cave with a colourful display to tempt even the most thrifty.

All members of the WRAC were issued with 200 tickets with strict instructions to sell at all costs. For the next two weeks the Regiment played a new game called 'dodge the WRAC ticket sellers'. Most people who tried this game failed miserably.

At last the great day arrived and, with a tidy profit already stashed away, the brave ticket sellers sallied forth into the masses to relieve all and sundry of DM2. Not content with simply selling tickets Pte Pritchard, who had a broken leg at the time, was charging people to write on her pot and they paid up. Perhaps it was something to do with the shorts she was wearing..... Capt Leach and Lt Platts, not to be outdone, were tricked into taking part in the ducking stool—a very dampening experience!

In the end the day was highly successful with the WRAC making the highest profit—just over DM3,000. So, very well done!

TRAVELS WITH NORTHAG SIGNAL TROOP WRAC

A WEEKEND in Paris is something a lot of people dream about. This dream came true for 10 members of Northag Signal Troop WRAC in September. The aim of the weekend was to participate in the 1975 Marches du Val de Marne on Sunday 21 September. The WRAC were accommodated at Sucy town hall and the dream was slightly shattered when they discovered their accommodation consisted of a small room with 8 double bunks and one cold water tap! As breakfast was to be at Vincennes at 0700 and Sucy was 30 minutes drive away it was reckoned that the first wash would have to be at 0530. Suddenly everyone decided they could do without breakfast. Ptes Pat Thomas and Pauline Thomas went out on a 'sandwich search' and eventually were personally escorted by two charming Gendarmes to the only cafe in Sucy still open. Even when LCpl Snowden was offered a traditional French breakfast of coffee and croissant she was unimpressed. She couldn't believe a civilised nation had anything but bacon and eggs for breakfast.



Back Row L to R: Cpls D Foster and D Gardner, LCpls S Murphy, K Fogwill and P Snowden. Front Row L to R: Ptes A Torrington, P Thomas, M Male, M Barnett and P Thomas.

On the Saturday a quick visit was made to the Champs Elysee and the Arc de Triomphe and all the WRAC managed to report a sighting of the Eiffel Tower. They didn't have any more time for sight seeing as they then had to change into No 2 Dress to form a Guard of Honour at the evening's reception. The organiser's intention was to make the theme of the reception "International Women's Year" and the Northag Signal Troop WRAC team, ably commanded by Cpl Foster, was the largest from any of the Women's Services. There were, in addition, smaller teams of servicewomen from the US Army and the French Navy.

Men of the French Foreign Legion, British Military Police and US 8th Signal Battalion lined the steps of Creteil Town Hall while the Women's Services formed two facing ranks in the foyer. The guests, civic dignitaries, commanding officers and "Majorettes de Creteil" moved into the reception through the assembled lines and British guests had several favourable comments for the WRAC. After the formal welcome the Guard of Honour mingled with the guests and Ptes Torrington and Barnett established friendly contact with the 8th US Signal Battalion so successfully that the US bus transported the team back to their changing room and then into Paris for the evening.

All the preliminaries were now over and it was time for the March itself. On Sunday morning the team was piped out by a Scottish piper much to the delight of LCpl Fogwill who hails from Edinburgh. The route of the march followed the great ox-bow that the Marne makes between Champigny and Alfort before it flows into the Seine at Charenton and was mostly level except where it sloped up from the river towards the end. The team completed the 30 kilometres exactly on time and formed up for the ceremonial march through the Chateau de Vincennes, ancient home of the Valois Kings of France. Having done that and collected their medals there was only one very important thing to do—count the blisters.

Northag Signal Troop WRAC in general manages to do a lot of travelling in connection with sport. In the past few months we have had people on courses in Kiel and Norway. Cpl Youngs, Ptes Blowman and Waldron did a course at the Sail Training Centre in Kiel and are now fully qualified "Off-shore hands". Cpl Dunsis learned what it was like to canoe in the open sea at BOBC Norway and also found out how cold the water can be at 0630 as the course started every day with a swim! LCpl Geldard took part in the BAOR Canoeing Championships at Herford and, although she capsized, did very well indeed.

In fact we even travel to UK for sport. This year members of the Troop have represented BAOR in Swimming, Tennis, Athletics and Badminton. However we would like to assure everyone that, in between sports fixtures, we work very hard providing communications for HQ BAOR and HQ NORTHAG/TWOATAF.

8 COMMAND POSTAL & COURIER COMMUNICATIONS DEPOT RE

DURING the summer of 1975 members of the Unit travelled far and wide. Cpl Myers organised two trips to Cochem on the Mosel River during the festival weekends and there



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SSAFA needs volunteers

have been countless trips to Amsterdam and elsewhere. The WRAC Element entered the Nijmegen Marches with the male contingent of 8 CPCCD RE again in July.



Cpl Lockwood and LCpl Nicol leading the singing and hand-clapping.

To maintain a little parity with their male counterparts the WRAC Postal Workers are invited to participate in HQ Rhine Area and Dusseldorf Training Camps each year. The first of these was in June at Arsbeck and included

NBC training and other such mobilisation pursuits. The second took place at Vielsalm, near Liege in Belgium in September and the emphasis was on physical fitness. The WRAC joined in with the men in Trekking, Basic Mountaineering and Canoeing. A special mention here goes to Cpl Anne Wright who won the prize in the Rock Climbing section for being the best and most promising pupil. Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time despite a few blisters and other "war" wounds. The general opinion was, once again, that the presence of the WRAC Element on both these weeks was an asset and the good spirit among the girls was highly praised.

Cyprus

Two Sues Santa-Time Sit-Up

by Henry Bojdy



L to R: Lt S Sainsbury QARANC, Capt S White WRAC, Cpl M Jonas ACC and LCpl A Grant ACC

SOMETHING was stirring for the Army in Dhekelia, Cyprus and that was a mammoth Christmas pud! Helping to mix the mix Lt Sue Sainsbury, one of the Army's QARANC Officers from the Military Hospital at Dhekelia and Capt Sue White WRAC, the new editor of Lion. Every man knows that stirring comes easily to members of the female sex and this mixing marathon was to feed some 2000 soldiers.

For those who would like to try a 'pud' for two thousand this is how you go about it. First find a huge mixing bowl, two very large wooden spoons and a couple of attractive girls. Tip sixty pounds each of sultanas, currants, raisins, suet along with forty pounds of bread-

crumbs and brown sugar and thirty pounds of flour into the bowl with 240 eggs. Add 120 oranges mixed with 40 lemons. To give the mix its Christmas spirit add 30 pints of stout, 2 pints of rum and brandy and 5 pints each of madeira and sherry. Milk, apples, prunes and almonds complete the Christmas pudding for two thousand.

Encourage the girls to do the stirring and steaming while you relax with a good book and the remains of the brandy!

Hong Kong

Diss WRAC Girl At The Helm

PTE Barbara Ruddock, aged 22, from Thelveton, Diss, Norfolk, is stationed in Hong Kong and is seen here steering a small assault craft past Chinese junks while in camp in the New Territories with her parent unit, 27 Signal Regiment. "I enjoyed every minute of it", she said. "Back in Hong Kong I have plenty of leisure time to take part in my favourite sports, swimming and squash."



Pte Ruddock is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Ruddock, New Road, Thelveton, and was educated at Diss Secondary Modern School. She joined the WRAC in December 1973 and was posted to Hong Kong in June 1974. She is based at Victoria Barracks, where she is a communications operator.

Round & About 1975

Colchester Tattoo

Four Attractive Girls Limber Up

SITTING pretty on the limber of a Royal Navy gun, during a break in rehearsals for the 1975 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo, are four WRAC girls who took part in a gymnastic display put on by the Army Physical Training Corps.



L to R: Pte H Hicks, WO2 D Lodge, Pte F Anderson and Sgt J McMahon.

WO2 Lodge, the team coach, is an international gymnast and has taken part in the British, European and World Championships. She is a physical training instructor at the Army School of Physical Training. Sgt McMahon was seriously injured in the 1974 coach bomb incident on the M62 and was making her first public appearance since then. Although her ankle, which was broken, was not completely better, she displayed great courage and expertise during her routine on the trampoline. She is also a physical training instructor and is stationed at the Central Ordnance Depot Donnington. Pte Anderson is a driver at the School of Army Aviation Middle Wallop. Both she and Pte Hicks, who is an Assistant Experimentalist in

Gunnery at the Proof and Experimental Establishment Shoeburyness, joined the Army in September 1974 and they worked particularly hard to be selected for the team.

RCT Aldershot



Capt P Carson WRAC being presented to HRH Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief Royal Corps of Transport, by Maj Gen W Bate CB OBE during a visit to the RCT Training Centre, Aldershot.

Royal Tournament

Sgt M Devlin

IN 1975 I volunteered to take part in the Royal Tournament and joined 35 other volunteers to share in one of the most interesting and spectacular events—Scottish Country Dancing. We began with a week's training at RAF Stanmore to learn the dance which was in honour of the



L to R: LCpl Williams, RSME Regt, Lt Wilkie, SE District, Pte Richardson, York Garrison, Pte Kesson, 12 Coy WRAC, Sgt Devlin, RAEC Centre, Cpl Kimberley, 12 Coy WRAC, Pte Grosse, 1 (BR) Corps and Pte Cassidy, Cheltenham. LCpl Hannah and Pte Brown, COD Donnington and Pte Young, 29 Coy WRAC were also present.

Australian visitors. It was hard work but a lot of fun and really enjoyable.

There were 30 performances during the Tournament and we all had at least one break. There were 36 dancers split up into four teams of eight with one extra to give everyone a break. The teams were made up of the three Women's Services and one mixed team. The first performances were nerve racking with the spot lights on us and particularly the TV filming when all the lights were on in the Arena. Most nights were crowded but the afternoons were not so popular and everyone was keen not to make a mistake. We were all satisfied with our efforts and got a great amount of pleasure after we had overcome our nervousness. The Tournament was the most wonderful experience I have ever had in the Army and one in which everyone who took part will never forget.

RA "At Home" Woolwich



RA At Home, the QARANC and WRAC gave a fashion parade of Women's service uniforms through the ages.

Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve

WRAC Infantrymen

4th (V) BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF WALES (24th 41st FOOT)

Lt Col F C Batten

IT is with some temerity that I put my head into the Lioness's den and write about the WRAC. My good fortune is to be the Commanding Officer of the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales (TAVR) which is the first infantry battalion to have raised its own

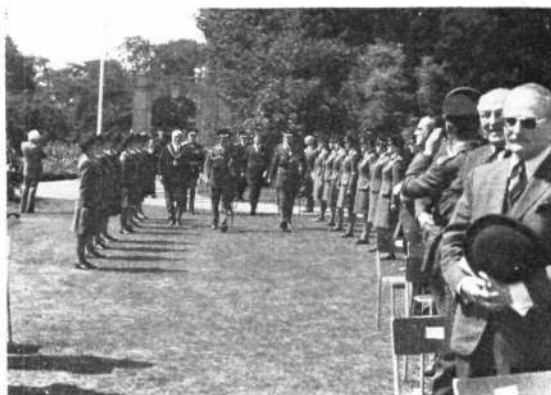
WRAC Platoon and I thought your readers might be interested in hearing something about the Army's first infantrywomen.

It all started with the 1974 TAVR Review which decided that, from 1st April 1975, all General Reserve Battalions of the TAVR might raise a WRAC Platoon of 20 girls to include a Platoon Officer, a Sergeant and 18 girls as Clerks, Radio Operators, Intelligence Clerks, Cooks, Drivers, Medical Orderlies and Storewomen. It took a certain amount of heated debate to decide whether or not we, as a Battalion, would attempt to recruit a WRAC platoon. Although I could see several advantages we were not short of male chauvinistic pigs eager to press the many disadvantages, real or imaginary. I decided that the advantages probably outweighed the disadvantages and, by the end of April, we had recruited a full platoon. By the end of annual camp in September we had got almost all our girls through their basic training and we are now well on our way with trade and specialist training.

We had our share of problems. We had difficulty in finding a ready-made officer and so had to enlist and train our own, a lengthy business as it may be at least a year before she can do her basic training, attend Camp and get away on her commissioning course. This is a long time for the platoon to be without an experienced commander but luckily my Clerical Officer at Battalion HQ had been a regular WAAF and a retired TA WRAC Warrant Officer and Sergeant Joseph gallantly came out of retirement to hold the fort as Platoon Sergeant. Another problem was that our girls are spread through 3 TAVR Centres ranging from Llanelli in the West through Neath to Bridgend in the East. This makes it difficult to centralize girls for evening training although we get them together one weekend every month. During evening training periods they share subjects like map reading and first aid with the men and fire with (and against!) them on the .22 range. We also had an initial problem over what to teach the girls, as there was no ready-made training syllabus for a WRAC infantryman. However HQ UKLF soon came up with a syllabus based on that of a male infantry recruit, less the weapon training and fieldcraft and, with a few 'tribal' additions of our own, this has proved quite workable.

What are the results after 9 months of budding infantrywomen? Certainly recruiting and morale in the Battalion have increased considerably.

We have a smart, well trained platoon who are filling many key positions in the Unit and Battalion HQ in particular would find it difficult to operate without the WRAC clerks, radio operators and intelligence clerks. As well as their trade training most girls qualify for the St John's Ambulance certificate, we try to give them all driving experience and are getting girls off on useful additional training such as Projectionists' and Mess NCO's courses. They have flown in helicopters, beach landed from LCTs, abseiled from cliffs, acted as enemy in an IS exercise, laboured on a voluntary project in Snowdonia, produced an excellent cabaret for the Sergeants' Mess and paraded before our Colonel-in-Chief, The Prince of Wales. What's more they have done so without losing their femininity and, to prove it, LCpl Delyth Thomas, one of our medical orderlies, recently became Miss Wales TAVR.



HRH The Prince of Wales visiting the Regiment.

We certainly have not yet solved all our problems and still have a long way to go in our training but we have received a valuable addition to the Battalion which has increased our efficiency, raised the tone of the Unit and made it a more pleasant place to work. The girls have improved our recruiting, given us valuable free publicity and charmed our visitors. They have even won over to their side most of our confirmed misogynists and I think the ultimate compliment is that the soldiers now speak of them, not as "the WRAC", but as "our girls". Dare I suggest that the stage is now set for the incorporation of WRAC into the Regular Infantry Battalions?

A Red Beret



MAUREEN Cooper from Burntisland, a 19 year old law student and Officer Cadet in the Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt Universities OTC, has become the first honorary woman member of the 15th Parachute Regiment. She took up parachuting when her brother and five other members of the Regiment died on a drop into the Kiel Canal in September 1974.

After making a parachute jump from a balloon suspended 800 feet over Holyrood Park she was presented with a red beret and the badge of the Edinburgh Company of the Regiment by Colonel J Burke. She also received a special scroll recording her honorary membership.

Officer Cadet Cooper, who has made 14 jumps, said: "I am very pleased indeed with this honour and hope to be able to jump with the Regiment many more times. Parachuting is a tremendously exciting experience but, to continue with it as a hobby, is very expensive particularly for someone on a student grant".

Maureen Cooper is to be congratulated, not only on this honour, but for the pluck and determination which prompted the Parachute Regiment to award it to her.

Lang Trophy 1975

A HECTIC training period, from 6th September-4th October, culminated in the girls from Alpha Troop 48 Signal Squadron competing for the Lang Trophy at Nesscliff Camp. This trophy was donated by Col W W Lang ERD, to be awarded to the winner of a military proficiency competition between sub-units of the group.

Having chosen a team of ten girls, all of whom "volunteered", we began a training programme designed to bring us up to Basic Signalling Skills in the necessary events. Our team had to include two drivers. We were all put through our paces which included driving skills, map reading and navigating, by the MT Sgt. The two drivers, chosen on overall performance, were LCpl Bulloch and Pte Reynolds. For the remainder of their training time these two girls concentrated on aspects of driving, vehicle fault finding and map reading.

The remaining eight members of the team; 2Lt Thomas, Sgt Ferguson, Cpl Butler, LCpls Hartshorne, Bale and Martin, Ptes Johnson and Wilson got down to learning the essentials about Voice Procedure, Nuclear Biological and Chemical training, First Aid, Generators, Line-Laying, Camouflage and Switchboard Operating. It was certainly an ideal opportunity to brush up on our knowledge and surprised most of us how much we had to learn!



In addition to the military proficiency aspect of the trophy all WRAC Teams had to compete in an Orienteering Competition at Brown Clee. The course was difficult with fourteen check-points. Three members of our team completed the course earning a total of 78 points—well ahead of our rivals.

All our hard work and effort paid dividends and we won the WRAC section of the competi-

ition obtaining 505½ marks out of a possible 755. Each member of the team was presented with a silver salver to mark our success.

42 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

TAVR members serving with 42 Signal Squadron (V) who were taking part in Manchester's parade celebrating 'International Women's Year'. The flat, one of over 40 in the parade, showed some of their activities when on exercise with the Squadron and different WRAC uniforms.



Back Row L to R: Lt J Hindshaw, Lt R Redwood, Pte D Stringer, OCdt H Price. Front Row L to R: Pte P Johnson, LCpl S O'Brien, Pte A Johnson.

Other recruiting activities in July have included displays at Salford's 'Military Fortnight' and at the 3 day Manchester Show which celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1975.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY OTC

OUR OTC has always had a flourishing WRAC Section and we are now over fifty strong providing something like forty per cent of the Unit's strength.

We have had a busy and enjoyable year as well as getting through a lot of training we have contributed to the sporting scene. In February, after several weeks of early morning training in local parks, five girls entered for the Army Women's Cross Country Championship at Catterick and, to their surprise, did quite well. Giselle Cragg came sixth in the TAVR event and our other four all finished close behind her. In June we entered a Ladies Team for the Falling Plate Competition in the NW District Skill at Arms Meeting and survived three rounds before being beaten by the eventual runners up; our men's team gallantly opted out one round earlier.

In camp at Ripon we had an enjoyable mixture of training during the first week including such ladylike activities as bridge building, demolitions and shooting! In the second week we took to the hills with the rest of the Unit for a four day patrol exercise through the Yorkshire Dales. This involved a march of about thirty five miles through lovely wild country with various military diversions en route. Although some of our members elected to provide communications from the comfort of landrovers, many more marched with the men. Those who did thoroughly enjoyed themselves as did our newly qualified doctor, Liz Symonds. She not only marched most of the way but dispensed elastoplast and other advanced forms of medical treatment at our nightly bivouacs.

THE WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

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

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION
(INCORPORATING QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS AND AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE COMRADES ASSOCIATION)

We have examined the annexed Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account and in our opinion they give respectively a true and fair view of the Association's affairs at 31st October 1975 and of its excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

(Signed) HOWARD TILLY & Co.

Norfolk House,
187 High Street,
Guildford,
Surrey

18th December 1975

HOWARD TILLY & Co,
Chartered Accountants

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

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1975

<i>Cost 1974</i>			<i>Cost</i>	<i>Market Value 31st October 1975</i>
634·57	CHARIFUND TRUST UNITS (M & G GROUP) 1,000 UNITS	...	634·57	1,126·50
527·70	LONDON COUNTY 5½% STOCK 1985-87 £722·31		527·70	662·89
527·70		£522·48	300·00	
50·00	BRITISH LEGION HOUSING ASSN, LTD £50 BOND		50·00	50·00
1,331·55	8½% TREASURY LOAN—1997 £1,376·71 'A' STOCK		1,331·55	860·44
943·25	8% TREASURY LOAN STOCK 2002-06 £1,026·61		943·25	564·42
2,390·99	7½% TREASURY LOAN 2012-15 £4,682·48		2,390·99	2,551·95
<u>£5,878·06</u>			<u>£6,178·06</u>	<u>£5,816·20</u>

BALANCE SHEET—31st OCTOBER 1975

	£	£	£	£
GENERAL FUND				
Balance at 1st November 1974	...	4,361·23	4,472	
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	...	1,466·34	190	
		<u>5,827·57</u>	<u>4,662</u>	
Less: Loss on Sale of Investments	...	—	301	
		5,827·57		4,361
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND				
Membership Life Subscription	...	1,145·46	1,085	
Lioness Life Subscription	...	1,171·18	1,043	
		2,316·64		2,128
SPECIAL FUND				
Legacy—Lt Col C A Cecil	...	390·50	391	
Lioness Donation Fund	...	274·12	124	
		664·62		515
		<u>£8,808·83</u>		<u>£7,004</u>
REPRESENTED BY:—				
FIXED ASSETS				
OFFICE FURNITURE				
Balance at 1st November 1974	...	66·00	73	
Less: Depreciation for the year	...	7·00	7	
		59·00		66
INVESTMENTS—at cost per schedule (Market Value		6,178·06		5,878
£5,816)				
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stock of Badges at cost	...	51·80	81	
Interest accrued and Income Tax recoverable	...	22·55	25	
Sundry Debtors	...	284·55	230	
Cash at Bank: Current Account	...	1,831·33	579	
Deposit Account	...	907·89	713	
		2,739·22	1,292	
Cash in Hand	...	22·74	10	
		<u>£3,120·86</u>	<u>£1,638</u>	
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Membership Subscriptions Paid in Advance	...	174·38	192	
Lioness Subscriptions Paid in Advance	...	261·50	287	
Sundry Creditors	...	113·21	99	
		<u>£549·09</u>	<u>£578</u>	
		2,571·77		1,060
		<u>£8,808·83</u>		<u>£7,004</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1975

	£	1975	£	£	1974	£
INCOME						
SUBSCRIPTIONS						
Annual		421·83			690	
Proportion of Four Yearly and Membership Life Subscriptions		211·35			204	
			633·18			894
Income from Investments			674·21			431
Deposit Account Interest			75·06			69
Donations			10·10			7
Sale of Publications			15·59			9
Sale of Badges			2·07			11
Branch Funds received on closure... ..			—			26
QMAAC Reunion—Sale of tickets		14·52		22		
Less: Catering, Printing and Sundry Expenses		20·64		23		
			(6·12)			(1)
			1,404·09			1,446
GRAND REUNION—Sale of Tickets etc.... ..		—		963		
Less: Expenditure		—		1,092		
						129
GRAND DRAW—Sale of Tickets		748·51		—		
Less: Expenditure		120·00		—		
			628·51			
Less: Donation to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund		300·00		—		
			328·51			
TOBOMLA etc.		265·85		—		
Less: Expenses		11·50		—		
			254·35			
			1,986·95			1,317
Less: Total Expenditure			520·61			1,127
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			£1,466·34			£190

	£	1975	£	£	1974	£
EXPENDITURE						
BRANCHES						
Capitation Fees		261·37			138	
Grants		25·00			15	
			286·37			153
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION						
Printing, Postage etc.		2,475·83			2,164	
Less: Subscriptions (including £200·42 Income Tax recovered on Covenants).		2,053·38		919		
Proportion of Four yearly and Life Subscriptions		279·03		286		
Advertisement Revenue		211·68		224		
		2,544·09			1,429	
			(68·26)			735
			218·11			888
Expenses of Annual General Meeting and Secretary's Meeting			23·70			3
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES						
Printing and Stationery		17·70			13	
Postages		72·34			42	
Subscriptions and Donations		40·00			25	
Commissions etc. re purchase of shares		—			28	
Sundry Expenses		22·30			22	
Audit and Accountancy Fee		119·46			99	
Depreciation of Office Furniture		7·00			7	
			278·80			236
			£520·61			£1,127

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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

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

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



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

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 'GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE-PLEASE'

Prize Competition

Word Game

A PRIZE of £2 will be awarded to the reader who submits the highest number of words made from the word: **PERAMBULATION**

Words must be English, of two or more letters and each letter in the master word may be used once only in each word. No proper names, trade names, plurals or abbreviations. Entries should be typed or printed in block letters and show name, address and number of words submitted. Entries must reach the Editor by 7th May. Please mark your envelopes "Competition".

PRIZE WINNER

The winner of the Limerick Competition was Sgt P A Quince of 39 (City of London) Signal Regt (V) who completed one of the Limericks as follows:

The elephant leaned on an oak,
A wren looked down crossly and spoke:
"You are a great pest,
You're rocking my nest
And now all my crockery's broke!"

There were several other amusing entries including one from Sgt W Bugg BEM of the Army Careers Office, Ipswich:

The honey bee said to the spider:
"I've developed a taste for rough cider",

The spider said: "Funny!
I thought you drank honey
And made your own liquor inside yer!"

Mrs M E Baker of Gloucester submitted: "Then he fled lest he ended inside her". While Miss O E Jones of Polgate, Sussex suggested: "Now the route to your hive must be wider".

QARANC Museum Appeal

THE history of the QARANC spans well over 100 years of service devoted to the wounded and sick in every theatre of war and many peacetime catastrophes. The tradition of Army nursing sprang from, and is continuously linked to, Florence Nightingale's organisation, in 1854, of all nursing in Military hospitals in the Crimea. Queen Victoria was so impressed with her work that she raised funds to build the first Military Nurse Training School which was called the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley.

From then on there has always been a military nursing service and a Reserve of Nursing Officers and, in 1949, these became regular Corps of the Army and were re-named QARANC and QARANC(TA).

In this period of over a century it is understandable that the artefacts of the Corps history are numerous and require adequate facilities to

give them a proper display. Uniforms over the century, starting with one worn by Florence Nightingale to those of the present day, medals from every campaign in which the Army engaged, letters, photographs and reports from the icy wastes of Archangel to steaming tropical Africa and from the arid, remote NW Frontier of India and deserts of N Africa to the mud and slime of Flanders, all tell their stirring human story. Many young nurses perished during their service to the Army and, to create a fitting record of this devotion, deserves all the help and support we, as junior Corps, can give.

The QARANC Museum must be redesigned and enlarged to accommodate the exhibits in a manner worthy of all army nurses who have upheld the rich tradition of their Corps. The target is £10,000 of which the QA have already raised nearly half. Donations should be sent to: The Treasurer QARANC Museum, QARANC Regimental Headquarters, QARANC Training Centre, Royal Pavilion, Farnborough Road, Aldershot, GU11 1PZ, Hants. Cheques, postal orders payable to "QARANC MUSEUM APPEAL".

Book Review

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps

by Juliet Piggott

Leo Cooper Ltd. £4.50

JULIET Piggott took on a formidable task when she wrote this book in the Famous Regiments Series and it richly deserves its endorsement by Sir Brian Horrocks. At some time in our lives we all come under the ministrations of nurses and it can be an emotive experience but the author has managed to keep a balance between the integrity of an historian and the compassion of a human being. Contrary to popular belief military nursing did not start with Florence Nightingale and this book traces the vocation from its beginnings in the Roman Occupation, through the early Christian nursing Orders, the rough and ready aid of camp followers in campaigns overseas until that formidable organiser and influential administrator of Scutari gathered up the extraneous strands of military nursing and welded them into what has become the finest military nursing service in the world. All too soon the Army Nursing Service, officially created in 1881, was to be tested in the Boer War and 1400 nurses went to South Africa. The Service triumphed then, over danger, disease, fatigue and appalling conditions and it has triumphed ever since. World War I brought overwhelming casualties in France, the Middle East, even Russia but, again, the QAs were dauntless. World War II brought even worse experiences in wider ranging theatres of war, 220 nurses died and, for the first time, many

became POWs in the Far East. The final, indescribable awfulness was Belsen! The soldiers liberated it but it was the RAMC and QAs who had to clear it up.

This book faithfully and meticulously records the history of the QAs in a way which will make it compulsive reading for all service men and women and a treasure house for future researchers. At the same time it gives vivid word pictures of what it was really like in Flanders, India, Tobruk or any other countless crisis spots during hostilities or peacetime disasters and it touches on the poignant human experience of individual nurses all too briefly. Juliet Piggott has written an impeccable history of the QAs; this was her brief which she must have been sorely tempted to exceed but no single book can hope to do justice to the incredible saga of this unique Corps. What is urgently needed is another book to fill in the canvas with the enormous untapped wealth of human endurance, quiet devotion and unshrinking determination which runs like a golden thread through the QA story. And, while people like Margot Turner, Barbara Cozens and Laura Wilkinson are still around, women who were there and made history with their lives, now is the time to write it.

Association News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE AGM will be held on Saturday, 20th March 1976 in the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London (150 yds from Marble Arch along Edgware Road) at 2.30pm.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday, 15th March 1975.
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. To receive the Report of Council.
4. To receive the Report of the Honorary Treasurer.
5. To receive the Report of the Editor of Lioness.
6. To receive the Reports of Committees.
7. Election of Officers.
8. Any Other Business.
9. Date of next Meeting.

BRANCH SECRETARIES' MEETINGS

THE Secretaries' Meeting will be held at 1130 am in The Victory Services Club on Saturday, 20th March 1976. Members of Council look forward to meeting Branch Secretaries after the meeting for lunch as their guests. Will Secretaries please assist arrangements by letting the General Secretary know by 5 Mar 76 whether they will or will not be attending the meeting and lunch as it will be necessary to issue tickets for lunch in advance.

GRAND REUNION

THE Grand Reunion will be held at The Victory Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London on Saturday, 20th March 1976 from 7pm to 10pm (doors open at 6.30pm). The President of the Association HRH The Duchess of Kent has kindly notified her intention to be present. The price of tickets is £2.50 (including refreshments) for members and £3 for non-members.

Tickets are available from General Secretary WRAC Association, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey until 5 March. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with the application. No tickets will be available at the door and no refunds will be possible after 5 March.

Accommodation can be provided at The Victory Services Club for non-members of the Club attending the Reunion under the following conditions:

Beds will be available in double rooms at a cost of £3 per person per bed per night which is inclusive of VAT and the temporary membership fee. Applications for accommodation should be made to General Secretary WRAC Association, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey until 5 March, enclosing the necessary money. No refunds will be possible after 5 March 1976.

CHURCH SERVICE

THE Governor of The Royal Hospital Chelsea has agreed to members of the Association attending the 11am Service in their beautiful and interesting Chapel on Sunday, 21 March 1976.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 1975

COL L M Davies CBE, Brig E J Nolan Hon ADC, Col D H I Wilson OBE (Retd) and a number of ex-service and serving members were at the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey by HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. The Corps Cross was planted by Lt Col J Hands ADWRAC London District.

The Wimbledon Branch represented the Association at the Cenotaph march past on Remembrance Day and Miss J I Piggie ex QMAAC laid the wreath at the Cenotaph. The Branch was supported by members from Aldershot, Brighton, Greater London and London Branches.

Princess Royal's Memorial Fund

THE Princess Royal's Memorial Fund was started in 1965 by the Association to mark the affection felt by its members for HRH The Princess Royal who had been Honorary President of the QMAAC and ATS Comrades

Association from 1941, President of the WRAC Association from 1956 and President of the Benevolent Funds from 1944 until her death on 28th March 1965.

It was proposed that the money subscribed should be used to make a memorial rose garden at the Centre but thanks to the generosity of members, all the rose bushes were given and even a gardener was lent to do the planting. Therefore all the money was invested to provide annuities for the old and the incapacitated, living lonely lives on minimal incomes and unable to afford those things such as warmth, which are so necessary to make life bearable for the immobile.

The first annuity was awarded in 1966 to a lady suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, confined to a wheel chair and losing her sight. She remained an annuitant until she died in 1973. Each annuity consisted of 10 shillings per week paid quarterly (£6.50) and remained at this sum until October 1975 when, in view of the increased cost of living, the Trustees decided to increase it to £10 per quarter.

The Fund is completely dependent on donations which are all invested; only the interest is used to provide the annuities. This means that over £500 must be invested to provide an annuity for one person. There are currently 34 annuitants of whom the oldest is 85 and the youngest 44. The latter is an ex member of the WRAC living on her own who, as a result of a road accident, is a paraplegic.

1976 is the tenth anniversary of the first annuity and it would be much appreciated if Branches and Units raising money for the Benevolent Funds in 1976 would mark the occasion by concentrating on the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund so that the present number of annuitants can be maintained and, if possible, increased.

The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund is financially quite independent of the Benevolent Fund and has to stand on its own feet. Please help it to do so.

Reunions

NORTHERN AREA REUNION 1975

THE Northern Area Reunion was held in the Crescent Room of the Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate, on 25th October and was attended by members of most of the Northern Area Branches as well as various individual visitors from outside the Area. Lt Col F M Cook, ADWRAC NE District presided as Northern Area Chairman and was supported by the Vice

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

Lt Col Cook extended a welcome to everyone and read a message from the Director who apologised for being unable to attend. Brig Nolan sent her best wishes and then gave details of current Corps activities at home and overseas, not least in Northern Ireland where the WRAC are held in very high regard and considered indispensable. She had been to Northern Ireland recently and during the year had also visited Gibraltar and Sweden.

Lt Col Cook then introduced Maj Bolland, the Women's Services Liaison Officer for South and West Yorkshire, who gave an interesting and entertaining account of her experiences in Yorkshire schools as a "commercial traveller", selling service life to prospective recruits still in the classroom. She showed one of the films which accompany her on such visits and the 'oldies' present were not surprised that the seeds of many a WRAC career are sown in this way! Life was never like this in the Nissen hut era and amongst other questions Maj Bolland was asked the maximum age for re-joining!

Sgt A Wilkinson of Newcastle Branch proposed a vote of thanks and after tea the raffle prizes were presented. The proceeds of the raffle, Bring and Buy stall and collecting box raised approximately £40, a very satisfactory sum to be sent to the Benevolent Fund and Princess Royal's Memorial Fund from Northern Area.

ATS DINNER CLUB 1975

THE annual luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club was held in the Carisbrook Hall at the Victory Club on 11th October 1975; 171 members and guests attended. Numbers were slightly down on last year but we were pleased that it included several new members and hope that this trend will continue.

We were particularly glad to have Mr and Mrs A C E Musk as our guests of honour. Mr Musk guided the finances of the ATS Benevolent Fund for many years and continues to give his invaluable advice as a Trustee of the ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds. Lt Col D C M Hingston, the Chairman, welcomed everybody and gave a brief report of the affairs of the Club. She reminded members that the 1976 luncheon will be followed by a business meeting.

The Women's Army Corps (India) was holding a reunion in another room at the Victory Club and we were delighted when Lady Monckton, better known to many of us as Lady Carlisle, came in for a few minutes to wish us well on their behalf. The Victory Club kindly allowed our members to use their other facilities

for the rest of the day so that those who wished to continue chatting to their friends were able to do so.

Anyone who served in the ATS is eligible to join the ATS Dinner Club, further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs M Storer, Bel Air, Llangrove, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 6EY.

QMAAC REUNION TEA PARTY 1976

THE QMAAC Reunion will be held in the Old Comrades Association Room, The Victory Club, Seymour Street, London W2 on Friday 19 March 1976 from 3.30pm to 6pm. Tickets, which include tea, 75p each. No tickets will be available at the door. Applications must be received by 5 March 1976. Please apply to the General Secretary, WRAC Association, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey enclosing 75p and stamped addressed envelope.

NORTHERN AREA REUNION 1976

THE Northern Area Reunion will be held in the Crescent Room, Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate, on Saturday 25th September 1976 from 2.30 to 6pm. The Director hopes to be present. Tickets 75p including refreshments may be obtained from ADWRAC, HQ North East District, Fishergate, York YO1 4AU. Please send stamped addressed envelope with remittance payable to 'WRAC Association—Northern Area Committee' by Thursday 16th September.

ATS MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION 1976

THE annual reunion will take place at 6pm Saturday 8th May '76 at the Helena Club, 52 Lower Sloane Street, London. Enquiries Sally Healey, Camellia Cottage, Nunney, Somerset.

Obituary

Baird. On 2nd September 1975, Mrs Daisy Mackenzie Baird (née Addison), 91 Middleton Street, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire. Aged 80. QMAAC 1917-1920.

Bartlett. Mrs Elsie Frances Bartlett (née Butler), Kalaw, Asker Gardens, Bridport, Dorset. QMAAC. Served RACD Pimlico and 1st MT Depot Rouen.

Bowman. Miss E A Bowman BEM, 81 Ravensbourne Gardens, Clayhall, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex. QMAAC and ATS.

Evans. On 4th November 1975, Mrs E K Evans, 44 Grosvenor Crescent, Summerhills, Sydney, NSW, Australia. Aged 89. QMAAC.

Fenney. In November 1975, Mrs Elsie Joan Fenney (née Reed), 59 Ridgeway, Sedgely, Dudley, Worcs. ATS 1945-1947.

Ford. Mrs Majorie Vera Ford (née Frost), 16 Hawthorn Crescent, Broadwater, Worthing, Sussex. ATS 1939-1945. Served as a teleprinter Didcot Garrison Group ATS.

Jenkins. On 2nd October 1975, Brigadier Malcolm Bromley Jenkins DSO, Stockhold Green Cottage, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, formerly of Drinkstone. Commandant WRAC Staff College, Frimley Park 1954-1955.

Lees. On 4th November 1975, Mrs Maureen Violet Lees, 23 Ben Nevis Road, Birkenhead, Cheshire. Aged 76. QMAAC 1917-1920. ATS 1938-1945.

Nickerson. On 29th August 1975, Miss E F Nickerson, Flat 19, 22 Albion Buildings, Bartholomew Close, London EC1. QMAAC.

Peters. On 1st September 1975, Mrs Betty Peters, 43 Horncop Lane, Kendal, Westmoreland. ATS 1942-1946.

Seymour-Coxe. Mrs Louisa Seymour-Coxe (née Appleyard), The Oaks, St Marys Road, Liss, Hants. QMAAC 1917-1918.

Shiel. On 5th November 1975, Miss Patricia Mary (Paddy) Shiel, Thatchings, Ashdon, Essex. ATS 1939-1945. War Office AG16 three years.

Taylor. On 15th December 1975, Mrs Dora Taylor, 43 Elwood Road, Bradway, Sheffield. ATS 1940-1946.

Tudor. Miss Betty Tudor, 131 Merridale Road, Wolverhampton. ATS 1941-1946.

Tweedie. On 6th October 1975, Miss Margaret (Peggy) Tweedie, 220 Comber Road, Dundonald, Belfast. ATS 1940-1946. Mention in Despatches.

Williams. Mrs Margaret Florence Williams (née Chadwell), Pardoners, Pilgrims Way, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent. ATS 1942-1946.

Branch News

AYRSHIRE. During 1975 the Branch has met on the second Wednesday of each month in the Leisure Centre, 24 Wellington Square. We have had a varied programme including a demonstration of Yoga, our annual dinner in the Station Hotel, a visit to Ayr Amateur Opera Company's production of "The King and I" and a very successful Country Dance. In April a party of our members attended the Scottish Reunion in the Glasgow City Chambers, an impressive setting for a most enjoyable evening. After a break for the summer holidays we resumed our activities with high tea at the Country Club and a show at the Gaiety Theatre. In October the first of our monthly meetings was a "get together" for members to catch up on one another's news and a Bring and Buy Sale. In addition we keep in touch with the local Branch

of the WRNS Association. We were pleased to welcome two new members to our Branch, Mrs M Whyte and Miss E Clark. It is with regret that we have to report the death of Mrs D M Baird shortly after her 80th birthday.

BRADFORD. We still meet every 2nd Monday in the month with an average attendance of 20 and manage to maintain a very varied programme including talks, film shows, Bring and Buy sales for the Benevolent Fund and Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, a day out at "Armex", a summer evening trip and meal in the country with husbands and friends. A regular event, now, is our joint dinner dance with the Bradford Branch of the Dunkirk Veterans and, of course, our annual visit to the Northern Area Reunion in Harrogate.

CHELTENHAM. The Branch continues to flourish with a membership of 58 and the attendance at meetings is good although one wonders if this can continue. A great many members live well outside the Cheltenham area where most meetings are held and, with the exorbitant cost of petrol, one cannot expect their regular attendance.

A meeting in May was held at The Gloucester Girl Guide Centre at Cowley, near Cheltenham, when a Treasure Hunt and competitions were arranged. Great interest was taken in the Hunt and, to the delight of all, everyone achieved a prize. In June the No 2 Sub-Area Reunion arranged by Bath Branch was attended and enjoyed by many members. It consisted of a very well organised visit to places of interest in Bath City. Further meetings were also held at homes of our members, one at Broadway, Worcs and another at Quennington; beautiful settings in the lovely Costswold country. Our Bring and Buy Sale, held in Cheltenham in October, was a great success and helped to bolster the fast depleting Branch funds.

Our annual Christmas dinner was held in early December. All the food and drink was given by members and it was a very hilarious happy evening. The proceeds of the raffles, prizes also donated, went to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

HARROGATE. Nothing very dramatic has happened in Harrogate Branch in recent months but we have had quite a varied round of activities including slides of the Yorkshire Dales and French and Italian Rivas, a 'Home Made' Bring and Buy in aid of funds, a Beetle Drive and several social evenings. We visited the ARMEX 75 display in Harrogate in August and attended the Northern Area Reunion in October. At the end of October we held a Coffee Party to combine a publicity effort with fund-raising for the Benevolent Funds. Unfortunately this

turned out to be an evening of dense fog which resulted in only a handful of patrons instead of the large crowd expected. But thanks to considerable advance ticket sales, donations from absent friends and generous gifts to the various stalls from those who did manage to get through, a very gratifying total was achieved considering the circumstances. The AGM produced some interesting suggestions for the future programme so we hope to start 1976 with a bang.

LIVERPOOL. Meetings have been held regularly and have been very well attended. Membership remains fairly constant and we have been pleased to welcome a few new members during the year. Our varied activities have included a Whist Drive, Beetle Drive, Bingo, a talk on drugs and a Dutch Auction which provided sufficient money to buy Easter Eggs for the local Children's Hospital. Another of our interests is a pen-pal correspondence with the members of CWAC Unit 47, Canadian Corps Association.

A number of our members attended the AGM in York and we were well represented at the Western Area Reunion in Birmingham. We also took part in the local Service of Remembrance and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph.

Our annual Bring-and-Buy Sale was held in December and we received the same support from our members as they have given in the past. The event, being our main source of income, enables us to make donations to the Benevolent Fund and other deserving causes.

ULSTER. The last three months of the year are always busy as this is when we start to plan for our annual gift distribution to the WRAC serving in our Province. Our efforts in 1975, including a nearly new boutique and generous donations from members, were very rewarding and each girl received a gift from the "old girls" at Christmas.

It was a very happy event when, on 6th December, 27 members attended a luncheon in a small town outside Belfast. This was our first social meeting for some considerable time and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Major C G Parsons, DADWRAC HQ Northern Ireland was our guest of honour; it was a great pleasure to have her with us and to hear about the work done by the WRAC in Ulster.

Our enjoyment in all these events was marred by the absence through illness of our Chairman, Mrs C Hicks now fortunately well on the road to recovery. The year ended on a sad note; we learned of the death of Margaret Tweedie in October and she will be greatly missed. Peggy was a founder member of the Branch and, until her illness, very active in all our functions. She was always helpful, hardworking and unfailingly

cheerful. She volunteered for the ATS in 1940, served in Belfast, Nairn and, in Italy gained a Mention in Despatches.

Our hopes are high that life will soon be back to normal in our Province and that our Branch can again become an active unit of the Association.

BRANCH NOTICES

WOLVERHAMPTON. In future Branch meetings will be held four times a year on the fourth Monday of March, May, September and November 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm in the Study, Public Library, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.

Notices

UNION JACK CLUB

THE Union Jack Club re-opened in new premises in Sandell Street opposite Waterloo Station, London on 3rd November. There is accommodation for serving and ex-service members of the Women's Services. Charges for accommodation are £3.24 single rooms and £6.48 for a double room per night inclusive of VAT. Members of the forces under commissioned rank are automatically full members and ex-service membership is also available at an annual rate of £1.50 including VAT. Details can be obtained from the Club Secretary at Sandell Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UJ. Tel: 01-928 6401.

SERVICES RESETTLEMENT BULLETIN NEWS

RESETTLEMENT Bulletin No 6/75 gives advice on careers in Police, Prison, Fire and Ambulance Services. This Bulletin also details job opportunities in the South East and East Anglia while Bulletin No 4 covers West and South West England.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Personal Column Charges. 3 lines 75p, each additional line 25p (box numbers included). Non-members 50% extra. Notices of forthcoming reunions where admission is charged may be inserted at a cost of 25p per line.

For Sale. Officer's No 2 dress new in 1974, hardly worn. Size 34" bust, 24" waist, 35" hips. Price £50 ono. Apply 2Lt C J Matheson WRAC, c/o Rowland Close, Wolvercote, Oxford.

For Sale. Officer's No 2 dress (never worn) £34, greatcoat £38, Mess dress (new style) £30, size 32-25-36, height 5' 3½". No 1 dress hat £2, beret £1, size 7. Apply Mrs S A Farrelly, 1 Rhine Banks, Cove, Farnborough, Hants.

For Sale. Officer's No 2 dress suits, khaki battledress tops/skirts/slacks. Size 12. Height 5' 4". Box 1/76.

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Vacancy. Ex-WRAC required, suitable to look after an elderly lady and live in Edinburgh. For further details apply to Mr T D S Bell, 5 Alva Street, Edinburgh.

For Sale. Officer's greatcoat scarlet lining. Mess dress, silk sash (Hilliars Couture). Two No 2 dress suits, size 34-25-34, height 5' 6½". Excellent condition. Apply Mrs S A Deane, 26th Field Regt RA, BFPO 20.

Wanted. Officer's No 1 dress uniform in good condition. Size approx 14, 36-26-38. Box 3/76.

For Sale. Officer's No 2 dress, Mess dress, greatcoat. Excellent condition. Size 10-12, height 5' 3". Apply Mrs H J Macklin c/o Gage, 5 Southleigh Grove, Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

Captains: J A Flake, L M Ganter, J E Marrs, R A Ridley
Captain (QM): S J Mitchell
Lieutenants: C M Bates, D F Davies, Y M Jinks, H J Macklin, I E McCulloch, A C M Moules, M J Osborn, G Taylor, S M F Veillard
2/Lieutenants: S M A Beament, C J Fleming are confirmed in their appointments
2/Lieutenants: L C Gurney, C A Lee, J K B Robson, E M Walters
2/Lieutenant on probation: G Taylor

Special Regular Commissions

Majors: G Dexter, S L Williams BEM
Lieutenants: A S Armitage, V E Trout
2/Lieutenant: K M Purveur

Short Service Commissions

Captains: C A Blanch, S Burwell, A F Hall, R D Patrick
Lieutenants: B O Allen, P L Bradford, E Brown, P J Buckoke, C A Cardwell, K L Carruthers, J M Dain, F S T D'Apice, J E Edwards, M L R Graham, J A Jones, E Lovelace, J C A Smith, A Trehern, G V Warren, F E Wilkie
2/Lieutenants on probation: S M C Cameron, L Clargo, S J G Turner are confirmed in their appointments
2/Lieutenants: D Hay, N M Hopwood, P C Rowe, A W F Stratford-Tuke, A White
2/Lieutenants on probation: E H Bell, B Chapman, D M Hastie, M S Hattersley, S C Jones, M J Pollock-Gore, C M Swallow, C G Snedden, L J Whalley

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Lt Col: M B Latham, P Norman MBE
Major: B M W Bass
Major (QM): E E Mailey, H M Shenton
Captains: J L M Brady, S F Healy, J Lavers, J E Marrs, G P M Warren
Lieutenants: R M Burns, A M F Harper
2/Lieutenants: S E Barratt, J A Farrelly

Special Regular Commissions

Lieutenants: S M Arnold, E J Stabler

Short Service Commissions

Captain: A Adamson MBE
Lieutenant: R P Platt-Higgins
2/Lieutenant: C J Fleming

London Gazette

NEW YEAR HONOURS

CB: Brigadier E J Nolan Hon ADC
BEM: SSgt M T G Von Dahlen, ASgt L M Burbridge, ASgt E Joseph TAVR, ASgt M V Knotman TAVR.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

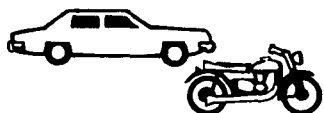
Mention in Despatches: Sgt S C Scantlebury
LSGC: WO2 A Mercer, WO2 W Pickard, S/Sgt C C Coleman, Cpl S E R Parsons.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Regular Army

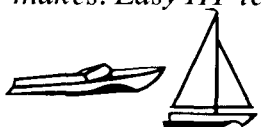
Lt Colonel: E I Millington
Major: B Bluman

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