

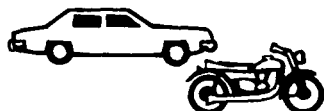
1977

No 2

Lioness

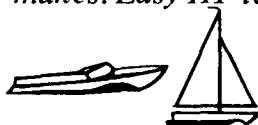


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Please tick box where appropriate

Rank.....

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A

WRAC Staff Band

ENGAGEMENTS

28 Aug -	2.45 -	Concert, Bandstand
3 Sep	4.45 pm	Folkestone
October		
4		City of London Parade
29	7.30 pm	Concert, Blackpool with Coldstream Guards
November		
12		Festival of Remembrance, Albert Hall
December		
8	7.30 pm	Concert, Fairfields Hall, Croydon
18	7.30 pm	Concert, Guildhall Preston with Metropolitan Police Band

For Your Diary

August		
20 - 31	Edinburgh Military Tattoo	
September		
1 - 14	Edinburgh Military Tattoo	
1 - 4	Silver Jubilee Exhibition Hyde Park (near Marble Arch)	
1 - 17	Promenade concerts	
1 - Oct 2	Exhibition: Happy and Glorious – 130 years of Royal Photographs. National Portrait Gallery	
10	St Leger, Doncaster	
24 - Nov 20	Exhibition: British Painting 1952- 1977. Royal Academy	
27-29	Royal Horticultural Society Great Autumn Show, Royal Horticultural Hall, London	
October		
1 - 23	Royal Ballet Company's Season at Sadlers Wells	
3 - 8	Horse of the Year Show, Wembley	
15 - 29	Do it Yourself Exhibition, Olympia	
22 - 30	International Ski Show, Olympia	
November		
11 - 12	Dog Show: Ladies Kennel Association Championship Show, Olympia	
12	The Lord Mayor's Procession and Show	

December

30 - 31 Camping and Holidays: 20th Annual
Camping Outdoor Holiday
Exhibition and the Motor Caravan
Show

1978

January

1 - 8

Camping and Holidays: 20th Annual
Camping Outdoor Holiday
Exhibition and the Motor Caravan
Show

February

10 - 11

Crufts Dog Show, Olympia

April

15

Annual General Meeting, WRAC
Centre, Guildford

Shopping List

	£	p & p
Coasters Vinyl	.30	7p
Key Rings		
Acrylic	.30	15p (up to 6)
Green leather	.25	15p (up to 6)
Clipboards	1.75	53p
Brief cases, plastic	1.00	25p
Bookmarks, leather	.30	15p (up to 6)
ID Card/Season Ticket/		
Bank Card holder	.15	15p (up to 6)
Glass ash/pin tray	.55	20p
WRAC biro pens	.15	15p (up to 6)
Corps shield light oak	3.35	32p
Handbag mirrors	.40	16p
Car badges square	1.70	16p
Pencils triangular	.07	10p (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.

Cover Photograph

HRH The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, GCVO and
HRH The Duchess of Kent, GCVO arriving for the
Diamond Jubilee Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster
Abbey on 3rd March. (Courtesy of Keystone Press
Agency Ltd.)

WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1919

Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH

PRESIDENT

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT, GCVO
Controller Commandant

Vice-President

COLONEL L M DAVIES, CBE
Deputy Controller Commandant

Chairman:	Lieutenant Colonel GEM Saunders-Davies, TD (Retd)
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs H E C Weldon
General Secretary:	Brigadier N C King, MBE (Retd)
ATS/WRAC Benevolent Fund: (Case Secretary)	Mrs J Laurence-Smith
Editor:	Major D R M Parker (Retd)
Advertising Representative:	Major E O Coven, JP (Retd) Nuview Advertising, 22 Cadogan Court, Draycott Avenue, SW3. Telephone: 01-589 8286

Contributions for next issue by 12th December 1977

(Photographs in black and white only)

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Lioness

Vol. L

1977

No. 2

Editorial

All our readers will have been delighted when Her Majesty The Queen invested our Controller Commandant HRH The Duchess of Kent with the insignia of Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order. A telegram of congratulations was sent to Her Royal Highness on behalf of the Association, and a reply was received by the Vice-President of the Association, Colonel L M Davies, saying that Her Royal Highness was very touched by the message.

We also offer our loyal and affectionate good wishes to Her Royal Highness on her recent personal announcement.

In this Diamond Jubilee year of the Women's Services we make no apology for reprinting "The Story of the Association" first published in the QMAAC and ATS Comrades Association Gazette (forerunner of the Lioness) in 1942. Naturally, the events of this year have brought feelings of nostalgia to many of our readers and others who have written from all over the world asking to be put in touch with long-lost friends. May we suggest that membership of the Association, with the journal twice a year, is the best way to keep in touch and a good insurance against loneliness in advancing years.

Still in the mood for looking back we have reprinted the articles "I joined the Army - 1917" and "I joined the Army - 1957" to which a new recruit has added "I joined the Army - 1977". The 1917 recruit was living in a different world - almost unimaginable today -- but joining up in 1977 seems very much the same as joining up in 1957. For those who want a permanent record of the last 60 years, the long-awaited "History of the W.A.A.C., Q.M.A.A.C., A.T.S. and W.R.A.C." is about to be published. Elsewhere in this journal you will find an order form.

Prize Competitions

GARDEN AND HEDGEROW FLOWERS

Each clue leads to a flower which grows in garden, hedgerow or meadow. For example, Animal handwarmer is FOXGLOVE.

A £3 prize will be awarded to the competitor whose correct answer is the first to be opened on 1st November 1977. Please mark your envelopes "Competition".

1. Pebble and whip
2. Essential in music
3. Household implement
4. Well dressed beast
5. Fat before vessel
6. Play cards with a fabulous animal
7. Sweet bunch of grass
8. Vehicle with the people
9. Bovine mistake
10. Saving on a farthing
11. Frozen and just thawing
12. Tauric stampede
13. Christmas cheer
14. Watch the kitchen utensil
15. Wed and Treasure
16. Kind conqueror
17. Sarah is on the road to Rome
18. Toss a ball to Charles Lamb
19. Go French phonetically to the total
20. The bird and part of its leg
21. Geriatric growth
22. Cowardly toy for the infant
23. Not well after teasing
24. Hurry properly
25. Distress follows the remainder
26. The tiny insect leads to trouble
27. Flag in the eye
28. Dark doctor
29. Always remember
30. After six duck and allow

Presentations

B E M



On the 1st April 1977 Major General J Swinton OBE, GOC London District Major General Household Division presented on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, the British Empire Medal to Sgt Jeanne Kick WRAC. Sgt Kick joined the ATS in 1941 and for the last 23 years has been a Recruiter in the Central London Recruiting Depot. She will be retiring in September 1977.

LSGC



There was a family gathering at the Army Careers Information Office, Newcastle upon Tyne on 26th January 1977, when Sgt Terry McGuinness received her Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from Colonel A FIELD, now Brigadier FIELD, DWRAC. Sgt McGuinness's mother, daughter and granddaughter were all present. Sgt McGuinness has been with the Recruiting Organisation since 1960, having served with the ATS from 1942 until 1946 and then with the TA from 1947 until 1950.

36 Years Service

In June 1977 Corporal Irene Ludlow retired from the Corps after 36 years service. She joined the ATS in 1941 and throughout her service she was employed as a Stewardess and has been personal Stewardess to many senior officers of the Corps including eight Directors.

She had two tours of duty outside the United Kingdom, one in Austria from August 1948 to September 1950 and another in Cyprus from July 1957 to June 1959. She is the holder of the War Medal, Defence Medal, GSM (Cyprus) and the LS & GC Medal. Corporal Ludlow must hold the record for attendance at the Festival of Remembrance, held in the Royal Albert Hall, having been a member of the Corps contingent in the Muster Parade on no less than 29 occasions.

There are many who will always remember Corporal Ludlow not only for her efficiency and loyalty but also for her good natured unflappability in all situations. She has been a stalwart supporter of the WRAC, the Association Reunions and Corps Day.

We wish her every happiness in her retirement.



Cpl Ludlow is pictured with Brigadier Nolan CB, shortly before the Brigadier and her personal stewardess retired.

I Joined the Army

— 1917

Elizabeth Taylor (Bess Hogarth) QMAAC

I joined the Army in 1917, the year the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps was formed. I joined up with an umbrella, and what a joke this became — until another WAAC appeared on parade at Aldershot with a sunshade, open.

After being passed fit at the medical at Devonshire House in London (where a stentorian voice had told us to "breathe ... breathe"), we were sent to the Connaught Club for inoculation and vaccination. Then came drill in Hyde Park, with most of us in mufti, free entertainment for all who cared to see and plenty of "voices off" from male onlookers.

Our pay was 28s a week, minus 14s for board and laundry, and out of this we paid for our shoe repairs. When the uniform was finally issued, it consisted of a coatfrock, a greatcoat, a pair of knickers, made with a sizeable pocket on the thigh for pay book and other things, two collars and two pairs of stockings — all khaki coloured. Our shoes were real "gravel-crushers"; our hats after wear turned a salmon-pink and the crown shot up to a point like a pyramid. The coatfrock had buttons up to the neck and a skirt which was meant to be 8 inches from the ground, but as I was over 6 feet (the tallest WAAC, I have been told), my hem was 12 inches from the ground even before the rains came and the material shrank. My top button and hole never met, and for fear of sudden death by throttling, I had to get special authority to turn it in with a "v" appearance.

After 12 days in London, we embarked for France. We went via Folkestone and Boulogne, spending a night in a mice-infested boathouse, and next day we travelled by train to Etaples. There was a huge rest-camp for men coming from "the Line", and the WAACs slept in Nissen huts, eight to a hut. A Major, who was OC Signals, Boulogne, asked for volunteers to man a French telephone exchange. "Those who can count from

one to ten in the language will do," he said, and always ready for adventure I stepped forward. Others joined me, and after a few days in Etaples Exchange we were sent to Le-Touquet-Paris-Plage. One to ten proved an inadequate vocabulary for a French switchboard with two military lines and all the remaining civilian subscribers, but by using a dictionary we soon began to manage better, and five months later when we moved to a real military exchange, the subscribers told the Postmaster how much they regretted our going.

Our first billet at Le Touquet was in a cafe which was "out of Bounds" to the troops. Our meals, which were good, were served in another building about 150 yards away, but I am afraid they never seemed to be sufficient. We were always hungry, but friends of the opposite sex were very good about helping to fill the aching void. From the cafe we used to let down a rope with a hook attached, and at a signal from below we would haul up a few pies and other things cooked and ready to eat.

In the new office we worked for the English and Canadian Forestry Corps. It was interesting work and plenty of fun. The Retreat in March, 1918, brought added work and Paris-Plage seemed full of "brass hats". Then at about 2 am on the morning of November 11, a voice from GHQ Signals gave us word that the war would be over at 11 o'clock. You can imagine the rejoicing — residents embracing any British girl within reach, and even road-sweepers having a try.

After the armistice, changes began to take place. GHQ moved to Wimereux and men came "down the line". From 5th Army came one I was to know very well — my tall and handsome husband-to-be. For our meetings I needed a pass — he being an officer and I (with CB twice on my crime-sheet), still the lowest rank in the Corps. It was, I believe, Lord Kitchener's sister who gave permission for a permanent pass. Sad to relate, the Military Police never pulled me up, for I was longing to wave the precious paper in their faces!

Altogether it was a fine life, well worth while. We were the pioneers of the Women's Army and from the success of that Corps came the ATS and the WRAC of today. I think Margaret Bondfield summed it up when she said: "The younger generation of today have their own conquests to make. I have no doubt that they are repeating the thrills which we experienced, but our generation travelled over rough ground where a path was trod which certainly made the road easier for those who came after".

I Joined the Army

— 1957

I wasn't very bright as a baby, or brilliant at school. To be honest, they didn't come any dimmer. However, I blundered along quite happily until there wasn't much I hadn't blundered into, so capping all previous records in foolery, I volunteered for the Army.

Mention of the British Army generally conjures up visions of indiscriminate call-up, embarrassing "medicals", long route marches, bad food and several fates worse than death. It came as a shock when I tripped into the Recruiting Office and nobody grabbed me, no voice thundered "Sign here". Instead, a long handsome young Sergeant smiled indulgently from behind a pile of propaganda and directed me to the WRAC office next door. Pity about that.

Below a life-size picture of Her Majesty sat an efficient-looking blonde, in bottle green with lashings of gold braid and red flags. Greatly impressed, I muttered something to suit the occasion and accepted her invitation to sit down. After some polite conversation, a few delicate inquiries and much fidgeting on my part, I was outside again, clutching enough literature to guarantee my little brother's biggest bonfire.

Arrangements were made for intelligence and medical tests. By chewing my way through two pencils and 11 fingers, I got surprisingly good results in the first of these, surprisingly because it's some time since I wasn't brilliant at school. The "medical" turned out to be a trial by tickling, the soles of my feet being the centre of operations. I was not sure what the doctor hoped to prove by striking my knee, but I succeeded in proving how easy it was to kick him in the teeth. Revenge was no doubt his reason for passing me.

Events so far had been definitely light-hearted. Enlistment was different. Even my limited intelligence recognised that. There were three flights of stairs to climb before signing any dotted lines. Time to think — and think again. I shuttled up and down those silly steps like a demented Yo-Yo. Going up for the umpteenth time decided me. I hadn't the strength to go down again.

The first question the attesting officer asked was staggering. Why did I want to join the Army? Now, given time, this wouldn't have bothered me. Right then it shook me. There was a Bible on the table, so I couldn't claim patriotic motives, and the interrogator didn't help much either. Just sat there waiting. Ten years older, I squeaked out something about wanting a change. The officer smiled as though to assure me I'd get it too.

After that it was easier. The questions required a simple yes or no and my signature in triplicate. Then with a Bible in my hand and a lump in my throat, I swore allegiance to the Queen. On my way down the stairs, a little imp that won't be suppressed bubbled up inside me, and wondered, with all due respect, if someone should warn Her Majesty.

On the following Intake Day we piled up at Guildford station from all over the UK and Commonwealth. The Depot welcomed us with transport, open gates and an enormous but interesting assortment of kit. We struggled into most of this and paraded up and down our huts, saluting each other in a more or less regimental manner. Queues formed everywhere, at the ironing-boards, at the tailor's, at the hairdresser's and, last but not least, at the photographer's.

It nearly cost our NCOs their popularity, but at the end of five weeks we were ready for the passing-out parade. There were the usual moans about the spit and polish entailed, but when we eventually marched on to the parade-ground and the band struck up, I think everyone of us felt at that moment — something special.

Towards the end of our basic training the Army had, by dint of perseverance and shrewd guesswork, decided which trades we were most likely to succeed in. With a friend I found myself in the middle of the Yorkshire moors, trying to master the intricacies of the British Switchboard Network and disentangle them from the intricacies of COMCAN — a fascinating business. Trade tests permitting, in a few weeks I will no longer be a trainee but a Teleprinter Operator B III sporting the blue lanyard and shining new "Jimmy". Much coveted by all Signals trainees, these "trade marks" are even more important than the corresponding rise in pay which brings our pocket-money up to the noble sum of £4 a week (and all found).

No, I don't regret tripping into that distant Recruiting Office. There is companionship here, coupled with a sense of security and well-being which I have learned to appreciate.

I Joined the Army

— 1977

I'd had a bad morning at school; the careers teachers still couldn't suggest any interesting jobs for me. Still, the afternoon looked promising for a little sleep in the back row; some woman coming to talk about the Army they said.

Well! I couldn't believe my eyes. Surely the slim, tall woman in a smart green uniform wasn't in the Army. She talked about 'Trades' and Cyprus and Germany. This was more like it, and straight from school I went to the Recruiting Office. Here there was another attractive person to talk to. She gave me some tests to do and then said "You've passed". Before I could tell her that I only went to find out about the Army she was arranging a visit to Guildford for me. Something to do with "selection" I thought she said.

Three weeks later I appeared at Guildford station, to be met by a smiling person I now know to be a Sergeant, in a brand new minibus. So far I had not seen any of those fat, old, grey-haired, loud-mouthed people whom my friends said made up the entire population of the Army. I was taken to the Centre — more people in uniform but it looked like a holiday camp; all grass and trees and three storey buildings. It was a very pleasant twenty-four hours with films, slide shows, more tests and more interviews. I was very nervous — I did want to join but how could I convince them that I did. It must have been all right because I was offered a vacancy as a Data Telegraphist. Two of the girls with me were offered vacancies but decided they didn't want them. They must have been mad. "If this is what the Army's like" I thought, "I want to be in it".

In what seemed no time at all I was back at the Recruiting Office to enlist. Simple questions this time with yes/no answers, no tricks here. I swore allegiance to the Queen and found that I was now a member of the Army and in four days time I was to meet the recruiting sergeant at the station with my bags packed.

Somehow it wasn't the same this time. Smiling faces at the station, but calling me Private instead of Miss. I climbed into the Army bus and felt very lonely. Soon some other girls joined me and we travelled to the Centre. It's funny, I didn't notice the gates last time — but this time they really

clanged shut behind me.

Little did I know that now I would be rushed off my feet for six weeks. I put my suitcases in my room and was taken to the Medical Centre. Surely the Medical Officer could see I had four fingers and a thumb without asking me. There was no time to think as I was raced into Q Stores. "Strip off and stand in the queue" they said. Measurements were taken, kit was put on and there I was — one PT shirt, one PT skirt and flat black leather shoes. I couldn't believe it; I'd been wearing six inch wedges and a long skirt five minutes before. We went back to the block and at last there was time to unpack. The other girls had arrived and we had a good chatter. At least we all felt strange together.

Things seemed to go from bad to worse that first week. I thought the NCOs were friendly, until we started to make mistakes. How was I to know that I shouldn't call the OC 'Miss' and ask her how old she was? I had never done so much ironing or label sewing in my life. Why, I thought, does the Army have shirts with lots of darts that I can't iron properly? Tailoring sessions were all right until they suddenly shouted "reduce bust". I hoped they meant the jacket. I nearly gave up in the first few weeks but suddenly it all seemed easier — until the OC told us to put our gas masks on and march round the square. Surely we couldn't be asked to do that again.

At the end of six weeks it didn't seem so bad after all. All those First Aid, Map Reading and NBC Lessons seemed to have been fun and at least I managed to pass all the tests. I really felt proud to march round on our Passing Out Parade. All the hard work had been worth it. We had difficulty trying not to laugh when the Inspecting Officer's sword caught someone's legs! Post Out day was very sad. We had been together for six weeks through thick and thin and now we were going our separate ways.

I soon found myself on the train to Catterick, clutching a copy of the phonetic alphabet. I couldn't think anyone honestly expected me to learn it, but having been here a short time I now know they were serious. Once I can master the teleprinter I shall be well on the way to becoming a Data Telegraphist, proudly sporting my 'Jimmy' on my jacket.

I look at all my friends in 'civvy' street and am very thankful that I didn't fall asleep during the talk at school. Where else would I find an interesting job, the chance to travel and £20 a week to save or spend on myself?

WRAC Centre "At Home"

For approximately three and a half hours on Saturday 21 May 1977, the WRAC Centre at Guildford opened its gates to many past and present members of the Women's Royal Army Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service. As it is our Diamond Jubilee Year it was thought appropriate to have an "At Home" as we had not been able to organise anything at Guildford for some years.

For those past members of the ATS or WRAC who had completed their service before the present camp was constructed, it was a day of "It was never like this", and for those still serving or who had only recently left the Corps, it was a day for meeting old friends and catching up on all the news.

Many of the "older soldiers" were most interested and pleased to see how modern everything was, and how things had changed since their day. Much amusement was shown when memories were evoked by a display of 1950 issue clothing and equipment. Khaki shirts, jackets and skirts, blue and white striped pyjamas, pink underwear were all on show. Younger members were told of how woolly vests were essential to keep warm in long wooden huts, often shared by as many as 28 girls and heated only by a coke stove in the middle of the hut.

The ladies were interested to see the "up to date" uniforms worn by all the Unit Permanent Staff, the modern cookhouse and barrack rooms of the present Centre. For the newest recruits the main attraction of the day appeared to be the Field Cookery Display by servicewomen from 35 (South Midland) Signal Regiment (V), where they could sample hotdogs, as well as watch the Cup Final on a portable television which had been sneaked in from somewhere. For some recruits, a quick walk up to the Gym to see their friends taking part in a PT Display of forward and backward rolls and bunny jumping was found entertaining.

The weather held and although there was a fairly strong breeze, the sun shone and it was warm enough for the visitors to sit on the Parade Square and watch a performance of Scottish Country Dancing by the members of Scottish Universities OTC, led by Captain Henderson. A second display was given by members of the Permanent Staff of No 1 and 2 Training Companies. This was a demonstration of how well women could function in NBC suits, and consisted of a race over an obstacle course while dressed in

full "Noddy" suit and respirator. 2Lt Bennett arranged a very professional exhibition of NBC equipment and information in the Education Centre and this was of great interest to all.

The British Forces Broadcasting Society were present and were broadcasting the proceedings throughout the afternoon.

The WRAC Staff Band had played continuously all the afternoon and they rounded off the occasion with an impressive performance of Beating Retreat. Finally, as a climax, they marched out through the gates, leading thirty walkers and giving them a rousing send off on a 100 mile sponsored walk to Canterbury in aid of the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

The WRAC Diamond Jubilee Sponsored Walk

It was felt that as part of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, and Corps Diamond Jubilee celebrations we should do something to raise money for the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. Thus the idea of a one hundred mile sponsored walk following in the Pilgrims' Footsteps from Guildford to Canterbury was born.

On Saturday 21 May, following the Beating the Retreat, thirty walkers representing fifteen units were led out of Queen Elizabeth Park by Mrs Mitchell (ex-Capt Audrey Williamson ATS) a former Olympic Athlete, and the WRAC Staff Band to the strains of the Happy Wanderer. The uppermost thought in everyone's mind was how many of the walkers would reach Canterbury.

Our first overnight camp was on Ranmore Common, where the backup team of twelve, led by WO1(RSM) Beresford had established a tented camp. After three and a half hours walking, and as darkness fell, all the walkers completed the first twelve miles. Alas the blisters were already beginning to appear.

The second and third days were by far the most strenuous, with courses of thirty-six and thirty-four miles. As the Sunday wore on the number of walkers began to dwindle. The weather was apparently being kind to us, with a cool breeze and brilliant sunshine, both of which were later to cause problems of sunburn during the day, and extreme cold after sunset. As the walk progressed the groups of walkers became spread over a larger area, creating problems for the Marshals who spent much of the time being rushed between the checkpoints, and the requests for the assistance of the Medical Orderly became more and more frequent.

By the end of the third day there were only ten walkers still participating, the ruling being that once a walker stopped and failed to reach the final checkpoint of the day, she took no further part in the walk and joined the backup team.

The final stage of the walk, a mere eighteen miles lay ahead on the Tuesday morning. The walkers in the leading group were convinced that the Arabs had stolen Canterbury Cathedral as it was always said to be over the next hill! The last few miles were the longest, but twenty minutes ahead of schedule the first group of six walkers reached the city boundary, and the walk was complete. What a sense of achievement. Two more walkers arrived shortly afterwards, and so, of the thirty who set out, eight survived the course within the time limit.

After a short rest the walkers, joined by Col Cook and a detachment of WRAC from RSME, set off to find the Cathedral. The residents of Canterbury were slightly surprised at the sight of a large group of women, in very assorted dress, walking purposefully down the main road towards the City Centre singing the Blisters Song.

The walk finished with tea at Howe Barracks, laid on by the Kent Branch of the Association. Col Cook presented each walker with a commemorative certificate showing the mileage completed.

In retrospect, the walk was a great success, but it was only made possible by the excellent support of the backup team, who ended the four days exhausted. Whether we reach the target of £2,000 has yet to be seen. It is hoped to publish the final total sponsorship in the next edition. For a final verdict, I wonder how many people will consider walking one hundred miles again? Time was short, and the going was often hard, but for the sense of achievement at the end of the course it was all worthwhile.

Found

Small chromium watch (bracelet broken) found in the Assembly Rooms after the Annual General Meeting on 2 April in Edinburgh. The owner should write to Miss Butt, 20 Comely Bank Grove, Edinburgh EH4 1BU, who will be glad to send it on.



Can anyone be a Prison Officer?

Many people think so, but it isn't true.

Less than half of those who apply are accepted, and they're accepted not so much for what they know, but for what they are. Character is more important than anything else, and you can't swot that up - you either have it or you haven't.

You need a good, reliable character and an ability to keep a cool head at all times. You have to be reasonable and understanding, like people and be able to talk to them.

If you have these basic qualities the Prison Service can train you to be a good officer. It's a worthwhile job, one you'll find always interesting, with something different happening all the time. That's why it needs a good all-rounder to handle it.

You'll be well-paid - the job's worth £65 a week in the first year, with annual increases. There are opportunities for promotion for the right people. Four weeks holiday and a free pension.

Send now for the free illustrated booklet. It gives full details of the job, the hours, selection procedure, training, housing, promotion prospects and pay. It places you under no obligation, but there's an application form for those wanting to take it further.

Name
(Mr/Mrs/Miss)

Address

Men and women between 21 and 49½, in good health are required - men 5' 6" (167.6 cm) or over; women about 5' 3" (160 cm) or over.

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LH

in today's Prison Service

Jamaica Defence Force

Major Joan Blakeley

My short article about Jamaica, in the last issue of *Lioness* was written very soon after my arrival in Jamaica last October. My six months tour is now behind me and I look back on it with great pleasure.

The actual training of the first women recruits took place at the Jamaica Defence Force Training Depot at Newcastle Hill Station. Fifty-five young women had reported to the JDF Headquarters at the end of February to be transported up a very 'hairy' road (365 narrow bends!), to their new home. Whilst in training the women's unit recruits lived in a converted 'change of air' quarter. It was a bit cramped but quite satisfactory, after certain problems caused by late supply of furniture were rectified — no tables or chairs for the first week. Of those girls who had reported for training, one recruit decided to get married and leave during the fifth week, leaving fifty-four recruits to "pass out" successfully at the end of the six weeks course, on 1st April.

The training included familiar sounding subjects like drill (42 periods — 13 more than WRAC),

Map Reading, First Aid and PT, in addition to Pistol Training and Clerical Training. The recruits were divided into two platoons, commanded by the first Jamaican women officers — 2LTs Grace Barclay and Suzanne Haik. We had inter-platoon drill and sports competitions and on the academic side, there were awards to the best all-round recruits (prizes kindly donated by a local insurance firm)!

Newcastle Hill Station is rather remote (and in February very chilly at night), situated some 4,000 feet above sea level and overlooking the bright lights of Kingston. It was thus necessary to arrange quite a lot of weekend and evening activities. We had a very enjoyable and successful weekend Adventure Training exercise, walking 18 miles around the beautiful hillsides. For many of the girls the camping and the marching were things hitherto untried — but much enjoyed.

The Passing Out Parade for Intake One was quite a grand affair. Our Inspecting Officer was the Jamaican Prime Minister, Mr Michael Manley and the Jamaican Military Band provided the music. Apart from having to march past in slow-time, as well as in quick time, the parade was similar to



Major Blakeley receiving a desk set — a token of appreciation by the Headquarters, Jamaica Defence Force, from the Prime Minister, after the Parade.



The prize for the 'best all-round' recruit was awarded to Private Elaine Hanson.

those I had experienced and am now experiencing again at Guildford. Amongst those invited to attend were the British High Commissioner, the British Defence Adviser, and representatives of various Jamaican government departments. There were a great number of spectators and we had the dubious pleasure of watching ourselves on JBC television news the following evening.

Having completed their basic training the members of the Women's Unit then returned to Up Park Camp in Kingston, to start their trade training as Clerks, (General Duties and Pay), Drivers, Telephone Operators, Signallers, Medical Assistants and Military Policewomen. About forty women required accommodation on camp, and a barrack room was found and hastily adapted for their use.

As I write, the second Women's Unit recruit intake is currently in training and two WRAC Training Instructors – Cpl Berry and Cpl Burns are in Jamaica, assisting the Unit for a month. They are 'on exchange' as part of the annual Exercise 'Calypso Hop'. From Jamaica there are at present two women at Worthy Down, and two at Guildford – all enjoying their stay here, despite the cold weather.

Before returning to England, I was fortunate in having a couple of weeks leave during which time I was able to tour the island. The north coast of Jamaica is really lovely and the people very friendly. Regrettably, mainly because of recent violence – particularly at the time of the December General Elections, tourism in Jamaica has suffered. I found the Jamaican people most hospitable and generous; I made many friends and I hope that one day I can go back to visit them.



Brigadier Anne Field, Hon ADC, lately Deputy Director Women's Royal Army Corps, United Kingdom Land Forces, assumed the appointment of Director Women's Royal Army Corps in June in succession to Brigadier Eileen Nolan CB who has retired.

Brigadier Field, born in Keswick and educated at Keswick School and St George's School, Harpenden, joined the ATS in 1947 and was commissioned the following year.

For two years from 1951 she commanded 4 Independent Company WRAC in Singapore. Her other overseas service has been in Aden, from 1963-65, and BAOR where she was Assistant Director from 1968-71. Following the WRAC staff course in 1953, Colonel Field became a staff officer in the Ministry of Defence, after which she worked for three years with the Territorials at the London University Officer Training Corps and also with 317 (Scottish) Battalion WRAC in Stirling. She was a staff officer at Headquarters Catterick in 1959 and later became the Chief Instructor at the WRAC Centre, Lingfield.

Before her last appointment at HQ UKLF, Brigadier Field was the Commandant at the WRAC College, Camberley.



Jamaican Prime Minister, Michael Manley pictured with the first intake of Jamaica Defence Force women recruits, after their Passing Out Parade in April 1977.

Brigadier E J Nolan CB

After 4 years as Director Brigadier Nolan retired at the end of May.

She joined the ATS in 1942 and was commissioned in 1945.

She served overseas in Jamaica when commanding a locally enlisted company, in Tripoli and as ADWRAC/DAQMG FARELF.

In 1973 she was promoted Brigadier, appointed DWRAC and Honorary ADC to Her Majesty The Queen.

She was awarded the CB in 1976.

During the past 4 years she has worked indefatigably for the Corps. She has also toured extensively overseas and attended innumerable functions at home.

I have enjoyed working with her very much and am delighted to be handing over to her as Deputy Controller Commandant in November of this year.

I would like to thank her for all she has done for the Corps and to wish her a very happy retirement in her new home.

L M D

Congratulations

We offer our congratulations to:

Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett Drake who has been elected the first woman Mayor of Hove.

Colonel Dorothy Gray who was sworn in as Mayor of Wilton on 4th May.

Colonel C E Hammond, whose home town Highworth was featured by the Daily Telegraph of 6th June in a description of Jubilee celebrations. The article stated "Not a bad effort for what is really only an outsize village, and an impressive manifestation of co-operation. But co-operation needs a prime mover, and Highworth has been lucky in Mrs Betty Hammond: a farmer's daughter who joined the ATS as a private in 1938, left as a Colonel and CBE, and is a born organiser."

Ex-Sgt Joan Reeve (Archibald) who has been awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal, and others who have also been awarded this medal but whose names have not been notified to us.

If you accept that ...

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Israel —

Tour of the Holy Land

Cpl Julie Greaves

12 RSME Regt

The whole trip cost £205 which included accommodation, food, excursions, and return flight tickets. It was a trip to remember with a Christian fellowship tour of the Holy Land at Easter 1977.

After travelling 2,200 miles at an average height of 35,000 ft by EL AL aeroplane, we arrived at Tel Aviv. A bus met our party of fifty and took us to Bet Shalom in Emmaus, a Christian Hostel twenty miles from Jerusalem. The hostel was self catering, and we stayed there most of the time. We were divided into groups of five and took turns to help with meals. This was one way of getting to know each other fairly quickly, and by the end of two weeks we were like one large happy family. The sleeping accommodation consisted of two main dormitories, one female and one male, also a number of small rooms for couples. We went to bed early at night and were up at 6 o'clock to start out by 7.30 am on our excursions around Israel. Because of the Israeli belief that in holy places you should dress decently, in all of the places we visited the men had to wear long trousers and the women cardigans or shawls over their shoulders.

On Sunday we attended a service in the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. The colourful gardens and peaceful surroundings were particularly beautiful. We explored Jerusalem fully on Monday, visiting the Mount of Olives where one could have a five minute ride on a bad-tempered camel for ten Israeli pounds. Then on to the Gardens of Gethsemane, St Peters in Gallicantu, St Davids Tomb at Zion, and the Upper room of the last supper. In the Shepherds fields at Bethlehem the sheep and goats grazed together and donkeys ploughed the fields.

On Tuesday we saw the Old city market place of Jerusalem and the Wailing Wall where the Orthodox Jews pray. We visited the Dome of the Rock, and the Elaqson Mosque where the Moslems pray. Armed Israeli soldiers keep a 24 hour watch in Jerusalem and as we travelled through Israel we saw plenty of military personnel of both sexes with guns, landrovers and tanks in many large towns and on the border. (In Israel the Women's Corps is known as the CHEN a word in Hebrew meaning Charm.)

On Wednesday a trip to Galilee which proved to be a land flowing with milk and honey, with acres of luscious green and yellow fields filled with crops. We visited Jacob's well, Samaria and Megiddo and enjoyed a fresh water swim in Bet Shean in the afternoon. On Thursday, we visited Cana and Nazareth on the way to the North of Israel and we enjoyed a boat trip from Tiberias to Capernaum. Then a coach journey to Caesarea Philippi took us to the foot of the Golan Heights. We arrived that evening at Haifa, and stayed at the Stella Carmel Christian Hostel at Mount Carmel.

The following day was perfect for a trip to Haifa and we went on to Rosh Haniqra, the most north western point of Israel on the Lebanese border and down in a cable car to the main grotto caves. Then back along the Mediterranean coast to Nahariyya for an afternoon walk around the city followed by a swim in the sea which made a pleasant change from coach travelling.

On Sunday 10th April, Easter Sunday, we went to the Garden Tomb for a service after having risen at 3.30 am. Following the service, ten of us set out along the Roman road to Emmaus on foot. This was an eighteen mile walk in temperatures reaching the eighties. Arriving back at the hostel, we had to cool our feet off in a pond as there was still a water shortage at Bet Shalom. We had a restful day on Monday, went for a walk around Canada park near to Bet Shalom, and in the evening to a lovely monastery about twenty minutes walk away, where we listened to some twenty monks chanting in French.

Next day we left at 8 o'clock for Massada, an Old Jewish settlement near the Dead Sea. We had to travel by cable car to the top of the rock of Massada 1,400 feet high. The terrain there was rugged, completely barren and mountainous, and the views were magnificent. Down again and well below sea level for a swim in the Dead Sea which is so full of salts and minerals that it is impossible to sink! Then on to Qumran to see the famous Dead Sea Scrolls which were uncovered by the Bedouins.

On Thursday 14th April a trip to Hebron to watch how they made glassware and pottery, then on to Beer Sheba, the city of Abraham and now the modern capital of the Arab population.

Our farewells were said in the same Jumbo 747 that brought us back to the UK. In the short two weeks we had got to know many of the group and felt very privileged to have been able to join in such a fellowship on a visit to that wonderful land.

UNIT NEWS

West Midland District

CAD KINETON

After a long and cold winter the WRAC Element at CAD Kineton have decided to make the very most of the long awaited summer. Our usual sporting activities have been progressing well; our rounders team have started the season on a good note with three very good wins which leaves us with a feeling of great anticipation for the forthcoming Area Finals at the end of June. Our tennis team have started on a quieter note with three wins and three defeats; but we are all sure that it will improve. On the Athletics side a Triangular Match was held at Kineton on Friday 6 May between Bicester, Donnington and ourselves. The afternoon's events produced a close and tense finish; however to our disappointment we were pipped at the post by Bicester. Our congratulations to them!

We are very proud of Pte Maggie Allerton and Pte Tracey Palmer who were selected as members of the Army (Women's) Athletic Team. On Wednesday 1 June 1977 they competed against the various Polytechnic Colleges at Nottingham. The Army Women's Team came third. Our sincere congratulations go to Maggie Allerton who ran the 800 metres and came 5th. Tracey Palmer threw her best javelin throw and was placed 4th.

On Thursday 5 May we all bared our bodies to the elements and took part in a sponsored swim in aid of the WRAC Benevolent Fund. The event was a great success and we were all very surprised at the results. The pool at Kineton High School was quite small and so we decided to let those swimmers who felt that they could only do a few lengths of the pool in first. Fifty lengths later we cheered many of them out. Our major success was by Pte Ann Turner who swam a magnificent one hundred lengths. All in all 25 girls swam a superb total of 900 lengths to raise nearly £300 for the Benevolent Fund.

In an even more "adventurous" vein on the weekend of May 20 to 23 ten brave and hardy girls trekked their way to the Lake District where they set up camp and lived for four days. The "adventurous" group of ten consisted of 2Lt Andrea Lobb, Sgt Val Mildon, and Sgt "Mo" Mullany, Lcpl Lorraine Green, Pte Julia Atkins, Pte Ann Scottow, Pte Janet Buxton, Ptes Carol and Linda Wilson and Pte Linda Graham who set off from camp at 0900 hrs on the Friday and arrived at the site near Seabergh in

time for a late lunch. The tents were easily put up much to the amazement of all and they then proceeded to organize the area and set the plan in action for the forthcoming days.

On Saturday we tried our hand at watercraft and proceeded to one of the many lakes in our area and took to the water. All of the girls, after some mistakes and many laughs, became quite professional at mastering a boat. The day's events culminated in a competition between the boats, and of course the losing side bought the first refreshments that night.

The Sunday was spent hill walking and map reading; both of which were a great success. Gradual, rolling hills became mountains; small trickling streams rivers and waterfalls. The Scafell Pikes were our walking ground and offered much variety and glorious scenery which delighted all. That evening was spent nursing aching legs, but there was a great feeling of satisfaction at knowing that if lost we really could find our way home by the aid of a simple compass and a map.

Everybody took part in the domestic part of living "in the field". To our great surprise and enjoyment food cooked on simple camping equipment really does taste delicious; or perhaps it was just the Lake District air that made it taste that way!

Everybody agreed that the four day exercise was well worth it. We all came back looking much healthier even if underneath it all we nursed tired and sore legs! The unanimous agreement was that another exercise like this was to be recommended.

Edinburgh

242 Signal Squadron

During the last two weeks in May, 242 Signal Squadron held its annual Summer Camp at Dall Mill on the shores of Loch Rannoch. The mill is a wooden hut converted by the Navy into what one squadron member described as a ½ star hotel — with hot and cold running water (a bit unpredictable in the shower but definitely hot and cold!) and a congenial atmosphere created by the huge log fire, well stocked bar and excellent cuisine!

The countryside round Loch Rannoch is beautiful at this time of year and lends itself to hill walking, rock climbing, cycling or boating on the loch itself. Pale faced shift workers turned rapidly lobster pink or brown in the sun and developed blisters, aches in muscles they didn't know they had and prodigious appetites.

We were joined by a team of Adventure Training experts from Catterick (the Crag Rats) including a WRAC PTI, Cpl Pat Cowie, and by the PTI from Benbecula, Lcpl Dige Geldard.

Rock climbing on the formidable crags outside Kinloch Rannoch was a favourite activity. Pte Carlene Clark, Cpl Pat Sanders and others achieved seemingly impossible climbs (photographic evidence submitted) under the expert guidance of the Crag Rats. On the second week several others followed their example including Pte Shirley Murray and Pte Nicki Sayers. DADWRAC, Maj Weaver arrived at Summer Camp and visited the rock climbers with her clerk Lcpl Jean Logan who cheerfully volunteered to have a go. Unfortunately that night she fell negotiating a wobbly Navy bunk and broke her ankle, but she is now out of hospital and making her presence felt in the headquarters again.

In spite of the hot sunshine there was still snow on the tops of several hills, including Shiehallion. On different days Ptes Wendy Hawkins and Valerie Hart joined Cpl Cowie and her mixed bunch of hill walkers to set out and climb this 3554 ft peak. Pte Hart triumphantly reached the top and Pte Hawkins was defeated only by enormous blisters.

Cycling marathons round the loch were organised with Lcpls Chris Wilkies and Jill Smith achieving 'one-ton-bum status', paddling across the loch in Assault Boats, (well, occasionally we used the engines) and swimming. Sightseeing trips to Blair Castle and Pitlochry were other popular activities.

Back at camp in the evening, if you had any energy left, there was volleyball and for the very brave (and trusting) the Crag Rats set up a rope over a high branch with a Jumar harness. Later in the evenings everyone congregated in the mill where some riotous party games, charades and sketches were arranged. Quite a few of the girls showed hidden acting talent, with Cpl Pat Sanders lending new glamour to the WRAC PT skirt in her role as Lieutenant Uhuru on the Starship Enterprise, and Pte Michelle Simpson giving a convincing performance as the coy mistress in an Elizabethan love poem.

The morning that we sadly piled into assorted vehicles to return to Craigiehall the weather finally broke and we left Dall Mill blanketed in grey drizzle. But with a collection of amusing stories and photographs everyone regarded the Camp as a tremendous success — and there's always 'Rannoch 78' to look forward to!

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Diamond Jubilee Service at Westminster Abbey



HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, GCB, CI, GCVO, GBE, Air Chief Commandant WRAF, HRH The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, GCVO, Chief Commandant WRNS, HRH The Duchess of Kent, GCVO, Controller Commandant WRAC arriving for the Service of Thanksgiving. (Courtesy of Associated Newspapers Group Ltd.)

More than 2,000 women congregated at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 3rd March to commemorate with a Service of Thanksgiving the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Services of the Crown.

We were honoured by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, attending as Commandant-in-Chief of the three Services, and accompanied by Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Chief Commandant WRNS, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant WRAC, and Her Royal Highness The Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Air Chief Commandant WRAF.

Senior officers present included the Chief of Defence Staff, the Chiefs of Staff of the three services and the Commandant General, Royal Marines and other Admirals, Generals and Air

Marshals. Among our own Corps were more than 800 members of the QMAAC, ATS and WRAC, including our Deputy Controller Commandant and six ex-Directors, each one remembering her own part of the 60 years which we were commemorating. Outside the Abbey young women of the three Services formed a Guard of Honour while inside young officers, officer cadets and NCOs conducted the congregation to their seats.

The music was provided by the WRAC Staff Band, conducted by Captain L A E Hopkin, MBE, LRAM, WRAC Director of Music, and Trumpet fanfares were played by the Trumpeters from the Band of HM Royal Marines Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command under the direction of Warrant Officer D W Hough, ARCM, RM.

When the Collegiate Procession had moved



eastwards from the Great West Door and everyone was standing in their places, the Union Flag was brought from the Chapel of St George. In a sudden hushed silence the young Flag Party, a senior NCO from each of the three Services, marched smartly up the long nave to the steps of the Sacarium where the Flag was received and laid on the High Altar.

The Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev Edward F Carpenter officiated, and the address was given by the Rt Rev V J Pike, CB, CBE, MA, DD, lately Bishop of Sherborne and Chaplain General to the Forces from 1951-60. Readings were given by Commandant S V A McBride Hon ADC, BA, AMBIM, Director WRNS, Brigadier E J Nolan, CB Hon ADC, Director WRAC and Air Commodore P J Tamblin Hon ADC, BA, MBIM, Director WRAF.

In his sermon Bishop Pike told the story of Esther, an orphan whose nation had been destroyed and its people taken captive into a foreign country. She was called on to face great responsibilities for which she felt unprepared, until her cousin, older and wiser, said to her "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this". Esther answered the challenge and saved her people from annihilation. She was faithful to her God and to her nation. Bishop Pike taking this text went on to point out that some of the greatest fundamental truths of our faith were given to women and not to men. The woman at the Well of Samaria, Martha, Mary of Magdala, all of them chosen for a special purpose. And so, in this day and age, he chooses us. The challenge is now ours. Bishop Pike concluded his sermon with these words:— "If this service of thanksgiving means anything, it must mean the dedication of your lives to the service and standard of Christ. And so often we think success is the answer. I would remind you that the word success is never mentioned in the New Testament. It is never used by Christ. He asked us to be faithful; so please God, at the end of our pilgrimage, He will not say to us, "Well done, thou good and successful servant" but rather, His own words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant".



Members of the QMAAC enjoying the Tea Party at the Victory Club later in the day after the Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey.

Received by Brigadier Nolan, DWRAC in April this year:

Dear Ma'am,

Diamond Jubilee — U.K. Women's Services

As you know we are having a reunion of all U.K. Ex-Servicewomen in Sydney this week-end and following a most successful Celebration Dinner last night I am sending, via Pamela Mulligan, ex-WRAF, a copy of our programme, signed by some of the girls present.

Your taped message was a marvellous surprise to everyone and a great thrill, and we all appreciated your kindness in doing this. There were 9 ex-servicewomen from the 1st World War — 3 WRNS, 3 WRAC, 1 WRAF, 1 VAD and 1 Munitions. They were all presented to His Excellency and Lady Cutler and were made a great fuss of all evening. They loved every minute of it too. The oldest person present was the VAD. She was 89 and had travelled from South Australia.

Our guests were presented with Diamond Jubilee champagne goblets with the inscription "Diamond Jubilee — UK Women's Services.

1917 — 1977". It was a very nostalgic night and I am sure Captain Ruth Henderson, who was present, will be telling you all about it. No-one apart from the officials knew anything about Ruth coming so it was a lovely surprise.

Today three coaches have been touring the Sydney and northern beaches. It was a chicken and champagne coach tour and the weather must have been put on especially for our benefit as it was a perfect day.

Tomorrow, Anzac Day, we expect one of the biggest contingents of UK Ex-Servicewomen to take part in the Anzac March. Quite a few of the Service Associations have brought their flags and banners so it will be very colourful.

As a result of the Reunion I am sure you will be interested to know that there is a possibility of a W.R.A.C. Association being formed in Sydney and also in South Australia.

Again, very many thanks for helping to give the girls such a lovely surprise with the tape.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
Jean Newton
Secretary

SPORT

INTER-SERVICES TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Crichton Cup)

DUCHESS OF KENT BARRACKS
17 FEB 1977

Having for some years come third in the Inter-Services Table Tennis Championships the Army were this year delighted to come second. The Army team certainly had a much closer battle against the Navy and RAF teams; they had far more depth too this year which proved most useful throughout the Competition.

Singles

No 1	Pte Anne Turner	CAD Kineton
2	Sgt Jean Tomlin	ACIO Norwich
3	Sgt Mo Mullaney	CAD Kineton
4	Capt Margaret King	HQ West Midland District

Doubles

SSgt Leslie Crick	10 Coy WRAC
Cpl Sandy Waring	113 Pro Coy RMP (Bielefeld)

Reserve: Lcpl Denise Townsend RPO Brighton

Results

RN	V.	Army	6-3 sets
Army	V.	RAF	6-3 sets
RN	V.	RAF	9-0 sets
	1st:	RN	
	2nd:	Army	
	3rd:	RAF	

The Army's success is undoubtedly due to the enthusiasm and fine team spirit displayed by all representative players. The team will not wish to forget their coach WO1 Stan Brown, HQ Base Organisation, Didcot, who put them through their paces before the Championships. He believes that the standard of Army Table Tennis had improved enormously and that with 6 months' intensive training could well reach National standard.

In conclusion the Championship was a great success due mainly to the keen but friendly inter-services rivalry and sportsmanship displayed by the three teams.

Inter Zone Winners.

2 February 1977

Left to Right: Capt King, WO 2 Laycock, Sgt Mullaney, Pte Turner.



Inter Services Championships 17-18 February 1977.

Army Team (left to right)

Back Row: SSgt Crick, Sgt Tomlin, LCpl Townsend, Cpl Waring

Front Row: Pte Turner, Capt King, Sgt Mullaney.

ARMY (WOMEN'S) INTER-ZONE AND INDIVIDUAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

These Championships took place at the Duchess of Kent Barracks on 1/2 Feb 77. The Inter-Zone and Individual Championships run concurrently. Results are as follows:

Inter-Zone Competition

1st West Midland & SW District 36 pts

(Team: Capt King

Sgt Mullaney

Pte Turner

WO2 Laycock) — CAD Kineton

Runners-Up: South East District (West) 20 pts

Individual Competition

Singles Champion: Pte Turner

Runner-Up: Sgt Tomlin

Plate Winner: Capt King

Doubles Winners: Capt King/Pte Turner

Runners-Up: SSgt Crick/Lcpl Townsend



WRAC Detachment Worthy Down Netball Team

Bully Off For Somerset Girl

A former Somerset junior hockey player has now become a regular member of the Women's Army Hockey Team. Twenty-one year old Lcpl Tina Keys, whose parents come from Castle Cary, Somerset, recently represented the Army against the pick of the two other women's services at Portsmouth.

Before joining the Army in 1973, Tina was a regular member of her local hockey club, Ditchat Ladies, for whom she played as right wing.

Lcpl Keys is stationed with the Women's Royal Army Corps in Berlin as a physical training instructor. She is lucky to be able to do her work with the facilities that were provided for Berlin's 1936 Olympic Games, of which the British Army have full use.

Tina formerly attended the Bruton School for Girls in Somerset.



The WRAC Detachment netball team played in the SE District, West Sector, inter unit league. The team consisted of GK Pte Coad K; GD Sgt Bamforth H (Capt); WD Q/Sgt Hornegold M; C Lcpl Fish B; WA Pte Murton K; GA Cpl Derby P; GS Cpl Wright L.

We won the league by losing only one match during the whole season. By winning the West Sector league the team qualified for the Army Inter Unit Championships at Aldershot and also to play the winners of the East Sector for the SE District Cup.

The team went to Aldershot on 21-22 March to play in both competitions. After two days hard play, Worthy Down found themselves in the finals for both cups.

In the SE District Cup Worthy Down played WRAC College Camberley. This was a very close match but Worthy Down pipped them at the post to win 25 goals to 24.

The Army Inter Unit competition was played as an American Tournament and Worthy Down met some very fierce competition which included 16 Signal Regt BAOR, HQ Northern Ireland, WRAC College Camberley, COD Donnington, HQ Platoon York, WRAC Battery Woolwich.

Worthy Down lost their first match of the tournament but fought back very hard to become the well deserving winners.

The Army Inter Unit Championship Cup was presented by Brigadier Mathews.

The History of the WAAC, QMAAC, ATS and WRAC

At last in response to frequent requests the Corps history from its earliest days to the present time is about to be published by Leo Cooper Ltd in their Famous Regiment series. The trade price of the book in bookshops will be £8.50. In order that it should be available to past and present members of the Corps at a special price a limited number of books are being purchased in bulk and will be available from Corps HQ, price £5.95. An order form is enclosed with this journal. It would be appreciated if members requiring the book would order it now to avoid possible disappointment.

Butlins '77'

by Pte Wendy Hawkins

When Lt Buchanan asked Pte Shirley Murray and myself how we would like a week helping with children at Butlins, we thought "Great!" — 50 or so kids would be fun. Little did we know there were to be 1,800 of the little darlings! Within a few weeks Pte Murray and I were travelling from Edinburgh across country to Barry Island, Wales. We were met by a member of our own kind (WRAC). After we had settled in we went along to meet the rest of the WRAC and AYT's.

Activities were to begin on Sunday, and as we had arrived on Friday evening, we had all of Saturday to enjoy ourselves. During Saturday we got to know some of the WRAC and AYT's and quite a few of the children. We discovered that the

children had come in school parties and that most of them came from the London area. We really hit it off with the kids that day and that was before the activities began. Everyone was a little nervous about what might happen during the first day's activities, but by lunch time we could see that it was to be a week of fun and laughter, but a lot of hard work.

The first day Pte Shirley Murray took netball and I took abseiling, but these were only two of the many activities. There was everything from kite flying on the beach to a practice parachute jump.

During the evenings we had an inter-school 'It's a Knockout' in which we had quite a few amusing games, which the children thought were great. We also had a laugh showing them how to do the games. I think maybe sometimes we were worse than the children!

By the end of the week none of the children wanted to leave. Come to that, we didn't want to leave because we too had had a really great week, so I think we can say a fantastic time was had by all who attended!

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31 (Greater London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) based at Hammersmith recently exercised its privilege of marching through the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Our picture above shows volunteer girls of 41 Signal Squadron forming part of No 1 guard passing the Town Hall ahead of the colours.

From left to right: Pte Sue Sydney, an agency telephonist; Pte Carol Phillips, a student; LCpl June Isted, a secretary; Pte Liz Innes, a lab. assistant; Pte Geraldine Ball, a punch card operator; Sgt Kate Killick, a school-teacher.

The girls are communicators, cooks and drivers as well as accomplished drill exponents in this mixed Regiment.

WRAC: Staff Band Recording

The WRAC Staff Band have recently made another record which is now available for distribution. The record is in stereo and the cost is £2.50 (including VAT) plus 54p for postage and packing.

Orders are now invited and should be submitted on the form below.

WRAC STAFF BAND RECORD (77 EDITION)

Band President, WRAC Staff Band, WRAC Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey. GU2 6QH

1. Please supply copies of the Band Record.
2. Remittance to value of £ is enclosed (*including postage and packing @ 54p per record ordered).
3. *Address to which record(s) should be despatched
.....
.....
.....
4. *Arrangements will be made to collect this order from Band President at the WRAC Centre. (If collection is intended, prior arrangements should be made with the Band President, Guildford 71201, Ext. 388).

Signature

Name in block capitals

* Delete where not applicable

Greenfinches Welcome Back RSM Brooker

GLASSES SHUN!

Raising the bubble-count at the headquarters of 2 UDR in Armagh was a flock of Greenfinches who had gathered to welcome Regimental Sergeant Major Jo Brooker (below) from the WRAC College at Camberley.

The reason for splashing out on the bubbly was simple. Jo Brooker had last been seen about three years ago when she came to Northern Ireland to help set up, and train, the women in the Ulster Defence Regiment, now affectionately known as the Greenfinches.

Having seen how 'her' Greenfinches had 'developed' she sort of hinted that they had done very well indeed and that nothing was too good for them.

For the Greenfinches' part, led by Lieutenant Shirley Irwin (front right), they proved that only champagne was good enough for the lady who helped the Greenfinches take-off.



2Lt Sue Fenney of 47 Squadron, pictured here, recently competed in the London District Orienteering Championship. Entering alone she completed a gruelling 3 Km course in 44 minutes and returned the fastest time. As a member of the T & AVR she was not eligible for the prize, but she was awarded a silver spoon to mark her prowess. Later she entered the Army Senior Orienteering Championship and won the T & AVR section A.



Pictured above are Sgt Diana Tinkler, 22, and her ex-civvy policeman husband, Cpl Paul Tinkler, 29, both in 150 Pro Coy RMP based at Catterick Garrison.

Diana, who comes from Hillmorton in Rugby, joined the regular RMP straight from school in 1973 while two years later Paul, a Northumbrian from Dudley, changed police blue for army khaki full-time, after five years in the TAVR RMP. He has the distinction of being the first TAVR military policeman to enlist in the regular RMP.

They married in April this year and live in married quarters in Catterick. Now that they're both on the same shift Diana really wears the trousers — as Paul's orderly sergeant!



The Story of the Association

In 1916, the third year of the war of 1914-18, the man-power situation was serious; every possible man was needed for the fighting line, men were withdrawn from industry, from all forms of civil life, and, at last, from the services of the Army itself. Then the Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France was asked whether he would accept women to replace fit men for duties on the lines of communication, and he agreed. The women for such duties had to be uniformed and disciplined, so, in February, 1917, the Army Council formed the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and, before the year was out, 10,000 women were serving overseas as cooks, clerks, signal personnel, postal sorters, drivers, bakers, storewomen. They did most of the jobs, in fact, which servicewomen do today, except those like the duties on gun sites, which are the result of recent technical development. There were differences, of course, telegraphists, for instance, instead of teleprinter operators. By the summer of 1917 the authorities decided that the experiment was a success, and the Corps was extended to home services. Some 57,000 women passed through the ranks.

In October, 1917, the Italians, who were then fighting as our Allies, were badly defeated by the Austrians and Germans, and help had to be sent to them. In November, the Russians, who had also been our Allies, made peace, for they were in the throes of a political crisis. As a result, considerable German forces were liberated for use on the already depleted Western front. In March 1918, they attacked there in greatly superior numbers, and only the magnificent courage and staying power of our men prevented them from breaking through and separating us from the French. In the background, members of the WAAC were also doing their best, and the Queen, as a mark of her appreciation "of the good service rendered by the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, both at home and abroad, since its inauguration, and especially of the distinction which it has earned in France" assumed office as Commandant-in-Chief, and gave the Corps her name. That is how it became Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps.

The Armistice was signed on November 11th, 1918, but it was not till September 27th, 1921, that the Corps was completely disbanded and ceased to exist, though by the end of 1919 only a few remained.

In December of that year the Old Comrades' Association was formed, and branches soon came into existence in all the larger towns. Each branch arranged regular reunions, at which members could meet, and developed all sorts of friendly activities. More than one had a hut or cottage outside the town, at which week-ends or holidays could be spent; London Branch — the biggest — even had a couple of boats on the Thames at its camp near Datchet, due largely to a donation from the British colony at Shanghai. In the winter there were dances, whist drives, sing-songs. A newcomer to a town or district could be sure of a friendly welcome from comrades whose service experiences were like her own. Sometimes an enterprising branch planned an entertainment for soldiers in hospital or for the children of ex-Service parents.

These social activities culminated in the annual dinner, which was held in London and attended by 500 or 600 members arriving in parties from all ends of the country. It was one of the biggest ex-Service dinners to be held; indeed, it was rumoured to be outnumbered only by that of the RA. The guest of honour was always a distinguished soldier, who gave us news of the Army with which we had served. Lord Gort, Lord Ironside, and Lieutenant General A F A N Thorne were among many who have replied to our toast of "His Majesty's Forces".

The Gazette was founded in July, 1920, and has been published regularly ever since. It brings news of ex-Service women from every part of the world, tells of the doings of branches, and is a link between our widely scattered members. Its arrival is looked forward to in Australia, Africa, and America as well as at home.

The Association has never been rich. It was started when the Corps was almost at an end; it could not give financial help to members who were ill or needed training, and could only occasionally afford a few pounds for very special cases. The best that could be done was to place those in need of assistance in touch with the funds set aside for ex-Service personnel. Of these, the ex-Service women had their full share in proportion to their numbers, both from the United Services Fund and from the British Legion. There is reason to think that funds may not be so plentiful after the present war; that is why the Association initiated the ATS Benevolent Fund, for the Council of the Association realise how often quite a little money, spent in the right way at the right time, may restore a worker's health, save a business from

disaster, or provide the tools or the training by which a living can be earned.

The Association has had its share of great occasions. Its members have marched with the British Legion procession to the Cenotaph on Armistice Day; they have been present at all sorts of functions. Two of these especially stand out. On May 11th, 1935, the Association had the honour of lining part of the route along which King George V and Queen Mary drove during the celebration of the Silver Jubilee. Every ex-Service organisation was there, and we dipped our standards as the King went by. In 1937 the Association was allotted places, both sitting (for the old and the invalids) and standing, to watch the Coronation procession. Those who stood were on the steps of the Victoria Memorial, and had a specially magnificent view. On June 27th of that year the Association was well represented among the 80,000 ex-Service men and women assembled in Hyde Park to greet a King who had himself served, and who addressed us as Old Comrades.

In the following year (1938) the Auxiliary Territorial Service was formed on a Territorial basis; with the declaration of war on September 3rd, 1939, it entered on full-time service. At the next Annual General Meeting of the Association membership was opened to ex-members of the ATS — it was still an Old Comrades Association, but that did not last. At the Annual General Meeting of February, 1941, membership was extended to serving personnel, while, in February, 1942, the words "and Auxiliary Territorial Service" were added to the name, and the word "Old" was dropped.

This gradual development indicated no lack of interest. In the autumn of 1940 the Council of the Association had inaugurated the ATS Benevolent Fund, which, though it is under the auspices of the Association, is managed by a special committee of ex-members of the ATS and is for the benefit of ATS personnel alone. The idea is that now, while officers and auxiliaries are earning regular pay, they can afford to put something aside towards solving the problems of those — themselves or others — who meet with difficulties and can be set on their feet by a little well-timed help.

Some day the war will be won and peace will come again — peace and demobilisation. At first, perhaps, many auxiliaries will be glad to get out of harness, but as time passes you will want, as your predecessors did in 1919 and 1920, to hear of old

friends and to discuss old adventures. Then you will be glad that a Comrades Association is waiting to welcome you.

SILVER JUBILEE EXHIBITION: WOMEN AT WAR 1914-1918

25 March — 30 October 1977

On 24th March Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, visited the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth Road, London SE1, to open a special exhibition on the role of women in the First World War. Although the subject is largely unrecorded the war was a watershed in the struggle for women's rights. The exhibition, the first of its kind, shows how in this period of national danger, women became aware of their own potential and also how the war produced a general social acceptance of women in occupations hitherto regarded as unsuitable for them. It begins with an introductory section of the suffragettes and goes on to illustrate the achievements of notable individuals, such as Edith Cavell, Dr Elsie Inglis, the 'Women of Pervyse', Vera Brittain (mother of Mrs Shirley Williams) and the work performed by thousands of lesser known women in industry, nursing, transport, agriculture, commerce and the services.

Among the numerous objects on display are a leather belt used by suffragettes to chain themselves to railings; examples of suffragette and suffragist banners, many of them elaborately embroidered; some pages from a diary kept by Edith Cavell and found hidden in a cushion some fifty years after her death; a revolver carried by Flora Sandes; a stethoscope, paint box, icon and other items belonging to Dr Elsie Inglis; an aero-engine largely made by female labour, uniforms of the Women's Land Army, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Women's Royal Naval Service and other organisations; a Union Jack waved by Queen Mary on Armistice Day; and contemporary paintings by women artists. There is a display of wartime fashion, a film show and a short slide sequence.

HOURS OF OPENING: Weekdays 10 am — 5.30 pm, Sundays 2 pm — 5.30 pm.

Admission: Adults 30p, Children and OAPs 20p.

The book "Women at War 1914-1918" by Arthur Marwick, who is historical adviser for the exhibition, is published by Fontana Paperbacks in association with the Museum price £2.50.

Association News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1977

The AGM was held at the Assembly Rooms Edinburgh on 2nd April 1977 with the Vice President in the Chair.

The Association Chairman in the Report of Council said that the financial state of the Association was now satisfactory but the Association could not afford to be complacent and the situation would have to be kept under constant review.

No new branches had been formed during the year. The Oxford Branch had disbanded and the Maidstone Branch has been absorbed by the Canterbury Branch and renamed the Kent Branch. Ex-service membership of the Association was 3,027 which was 103 greater than the previous year. The serving membership was 2,786 making a total membership of 5,813.

The Association continued to be represented on various ex-Service committees which were able to present to the Government the agreed views of all ex-Service organisations in a single representation and thus carrying far greater weight than any organisation could do on their own. The Chairman thanked Branch officials who worked hard to make the Association flourish and said she was honoured to be their Chairman.

The Honorary Treasurer's report explained the published account and pointed out that income exceeded expenditure by £2,238. The Association was on a sound footing provided a watch was kept on rising costs.

Major D R M Parker had been appointed the new editor of Lioness. The printing of Lioness had been moved to a local printer with a saving in costs.

The Chairman of the Benevolent Fund Trustees reported that applications from 343 ladies for help had been considered and a total of £10,224 had been spent on grants as compared with £9,350 in the previous year. Support for Princess Royal's Memorial Fund had been particularly encouraging and the aim was to increase the annuities to £1.00 per week for the 35 annuitants. The demands on the Benevolent Funds were likely to go on increasing as the rising cost of living affected the elderly, the sick and those afflicted by misfortune. The Chairman of the Museum Trustees reported that 4,665 visitors had viewed the Museum.

Lt Col M W Soames MBE (Retd), Col R M Green (Retd), Lady Jackson and

Col M W Jamieson (Retd) were re-elected Vice Presidents of Council.

Col L M Davies reported that she would complete her tenure as Deputy Controller Commandant and Vice President of the Association in 1977. Her successor would be Brig E J Nolan CB. Brig Nolan moved a vote of thanks to Col Davies for her years of service to the Association as Vice President.

The AGM 1978 would be held at WRAC Centre, Guildford on 15th April 1978.

Copies of the Minutes of the AGM were held by Branch Secretaries but any member requiring a personal copy could obtain it from the General Secretary.

Reunions

SCOTTISH REUNION 1977

The Scottish Reunion was held in The Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh on 2nd April 1977 and was an outstanding success.

The occasion was honoured by the presence of our Controller Commandant and President Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent. Her Royal Highness spoke to a great number of those present and in particular to WAAC and QMAAC who included Miss Abbey, Mrs Armour-Brown, Lady How, Lady Hale, Mrs Inch, Mrs Grieve, Mrs Crockard, Mrs Pollock, Mrs Short and Mrs Leighton.

The setting for the Reunion was quite outstanding and there are few places in England within the resources of the Association which could provide equivalent facilities for an occasion of this kind. The impressive reception rooms with their lovely chandeliers, the flowers and the concert hall, in which an excellent dinner was served most efficiently, all contributed to make it an occasion to remember for the 500 ladies present.

The Lord Provost of Edinburgh and the General Officer Commanding in Chief Scotland and their ladies were guests and clearly enjoyed themselves.

Music was provided by the Band of The Queens Own Highlanders who also played a fanfare for the arrival of Her Royal Highness.

On departure members were presented with a gift of Scottish good cheer which was much appreciated.

The Edinburgh Branch certainly excelled themselves in organising such a wonderful evening and praise must go in particular to Miss Yeates and Miss Butt as Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for the occasion.



Members of the Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ayr and Dumfries Branches at the Scottish Reunion. (Courtesy of Edinburgh Evening News).

The Scottish Grand Reunion 1977

by Lcpl Jean Logan

On Saturday 2nd October 1976 the first of many Reunion Committee Meetings was held at Maj (now Lt Col) Nan Robertson's home in Glasgow, and as the months progressed each member of the Committee was delegated with her own task, Maj Maggie Sharp (ACO [WS] Glasgow) with fund raising, Mrs Mae Lang with printing, etc. Maj Robertson and I had the task of printing and issuing the minutes of each meeting and inviting the guests such as Lt Gen Sir David Scott-Barrett (GOC Scotland) and Lady Scott-Barrett and the Lord and Lady Provost of Edinburgh.

As the months passed everything was beginning to take shape; then we were told that Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent was attending. This meant, of course, planning who was to be presented, the hiring of a car and other minute details.

At the beginning of March I was informed that the Reunion Committee had voted that I should present a bouquet of flowers to Her Royal Highness. I was very pleased and honoured that they had asked me.

During March things became a little hectic with last minute alterations and confirmations; then the great day arrived.

In the morning we had our first session of the Bring and Buy sale. Members of 32 Signal Regiment (V) had a stall with gifts and other nice things to sell. Other members of the Association had made cakes and sweets and had knitted

things for children too. The girls of 242 Signal Squadron had made stuffed toys, and Col Davies our Deputy Controller Commandant had a bottle stall which sold out before lunch! Members of the Careers Offices had brought along plaques, key-rings and other knick-knacks to sell. As this was progressing the Secretaries' Meeting was taking place.

In the afternoon we resumed with the second session of the Bring and Buy sale and it was opened again after the dinner. At the end of the day, with the Church Service contributions, we made over £1,500, which was well above our target of £1,000.

At about 5 pm we had to close for the Security Check which was done by W02 Harry Fynn, Int Corps, members of 170 Pro Coy RMP and the civilian police.

At 6 pm the doors opened to let in those attending the dinner to get themselves ready. We had 500 people attending!! Most of them were ex-ATS and serving personnel. There were a few ex-QMAAC who were to be presented to Her Royal Highness, and the ones I spoke to were very pleased at this honour.

The girls of 242 Signal Squadron and Lcpl "Dige" Geldard of Benbecula were doing the cloakroom, and despite the number of coats and a little harassment did their job with ease and a friendly word for all. Lt Christina Buchanan and W02 Lesley Haworth were also there to see that the flow of people was running along smoothly and to help the girls when it was needed.

I was told at a quarter to seven to get ready for my big moment, and I'm sure that anyone who has been in this position before will know it can be quite an experience; especially with 500 people watching! Then my big moment arrived. The flowers were beautiful and Her Royal Highness was extremely nice, chatting to me and putting me at ease. She told me not to get married and leave the Corps too soon!

The dinner was preceded by a message of welcome from the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and speeches by Brig Nolan and Maj Betty Crawford (Chairman of the Reunion Committee). Telegrams from The Queen and Queen Mother were read by Miss Aileen Butt. The dinner itself was lovely and Mr Stewart of Crawfords and his staff did a splendid job in serving.

After the dinner we had the toasts to The Queen and Queen Mother; then Her Royal Highness left, chatting amiably to people as she passed by.

Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and went home very happy. The Reunion Committee were very pleased that things had gone so well, and Brig King the General Secretary of the Association kept us all cheerful throughout the day's proceedings.

The next day we had our Church Service which was attended by the GOC Scotland and Lady Scott-Barrett and was held in the Great Hall in the Castle. A lot of people attended, and the sermon was given by Doctor George Reid. The music for the Service and the previous evening was played by the Band of the Queen's Own Highlanders.

Afterwards there was the Senior Officers' Luncheon which was attended by Col Davies, Brig Nolan, Brig Heaney (our previous Director) and ex-ATS officers as well as serving ones. I had the job of pouring wine, and girls from 61 Signal Squadron (V) served the meal.

Through it all Maj Robertson was cheerful and kind, not forgetting the help of Lt Katie Binks and Capt Anna Barrington-Ward. On the whole the weekend was very successful, but I was glad when I could get into civvies again!

The QMAAC Old Comrades Dinner Club

Sixty odd members of the above club met for their Annual luncheon at the Royal Overseas League, Park Place, St James's Street, SW1, on Thursday 12th May 1977 with Miss Mayhew in the chair.

We were very pleased to welcome a 17 year old grand daughter of Kath Gourlay from Canada.

An excellent meal was served.

The loyal toast was followed by those usual on such occasions, after which Miss Martin took the chair, and we settled down to the AGM.

We were pleased to see Miss Hassell, who was again in a wheel chair but appeared to be well. We heard from Mrs Scragg and missed seeing her with her camera. She has been ill and in hospital but is now at home again.

We also heard from Miss Hardy, who is now living at Flat 2, Cessac House, The Redan, Clayhall, Gosport, Hants. She will be remembered as our Secretary for a considerable time.

After a deal of chatter we began to think of going home, and by 4 pm we had all departed to our various destinations.

O M L

Fund Raising

The Scottish Branch of the Association raised £1,500 for the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund in branch activities and at stalls in the Assembly Rooms Edinburgh.

The Trustees of the Benevolent Funds are most grateful for all the hard work by all concerned in raising such a splendid sum. Those ladies receiving annuities from the Fund will certainly be grateful not only for the money which is all invested to provide improved annuities to the old, the sick and the housebound living on their own, but also for the thought behind it in remembering them.

REUNION AT LARKHILL

On June 12th the WRAC Battery of The Royal School of Artillery held a very successful WRAC Association Reunion, despite the very wet weather.

Approximately 200 ex-ATS and WRAC were invited to the School to meet and talk to some of the girls serving in the Army today, and perhaps reflect on their days in uniform.

A Trade Tableau was set up in tents on the lawn in front of the Officers Mess, in which Cooks, Clerks, Medics, PTI's, Drivers and a Postal Courier could show their skills and the advancements in today's WRAC. In addition, visitors were also able to look around an operational Radar Set and a Telecommunications vehicle manned, or should we say womanned, by Radar Ops and Tels Techs.

Having dodged in and out of the rain drops as well as the displays, the visitors were then entertained in the Officers Mess. The Stewardesses, with smiling efficiency, served tea and congratulated the winners of the many raffle prizes, made and donated by the girls in the Battery.

After tea, it was back on the bus and over to Newcome Hall for an hilarious revue, staged by yet more of the girls. The various and amusing sketches were well appreciated by the audience, who were asked to finish off an enjoyable day by joining the cast in singing some old favourite songs from "My Old Man" to "The Old Bull and Bush". To be honest, I feel sure the audience knew the songs better than us, but it was a fitting end to a good day.

We hope that all who came enjoyed themselves as much as we did entertaining them.

MIDDLE EAST. Twenty-five members attended the 30th Annual Reunion of the Middle East Branch held at the Ski Club of Great Britain in Eaton Square, London SW1 on May 18th at which Mrs Denis Healey was the guest of honour.

We were very glad also to welcome Mrs Rachel Hubner (Rose Maklev) whose home is in Israel but who is at present living in London, and Mrs Creena Delaney who has been unable to attend for many years as she has been living abroad.

An excellent Buffet Lunch was followed by the ceremonial cutting of the 30th birthday cake by Mrs Chitty. This was beautifully iced and made of ice cream, which was greatly enjoyed.

Mrs Healey gave a most interesting talk on "Women yesterday, today and tomorrow", in which she recalled a tour of the Middle East made with her husband when he was Minister of Defence, and expressed her great appreciation of the work done by women in the two world wars, in every sphere, and the spirit of comradeship which had survived.

Mrs Chitty was in the Chair for the Annual General Meeting which followed, at which Sally Healey was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer and thanked wholeheartedly for all the hard work that she had done during the years, and in organising the Reunion. The question of continuation of the Annual Reunion was raised, in view of increasing difficulty and cost of travel for country members, and after discussion it was decided that it should continue for the time being. It was hoped that the

next Reunion in 1978 could also be held in the Ski Club of Great Britain.

Tea was served for those who could stay to talk over old times and catch up on current news — altogether a very pleasant occasion.

MERSEYSIDE ATS

A reunion of members of the war-time ATS, stationed at Birkdale, Southport, Hightown and Liverpool, was held at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Liverpool on Saturday 12th March 1977. Fourteen members attended and letters were received from a number of others who could not attend. It was an enjoyable occasion with much reminiscing and photographs were produced. This was the fifth reunion spread over the years.

Anyone who served in these places during the years 1942-45 is asked to get in touch with either Miss E Shepherd, Victoria Cottage, Penrith, Cumbria or Miss J T Crooke, Cranham, 20 Longden Road, Shrewsbury.

Branch News

KENT. Kent Branch continue to hold monthly meetings of different kinds, some at members' homes, others as Theatre or Dinner outings and we try to meet in different towns to enable outlying members to get to at least one meeting per year. We hold our annual Church Service in October and follow it with a tea party. Our Standard is taken to this Service by Mrs Jenny Wells with escorts Mrs Bella Mephram and Mrs Kath Cox. The Standard is also carried at Canterbury Cathedral Parades and the Margate Festival of Remembrance. Members knit childrens' garments for the Benevolent Fund and many fund raising events are run to enable the Branch to send good donations to the Benevolent Funds. Several of us attended the open day at Guildford in May, and when the WRAC sponsored walkers arrived at Canterbury, we were there to meet them.

GLASGOW. The Branch met as usual every month from October to March in the RHF Club. There was a varied programme, and all the meetings were well attended.

The highlight of the year was the Scottish Reunion which was held in Edinburgh on 2nd April. We enrolled six new members as a result of this Reunion.



Mrs Chitty cutting the birthday cake to celebrate the 30th Annual Reunion of the Middle East Branch.

Will the members of the Branch please note that the first meeting of the new session will be held on Wednesday 14th September in the YWCA Club, 80 Bath Street at 7 pm. This will be a Beetle Drive.

LIVERPOOL. Although it is some time since we submitted a report for the Lioness the Branch has not been inactive; in fact we have been very busy. We still meet regularly each month, apart from July and August; the attendances are good, between 25 and 30 members, and proceedings are usually very lively. All members take an active part in the Branch and make suggestions as to how we should spend our time and also help in arranging the activities.

We always try to arrange for a party to go to the area and national reunions. One of our most recent trips was to the first reunion to be held in Cardiff in October 1976, when 20 members spent the weekend there and thoroughly enjoyed the reunion. One of our members met somebody she had not seen for 30 years. And in April this year 18 members went to Edinburgh for the AGM and the Scottish reunion, spending either one or two nights in the city, taking advantage of the British Rail mini-breaks. Needless to say they also thoroughly enjoyed this reunion and the visit to the Castle the following morning for the Church Service. On both occasions they were impressed with the work and planning involved in arranging two such successful events, and wish to convey their thanks to the organisers for enabling them to have such an enjoyable time on each occasion.

Our monthly meetings are usually spent in such activities as a quiz or beetle drive, and we try to vary this by having an occasional speaker or demonstration; our most recent flower arranging demonstration being a huge success. We still hold a Bring and Buy Sale every year which provides the bulk of our funds for paying the rent and meeting other expenses. The proceeds from the sale also enable us to make various donations to worthy causes. At our June meeting we will be closing our programme for the season with a party to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

Also to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee we have decided to make a special donation to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and also to the Lord Mayor of Liverpool's Appeal. To enable us to make these donations we are holding a special raffle at every meeting this year and all the prizes are being donated by members. This means that at the end of the year we will be able to divide all the proceeds between the two Funds.

We have been meeting in the Royal British Legion premises in the city centre since 1946. To mark this we have decided to have the Corps Shield placed alongside the badges of various male regimental associations which meet regularly at the same premises. We believe we have held our meetings in the Branch rooms longer than any of the other Associations.

The Merseyside Council of Ex-Service and Regimental Associations organised a service and march-past at Liverpool Cathedral on Sunday 3rd July to commemorate the Silver Jubilee and all ex-servicemen and women in the area were invited to take part. A number of our members attended the service and joined in the march past.

We are pleased to close this report by saying that the Branch is in a very healthy position, and this is due entirely to the interest and enthusiasm of members who make every effort to attend meetings and to take part in the various activities.

DUMFRIESSHIRE. Our branch still continues to flourish, as we have had some new members lately, but the numbers remain about the same, with some people leaving the area. Each year we follow pretty much the same pattern, with an AGM around October; a Benevolent Fund Beetle Drive and Sale in November; Christmas Party and showing of Holiday Films in January; and a Summer Outing visit to the Tattoo in Edinburgh. But this year we had two notable events, the first one being our 30th Annual Dinner in the County Hotel, when we had the pleasure of having as our guest, the retiring DADWRAC for Scotland, Major N R Robertson. Although being extra busy with arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee and trying to finish off things in her job, before going on to London as a Lieutenant Colonel, she made time to come and join us and we had her charming presence and a very happy time. Then a bus load of us travelled up to Edinburgh for the greatest event we have ever attended, the Diamond Jubilee. For once our Secretary was able to attend the Secretaries' Meeting and Lunch, and enjoyed hearing how all the other Branches functioned. The evening was a memorable one for us all, with a wonderful dinner in a most beautiful place, and the presence of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent, to whom the President, Secretary and Treasurer all had the honour of being presented. Many old friends were met, too, and the Edinburgh Branch is greatly to be congratulated as everything went so well. It was a brilliant idea to present us all with a bottle of "Scotch" as a parting gift.

Correspondence

10 Alpha Road
Greystanes 2145
New South Wales
Australia

Dear Sirs,

For many years in England I read your letters, now I am writing to you — Help!!

In 1941 the ATS Provost Wing (Redcaps to you) were formed. I was one of them.

Here in Australia 36 years later, family all left home and I confess a little lonely, my thoughts turn to those days when loneliness was only a word. Where are all those ex Provost ladies?

I would love to hear from any of them. I served in Northern Command and Southern in such places as Oxford, Derby, Catterick, Newcastle on Tyne (my home town).

Names like Joan Purvey, Barbara Jordan, Nancy Edmondson, where and what are they doing now?

I would really like to hear from anyone who remembers me.

Yours faithfully,
Honor Emms (Kent)

Editor's Note. This letter was written to the Daily Mirror and has been sent to us by "The Old Codgers". Is there an ex-Provost lady who remembers Honor Kent from the old days?

Cpl Irene Ludlow has asked us to convey her thanks to all the officers for whom she had the honour and pleasure of working for the beautiful carriage clock which Brig Nolan presented to her on her retirement. She says that it will be one of her most treasured possessions and will remind her of 36 very happy years in the Service. Our best wishes go to Cpl Ludlow for a happy and well-earned retirement.

Mrs. P. Potter, 59 Castleway North, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside, L46 1RN writes "Please can you help me in my search to find any of the girls I served with at Shrapnel Barracks, Woolwich from November 1963 to 9th December 1964". Mrs Potter, then Patricia Cowie, served as a stewardess in the Officers Mess and remembers Ann Bell and Phil Horner and Sue, Twink and Chris. The Corporals she remembers as Andrea and Pauline, and her officer was Lieutenant Faraday.

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Mrs Rene Macleod (nee Lieutenant R Bowden) would be delighted to hear from any former friends. Please write to her at: Blanxholme, East Road, Cupar, Fife.

Calling All Shorthand Typists

Mr J A K Smith who has recently retired will be remembered by many WRAC who owe their shorthand and typing skills to his instruction. He served in the RASC for 30 years from 1927, rising from Boy Clerk to WO1. From 1957-66 he instructed the Junior Leaders of the RCT at Taunton in clerical subjects, and from 1966 he was the Supervising Instructional Officer at Deepcut responsible for the training and up-grading of WRAC shorthand typists. He has asked us to say goodbye on his behalf to all serving and retired WRAC who were his pupils, and we would like to take this opportunity to wish him a very happy retirement in his Cornish home.

The following letter has been received from Mrs Madeline E Baker of the Cheltenham Branch of the Association.

Dear Madam,

Once again I would like to put on record, my appreciation and admiration, of the efficient, friendly way that the young WRAC girls of the Royal School of Artillery Larkhill entertained the members of the WRAC Association at the Sub-Area Reunion.

Everyone I spoke to was full of praise for, despite the dreadful weather, the girls were so cheerful and considerate for the well-being of their guests.

I would like to give my special thanks to a "lassie from Glasgow", I don't know her name, she is a cook. She carefully guided me around, with kindness and patience. When I got a little tired, she found me a warm, comfortable seat and stayed to talk to me until it was time to go round the girls' quarters. She looked after me all the afternoon and I would like her to know that she made a slow, handicapped, old ATS very happy. Not once that afternoon did I feel a nuisance.

So often, these days, we tend only to hear about the "bad" young people, but I am sure there are many fine young folk like the girls at Larkhill, in this country, and they will make Britain great again, one day.

Notices

A REUNION DINNER will take place on 20th May 1978 at Worthing for all D&CTC ATS/WRAC instructors (Drivers and Clerks) admin and permanent staff who were stationed at Gresford, North Wales and Figsbury Barracks, Salisbury. Details from Miss F J Little, 'Kabete', Common Hill, West Chiltington, Sussex. RH20 2NR.

ATS DINNER CLUB The 1977 Luncheon for members and their guests will be held on Saturday 8th October at the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel, London. Ex-ATS are eligible to join the Dinner Club — details from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M Storer, Bel Air, Llangrove, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. HR9 6EY.

Obituary

Brassington. Mrs Lucy Brassington of Canterbury, Kent, in May 1977. QMAAC and ATS.

Campbell. Miss Henrietta Frances Ruth Campbell on 27 April 1977. Ex-Chief Commander ATS.

Craft. Mrs A Craft of Crowborough, Sussex, on 16 May 1977. Ex-RSM "Molly" Craft, ATS.

Davis. Miss Kay Davis of Edinburgh on 5 June 1977. Member of the Committee for the April Edinburgh Reunion and joint organiser of the Sale of Work for the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. ATS and WRAC.

Elgar. Miss Jessie Evelyn Elgar CBE TD of North Walsham, Norfolk, on 26 March 1977. ATS 1938-48. Controller and DDATS Northern Command 1945-48.

Forrester. Miss Isabella Forrester of Glasgow on 8 March 1977. Ex-Cpl ATS 1939-45.

Gorringe. Miss M I Gorringe of Wallingford, Oxfordshire, in November 1976. ATS.

Green. Mrs A A Green of London SW1 in March 1977. ATS.

Greenwood. Mrs Alice Greenwood of Barnet on 16 April 1977. ATS 1939-45.

Matthews. Mrs C D Matthews TD of York on 17 April 1977. Junior Commander ATS 1939-45.

McLellan. Miss Mary McLellan of Glasgow on 8 June 1977. ATS.

Pargiter. Miss C J Pargiter of Crosby, Liverpool, Lancs. on 21st May 1977. Ex-Sgt ATS and WRAC.

Prue. Mrs I Prue (nee Brommage) of Maidstone, Kent in June 1977. QMAAC. Her family have asked that friends wishing to do so should make a donation in her memory to the WRAC Benevolent Fund.

Rea. Mrs K Rea of Gloucester on 22 March 1977. QMAAC

Robertson. Miss M W Robertson of Pitlochry in June 1977. ATS 1941-45.

Spaul. Mrs E Spaul of Thorpe Bay, Essex in March 1977. QMAAC

Stark. Miss Elizabeth Gordon Stark of Edinburgh on 8 March 1977. QMAAC.

Such. Mrs J R Such of Redhill, Surrey, in January 1977. QMAAC

Thomas. Miss D H Thomas of Horsham, Sussex, on 16 January 1977. ATS

White. Mrs Margaret White (nee Sturgeon) on 17 March 1977. WRAC. Portsmouth Branch Standard Bearer.

Wilson. Mrs E Wilson of Mount Albert, Auckland, New Zealand. QMAAC.

London Gazette

APPOINTMENT TO THE QUEEN

Honorary ADC

Brigadier A Field

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

MBE

Lieutenant Colonel N R Robertson,
Major (QM) M J Evans

BEM

Sergeant C Whalley, Sergeant D E Walker

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Regular Army

Brigadier: A Field
Lieutenant Colonel: (QM) E K Anton MBE
Major (QM): G W Thompson
Captains: G M S Baxter, B A Fraser, G Taylor,
J M Reid
Captain (QM): V I Brown
Lieutenants: R A P Connolly, C J Jenkins,
P M Longlands, L W I McGregor, C Roberts,
C Suart
2/Lieutenants on probation: C J Lewington,
A J Lobb, H M Prior, A L Tritton

Special Regular Commissions

Lieutenant: M I Woolford

Short Service Commissions

Captain: P H Prescott
Lieutenants: S M Baker, S M C Cameron, L Clargo,
S J Hale-Puckle, K A Harper, M L Heath,
M J Stump, F A Walthall, L C White,
A Z G Sherburn, E A Towell
2/Lieutenants: C E Arnold, A M Blackmore,
S A Collins, S E Murray-Playfair,
L A Phillips-Lewis, A M J Bolwell,
S E Bedford, J A Capon, S V Jones,
J M Liddington, S A Selway, J R Wallace,
E M Wilson
2/Lieutenants on probation: C A Blake,
S C Broom, A S Crampton, H D Gray,
U J Tudor, C E Bone, P S Sherring

Short Service Voluntary Commissions

2/Lieutenant: E E Reed

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Brigadier: E J Nolan CB Hon ADC
Lieutenant Colonel (QM): M G Fahy
Majors: J M Clements, R A Holloway
Majors (QM): S C Cushen, M J Evans MBE
Captains: D J Brunyate, E D Bowles, P A Gray,
R M M Rendall
Lieutenant: C V Andrews
2/Lieutenant: J K B Robson

Special Regular Commissions

Lieutenants: J Siddall, P M Edwards,
M I Woolford

Short Service Commissions

Captain: K M Hahn
Lieutenants: C A Hardy, P L Bradford, L C White,
D M Newman
2/Lieutenants: E J Manuell, E E Clear

PERSONAL COLUMN

SETTLING IN THE BRISTOL AREA? Why not join the Bristol University Officers Training Corps (TAVR B)? We have one vacancy for a Subaltern or Captain to be our WRAC Troop Leader. We are looking for someone under 30 with previous Regular or TAVR service. Please telephone or write to: Major C J EDWARDS DERR, Bristol University OTC, The Artillery Ground, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2LG. Tel: Bristol 34228.

VACANCY Child care officers required next term in a small Boarding School for maladjusted girls. The posts are resident. Long school holidays. Ex-service personnel are particularly invited to apply. Apply to: The Principal, Northlands School, Salthill Road, Fishbourne, Chichester, Sussex. Tel: Chichester 82569.

WANTED Mess Dress Height 5' 2". Size 34-24-37. Replies to Captain I M Gordan WRAC (TAVR), 62 Castle Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD5 2EJ. Scotland.

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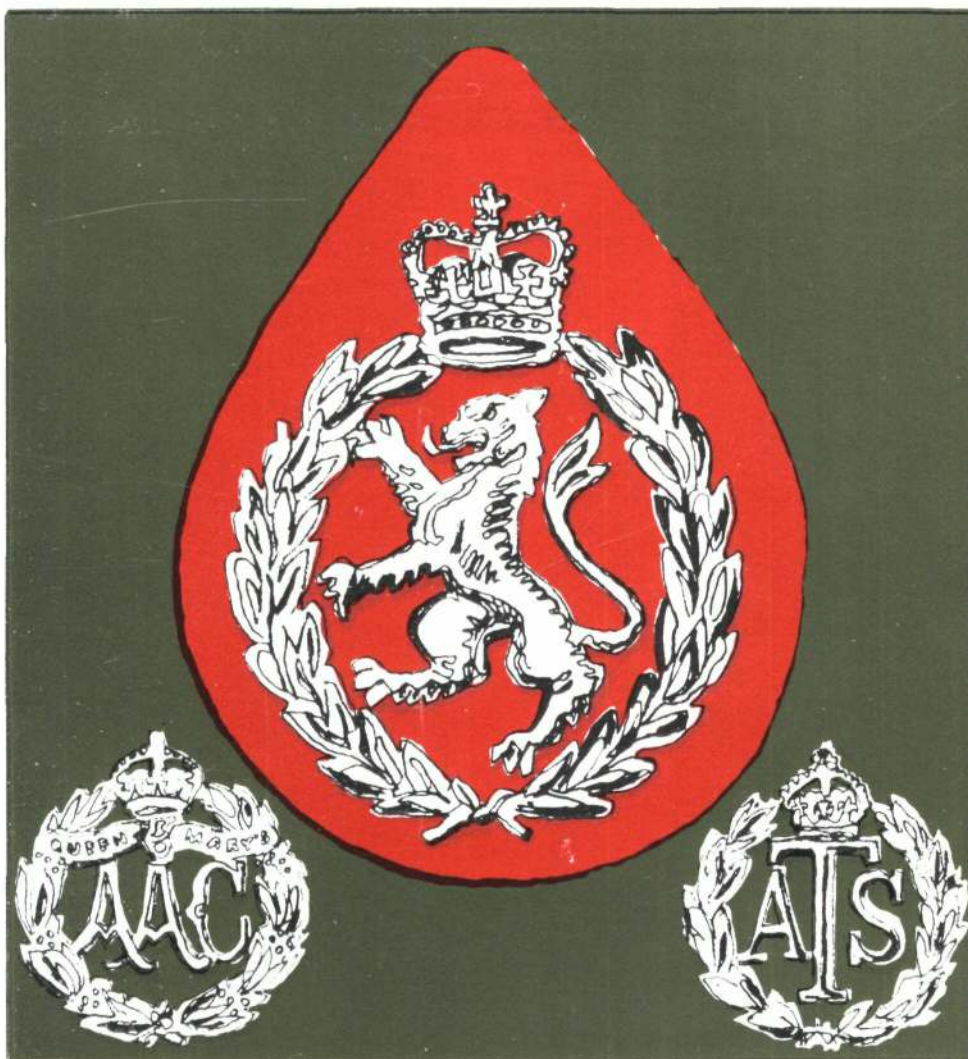
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Edited by
Lt-General Sir Brian Horrocks

The Women's Royal Army Corps

SHELFORD BIDWELL



When the history of the Twentieth Century is written let us hope that the few noble ideals of our era are not entirely submerged by the scientific miracles and horrors which increasingly dominate our lives. High among such ideals must rank the recognition of women in more and more walks of life as equal partners with men, and in no area was the battle for this recognition fought with greater determination or more evident ultimate justification in the righteousness of their cause than in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later to become the WRAC. As Brigadier Bidwell puts it: "At the heart of the question was not so much doubt about the ability or reliability of women, but an unformulated but powerful fear of the consequences of their intrusion in strength into an entity so exclusively and aggressively male as an army in the field". He goes on to demonstrate how they managed not only to dispel that fear but to replace it with a degree of admiration and respect which few could have dared envisage at the outset.

The Corps must be warmly congratulated upon their decision to ask Brigadier Bidwell to write their history. As an experienced military historian but nevertheless a detached observer, he brings to his task an objectivity and balance of judgment which exonerates his book from any taint of hagiography but nevertheless constitutes a record of which even the oldest of regiments would be proud.

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This volume is in the Famous Regiments Series, edited by Lt-General Sir Brian Horrocks, and General Sir Ronald Adam has kindly written an Introduction.

Further details of the series are available from the publishers, Leo Cooper Ltd., 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W.C.2.

The trade edition of this book is available to members of the public at a price of £8.50.